

New chief should come from within: union

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an inclusive community.”

He also thanked the more than 400 volunteers who assist York police.

He saved his most heartfelt thanks for his wife of 26 years, Det.-Sgt. Denise La Barge, who was seated in the police board’s public gallery.

“What you do in life is not as important as who you do it with,” Chief La Barge said.

Det.-Sgt. La Barge, a 30-year police veteran, said she is looking forward to more dinners at home.

For about eight years, the chief has worked double shifts seven days a week, she said.

“This is a man (who) is truly passionate

about what he does,” she said. “I am so proud of him every day. I would like him to take it easy just a little bit.”

Whatever he chooses to do, Det.-Sgt. La Barge said she hopes her husband will be happy.

Chief La Barge is past president of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police.

His other achievements include a bachelor of arts honours degree, a multiculturalism studies certificate from York University and a master’s degree from Trent University in Canadian and Native Studies.

He plans to continue his interests in First Nations history.

In 2008, Chief La Barge was recognized by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for

Holocaust Studies for his enforcement role in hate crime justice and commitment to officer sensitivity training.

A successor for Chief La Barge has not been named.

This is expected to happen in November.

The position will be staffed internally and senior officers will be potential candidates, police board chairperson and Georgina Regional Councillor Danny Wheeler said.

“Thank you for the work you have done as far as developing people in the organization,” he told Chief La Barge.

In a recent interview, York Regional Police union president John Miskiw said he believes talent exists within the service to hire the next chief.

Get bicycle tips, tour fire hall

Bring your two or three-wheeler to the Bicycle Safety Rodeo on May 1 for a safety inspection and bike handling refresher course.

Following a bike and helmet check, children will be taken through a series of bike handling drills and traffic situation simulations.

The objective is to teach children the importance of seeing, being seen and remaining in control.

Children will receive a special reward upon completion of the course.

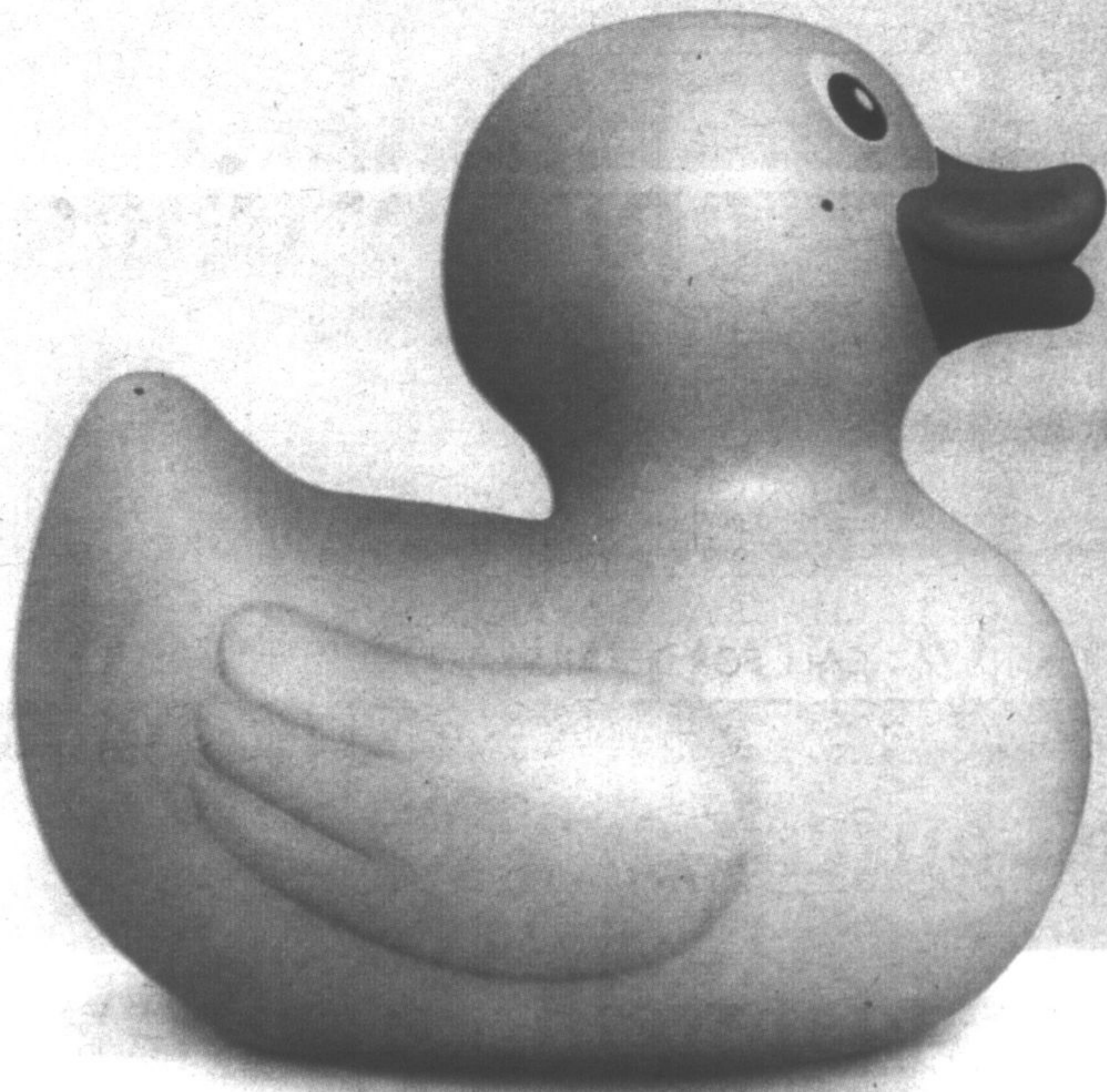
The rodeo takes place at the Stouffville Fire Station, 100 Weldon Rd., south parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The new fire hall will also be hosting an open house complete with displays, demonstrations and a barbecue.

Rejuvenate your bathroom!

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