

WEATHER: Dig out your shovel, parka, Phillips recommends

Area expert predicts textbook winter

BY AMANDA PERSICO
apersico@yrmg.com

You may not have used your shovel much last year, but you will soon need it.

Weather predictions for the winter months show a stormy and cold winter ahead.

"Don't write an obituary on winter like we did last year," Environment Canada senior climatologist and Aurora resident Dave Phillips said.

"Last year, we cancelled winter. This year, we'll experience winter. But it won't be a winter from hell."

NOT 'WINTER FROM HELL'

December days are showing near normal temperatures, with a high hovering around the freezing mark and a low of about -7C, Mr. Phillips said.

Weather experts are expecting 35 to 40 centimetres of snow by the end of the year and we have a 60-per-cent chance of a white Christmas.

Last year, we only had about 70 cm of snow during the entire winter, which is about half the seasonal average.

And average is what we want, Mr. Phillips said.

"It's not a winter of our youth," he said. "But if I was ordering winter for neighbours, I would always go with a normal one. This winter will be textbookish."

While there was more productivity at work, fewer commuting headaches and fewer school closures as a result of the limited snow we had last year, it did throw retailers into a frenzy. Consumers were confused about whether or not to buy winter clothing or other items, such as snow tires, Mr. Phillips said.

"Consumers were postponing decisions then cancelling decisions. We got to about January without inconvenience, so we could survive the rest. Retailers were off the wall."

A normal season is great for everyone, he said.

"We need to be reminded what season we're in. Everyone usually adapts to learning to drive in the winter and having all our winter gear ready by the first snowfall."

While winter seems to be getting off to a slow start, you can expect a good amount of

snowfall in the new few weeks.

"We're fortunate not to see it on the front end," Mr. Phillips said. "But winter will stay a little later."

"We haven't had any major snowfall yet, but winter can't hold off much longer."

Last year's mild winter was a result of El Niño, a large body of above-normal water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, which means the northern United States took most of the snow hit.

Storms that usually track up through the Great Lakes and hit southern Ontario passed through the United States and traveled eastward, Environment Canada warning preparedness meteorologist Geoff Coulson said.

"We were lacking in big systems with severe punches. It was brush-by snowfall," he said. "Winter never really showed its face."

This year, a colder body of water, about the size of North America, caused by the La Nina system will bring cooler temperatures.

But the West Coast will feel the bulk of the La Nina effect. So far, Vancouver has received more snow than Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal combined, Mr. Phillips said.

"For them, it brings a more intense and colder winter that's already started," he said. "For central Canada, in particular Ontario, it's less of a signal. It's a crapshoot or roll of the dice."

COOLER TEMPS VIA LA NINA

But the varying temperatures of the past weekend serve as a good reminder for those on the roads — check your current location forecast and your destination forecast.

"The weather might be quiet in (York Region), but don't expect similar situations elsewhere," Mr. Coulson said.

"You could be heading into a big storm system and not know about it."

While the region can experience varying winter weather patterns, it's important you give yourself extra time to get to your destination.

York Regional Police are reminding you to drive according to road conditions, be cautious around snow removal equipment and remember any amount of snow or ice on our roads can make driving difficult.



TOWN OF
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

37 Sandiford Drive, 4th Floor, Stouffville, ON L4A 7X5

Automated Line: 905-640-1910
905-895-5299
Operator: 905-640-1900
905-895-2423
Fax: 905-640-7957
www.townofws.com
Committee of Adjustment
Ext. 236

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

IN THE MATTER of Section 45(1) of the Planning Act and the following
APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIANCE(S):

APPLICATION FILE NO: CA-10-58
SUBMISSION NO: A46/10
SUBJECT LAND: Lot 12, Plan 65M-4224, 45 Yorkleigh Circle, Stouffville as shown on the plan below
APPLICATION FOR: Minor variance to permit a minimum rear yard setback of 6.25 metres (20.5 ft) for a detached dwelling [rather than 7.0 metres (23 ft)]
INTENDED USE: Residential
RELATED APPLICATION: None
HEARING DATE: Thursday, December 16, 2010
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices
4th Floor, 37 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville

The Committee of Adjustment has appointed the above-noted date, time and place for the public hearing of all persons who desire to be heard in support of or in opposition to this application.

Any person may attend the hearing and make oral submission and/or make a signed written submission together with reasons for support or opposition. If you are unable to attend, any signed written submission must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the hearing.

If you wish to be notified of the Decision of the Committee of Adjustment in respect of this application, you must submit a written request to the Committee of Adjustment. This will also entitle you to be advised of a possible Ontario Municipal Board Hearing.

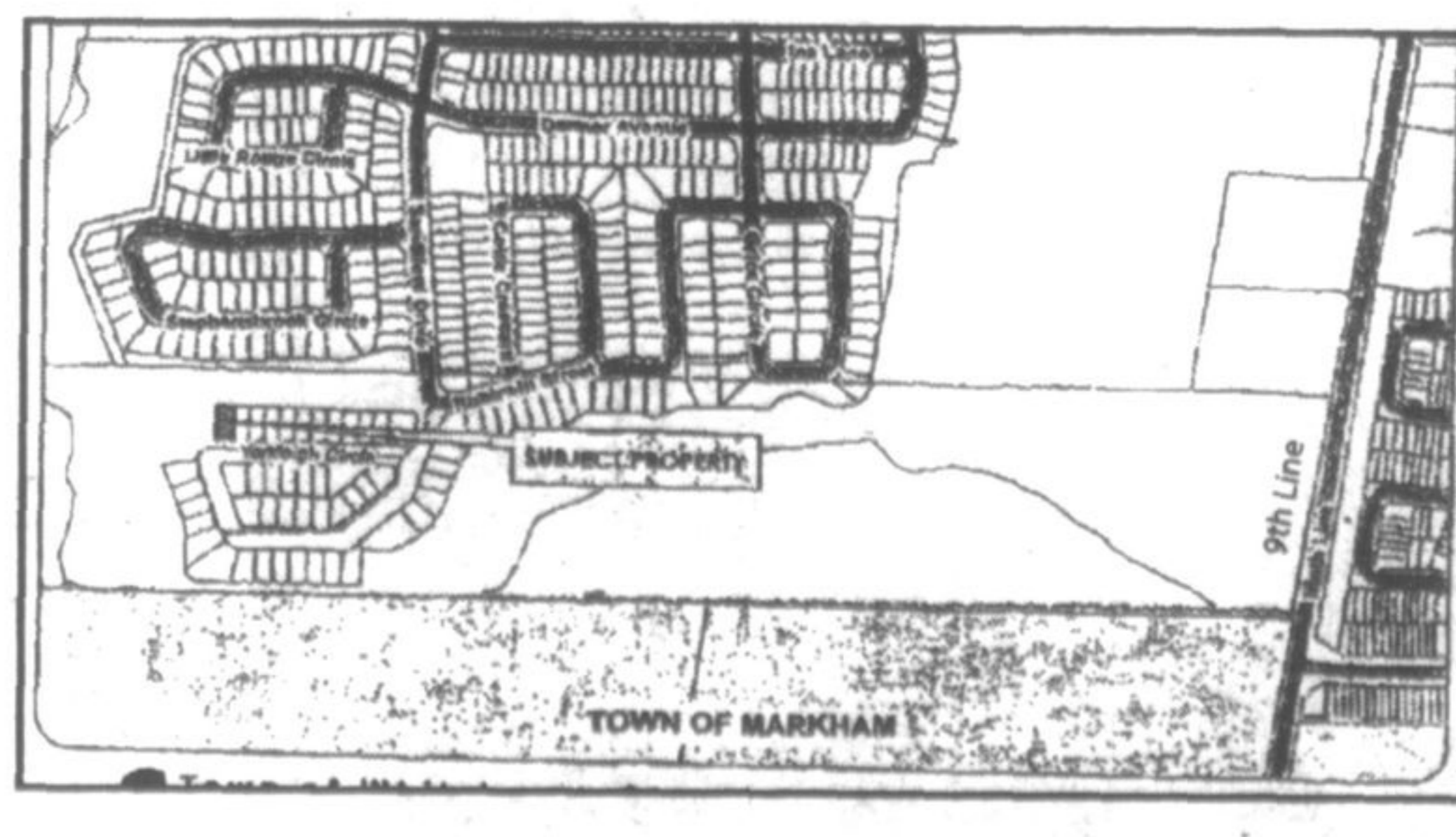
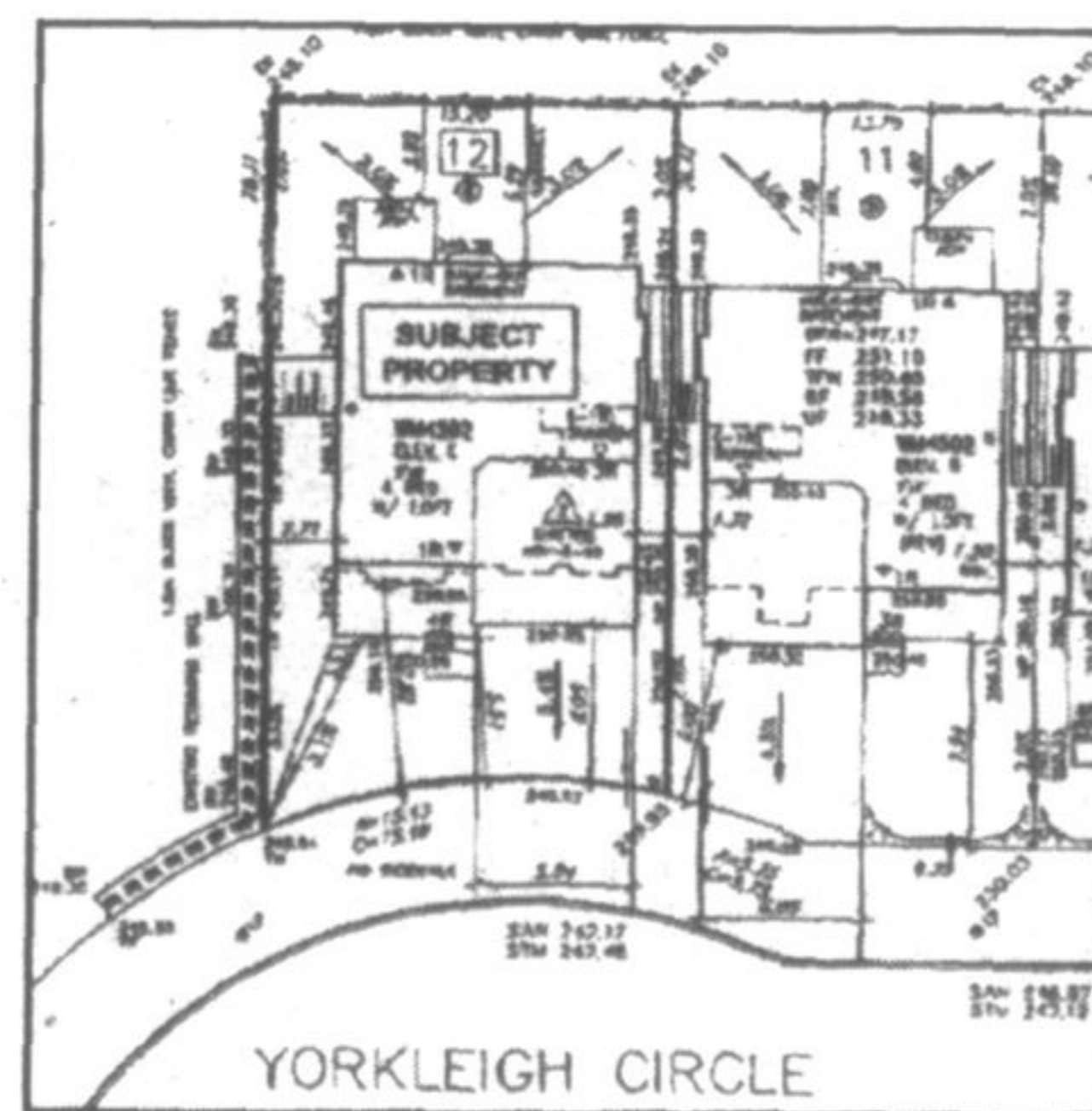
Even if you are the successful party, you should request a copy of the Decision since the Committee of Adjustment Decision may be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board by the Applicant of another member of the public.

Additional information regarding the application will be available to the public for inspection at the Planning and Building Services Department, Municipal Offices, 4th Floor, 37 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville, during regular business hours, except on the day of the hearing.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OWNER(S): if you do not attend or are not represented at this hearing, the Committee may proceed in your absence and make a decision.

DATED at Stouffville
this 2nd day of
December, 2010.

Sandy Hammond,
Secretary-Treasurer
Committee of
Adjustment



DR. YASMIN LADAK

The **STOUFFVILLE MEDICAL CENTRE**
is pleased to announce that
Dr. Yasmin Ladak
has joined our family practice
and is now accepting new patients.

Please inquire for availability at
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