

COLD CASH

No fooling! Heat turned off for two days at Stouffville bank

BY JIM MASON
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RBC Stouffville manager Kym Pyke thought it was a bad gag or, at worse, an electrical problem.

But more than 48 hours after discovering the gas had been shut off at the new Main Street branch, staff and customers were still working without a furnace yesterday.

Staff showed up for work Wednesday to find the heat off in the building at Main

Street and Sandiford Drive.

"We thought it was someone playing an early April Fool's joke on us," Mr. Pyke said.

A technician was dispatched who discovered a red tag placed on the gas meter and the gas shut off to the building.

Since the bank moved within the same complex last year, the gas bills that had been mailed to the landlord were being sent to an address in Oshawa "for some reason," Mr. Pyke said. The landlord did not receive the bills.

Bottom line, they hadn't been paid. "Even for (the bank), non-payment of bills can happen," Mr. Pyke said with a laugh.

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Heaters were brought into the bank Thursday. Staffers were coping by bundling

up in layers. Amused customers were making comments.

"We've been having fun with it," Mr. Pyke said.

Enbridge pledged to have the gas back on yesterday afternoon.

Enbridge spokesperson Lisa McCarney said it's company policy to follow up on written notices with phone calls before gas is shut off.

An investigation is under way to find out what happened in this case, she said.

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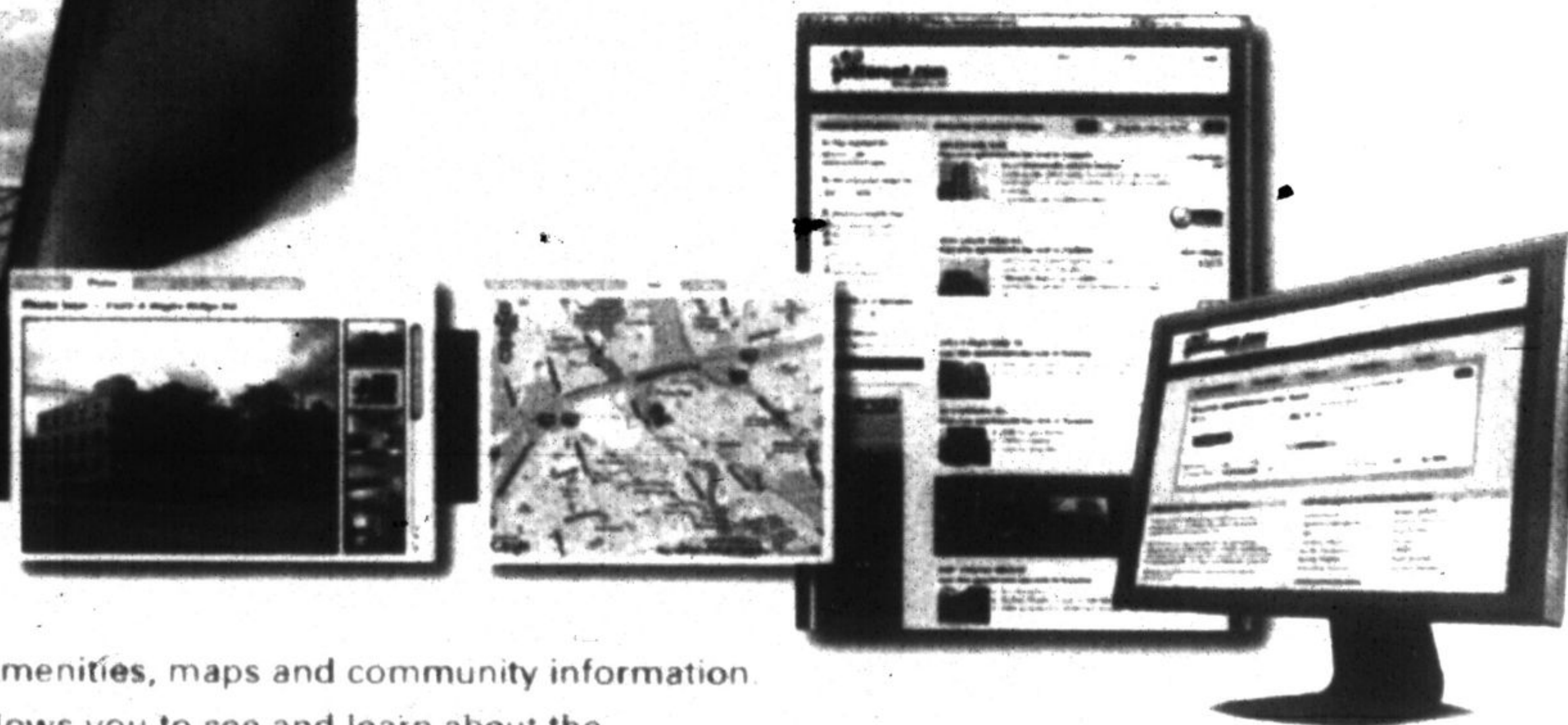
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