

# Say Trustees Put False Thornhill Facts

By HAL BLAINE

The battle over the South Thornhill public school space shortage and the German Mills community centre plan continues.

Markham Town Council April 16 in a motion accused the York County Board of Education of a complete falsification of facts in a board press release damaging to the reputation of the Town of Markham.

The council demanded that the public school board stop seeking to make the town the scapegoat for the lack of sufficient schools in Thornhill. A letter was sent to the school board demanding an official retraction.

The angry exchange began months ago when Markham School Trustee Donald MacKay accused the town of denying the chance of coming to a community centre with a separate and public schools complex at Simonson Boulevard and Leslie Street in the German Mills area of South Thornhill.

South Thornhill Ward 1 Markham Town Councillor Roy Kay of Aberfeldy Crescent, German Mills, issued an angry rebuttal in a newspaper interview accusing the school board of unilaterally pulling out of the joint scheme.

**TENDER CALL**  
April 11 the school board issued a press release announcing a call for tenders for its German Mills elementary school in the Bayview Summit Subdivision at Simonson Boulevard. The announcement appeared to follow Councillor Kay's last about the amount of portable classrooms in Thornhill and lack of permanent school facilities.

The school board press release said the tender call was made possible through a meeting trustees had during the first week of this month with the Minister of Education.

**PRESS RELEASE**  
The council took objection to the school board press release statement which reads as follows:

"Approval for the (German Mills public elementary) school had been given by the school board in 1972. The project was delayed until the board attempted to negotiate with the Town of Markham and the Roman Catholic Separate School Board for the incorporation of a public and separate school community complex to be built in the town. At the end of last year the town decided not to participate in the project and in January the board sought approval from the Ministry of Education for a 'demountable school' composed of two six pack portable classrooms built around a central administrative core. This was expected to cost approximately \$160,000."

"Last month (March) the board learned that funds for the demountable school could have to be deducted from other planned school construction this year. At the same time, the architect advised that a contractor had advised that if his firm was retained immediately he could have the originally planned school closed in, and teaching areas on the lower floor accessible by next September, with the contract completed by December 31."

**PROVINCIAL APPROVAL**  
The board appointed a committee to meet with the Minister of Education to seek approval for this. Trustee Jack MacKay of Thornhill advised that through the speedy work of William Hodgson MLA, York North in early appointment had been received and he and board Chairman Merna Colbourne and Trustees Marvin Hunter and Donald Cousens had met with the Minister. "Trustees presented working drawings for the school and the Minister promised they would be given immediate attention. Staff reported that a telephone message from the Ministry of Education's Regional Office April 8 indicated working drawing approval was forthcoming. The Minister had insisted however, that the project be put to tender and this is going forward."

"Trustees asked consideration concerning the \$244,900 the building is expected to cost in excess of the amount approved for it in 1972. The Minister said this would be given early attention but would not make a statement at this time. He also indicated that the trustees' complaints about lack of money for capital building projects for this year would be studied."

"The Minister showed a certain amount of sympathy and was aware of your concerns," Mr. MacKay reported. "Members of his staff were there and I am sure we will get some results." "At an earlier meeting, Mr. MacKay expressed indignation that the province was approving the building of subdivisions but that the Ministry of Education was refusing to make funds available for building schools in the new developments."

**HOUSING PROBLEMS**  
"Mrs. Colbourne reported the Minister noted one branch of the government approves homes but another approves schools. Under the government's H.O.M.E. plan, however, specific funds for schools are provided. It was suggested that the board might want to meet with the Minister of Housing to discuss their problems with him and the same committee was

the first industry started in Markham, a large saw mill built in 1795 by William Moll Berczy who had led a group of German settlers from Genesee, New York, to Upper Canada. The group was aided by a German company and by Governor John Graves Simcoe who awarded them large tracts of land in what is now the Town of Markham," the press release concluded.

**COUNCIL UPSET**  
The school board press release obviously upset the town council.

Councillor Kay described it as completely false and erroneous, a complete fabrication. He said the school board was trying to find a scapegoat for its inability to provide a school in the Bayview Summit area.

"I have to agree there seems to be an insinuation here," said Markham Mayor Anthony Roman of Victoria Square. "The school board seems to be trying to blame somebody else for its failure to build school facilities."

Mayor Roman said the school board's allegation against the town was totally wrong.

"The board should be notified of our displeasure with their press release. I don't believe it's a reflection on all the members of the school board," said Mayor Roman.

A motion drafted by Kay and seconded by North Thornhill Ward 2 Councillor Roy Muldrew of Romfield Circuit was passed unanimously by the members of town council present.

Councillor Muldrew blamed the public school board for being the only ones (in a joint town, public school board, separate school board committee) who didn't support the German Mills campus and community centre plan.

He said the public school board disagreed because they didn't like the site proposed for their elementary school. "And it was their plan," Muldrew said.

**LITTLE TOWN LAND**  
Kay said it should be remembered the town owns only 1 1/2 acres of the large German Mills land site and really has very little land interest.

He said the board has continuously delayed and now is refusing to go to the people and admit their (the trustees') blame, while continuing to blame the town.

"We have overcrowded schools and portables up to our ears. For some reason the province looks after those who live below Steeles Avenue. Somehow those above Steeles don't rate the same kind of financial consideration. This council should be working with the school board to get more money from the province for schools."

**BLAMES PROVINCE**  
"I realize the lack of provincial funds is to blame (for the lack of school space). But that doesn't excuse the school board for

trying to lay the blame on the town," said the South Thornhill councillor.

"I think this has got to stop. The board has to take the blame for its own shortcomings. They've got to stop issuing this kind of thing (the press release) which I think is damaging to the Town of Markham," Kay said.

Muldrew said the campus idea for German Mills was good planning and an excellent concept. He charged the public school board sited the elementary school to suit itself and ruined the whole campus concept.

"It's a real 'rip-off', that's what it is," said the North Thornhill councillor.

Old Markham Village Ward 4 Councillor Bud Bonner said the whole campus concept came into being at the school trustees' request made during a town committee meeting by the then Thornhill-Markham Trustee Mrs. Louise Aimone.

**MISUNDERSTANDING**  
Unionville Ward 3 Councillor Mrs. Carole Bell said she'd discussed the whole problem with sitting Markham Trustee Mrs. Doreen Quirk of 11 St. Andrew Court, Thornhill.

"I think they're just misunderstanding something somewhere," said Councillor Bell.

"It's shameful the lands have to sit there while the board ignores its responsibility to put the lands in the condition the community wants. The town is even ready to provide the money to clean up the lands and put them in condition for baseball and other sports," said Kay.

**LEAVING MESS**  
Muldrew said it will be an absolute disgrace if the school board leaves the land in weeds for 10 years like they usually do until they're ready to build a school.

Mayor Roman said the town worked to bring about the school campus-community centre complex for German Mills. He said the town arranged a meeting of the York County Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the York County (Public) School Board of Education with provincial authorities. There was a problem of an exchange of land between the two boards to bring about the plan. This meeting brought the necessary provincial approval. But there then appeared to have been some public board criticism of the frontages allocated under the exchange

# 10 satisfied homeowners tell why they changed to gas.



Mr. L. Noble, Toronto: "Three or four times during the winter we had to call in the serviceman in the middle of the night to fix the old furnace."



Mrs. J. Turnbull, Toronto: "I have a boy who is asthmatic and I thought the gas furnace would be cleaner."



Mrs. A. DeVries, Brampton: "Upstairs, downstairs, everything is evenly heated, a wonderful warm heat, and my house is much cleaner."



Mr. H. Gray, Toronto: "It's cleaner and there's no smell in the basement. Another advantage is you don't have to clean the furnace as often."



Mrs. D. Taylor, Toronto: "I love gas. It's fast, clean and warm. It couldn't be any better."



Mrs. J. Hope, Brampton: "The gas installation was done in the middle of January when the temperature was below zero. But it didn't get below 50° in here before the men were finished with the job."



Mrs. B. Blackburn, East York: "We like the gas furnace because it's very compact. It's also great not having the delivery trucks rolling up."



Mrs. E. Emmett, Brampton: "The main reason we changed was because it was cheaper, plus that the gas heats the whole house even though it's installed just for the downstairs."

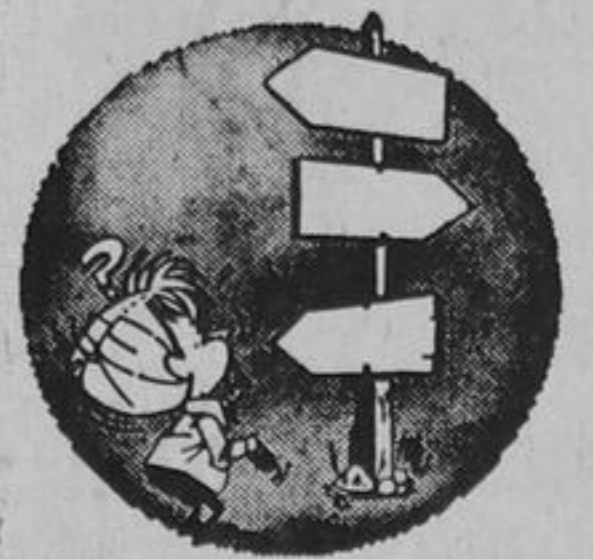


Mrs. H. Buchan, North York: "We find in the long run, it's not only cheaper but cleaner."



Mr. K. Stockermans, Toronto: "I wanted gas for the convenience it gave me much more space in my basement. So when the gas company made the offer on that gadget, the conversion burner, I said, 'Why not?'"

GET YOUR  
**MOTOROLA Quasar**  
WORKS IN A DRAWER  
Color TV from Sweetheart Peter  
York Home T.V.  
306 Bayview Ave. (Plaza)  
889-1646 - 884-4165



If you're  
**NEW IN TOWN**  
and don't know  
which way to turn,  
call the



Mrs. Joyce Clark  
349 Kerswell Dr.,  
Richmond Hill  
884-1940

Mrs. Walters  
Thornhill  
881-0917

Mrs. Greer  
Thornhill  
889-3779



**Firestone STORES**

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS CENTRE**  
**RICHMOND HILL • 884-4401**  
Open Thursday & Friday Evenings 'til 9

USE OUR  
**Firestone CREDIT PLAN, AMERICAN EXPRESS or CHARGEX**

We make it

# easy

with tires for cars from everywhere

And with tire bargains like these

## DEACON/DANSON PUBLIC MEETING

Donald Deacon MPP, York Centre  
Barney Danson, MP York North

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO YOU!**

**THORNLEA SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
Bayview Ave., South of No. 7 Highway

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1974**  
at 8 pm

**THERE ARE BIG ADVANTAGES TO BEING SMALL.**



- \* Small purchase price (from \$2499.00)
- \* Small depreciation
- \* Small maintenance costs
- And Many Many More

So come on over to Don Valley North Toyota and ask us about the big advantages of being small. After all, we've been building small cars for 40 years, and thinking small has made us big.

**DON VALLEY NORTH TOYOTA**

STEELES AVE. JUST EAST OF WOODBINE  
495-0722

**Firestone STEEL RADIALS** with appearance blemishes

AS LOW AS  
**\$44<sup>95</sup>** INSTALLED



HR78-14 Whitewall \$60.35  
BR78-13 Blackwall \$40.00

WITH 40,000 GUARANTEED MILES

**Firestone 500 POLYESTER**

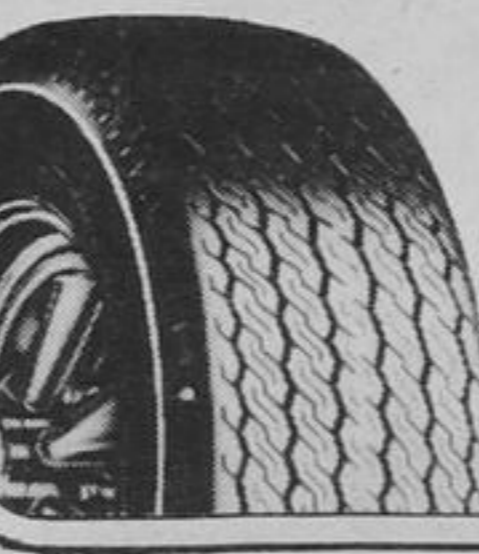
AS LOW AS  
**\$31<sup>15</sup>** INSTALLED



F78-14 Whitewall \$36.00  
G78-14 Whitewall \$37.50  
G78-15 Blackwall \$35.50

**Firestone SS-100 RETREAD WIDE TREAD**

AS LOW AS  
**\$15<sup>95</sup>** Exchange INSTALLED



825-15 Whitewall \$18.65  
825-14 Whitewall \$18.65

**Firestone 4-PLY NYLON CHAMPION**

AS LOW AS  
**\$19<sup>15</sup>** INSTALLED



G78-14 Whitewall \$25.55  
H78-15 Whitewall \$30.25  
F78-14 Blackwall \$23.30  
H78-15 Blackwall \$28.00