

The Liberal

The community newspaper serving Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Oak Ridges, King City, Maple and Concord.
 MAIN OFFICE: 10101 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 1T7, Ont.
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 BRANCH OFFICE: 301 Markham Rd., Richmond Hill, L4C 1J2, Ont.
 Telephones 884-1105 and 881-3373
 Established in 1878, The Liberal is published every Wednesday by Metrospan Publishing Limited - North Division, which also publishes The Banner in Aurora/Newmarket and the Woodbridge-Vaughan News.
 K. J. Larone, President, Metrospan Publishing Limited
 J. G. Van Kampen, General Manager, North Division
 W. S. Cook, Publisher, The Liberal and The News
 Subscriptions: \$7.00 by mail in Canada, \$9.00 to U.S.A. Single copies and home delivery 15¢ per copy. No mail delivery where carrier service exists.
 For subscriptions call 884-1105 or 881-3373.



Member Canadian Community Newspaper Association and Audit Bureau of Circulations.
 Second class mail registration number 0190



Too Many Watchdogs

The continuing frustration of being a school trustee was further exemplified recently with the announcement from Windsor that an arbitration board has decided that the average class size in that city's Roman Catholic schools will be 32.

It was labelled as a "major breakthrough" by Doug Knott, chief negotiator for the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association. He said the ruling was of "immense importance" to all future dealings between teachers and their employees.

The board also ruled that the separate school board can put no more than 38 pupils in any class unless trustees believe special circumstances exist.

Earlier this year, York County Board of Trustees wound up a lengthy battle with the teachers, in which one of the final resolutions was that the guaranteed pupil-teacher ratio would be 17.4 pupils to each teacher. The latter, however, is established by taking the total number of students and dividing them by the total number of teachers, which, in the case of York County, came out to 17.9.

But as Trustee Ross Jolliffe pointed out, this didn't prevent some classes from having 37 or more pupils in them.

So what is to be established from the Windsor ruling?

Well, apparently, if anything, it means that major decisions should be left to arbitration boards. Electing trustees to attend meetings several times a week, 40 to 50 weeks a year, isn't enough, it seems; when it comes to the crunch, severe looking gentlemen from afar should be called in to decide just what should be done.

There are already "too many watchdogs" in the system, as Trustee Margaret Coburn of King said not long ago at a meeting of York County Board of Education. "Trustees are elected for a rea-

son," said Mrs. Coburn. "Why elect them if you don't trust them?"

A good point. Why elect people to positions of responsibility, if you're not prepared to give them free rein?

York County Board of Education and the secondary and elementary teachers of the region are at a crossroads right now; they have laid aside their axes and have come to an agreement of sorts. They are on even terms, as it were, so maybe now is as good a time as any to start trusting a bit in each other.

That goes for their critics, too, the ratepayers' groups and the unions and anyone at all who has a vote in such matters.

They'll have that chance to declare quite unequivocally this December when they go to the polls just whom they wish to represent them. And once making that choice, they should give them the chance to make a go of their mandate and not try to intervene every time something happens that they don't completely agree with.

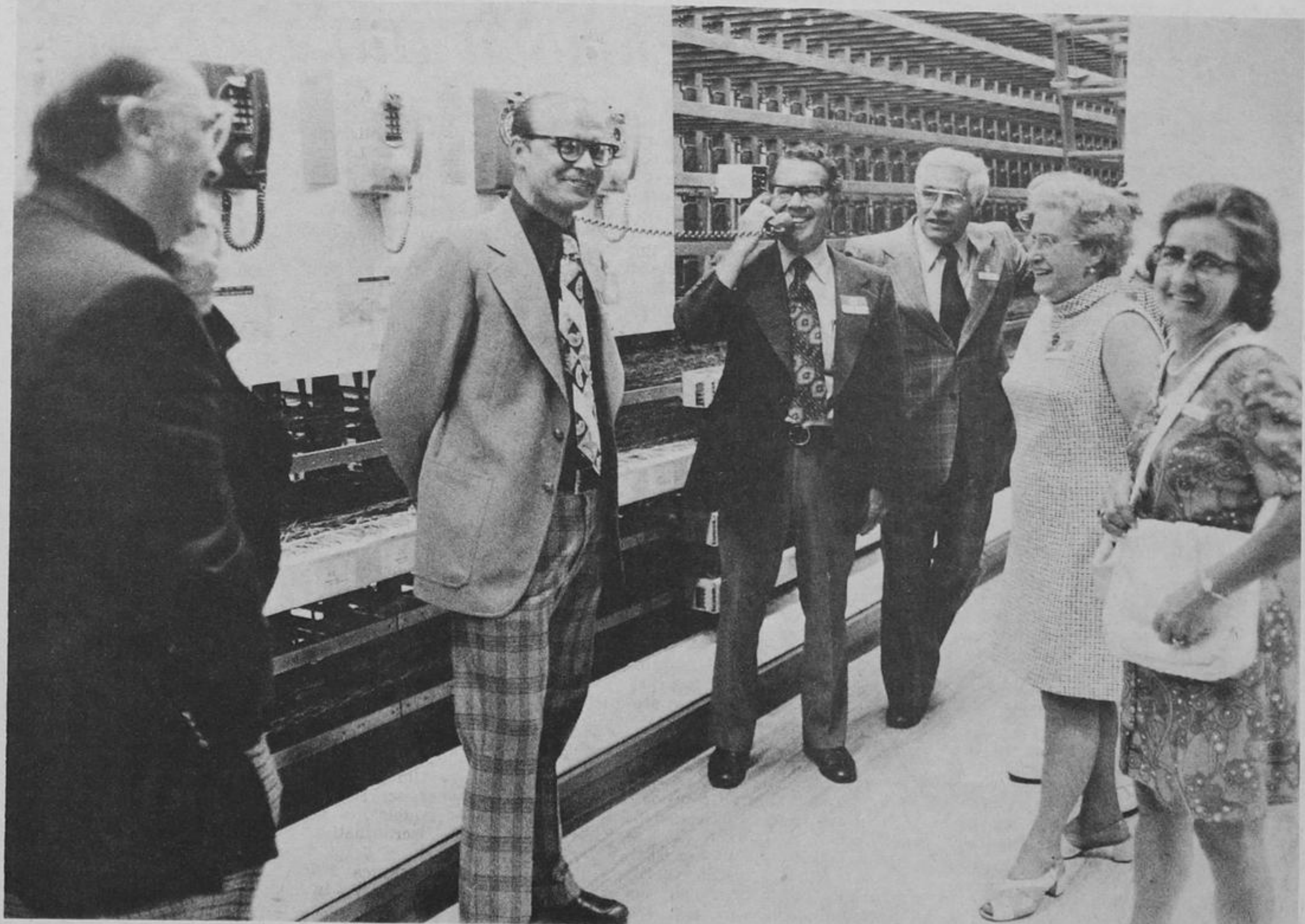
Encouragement, not constant harassment makes people flexible and willing to listen to other views.

An elected school board and not an appointed arbitration board should decide what's best all around.

Mistakes will be made, of course, but they will not be the mistakes of fools. Those kinds of mistakes only come about when fear enters into the picture; usually the fear spread by frightened people of the kind who are always trying to destroy the system.

So it might be wise to remember that when you go to the polls in a few months and mark an X opposite the candidate of your choice.

Have the courage of your anonymous convictions.



Bell Canada held an open house July 17 for the mayor and councillors of Richmond Hill and their spouses. Guided tours were given of the building and its equipment. A special display was set up also to demonstrate new optional telephone services. In the above picture Guide Al Roberts of Bell Canada

(Photo by Susan Samila) Councillors Jack Major and Bill Corcoran at the phones, Regional Councillor Gordon Rowe, Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. Andy Chateauvert.

Latest Telephone Equipment Now In Use

Have you noticed a different pitch in the dial tone on your telephone in Richmond Hill during the past six weeks? This is one of the results of the more than \$3 million Bell Canada has spent to provide the latest and most sophisticated telephone equipment available

in the switching centre on Richmond Street. Cost of the electronic switching equipment, made by Northern Electric and known as SP-1, is almost \$2.7 million. It went into operation June 23. An addition to the building was completed last year

at a cost of more than \$450,000 to accommodate the 10,000 lines which were initially served by the SP-1 equipment at cutover. Ultimate capacity of the switching centre is 30,000 lines. A new "883" exchange was

introduced July 7, to keep pace with the population growth of the area. Besides the lower-pitched dial tone, on certain calls between exchanges, there is a slight delay between the time a call is dialed and when the called telephone

rings. The changeover also means that optional features such as touch-tone, call forwarding, three-way calling and speed calling are now available both in the new "883" and in the "884" exchange.

ROCK TALK

By PAUL JONES
Shantai II

Shantai II is a commercial rock band consisting of Martin Damsel (lead vocals, drums, organ), Rick Neglia (vocals, bass, piano), Lex McGinness (vocals, guitar), Paul Gallison (vocals, bass, rhythm, synthesizer) and Norm Barker (drums and vocals).

Shantai II is an extremely tight "concept" band which specializes in reproducing the sounds of other well known bands (eg. Moody Blues, Edward Bear, C.C.R.). After listening to the band's flawless performance, accommodated by their strong vocals and fine sound system, it's hard to believe that they have only been playing together for six months.

Unlike most "concept" bands which specialize in only one branch of music (eg. Liverpool-Beatle music or Sha Na-Na-graffitti music), Shantai II spreads its talent across various categories (country, pop and rock). In one of their sets, Shantai II plays material from the sixties and early seventies. Some of the songs from this category which are well done are Cara Mia (Jay & The Americans), Last Song (Edward Bear), Stories We Could Tell (Moody Blues) and I Started A Joke (Bee Gees).

The factor which makes Cara Mia, Last Song, and I Started A Joke such fine renditions is the strong vocals of lead singer, Martin Damsel. Martin's voice is so versatile that you could almost refer to him as a singing impressionist. The

background vocals and musical instrumentations added by the rest of the band just go to strengthen the already flawless performance.

Another set of music which Shantai II provides is the set on raffitti. The only word suitable for describing this set is "priceless". After hearing them play such oldies as Runaway, The Hop and The Twist, I'd just have to agree that there isn't another "concept" band in the city, that could compare with Shantai II.

The only problem with Shantai II is that there isn't enough space on this page to describe their acts in the detail they deserve. Even throughout the sets (4) Shantai II changes their costumes so that they can fit the mood of the music being played (eg. greaser clothes worn during the raffitti set). But what really catches the ear is the fact (and demonstrated in the second set) that Shantai II is capable of playing original material in the same tight manner. Even here their vocals (in this case somewhat similar to those of the Beatles) play the main role in strengthening the song to a point near perfection.

There's no doubt that Shantai II is one of the finer "concept" bands to ever come out of Toronto. And there's also no doubt that Shantai II, with the right backing, will eventually become a very successful rock band.

BY VICKERY COOK

In last week's edition of "The Liberal" appeared a feature story about Mrs. Robert Campbell's home on Bayview Avenue in Richmond Hill. Part of the history of the home was a fire which destroyed the barn and the livestock.

Mrs. Campbell very kindly submitted two articles, both of which appeared in "The

Liberal" in 1913, explaining the circumstances surrounding the fire and the subsequent barn raising.

The first appeared May 8, 1913 and read as follows:

BARN DESTROYED
 Joseph Hoad, who recently purchased the Albert Williams Farm east of Elgin Mills, suffered a severe loss by fire last Thursday when his large barn was burned,

together with eight horses and twenty head of cattle. Some of the horses and cows were very valuable but fortunately his imported stallion "Proud Baron" was in another stable and consequently escaped injury. The loss is heavy, although partially covered by insurance. Neighbors soon arrived on the scene and worked like Trojans but the fire could not be controlled. Those who were at the fire said it was a sad sight to see the animals as they were tortured in the flames. The origin of the fire seems a mystery.

The second article appeared August 21, 1913.

BARN RAISING

The barn raising of Mr. Joseph Hoad's Concession 2, Markham which was to have taken place last Saturday afternoon was brought to an abrupt termination by the thunderstorm and rain. A large number of men had assembled and after putting the frame work together, found it was impossible to proceed further that day. The contractor, Mr. William McKenzie asked all to return at eight o'clock Monday morning to finish the job. Promptly at the appointed time a large number gathered and while waiting for the rest, Mr. McKenzie's suggestion, they turned into a 17 acre field of oats and in the short space of twenty minutes had it all in shock. The raising then proceeded. Mr. James

McLean and Mr. Scott McNair were chosen as captains, the former winning by a margin. After the raising a sumptuous repast was served on the lawn by the usual bevy of pretty country maidens acting as waiters.

Thanks must be extended to Mrs. Campbell for locating these articles for us, furthering our insight and helping our imagination in capturing the real circumstances surrounding the incident and the feeling of fellowship that existed between neighbors in the community at that time.

SUTTON: Politicians and would-be politicians are beginning to line up in Georgina. Dr. George Burrows has announced he will seek the mayoralty. He was defeated by Mayor Joe Dale in December 1972. Terry McGill, a real estate salesman will seek the Ward 5 council seat held by Ken Smockum. Councillor Erik Larsen intends to seek Georgina's regional council seat held by Bob Pollock and Wallace Donnell of Keswick will also be running for regional councillor.

STOUFFVILLE: Len Keeping is turning in his scissors and comb after 50 years of barbering in this community. The only barber service here now is located in the west end plaza.

Letters to the Editors

ILL-MANNERED DRIVER

Dear Mr. Editor — I would like to comment on the folly of taking the law into one's own hands. I was driving in Richmond Hill one day last week. I would be doing approximately 25 mph. I could see the traffic had stopped for the Centre Street light, so I slowed to let an American tourist car into the flow of traffic.

A car pulled up on my right and cut me off very short to get in front of me. He went a short distance and slammed on his brakes. My wife, who has not been well, hurt her arm as a result of this sudden stop. He pulled this very stupid trick twice more. I have his licence number, and when our young hero saw me coming toward

him on the parking lot, he pushed down the button lock on the car door and yelled, "I'll get the cops. You were only doing 20 mph."

I keep myself in good condition, having boxed as a pro, am proficient in judo and karate. My training in a crack commando unit taught me a few tricks that are not in the books. I guess this ill tempered, bad mannered young man and I can both be thankful he had children with him.

When I found the courage to walk away I took a lot of verbal abuse, but I'm still a free man and it didn't cost me a thing.

1939 Vet.
 DON CAMERON
 123 16th Avenue,
 Thornhill.

Non-Returnable Bottle Ban Works In Two States

The States of Oregon and Vermont have now had legislation banning non-returnable bottles for soft drinks and beer in operation for more than a year and studies reveal that it has been very effective in reducing the volume of solid waste and litter caused by beverage containers.

Oregon was the first state to pass this legislation with an effective date of October 1, 1972. Opponents worried over reduction of sales, increased business costs and consumer prices, decreased tax revenues and employment. Some were dubious about the bill's effect on litter reduction.

A recent study, however, shows that in the first year of operation the number of beverage containers disposed of during the year decreased by more than 385 million — a reduction of 88% in the volume of solid waste and litter from this source. The decrease could result in as much as a \$700,000 annual saving in trash handling and cleanup costs.

Contrary to the forecast of reduction of revenue, the effect of the bill has been to increase by \$3.93 million the total operating income from the business sectors directly affected — and brewers and bottlers have saved \$8 million.

The impact has been varied on different businesses, however, with beer distributors' operating costs up nearly \$3 million (because of redistributing the containers) and can and bottle manufacturers have lost profits totaling \$614,000.

As to employment, despite a decrease in personnel in container

manufacturing and soft-drink canning industries, the fear of overall reduction in employment was unfounded. All other sectors of business affected by the law increased employment, resulting in about 365 more jobs than before.

In both Oregon and Vermont (where the law became effective July 1, 1973) the law requires a deposit of five cents on bottles used for soft-drink and beer. The deposit is returned to the consumer when he returns the bottle to the grocer. In Oregon a deposit is also required on cans used for the same purpose.

Farmers in Vermont have voiced strong support for the law saying that it has saved them at least a week's work cleaning up their land in the spring before planting.

However, the softdrink and beer wholesalers and retail grocers are keeping the law under constant attack, seeking its repeal or to persuade the courts to declare it unconstitutional. After passage of the legislation beer wholesalers increased prices by 40 cents to 50 cents a six-pack in Vermont as against prices paid in neighboring states.

Similar legislation is in effect in the Province of Alberta and public protest from ecology-minded residents of this province has led the softdrink and beer industries to continue to use reusable bottles. If the public refuses to buy beverages in non-reusable containers, then they will soon be removed from the market and the amount of waste material for which municipalities have to find a disposal site will be substantially reduced.

STOUFFVILLE: Council has taken an official stand in opposing the proposed closing of the CNR station here. A resolution will be forwarded to the Canadian Transport Commission. Mayor Gordon Ratcliff claims the station handles 800 to 900 passengers a month, does \$100,000 worth of business a year and serves a 20-mile radius.

AURORA: Opposition to Captain Development's proposal to raze the Gateway Plaza at Wellington Street and Haida Drive and replace it with apartment buildings and town houses was voiced to town council by 50 residents recently. Density of the proposed development would be 75 persons to the acre. The proposal is for 10-storey apartment buildings which home-owners claim will block their view.

KESWICK: Georgina Council has levied a 1974 tax rate which will bring a slight decrease in taxes in Sutton but in the former North Gwillimbury and Georgina areas there will be slight increases, as a result of the OMB's decision to permit the township to defer payment for a civic centre over a three-year period. Tax bills will be sent out by August 15 and will be due September 13.