

Consider Threat Of Noise Buttonville Airport Hearing

The parade of witnesses went on last week at Toronto Airways Limited's application to extend one of its runways at Buttonville Airport continued before a Municipal Board hearing.

It was mainly a case of "technical" evidence as put forth by Toronto Airways throughout the five days which ended in an adjournment until Tuesday of this week.

OMB Chairman Barry Smith will start to hear the evidence of those opposed to a 1200-foot extension which requires a re-zoning change on 70 acres adjacent to the present airport. The hearing is expected to last until at least Wednesday.

Much of last week's evidence as presented by sound experts Dr. John Wade of McMaster University and Tony Beek, Chief of Aviation for Planning in Ottawa, dwelled on "noise contours."

Essence of Dr. Wade's testimony indicated that according to tests taken by he and his associates there should be no "scientific" noise problems outside of the airport's boundaries on a major scale.

Other evidence was presented to show that the type of jet aircraft using the Buttonville Airport — and the ones that might start to use it — are essentially quieter than the normal propeller-driven type.

Solicitor Tom Dunn for Toronto Airways noted that a great deal of the concern for "jet noise" was unfounded for the above reasons.

The OMB hearing commenced Monday of last week and resulted after a series of applications by Toronto Airways to the Town of Markham Council for the rezoning change.

Council rejected the application following a number of council and public meetings which saw nearly 50 residents turning up to oppose the move as well as opposition from the Town of Richmond Hill.

The residents fear an enlarged runway would mean increased air traffic and noise problems with larger airplanes using the airport. Toronto Airways Assistant to the President Ian McCuaig stated that the extended runway would allow for a "greater mobility in bad weather conditions. Instead of being confined to the one runway as at the present time we would have another one at our disposal."

He added that the larger runway would mean "planes could be directed over less densely populated areas. As well, a longer runway means the air craft would be higher in the air on the take-off and therefore cause less noise."

Similar claims were made by Air Traffic Controller Gregory Vincent who said that "from my experience a 1,200 foot extension mean an extra margin of safety as well as add to the noise abatement of planes taking off."

He added that the airport was "safe now but the landing is tight on the runway."

Toronto Airways General Manager Roy McCabe also stressed the company's effort toward "noise abatement" by stating that a helicopter firm using the airport had "changed their tail rotators for quieter ones at a considerable cost."

He said that the airport operated from 7 am in the morning to 11 pm at night at which times the lights were usually turned off.

"There's a small percentage of days, up to maybe five planes a week, when the lights are left on for an incoming plane," he said.

This week's hearings will see the solicitors for these opposed to the rezoning have their innings before Chairman Smith and Peter Brooks.

The hearings were slated to commence at 10 am Tuesday morning and possibly run through to Thursday.

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From The Police Blotter

\$1,250 Worth Of Household Goods Stolen From Lockers

A Richmond Hill thief was apparently concentrating on apartment house lockers last week.

Leonard Jobe of 216 Essex Avenue, Apartment 212, reported to York Regional Police he checked his basement locker July 30 only to find \$600 worth of household effects missing. Included among the items lost were furniture, a stove, lawnmower and washing machine.

The same day Josephine Comfort of 45 Trayborn Drive, Apartment 404, reported a \$650 theft from her apartment locker. Missing were two sets of dishes and a set of crystal.

Arrested for driving while suspended, while impaired, while unable to pass a breathalyzer test and while

illegally having liquor at 9 pm on Bayview Avenue in Oak Ridges July 30 was Louis Balogh, 45, of RR 3, King City.

Also at Oak Ridges last week while parked on Lake Drive at 3:30 am July 30 another driver was arrested for impaired care and control of a motor vehicle, failing a breathalyzer test, illegal possession of liquor, all while being wanted on outstanding committal warrants.

Two 15-year-old boys were charged July 30 with break, entry and theft at Crosby Heights Public School, Crosby Avenue. They were caught at 9:45 pm leaving the school with three stolen pairs of pliers. Entry was gained through an unlocked window. YRP said.

2 Charged With Having Marijuana

Thornhill and Richmond Hill youths caught in routine York Regional Police checks last week have been charged with possession of marijuana.

Brian Loesgan, 17, of 19 Hester Court, Thornhill, was arrested at about 11:15 pm Monday in a laneway off Concession 3 just south of Highway 7 in Thornhill.

Jan Denton, 21, of 28 Arnold Crescent, Richmond Hill was arrested at about 3 am Tuesday when a marijuana pipe and a quantity of the illicit material were allegedly found in his arm bag.

Both face the charges at York Region drug court in Newmarket.

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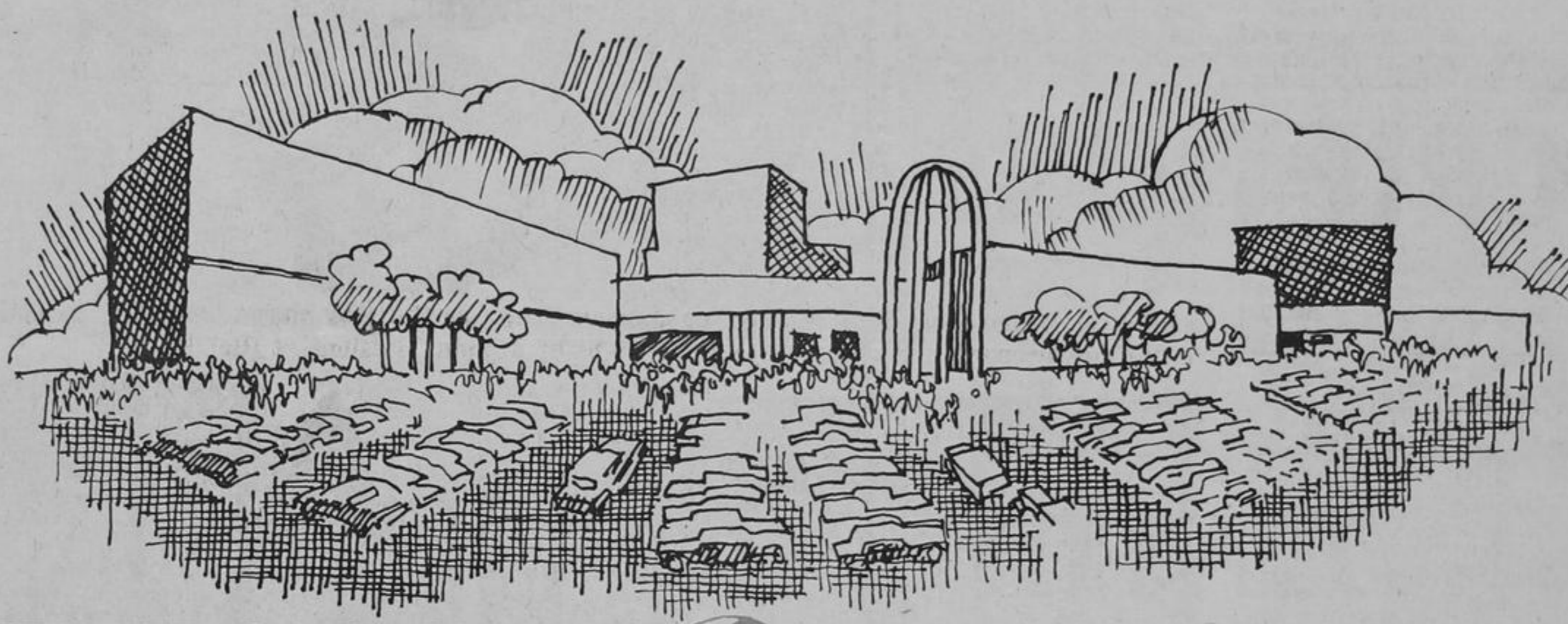
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