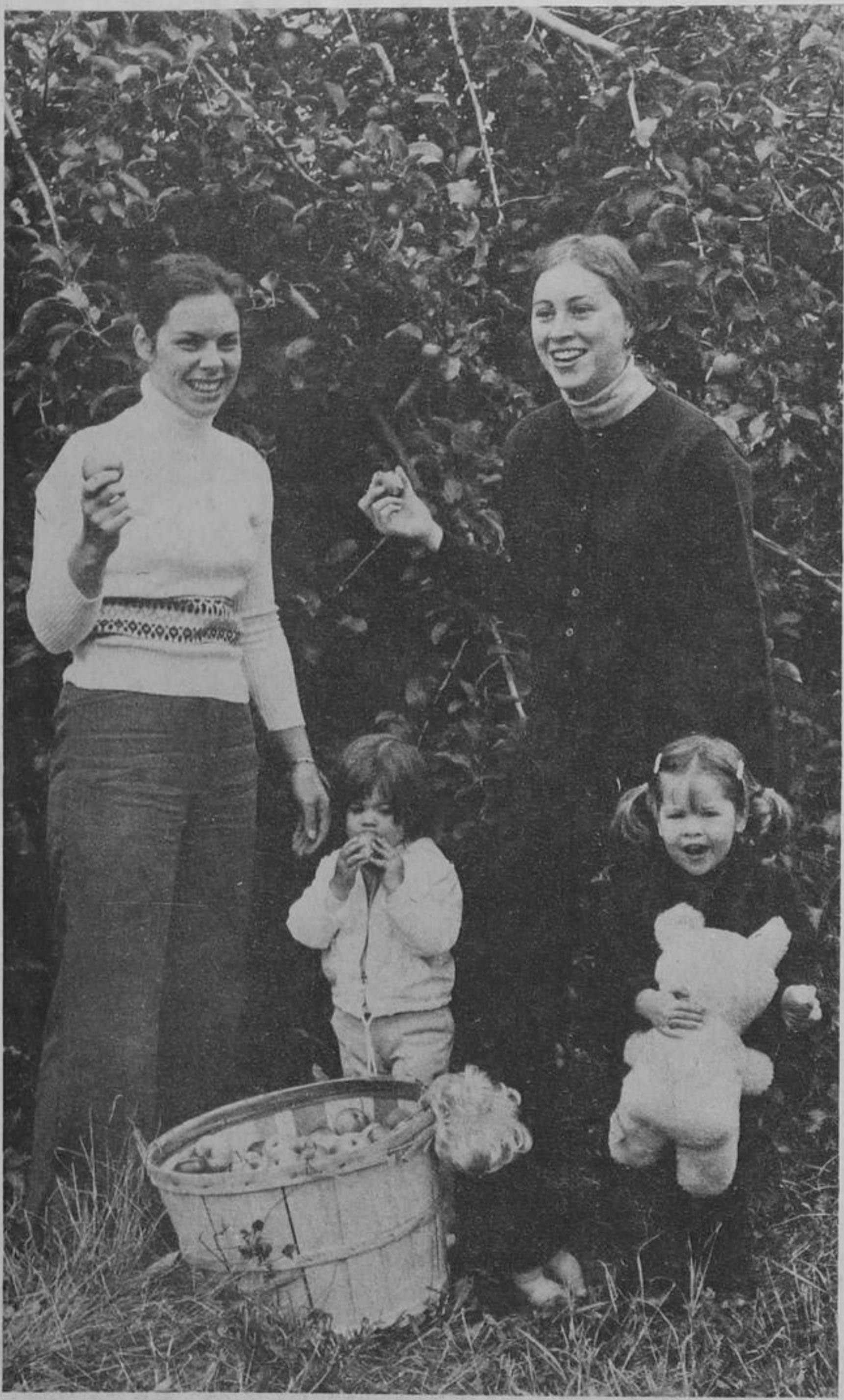


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(Photo by Susan Samila)

These Eves Eat Own Apples

There is nothing quite so delicious as an Ontario apple — be it McIntosh, Courtland, Spy or Delicious — and no apple is quite as delicious as the one you pick from the tree yourself. Picking your own supply for the winter has become a popular family pastime at this time of the year. In the above picture, taken at Silver Stream Farms, located on Leslie Street just north of Markham Road in the Town of Richmond Hill, our photographer caught two mother and daughter pairs enjoying a day in the September sunshine as they picked their own apples. They are (left to right) Susan Hughes of Markham and her daughter Michelle; and Linda Dorward with her daughter Kristine. Teddy and Dolly also got into the act.

Regional Council Considering Provincial Housing Proposals

It's crash housing time in the area and this week York Regional Council will have to decide just how involved it wants to get in the matter. Last week, the regional planning committee agreed it was too big a matter to decide on its own and so suggested the provincial government's report on the proposed Housing Action Program be the responsibility of the majority and not just the few.

In summing up the report, Planning Commissioner Murray Pound told the meeting there was "mounting pressure" on senior levels in government to accept a role in housing. The report pointed out some of the choices available to municipalities in that respect and sought their guidance as to what role they wished to take.

The report said the Ministry of Housing hoped the regional municipalities would become the "senior responsible housing authority for their area of jurisdiction."

"Should both regional and local municipalities not wish to assume this responsibility and should the area be designated as suitable for accelerated housing programs, the Ministry is prepared to assume complete responsibility for the program without any consultation with the municipalities concerned."

SAD STATE
Councillor Bob Adams of Markham, said he was concerned about the government's action in that respect.

Want Webster Farm In Langstaff Area Freed From Freeze

Trustees of the farm held in trust for the benefit of David Webster, located at the west end of Garden Avenue, have applied to the Province of Ontario to buy the whole farm or to release it from the parkway corridor designation, so that the farm may be sold to a developer.

Malcolm Summerville told Richmond Hill Council's Planning Committee September 18.

The farm which is irregular in shape has fields reaching to Bathurst Street and the Langstaff Sideroad. Some acreage was taken for the Langstaff Secondary School site in past years, leaving 132 acres, 62 of which are subject to the restrictions of the parkway belt.

The property was left in trust by the late George Webster for his son David Webster, until his 21st birthday with his mother and Canada Trust sharing the trusteeship with Mr. Summerville. The trustees had decided to put the property on the market when their ward reached his 21st birthday, but unfortunately that date coincided with the announcement of the parkway belt, Mr. Summerville said.

He sought the support of the town in the application to the provincial government.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey said she could support the request to the province to purchase the entire farm, but would have to study the situation before indicating any support to releasing the property for development. Other members of the committee agreed.

The request was received and referred to planning staff for a report.

Richmond Hill Councillor, Lois Hancey, disagreed. If the area and regional municipalities rejected the government's idea that it was their responsibility to provide housing for people in the municipality, what other alternative was there for the government than to impose some kind of housing program, she asked.

The government had put forward three options in the matter and Mrs. Hancey said she favored the first, which said the region could assume the responsibility visualized under the program in conjunction with the local municipalities. This involved preparation of a policy statement containing the municipality's general housing aims for the next three years; and a "more precise" statement of housing targets and policies, and availability of serviced land.

This statement would include an indication of housing needs for a five to 10-year period.

AMOUNT HAZY
The regional council would retain control over housing development under this plan.

A disadvantage was the lack of accommodation for additional staff to implement the studies and program. Also, the amount of grant to the region was hazy.

Councillor Hancey said there should be some study underway as to extra staff required and the housing of them. A recommendation should be going to the administrative committee to see if money could be obtained for a new administration building, if needed.

The second option was the do-it-or-else one of the government's, while the third was much the same. It stated that the Ministry would approach the local municipality for co-operation in implementing the program. Barring co-operation, the Ministry was free to assume the responsibility, she said.

The disadvantage of this, however, was the probable complete loss of control over the quality and quantity of housing at the regional level.

Earlier this year, Councillor Hancey moved a

motion with her own council in Richmond Hill that the planning director investigate the area which could be designated for housing and to see if Richmond Hill could absorb a housing program.

The motion was approved, but so far there has been no report.

Councillor Adams felt the matter of providing housing was a local issue only. The government was trying to resolve its own internal problems.

IN BIND
"It's not our role to get the province off the hook," Adams said.

Mayor Bob Forhan of Newmarket said the "changing philosophy of the government was putting us in a bind."

He blamed the government for "changing its mind" in environmental matters; also a reduction in the 20 per cent building tax would encourage housing.

All municipalities had made housing provisions in their official plans and he didn't see why York should get into it at the regional level, Mr. Adams said.

Mayor Garnet Williams of Vaughan felt the individual communities should be able to provide housing, with the co-operation of the region and "without the province telling us we've got to do it."

Mayor Gladys Rolling of East Gwillimbury, chairman of the planning committee, said that if the government were going to put housing in

York, they were going to need services. Where to get them was the problem.

Mayor Forhan's motion that the report be received and forwarded to council was agreed to by the meeting.

Feat Went To Head

While Elmer the Safety Elephant is the symbol of most children, his message is apparently not getting home to everyone.

Police said that Elmer, a flashlight, an Elmer safety flag and a police hat were all removed from an unlocked police van behind the Richmond Hill station September 20 about 11:30 pm.

The chief, however, found the feat just too good to keep to himself and donned the hat as he walked down the street with his bounty.

Unfortunately, his disguise wasn't quite complete and he was spotted by Detective John Morrison and Constable Ivor Vitins.

Elmer's new owner then threw the items at the police, hitting one of them on the knee, and fled.

A youth was picked up shortly afterward at his residence.

Facing charges of theft and possession under \$200, and assaulting a police officer, is Jay Amodeo, 16, of Mill Street, Richmond Hill.

Don't Want Sidewalk North Taylor Mills

By MARY DAWSON

Lack of sidewalks in most areas of Richmond Hill through the past quarter of a century has often been the subject of criticism and censure. After several years of proposals for setting up funds and priorities for building sidewalks throughout the town, particularly in the vicinity of schools, it appeared as if action would get underway this year.

But it appears that the small children on those streets have now grown up and the desire of the property owners for a sidewalk has disappeared, even though they were not being built on a local improvement basis with a direct charge back on the abutting landowner, but would be paid for out of the general tax rate spread over the whole municipality.

The latest town proposal was to build a sidewalk on the south side of North Taylor Mills Road, but Jack Chapman was at the September 16 meeting of Richmond Hill Council to tell the elected representatives he and his neighbors did not want the sidewalk.

DITCHES STAY
"The plan doesn't include elimination of the ditches and we oppose it. We have taken up a petition and lodged it with Mr. Toporowski. We understand it is to be an asphalt sidewalk and this irritates us even more. It will be perched on the edge of a ditch and we feel the ditch is the problem. We're

Markham Town Parent Appeal

The Markham Town parks and recreation committee this week issued an appeal to parents to try to help curb vandalism which has dealt a serious setback to the municipal development program.

One of the worst hit was Royal Orchard Park in Thornhill where an estimated \$1,500 damage was recently done to the adventure playground palisade structure and the utility building. In various parks vandals have snapped off numbers of trees just planted last year and caused considerable other damage.

Mr. Pask outlined the procedures followed in acquiring the property on a purchase or easement basis.

"For easements over agricultural land, compensation is based on 75 per cent of the market value of the land to cover the basic right-of-way."

To this is added an additional payment for any tower structures needed — 75 per cent of the market value of one acre of land for the first structure, 80 per cent of the value of an acre for the second, and so on.

If the land owner decides to sell he will receive the going market value price at the time.

"Additionally, Hydro will continue its past practice of licensing purchased farmland to the former owner for a nominal \$1 per year plus taxes, and the owner may then continue to use the area concerned as farmland."

1,250 Rooms Eventually On Parkway Hotel Site

A total of 1,250 bedrooms is planned for the Parkway Hotel, in about 10 years time, Proprietor David McLean told members of Richmond Hill Council's Planning Committee September 18.

The original motel, located at Highway 7 and Leslie Street, contained only 40 rooms and Mr. McLean has just completed an 80-room addition, including a convention hall. It was his intent to complete only 40 rooms for the present and the other 40 when the demand warranted — but he said the demand is such that the 120 rooms are booked all through next summer and he is planning to up the number to 200 within 18 months.

At the same time he will be enlarging the dining room.

The hotel is served by its own well and a large septic tank and tile bed system. "We can live with our own services for 20 to 40 years," he said "but will be hooking into the sewers when they become available."

MOTEL AND BANK
In 1975 Mr. McLean plans to build a small-budget motel "Trust Inn" to the east with a McDonald's and a bank, but no lounge or dining room. In 1978 this facility will be enlarged to 80 rooms.

A 750-room hotel will be built still later and farther to the east, closer to the proposed Highway 404. This will require sewers, McLean said.

He also told the committee he will be willing to dedicate an 85-foot road allowance through his property to serve proposed industrial development on lands lying to the north of his holdings. This road would also be used as the entrance to his hotel-motel complex from Highway 7.

LOTS OF PARKING
He assured the committee he has ample space for parking. "As we grow we add to the parking. At no time will we ever be short of parking."

He also indicated the parkway belt lies to the south of his holdings.

His application for rezoning was received and referred to staff for study in conjunction with previous applications in the former Markham area.

Country Place Nursing Home Expansion Bylaw Gets Read

It was delegation night at Richmond Hill Council September 16, with eight listed on the agenda. One man, John Fedyna, declined the opportunity to speak to his application for rezoning which would permit construction of another residence on the site of his Country Place Nursing Home. The bylaw was given two readings later in the meeting.

No one took advantage of the right to speak about the 1974 taxes cancelled and/or refunded by council which totalled \$24,176.01.

Two others were deferred:

BRIGGS AVENUE
At the request of the residents of Briggs Avenue, their opposition to the construction of a Church of the Latter Day Saints on that street, was postponed until October 7 because their lawyer could not attend last week since it was a holy day.

A delegation of tenants of the town-owned Sunset Beach Park, represented by Mrs. Anne Gold, also had their plea postponed until September 30. The consultant's report on that park has been received and will be considered by the parks and recreation committee prior to that date.

Ben Polesinello read a petition signed by 16 residents and property owners of Elgin Mills Road West, asking council to take action to have conditions on a neighboring property — specifically a large, unsightly unpainted wooden fence and huge quantities of wood stored in the rear — improved.

It was said Town Solicitor Tom Fraser expressed the opinion council "can not do anything about the fence until such time as the property standards bylaw is adopted."

It was also reported the wood stored in the backyard is forming material used for the resident's concrete work.

ASK CO-OPERATION
It was decided to ask for the co-operation of the resident in improving the appearance, Councillor David Stephenson volunteering to help in this respect. It was also decided to investigate if this outside storage was being used prior to the passing of Vaughan Bylaw 2523. The other delegations are dealt with in separate news stories on these pages.

Hydro Unveils Transmission Line Land Policy

By FRED SIMPSON

Land owners faced with the prospect of having high voltage transmission lines strung across their property have their rights protected by the Ontario Expropriations Act.

This was the gist of a press conference held at Brampton Thursday afternoon of last week by Ontario Hydro officials in an effort to clear up some of the possible confusion about the highly controversial transmission situation.

The spokesmen were Martin Pask, property acquisition manager, and Bob Hawley, property appraisal manager.

Mr. Hawley explained the Expropriations Act is designed to safeguard owners' rights and secure them fair compensation.

Said Mr. Hawley: "Farm spokesmen, in particular, have pressed to get farmers full protection under this act. In response, Hydro has agreed that when it needs to acquire property, or property rights, it will go about this in the ways set out in the Act. "At every step along the way, owners will be kept fully informed — told everything they wish to know about what particular property rights are needed, why Hydro needs them, and the safeguards provided for them under expropriation."

Mr. Hawley said there were many tax, interest payment, legal and appraisal benefits guaranteed to owners under Ontario's expropriation rules.

In addition "there may be payments above regular market values to cover an owner's expenses, 'disturbance' to farm operations, and other factors."

Along this line, Mr. Hawley announced a new format adopted by Hydro in May to further assure that all land owners would be treated equally.

These included what he termed a "uniform application of the Expropriation Act" whereby Hydro would inform all land owners concerned that expropriation proceedings were under way instead of approaching the situation at a later date and with individual properties.

"This will enable everyone to know at the same time what is happening and provide the opportunity to assure the rights of the individual concerned under the Expropriation Act," Mr. Hawley said.

"Doing business under terms of the Act does not prevent an owner from negotiating an individual settlement with Hydro along the way. It does ensure that every owner has full access to all the rights and protections the Act guarantees him."

Other innovations include "free choice of purchase or easement." In the past, Hydro in certain cases has opted for obtaining easements instead of buying the property.

"From now on if the farmer wants to sell, we will buy," assured Mr. Hawley. "It's up to him. If he chooses to sell he can request the money in either a lump sum or payment over a period of months."

There will also be compensation allowed for what Mr. Hawley described as "special impact."

Mr. Hawley pointed out that "Hydro recognizes the special

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(Photo by Susan Samila)

58 Buses A Day Aren't Wanted

Fifty-eight buses a day are now travelling along Centre Street West, Richmond Hill, since the change in bus scheduling this month. Residents of this street, old and new, from Elizabeth Street to Bridgeford Street are protesting against having what has until now been a beautiful, quiet residential street, changed into a major thoroughfare. They are complaining of the noise, dust and fumes on the narrow, tree-lined street, as the buses pass every 15 minutes from early morning to early evening. Residents also claim that except for brief periods in the morning and evening, the buses run without passengers. They have secured 73 signatures on a petition to have the buses removed from that block of Centre Street and will be presenting it to council in the near future.

The above picture graphically illustrates the cause of their complaints on what they feel is a unique street, the last remaining link with the former Village of Richmond Hill.