

Letters

Writes Markham councillor

Dear editor:
I would like to address the following letter publicly to Markham Town Councillor Harold Lawrie:
As councillor of Ward 6, town of Markham, I cannot understand your apathy with respect to the Buttonville Airport issue.
I have been involved with this issue for the last

year-and-a-half. I invited you to a meeting last spring and at that time you neither acknowledged or attended the meeting.
The mayor and regional councillor did. Perhaps there was just cause, but your secretary did take the message.
At subsequent council meetings you have not

given any opinion on the issue.
I called you recently prior to a council meeting — asking you to please respond during discussion period on behalf of your constituents.
Your reply was that you "thought the matter was 'fait de complete'".
As our paid elected representative for Ward



Councillor Lawrie apathy blamed

6, I am embarrassed to admit I voted for you.
I really thought you would represent the people of your ward — that their interests would be yours.
Our homes and lifestyles will be in jeopardy if the expansion of Buttonville Airport is allowed.
Perhaps you agree with Walter Grieve when he suggests the town of Markham "buy up at fair market value all residences in those noise cones," and let us relocate.
I don't know what your views are — you obviously keep them to yourself.
I did note you approved the one month waiting period, which I appreciate.
Many members of A.I.R. (Association of Involved Residents) a group of taxpayers who are trying to find just cause for disallowing the expansion of Buttonville Airport, are residents of your ward.
Why don't you help us to preserve and protect our environment?
(MRS.) SANDRA SALEY,
4 Glenhollow Court,
Unionville, Ont.

Dear editor:
As principal of a local southern York region school, I would like to have a dialogue with parents as follows:
"Do you know where your children are right now?"
He or she may be roaming the streets at the moment deliberately destroying someone's effort to enhance his property.
He or she may be one of those hanging around the schools demanding entry when they have no business inside.
He or she may be on the school roof foraging for balls and deliberately taking property to which they have no right.
Recently I have been hearing about vandalism in the community. Unless you know where your children are or what they are doing, don't ignore the fact your child could be involved.
We tend to keep close tabs on our pre-teens and for some reason remove the bounds and grant greater freedom to our 12, 13 and 14-year-olds.
These are the children we seem to think are all of a sudden adults and we expect them to fend for themselves in an adult world.
Not having the experience in handling vast amounts of free unsupervised time, they wander the community in groups looking for something to do.
Mailboxes, fences, shrubs, cars are all delightful targets for action.
I would suggest these are the children who need close supervision and guidance regarding their choice of activity.

I would also suggest rather than granting more freedom, we foster a greater sense of responsibility by expecting more family participation from this group.
A share in looking after the home property should lead to respect for the efforts of others.

Let's get these children into the backyard, or the front yard, or into organized sports or any other activity that leads to the development of good citizens.

ROY ROBSON,
J. A. Bigson Public School,
Maple, Ont.

Gave school site

When Abner Miles died (the first burial in what is now the Presbyterian Cemetery) he left all his property — 2,000 acres — to his only son James Miles.

James was also the first owner of Lot 46 Vaughan Township.

His father's holdings were in the then Markham and Vaughan Townships, in Toronto, and also some 600 acres on the banks of the Thames River, afterwards sold to become part of an Indian reserve.

Church site
He was credited by William Harrison with the gift of land to the community of the site of the present McConaghy School and the site of the Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, manse and cemetery.

However, sometime after his death it was discovered the deed for the latter land had not been signed.

The Presbyterians paid his heirs \$5,000 for it in order to obtain a clear title.

Church precedent
In 1811 he organized a Sunday school which met in the first settlement house on Lot 46.

This is believed to be the second oldest Sunday school in Canada, and was the only opportunity many young people of the area had of obtaining the rudiments of an education.

The first schoolmaster arrived in the settlement in 1816.

With the Bible as a



yesterdays

by mary dawson

textbook, Miles taught his pupils to read and write, sometimes using the Book to box a pupil's ears.

So the youngsters were instructed mentally, spiritually and corporally by it.

Most of them could recite almost every chapter in the New Testament.

For reciting the Sermon on the Mount and Chapters 14 and 15 of St. John's gospel, the squire, believing cleanliness is next to godliness — presented each with a Bible and a pocket handkerchief.

Gave generously
The most liberal contributor to the first church building, built in 1821, by all and for the use of all, was Squire Miles.

With Rev. William Jenkins, Messrs. Marsh and Fulton, he was instrumental in founding the local branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1826.

A justice of the peace, James Miles was a philanthropist, interested in the welfare of every member of the community.

Public land
He set aside a portion of his Yonge Street frontage as a "public lot" where every family was permitted to cut their winter's supply of wood.

He once offered 200

acres of land to an able-bodied young man, along with the necessary tools to be used in its clearing and provisions for six months, if he would work on the property for that length of time.

The offer was refused.

Also marriages
As a magistrate he performed many marriages, his fees, since money was scarce, often being in "kind".

On one occasion it was a pair of socks, knitted by the young bride, on another a pair of pigeons, the sole wealth of the young groom.

But since it had wings this "wealth" soon flew away.

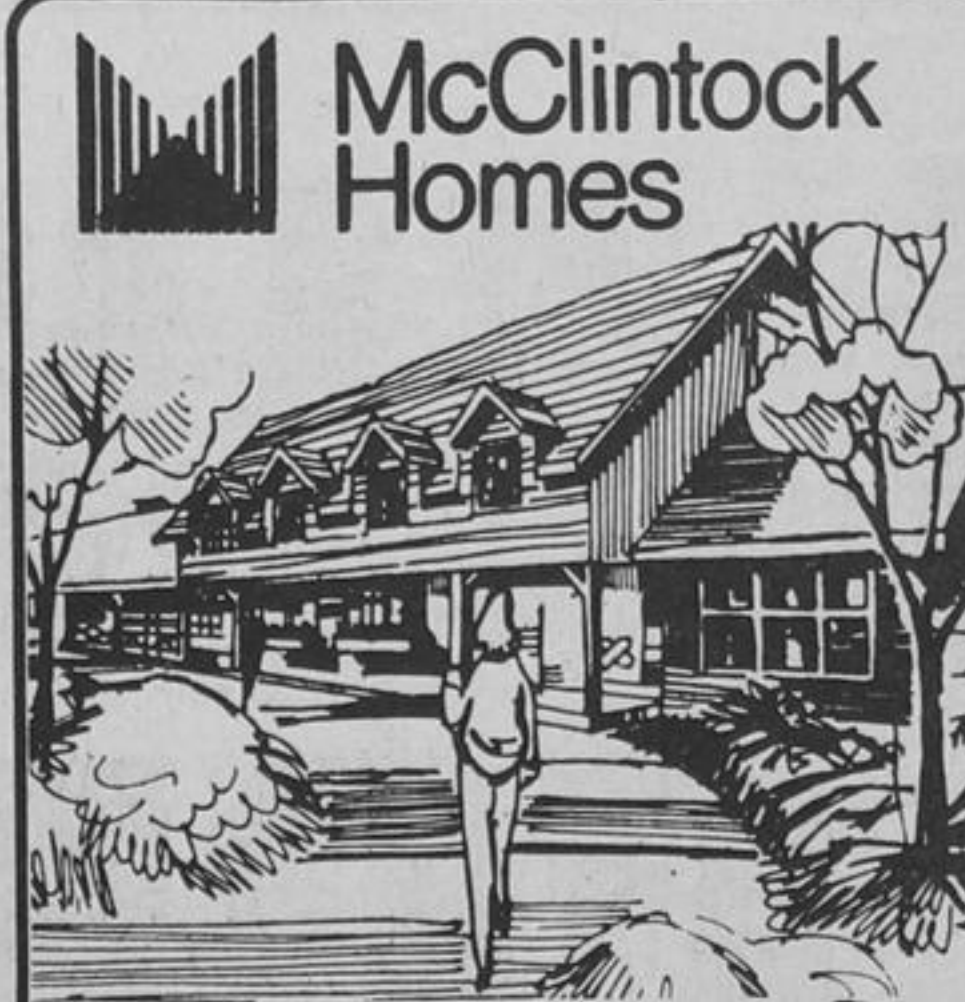
Winter and summer Miles wore a linen suit and a straw hat. When relatives or neighbors would hint he should purchase warmer clothing for the cold weather, he would reply he couldn't afford it.

Caught thief
On one occasion, apprehending a thief in his orchard, the Squire held the bag, while the young offender filled it.

Miles then lifted the bag on to the culprit's shoulder and told him he was quite welcome to take the apples.

But he warned the thief in the future to ask permission to pick apples before starting in.

Do you know where your children are?



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TOWN OF VAUGHAN

SPRING BULK GARBAGE COLLECTION

May 10th to 14th, 1976

The Council of the Town of Vaughan has authorized a bi-annual service for articles not normally collected by the weekly garbage pick-up. The week of MAY 10th to 14th, 1976 has been designated for the Spring Bulk Garbage Collection of large bulky refuse, such as chesterfields, chairs, mattresses, stoves etc. by the Town's Works Department.

The Fall Bulk Garbage Collection dates are OCTOBER 18th to 22nd, 1976.

Residents of Vaughan requiring this special service must telephone the Municipal Office, Works Department 832-2281 by MAY 7th, 1976 for this collection.

R. H. Kraft, P. Eng.
Town Engineer,
Town of Vaughan
Maple, Ontario.

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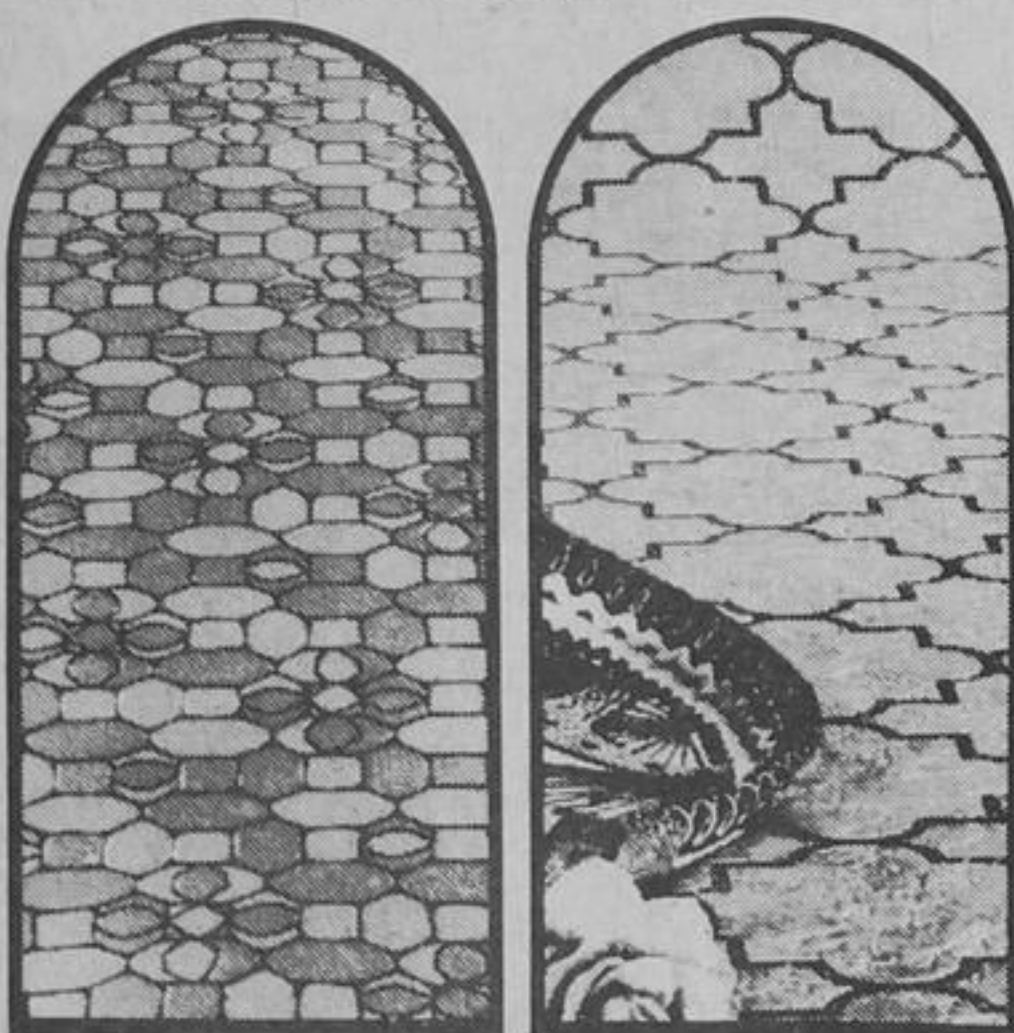
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