

# New local style for Aurora shoe plant

By Jim Irving

AURORA — There's a change in management at the Kinney shoe plant in Aurora, and it looks as if they're off on the right foot.

The plant, which was bought from the Sisman Shoe family heirs in 1967, not only has a change of personnel at the top, but is back bearing the Sisman name as Sisman's of Canada Ltd.

Last November, however, it didn't look as if it was going to bear anybody's name. Notice had been given to its 110 employees.

The plant, with its manufacturing operation, was being phased out in two months' time.

**MP interested**  
That's when the change started to come about.

According to Ted Rowe, son of former Richmond Hill Councillor Gordon

Rowe, it was Sinclair Stevens, MP for York Simcoe, who decided to look into the matter.

He checked with the plant in Aurora and the employees there, who told him that, "with proper management", the plant could be saved.

From there Stevens turned to Rowe who has acted as his campaign manager. It was Stevens' contention Rowe "might be able to pull it off."

Rowe said that, in a meeting with three men from the plant, all cited mismanagement.

Kinney had one-quarter million dollars in stock; that's what was killing them, Rowe said.

**Distant management**  
In fact, the company readily admitted it had been trying to manage the operation from its offices in New York, when approached with an offer to buy, Rowe said.

"It was very co-operative and wanted someone to continue on in the plant."

Rowe said 26 of 50 employees were offered a chance to buy into the business and signed a pledge that they would each put in \$1,000.

However, the union objected and the offer had to be withdrawn, Rowe said.

"But it showed me they were here to stay."

He said he hoped that eventually the company may be opened up to them with some kind of share program being instituted.

**Worker support**  
Rowe said some employees have already taken a drop in salary. Other salaries, which were "away out of line", have been re-adjusted, so that they are more equal.

Another thing that has been re-adjusted are the number of lines of

shoes. These lines have now been reduced to safety footwear, which includes work boots and fancy-dress oxfords.

The latter are used by management when on the job in various factories.

"They (Kinney) were forever fighting style changes," Rowe said. "That's why we got into the safety shoe business."

One of their specialties in that line is a "monstrous" boot, which will take a 25,000-volt charge.

**Police boots**  
The company has already completed 6,000 pairs of boots for Metro police, with written orders for 15,000 more.

He said the company is anticipating 540 to 590 work boots a day and "won't have trouble hitting 700."

Vice-president of the new company is another Rowe, 39-year-veteran Fred Rowe. No relation to Ted, he is vice-

president of sales.

Peter Hubert, who was with the former company for 13 years, is vice-president of production. Three-year man Ralph Kunitzky, is secretary.

**Starting day**  
Monday, the new executive and staff saw the operation officially come into business, with the first shoes rolling off the line. A host of dignitaries were invited.

Among these were Aurora Mayor George Timpson, York Region Chairman Garfield Wright, and Claude Bennett, minister of industry and tourism.

It was an impressive array of shoes they saw, but one shoe that was missing was the old Sisman Scamper.

The Adidas of its day, as Rowe described it, the Sisman Scamper was once the most popular summer shoe of all for young boys throughout Canada.



**Ted Rowe**  
... filling Kinney's old shoes

Will it ever make a comeback? Rowe didn't know. But he's pretty sure the company will.

# \$74 million school budget challenged

By Jim Irving

AURORA — A motion by Trustees Don Cameron of Vaughan and John Denison of East Gwillimbury, to approve a \$74,100,000 budget at Monday night's meeting of York County board of education has since been challenged by Markham's Bob McMonagle.

In a press release

issued the next day, McMonagle said the motion to approve "reflects, in my opinion, the way the majority of trustees have been 'flimflammed' by the budget presentation."

"The budget meeting has been almost totally devoted to staff presentation, leaving inadequate time to question the large in-

crease, or seriously negotiate a responsible budget figure," he said.

At present, the board is considering a budget of \$74,359,872.

**Surplus money**  
McMonagle said that, under the "urging" of former Trustee Joy Horton of East Gwillimbury, the 1976 budget request was trimmed from \$72 million to \$68 million. Even with

that cut of \$4 million, the board ended up with a surplus.

He was concerned that the children's education should not be reduced as a result, but he felt the cost of administering the system was "out of step" with boards of comparable size.

McMonagle said he and Trustee Norm Weller of Aurora would propose a motion at the next budget meeting, Thursday, March 3, that a "total expenditure of \$72 million, with extensive cuts being made to proposed increased expenditure in administrative, consultative and promotional functions."

At Monday night's meeting, Cameron made his motion following a brief discussion by the board on the budget. Most of the time was taken up by Director Sam Chapman defending staff's approach to the draft budget.

**Budget statement**  
Referring to a typed statement, copies of which were released to the press, Chapman said staff sought to put together a proposed budget according to the board's directions.

Staff had never looked at the budget as something to be negotiated between it and the board, where staff asked for more than was required "in the knowledge that the board would then proceed to cut it back to what was needed in the first place."

"If, in fact, there is some reason, political or otherwise, for this kind of ritual to be danced, then it is your staff, not Dr.

Denison (Trustee John Denison of East Gwillimbury) who have been naive in not perceiving that this need existed," Chapman said in his statement.

He was referring to remarks by Denison at a previous meeting, which expressed some concern on that point.

Speaking to the matter of surpluses, he said that, for two years in a row the board asked that discretionary accounts be "virtually frozen in order to generate the largest surplus possible."

**Prudent punished**  
"In retrospect the 1975 motion was wise," he said.

Because of increased costs in 1976 and little increase in grants, it was necessary to contain the 1976 mill rate. However, he thought the 1976 motion was in error, because, while it had increased the surplus, "it has had the effect of punishing those who have administered their funds most prudently."

"This is not an attitude we can continue to show if we expect those who have

down to 7½ per cent, he said.

Trustee McMonagle said he found the idea "totally unacceptable." The cut was small, "especially when we haven't looked at many areas in which we can reduce."

Richmond Hill's Eric Baker tried to suggest an amendment to the motion, which would bring the budget down to \$73 million.

However, time ran out on him, the board refusing to go past the 11 o'clock deadline it had set for the meeting.

Baker's motion will be first on the agenda at the next meeting.

## Hill hostage drama

RICHMOND HILL — Richmond Hill had its own hostage drama last week.

According to police, it all began when a man appeared at a Zelta Cres. address to confront his wife and her common-law husband.

After an exchange of words, he left only to return later with a shotgun. He held the woman at gunpoint and when a friend came to visit, held him as a hostage, also.

The two, however, managed to get away and called police. The gunman tried to retake the woman as hostage, but she fled once more, police said.

The gunman was about to drive away when he was stopped by Constable Karl Miller of York Regional Police.

Facing charges of having a weapon dangerous to the public peace and pointing a firearm, is William Phillips, 38, of Keswick.

## Thomas Gibson dies

THORNHILL — Thomas Gibson, 72, a well known resident of Thornhill, died Sunday at York Central Hospital.

Mr. Gibson was a founder and retired vice-president of Gibson Danforth Radio Ltd. He was instrumental in forming the first radio and appliance dealers association in Toronto.

He lived in Langstaff for a number of years and for the last eight on Riverside Drive in Thornhill.

He was an instigator of the Thornhill Lions Club annual auction and involved in the building of the Thornhill Community Centre.

**Liked golf**  
An ardent golfer, he belonged to the Thornhill Country Club at Port Bolster.

He is survived by his wife, the former Hilda Wood, daughters Mrs. Ronald (Ruth) Taylor of Richmond Hill, Mrs. Stewart (Joyce) Fisher of Oakville and sons, Bob of Markham and Rusty of Thornhill, and eight grandchildren.

He is also survived by a brother, Arthur, of Thornhill.

There was a private, family service Tuesday with burial in Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

## Historic manse may be wrecked

RICHMOND HILL — The town's architecturally interesting and oldest Yonge St. building, the old Presbyterian manse, is in danger of being torn down.

The manse, north of Major Mackenzie Dr. is more than 140 years old and only one building in the town is older.

Chairman David Fayle of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee told town council

Chairman Fayle said the church favors a new building on a site further back from the street.

The manse would have to be renovated inside for offices and a boardroom at town, community or other public expense if it is to be saved in its present vicinity.

**Move possible**  
An alternative would be for it to be moved to the Metro Conservation Authority's Pioneer Village on Steeles Ave.

The authority is interested in having such a building but doesn't see any way to having the funds or ability to do anything about it at least for 10 years.

That isn't soon enough for the Presbyterian Church, said Fayle.

**Unusual construction**  
The building is of unusual plank-on-plank

construction. Keeping it in active use at its location is important to the character of the townscape if the town is interested in preserving the Yonge St. character, Fayle said.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey said there would be something to be said for moving the building to Pioneer Village where many thousands of people could enjoy it.

The problem is to be studied.

### Correction

RICHVALE — Due to a typographical error on the front page of the Richmond Hill Edition last week, the amount of money raised in the Richvale Lions Majorette Corps Skate-a-thon was incorrectly reported.

The amount raised actually was \$1,000. The Liberal regrets this error.

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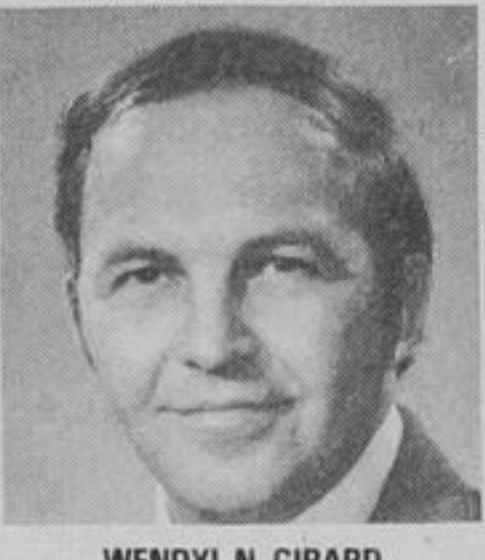
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**WENDY N. GIRARD**  
Guaranty Trust Company of Canada is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Wendy N. Girard to the position of Manager of our Richmond Hill Branch.

Mr. Girard joined Guaranty Trust Company in October, 1974, as Loan Officer at our 2488 Yonge Street Branch in Toronto; was appointed Loan Officer of our Richmond Hill Branch in December, 1974, and became Manager of our Stouffville Branch in September, 1975.

He replaces Mr. Glen Paton who has been appointed to the position of Assistant Manager of our Ottawa, Bank Street Branch.

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## NOBLETON GENERAL STORE

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**\$75,000 blaze**

AURORA — Damage was estimated at \$75,000 in a fire in a building at 31 Yonge St., Feb. 23, about 8:35 a.m.

The building was owned by Thomas Heinz, R.R. 1, Unionville.

Markham fire department attended.