

“\$20 million mistake”

# School board must bargain with developer over sites

York Board of Education Chairman Don Cousens calls it a “\$20 million mistake”; Thornhill Trustee John Stephens said it is the “stupidest thing I’ve ever heard of” and another Thornhill Trustee said it’s too late for the board to act, so its only course is to react.

All three were referring to the recent approval given by the Minister of Housing to a plan of subdivision in Newmarket. The plan is owned

jointly by Heatherwood Development Limited and the Town of Newmarket and the board had a designation for both a high school site and a public school site within it.

Although signed agreements are in the hands of both the Ministry of Housing and the Town, the board claims it never agreed to certain conditions of the final agreement and feels it has been compromised in its negotiating powers.

Simply put, it will have to bargain with the developer for the lands it needs at market value prices — something that could cost taxpayers immense amounts of extra money.

“This is a dreadful situation — we will have lost control of the price of sites if this approval is allowed to go through,” said Mr. Cousens. “You can be sure we will use every political influence to get it reversed.”

A letter of approval dated February 22 confirmed the board will have three school sites in three different subdivisions located between Yonge and Main Streets, north of Davis Drive to the town’s northern-most boundary. That letter was signed by Susan Taylor, a senior planner with the housing ministry.

“In the agreement, we have undertaken a five-year title to have the lands set aside for our use. Under the option, if the land appreciates, we must pay the developer’s price. If we don’t make a decision, they get the land back. That’s why negotiations for the site must take place at the beginning of the agreement — fixing the price for what we need,” said Mr. Cousens.

Depending on where sites are located, the board now pays anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per acre of land.

It claims if this current deal goes through, boards across the province will be forced to pay in the neighborhood of \$30,000 to \$50,000 per acre. According to the chairman, such a change in prices could tack on an extra cost of \$250,000 for one site only.

“I think my figures are close,” he said, “in the next 20 years we’re supposed to be building 80 new schools in York County... so we’re talking about \$20 million more,” he said.

The board is trying to set up a joint meeting with the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Education to see if it can remedy the dilemma. At least two trustees thought if the board could get the Town of Newmarket to withhold building permits, a

change in the agreement might be possible.

“There shouldn’t be any problem with registering the plans. They’ve been finally approved by the minister and I don’t think anything can hold the subdivision back now,” said Les Fincham of the Ministry of Housing.

In his words, even if the York Board could dispute the agreement “they wouldn’t have much of a leg to stand on because everything has been signed”.

He said the Ministry of Housing doesn’t like to get involved in the financial aspect of negotiations between boards and developers.

“It sounds to me like the York Board wants the developer to play by its rules in this case,” said Mr. Fincham.

While Thornhill Trustee Patti Grand felt there might have been an oversight at the ministry, John Stephens couldn’t accept there was a mistake.

He believes it was the result of ministry policy and that it’s their responsibility to ensure there are safeguards against such incidents. “It’s sheer madness and serves to increase the

cost of schools outrageously in the future. I’ve just been to an OSSTC (Ontario Separate School Trustees’ Council) meeting where they think by having land zoned for school use only, that will solve the problem. What they don’t see is they could still lose the option after five years and end up paying the market price,” said Mr. Stephens.

The other developers involved in the subdivision are Schickedanz Brothers Limited and Presidial Holdings Limited.

The clerk for the Town of Newmarket, Grant Blight, holds the same position as the Ministry of Housing — once the agreements are signed, there’s little that can be done.

“I know the school board has its problems with education ministry regulations but I think the five-year plan should be long enough for them to decide if they want a site or not. I don’t see why the two ministries can’t try to work together on these things,” he said.

“I don’t think we could hold back permits now — especially if the plans have been registered,” he added.



These two Grade 8 Separate School students did not win awards for having the brightest smiles in class — although it might have helped. They both won first place in the Area final public speaking contest. Cathy Lawlor (top) of St. Mary Immaculate gave an excellent, topical speech on Child Abuse — she was a favorite with the audience since the contest was held at St. Mary’s. Eugene Pivato, 13, of St. Charles Garnier also produced a first class effort with his “Canadian Mosaic”, a view of multiculturalism and racism. (Liberal photos by Bruce Hogg)

## Richmond Hill Church Services

Following is a list of Easter services at various Richmond Hill Churches.

**ANGLICAN**  
St. Mary’s — Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 10:30 a.m. family service; 8 p.m. senior choir presentation; Saturday, 7 p.m.; and Easter Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**UNITED**  
Richmond Hill United — Good Friday, 7:30 p.m. chapel service; Easter Sunday, sunrise service at 7 a.m. at Summit Golf Club followed by breakfast at St. Matthew’s; 11 a.m. service at church.

St. Matthew’s United — Good Friday, 7:30 a.m.; Easter Sunday, sunrise service at Summit Golf Club at 7 a.m. followed by breakfast at church and 11 a.m. service.

**LUTHERAN**  
St. Paul’s — Good Friday, 11 a.m. service and Holy Communion; Easter Sunday, 11 a.m. service and Holy Communion.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
Our Lady Queen of the World, Holy Thursday 8 p.m.; Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 2:30 p.m.; Holy Saturday 8 p.m.; Easter Sunday 9 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; noon; and 7:30 p.m., Confessions 9 to 10 p.m. Thursday, 4 to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

St. Mary Immaculate — Holy Thursday 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Good Friday, 1 and 3 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.; Holy Saturday, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, 9 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m. and 4 p.m., Confessions, after 7:30 p.m. Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; Communal penance on Wednesday at 8 p.m.; Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. and from 8 to 9 p.m.

## Vaughan employees get 5% increase

The Town of Vaughan’s clerical, technical and outside employees will receive a wage increase of five per cent retroactive to January 5, 1979.

A memorandum of settlement, which also calls for a further in-

crease of three per cent effective July 6, 1979, has been signed between the Corporation and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1090 establishing the terms for the renewal of the collective agreements for the year 1979.

### 655 Deaths

**SCOTT, Joan Morton**  
Entered into rest at Fairview Lodge, Whitby, on Monday, April 2, 1979. Joan Morton McDermott, beloved wife of the late Walter Scott (formerly of Richmond Hill), dear mother of Jean (Mrs. G. McIntosh), of Oryser, Margaret (Mrs. William LeGros) of R.R. 2, Bowmanville, loving grandmother of Glenn, Joy, Anne, Lori and Scott, dear sister of Jessie (Mrs. F. Hatch) of Duart and Dr. Robert McDermott, of Port Hope. Mrs. Scott rested at the McEchnie Funeral Home, Pickering. Complete funeral service and committal was held April 5th. Spring interment Melville Cemetery.

**BRETT, Norman H.**  
Of R.R. 3, Gravenhurst. Beloved husband of Dorothy, dear father of daughters Dianna, Norma (Mrs. William King), Barbara (Mrs. S. Smith), Carolyn (Mrs. G. Arbon), Sandra and Betty (Mrs. D. Waters). Resting at Cavell Funeral Home, Gravenhurst until Thursday, April 12th.

**WAUGH, Eileen A.**  
Suddenly, at York Central Hospital, on Sunday, April 8, 1979, Eileen, dear wife of Jack of Richmond Hill, dear mother of Jackleen (Mrs. J. Morro) and Ken, also survived by her grandchildren Sherry, Lori, Kristine and Ian. Resting at the Marshall Funeral Home, 10366 Yonge St., Richmond Hill. Funeral service Wednesday, 11 a.m. Interment York Cemetery.

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**NIXON, Ivy Hilda.**  
Suddenly, as the result of a motor accident, on Sunday evening, April 8, 1979, Ivy, beloved wife of the late Joseph Nixon, of Richmond Hill, dear mother of Carl and Peter and daughter of Mr. William Tibby and the late Mrs. Tibby. Resting at the Marshall Funeral Home, 10366 Yonge St., Richmond Hill. Service Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Cremation.

**MILNE, William Samuel M.A., C.D.A.**  
(Life Member of the Arts and Letters Club). Born April 22, 1902, in Aberdeen, Scotland, retired teacher of Northern Secondary School. Died at the home of his son, James, on April 4, 1979, son of the late James Henderson Milne and Mary Elizabeth Milne, survived by his wife Lillian and son James of Richmond Hill and daughter, Mary Szilagyi of Orangeville and grandchildren, Donald, Fraser, David and Lisa Milne, Laura and John Szilagyi. A private family service was held. A Memorial service was held at the Arts and Letters Club on Monday, April 9th.

**728 Miscellaneous**  
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**HOOVER, Frederick John.**  
Suddenly, at York Central Hospital, on Saturday morning, April 7, 1979, Fred, beloved husband of Violet of Richmond Hill, dear father of Sheila (Mrs. J. Dowdall), Donald, Judith (Mrs. W. Sturgess), stepfather of Henry and Kenneth Thompson and Elsie (Mrs. A. LaPratt), also survived by fourteen grandchildren, dear brother of Cecil Hoover and Olive Purser and the late Mrs. Elizabeth Archibald. Rested at the Marshall Funeral Home, Richmond Hill. Service was held Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. Interment Elgin Mills Cemetery.

**NORTHY, Lillian**  
At Resthaven Nursing Home, on Friday, April 6, 1979, beloved wife of the late James Henry Northy of Thornhill, dear mother of Eloi (Mrs. William Tilston), dear grandmother of Mark, Stephen, David and Carol and great grandmother of Michael, dear Aunt of Colin. Rested at the Marshall Funeral Home, Richmond Hill. Service was held Monday morning, Interment Maple Cemetery.

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**BOOKER, Julie (nee Saunders)**  
At Princess Margaret Hospital on Thursday, April 5th, 1979. Julie, beloved wife of Ralph Booker, dear mother of Linda, Karen, Kathy and Rick. Sister of Carol Saunders, Annie (Mrs. Al Tkacz) Alice (Mrs. A. Van Zant) Linda (Mrs. H. Huure), Stella (Mrs. F. Witzu). Sister-in-law of Ken Booker. Loved daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. John Booker of Orillia. Friends were received at the B.E. Ring Funeral Home, 7783 Yonge St., Thornhill. Funeral service was held from Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Thornhill Monday afternoon. Private cremation. Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

**SUTTON Francis George (Frank).**  
At Daybreak, Monday April 9, 1979. Beloved of the Community of Daybreak. Dear brother of Jack, Alf, Dave, Gwen (Mrs. Ted Large) of Brampton. Service St. Johns Anglican Church, Oak Ridges. Interment Brampton. In lieu of flowers, donations to Daybreak.

**HUNNISETT, Elinor L. (Nance)**  
At York Central Hospital, on Wednesday, April 4, 1979, Elinor, dear wife of Gordon Bruce Hunnisett, dear mother of Joan (Mrs. Paul Chamberlain) and Gordon John, loving Nana of Susan, Craig, Douglas and Meredith. Friends were received at the B.E. Ring Funeral Home, 7783 Yonge Street, (at Hwy. 7B), Thornhill. Graveside service was held at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. If desired donations may be made to the Coronary Unit, York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill.

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