

# Urge Uxbridge Twp. landmark be preserved

**UXBRIDGE TWP.** — It's hard to see a house go down... especially a good house, well-constructed by able artisans of long ago.

The Metropolitan and Region Conservation Authority is destroying a house that stands on property it has purchased on the Uxbridge-Reach Town Line, just west of Chalk Lake.

Neighbours, people from distances, and even some members of Uxbridge Township Council, are voicing objection, not only because there is a housing shortage; not only because the house is attractive and a landmark, not only because it is their money that is paying for the destruction, but because they feel the Authority is failing in its function to conserve.

Conserve, in the dictionary, is to keep in a safe or unimpaired state; to uphold and keep from decay,

waste, or injury; to guard or defend from violation. The Conservation Authority is the best thing that has happened in Ontario. It conserves water, trees, forests, wildlife. It conserves nature in its rightful setting, creates parks and places to play in summer and winter.

Yet a good building on the land it purchased is wrecked.

The house to be demolished is over 100 years old and has been occupied for the past 54 years by one owner, Levi Storry, who in his 91st year now resides in a nursing home.

Perched on the top of a hill, it overlooks a view of rolling hills and forests. On the hottest day in summer it was cool within; a good furnace kept it warm in winter. Spacious, gracious houses of a generation or two ago such as this were built to endure, to house large families. The walls were thick, the

beams strong. There were a number of bedrooms, and even separate quarters for the hired man.

Uxbridge Councillor Clarke T. Muirhead shares the views of the people that the house should not go down. It is a valuable landmark, he says, which adds to the quality of the whole countryside.

The councillor suggested a committee be formed, and said that he would support it, and that he would be 100% in favour of separating the house and a few acres for a sale to someone interested in restoring it.

Deputy Reeve Robert Nesbitt, a member of the M.T.R.C.A. board, said that the house had been remarkably well cared for. He has spoken about it to representatives of The Authority who told him they didn't want to pay taxes on it, nor did they want to leave it vacant for vandals. He said that to

his knowledge a great many of the main parts of the interior were being removed to Pioneer Village.

"I would be the first one to holler if I thought they were destroying them," he said.

Residents say that the lovely staircase in the house has already been moved to Pioneer Village.

Mr. Nesbitt still has mixed feelings about it, and can understand the feelings of both factions.

The lot on which the house stands is close to the road and could be separated easily from the total 240 acres of this Conservation-owned parcel.

There are those who are scouring the country for old houses, with their quiet aging brick, their fretwork, and verandahs. It is surprising how many appear not to enjoy modern housing, practical though it is, for character and stability come with

age. Money acquired from the sale of this house, and other buildings that have been demolished could further the excellent Conservation program, and relieve the already overburdened taxpayer.

The house, too, would lend itself to exhibits of early life in Ontario, or wildlife specimens and an information centre.

So another old house is lost unless an individual or a group can do something about it quickly, before the blow of the hammer has beaten it into the ground. Hundreds of people who visit the Chalk Lake area, and describe it as one of the most beautiful spots in Ontario, will see no more the strong old house keeping its vigil on the hill.

As Mr. Muirhead says, "We are all too prone to allow our heritage to be wrecked."



Re-modelled Markham Twp. municipal offices at Buttonville

From the outside, one would hardly recognize the building as the Markham Township Municipal Offices. On the inside, the change is equally apparent. Staff employees moved back to the re-modelled structure at Buttonville this week. —Staff Photo

## Asks 'open' meetings

**PICKERING TWP.** — Pickering Township Councillors Victor Rudik and John Kruger believe that committee meetings should be open to the public and the press.

They introduced a notice of motion at a council meeting to this effect, Mr. Rudik declaring that at the next regular meeting of council, Apr. 1, he will move a resolution that all council committees be open to the public and press, with the exception of matters dealing with personnel or land purchases.

Mr. Kruger will second the motion, which states that as council is a public body, its policies are the affairs of ratepayers; it is in the interest of good municipal government that ratepayers be kept informed.

The resolution says that contrary to this spirit, the decisions and reasoning

leading to policies and decisions amount to holding meetings in camera.

It will exempt matters dealing with budget or salaries, and anything else not deemed to be in the public interest.

Councillors will have copies of the resolution prior to the meeting, to base their decision on.

**Parks Board** — An indication was given that this resolution will not be passed unanimously, or not at all, when discussion arose about a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to be held the following night.

The fact that local parks and recreation personnel had been invited to the meeting to present their budgets appeared to displease Reeve John Williams and others, who expected a committee meeting only.

Councillor Don Beer, a former representative on

the township parks board, said that it had been the custom for people interested in parks and recreation to attend the meet-

ings, particularly to discuss their proposed budgets.

Mr. Williams observed that considerable study

would have to be given to the parks and recreation budget. He suggested that an amount something like \$115,000 was being re-

quested. The budget allotment is \$56,000.00

Celebrity — A person who knows all the phones.

**Firemen's Dance** — The Stouffville Fire Brigade will hold their annual dance in the Legion Hall, Friday evening, April 5.

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<b>SILVIKRIN</b> 7 oz. Shampoo Sugg. list 1.39 <b>1.19</b>	<b>BRYLCREEM</b> Men's Shampoo Sugg. list 1.50 <b>1.29</b>	<b>CREST</b> Toothpaste, Reg. or Mint Family Size, sugg. list 1.25 <b>1.07</b>
<b>SCRIPTIP 100</b> Refillable Fibre Point Pen Special Sugg. list 1.00 <b>88¢</b>	<b>BALL PEN</b> All Purpose Retractable Blue Ink Only <b>9¢</b>	<b>Dove Soap</b> Regular Size 2 cakes <b>45¢</b>
<b>Gelusil Liquid</b> 12 oz. Sugg. list 1.59 <b>1.19</b>	<b>NERVE FOOD</b> Dr. Chase 60's 98¢ for 180's 2.49 for <b>89¢ 2.19</b>	<b>FLUSHABYES</b> Newborn 2.19 for 48's Med. or Toddler 2.49 for <b>2.09</b>
<b>Foamy Shave</b> Gillette 11 oz. <b>1.07</b>	<b>KOTEX</b> 48's Sugg. list 1.99 <b>1.67</b>	<b>LAVORIS</b> 22 oz. Mouthwash Sugg. list 1.49 <b>1.19</b>
<b>Super Stainless Steel Blades</b> Gillette, 10's 1.45 Value for 1.29 <b>1.09</b>	<b>OSTOCO</b> Vitamin Drops 50 c.c. Sugg. list 4.32 <b>2.99</b>	<b>SOMINEX</b> 20's Sugg. list 1.45 <b>1.19</b>
<b>Glyze Rona</b> Skin Cream Sugg. list 98¢ <b>89¢</b>	<b>PEPSODENT</b> Dental Cream Sugg. list 1.49 <b>1.27</b>	<b>Richard Hudnut</b> 12 oz. Rinses and Shampoos Sugg. list 99¢ ea. <b>Any one 77¢</b>
<b>KLEENEX</b> 200's Sugg. list 2 for 43¢ <b>19¢ ea.</b>	<b>Metrecal Shake</b> Sugg. list 75¢ <b>69¢</b>	
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