

Tribune

SECOND SECTION

Arena cost causes concern

PICKERING TWP. — Pickering Township council gallery was filled on June 6 with residents delivering opinions, for and against an arena complex.

The general feeling was that a complex, or various aspects of it, was needed. Most of the briefs were interested in the cost and what it would do to their taxes. The cost has not yet been arrived at but a figure of \$500,000 was previously mentioned.

An estimated 31% of the homes in the township have been surveyed by COPRA, (Committee for the organization of Pickering activities composed of one representative from each of 14 recreation associations.) Results of the polls, contained in a brief by Paul Hariton showed the total representation as 1,885 homes. Those indicating approval of an arena were 1,532; a swimming pool, 1,437; a gymnasium, 1,156; a teen group, 1,142, and other (such as tennis courts, parks, dance hall) 290.

Most of the polls were taken in the south part of the township.

From Claremont 19 polls were returned, two of them in favor. In Brougham 5 polls were returned, 4 of them in favor. Locust Hill had a response of 19 homes; Whitevale 6.

Mr. Hariton said that the object of his association was to break away the animosity of one area toward the other. An Olympic-sized swimming pool was needed, which could be rented for revenue; a community hall, a gym and an arena.

Asked if coercion or wild promises were used by poll takers, as had been rumored, Mr. Hariton thought not, although many of the workers were enthusiastic about hockey and probably expressed themselves thus.

In her brief Miss Violet Swan remarked that such a poll as COPRA took was not indicative of the feeling of the township. She said that of 16 neighbors polled in her vicinity, 9 are tenants and not owners. Five who were owners to the north were not polled. One person signed under the impression he was going to get a dollar, not pay one; another thought the poll was for street lighting because the area was very dark.

Miss Swan considered hockey, after working all day and playing hockey at night, not recreation as it is termed in the dictionary—relaxation. She stressed the need for something for the mind as well as for the body, and mentioned recreational pursuits such as photography, the importance of walking, nature walks, and the loveliness of birds, flowers and brooks in Pickering Township.

If a complex was undertaken by private enterprise or by those who want it, she was all for it.

"Children are not given a chance to think for themselves or to organize their own games," she said. "Let's give them some freedom and allow them to use their own initiative and imagination."

Walter Bergman, president of West-Rouge Ratepayers' Association, said they did not think the township could afford a recreation complex which could run into quite a few million dollars before it's finished. He referred to 3 plebiscites being taken in the last 10 years in which it was turned down, and requested another plebiscite.

Alex Robertson, president of Bay Ridges Ratepayers' Association, feels that a recreational complex had to be considered not only for today, but far into the future.

"If we cannot afford a recreational complex today, will we be able to afford it at tomorrow's prices and taxes?" he asked.

He said that recreation, properly conducted and organized, helped to cut the high cost of Courts through juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Robertson stressed the importance of swimming, and it would be inconceivable to suggest any recreational facilities that didn't include an ice rink—like asking the people of Canada to replace Hockey Night in Canada with a Batman show.



A moment of decision

The Stouffville Community Swimming Pool is now open for the season and hundreds of adults and children have already taken advantage of the opportunity to cool off. Debating the initial plunge is 3 year old Terry Alberti, Burkholder Street, Stouffville. —Staff Photo



Orchard Park badminton champion

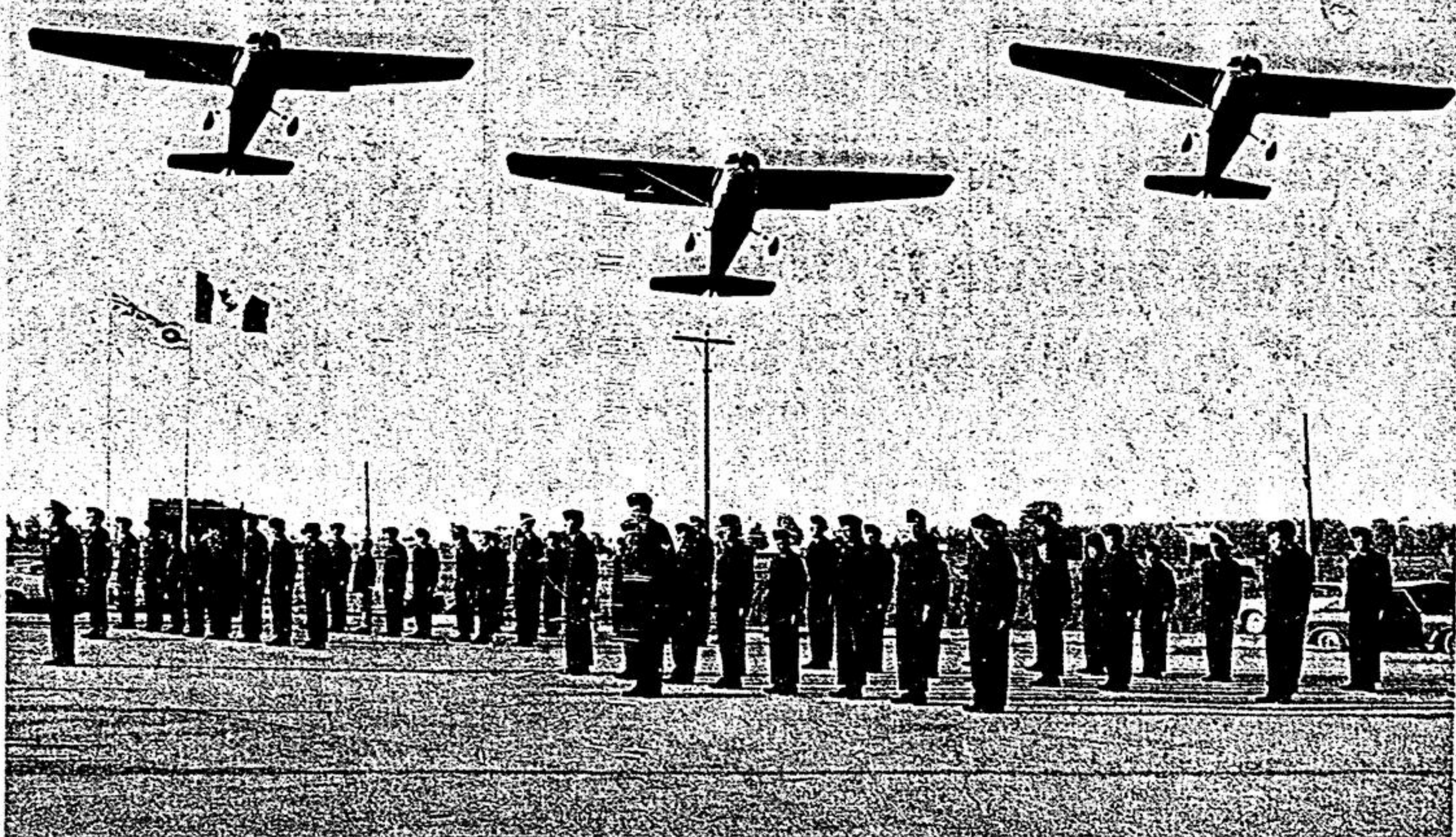
Bobby Bangay and Barry Pipher have taken the pairs' championship in the Orchard Park Public School Badminton competition. Barry flashes a winning smile. —Staff Photo



Win table tennis tournament

Geoffrey Mitchell and Kim Steckley are table tennis tournament champions at Orchard Park School, Stouffville. They defeated David Christie and Jeff Aida for the title. Geoffrey, 13, of Grade 8, is shown here. —Staff Photo

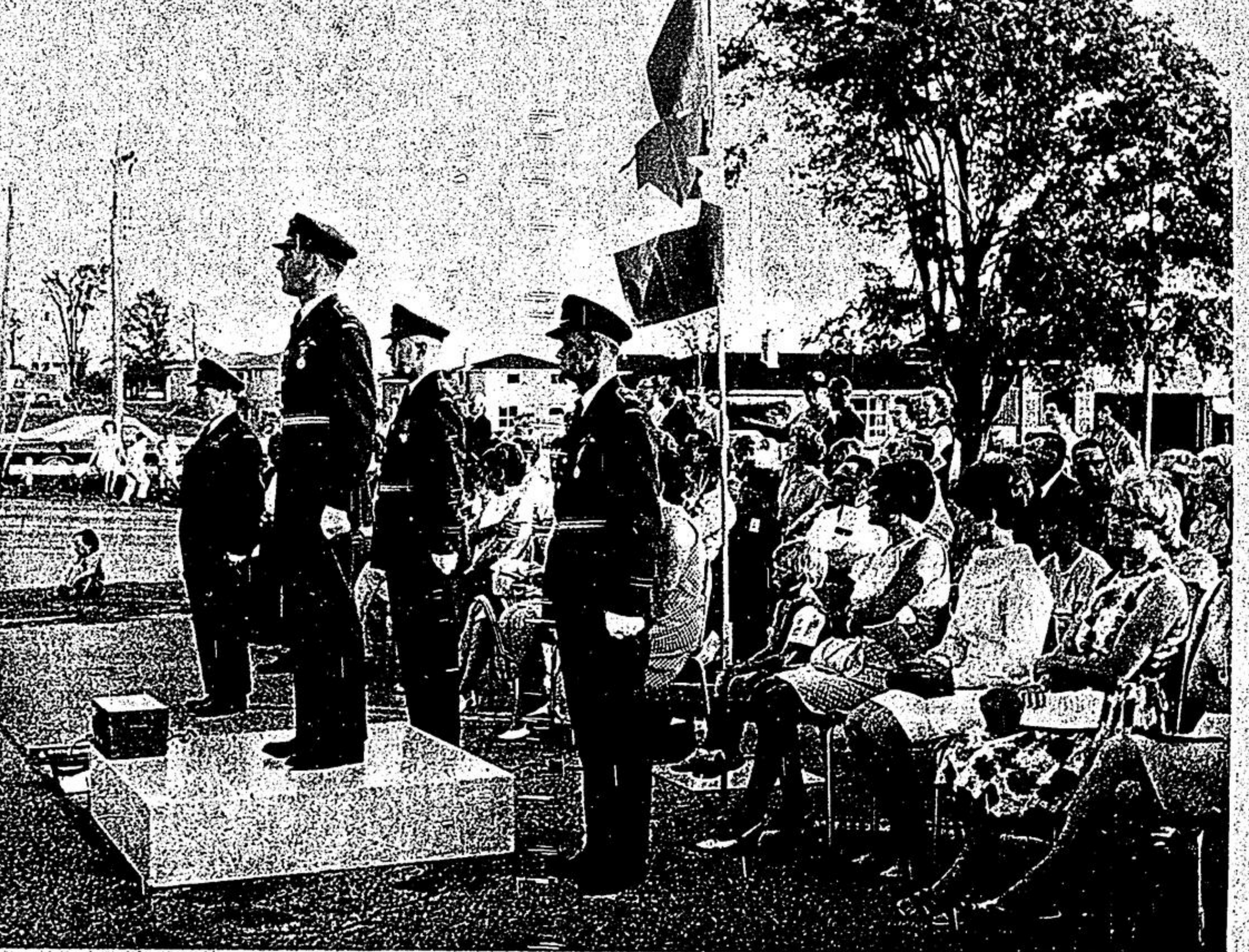
No. 94 squadron inspection



The annual inspection of No. 94 air cadet squadron, that includes many Stouffville boys, was held at Newmarket, June 5. A feature of the colorful ceremony included a fly-past pictured here. —Staff Photo



Major E. A. Flewelling, C.D. of Camp Borden, is escorted by Capt. Jim McKellar (left) the squadron Commanding Officer, during inspection of the ranks. —Staff Photo



Major Flewelling, C.D. of Camp Borden views the cadets on parade, accompanied by airforce officials and invited guests. On the extreme left is Commanding Officer Jim McKellar of Stouffville. —Staff Photo

Donald Quick, School Area 2, suggested that council add an indoor swimming pool in Woodlands Centennial school, at an estimated cost of \$175,000, debentured by the township. He said that there would be a monetary advantage as the school

was now under construction. Mr. Quick suggested the community use of schools, and summer and winter programs. A recreation director was needed. In School Area 2 12 auditoriums and 200 classrooms are available; a committee

of citizens has initiated a summer program for 2,500 to 3,000 children under the direction of Don Hopkins and Gary Edgar. Milton Mowbray, president of the North Pickering Ratepayers' Association, designed his brief under the headings of

What? Where? and How? He submitted that a hall was not a necessary part of any recreational complex as the township is adequately supplied with public halls in the north end and school auditoriums in the south. There is no need for a

gymnasium in the southerly portion now adequately provided for by school gymnasia and the population in the rural portion would not justify one. He questioned the need for an arena within the township.