

Whitchurch may loosen reins on subdivisions

Lack of action charged

WHITCHURCH TWP. — The pros and cons of approving increased residential development in the Twp. of Whitchurch, were discussed at length at a combined meeting of Planning Board and Council, Jan. 29.

Chairman Douglas Hope admitted that several subdivision applications had been placed before the Board but no action had followed. He said that members, wishing to serve the best interests of the municipality, had appealed for advice at both the County and Provincial level. He noted that they had provided little assistance since one contradicted the other.

"If it was my own business, I would make up my own mind and reach a decision," said Mr. Hope, "but I hate to gamble when the public's interest is at stake."

Deputy-reeve Norman Barnard was critical of the Board's inaction. "We've been floundering about and accomplishing nothing. There's supposed to be an agenda. This is something that was started. Where is it?" In replying to his own query, Mr. Barnard said a change in secretaries had created some problems. "We need to sit down and put things in some semblance of order."

Councillor Merlyn Baker said many persons had purchased 25 acre properties in the township with hopes of bringing up their families in a rural atmosphere. Instead, he said, they now find themselves stuck and paying taxes that have, in some cases tripled. "I feel sorry for these people," he said, "the whole thing screws."

Councillor Gordon Ratcliff said applicants should be dealt with on an individual basis and given a "yes or no answer." He suggested that the Board look favorably on sites served by adequate roads. In connection with estate type homes, Mr. Baker said it only made sense to continue this kind of build-up in areas where such residences already existed.

Councillor Betty van Nostrand recommended that build-up be permitted on County or Provincial roads and adjacent to existing towns or hamlets. Mrs. van Nostrand admitted that it was difficult to decide at what point residential development be-

comes a detriment to a township rather than a benefit. She contended that a 5% unit build-up per year was too low.

Reeve Stewart Burnett warned that Whitchurch could find itself in serious trouble if permits were issued too liberally. "Two hundred more homes won't lower the taxes," he said.

Councillor Baker argued that it shouldn't raise the taxes any either.

With respect to subdivisions, Mr. Burnett recommended that 3 or 4 of the best plans already on file, be re-considered by the Board.

Councillor Barnard pointed out that the township's Official Plan had been approved back in November. "Two months have gone by," he said, "It's time we got off the fence."

On a recommendation by Mrs. van Nostrand, it was agreed that Gary Wright of the Planning Branch, Dept. of Municipal Affairs, attend the next meeting and that Planning Board act on his advice.

Snowmobile carnival

CLAREMONT—An afternoon of fun for the whole family has been arranged by the Claremont Lions Club for Saturday, Feb. 14 beginning at 12 noon.

Billed as an amateur snowmachine carnival, it will include various events, refreshments and use of snowmobile trails. The location is 5 miles east of Claremont on the 9th of Pickering. Signs will be erected, directing visitors to the site.



Markham Fair Board executive for 1970

Directors for the 1970 Markham Fair Board were elected at the annual meeting of the Markham and East York Agricultural Society, held Jan. 28. Seated, (left to right) are: Chas. Reeve, Past President; Bert Paisley, 1st Vice President; Bert Gardhouse, President; Cora Brodie, Secretary; Al Wilson, Treasurer; Gerald Mann, 2nd Vice President and Livestock Director. Standing: Brian Armstrong, Don Brodie, Bob Thompson, Howard Cosburn, Harry Warriner, Joe Tran, George Hooper, Bill Walker, Ivan Norton, Bob Tran, Ellis Britton, Roger Gardham. Absent are: Harvey Brown, Mary Wilson, Ken Russell, Gordon Forgie and Olive Shadlock.

—Peter Harris

School integration system

What the students say —

STOUFFVILLE — A comprehensive report on the Grade 7 to 13 integration program at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, was outlined before the Board, Jan. 26, by Principal Wm. E. Duxbury.

An opinion poll was conducted among elementary pupils, their teachers and some parents.

The pros and cons of the plan have been listed for study and discussion. Most students like the following:

- "six day system because it is not as boring as the ordinary 'sit in the class all day' system"
- cafeteria.
- library.
- "quite a number of different teachers and if you don't like a certain teacher, you don't have to stay with him all day"
- "shop, home economics."
- physical education program and more equipment.
- lockers.
- parties in the gym.
- moving from room to room as this gives a break between periods.
- separate health classes.
- guidance.
- art.
- "gets us ready for high school"
- meeting new people.
- "the high school kids and how they have accepted us"
- "high school kids are very helpful — gave up a lot for us"
- "lots of washrooms"

— getting to school earlier.

Students expressed dissatisfaction with the following:

- no place to go after lunch — gymnasium is in use with regular classes, can't go to lockers as would disturb other classes in session.
- lockers are too small, especially for those that have to share one.
- detentions for being late.
- senior prefect system — prefects get after them too much.
- no time for baseball at noon or at recess.
- don't like the brats in this class and if I had my way I wouldn't be in here with these hoods.
- "should have some regular 'spares' to study"
- should have longer lunch periods and more P.E. periods.
- bus students can't stay after school to take part in activities.
- "too far to walk to school from the east end of Stouffville"
- "high school kids look down on us and they don't want us around. I can't blame them cause we don't want them around either"
- "like longer parties during school, about 2 hours instead of a measly 1"
- not enough time for sports activities in the gym.
- cafeteria too crowded and food not always good.
- periods little too long.
- should be more choice of subjects.
- halls too crowded.

— recess too short.

— like more dances.

— "at the bottom of the heap."

— have to have activity cards to get into the clubs.

— girls have to wear dresses.

— would like mixed gym period.

— would like to take more shop and spend time in other shops as well.

— would like to take instrumental music.

— treated like high school students — too much expected of them.

— buses too crowded — difficult to bring things on bus; projects, etc.

— too much homework and too many projects.

Many of the comments above were stated only once. However, most students approve of the rotary system and having many different teachers.

They like moving from room and the variety and change of atmosphere which this provides. They like the special subjects such as home economics shop, etc. They seem to appreciate the special facilities provided in these rooms and by the cafeteria, gymnasium, library. The greatest single dislike is the sports programme.

Although there are quite a number of teams which compete against other schools, this still only involves a relatively small number of the students and gym time is not available after school for other than school teams. Students would also prefer a longer lunch period rather than the 50 minutes they now have, but this would only be practical if there was something for them to do at noon. A few stu-

Receipts over \$65,000

MARKHAM — Receipts for this year's Markham Fair totalled \$65,246.69, it was revealed in the auditors' statement at the annual meeting of the Markham and East York Agricultural Society, held Jan. 28.

Expenditures for the period were \$51,147.37 for the operation of the fair and the grounds. In addition, capital expenditures for improvements totalling \$17,113.70 were made.

Admissions this year brought in \$26,693, with 24,000 adults and 6,000 children paying at the gate. The children were admitted to the grounds free of charge on Thursday and Friday.

The Markham Fair is one of the few in the province which makes money, the directors disclosed. Many of Ontario's small

fairs are unable to break even each year, let alone be able to afford the improvements such as have been incorporated into the Markham Fair.

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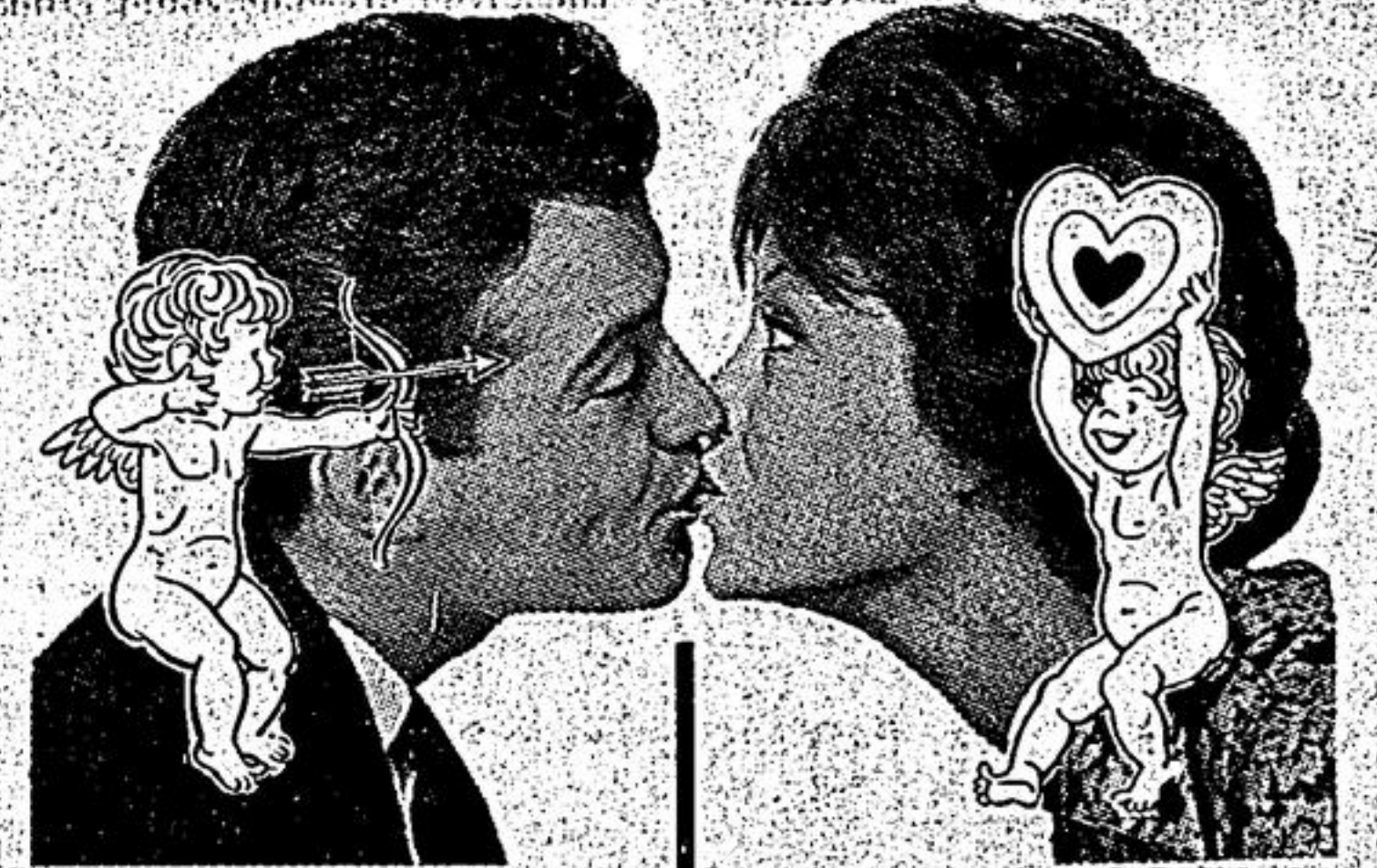
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- DECEMBER Turquoise, Zircon

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