

Condemn 'ratty old building'

YORK REGION — Members of the retiring York County Board of Education agreed at a meeting, Dec. 11, that the 1973 Board should be requested to seek preliminary approval from the Ministry of Education for the construction of a new administrative centre and appoint a special committee to locate a suitable site.

The need for new premises was outlined in a report, based on input from administrative staff, librarians, psychological services personnel and staff at the Maple Audio-Visual Centre.

The Board's present administrative offices, in a 90 year old remodelled building in Aurora, basically house board room, instructional and business administration areas; planning and development department. Other departments are scattered throughout the County.

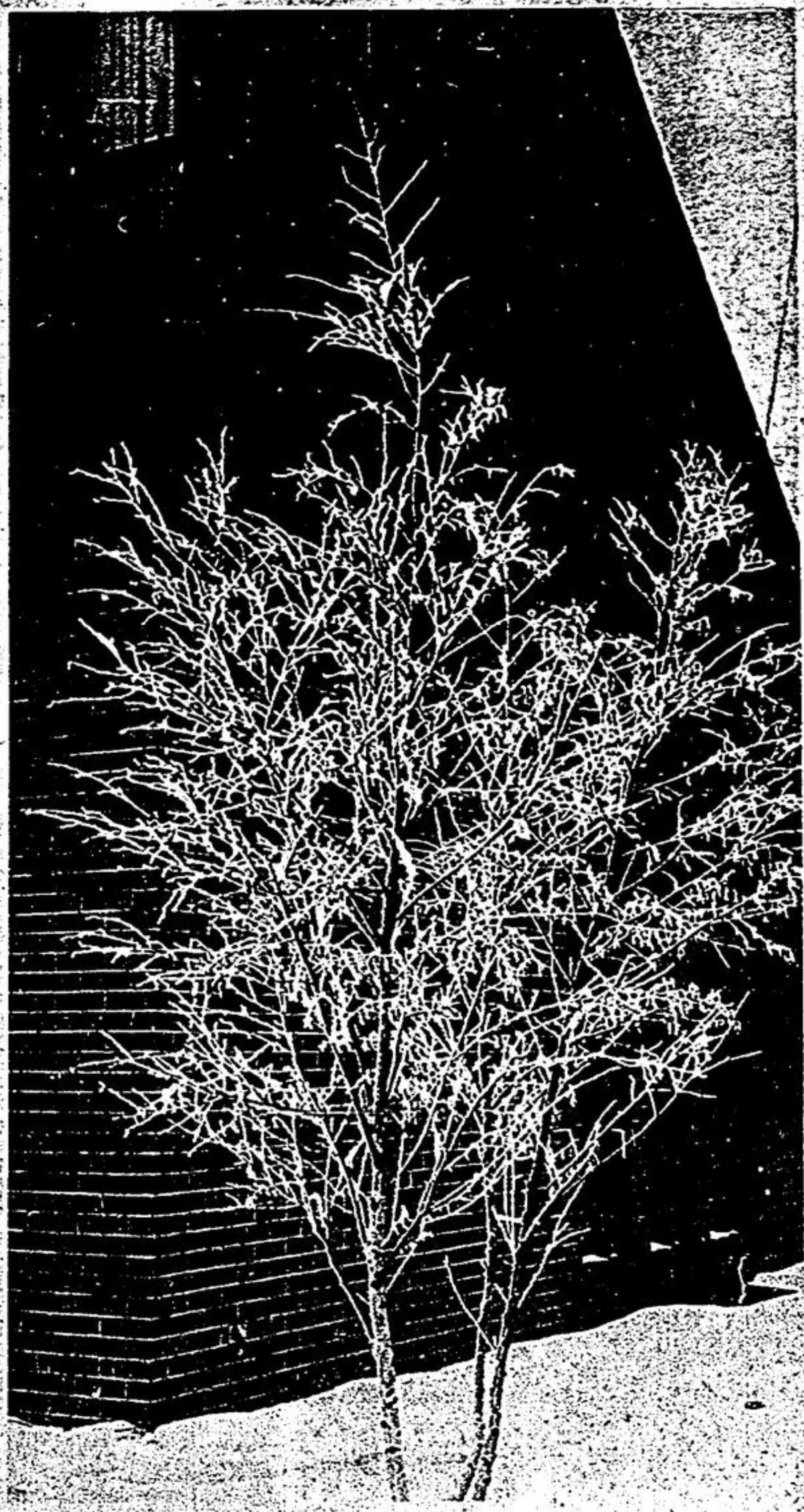
The report, approved by the Board, recommends an administrative centre of 42,000 square feet on a 3.25 acre site.

Mrs. Louise Aimone, a member of the Administrative Facilities Committee referred to the proposed centre as "more modest than most Boards", while Trustee Deena Simpson commented that it was aiming at a good standard, "without frills." "We have operated for 4 years in a ratty old building," she concluded, "and we don't want another one."

The report recommends that area offices and maintenance shops remain in decentralized offices to best provide specific services required by individual schools.

School sites too small

YORK REGION — For some years it has been the policy of York County Board of Education to locate schools in new subdivisions, adjacent to municipal parks, to permit use of the parklands for playground purposes, and the purchase of smaller



more economical school sites. Board trustees commented, Dec. 11, over a recent revision to the Planning Act which gives municipalities the right to sell such parklands without the approval of the Department of Municipal Affairs of the Ontario Municipal Board.

—Jim Thomas.

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Communications is a 2-way street--Roman

MARKHAM — The 'resolutions' most familiar to Mayor Tony Roman are official, administrative presentations; not the porous statements of intentions that most of us make at the beginning of the year in a surge of conscience, and break, a few days later, in a lapse of determination.

However, this being the appropriate time for the more informal assertions, The Tribune, contacted Mayor Roman to learn what his new year's resolutions, as head of council, might be and his predictions for Markham in 1973.

"My new year's resolutions," com-

mented the mayor, "would be to emphasize detail. As a council we have to pay attention to the 'little things'. Last year we were confronted by many problems we had to study. Hopefully, we can improve the general appearance of our Town. Administratively we can do this. It's just a matter of carrying it out in the field."

For his councillors (5 of them new members), Mr. Roman hoped they would make a resolution not to be parochial in attitude because of the necessity to cooperate as a unit to deal with problems

effectively. "I feel we have the nucleus for an effective administration. The objective will be to make it as efficient as possible and provide services at the least possible cost."

The mayor spoke of his hopes to improve the effectiveness of Council "to get more done in the course of a meeting" by having separate information in advance to eliminate superfluous discussion.

"We need more input from our local councils," he commented, adding, "I think we have a tendency as councillors to become complacent. We must have new ideas to keep us alert. I

maintain we have many good ideas that can be obtained from our residents."

He indicated he would like to see members present reports on projects they would like to see undertaken in depth studies, put in the form of resolutions.

Mr. Roman pursued the 1972 lack of communications election campaign theme, into '73. He ascertained that the Secretary of Council would readily relay constituents' messages to members of council when they couldn't be reached directly; that he personally could be contacted at his office or home, and ap-

preciated anyone phoning "when there is something to investigate."

"Maybe we have to take the initiative to get people involved," he speculated, and added that reciprocal representations from council and ratepayers as-

sociations, at each others meetings, could establish rapport.

"Emphasize," he concluded, "that I would encourage people to contact local members of council. By getting people's ideas we could be a lot more effective."

Handy ski hills

STOUFFVILLE — While the Summit and Dagmar ski slopes may pose a challenge to the pros, children and beginners don't need to travel that far.

The Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority provides re-

creation of this kind at Bruce's Mill, on the Stouffville-Gormley Road and at Greenwood, on the Greenwood Road.

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