

Going! going! gone!

The call of the auctioneer is becoming a familiar echo in the Markham east area as old established farming families sell off their stock and implements, uproot themselves, and move off to make way for urban 'Cedarwood'.

On Saturday, an auction marked the end of three generations of continuous farming on the property which belonged to Kenneth and Gordon Reesor, 3 miles from Markham. Their father, Wilbur, who is now 91, settled on the farm with his family when he was two years old.



Wilbur Reesor was 2 years old when he first came to live in the old farmhouse in the background. The venerable gentleman celebrated his 91st birthday two days after Saturday's auction. —Sheila McLeod.



"Did great-grandpa really sleep here?" Katherine, and her twin brothers, Mark and Paul Reesor seem doubtful about the comforts of the old iron crib. They are the grandchildren of Gordon Reesor. —Sheila McLeod.



Not the time or place for snow-shoeing with temperatures up to 90 and the field covered in dry stubble, but a fore-sighted bidder bought the oversized footwear held here by Jill-Ann Murray (left), grand-daughter of Kenneth Reesor, and her friend. —Sheila McLeod.

Town, Ruddy deadlocked over townhouse scheme

Public not keen on Cedarwood participation

PICKERING — The provincial government wants public participation in the planning of Cedarwood City, but the indication at a meeting held in St. George's Anglican Church, Pickering, Thursday, was that the invited public was not so eager to co-operate. The 34 group representatives who attended the meeting were told, by Larry Forester, director of the North Pickering Community Development Project, that the purpose of the forum was to gain information for the planning of economic, social and physical growth and how the community will affect Markham, Stouffville, Whitby, Scarborough and Pickering.

"We have reconvened the entire area to ensure any areas that were missed have a chance to represent their groups and we want the views and criticisms of participants to provide a basis for ongoing discussions," explained Mr. Forester.

The project team will prepare a series of three reports and the final, to be ready at the end of 1974, will be presented to the province.

"This final report can also be changed before any recommendations are made to the government," he said.

Public debate was sparked when the table of group representatives were asked to complete a questionnaire that would be used in planning the project.

"You have not advised us as to why this political decision was made and it's useless to fill in this questionnaire," said John MacKie, president of the West Rouge Ratepayers Association.

Mr. MacKie pointed out that the project director had not defined the term 'urban sprawl', used as one reason for the establishment of Cedarwood.

The project claimed that Cedarwood would stop Metro Toronto from expanding further, along with the province's announcement of the Parkway Belt.

"You don't need to sell Cedarwood to me... if it's a good idea in the first place, it will sell itself," said Mr. MacKie, charging that the project is a 'political ploy'.

"I refuse to participate in this scheme and you fella's should go back to the government and tell them our feelings," declared John Livingstone of RR 1-Locust Hill.

After the project director attempted to calm the Locust Hill resident, Mr. Livingstone cried, "If your house was being taken away from you it's not just a hang-up... if it happened to you, you'd know what it's like."

"I understand you people are upset and have strong feelings," said Mr. Forester, "but this is only the first stage in planning after a year and a half."

In an interview during a break in the meeting, Isabel Thompson of Whitevale said Pickering residents have not been given satisfactory reasons for the necessity of Cedarwood.

"I challenge the fact that the province claims that Cedarwood isn't simply an extension of Metro," said Mrs. Thompson.

She agreed there is a desperate need for housing, however it is unnecessary to take prime farmland to accommodate it.

"We're fighting two levels of government against the airport and Cedarwood," she urged.

Although no decisions will be made at these sessions, a third meeting has been called for Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. at Whitevale.

UNIONVILLE — Peter Ruddy of Village in the Valley Realty and the Town of Markham Planning committee just can't seem to reach a compromise for a townhouse development on Carlton Road. Mr. Ruddy appeared before the committee Tuesday in an attempt to gain approval for a 33-unit townhouse scheme (Block 1) for a second time, following the Town's original consent to a 26-unit development in March. The planning department had previously refused the applicant's request for increased housing units. "We had agreed to 26 units because they provided more park space but our department finds the site becomes tighter with 33," explained Planning Director Bill Power. Mr. Ruddy told the committee that the original builder, Bramalae Developments,

refused to construct the dwellings and the contractor completed plans that call for 33 units, or 15 units per acre, which conforms to the town's bylaw. The site comprises 2.26 acres.

"You have to consider the feelings of the people living there, the living area rather than increasing parking facilities," he said. "This open space you're talking about is parking lots, not where people can take their guests to sit and have a drink."

"We comply with your standards and then you go and change them," charged the representative. "It's the principle of the thing."

Councillor Harry Crisp's motion to approve the new plan was defeated and the committee agreed to refer the proposal back to the planning staff to come up with an agreeable scheme.

Stresses need for more parkland

MARKHAM — In his second report, Ward 6 councillor, Ron Moran stresses the urgent need for more park lands in this rural area which comprises about half the Town of Markham.

The report reads as follows: "Once upon a time a man had a dream. Happily, this dream came true."

It was in 1892 when Winnipeg had a population of 29,411, that George F. Carruthers, as a member of Council recommended that a large tract of land be bought for a city park. In 1903, Mr. H. Sandison, chairman of the parks board, again took up the issue and in 1904 the city purchased 283 acres of woodland and prairie along the south side of the Assiniboine River for \$39,963.

Later, a zoo was added, then a pavilion, formal gardens, cricket grounds, bandshell, picnic area, eating shelter, palm house. Further land was donated and purchased to bring the park up to its present 375 acres. Today it is worth \$5½ million.

What has all this got to do with Ward 6? Plenty!

Because no long range plans were made for the Thornhill area of the Town of Markham, Council recently had to pay over \$900,000 for less than 15 acres. Of course we all have to pay our share of this in our taxes.

Councillor Moran estimates there are 4,300 residents in Ward 6 and the only public park is a five-acre parcel in Victoria Square.

"The rest of the town has 267 acres of parkland therefore, Ward 6 should have another 262 acres just to be equal based on area."

Although Bruce's Mill Conservation Area offers 270 acres of park and nature trails, "It is used by many Metro Toronto people and the authorities do not allow any organized sports there."

"I propose that council should acquire 50 to 60 acres in

Ward 6, right now. Farmland prices are as low as they will likely ever be again and the provincial government had indicated our area as a 'green belt'.

"What better way is there? A member of council told me that farmers and estate residents have open space. I replied that a field of corn is not a park and if residents of Ward 6 are paying their share for parks, they too can expect to enjoy a park without having to drive for miles."

Councillor Moran will present his report to council at its next meeting.

Try team ministry

MARKHAM — In September 1973 members of the combined parishes of Christ Church (Stouffville) and St. Philip's (Unionville) will launch an exciting experiment which is being watched with interest by other churches in the Toronto area and by the Bishop of Toronto, the Rt. Rev. Lewis S. Garnsworthy.

The new concept is the brainchild of the innovative Rector of Stouffville-Unionville, Rev. Fred E. Miller. Traditionally, small Anglican parishes, like those of most denominations, have had a single clergyman, whose par-

ticular tastes and talents tended to shape parish life and activities. Under the new scheme, Stouffville-Unionville will have no fewer than three ordained clergy supported by experienced laymen. Each of the clergy will bring his own special abilities to the complex task of leading a modern parish, and each will concentrate on particular aspects of parish activities, although all three will be available to parishioners in case of need. The new formula will be in effect for a trial period of two years, and will then be evaluated and modified as required.



Penelope McGregor, centre, of Unionville celebrated her 100th birthday Friday, one day early, with the help of residence staff administration of the villa, along with invited guests. During a luncheon she was presented with a plaque, by Attorney General Dalton Bales, her relative by marriage, and a dozen

red roses by Mayor Tony Roman. When asked what it felt like to be 100, she replied, "You'll just have to experience it." Mrs. McGregor's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McGregor, accompany her, while cutting the cake. —Michael Gerhardt