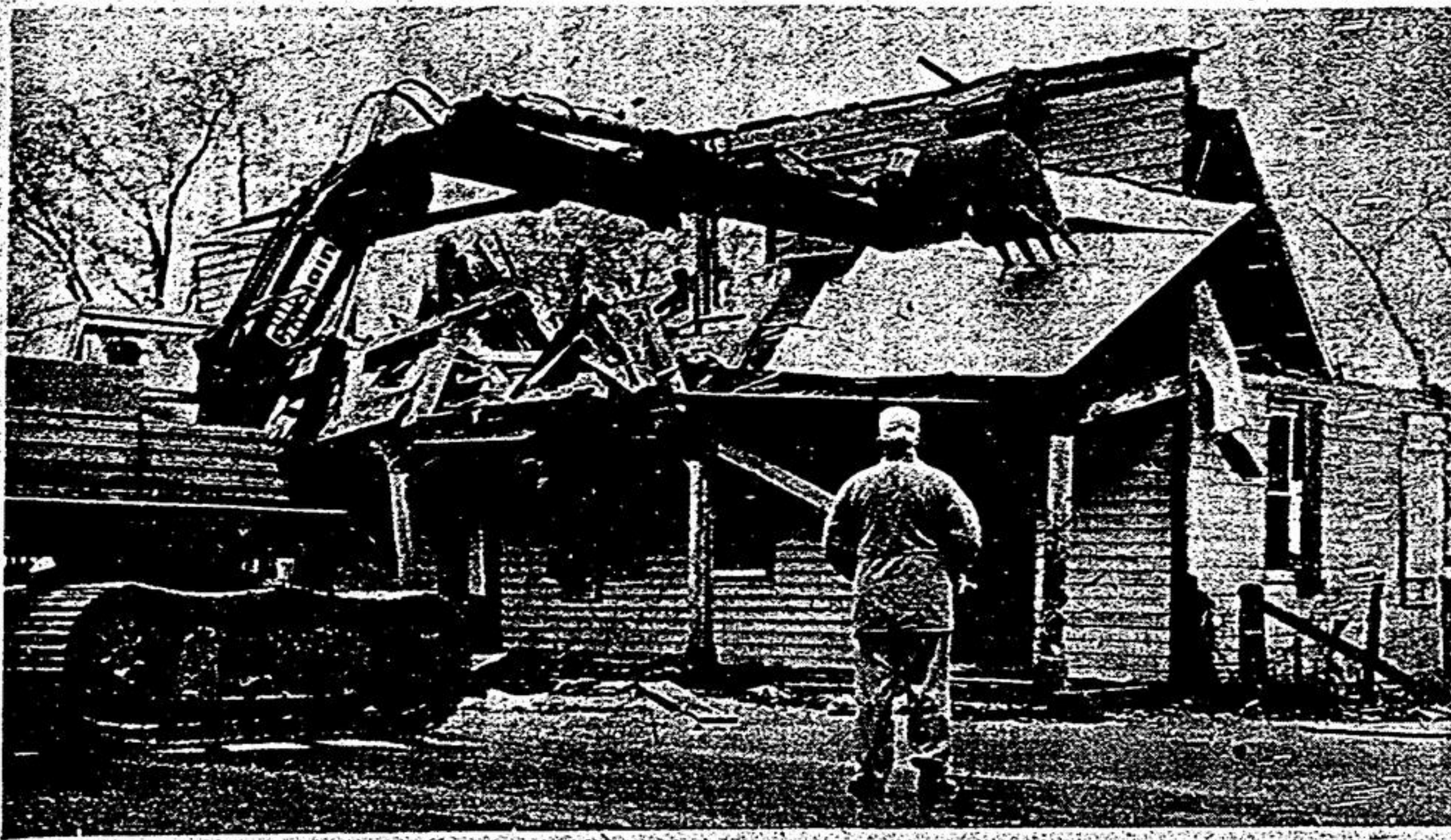


York trustees must control spending



The end of an era for 113 year old Goodwood landmark

The century-old Goodwood House, a community landmark, came crashing down, last week, ending an era that has spanned 113 years. The building was erected by Michael Chapman about 1860. Its 'death' occurred, Nov. 1, 1973. Jim Daw

Decision on spending is up to Board

YORK COUNTY — The final decision as to how taxpayers' dollars should be spent "must" be the responsibility of the elected trustees, according to John Honsberger, Markham trustee and chairman of the negotiating committee for the York County Board of Education.

"We have consistently stated that we want teacher input," stated Mr. Honsberger in a letter on the board's position regarding working conditions, "and we want to consult and confer with teachers to achieve the best possible teaching-learning situation."

He also assured that trustees are "concerned about 'classes' being too large to handle effectively."

The pupil-teacher ratio, a major issue of debate among trustees, affects board costs more than any other aspect, it is "crucial that after full consultation the final decision be left with the board."

New store opens in Plaza

MARKHAM — Toromark, an established name in furniture sales throughout the Markham area for 24 years, has opened a second store in the Markham Plaza.

The newest location will handle a larger selection of furniture, plus a new line of appliances.

Toromark is regarded as a good citizen in the Markham community, supporting many organizations as well as minor hockey and soccer teams.

Land meets criteria

STOUFFVILLE — Sixty-three acres of land fronting on Vivian Sideroad near the south west corner of Conc. 9, is believed to meet the municipality's criteria for rural residential development.

A plan for the area, describing 24 lots of approximately 2 acres each, was submitted to Planning Board by Earl Grose, R.R. 3, Newmarket.

Following discussion in Committee, members agreed that the rolling, forested land was a choice location for estate-type lots.

It was decided, however, that the Area Services Branch be requested to give guidance in layout of lots and roads.

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Real earnings down: Stevens

YORK-SIMCOE — Canadian workers are losing ground by month their battle with inflation.

Average real weekly earnings for August may be down \$3 per week compared to a year earlier, Sinclair Stevens, York-Simcoe Conservative M.P. said last week.

Poor August figures and downward revisions to earlier month figures were scheduled to be released by Statistics Canada on Oct. 26, but after review their release was delayed for further tabulation, Mr. Stevens explained.

The tabulation was completed today, but now officials state, the figures will not be made public until Nov. 20 or later. Nov. 23 is the date scheduled for release of September figures. July figures were published on Oct. 2. It is believed that the publication of August figures is being delayed in the hope that September figures will look better or at least the current five-month adverse trend in wage increases can be explained.

Statistics Canada figures for the summer months were overstated, Mr. Stevens has learned. He commented, "One person at Statistics Canada said we were 4 per cent to 6 per cent high each month and we could not believe the August figure, it was so low. The July figure originally shown at \$161.36 per week will be substantially reduced, likely to about \$159.80," the official said.

One month ago, when July figures were first released, a Finance Department spokesman said, "Government calculations show the latest reported average weekly industrial wage of \$161.36 is about seven cents above a year earlier in terms of purchasing power. Now with the revised figure it appears the government will have to admit the average worker was actually \$1.47 behind in July compared with one year earlier."

In August it is anticipated the average wage was \$160.80 per week, but that month the worker should have earned \$163.78 per week to hold his own with inflation compared to August 1972. He has had a \$2.98 short fall in buying power within the year, Mr. Stevens said.

Lessening yearly increases in average weekly earnings and accelerating yearly jumps in the cost of living have been devastating for the worker since March this year, Mr. Stevens said. In April this year the average wage increase in relation to the year before was 6 per cent (about 90 cents a week) less than the cost of living increase. In April 1972, the same worker gained 4.7 per cent (about \$6 per week) in buying power compared to the previous year.

"That is a turn around in buying power increase of \$350 a year for the average worker," Mr. Stevens said. "May and June this year were little better, while July and August were a disaster compared with last year."

In August an average wage earner needed \$163.78 per week if he wanted the same buying power as in August 1972 when he earned \$150.90. Mr. Stevens said he needed an average increase of \$12.88 a week. He actually received about \$9.90.

"It is a nasty trend when a worker needs more than a dollar a week in extra earnings every month just to keep level with inflation, yet that is what is currently happening."

The alarming trend was confirmed in a Department of Labour Research Bulletin, released this week, which deals with changes in wage levels under all major collective bargaining settlements for the third quarter, 1973. The Bulletin reviews inflationary trends and then states at page 4, "It can be said that the average base rate did not increase in real terms during the 12 month period ending September 30, 1973, while it did increase by 1.6 per cent during the 12 month period ending a year earlier."

"Most disturbing of all," Mr. Stevens concluded, "the Government keeps referring more and more to real after tax income being up without making it clear that such income rose in the first six months of the year mainly because of huge income tax refunds, unemployment insurance payment increases, other large government payment increases, and higher investment income. It was not due to real wage increases among the relatively more productive segment of the population. "If the trends keep up, Mr. Turner will have a difficult time continuing to confuse or ignore the facts," Mr. Stevens said.

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