

Tomorrow is the deadline

One-month reprieve granted

By TED WILCOX

PICKERING — Tomorrow, the federal government officially takes over 18,000 acres of farmland for the Pickering airport project.

However, there will be no immediate evictions of about 35 remaining residents in the immediate construction area, and according to one airport property spokesman, a month-long extension will probably be granted so that children may complete the school year.

Among those who intend to stay on indefinitely is Ernie Carruthers who says he will "stick here until I'm carried off." Mr. Carruthers, 65, has sowed 40 acres of barley and oats as he would in any other year of his lifetime even though government plans specify he leave tomorrow.

According to airport property manager Ed Gallagher, though, any resident who finally refuses to leave will be dealt with through "the due process of the law." As to how many would illegally stay on, Mr. Gallagher

said, "I think we'll just have to wait."

A ministry of transport spokesman confirmed to The Tribune that construction of the airport is scheduled to begin in "the summer of 1975," but the specific month that construction will start hasn't been determined. The first work to be done is to be "preliminary grading and corrosive testing," he said.

The People or Planes organization, meanwhile, still are using every conceivable means to slow up or halt the airport. These include tending to set up various obstacles to the airport around its perimeter, such as a model rocket site, a Canada geese sanctuary and barrage balloons.

"We'll use any tactic short of violence," says POP coordinator Margaret Godfrey. "The idea is to delay them and delay them...If we got a two year delay we know we could prove it to them."

Another stratagem involves hundreds of women who have agreed to come and sit in front of the first bulldozers that arrive to

build the airport. Mrs. Godfrey told The Tribune that "we're going to surround them... They can't outflank us."

She said they hope to have a walkie-talkie network so that the women would be warned in case a fake construction site was used to fool them.

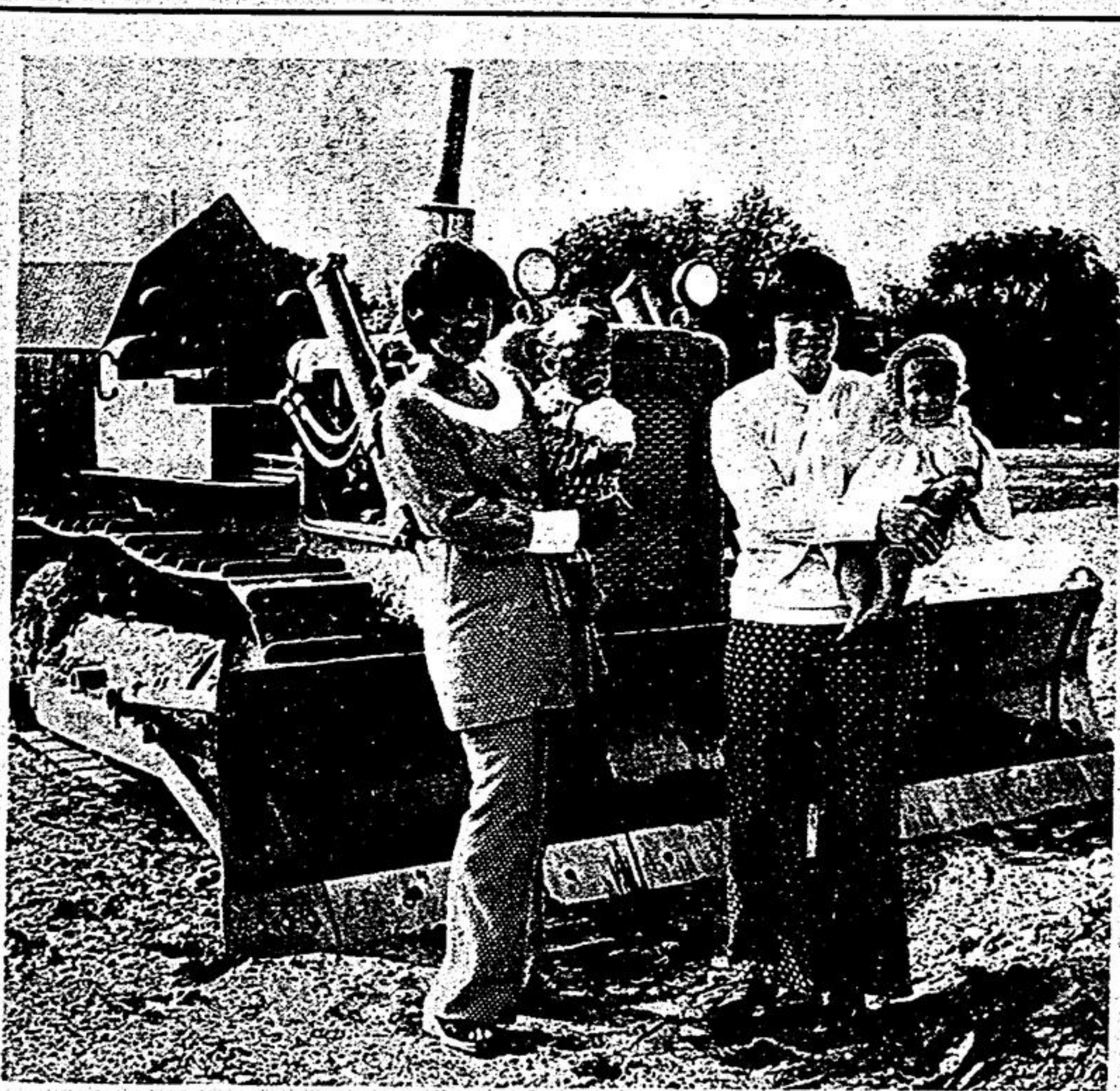
"We intend to save this farmland — even if we don't stay on it ourselves," Mrs. Godfrey said.

Also among airport property residents who have

said they intend to stay on are Gordon and Helen Auld, aged 82 and 71. They have refused a government offer of \$40,900 for their home and have been told they must leave in just over a year.

"We couldn't sell this place at any price," Mr. Auld said. "But \$40,900 is absurd."

Another longtime resident, who plans to remain where he is, is dairy farmer Alex Robertson, 82. "We're staying put," he says. "I've got a gun and, if necessary, I'll use it."



Madeleine Nevins (left) and Michelle Garbutt are among those women who have vowed to stop bulldozers from starting construction of the Pickering airport. Children

will also be involved as illustrated by Delaney Nevins and Holly Garbutt. Here they stand before a bulldozer on the Northdown Homes construction site. — Ted Wilcox

Housewives, kids protest

PICKERING — When the first bulldozers arrive at the Pickering airport site this summer, several Stouffville women intend to be among those to stop them from operating.

Michelle Garbutt of Manitoba St. and Madeleine Nevins of Church St. were two of the women who have signed a petition saying they will "sit on the road in front of the bulldozer who any other land-violating machinery on the site."

The People or Planes-sponsored activity is to involve hundreds of women who will be contacted through a telephone "pyramid" when the first bulldozer is spotted.

Admitting that their participation would amount to "civil disobedience," Mrs. Garbutt said the prospect made her "nervous."

Mrs. Nevins added that "sometimes you just have to take desperate means. When you do something drastic, that's when people start listening."

Both women, who are otherwise inobtrusive housewives and mothers, adamantly believe the airport inquiry was not an impartial hearing and that "the defense of our land" was an ample reason for their planned action.

The sit-down before the bulldozers is to involve only women so that possible violent incidents will be avoided. Among those participating will be about "30 elderly persons sitting with knitting needles and straw bonnets," according to Mrs. Garbutt. The battle plan is to "just surround the bulldozers and sit quietly," she said.

Dramatic moment at board meeting

Barrett demands resignation

YORK CTY. — In a dramatic moment Monday night, Whitchurch-Stouffville trustee Colin Barrett called for the resignation of Education Director Sam Chapman, during a controversy over the board's 1975 budget.

And the board approved spending to the expenditure ceilings for secondary education and to the grant ceilings in elementary education, for a total budget of \$59.5 million.

Finance chairman Barrett told a stunned group of trustees that the board should consider terminating its contract with Mr. Chapman.

"Staff has set the budget with disregard" for the wishes of trustees, Mr. Barrett challenged.

He said staff was directed to cut \$600,000 from the first draft of the budget of \$56.4 million.

The goal was for a 15 per cent increase in staff salaries over the 1974 actuals and an eight per cent increase in the remainder of the operating budget, Mr. Barrett said.

Board chairman Don Sim of Markham acknowledged staff had been asked to prepare the reduced budget, but reminded Mr. Barrett staff had said they could not effect the cuts without significant staff cuts.

"I see no point in participating any further," Mr. Barrett said.

He disputed that the budget couldn't be cut.

"It's time we found out as trustees whether we're in

control," he said.

Mr. Sim ruled Mr. Barrett out of order in his call for the director's resignation, and Mr. Barrett said his position as finance committee chairman was "jeopardized" by the

Area services fired

Private consultants to do town planning

STOUFFVILLE — The town has decided to go to private consultants for future planning work.

Planning Board last week voted to discontinue with the Regional Area Services Branch as of July 1 and to negotiate for outside consultants.

The Area Services Branch, with one planner left from a high of around five, is virtually non-existent at present. Planning Commissioner Murray Pound had promised to upgrade the service by hiring more qualified planners by July 1. He requested the participating municipalities to make a commitment as to

whether they would continue with the service so he would know how much staff was required.

Councillor Mervyn Baker pretty well summed up the feelings of council when he said, "We had a service and its deteriorated to no service. We have no guarantee it won't happen again."

The members were somewhat unsure of their legal position as they have signed a year's agreement with Area Services but Councillor Becky Wedley declared the agreement "null and void" as no service is not being provided.

"We certainly haven't had satisfaction from them," commented Councillor June Button, "but we could run into tremendous expense. Can we afford a planning consultant of our own? I don't think we can."

The members said they would start charging work back to developers and Councillor Art Starr said they would have to set a budget for planning work and stick by it.

Senior citizens trip planned

STOUFFVILLE — As part of the celebration of Senior Citizens week, a Strawberry Festival is being held at Black Creek Pioneer Village on June 17. The local committee is arranging for buses for senior citizens willing to attend the festival. Those interested may clip the coupon on Page 6 of this week's Tribune and bring it to Parkview Home, The Tribune or the town offices. They must be handed in by June 10. Reservations may be made by phone the town office at 640-1900 or Parkview at 640-1911.

Red Shield donations

STOUFFVILLE — The Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal received donations totalling \$2,172.80 from the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville up to May 16.

Appeal chairman Betty Turner said that an effort had been made to canvass every home and business in the town.

Those that were missed may make donations at any bank or trust company.

Mail donations should be forwarded to the Treasurer, Red Shield Appeal, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Stouffville. Contributions to the Red Shield Appeal are tax deductible.

One step further

Pickering wants out

PICKERING — This municipality took one more step in a bid to break away from Durham Region and join Metro Toronto last week as town council directed town officials to prepare a report outlining the pros and cons of the move.

The brief would be presented to the Roberts Commission examining the future of Metro Toronto.

The only negative vote last week came from councillor Ken Matheson, who says the move is premature and that regional government must be given a chance.

In making the motion for a brief, Councillor Don Kitchen said Pickering has closer ties with Toronto than with its eastern neighbors. Councillor Jack Anderson said the main difficulty was with Whitby and Oshawa who want to leave Pickering with the problems such as the North Pickering Project or the proposed airport, while enjoying the prime industrial and residential development.

Mayor George Ashe told The Tribune in an interview recently that Pickering was getting a bad deal as a part of Durham Region. Regardless of what criteria is used, he said, Pickering is the only municipality in Durham Region which

hasn't benefited financially from regional government.

Beyond that, Mr. Ashe said that development wanted by the Town is being held up by the Region. "What's getting our goat is these continual hassles," he said.

He pointed out that Pickering residents had voted almost 3 to 1 in favor of joining Metro in a plebiscite five years ago.

But according to Ajax mayor Clark Mason, if Pickering entered Metro, Ajax would have to follow suit. The population of Pickering alone would not be enough for them to make up a complete borough.

Other municipalities are showing dissatisfaction with Durham Region as well. In particular, the city of Oshawa's Mayor Jim Potticary says that if a regional water and sewer rate goes through, that Oshawa wants out of the region since they will lose \$2.3 million with the set up. Mr. Potticary would like Oshawa to be reimbursed by the province.

Uxbridge councillor Bill Ballinger also expressed frustration saying local municipalities are lacking in both funds and flexibility under regional government.

OMB rejects appeal on industrial zone

CEDAR VALLEY — The appeal requested by the would-be developers of an 86 acre industrial subdivision in Cedar Valley has been turned down by the Ontario Municipal Board.

The OMB decision states that usually new evidence has come to light or there has been a denial of natural justice in the original proceedings before a rehearing will be granted.

The decision notes that neither of those arguments was put forth.

Professional Syndicated Developments Ltd. had claimed the "decision was wrong in fact and in principle" and that the board had misdirected itself by criticizing the Official Plan and had requested a rehearing on those grounds.

The OMB decision says that counsel for the developer did not take issue with the facts when applying for a rehearing and the board was "led to the conclusion the facts stated in such decisions are not in issue." Other arguments were termed "not relevant."

By-law 2083, the zoning by-law which approved the industrial area, has only temporary approval and as a result there will be a hearing on it for one week beginning June 16.

Before this hearing, though, the town will be holding a public meeting June 5, 8 p.m., at Vandorf Community Centre to hear objections to an amendment to rezone the Cedar Valley lands to agricultural uses.

Planning Board Secretary Ken Aida predicted the subsequent OMB hearing would revolve mostly around this amendment.

The rezoning amendment was instituted after council received a report from Area Services Branch recommending the land be returned to an agricultural designation.

Uxbridge wants province to pay road maintenance

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge Township feels that when it comes to sand and gravel operations, they are losing more than they are benefiting, and have requested an increased subsidy from the province to cover the costs of road maintenance.

The motion, passed at the meeting of council last week, asks for provincial help "until such time as rural municipalities are given means by which to obtain needed revenue from the aggregate industry."

The resolution comes on the heels of a favorable Supreme

Court of Canada ruling recently which upheld the township's by-law regulating gravel pits, although a clause assessing a per-ton levy was disallowed by the court. Apparently only the federal government can legislate a per-ton levy and the municipality hopes for assistance from the province in bringing that about, according to councillor Eleanor Todd who made the motion.

Mrs. Todd told The Tribune that "it costs the farm assessors and residential ratepayers to have aggregate industry in the area" because of the wear and tear on township roads.

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Dr. Bill Murphy (left) presents a cheque for \$1,200 to Jim Sanders, chairman of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Library Board. The money is proceeds from Music Mania '75. Librarian Lynne

Robbins (right) and Music Mania director Norma Card look on. The money, according to Mrs. Robbins, will be used to develop new programs at the library. — Don Bernard