



The Ontario Ministry of Housing recently put up two historical homes for sale in the hamlet of Whitevale, along with assisting with the renovations of another home. The renovated home, above, will remain in provincial ownership until it is integrated into the new North Pickering urban town design, at which time it may be returned to private ownership. The home, the Carter house, was built during the latter half of the nineteenth century.

## Historical homes for sale

Two historical houses in the hamlet of Whitevale within the North Pickering new community site were offered for sale recently by the provincial Ministry of Housing. Known locally as the Major and Griffin houses, they are distinctive examples of the traditional nineteenth century character of the hamlet of Whitevale.

Local residents and North Pickering Project planners have expressed interest in helping to restore the charm of the original Whitevale community and preserve the more significant elements of the past.

One of the two Whitevale homes for sale is the eight room Major house, a frame building with attractive board and batten siding and a fine two storey bay window. It was built in the late 1850's by Henry Major, a son of John Major, principal founder of the Village of Major (later renamed Whitevale), who took advantage of the source of power provided by the West Duffin Creek by building and operating a saw mill on its banks.

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The land on which the Griffin house sits was owned by Truman P. White, a member of the family whose name was given to the hamlet of Whitevale. In the late 1850's Joseph Vardon, a local carpenter, purchased the land and built the one and a half storey north portion of the present house. The house was sold in the late 1870's

to Daniel Moody who subsequently added the one-storey rear wing. In addition to selling these unique houses in Whitevale, the Land Acquisition and Management Branch, in conjunction with North Pickering Project planners, recently completed extensive renovations to the Carter house, east of Whitevale on concession road 5. Located within the future North Pickering urban community, the Carter house will remain in provincial ownership until it is integrated into

the new town design, at which time it may be returned to private ownership.

The Carter house had been identified by a panel of architectural consultants and historians as a "Class 1" building that "must be saved" in light

of its exceptional and individualistic nineteenth century design. The one-and-a-half storey Victorian farmhouse appears to have been constructed in the 1870's, with decorative trimwork showing elements of earlier periods of architecture.

## THE FOURTH QUARTER

By LESLIE HOLBROOK

Recently I expressed surprise at the high percentage of seniors still living in single-dwelling houses.

Often they continue to keep up the big, old family home, preferring this to a move, in spite of maintenance and repair problems and zooming property taxes.

John Welsh, Dorval, Quebec, sends me additional information on senior housing and related interesting statistics. This information comes from a survey (fall of 1977) of some 3,000 pensioners of a number of large companies in the private sector.

Concerning accommodation, the survey showed that 57 per cent of these pensioners lived in their own home without a mortgage. Another 25 per cent lived in senior citizens' housing.

Retirement came after an average of 38 work years. Over 30 per cent had worked for only one employer. (That

figure is likely to be considerably reduced when younger workers retire.)

Thirty-eight per cent of the 3,000 replying were in the "managerial, supervisory or senior executive class"; 35 per cent said they were "wage earners". Thirty-four per cent retired at age 60 or under.

There was not as much moving to sunny climates as I would have expected. Ninety-two per cent remained in the last province of work; main shifts were from Quebec to Ontario and from several provinces into B.C.

The average annual company pension was \$5,208. Added to this and Old Age Security, 60 per cent received additional income from interest, 38 per cent from dividends, 11 per cent from part-time work, five per cent from rents and three per cent from full-time work. Twenty-seven per cent receive or will receive income from RRSP's.

Average monthly living expenses included: Food at home - \$146; restaurant meals - \$26; clothing - \$36; health care - \$22; personal care - \$22.

For the "executive" group these average monthly living expenses were reported as: food at home - \$205; restaurant meals - \$59; clothing - \$75; health care - \$36; personal care - \$42.

These living expenses - particularly restaurant meals - seem low considering current prices.

Up to age 70, 83 per cent owned a car. After that car ownership dropped as follows: Age 71 to 75 - 76 per cent; 76 to 80 - 65 per cent; over 80 - 38 per cent.

Pensioners reported that their chief retirement activities involved sports; TV, radio and records; reading; craft and hobbies; social activities; films, concerts, galleries.

Sixty-three per cent of all these pensioners are not able to achieve regular savings. Fifty-

three per cent of the "executive" group but only 22 per cent of retired wage earners said they were putting something in the bank.

Half of the 3,000 pensioners had paid-up life insurance policies. The survey showed that it takes some time after retirement for seniors to become fully aware of facilities, activities and services available to them. This indicates that more pre-retirement information is needed by way of courses, company retirement manuals, etc.

Let me know how these statistics compare with your situation. If I get enough replies I might do a summary reflecting the way things are for seniors in mid-1978.

Send comments and questions (long, stamped addressed envelope for reply) to Stouffville Tribune, c/o P.O. Box 1506, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6N9

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