

# Museum move postponed

**WHITCHURCH** — Legal problems have stalled plans to move the Whitchurch-Stouffville museum to its new 'home' at Vandorf.

The museum was to have been moved several weeks ago to Town land, next to the former Vandorf schoolhouse on the west side of Woodbine Avenue, because its present Mulock Sideroad location is in the path of Highway 404.

Whitchurch - Stouffville mayor Eldred King told The Tribune the fenced museum property which the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communication wants, does not match the description which the deed offers.

The museum project was postponed by the Ministry when it learned the Town

couldn't provide a clear title. Mayor King knows who owns the land and is trying to negotiate a deal. He hopes the "legal formalities" can be resolved in a few weeks, but is unsure if this is possible. He speculated that the problem arose when the school was built a hundred years ago. It was either constructed in the wrong place, or else the land was described improperly on the

deed. He added this was a common occurrence in days gone by. In the meantime, the arrival of frost has interfered with any plans to move the building before spring, and the museum displays sit packed, waiting to go. The museum board will meet some time in January to decide whether to re-open the building or set up displays elsewhere.

# The Tribune

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Second Section

## Florist develops unique poinsettia

By ED SCHROETER  
**GORMLEY** — Two years ago, when Jim White discovered a slightly irregular poinsettia in his sprawling greenhouse complex on the Stouffville-Gormley Road, no one would have guessed that he could develop it into a plant which would corner the world market. No one but Jim, and his family, of course.

"I kept quiet because I've seen too many of these projects not work out." He said his family was very excited about his work, but he wanted the experts to judge his creation. He

added, however, that deep down he knew it was "a winner."

None of the country's 25 best authorities who examined it offered any criticism. There isn't a fault about it.

When the plant is examined closely, it becomes apparent the bloom is a darker red; the foliage a richer green; it's a much hardier, and blooms a week earlier, in time for the American Thanksgiving.

Mr. White predicts it will dominate the world market within two or three years.

Next year, the poinsettia, named Marjo Red after Mr. White's daughters, Margaret

and Joan, will begin appearing in florists' shops across the continent.

Growing as many mature plants as he can, Mr. White will provide his United States agent and Canadian distributor with about ten cuttings from each mature plant.

These cuttings will be shipped across the continent to as many places as possible, in order to popularize the plant. The cuttings are then rooted, and grown into plants for retail sale.

Between 40 and 50 million plants are currently sold each year in the United States alone.

The new variety is registered in his name with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation, which recognizes his sole claim to a two cent royalty on every Marjo Red sold. Considering the potential sales volume, Mr. White would make a sizeable profit.

But for Jim White, the

money isn't important. No one can put a dollar value on the satisfaction of developing a new strain of poinsettia, and his enhanced reputation.

His discovery culminates about 30 years of effort. Mr. White has been in business for himself about 35 years. According to him, however, he's worked with flora ever since he can remember. He inherited the business from his father, who took over from his father before that.

It was his trained eye that picked out the traits of the mutation which a less experienced man might have missed. From it, he developed the new species.

Jim White and family lived on the Seventh Line south of the Bethesda Sideroad for five years. He later moved his operation, James White Florists, to the Stouffville-Gormley Road from its Kennedy Road location.

### Wilbert Irwin

## Fine neighbor

**STOUFFVILLE** — Residents of Stouffville lost a good friend and a fine neighbor in the passing, Dec. 11 of Wilbert Irwin, 344 Rupert Avenue.

Mr. Irwin died in Riverdale Hospital, Toronto, after suffering a serious stroke while vacationing last winter in Florida.

Born at Island Lake in Uxbridge Township, the son of Samuel and Bertha Irwin, he farmed there before joining the staff of the Stouffville Co-

operative. At the Co-op, customers old and new enjoyed his friendliness, taking time out to stop and chat awhile. This "way of life" he had known on the farm, was well received in town. Wilbert enjoyed it too.

As a lad, he attended Sunday School at Churchill Christian Church. Later, he identified himself with the United Church, often attending services in both Uxbridge and Stouffville.

Wilbert loved to travel, and took advantage of his retirement years to visit many far-off places including Rome, Hawaii, the British Isles and Europe. He had been coast to coast in Canada several times.

Surviving besides his wife, the former Maudie Gilchrist, is one son, Alvin, RR 3, Stouffville and three grandchildren, Catherine, Timothy and Jennifer. He was predeceased by another son, Lloyd.

Rev. Jim Carder conducted the service, Dec. 13 from the O'Neill Funeral Chapel, Stouffville, with interment, Churchill Cemetery. The pall bearers were Gorman Dixon, Eldon Dixon, Bill Mitchell, George Gilchrist, Ernie Smith and Allan Hoover.

### Weapon's charge

**MARKHAM** — A Weston man has been charged with having a weapon dangerous to the public peace after George Lazarou of the Sherwood Park Tavern, Wellington Street West told police he was threatened, Dec. 12.

According to information, an argument developed between a party making a delivery and the complainant who was unloading his own vehicle.

The suspect allegedly pulled a knife, then left.

An hour later, Karl Redman, 35, of 10 Black Friar Avenue, Weston was arrested by Metro police from No. 33 Division. The accused will appear in Newmarket Provincial Court, Jan. 30.



Jim White's daughters, Marg and Joan, home for Christmas, display one of the many poinsettias for sale this Christmas. Mr. White has developed a new variety, Marjo Red, which he named after the girls. Marg, 22, is completing an honors degree course in Journalism at Carlton University. Twenty year old Joan is employed by the Robert Simpson Company.

## Critical lack of industrial land

**UXBRIDGE** — The Industrial Advisory Committee established two years ago by former Uxbridge mayor Gord Davie has called on Council to take "forceful" action with Durham Region government.

The committee has been working to secure serviced industrial land for Uxbridge. Mayor Gary Herrema explained the desperate situation arose when developers anxious "to get a bigger slice of the pie" blocked the municipality's plans to obtain more serviced industrial lands.

The project is stalled until it can be reviewed by the Ontario Municipal Board. No hearing date has been set.

Committee member Barry Olivetta said the group had approached the region for assistance a number of times in the past, to no avail.

However, he added, "We believe the time is right for

another approach." Staff changes at the region and the support of Ontario Agriculture Minister Bill Newman formed the basis of their reasoning.

Council hopes that funds from a Durham job-creating task force will be made available for the purpose of purchasing serviced industrial land, which the region will sell to developers.

One councillor, Alan Wells, said Uxbridge was the only town which hadn't benefited from the money.

Mayor Herrema stated, "I think the council is wise in considering ways and means of attracting industry to Uxbridge." He noted the job situation was critical, and the introduction of new plants would alleviate the problem.

"We're the only municipality in the region which has no serviced industrial land," he said.

## Chairman elected

**YORK REGION** — Garfield Wright, chairman of the York Regional Council for the last eight years, has been ousted from that position by former Newmarket Mayor Bob Forhan.

Mr. Forhan, was elected to office at the regional council's inaugural meeting 12 votes to five.

Mr. Forhan's career as chairman began with the formation of regional government in 1971, when the Ontario government appointed him to the post.

In his address, Mr. Forhan

called on regional council to join him in "a comprehensive review of regional government."

According to him, regional government can't do an adequate job as long as local communities continue to resent its presence.

He asked them "to work closely with local councils to identify the services over which local people would like more control."

"In many cases, it is simply more practical and more efficient to operate services at the regional level," he said.

However, he added, "I also think we have to look for opportunities to return services where we find that economies and efficiency can be better handled at the local level."

Targets for re-examination include the planning process; the police department; and the road system.

"Let us accept the fact the local government may very well have a clearer and more perceptive sense of just what the people who live in our various communities want," Mr. Forhan noted.

## Family infected by rabid pet

**MARKHAM** — Two dogs and three skunks are dead and members in one family are receiving anti-rabies shots after tests on the animals proved positive.

Mrs. Jim Jackson, Hwy. 48 at 17th Avenue, told The Tribune they had to "put down" their pet after it was attacked by one of three rabid skunks. "Sammy" killed the diseased animal and Mr. Jackson later shot two more.

Another family is receiving treatment after their dog was also attacked by a skunk.

"It's nerve-racking," Mrs. Jackson said, in recounting the experience. She's afraid to let her two girls go outside the house and each morning she drives the eldest to catch the school bus. They believe other skunks may be holed up under an old barn nearby. They too could be rabid, they fear.

Stouffville veterinarian, Dr. Denis O'Connor said several incidents of rabies had been reported in other areas. Skunks and foxes are the most likely carriers, he said. A number of cases had come to light in the Listowel district. In a period of

three weeks, seven cows had been infected, he stated.

"It's not an epidemic," said a spokesman for the Dept. of Agriculture at Richmond Hill, "in fact, the average may be down a little".

Three cases have been reported in York Region so far this month; seven in November; six in October and four in September.

"Everyone should be on guard," he warned. The doctor urged pet-owners to up-date their animal vaccinations and most important, keep them supervised at all times.

"Too many people just open their doors and let them run. That's the worst thing," he concluded.

## Landowners still waiting

**PICKERING** — North Pickering landowners may have to wait another nine months before learning what the government plans to do about their claims for compensation involving land transactions.

These people are currently embroiled in a bitter battle with the province concerning methods used by land agents in purchasing property for the massive North Pickering Community project.

It was following an investigation that former ombudsman, Arthur Maloney criticized the land agents' practices and asked for

compensation. However, former minister of housing John Rhodes disagreed with Maloney's report and ordered Mr. Justice J.F. Donnelly to investigate the case of the 27 landowners involved.

In the interim, about 78 property owners came forward and complained about land purchasing tactics by the government. Keith Holett, a member of the ombudsman's staff was named to check into the whole affair.

The government's still waiting and may be required to wait another six to nine months, it was reported in the legislature last week.

## Councillors raise own salaries

**PICKERING** — It's that time of year again when members of municipal councils assess their worth to the taxpayers they hope to serve.

In the Town of Pickering, that 'worth' is reflected in a \$900 salary hike for the mayor, Jack Anderson and \$390 for each councillor.

The mayor's wage goes from \$15,000 to \$15,900 and councillors from \$6,660 to \$7,150.

The increases, retro-active to Dec. 1, amount to about six per cent.

Excluding an allowance for expenses, the mayor's total stipend is \$28,380. The three regional councillors will earn \$19,630.

Mayor Anderson didn't take part in the salary discussions. He was in hospital at the time.

## Married 65 years

**MARKHAM** — Fifty years of marriage is an enviable milestone. Sixty years is more significant still. But 65 years..... few couples reach that mark. This Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot Raymer, Thomson

Court Apartments, Markham, will celebrate such an event. An 'open house' will be held in their honor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Raymer, Ninth Line, Markham, south of 18th Avenue, from 2 to 5 p.m.

### Santa's little helper

Four year old Mark Giles played the role of Santa Claus in the Mother Goose Nursery School's Christmas concert last week. Here he prepares to place a gift under the tree. The director of the

school, Pat Byer, wrote the series of skits and linked them together with Christmas songs.

—Ed Schroeter

