

"Window on Wildlife"

"The Christmas tree"

By Art Briggs-Jude

"That's a fine tree you picked out Terry," old Gramps offered, as he leaned forward to have a better look. "And it's a spruce, which to me is the real old Canadian Christmas tree." "It reminds me," he continued, "of the trees we used to have when I was a boy and we lived up in Haliburton." The young lad picked up another shiny ornament, and as he tried to make up his mind exactly where to hang it, his grandfather rambled on. "Ya know, there was one year when we very nearly didn't have a Christmas tree?" Answering his own question, the old man carried on, "Yup; no tree, and all because of a neighbour's Christmas tree."

Ten year old Terry stopped his trimming and turning a puzzled young face towards Gramps, said simply, "I don't get it. Why wouldn't you have a tree just because of the neighbour's Christmas tree?" "Well," said the old fellow, "if you'll get my pipe and 'baccy from the kitchen window sill, I'll tell ya how it happened." The young lad headed for the other room, thinking all the while he probably would have heard the story even if he hadn't run the errand. But he liked the sweet smell of the newly lit pipe, and it somehow seemed to add a little zest to his grandfather's tales.

"Let's see now," he said, after duly using up several matches. "That was a bad winter that year, snow came early and piled up high. By Christmas we were having a hard time getting out with the team, and sleigh. Of course, the Minicosh Road was just a lane in those days, not like the highway they got up there now." By this time Terry's younger sister, Marlene, was leaning out the kitchen doorway, a damp dish towel still hanging on her arm. The old man beckoned her to him and began again. "The Macavoy's lived about a mile from us on the same route, and except for old chief Pattu, the next closest neighbour was Jim Main's place over on the Buckhorn Trail." "We never used to see much of the chief, he lived alone in a little log cabin down closer to the lake. He trapped some, and fished some, but kept pretty well to himself. My Dad said he got tangled up with a bear one time and it left him with some bad scars." "Was he a real Indian chief?" little Marlene asked, her wide eyes showing visions of a feathered headdress. "Nobody really knew," grandpa answered, "Some said he was a hereditary chief, but most folks figured he inherited the name mainly because he was the last Indian left in the area. I guess when you're the only one, you're the chief alright."

"The Macavoy's were good people," Gramps said, "but they had one boy, the youngest, who always seemed to be in trouble. Why it was that very Christmas I'm talking about that young Teddy got to playing with a candle while the others

were out doing the chores. In a flash he had the tree on fire and within a few minutes the whole house was ablaze." The old man paused, as if to let the lesson imprint on their young minds, then he continued. "Dad and I were just going out on the snowshoes to cut our own tree when the Macavoy's arrived with the bad news. They had nothing left from the house, only the clothes they stood up in, and young Teddy wrapped in a burlap horse blanket. Of course the Christmas tree was forgotten," the old man said, "All thoughts were to get our neighbours in out of the cold."

Gramps struck yet another match, and as the blue smoke curled towards the ceiling he resumed his tale. "That Christmas eve we spent on the floor with the neighbour kids while their parents took our beds upstairs. I can remember my mother coming down to see if we were warm enough and putting another log in the big woodstove. My sister asked her who was crying upstairs, but she put her finger to her lips and said it might be the wind you hear; though we all knew it wasn't." The old man hunched his shoulders and put one foot up on the nearby stool. "When ya think back," he said, "US

kids were kinda selfish, cause 'in spite' of 'everything' we still hoped we'd have some sort of Christmas. And ya know, by golly we did."

"But you had no tree?" Terry questioned, while Marlene supported her brothers query by adding "That's right, no tree." "Listen", Grandpa almost whispered, "Guess who was up first that morning? Why young Teddy that's who, and in a matter of minutes he had everybody up with his hollering." "I can still see him by the window pointing out and yelling. He's come, He's come, Santa Claus has come. Why us kids thought he was just up to more of his capers til my kid brother went to get him back in bed and, instead started carrying on the same way. And would ya believe," Grandpa continued, "Out there tied to the porch post, was a real honest-to-goodness Christmas tree. And it had some treats on it too," he said, motioning to the spruce tree Terry had been dressing. "Why there was a pair of rawhide mitts lined with rabbit fur hanging there, and a couple of pouches of hazel nuts. Two little canoes made of birch bark and three necklaces strung from beads and acorns. There were even three whistles cut from

hollow twigs and a tiny bow and arrow, which we had to keep away from Teddy." "And about mid morning Jim Main rode up on a horse, and said he was going to round up Al Fox and Hugh Woodlin to come over tomorrow and fix up part of the barn for living quarters til spring. He said that would hold ya til they'd have a bee and put the house back up." The old man paused and ran a leathery hand through his silver hair, as if to savour these moments of memory to their fullest degree. "That evening," he began softly, "We all sat down to a good Christmas dinner, and the tears of frustration, well, they turned to tears of thankfulness. I guess they realized that they were all alive and together. Ya know Christmas really is a time of hope for the future when ya stop to think about it."

"But how did the tree get there that night?" little Marlene persisted. "Actually it was years later when us kids found out," the old man said. "Ya know, we never used to see much of chief Pattu. He lived alone in a little log cabin down closer to the lake. He trapped some, and fished some, but kept pretty well to himself."

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**THE EXPROPRIATIONS ACT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO
EXPROPRIATE LAND**

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Regional Municipality of York for approval to expropriate lands and interests in lands described in Schedules 'A' and 'B' hereto in the Towns of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville all in The Regional Municipality of York formerly in the Township of Markham in the County of York, for or in connection with:

- (1) The widening and reconstruction of Regional Road No. 3 (Kennedy Road) in the Towns of Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville from approximately the north limit of the former Police Village of Unionville to approximately 3000 feet south of Regional Road No. 14 (Stouffville Road); and
- (2) The construction of a bridge to carry the widened Kennedy Road over the Bruce Creek.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made for approval to expropriate the lands and interests in lands described in Schedules 'A' and 'B' hereto. Any owner of land in respect of which notice is given who desires an inquiry into whether the taking of such land is fair, sound and reasonably necessary in the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority shall so notify the approving authority in writing.

(a) in the case of a registered owner, served personally or by registered mail within thirty days after he is served with the notice, or when he is served by publication, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice;

(b) in the case of an owner who is not a registered owner, within thirty days after the first publication of the notice.

The approving authority is
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York
Box 147
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 4W9

The Regional Municipality of York
Robert N. Vernon, A.M.C.T., C.M.C.
Regional Clerk
62 Bayview Avenue
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 4W9

NOTES:

1. The Expropriations Act provides that:
(a) Where an inquiry is requested, it shall be conducted by an inquiry officer appointed by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General;

(b) The inquiry officer,

(i) shall give every party to the inquiry an opportunity to present evidence and argument and to examine and cross-examine witnesses, either personally or by his counsel or agent; and

(ii) may recommend to the approving authority that a party to the inquiry be paid a fixed amount for his costs of the inquiry, not to exceed \$200 and the approving authority may, in its discretion order the expropriating authority to pay such costs forthwith.

2. "owner" and "registered owner" are defined in the Act as follows:

"owner" includes a mortgagee, tenant, execution creditor, a person entitled to a limited estate or interest in land, a committee of the estate of a mentally incompetent person or a person incapable of managing his affairs, and a guardian, executor, administrator or trustee in whom land is vested;

"registered owner" means an owner of land whose interest in the land is defined and whose name is specified in an instrument in the proper registry, land titles or sheriff's office, and includes a person shown as a tenant of land on the last revised assessment roll.

3. The expropriating authority, each owner who notifies the approving authority that he desires a hearing in respect of the lands intended to be expropriated and any owner added as a party by the inquiry officer are parties to the inquiry.

This notice first published on the 20th December, 1979.

SCHEDULE "A"

Lands required in fee simple:

(1) Land in the Town of Markham in The Regional Municipality of York formerly in the Township of Markham in the County of York and being composed of those lands designated as parts on plans deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Toronto Boroughs and York South all according to the following table:

Lot(s)	Concession	Plan	Part(s)
31	5	64R-7645	1, 2, 3, 4
31	6	64R-7645	7, 8
26	5	64R-7644	2
27	5	64R-7644	3, 4, 5
28	5	64R-7644	6, 7, 29
29	5	64R-7644	8, 9, 10
30	5	64R-7644	11, 12
28	6	64R-7644	14, 16, 17
28, 29	6	64R-7644	18
29	6	64R-7644	19, 23, 24, 25
30	6	64R-7644	26, 27, 28
21, 22	5	64R-7643	1
24, 25	5	64R-7643	2
21	6	64R-7643	3
22	6	64R-7643	4
23	6	64R-7643	5
24	6	64R-7643	6, 7
25	6	64R-7643	8, 9
17, 18	5	64R-7637	2
19	5	64R-7637	3
20	5	64R-7637	4, 5, 6, 7
16	6	64R-7637	10
17	6	64R-7637	11
18	6	64R-7637	12, 13, 14, 15
19	6	64R-7637	17
20	6	64R-7637	18

(2) Land in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, in The Regional Municipality of York formerly in the Township of Markham in the County of York and being composed of those lands designated as parts on plans deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Toronto Boroughs and York South all according to the following table:

Lot	Concession	Plan	Part
32	5	64R-7645	5
33	5	64R-7645	6
33	6	64R-7645	10

(3) Land in the Town of Markham in The Regional Municipality of York formerly in the Township of Markham in the County of York and being composed of part of Lot 30 in Concession 5 of the said Town designated as Part 1 on a plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Toronto and York South as No. 66R-10103.

(4) Lands partly in the Town of Markham and partly in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville in The Regional Municipality of York, all formerly in the Township of Markham in the County of York being composed of part of Lot 31 in Concession 6 in the Town of Markham and part of Lot 32 in Concession 6 in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville designated as Part 9 on a plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Toronto Boroughs and York South as No. 64R-7645.

SCHEDULE "B"

Lands required for an easement or rights in the nature of an easement to enter upon, use and occupy the said lands for and in connection with the demolition and removal of a structure:

Land in the Town of Markham in The Regional Municipality of York formerly in the Township of Markham in the County of York being composed of part of Lot 24 in Concession 6 of the said Town, designated as Part 10 on a plan deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Toronto Boroughs and York South as No. 64R-7643.

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Entertain Seniors
By Jennie Johnson
GLEN MAJOR - The Ladies Auxiliary of Pine Grove Church, visited the residents of 'Dahelm Nursing Home', Dec. 12. After serving cookies and tea, they entertained with a Christmas program and carol singing.
Mrs. Ralph Faulkner and Mrs. Charles Fiss visited with Mrs. Clinton Neville in Toronto.
The Johnson's were Sunday dinner guests with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Splitter.
Mr. and Mrs. Ossie Gill attended the Port Perry Baptist Church Christmas banquet in Solina.
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Griffin travelled to New Brunswick on the weekend to visit his mother, Mrs. Griffin Sr. observed her 94th birthday, Dec. 19.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Baster and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. John Ellery and family of Mississauga, enjoyed dinner, Sunday, with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones.