

Pickering airport issue 'dead' — MP

GREENWOOD — Ontario Riding MP Scott Fennell termed the Pickering airport proposal a "dead issue" at a political forum held at the Greenwood Community Hall, Jan. 28.

"We didn't need it then, and we don't need it now," he announced.

The forum, sponsored by the Ratepayer's Association, allowed the six candidates in Ontario Riding to address about

75 eligible voters for ten minutes from prepared notes about their party.

Liberal Doug Dickerson agreed with Fennell that an airport wasn't needed in Pickering.

Other local issues of concern to the residents were the liquid waste treatment plant proposed for Ajax, and the effects of an increased 18-cent per gallon gas tax on a rural farmer.

Fennell defended the proposed Tory budget, saying the tax increase was necessary because foreign oil is costing the governments more each year.

But Dickerson called the Crosby budget a "cruel joke on the Canadian electorate, adding that PC stood for "Promises Cancelled."

NDP Geoff Rison attacked the Liberal party, saying it was Trudeau and the Grits who built

up the national deficit the budget was attempting to decrease.

Dawn Carrell, Marxist-Leninist party, said that all three parties have caused inflation and unemployment now and in past governments. She added their policies and promises were "fleecing the little man", and that the real political power lies in the hands

of a small minority of rich capitalists."

Rolf Posma, Libertarian, said that his party would fix a market-related price on oil. He questioned whether the voters

controlled what went on in Ottawa, or if it were the reverse.

Dickerson wasn't able to answer questions on how much the Liberals would raise the gasoline tax if they are elected.

"I know for sure it won't be 18 cents, but I can't give you the precise figures because they aren't out yet."

He added the seven-cent excise tax would remain.

Rhinoceros candidate

Jogging suit for forum

GREENWOOD — A candidate in a bright red jogging suit and sneakers?

Yes, indeed. Such a sight was found at an all-candidates meeting at Greenwood Community Hall Monday night.

He was J.C. Stanart, candidate for the Rhinoceros Party

in Ontario Riding—a party dedicated to "having fun, enjoying life, and being outrageous."

He told the audience of about 75 that "maybe if enough votes are cast for this joke party, the established parties will take notice that the Canadian public is ready for a

change in attitude from the elected representatives."

The audience cheered and laughed when he announced that if elected he would "declare the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital a National Sanitary Reservation, and propose that the liquid waste treatment plant be moved to the Queen's Park cafeteria."

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Second Section

Declining enrolment may close school

UXBRIDGE TWP. — A School Accommodation Committee has been formally set up to study the alternatives to closing Webb Public School.

Webb Public, located on the 5th Sideroad of Uxbridge Township, between the 4th Line and Brock Road is threatened with closure due to declining enrolment.

As a result, the Durham Board of Education decided last fall to relocate Grades one and two at Goodwood, a 'twin school' about five miles away. The pupil population at Webb has reached an occupancy level which places it on the Board's "list for review."

Attendance in 1979 was 45, and the Board estimates that by 1982, there will only be 31 students on the roll.

Operating since 1924, Webb was then a one-room, eight grade rural school. In 1963, a two-room addition was constructed.

The main objectives of the Board-appointed committee are to determine the impact of lower numbers of pupils on the school program at Goodwood and Webb Schools; to make it possible for people in the community to receive information, and present their views; to recommend whether Webb School should be closed, or an alternative should be adopted.

Parents in the community have expressed concern over the pupil teacher ratio. Some have said they would prefer to have their children attend Webb if a lower ratio is practical.

It is also the general feeling that children benefit from a small school atmosphere with more individual attention, a lesser degree of competition, and a closer relationship with the school and between students.

The Board feels it could operate with one less bus in the

area if Webb is closed, representing a total saving of \$12,700 per school year.

Maintenance costs in 1978 were \$13,760, and Board members say increased upkeep expenses at Goodwood, if all students are accommodated there, would be negligible.

Several members of the

committee stressed that the accuracy of the projected enrolment would have to be determined in light of future development in the district.

Several members of the committee stressed that the accuracy of the projected enrolment would have to be determined in light of future

development in the district. Uxbridge and area trustee Ed Van Nieuwenhove said that, "We may need Webb in three or four years, and therefore the committee should not be hasty in a decision to close it."

Minutes of the initial committee meeting were circulated to parents, and dates for

future discussions will be released soon. For more information contact, Pat Grist, Chairman, 649-2994; Doreen Will, 649-2062; or Richard Hannah, Principal, Goodwood-Webb Public Schools, 640-3092.

Court is for the birds

YORK REGION — "We can't carry on," commented a distraught Judge F.D. White in Newmarket Court, last week, "this is for the birds."

And he meant it—literally.

While cases were being heard, several pigeons took turns 'dive-bombing' the audience below. Finally, Judge White could stand the distraction no longer and adjourned proceedings for the day.

The unruly birds were first observed by Justice of the Peace Ivan Bates. He opened the court at 10 a.m. and noticed the pigeons circling above the heads of close to two hundred people.

"Some think they bring good luck," he said, "and perhaps they do, providing you don't look up."

When the wheels of justice ground to a halt, Adrienne Wilkinson, the court administrator called in two or three Works Department employees to rid the room of the unwanted guests. However, the task was easier requested than completed. The men crashed and scrambled around until the last of the offenders was finally corralled. But hours later, evidence of their presence was still very obvious.

Careless use of a firearm

MARKHAM — An 18-year-old Markham youth has been charged with careless use of a firearm following an incident in the area of Springdale Road.

Carol Muehlegg, Main Street North, complained of a gunshot near her as she walked through a field on the afternoon of Jan. 21.

York Regional police were called and arrested Christopher David Latam of Wellington Street West.

Hit with wrench
A 23 year old Markham man faces charges of assault causing bodily harm and possession of a

weapon dangerous to the public peace, following an altercation at the complainant's place of employment.

It is alleged that Gordon Lake of 14 Oaklee Circle was struck on the head and hands with a wrench.

Carl Allen Quinton was scheduled to appear in court, Jan. 29.

Fire damage
Damage has been estimated at \$8,000 following a fire, Sunday at the home of Earl Paterson, 65 Sherwood Forest Drive, Markham. The blaze broke out in the basement. A neighbor turned in the alarm.



Webb Public School (above) is being threatened with closure due to declining enrolment and Accomodation Committees are now studying alternatives to the situation. Operating since 1924, Webb is an important link with the local community. JoAnn Thompson

New utility takes over

PICKERING — On July 1, a new utility called the Pickering Hydro Electric Commission,

will take over close to 100 square miles of Ontario Hydro territory, extending northward into the communities of Brougham, Greenwood, Altona, Claremont and Balsam.

To serve an estimated 11,000 customers, twenty-four hours a day, will take thirty-five employees, all working out of a permanent office in south Pickering. The manager is John Wiersma. The superintendent of operations is Axel Stark.

A 5-member Commission, appointed for a three-year term, is headed by Murray Wilson, West Shore, Pickering with David Burrows, and Robert Gregory from South Pickering; Don Given, Whitevale and Donald Kitchen, the representative from Council.

The formation of the

Pickering Hydro Electric Commission came about after a Durham Study Team investigated the feasibility of such a move. Their report indicated it should prove practical.

With additional customers, the Commission is hopeful hydro

rates in the rural area can be reduced. However, six to eight weeks before the new system becomes effective, letters will be sent out to all residents, telling them what the rate structure will be, Mr. Wiersma said.

Study death of fish

CLAREMONT — A professional biologist has claimed that water samples taken from a branch of Duffin Creek, a short time after an ammonia spill occurred upstream, was sufficiently toxic to kill the fish within three hours.

Keith Holtz, a witness for the Ministry of the Environment, testified at a provincial court hearing in Ajax.

His testimony was related to a charge against the Claremont branch of the United Co-operative of Ontario under the Fisheries Act of Canada. It is alleged that because of water contamination, 500 brook trout died in the stream last May.

Maximum penalty under the act is a \$50,000 fine.

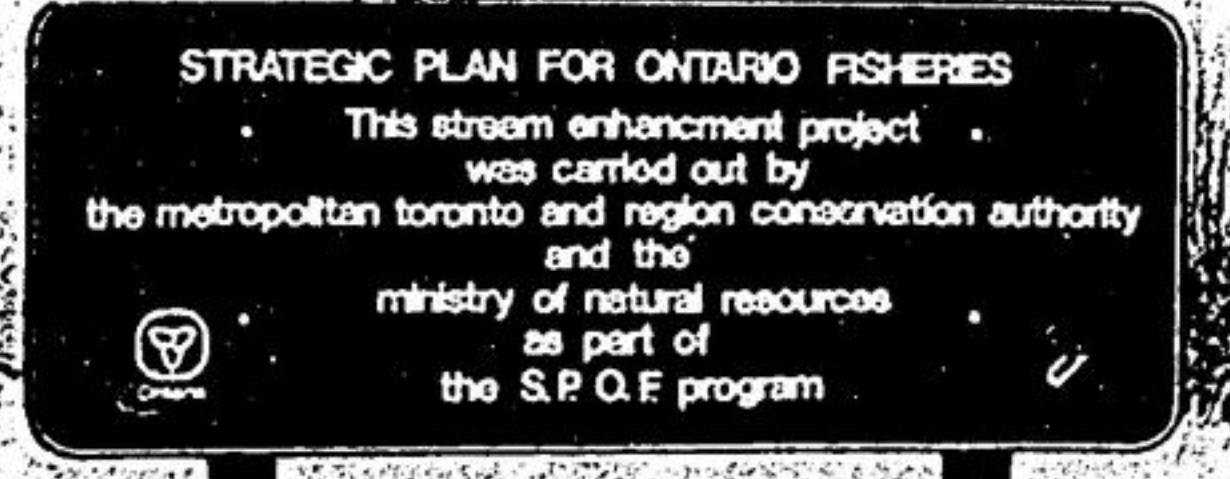
The plant, located in the north end of Claremont near the C.P.R. line, produces ammonia that's used in fertilizing corn crops. When the ammonia is mixed with water, it creates a

chemical called ammonia hydroxide. The acid content is quite high. After production, the water is dumped into a moat then pumped into a swamp, some distance from the creek.

According to evidence, the accident occurred when a control valve broke, forcing the

ammonia to be pumped into the moat which then emptied into the stream.

Chemist Joan Crowther did the analysis on water samples taken after the spill. However, she wasn't available to validate the test results, so the trial was adjourned to Feb. 14.



This sign marks the area in which 500 brook trout died in the Duffin Creek last May due to ammonia spills upstream. A professional biologist recently testified at a hearing relating to a charge against the Claremont branch of the United Co-operative of Ontario that the ammonia used by the company in fertilizing corn crops was toxic enough to kill the fish.

Prominent farmer

MARKHAM — Stanley B. Watson, one of the Markham area's most prominent farmers, died suddenly, Jan. 23 at his home on 18th Avenue. He was 83.

Born near Agincourt, the son of Charles and Charlotte Watson, he received his early education at S. S. No. 1, Scarborough.

On March 27, 1920, he married Eunice Forsyth of conc. 6, Uxbridge and in 1952, they moved to the former

Walter Brignall property, now the 'home' of Markham Fair.

Stan Watson was involved with several organizations including the York County Hostein Club, the Lions Clubs of Agincourt, Markham and Victoria Square and the Oddfellows Club of Stouffville. He was a member in the congregation of Stouffville United Church.

His interests also included municipal council where he was the rural representative in Markham Township's Ward 3.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Stuart and Trevor, Markham, RR 2; one daughter, Mildred Snowball, Ninth Line South, Stouffville; a brother, Clifford at Sterling; nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Service was held Saturday afternoon from the Dixon-Garland Chapel, Markham, with Rev. Jim Carder in charge. Interment was at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.

Wins holiday in Florida

BALLANTRAE — A Mississauga lady is the lucky winner of a six-week holiday trip for two, to London, England.

Violet Tribe purchased ticket number 179. It was selected by Mayor Eldred King at a meeting of the Ballantrae

and Dist. Lions Club, Thursday night.

The draw included 189 tickets at \$120 each. Revenue

totalled \$22,680 of which \$10,000 will go into the Lions' community betterment fund.

Eleven more draws will follow, the next coming Feb. 28. That prize is seven days at Orlando, Florida plus \$200 spending money.

A portion of the proceeds will go towards the purchase and furnishing of a portable building to serve as a craft centre for senior citizens in the Ballantrae area.

Guest speaker for the evening was Tom McCallum, a chartered accountant. In his remarks, he noted that during the past year of 1979, the federal government collected 32.8 billion dollars in taxes for an average of 137 million dollars a day.

The first taxation system for Canada was introduced in the year 1650 when an export duty was applied to beaver pelt at five dollars and moose hide at ten dollars. Government income totalled \$200.



Lions Club members look on as Mayor Eldred King draws the lucky winner of a six-week trip for two to Florida. There will be eleven more such

draws organized by the Club. Left to right are: past-president Tom Woods, president Vern Davies; and second vice-president Tinny Vanden Thillart.