

# School's fate sealed

**UXBRIDGE TWP.** — The small rural school known as Webb will soon be no more. And it makes no difference now that the majority of parents with children enrolled there, oppose its closure.

After months of debate by the school accommodation committee on possible alternatives, it took 15 trustees about 25 minutes to reach a final decision.

Bruce Small and Pat Grist represented the parents at the meeting, Monday night, and again pointed out their concerns.

But it was to no avail, the two agreed, because they felt the Board had come to its decision before their presentation was made. Trustees were provided with a copy of a minority report a week before.

Mrs. Grist said none of the representatives dealt with any of the questions raised in the document.

"They ignored the survey, and all the other facts we prepared. Personally, I felt deflated, and I don't think we were handled very kindly."

Mr. Small echoed the same feelings, comparing the struggle with "talking to a brick wall".

He said that it seems to be policy to close every

small school in the area, and if the edict was strictly adhered to, Goodwood public's future could also be at stake.

He added the ideal plan would be to maintain a network of rural schools like Webb, rather than bigger, over-crowded institutions.

"What you would then have is a network of smaller schools throughout the Region. Busing costs would be reduced, and the students would surely receive a better education," he said.

The report researched by the parents has been submitted to Education Minister Bette Stephenson for comments.

Mrs. Grist said she doesn't know what other route the citizens can take to appeal the finding.

"It would be easier if at least one of them agreed with us, but that's not the case."

The Board considered comments made by trustees Ed Van Nieuwenhove, Fred Britten, and David Sims, all of whom sat on the accommodation committee.

Mr. Van Nieuwenhove repeated his initial reasons for presenting the motion for closure before the Board, which were, insufficient

growth in the area; enrolment projections; cost factors; and split grades.

Director of Education Ken Munroe told those at the meeting that the province may denote

authority to local boards in the question of operating capacity. Mr. Small said this is just another way the Ministry can avoid involvement with matters like Webb.

citizens in opposition whenever a school is closed, and I guess the government wants no part of it. Durham region doesn't seem to mind, though.

affair at all," he continued, "and everyone involved feels like they've been run over by a big truck. If that's the case, then we have to let them know they (the Board) hit a skunk."



**Well-known Bloomington lady honored on 90th birthday**

On Sunday afternoon, Frances Storry, a resident of Parkview Home in Stouffville, was honored at an 'open house', arranged by her son and daughter-in-law, Noel and Jean Storry, R.R. 2, Stouffville. The oc-

casional was her 90th birthday. Close to 70 guests attended. Besides her one son, Mrs. Storry has three grandchildren, Dianne Silcox of Huntsville; Marlene Nicholson, R.R. 1, Unionville and Susan at home.

Jim Thomas

## Tax relief

**PICKERING** — Thousands of dollars will be returned to expropriated Pickering landowners as a result of a new regulation under the Financial Administration Act.

The tax break is the result of lobbying by Ontario Riding MP Scott Fennell. Last fall he termed the tax situation at Pickering "immoral".

Under the Liberal government, taxes were levied on the interest accumulated by Pickering landowners as a result of their expropriation settlements for the once planned

Pickering Airport. The already collected taxes will now be refunded.

"Not only was the government forcing these people out of their homes, but it was taxing them for the privilege," Fennell said.

The tax break applies to the Pickering case, and also to landowners expropriated for Quebec's Mirabel Airport.

Fennell says he will continue to fight for a similar exemption regarding the capital gains tax.

"It's a simple matter of fairness," he says. "I hope the Liberals will recognize this."

## Women's Spring Break

"A Positive Approach to Women's Ages and Stages" is the theme of the 4th annual Spring Break at Seneca College (King Campus), Wed., May 7.

The program, beginning at 9 a.m. and extending through to 4 p.m., will include a panel of five women. They will engage in dialogue on the

theme "Looking Forward-Looking Back". Last year's Women's Spring Break was fully booked. To register, send personal cheques in the amount of \$12.50 to The Registrar, Seneca College-King Campus,

RR 3, King City (LOG 1K0).

Eleven members of the York Region Women's Committee include three from this area: Anita Waite, Stouffville; Sheila Roy, Markham and Skip Perryman, Unionville.

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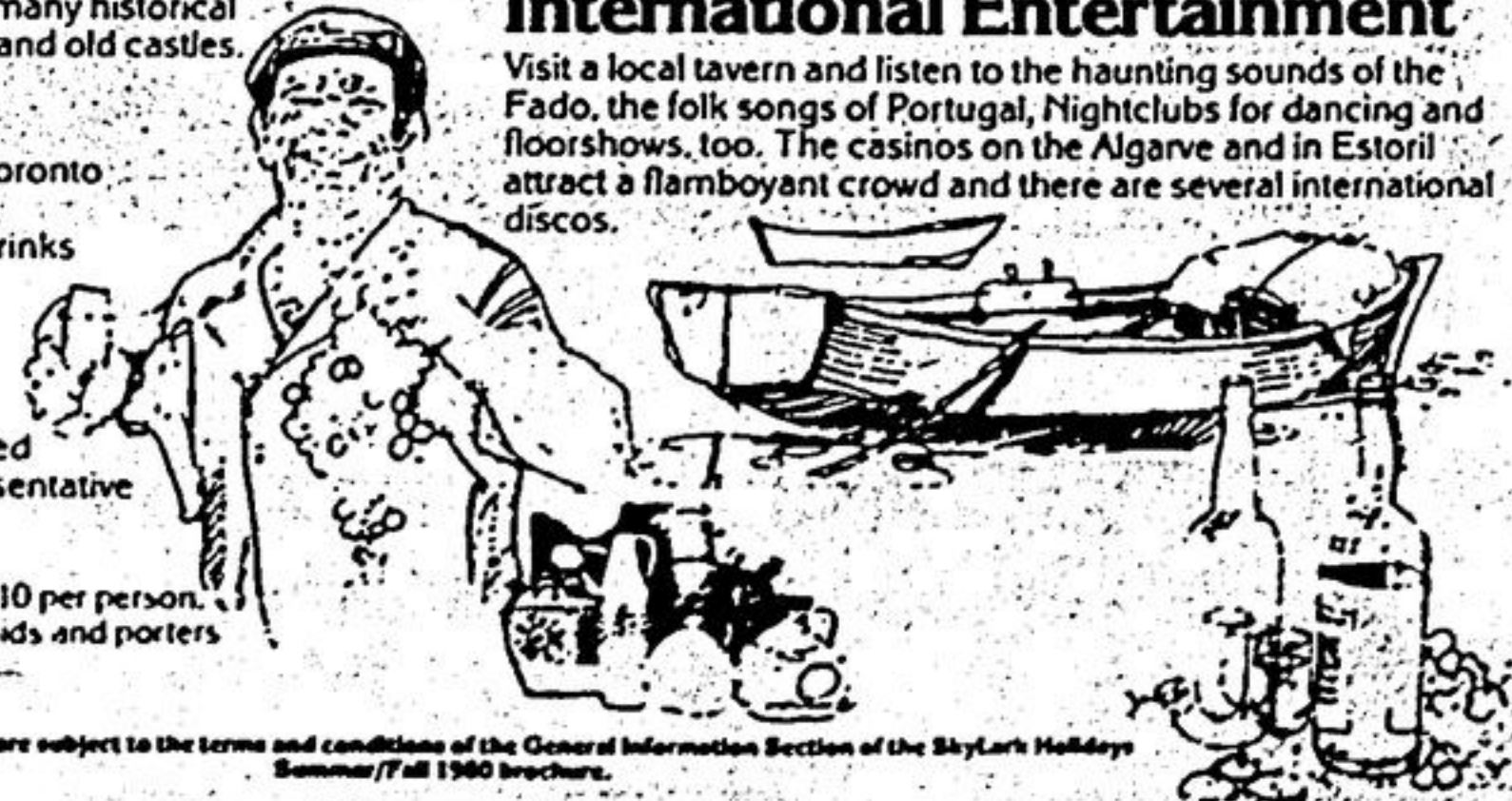
It won't take long after your arrival to realize just how inexpensive fine dining in Portugal can be. Delectable seafood, fresh out of the ocean, is a bargain anywhere you go and fine local wines are so affordable, they make lingering over your meal a pleasure. Good international restaurants, too.

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