

This new experimental solar home belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Christiann Van Helsdingen, R.R. 2, Claremont. Increasing in popularity, this may represent the long-term

solution to the high cost of oil, gas and electricity. The collector windows gather the sun's rays for storage in special tanks. Greg Coates.

Heated by the sun

CLAREMONT — If you're one of many concerned over the high cost of heating a home, then consider solar energy. Mr. and Mrs. Christiann Van Helsdingen, of R.R. 2, Claremont, own such a house and are happy with it.

"We're very pleased," said Mr. VanHelsdingen. "It's 95 per cent complete."

Worth over \$160,000, the house has an entire side of collector windows which allow the sun's heat to enter and be stored in a special tank. It's still too early to tell how much they will save on heating costs, having just moved in during May. They have not, however, used electric heaters yet this year.

The house is also equipped with a wood stove connected to the storage tank. With this container, the VanHelsdingens can, if necessary, heat their house on yesterday's sun.

"We also have double the standard of insulation," said Mr. VanHelsdingen. This is to ensure a minimal of heat loss.

The home was built by

Peter Zile of West Hill, along with consulting engineer Jens Sonderskov. Construction started in June of last year. Other features include an indoor pool, a greenhouse and a fall-out shelter.

What's for the future? "We'd like some day to instal a windmill to produce some of our own hydro," said Mr. VanHelsdingen.

"Passive recreation"

Re-classification program at Claremont Conservation

CLAREMONT — Re-classification of Claremont Conservation Area to one of forest and wildlife during the past year, has also altered its program into that of "passive recreation."

And the reason? "We ran out of dollars," says Jim Agnew, superintendent of operations for Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, head of the six-municipality organization.

That's why the Claremont centre is no longer open the year round, and when it is open (last week in April to Thanksgiving Day) it offers a reduced program. There's no more group picnicking, or group camping, for example, and, as the facilities for these "go out

of service, they won't be picked up," Agnew said. Small picnics can still be held.

The Claremont Area is also without staff, except for weekends when there is a gate attendant on hand.

The education and field centre, however, is still open 365 days a year.

The Area opened in the late '50s, but revenues have never equalled taxes, Agnew said.

"There isn't one area that pays its way," he added. "Bruce's Mills (Stouffville Road) has more year-round use, so attracts more," he said. "Claremont, with its 400 acres, was never a high-use area," he said. "It was never designed to be."

As a forest and wildlife area, the habitat is improved,

and more management is provided on timber stands, he said. One-quarter of the original acreage has been replanted.

In its summer operating period, Claremont Conservation Area is open from 10 a.m. to sundown. There is no charge.

Masonic Temple is on "shaky grounds"

CLAREMONT — The 140-year-old Masonic Temple in Claremont, has been on shaky ground in more ways than one, all these years.

In fact, it's been mostly on the ground, says Don Vale, a past master of the Lodge, and chairman of the restoration

committee, now busy renovating the building.

According to Vale, when members started the project in May, they found the Temple was perched on some piles of stones, and their biggest activity ever since has been jacking it up and putting in steel beams to make it just as solid below as above.

It, and the other matters of restoration, which include installing an electric furnace to replace the old space heaters, new plumbing, insulation, painting and a general cleanup, will keep them going for another couple of years, Vale said.

However, the temple just secured a Heritage Grant, which has helped make the financial end easier, he added. Other funds have come from the members, themselves.

Vale said they hoped to have the building underway sooner, but there's a matter of meeting weeping tile requirements — their 600 feet of ground is 400 short of the maximum needed.

At first, all the work was done by members of the lodge, but now other townspeople are pitching in. Stouffville's Masonic Lodge has also let them use their temple for various functions, he said.

Aside from the Mason's own use, it is planned to make the temple available to senior citizens for various functions, Vale said.

only to "passive recreation." It's no longer open during the late fall and winter months. Greg Coates.

Wages "shameful"

Salary hike for Chairman

DURHAM REGION — Despite the fact Durham Regional Chairman Gary Herrema has been granted a wage hike of 12 per cent, his \$42,500 salary is still less than most people in similar positions earn across Ontario.

And despite the fact Durham Regional Councillors rejected a wage increase for themselves, their \$13,890 stipends rank with the highest in the Province.

Councillor Tom Edwards of Whitby, during discussion on the issue, described Chairman Herrema's wage level as "shameful". Even taking the approved increase into account, he'll still receive \$4,500 less than the average for chairmen in Ontario's ten other regions. However, Councillor Edwards would go no further in loosening the purse strings for others like himself, noting that "we're already among the highest in the Province".

Only two other regional municipalities pay their councillors more than \$13,000 a year.

By rejecting a salary increase, members will be

showing leadership in combatting inflation, Oshawa's Ed Kolodzie said. "Let's not fuel inflation by taking more money off the taxpayers," he urged.

As well as turning down the five per cent wage hike, which would have given councillors almost \$700 more per year, a motion was defeated to increase the honorarium for the chairmen of council committees by \$250 to \$1,000 annually. Herrema cast the tie-breaking vote.

One member arguing in support of an increase was Councillor Alex Robertson of Pickering. He said that by holding off wage hikes now, future councils would only approve larger increases to "catch up".

"You owe it not only to yourself but to others who follow," he claimed. "I think everyone here is worth at least five per cent more!"



GARY HERREMA

Fear traffic chaos

UXBRIDGE — Concern over a proposed asphalt plant in Uxbridge, and potential truck traffic, has been brought to the attention of Township Council by a member of Durham Board of Education.

In a letter to planning board, Trustee Heather Beveridge, said she was concerned about the proposed Repac plant "and its specific effects on Goodwood Public School."

She said that present truck traffic by the school, "causes great concern to the residents," and that "even a slight increase" would add to the problems.

Mrs. Beveridge asked that re-routing of the truck traffic "be of utmost importance in the proposed by-law (zoning) amendment."

Trustee Sandy Ewen, chairman of planning, said he

was surprised that "an individual trustee" would comment on the matter, rather than the entire board.

He said the proposed amendment and by-law would be circulated among trustees, and to others in the area, and council would consider any objections at that time.

Ewen said also the matter was "still three to four years away."

Plowmen's Branch

Turn last furrows

After 137 years, the East York-King and Vaughan Branch of the Ontario Plowmen's Association turned its final furrows, Saturday.

A shortage of officers and directors prompted the decision to call it quits, secretary Lloyd Doner told The Tribune. They'll combine with the North York Branch next season.

The wind-up match was held on the farm of Rumble Bros., Bathurst Street, King Township. Twenty-six lands were plowed. Results follow:

Class 2 - John Robinson. Class 3 - Jan King, Tom Robinson, Allin Lewis. Class 4 - Eric Timbers, Rod King. Class 5 - Ken Ferguson, Ellis Britton, Lorne Britton. Class 6 - Herb Jarvis, John Macdonald. Class 7 - Ken Ferguson, Brian Degeer, Lorne Britton. Class 8 - John Robinson, Tom Robinson, Jan King. Class 9 - Norm Jarvis, Linda Jarvis.

The following won special

awards: Lorne Britton, F. Stan Tyndall Memorial Award; Jack Macdonald, IHC and Guaranty Trust (Richmond Hill) Awards; Ken Ferguson, Guaranty Trust (Stouffville) Award.

The annual awards banquet is Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m., Community Hall, Victoria Square. Tickets are available from Lloyd Doner, Gormley and Wayne Forsyth, Stouffville.

Rams truck

DICKSON'S HILL — A 40 year old Uxbridge man was admitted to Scarborough Centenary Hospital, last week, with serious injuries following a collision between a car and a tractor-trailer on Hwy. 48 between Dickson's Hill and Ringwood.

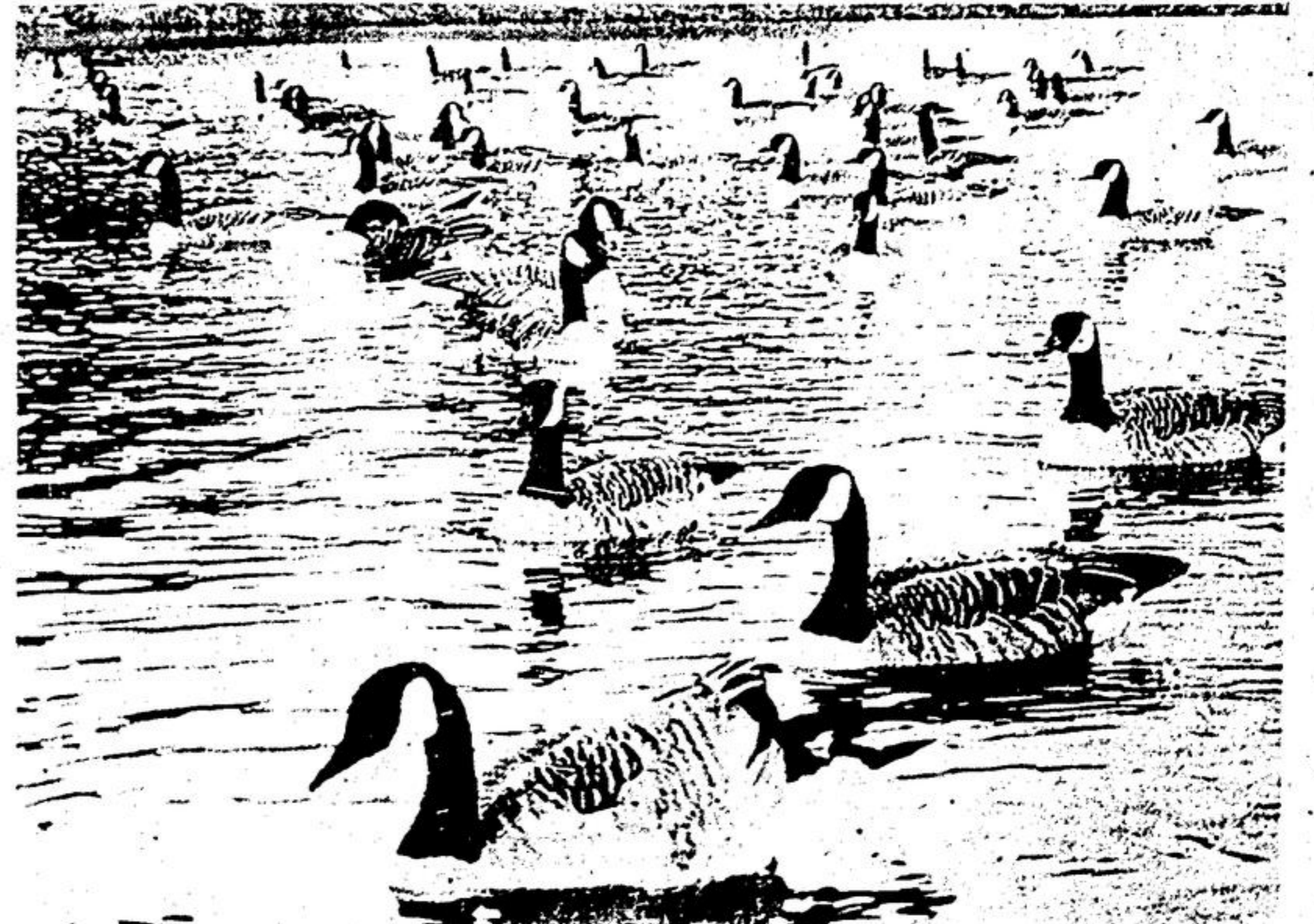
John Buchanan of Jonathan Street was a passenger in the southbound vehicle, driven by Ross Ingram, 31 of Cedar Street, Uxbridge.

Police said the truck, driven by Gordon Housser, Ninth Line South, Stouffville,

was pulling out of a private drive in dense fog when the accident occurred. Property damage was estimated at \$6,900 including \$6,000 to the Ingram auto.

The same morning, another collision occurred on Hwy. 48, north of 16th Avenue, also attributed to the fog.

Police said one vehicle, driven by Patricia Farr of 14th Avenue, Unionville, braked near the intersection and was struck from behind by another driven by Norman Rennie, RR 3, Stouffville.



Gathering of the clan

The gathering of the clan — approximately 150 Canada Geese stopped off at a spring-fed pond on the Claremont Conservation Area last week, taking a breather before continuing their

long trip south. This site is popular with visitors, many of whom take pleasure in feeding the birds. Greg Coates.



Just as the sign says, the Claremont Conservation Area is closed for the season. Due to a shortage of funds and because the site is geared