

Merchants alarmed at plaza project

UXBRIDGE — Development of a commercial plaza on Highway 47 South, "could be the straw that broke the camel's back," was the prediction of several downtown merchants, who appeared before a meeting of the planning board, last week.

Said Mary Hogg, owner of Strawberry Threads, a dress shop at 80 Brock St. West: "We're all concerned. Our livelihood is in the downtown core. It was a depressing place to be the last year, or so."

"It's only fair if council is looking for expansion, that they walk up and down the street and take a look. I think we're working longer and harder for less money."

The proposed development has received approval for five uses, and is seeking approval for another 11. Among the proposed uses are, an administration office, clothing store, dry cleaners, gift shop, cafe, jewelry store and variety store.

The development could be "the straw that broke the camel's back," said Mrs. Hogg.

Said planning board chairman, Sandy Ewen, "There's nothing agreed to yet." Another retail analysis would be needed, before it could be taken to Durham Region for consideration.

"We've spent a lot of money here. Now it's time to develop the downtown area," said Allan Underhill, owner of The Dell (ice cream shop), 3 Brock W., and The Flower Shop and Garden Centre.

Referring to an empty building on the street, Underhill said, "Let's get filled up here, before we get more expansion."

"It's increasingly difficult to have confidence in the town."

You're talking to us as if we were the ones moving down," said Councillor Ewen "We're just entertaining the proposal."

Underhill said he wasn't afraid of competition; "it keeps me sharp. But you can only water down the soup so much. If you take 10 per cent of the business away, we're through."

"You can do all the retail analysis you want, but if the money's not there, it's no good."

Mayor Bill Ballinger said that, "when somebody comes here, we extend the courtesy to see what they have to offer... You've all had a chance to express an opinion. If something goes wrong, you jump on council."

"Since I've been here, this council has given a commitment to encourage downtown development. I can't tell someone we're not interested... to go away."

The mayor said he would be "more than happy when the Chamber of Commerce gets underway, so that business can start working as a group."

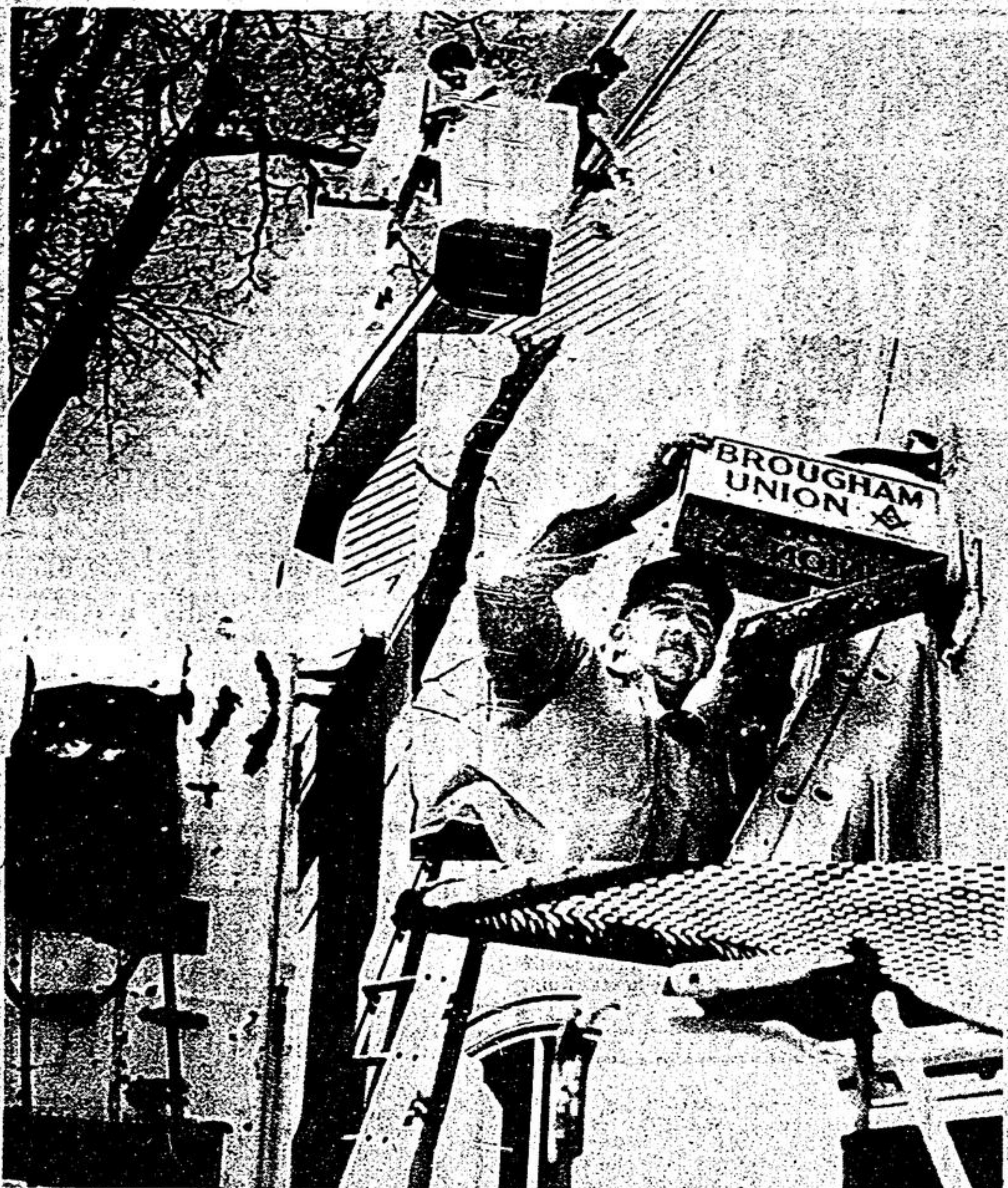
Councillor Don Jackson said the board would want "to consult with you all, before it made any rash decisions. We want main street to function in business."

Councillor Ron Johnson termed the owners' concern "premature. This is just a proposal," he said.

Mayor Ballinger said the businessmen must also help themselves. The municipality couldn't get "too involved. People say we have our noses in too much now."

Councillor Maustyn McKnight, said that shoppers liked to have "three or four stores" in which to shop. He said, too, that, as a farmer, "it would be nice for me to be able to say that nobody else can grow corn" but everyone had that right.

Mrs. Hogg said she didn't mind similar stores in the area. In fact, the loss of a dress store on Brock had hurt her business.



Members of Brougham Union Lodge and community residents, turned out in force, Saturday, to assist in renovation work at the lodge hall site in Clarendon. Painting the exterior of the building is Dean Evans and son

Brad Dean is a lodge past-master. Completing repairs to the illuminated sign (inset) is Charlie Jeffertes.

— Jim Thomas.

Many hands speed work

Remodel lodge

CLAREMONT — Many hands make light work.

Members of Brougham Union Lodge are finding out how true (and how important) this adage is. The local fraternity, headed by Building Committee Chairman Don Vale, is in the midst of a major hall renovation project that, when completed, will make the building's lower auditorium available for use by the whole community.

To date, close to \$21,000 has been expended, including \$11,000 from the members' own pockets and \$10,000 received through a government-sponsored Heritage Grant. Another \$14,000 will be required to complete the work, chairman Vale says.

Brougham Union Lodge has been using the hall since 1901. No major repairs have been done since 1922.

It was during a severe wind storm one evening that members discovered the structure was actually moving. A decision had to be made on whether to save it or demolish it. The Lodge agreed to commence repairs.

Don Vale and his willing workers, now realize just what's involved when one begins this kind of project—where do you start and when do you stop?

So far, their "labor of love" has involved 2,700 volunteer hours. This has included the laying of a cement block foundation and construction of a rear addition for washrooms and a kitchen. The building had to be completely insulated. Storm windows were provided by Schell Lumber Limited of Stouffville.

Mr Vale praised the assistance provided by B. & M. Util-

ity Contractors. Bucket trucks were made available free of charge. Folks like Frank Barclay and Bob Blackburn helped out enormously also, he said.

"The committee chairman said the Lodge had received excellent co-operation from Richardson's in Stouffville. Meetings were held there until work on the temple was complete."

Don Vale pointed out too, that help has come from persons other than masons, making the project a real community effort. He expects it'll be another year before it's finished.

According to records, Brougham Union Lodge acquired the hall back in 1901. The purchase price was \$400, necessitating a \$200 mortgage. The temple itself hasn't changed in 81 years, making it one of the most unique in Ontario.

Liberal speaker

DURHAM-YORK M.P.P. Sheila Copps will be the guest speaker at a dinner-dance, Oct. 22, sponsored by the Durham-York Liberal Association in the Urdora Community Centre.

The Association president is Milton Mowbray of Kinsale.

Dinner is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., with the dance to follow.

Tickets (\$17.50) are available from Bruce Findlay (649-2581); Gwen Mowbray (655-3880); Keith Carson (478-4063); Kevin Feeney (852-5539); Celia Ledrew (852-3625); John Coates (249-1642) or Gary Adamson (294-9759).

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Best student exhibit

For the second year in a row, seven-year-old Heather Williams of Atona has been the Best-In-Show exhibitor (Kindergarten to Grade 4) at Markham Fair. Heather, a Grade 3 pupil at Goodwood Public School, displays a special ribbon indicating her skill.

— Jim Thomas.

Caution urged Siloam growth

UXBRIDGE — The question of greater growth in the Hamlet of Siloam, is still in the question stage, following a public meeting to discuss the matter at Uxbridge planning board, last week.

The "public," in this case, was just one man: Bev Beach, of Siloam, whose arguments for caution, however, received little debate from the board.

Beach told the meeting that, putting an additional 37 housing units on a hillside, as proposed, couldn't be done without "a probable runoff. There has to be someplace for the runoff to go, and when you put in pavement, you double the velocity," he said.

Beach said Goodwood had a water problem that way.

Board planning consultant, Alex Grant, said they were awaiting a planning report "that says it will function. We must have that before draft approval is given."

Grant said the additional units, if approved, would bring the number of dwellings in Siloam up to 60. A 4.4-acre park would be included.

Said Beach: "If you're working entirely on the flat part, you won't have any trouble. As the oldtimers say, even a good mortgage won't hold it."

Grant said the board was aware of that. "It has to be covered by the developer, or we won't approve it."

Said Mayor Bill Ballinger: "One of the problems is trying to encourage development in hamlets. Our role is to make sure Uxbridge has different

types, and houses to meet the need."

Planner Grant, said the matter would now go to Durham Regional Council for approval, and then back to Uxbridge for formal adoption.

He said that draft approval was also needed.

"Harmony Night"

UXBRIDGE — The Millstream Men of Uxbridge are hosting their annual Barber-shop Harmony Night, Sat., Oct. 23 at 8 p.m., in Uxbridge Secondary School.

Program guests will include The Markham Men of Harmony and the group "Sounds Familiar" from Lindsay.

This is the Millstream Men's sixth show. The leader is Bill Adamson.

Tickets are \$4.00 in advance or \$4.50 at the door. The number to call is 852-3939.

Home service approval

UXBRIDGE — Planning board, last week, gave approval to a Siloam resident to use his house as a part-time service and repair shop.

The request was made by Randy Dunlop, who told the board he wanted to "try to get a business going. If it went well, I'd buy place in town."

A licensed motor mechanic, Dunlop said he would only work at it, "part time," from his house. The repairs would be made on small units, such as chainsaws and lawn mowers. He would make the pick-ups, himself; there wouldn't be any people coming to his house.

Said Councillor Maustyn McKnight: "This kind of thing is happening all over; I don't think there's anything wrong with it."

Planning consultant, Alex Grant, said that, if the business wasn't "offensive, there are many things you can do in a residential operation."

The board agreed to let Dunlop and Grant work out the details for the operation.

Candidates get set in Uxbridge

UXBRIDGE — Not quite everybody in Uxbridge is seeking a post in November's municipal election; but there will be a few new names on the ballot.

Mayor Bill Ballinger, who has sought to oust the incumbent himself before, finds himself with a challenger after his first term, in the person of Uxbridge chiropractor, Dr. Morley Pitts.

Pitts is making his first try for the township's top job.

Ian Ball, the 21-year-old student, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor in the last election, has lowered his sights this time around, and is running for council in Ward 5.

So far, it looks as if he's made a winning move. Councillor Gerri-Lynn O'Connor, who occupied the seat last term, has given it up to run for Region against fellow councillor, Maustyn McKnight. Ball now has the field all to himself.

Content to stay at his present post, is Ward 3 councillor, Ron Johnson, who, however, faces a challenger in newcomer Dave Smith.

An insurance broker, who has his own business - D.G. Smith Insurance - Smith feels his experience in financial matters would serve him well in civic affairs.

Councillor Johnson is chairman of the public protection committee of council, and is also council's representative on the Uxbridge Community Care Board.

That leaves the remaining members of council, Sandy Ewen, Don Jackson and Mac Meyers, home free for the time being, no one having decided to try their luck against them.

Opposition or no, however, all three veteran politicians declared they would have been giving it another shot, anyway.

Region restraint

DURHAM REGION — Increases in taxes and water bills will be kept to five per cent in 1983, according to Regional officials; but there's a catch.

With the restraints will come cuts in services and a dip into reserves.

As a result, such optional services as day care, could suffer, says Regional Chairman Gary Herrema. Also, reserve funds could be re-allocated to ease spending needs, he said.

Water bills, whose rates are determined by the Region, have been in double figures the past few years, with tax hikes not far behind.

Both Herrema and Regional finance chairman John Aker, said Durham must meet the provincial government's five per cent wage ceiling increase.

Aker said he thought government spending had helped cause inflation, and the municipality, had to help control the latter by curtailing spending.

As if to back up his statement, he said the Region did not support an increase in welfare payments.

The Region is responsible for spending close to 20 per cent of every local tax dollar paid in Durham.



Organize Christian Women's Club

On Friday morning, ladies from a wide area, gathered at the home of Janet Paxton, Bristol Ponds Estates, Uxbridge Township, for the purpose of organizing a Christian Women's Club. Pictured here are (left to right) Bonnie Ashley, National Representative, Kansas City,

Missouri; Evelyn Michell, well-known Christian speaker, R.R. 1, Clarendon; Janet Paxton, hostess; and Joan Collins, National Representative from Quebec.

— Jim Thomas.