

# Government 'a sham'

The Ontario Government has made a sham of its commitment to the preservation of prime agricultural land, according to Opposition Leader David Peterson.

Support by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food for the urban development of 4,000 acres of top quality farmland within the boundaries of the City of Brampton demonstrates the casual disregard for the erosion of productive foodland, he said.

"Agriculture Minister Dennis Timbrell is abrogating his responsibility when 4,000 acres of the best foodland is casually sacrificed to urban sprawl," the Liberal Leader stated. "He condones the continued loss of the means with which to feed ourselves."

Mr. Peterson said a major federal study released this summer reports the alarming disappearance of millions of acres of prime farmland in Ontario, particularly in areas surrounding urban centres.

"A classic example of this continued destruction is evident in the Premier's own backyard," he said. Premier William Davis represents Brampton in the Ontario

Legislature. Mr. Peterson complained about the continuing loss of Class I farmland in the Brampton area. Between 1971 and 1982 Brampton lost some 16,000 acres. Only 27,000 acres remain within the boundaries.

"Last year," Mr. Peterson said, "we questioned the Minister of Agriculture and Food over the lack of any comment by his ministry on the application of Foodland Guidelines to the Brampton Official Plan which included the urbanization of over 7,000 acres of agricultural land and which had been circulated to his Ministry for comments in October, 1980."

"Now, after three years of stony silence, the Minister has finally decided that the best way to preserve 4,000 acres of agricultural land, whose need for development has not been demonstrated, is to include it in the urban boundary and allow it to be phased in. The definition and time frame for the phasing has intentionally been left vague."

"Surely, a more logical means of preserving farmland is to keep it out of the

urban limit. Especially in view of the fact that the only justification for the inclusion of this land for urbanization which had been excluded in the Draft Official Plan was as the result of a submission to Brampton Council by R.K. Webb, the former law partner of the Premier, on behalf of the Ronto-Sandringham Development Group."

"As a result of the inclusion of these lands, the original Official Plan population projection was revised upward from 260,000 to 344,000 population."

## Gallery's first juried craft show displayed

**STOUFFVILLE** — The Latcham Gallery is hosting its first juried craft show.

Works in clay, fibre, metal, glass, wood and leather have been selected.

The opening is Sunday, Nov. 6 from

2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and prize-winners announced. Prizes have been generously donated by McNeil Pharmaceutical, Graham & Associates and Betz Pools. The

show continues until Dec. 3. An invitation is extended to assist in selecting The People's Choice Award.

Presentation of awards will take place Dec. 2 at the Gallery's annual

Gala Party. This year, Artwear will be featured—clothes handcrafted in hand-painted silk. For additional information call Judi von Zuben at 640-5309 or Andrea Graham at 649-2604.

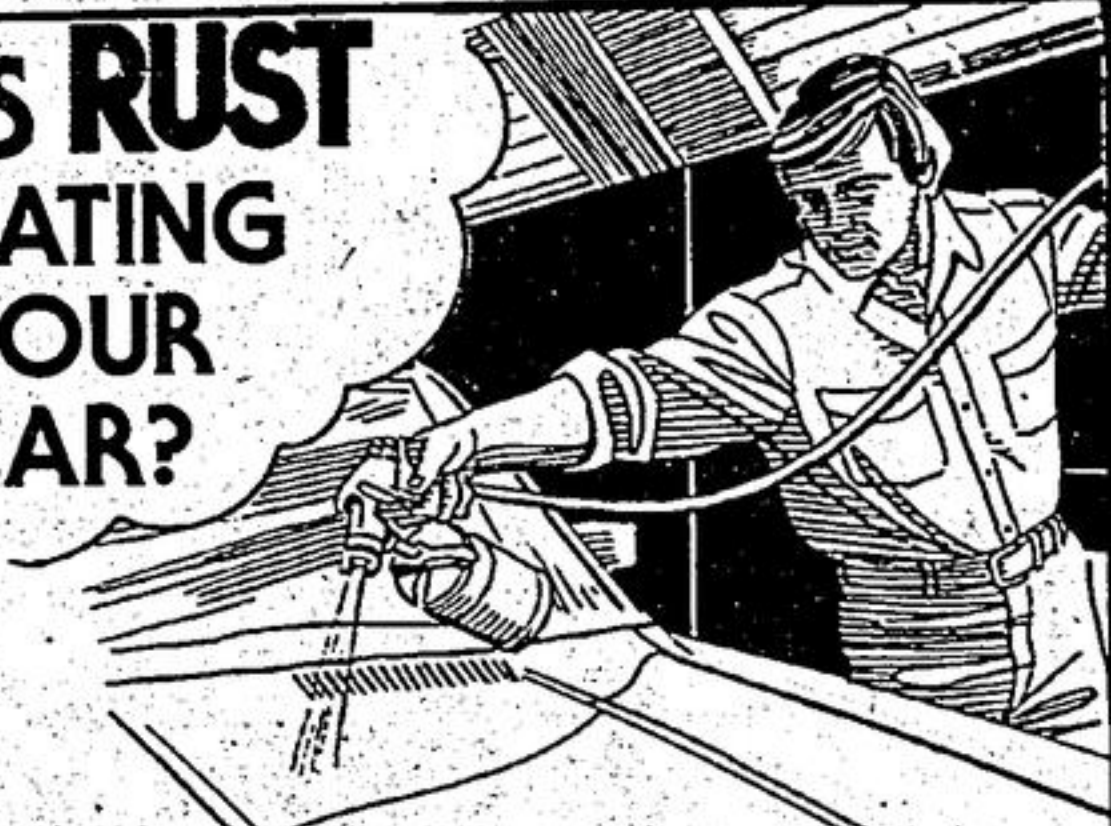
## Students injured

**STOUFFVILLE** — Two Markham students, en route home from Stouffville Dist. Secondary School, were injured, Friday, when their south-bound motorcycle was in collision with a truck on Conc. 9, south of town.

Admitted to Scarborough Centenary Hospital were Michael Hammond, 18, of Daniel Court and his passenger, Paul Fairhurst, 19, of Ambrose Court. The motorcycle struck the right front corner of the truck when the driver, Joseph Scott of Willowdale made, what police describe as a "sweeping" right turn. Owner of the truck is Spring Eagle Farms Limited of Stouffville.

The accident occurred around 3:40 p.m. Constable Paul Carlsen of York Regional Police investigated.

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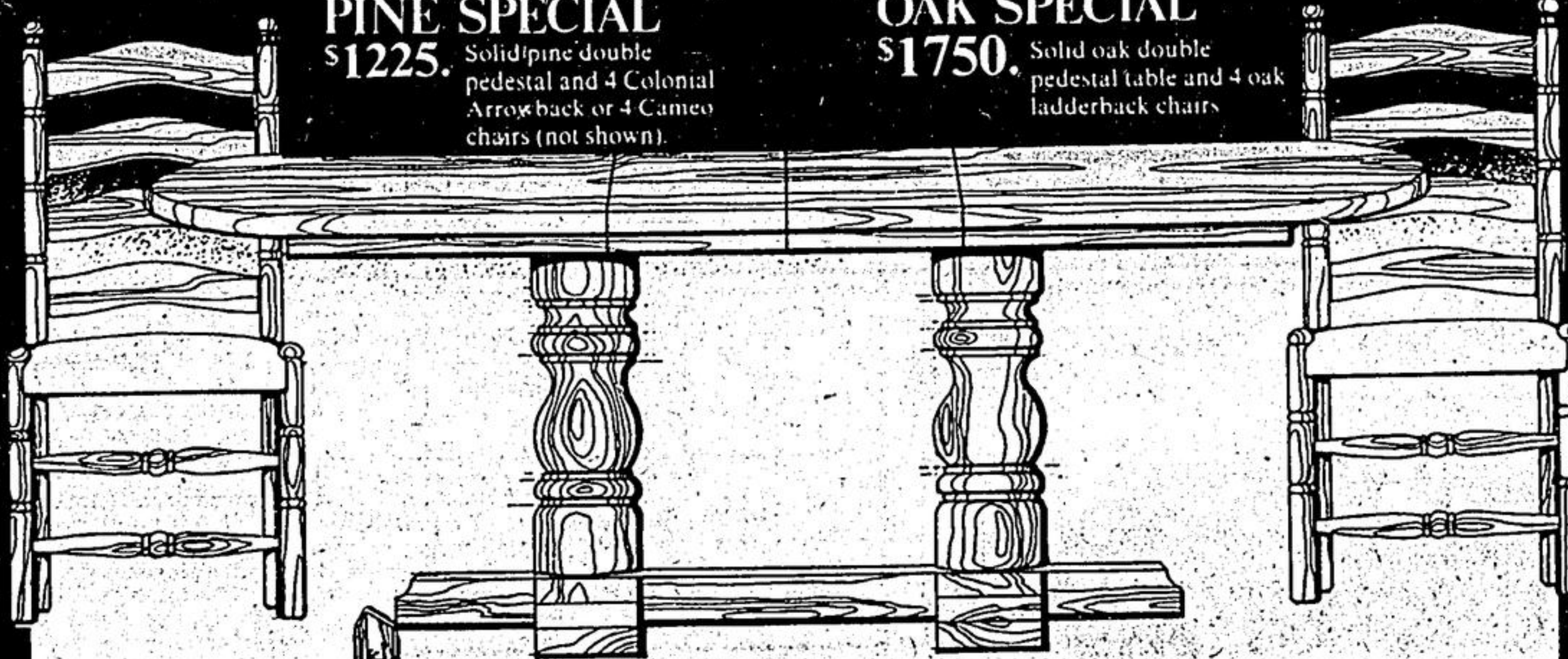
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