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Second Section

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Wednesday, November 23, 1983



Many students at Claremont Public School recently received prizes for their fund-raising accomplishments. Grade 2 student, Neal Riste, won first prize for earning the most money. Grade 4 student, Brandi Key (right), won a stuffed bear for the second highest amount. And, the third place winner was Jennifer Coghill (left). Ten-year-old Pam Rietehae (back-centre) won the the draw prize. Audrey Green

## School achieves financial goal

CLAREMONT — Students at Claremont Public School have just about reached the end of the tunnel.

They recently completed a "very successful" fund-raising drive to sell Sun Catcher stained glass window hangings throughout the community. To show for their efforts, students raised approximately \$3,700.

According to Principal, Jim Crosbie, the money raised will be used to purchase some Commodore 64 compu-

ter terminals, disc drives, and keyboards for the school.

Mr. Crosbie said they originally aimed at buying two computers, but after the money started coming in from the sales, they now hope to buy three.

The school is presently checking on computer prices, but the cost they expect to pay ranges between \$1,300 to \$1,400 per computer.

"It (money) equaled to and went beyond what we expected," Mr. Crosbie said.

Many awards were

given out to students for their hard work, but the three top winning students for the highest amount of money raised were: Neal Riste, first place with \$211.88; Brandi Key, second place with \$197.42; and Jennifer Coghill, third place with \$195.27.

Seven-year-old Neal won a tape recorder, Brandi, 9, won a stuffed toy bear, and Jennifer, 6, received the AM/FM radio.

Mr. Crosbie said approximately 1,700 Sun Catchers were sold during the selling blitz.

## Strike cripples Durham schools

BY AUDREY GREEN

DURHAM REGION — Close to 3,500 Durham Region students have been forced to find their own transportation to school since drivers of Travelways School Transit Ltd. walked out on strike almost a week ago.

"The parents are doing a super job," said Durham Board of Education Chairman, Ruth Lafarga.

She said the number of absent students reached 28 per cent on the first day of the strike, last Thursday, but by Monday the list of absent students had dropped to 10 per cent.

The Durham Board has approximately 39 Travelways buses working throughout Whitby, Pickering, and the northern region. Lafarga said the board has "explored other options" of transportation for students, but nothing has been made available.

"The board will review (transportation methods) again if the strike continues," she stated.

Talks between Local 307 of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport and General Workers and the Travelways company hit a stalemate at the beginning of the week.

"The company doesn't

want to give us what we want," said Marilynne Pitcher, union business agent for Local 307. "The union is ready to talk to the company at anytime."

Pitcher explained that the strike, which is the first of its kind, involves more than just the complaint of money matters. A combination of "job security" and "safety

policies" were also being discussed.

The union has asked the company for a 10 to 12 per cent wage increase, but the company has only offered a 6 and 5 per cent increase over a two-year contract.

In Durham Region, school bus drivers earn about \$18.90 a day said Pitcher, who drove a school bus her-

self for 11 years. Breaking the figures down, she said the average run is about one to one-and-a-quarter hours long which works out to approximately \$9.45 per hour.

According to Pitcher, Markham bus drivers earn from \$7.85 to \$10.12 an hour and Mississauga drivers make approximately \$11.60 per hour.

"It's not very much money," she stated. "It's worth more...and they're (the drivers) standing up for a principle they believe in." "How many people will get up at 6 a.m. in the middle of the winter to start a bus," said Pitcher. "It's really a hard job...and they're really dedicated."

She said all bus drivers are required by the Ministry of Transportation to conduct mandatory daily bus checks before starting on the first pick-up. This involves walking around the bus and opening the hood to check for items like gas, lights, and water levels. "You're expected to do that for nothing."

Pitcher said it's unknown when the union will resume talks or how long the strike will continue, but "the general public is starting to scream 'take my kids to school!'"

Travelways spokespersons were unavailable for comment.

## Two youths struck down

UXBRIDGE — Two pedestrians remain in hospital after they were hit by a vehicle while on Brock Street West, Uxbridge at 1:03 a.m. Nov. 20 said Durham Regional Police, Uxbridge 26 Division.

The vehicle, which was travelling eastbound on Brock Street West hit Bradley Graham, 17, of Scarborough, and fifteen-year-old Faye Welch, of Uxbridge. Police said they received major injuries and were taken to Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

According to hospital officials, both youths are reported in stable condition.

There was \$100 estimated damage to the vehicle which was driven by Joseph Peters, R.R. 4, Omemee. Police are still investigating and charges are pending.

### High-speed chase

Police were involved in a high-speed chase along Regional Road 1, in Uxbridge Township, Nov. 21 at 2 a.m. when a driver failed to stop for them.

The vehicle was later apprehended on York Regional Road 32.

Charged with dangerous driving and failing to stop is Bogdan Ranic, R.R. 1, Pefferlaw.

## Committee takes action company given time limit

UXBRIDGE — Since the proposed Palomino Estates Subdivision agreement remains unsigned and unpaid back taxes continue to mount up, the Uxbridge Planning and Development Committee have decided to take action.

Almost ten years after the original draft plan approval was granted by the Ontario Ministry of Housing, the committee passed a resolution objecting to another draft plan extension for the proposed subdivision.

The resolution stated that if Palomino Estates Ltd., didn't adhere to the committee's requests by January 31, 1984, their draft plan would be discontinued and the zoning bylaw would be revoked so the subject land could remain in a 'Holding Zone'.

"We want some security this time around...after ten years it gets a little frustrating," said Mayor Bill Ballinger. "It's driving us nuts in administration work."

"Your frustration is no greater than ours," stated Jack Grant, president of Seaton Group, which incorporates all of his companies.

On June 15, 1977, the first draft plan approval was granted to Palomino Estates Ltd. for an 18.5 acre land parcel north of the C.N.R. railway tracks and south of Brock Street near the Uxbridge Arena. However, since that time the company has not proceeded with any of the development which included 60 single-family homes and 16 townhouse units.

"You've never delivered the goods...why should we support a draft plan?" questioned Ballinger. "All we wanted was some development, but you're not willing to gamble in our community."

"If Uxbridge takes away the only draft plan approval we have in Uxbridge...it might seriously jeopardize this proposal," said Steve Maizels, vice-president of Seaton Group. "Emotionally and morally we feel obligated to Uxbridge."

In 1978, Bylaw 78-8 was passed by the municipality to allow for land re-zoning, but because the subdivision agreement was never signed the re-zoning wasn't approved.

The land, which is presently zoned Holding (H),

Open Space (O), and Residential First Density (R1), would have been re-zoned to allow for subdivision development.

"We've waited with bated breath," explained Ballinger. "If you're not going to develop, you should just pack your bags and go home."

Grant told the committee that during the poor economy the company had been hit hard and "we had to struggle to survive." However, Ballinger didn't except his excuses.

"It's the little guy out there's who's putting his money where his mouth is and helping Uxbridge...we're tired of listening...at some point, some how, someone has to say enough is enough."

## Uxbridge figure skater arrives home with medal

UXBRIDGE — After a solo performance to musical excerpts of The Rose, Fame, and Electric Horse, 12-year-old Jennifer Cook, of the Uxbridge Figure Skating Club, skated home from the Eastern Ontario Sectionals in Ottawa last weekend with the silver medal.

Jennifer, of 22 Jonathan St., Uxbridge, was one of five girls from the Uxbridge team who participated in the three day event. After placing first in her group for juvenile ladies, she advanced to the freestyle figure skating and won second place.

Her teammates were: Valerie Grosvenor, Sarah Hall, Anand Date, and Savina Findlay.

During her eight years of skating, Jennifer has participated in various competitions like the Uxbridge Invitational, Scarborough Skate, Pine Ridge, and in Oshawa and Hamilton, but this was her first such award.

Skating is "interesting" for Jennifer, but she's also involved in many sports while attending Joseph Gould Public School. She takes active part in soccer, volleyball, and basketball.

Jennifer said she now has a little time to breathe before her next skating competition in February at the 1984 Uxbridge Invitational.

When the doors of the old French plank 1820 style home are unlocked, a new meaning will be revealed. What was once an individual home will now house an entire community. It has been renovated and redesigned to maintain a touch of history.

"It only seems logical to use an old house," said Janet Mehak, a member of the building committee. "The house was in terrible condition...to renovate it took a lot of work and a lot of fun."

According to Mrs. Mehak, the home was originally known as the Miller House since it belonged to the Miller family for years.

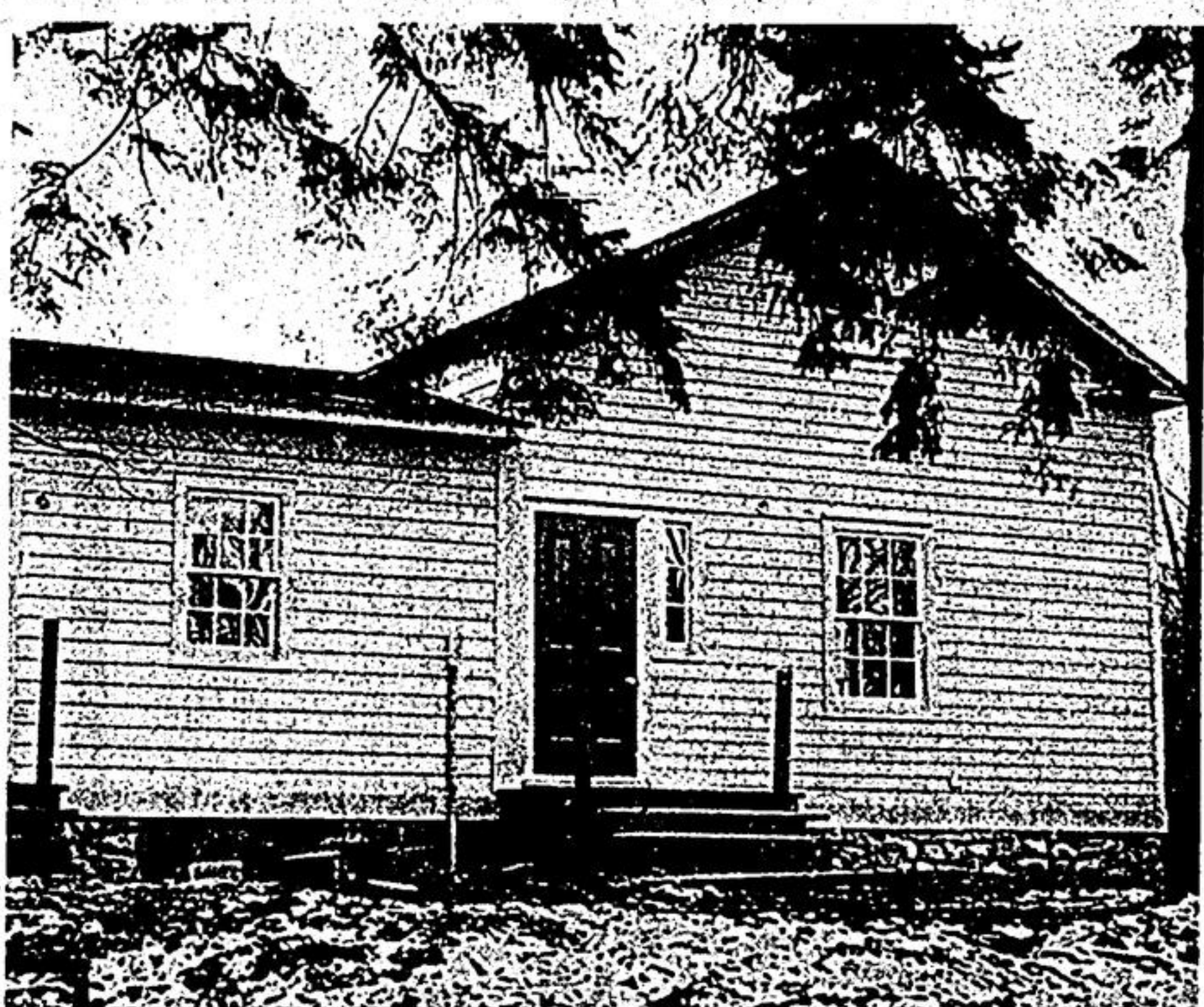
Once in the hands of the community, the house was registered under the Canada Works Project and through the government program, a grant of \$70,000 was donated towards its rebirth. After the grant money was used, the remaining labor and supplies were donated by community volunteers said Mrs. Mehak.

The centre will be available for community groups, crafts classes, kids clubs, and residents meetings. The house has been upgraded with kitchen and bathroom facilities, a main room, and in the future it may be expanded to include sports facilities.

She stated the building has been declared under the Ontario Heritage Act and it's situated at the entrance of the Seaton Hiking Trail.

## Historic house renovated

Whitevale opens community centre



Located at the mouth of the Duffin Creek, the new Whitevale Community Centre will soon officially open. The house, which was originally built in the 1820's, has been renovated with the help of a Canada Works Project grant and the Whitevale community. Audrey Green

## Association hosts upcoming annual bazaar

The Ajax-Pickering and Whitby Association for the Mentally Retarded is sponsoring its annual bazaar this Saturday (Nov. 26) from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Emperor Street Centre, 36 Emperor Street, Ajax.

The sale will feature baked goods, Christmas decorations, handicrafts, and plants along with a flea

market, children's table and a fish pond. Coffee, tea, soup and sandwiches will be served.

The proceeds will be used to maintain pre-school, group homes, workshops and recreation programs.

For further information contact the Association at 177 Dowry Road, Ajax, phone 683-7366.