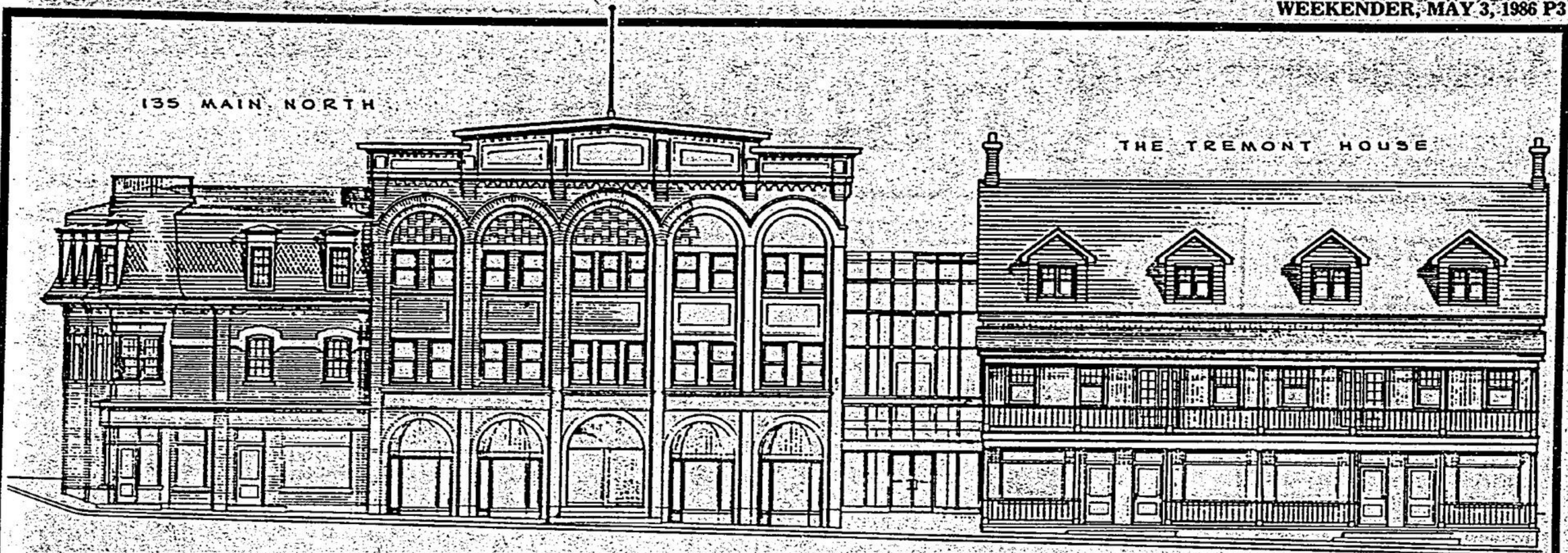


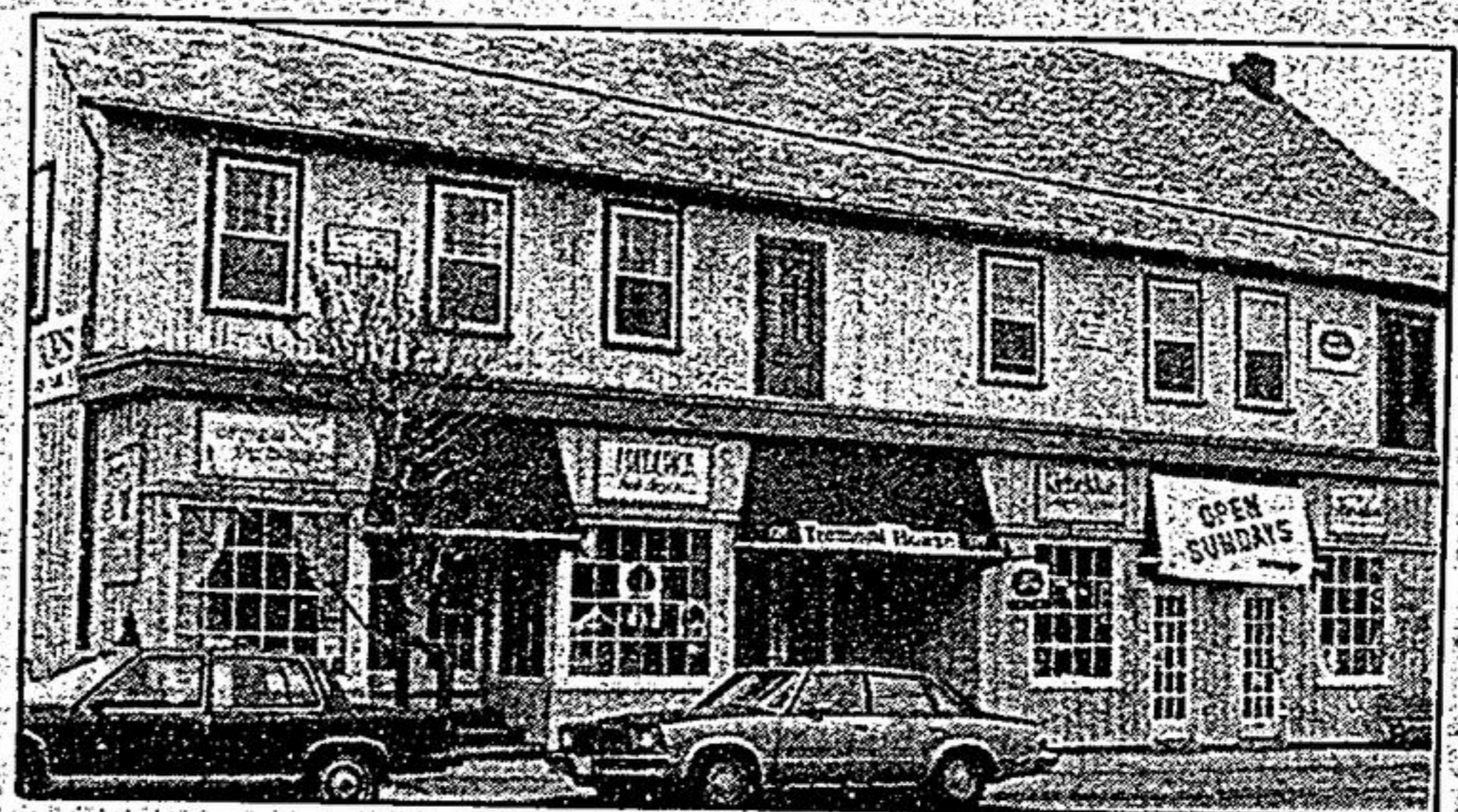
135 MAIN NORTH

THE TREMONT HOUSE



Present and possible future

The photo at right shows the Tremont House on Main St. Markham as it is. The 113-year-old former hotel is in poor condition and the owner would like to demolish it and build an exact replica. It used to have a verandah on both levels. Owner Vincent Kwok of Markham proposes the replica and a turn of the century style brick building to the north of it attached by a glass atrium (drawing above). The structure would house stores on the main level and two-storey office suites would be available in the brick building. The Tremont would be used as a country-style dining room. Mr. Kwok is facing opposition from the Town's architectural advisory committee, Heritage Markham. The board is calling for the restoration of the old hotel and will advise Markham Council to have it designated an historic building.



There's trouble at Terra Gold

By MARTIN MELBOURNE
The refusal of Ontario's Environment Ministry to release 12 housing lots on Bendamere Cres. in Markham is causing headaches for the builder, local real estate agents and buyers.

At least one family may be homeless by the end of August.

"I'm scared for my people," said Royal LePage agent June Williamson, who has three clients with homes in the Terra Gold de-

velopment. "They could be out in the cold."

Mrs. Williamson said the lots were bought in January and February — on the condition that the Ministry would allow the Town of Markham to issue building permits.

But a Terra Gold representative reported the permits have been held up due to the close proximity of a dairy farm to the development. The company will not close the sale of the homes until the permits are issued.

Real estate agents, a Terra Gold representative and buyers will meet Tuesday morning at the Mayor's office and ask local politicians to pressure the government into releasing the lots, according to Mrs. Williamson.

But she added that may not be enough.

Mrs. Williamson is upset that the builder has not signed a condition which would extend the home buyers' legal involvement in the purchases. If permits are not issued, the customers may have their down payments returned and Terra Gold may not purchase the lots, she said.

"I am really disappointed," she

said. "I don't see what he has to gain by not giving the extension" (of the condition).

However, the Terra Gold builder, who refused to be named, says he will only sign the condition after he has assurances that the permits will be issued.

Though he's not sure what is going to happen with the permit situation, the builder added he's concerned for the buyers.

"If I wasn't interested in the people, why would I call the (Tuesday) meeting?" he said.

On February 18, Markham resident Judy Elsworth and her husband purchased a home on one of the lots. She said the first time she had heard anything was wrong was Wednesday, April 30. The couple has already sold their present home and have to move out by August 28.

"I'm a bit mad," she said. "What do we do, where do we go?"

David Heil bought a \$125,900 house in the development in February. He expressed concerns that the builder may decide not to push for the permits, but instead allow house prices to appreciate, then resell the homes for a great

profit. "I think we're being led down the garden path," he said.

However, Scarborough Century 21 agent Victor Chong, who has two clients involved, disagrees.

"I don't think the builder would ruin his reputation like that," he said. "The builder is willing to build." Mr. Chong said he thinks the problem is political in nature.

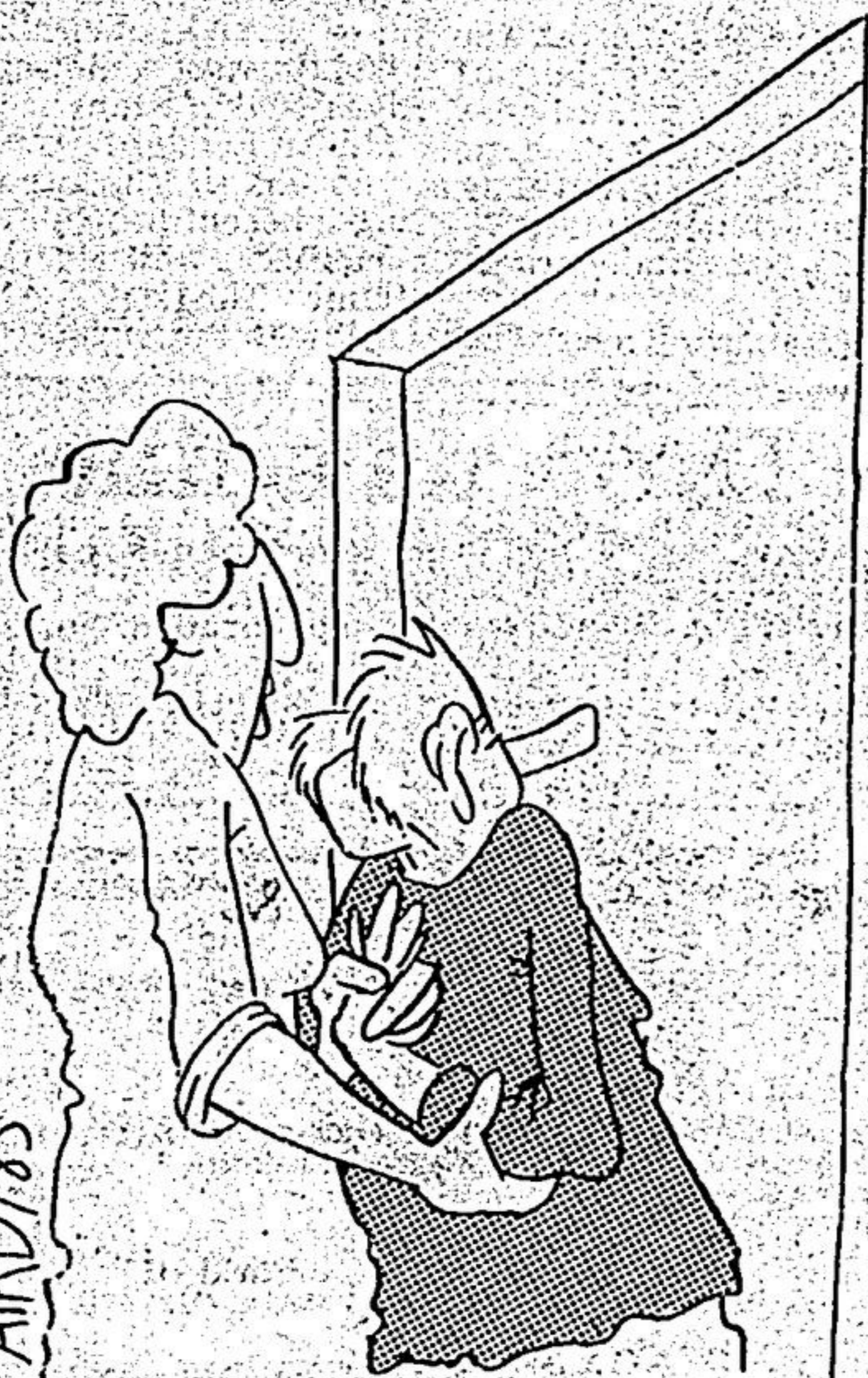
Mrs. Williamson estimates the homes are worth about 10 per cent more than they were in January. She said they won't be able to find comparable homes at the January prices. Mrs. Williamson added that she is angry that the lots were made available before the permits had been secured.

"The builder should not have been selling the lots in the first place," she charged.

Donald Dunn, head of the Foodland Preservation branch at the Ministry of Agriculture, says his ministry usually works on problems like this. But the Environment ministry is making this decision.

Mr. Dunn noted the size, location and type of farm near a planned housing development determines how close homes can be built.

Ed and Claudette



Mom, me and Ed have decided to let you come to the movies with us.

Meeting Tuesday on centre

The public meeting dealing with a proposed medical centre in residential Markham will take place next Tuesday night.

The three-storey medical centre at the corner of Ramona Blvd. and George St. would be built on two lots, one vacant, the other with an existing house on it.

Nearby residents complained at an earlier meeting that the centre will add traffic to an already congested area.

The meeting will be held at the Municipal Offices in the council chambers at 7:30 p.m.



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