

Editor's Mail

Supports doctors' cause

Dear Sir:
According to the media, the majority of Ontario residents polled were in favor of Bill 94. Does this suggest that the people of Ontario want government control of our health care system?

If the government continues to interfere, health care as we know it will soon become obsolete. The day will come when we no longer have the freedom to pick and choose our family doctor. Rather, our doctor will be assigned to us.

The average person has been led to believe that money and greed are the principle issues, and that their right to health care is somehow being threatened.

We in Ontario have an abundance of doctors, most of whom do not extra-bill and never intend to. Few of us will ever have difficulty finding a good physician who will not care for us under OHIP.

What we are threatened with is a government that is attempting to extend its grip on every aspect of our lives. Once they've gained control of our doctors, which profession will be the next to fall prey?

If our health care is being threatened it is the government that is posing the threat. I, for one, want my doctor(s) to know that I support their attempt toward professional freedom.

Sincerely,
Patricia Armstrong,
Glad Park Avenue,
Stouffville




"I think it's safe to say they're opposed to Sales Barn expansion!"

The Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1888

JAMES THOMAS Editor
BRUCE ANNAN Publisher
PAT PAPPAS Advertising Manager
JENNI HUTT Distribution Manager

EDITORIAL DEPT: Chris Shanahan, Kelly Connolly
DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Lynn Moore
REAL ESTATE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Joan Marshman
DISTRIBUTION: Doreen Deacon, Karen Heise
NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE: Metroland Corporate Sales 493-1300

The Stouffville Tribune, published every Wednesday and Saturday at 54 Main St., Stouffville, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Action Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, Milton Champion, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Topic News Magazine, Willowdale Mirror, Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. Single copies 50¢, subscriptions \$20.00 per year in Canada, \$47.50 elsewhere. Member of Canadian Community Newspaper Association, Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association, Ontario Press Council and Suburban Newspaper of America. Second class mail registration number 0896.

640-2100  649-2292

WINDOW ON WILDLIFE
Some hawk talk
BY ART BRIGGS-JUDE

There's something about the sighting of a hawk that brings out the best or the worst in people. Talk to most folks and they leave you with the impression there are no grey areas. You either like 'em or you don't.

Unfortunately in many instances it's a case of misunderstanding. In others, it's the fact a lot of casual observers don't realize there are so many different kinds of hawks with vast differences between them.

From the small kestrel or sparrow hawk to the large buteos such as the red-tailed hawk, there are close to a dozen species that frequent our neighboring counties. Add to this total the osprey, the odd sighting of Wolf Lake's pair of resident bald eagles plus the increasing appearance of turkey vultures, and not only does the list increase but the confusion grows as well.

In some ways the built in hostility towards these birds of prey is similar to the apprehension instilled in many people concerning snakes. The handed-down misbeliefs about milk snakes drinking the cow's udder dry are no less appealing, to impressionable young minds, than the tall tale of the neighbor's dog being hoisted aloft by one of those enormous, so-called chicken hawks.

Then, too, the unheralded arrival of a sharp-shinned hawk scattering the feathered clients at a bird feeding station, or the rare occurrence of a goshawk attacking a barnyard chicken, does little to enhance the hawk's image among those involved. Similarly, pigeon fanciers have long dreaded the sighting of a merlin near their lofts, or pheasant farm operators, the appearance of a Cooper's hawk over their pens.

Yet to put these winged predators in the right perspective, you have to look beyond these scattered incidents and focus instead on their every day activities. In our homestead surroundings for example — with free-ranging poultry and ducks — we can count on one hand the deliberate attacks made by hawks on our domestic fowl. This includes several night sorties by a great horned owl and a recent aerial dogfight involving a pigeon and what was believed to be an immature Peregrine falcon.

Contrary to Nature's scheme of things, we as humans often create situations of increased bird populations that in the wild could prove detrimental to the future of that species. In the case of a hawk at the feeder, it becomes an emotional issue — a so-called good bird versus an undesirable one.

However, in the game farm or pigeon-racing business, such conflagrations turn into a competition for the money and time expended. And like herons at a fish hatchery, steps often have to be taken to discourage these individual culprits, the least favorable of which is permanent elimination. Yet because raptors in general are such a vital link in the broad cross-sectional chain of wildlife balance, such local or seasonal destruction could have wide-reaching effects.

When farmers, for instance, check their new tree plantings and discover many dead from mouse and rabbit girdlings, they could do a lot worse than encourage a few hawks to take up residence in their neighboring woodlot. Similarly, an average population of meadow mice can consume a ton of alfalfa hay from a hundred-acre field. Left unchecked, an ever greater quantity of that same feed could be destroyed.

Tough biologists' checks of stomach contents on red-tailed hawks show a high incidence of mice; squirrels, rabbits and groundhogs, as individuals working on the land, we are often apt to misinterpret the actions of these so-called hen hawks. Sweeping overhead uttering their high-pitched screaming calls, we're sure they're singling out one of our plump laying hens for their next meal.

Actually there is so much confusion with hawk sightings and identification, that any large bird soaring over the barns is immediately labelled a chicken hawk. This holds true even for off-course ospreys, or fish hawks, cutting overland from one lake to another in a quest for their only food source: fish.

In the same vein, the huge black-feathered vultures have become much maligned in many circles. Here is a classic example of unknowingly killing the goose that lays the golden egg, for the turkey vulture, or buzzard as it is commonly called, performs a valuable service to mankind.

Possessing neither the strength in the beak or talons to kill or subdue living creatures, they must rely solely on dead carrion for their existence. In this way they rid the roadways and countryside of any decaying carcasses that harbour infectious diseases. And one feature turkey vultures can rightfully claim is the fact their digestive juices are so strong they kill any germs they encounter, thus further rendering a potential hazard, harmless.

While there have been laws passed (all hawks and owls are protected under the Fish and Game Act) as well as a general awakening to the benefits these birds of prey exert on the outdoor scene, far too many still fall victim to ill-advised or thoughtless gun-bearers. This writer's recent visits to the Owl Rehab Centre near Vineland and the Avian Care and Rehab facilities at Verona only bear out these sad facts.

On the road back after the bad episode with toxic sprays, many of our raptors still face an uncertain future. The failure of hunters to know their targets and farmers to recognize their feathered allies makes the black mark against the outdoor almost indelible.

Editorials
Sales Barn an asset

Several east-end ratepayers have expressed concern over proposed expansion of the Stouffville Sales Barn.

Some of their worries — especially increased traffic congestion on Main Street — are legitimate.

However, closer examination of the overall development concept reveals a sound approach to the future of one of Ontario's largest and best known flea markets.

Co-owners Norm Faulkner and Norm Clements plan to tear down existing structures at the rear of the main barn building. An adjoining building of roughly the same proportions will be constructed to the east.

This move, according to Mr. Faulkner, will actually minimize outdoor litter and noise pollution by bringing much of the present outdoor sales activity inside.

In essence, the \$1.25 million project is more a re-organization of resources than an expansion.

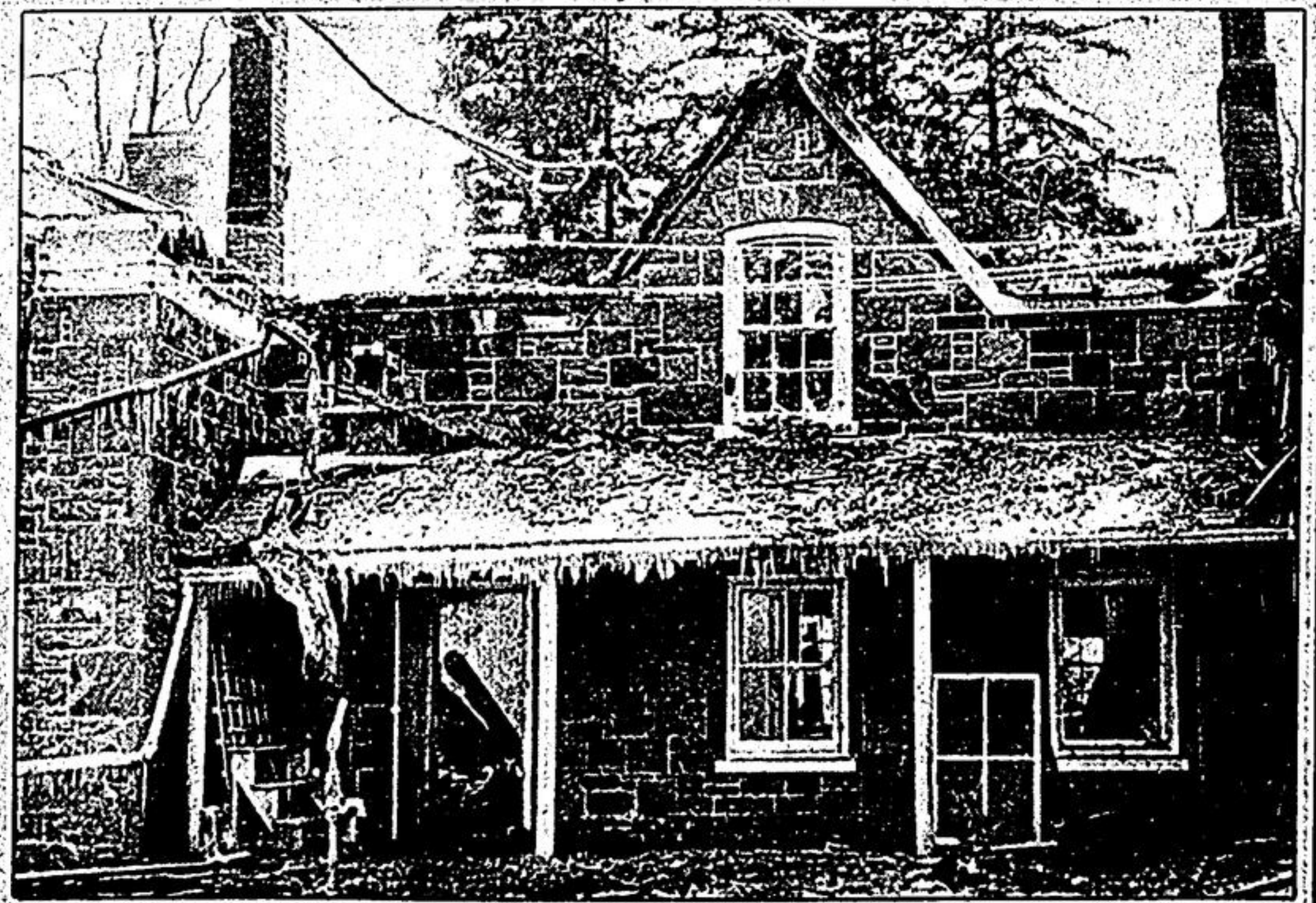
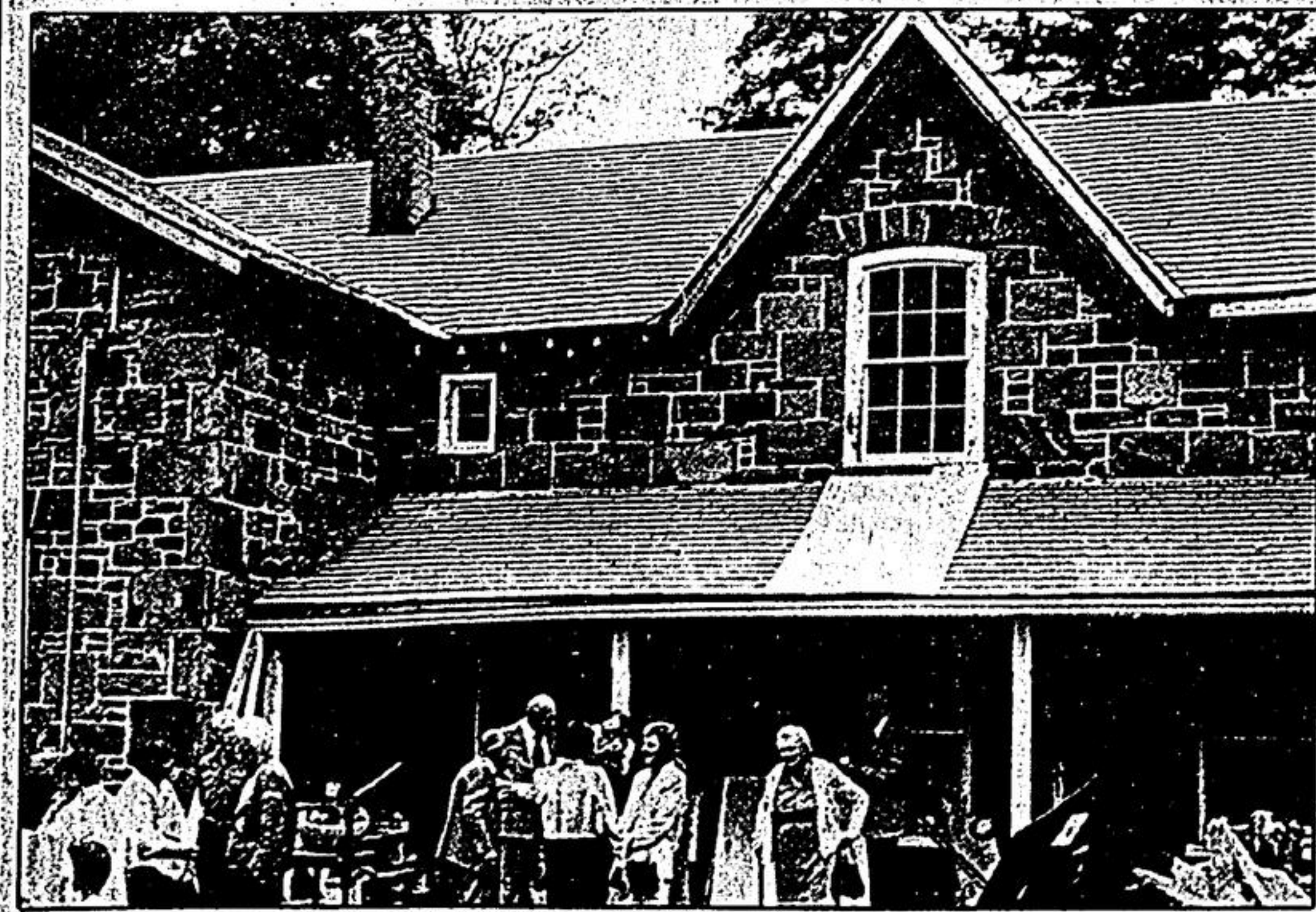
Management has also ensured Town Council and concerned residents that it'll take action to resolve on-site problems like parking and sewage.

As was duly noted at a June 3 public meeting on the matter, the Hwy. 47 market has been part of the Stouffville scene much longer than neighboring estate residential subdivisions such as Westfield Estates.

Stouffville Stockyards Limited has been a solid corporate citizen for a period extending over a quarter of a century. At the same time, it has helped put this community on the map in Metro Toronto and across central Ontario.

There will always be those who cry "not in my backyard" at the mere hint of progress.

In this instance, the benefits far outweigh the drawbacks.



Historic Thistle Ha' homestead rises up from ashes of 1985 Pickering blaze

A fieldstone shell was all that remained of Hugh and Elsie Miller's Thistle Ha' homestead following a fire in January of 1985 (right photo). But a year and a half later, much of the historic 19th century Pickering home has been restored to its original state as shown in photo at left. The Millers held an appreciation day Saturday to thank the wide circle of family and friends who supported their restoration project. Work will continue in an attempt to fully repair the damaged structure, located east of Brock Road on Conc. 7. —Chris Shanahan