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Seething Westfield home-owners demand completion of properties

By JIM THOMAS
STOUFFVILLE — For months, residents of Westfield Estates in Stouffville's east end have been silently seething. They've watched and waited for their properties to be completed, to no avail. On July 15 their patience ran out. A meeting was held at the

home of Don Aldcroft, Asbury Park Court, to which fifty people attended. Their complaints, aired in full, were supported by 33 letters, all addressed to the Mayor and Council, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. While the problems are many and varied, most relate to charges of inadequate seeding,

sodding and grading. Residents want the work completed in accordance with the subdivision agreement. House construction is another thorn in the side of some. These grievances have been filed with the Provincial New Home Warranty Program. Fifty-five families are said to be affected. Some have been living

there more than two years. Westfield Estates was initiated by Revenue Properties Limited. The development has since been assumed by Presidential Homes Ltd. However, additional building permits are being withheld until Phase I is completed to the Town's satisfaction, Mayor Fran Sainsbury told The Tribune. The municipality holds a letter of credit in the amount of \$350,000, an official in the Clerk's Department said.

Mr. Aldcroft, one of the home-owners' chief organizers, said residents' pleas have been ignored. "These aren't homes, they're houses. It's very frustrating." Mr. Aldcroft points to a drainage ditch close to his home. During heavy rains, the water runs deep. He fears a child may fall in and drown. Many sump pump hoses are still lying atop the ground. Mr. Aldcroft says backyard fill is lacking in both quantity and quality. Because the ground is so hard and in some cases so littered with rocks, the grass won't catch. "We're paying taxes on an acre but using only a third of an acre," he declared.

accelerate the rate at which things are being completed and improve the quality of materials being used."

Ossi Pierotti of Asbury Park Court has recommended the formation of a home-owners' association and the hiring of a lawyer. Copies of 33 letters sent to the Mayor and Council have been received by The Tribune. An introductory statement, written by Mr. Aldcroft, reads as follows:

"Enclosed please find 33 letters from residents of Westfield Estates expressing concerns regarding the poor quality of materials and workmanship evident in this development; the rate at which the work is progressing, and the apparent inability of our elected and appointed officials to be of assistance in resolving the situation. It has now been over two years since the first homes were occupied. To date, not a single lot has received final approval. Other developments in Stouffville, started long after Westfield Estates, are rapidly nearing completion or are completed. We are collectively soliciting your assistance to explore any and all avenues available to bring pressure on Revenue Homes to

Fair dates cut back

This year's Markham Fair will extend over four days instead of four days and one night.

The Wednesday evening program has been cancelled, secretary-manager Tony Arkell told The Tribune this week. Fair dates are Oct. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

"We never made any money out of it," Mr. Arkell said. "It didn't pay at all."

The crowd, he explained, didn't offset expenses.

"It was an executive decision," Mr. Arkell continued. "The matter was discussed at length."

The secretary-manager called it a trial, saying the board could revert back to the Wednesday opening some time in the future.



Home-owners in Westfield Estates, Stouffville, are becoming increasingly frustrated over lack of action that sees most properties still incomplete after two years. Individual complaints are contained in 33 letters sent to the Town. Here residents Don Aldcroft, Terry James and Bryceon Sheehan check out a swale that extends through the rear of one of the lots. — Jim Thomas

Parkview says thanks

Community funded new auditorium

STOUFFVILLE — Thanks to the generosity of more than 200 people and a "dig-deep" donation by persons attending the Menno-

nite Home Association annual meeting, the new auditorium at Parkview Village is debt free.

J.M. Nighswander, executive administrator, made the announcement this week. Total cost of the project was about \$600,000, Mr. Nighswander said, of which \$300,000 had to be raised by public subscription.

"We're very grateful for the response from the community," Mr. Nighswander stated, noting that a significant donation had come from The Latham Foundation.

On the evening of the annual meeting, the Auditorium Fund was about \$2,500 short. An appeal resulted in donations and pledges totalling \$4,575.00.

"This was cause for celebration," said Mr. Nighswander.

Not only is the auditorium extensively used by resident tenants but also by the community. The facility can comfortably accommodate up to 200 people. It's available for everything from

fashion shows to wedding anniversaries.

Other programs already arranged have included — fitness classes, slides and films, worship services, Bible study, a clothing sale, a school musical, a piano recital, Silver Jubilee Club entertainment and a Town Council meeting.

"The auditorium enhances the quality of life here," said Mr. Nighswander, "it's also a very important link with the community."

He described his backyard as a race between the grass and the weeds, and I'm afraid the weeds are going to win.

Mr. Knox said the Westfield homes were sold on the pretext of forming a prestigious development. "What a joke," he stated.

Bryceson Sheehan, Cam Fella Blvd., accused the Town of "buck-passing." He said he'd been told by an official of Revenue Properties that the value of his home had

Holiday marred by accident

GOODWOOD — Joe and Maureen Mayr are nursing severe bruises and their van is wrecked but they consider themselves fortunate.

Their vehicle was hit broadside, July 17, at what Mrs. Mayr describes as a dangerous intersection in Thunder Bay. The former operators of The Bread Basket on Main Street, Stouffville, were returning home from a visit with friends at Sioux Lookout when the accident occurred. Mrs. Mayr was admitted to hospital in Thunder Bay for treatment and observation. She must undergo further physiotherapy.

The impact, Mrs. Mayr said, occurred on the passenger side. Had they been driving a car instead of a van, "I'm afraid I wouldn't be here," she stated. Seat belts helped, she said, but they caused severe bruising.

Persons attending the accident scene told Mr. and Mrs. Mayr the location has long been considered a hazardous corner. One stop sign is almost completely obscured, she said.

Stranded in Thunder Bay without transportation, Joe and Maureen had to return home by Greyhound bus, leaving much of their vacation equipment behind.

Road relief is in sight

CLAREMONT — For motorists who daily travel Regional Road 5 between Claremont and Stouffville, relief is in sight.

A start on reconstruction is scheduled for 1988 with the project divided into three phases.

The cost is estimated at \$2,705,000, construction manager Bill Price of Durham Region told The Tribune.

The work is included in the Region's four-year forecast but subject to change, Mr. Price said.

If the construction schedule remains unchanged, the job should be completed in 1991, Price concluded.

Re-sales of no concern

STOUFFVILLE — The proposed sale-back of properties in Pickering Airport Country will have little effect on the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Mayor Fran Sainsbury told The Tribune.

Unlike plans for the Airport it-

self, when noise was a factor, this latest proposal presents no concerns, Mrs. Sainsbury said.

With respect to residents relocating, Mayor Sainsbury sees little likelihood of this happening in great numbers. She described

some sections of Airport land as "depressed."

Mrs. Sainsbury points out, however, that pride of ownership is a definite asset. Any improvements in neighboring properties will constitute a benefit to Whitchurch-Stouffville, she concludes.

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Joe's Chevy is priceless

STOUFFVILLE — When motorists pass 721 Glengall Lane, heads turn.

Reason for the second look is an immaculate 1937 two-door Chevrolet parked in the drive. It's the pride and joy of owner Joe Walling. He bought it in 1960 for fifty dollars.

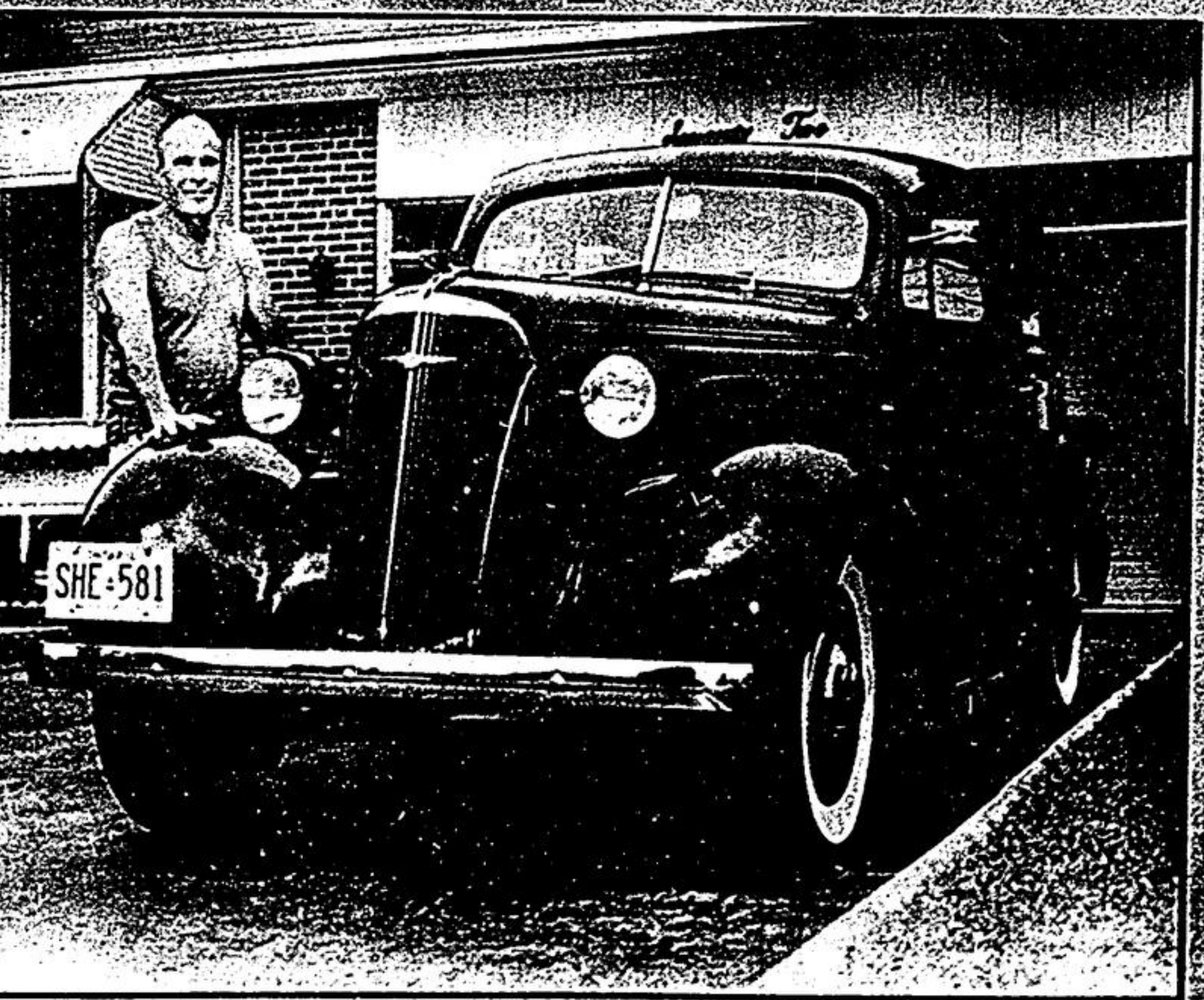
"I was really looking for a '37 Chev coupe and still am," Joe explains. Still, he's happy with his find, and refuses to talk sale.

He estimates the car's value at \$10,000.

While old-car restoration is Joe's hobby, he doesn't take credit for this eye-catcher. George Horton of Burke's Falls did most of the work with Joe providing the parts. Everything's original including the motor. New whitewall tires came all the way from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The former stock car racer claims he's been a car-lover all his life. He's already refurbished a 1931 Oldsmobile and is working on a 1948 Plymouth convertible coupe.

He describes himself as "basically a GM man," but not that proud to refuse other makes. Joe's Chevy has been driven in the King-sponsored Santa Claus Parade. It's also been entered in several shows including the annual classic car display at Vancort Museum.



Car purchased in 1960 for fifty dollars

Joe Walling, Glengall Lane, Stouffville, is proud of his refurbished 1937 Chev. Coupe. The car was purchased in 1960 for \$50.