

Editor's Mail

Rural residents oppose build-up

Dear Editor
 This is an open letter and a plea for help to all your readers who appreciate our surrounding countryside and forests.
 The Regional Municipality of York's Draft Plan for development, published in April 1987, gave developers an open invitation to buy all available rural land and carve it into one acre lots. Frequently, to accommodate a large house, septic tank and well, this involved bulldozing the land and destroying many trees. Aerial photographs of Preston Lake and Trail of the Woods areas demonstrate this type of

development. Responsibility for approving each development rests with the Municipal Council.
 On the 9th line, just south of the Vivian Sideroad and close to the Vivian Forest is a 25 acre strip of land owned by a developer, Mr. Baggio. The land is natural bush with hills and ravines and is one of the few remaining stands of mature, deciduous trees in the area. Mr. Baggio wanted to cover this land with a street of houses on one acre lots, but Council refused permission. Fortunately, several residents from the area attended the OMB hearing when Mr. Baggio appealed Council's decision. To our consternation, we heard there, Council had changed its mind and Mr. Baggio could develop the land with its blessing.

After vocalizing our anger and disbelief, we were granted time to prepare our case for the next OMB hearing on Dec. 5, 1988.

I must emphasize we are not against responsible development in rural areas. After a similar battle with developers, local residents were instrumental in restricting the number of houses built in the Chicamunga subdivision, where lots range from two to seven acres and preserve the natural topography of the area. Neither one nor two acre minimum lot bylaws will guarantee preservation of trees or ravines - each rural area needs responsible inspection and planning to preserve its natural features.

It's patently absurd that we, a group of responsible ratepayers, are having to retain a lawyer and land utilisation expert to fight the incomprehensible, irresponsible decisions of our own elected representatives and the greed of developers.

Our estimated costs for retaining a lawyer and land expert are almost \$10,000. We would therefore be most grateful for any financial assistance from your readers to aid our efforts to preserve the rural character of our Township. Donations should be forwarded to our Treasurer, Mary Lott, RR3, Stouffville, L4A 1X4. Telephone 473-2791. Cheques should be made payable to Mary Lott in Trust. The following will welcome further enquiries: Tom & Janice Stem, (473-3073); Vera & Chris Dube, (473-2729); Michael & Barbara Paull, (473-3142); Bill & Carol Lynn, (473-3142); Eric Garland, (477-1019).
 Sincerely,

Barbara Paull,
 Chairperson,
 Concerned Residents Group,
 RR3,
 Stouffville

4-Hers honored

A very successful York Region Achievement Program was held Nov. 7 in the Optimist Hall, Newmarket.

Several members were honored following completion of six, twelve and eighteen projects.

Presentations were made to the following:

Six Projects — Michelle Barker, Stouffville; David Irwin, Stouffville; Willa Weaver, Newmarket.

Twelve Projects — Keith Boynton, South Vaughan; Teresa Buckle, Queensville; Cammie Ratcliff, Bethesda; Kristy Saunders, Ballantrae.

Eighteen Projects — Arlene Beckett, Unionville; Karen Irwin, Newmarket.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Valerie Langford of Queensville.

The following 4-H members completed Youth Leader Projects — Arlene Beckett, Unionville; Tracy Blackwell, Ballantrae; Beth Bowman, Stouffville; Shaanon Laithem, Temperanceville; Jennifer Muir, Queensville; Catherine Petch, Newmarket and Cammie Ratcliff, Bethesda II.

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Busy weekend

It was a busy weekend for exhibitors attending the Country Decorating and Collectibles Show and Sale at Markham Fairgrounds. One of the busiest booths was Freckles of Main Street, Stouffville. Sue Chewins' sparkling smile was a customer bonus.
 — Jim Thomas

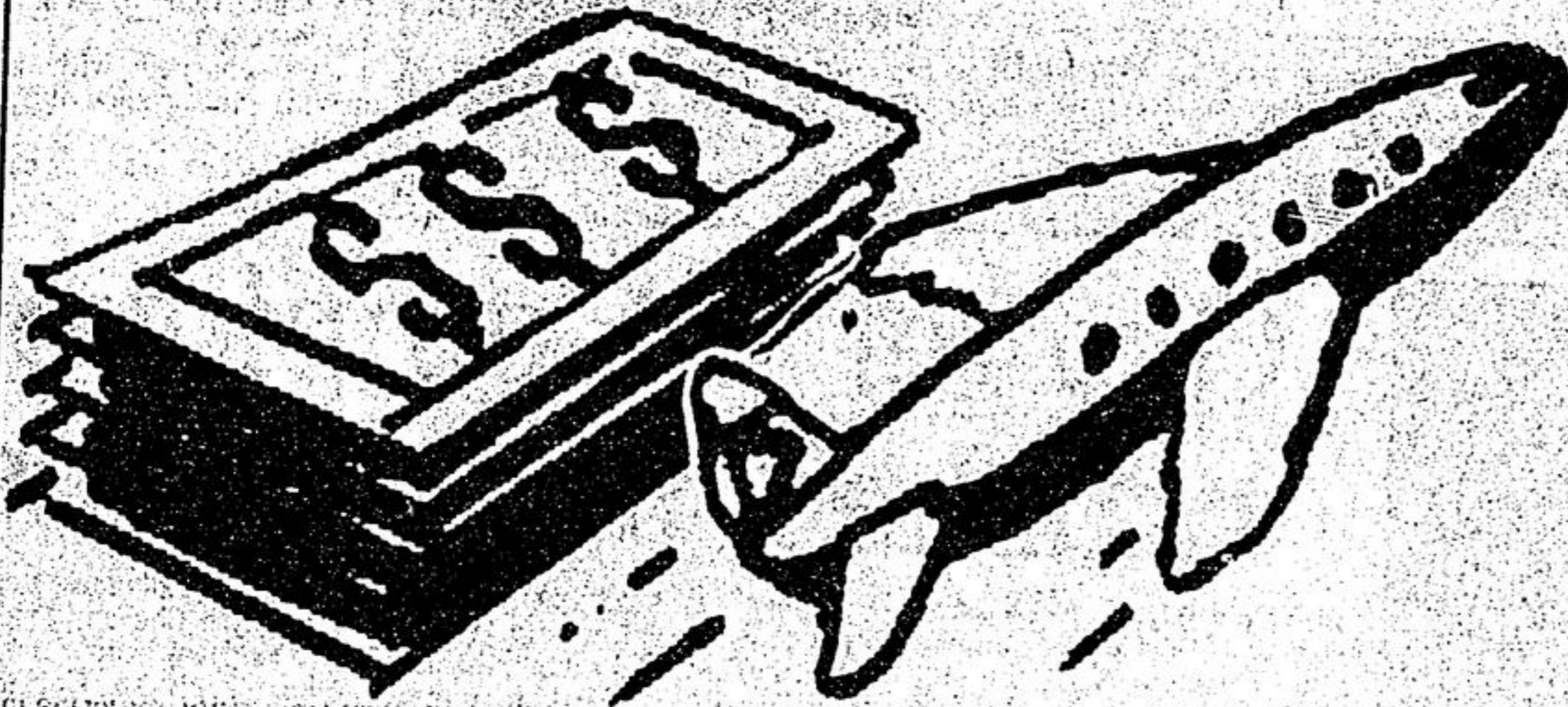


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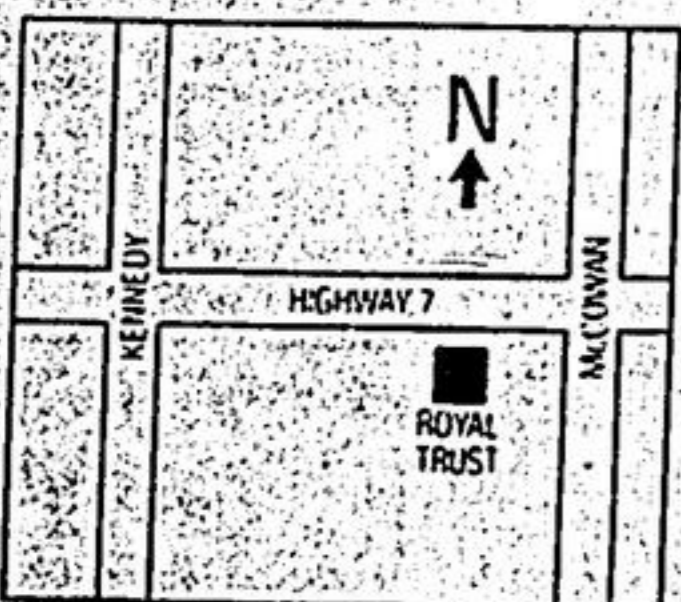
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