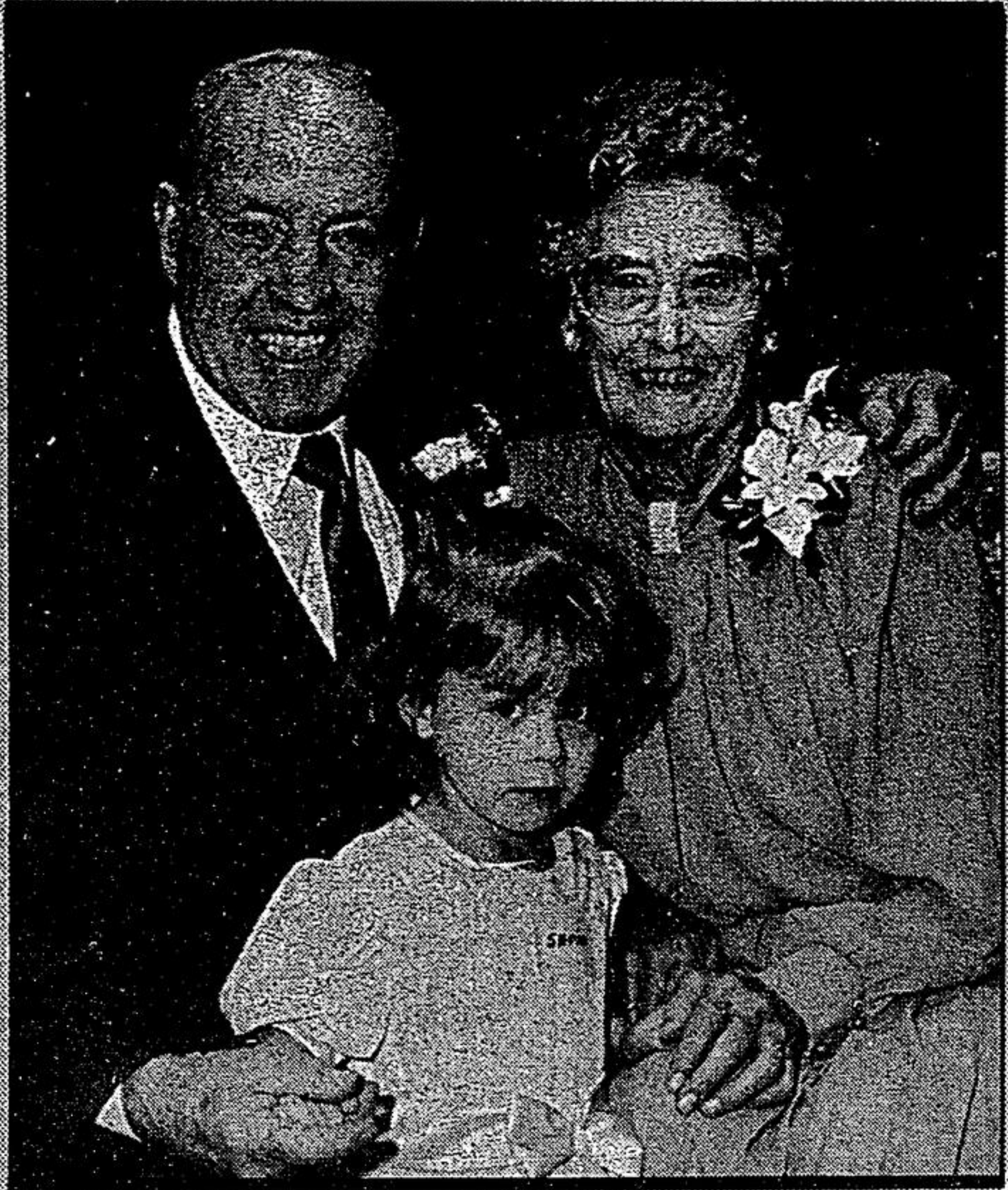


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Anniversary smiles



photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Family and friends turned out at Goodwood Community Centre on the weekend to wish Wilf and Edna Ferguson a happy 50th anniversary. Granddaughter Sarah Jane Ferguson Begin (centre) was also on hand for the event, and

Deer Park likely to pay employees: investigator

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A representative for the Deer Park Inn says all employee wages will be honored by the establishment, according to a provincial investigator.

Ontario Ministry of Labor representative Wally Sinjakewitsch of the Employee Standards Branch met with Roger Farrell of the Deer Park Inn last week and the meeting "went well," Mr. Sinjakewitsch says.

The investigation started in March when an employee complained the Deer Park reneged on pay cheques and this is the first opportunity the labor board investigator has had to meet with the owner.

Mr. Sinjakewitsch now says he is confident the affected employees will get their money back.

The only way the employees would not receive compensation for lost wages would be if the Deer Park went bankrupt, but Mr. Sinjakewitsch says it looks as if that's not the case.

"In this stage of the preliminary investigation I am assured (by Roger Farrell) that I will be able to view the payroll to make an exact assessment of each employee," Mr. Sinjakewitsch confirms.

"(The Deer Park) will honor all outstanding wages," he adds.

Although it is still uncertain of the financial status of the club, Mr. Sinjakewitsch says, "I believe I can satisfy the claimants who may be given 100 per cent entitlement of what is owing to them."

There are about 25 employees affected by the Deer Park's shut-down as well as numerous patrons

who have paid deposits on weddings and other functions for later this year.

But Mr. Sinjakewitsch represents employees only. He says, however, that people who have bookings at the club can exercise two options in retrieving monies paid for deposits:

- get a referral from a lawyer or take out a small claims action with a Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Sinjakewitsch says fees incurred through either proceeding can be transferred to the Deer Park Inn.

But an interview last week with Bob Woods, who claims to be the new owner of the establishment, indicates all bookings will be honored, and says a representative will be in touch with all booked parties.

Mr. Sinjakewitsch will review the payroll later this week and will know more about the club's financial position, he says.

"There is a possibility that the Deer Park Inn will open up again very soon and (Mr. Farrell) will need some of the employees to come back to work," Mr. Sinjakewitsch says.

Fran wants stronger voice at region level

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The electorate's voice is louder in Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan, while Whitchurch-Stouffville and other rural municipalities must shout to be heard, says Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

And the provincial government is now being asked to allow for eight more members on York Regional Council.

York Regional Council voted last week to petition the province for the extra Region members - one of which would represent Whitchurch-Stouffville.

But the big three - holding between three and five seats each on regional council - want to increase their representation proportionately.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor

Fran Sainsbury, meanwhile, said it is already hard enough to reach a decision with the 19-member council.

The small municipalities want to banish the "representation by population" stand and would like two or three representatives for each of the nine communities that make up York Region.

'The bigger municipalities won't vote for a cap'

But the large, powerful and growing municipalities say the "representation by population" vote is important and don't want to give up their voting power.

The current round of debate started late last year when Aurora Mayor John West said his electors were not being fairly represented and Mayor Fran Sainsbury agrees.

Sitting on 11 board and committees including the Markham/Stouffville Hospital board, and chairing four of those, Mayor Sainsbury says her workload is heavy.

"Nobody's book is thicker than mine but all we need is three (representatives for each area) as a debt to taxpayers."

It's not the size of the community, but the amount of work each official is involved in, she maintains.

In order to prevent council growing to 30 or 40 members - a high cost to regional taxpayers - a "cap" or maximum number of representatives must be reached, she says.

"But the bigger municipalities won't vote for a cap."

Mayor Sainsbury says most of the work is handled at the municipal level and agrees the regional members should be reduced.

SDSS dancers do well

Five students from Stouffville District Secondary School danced up a storm at a North York dance competition during the March Break and came up with a respectable finish.

Monique LeBlond, Jenni Allen, Tracy Emery, Melissa Hammond and Natalie Wood placed fourth as a team at the recent Janet Jackson Dance Contest held at Fairview Mall.

There were 21 one teams competing in the finals at the competition.

New community for 90,000

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

The environmentally-friendly community of Seaton will rest just east of Claremont.

Plans for the development of 7,000 acres of provincially-owned land, announced last week by Housing Minister John Sweeney, will result in Seaton, a community of 90,000.

There are now 350 people living in the area designated for Seaton which is made up of agricultural land and a few small industries.

When complete, Seaton will be

a compact community with homes offered at a range of prices and rents.

There will be non-profit homes for rent, starter homes for first-time buyers and homes for second and third-time buyers.

In an effort to maximize land use, houses will be built on smaller lots, roadways will be narrow and sidewalks will run only on one side of the street.

Seaton will be "a complete community, not just houses and roads but a community in the true sense of the word," Mr. Sweeney

said.

The natural assets of the area will be preserved, with priority given to the protection of valleylands, water courses, wetlands and environmentally-significant woodlots.

Heritage landmarks will also be taken into consideration during the construction of the urban community.

Housing design will encourage energy and water conservation, and improved methods of storm water management will be used to protect water quality in nearby

streams and rivers, such as the West Duffin Creek and the Rouge River.

Development of the first stage of the community, to house up to 7,000 people, will begin this year with roads, but houses won't be erected for "a couple of years," Seaton Interim Planning Team member Tom Zizys said.

But the entire community could take up to 25 years to complete, he added.

"You can't just drop 90,000 people there at one time in one place," he said.

The project will have no effect on the proposed affordable housing scheme slotted for the land west of Markham/Stouffville Hospital, Mr. Zizys said.

Bus route being reviewed

CHRIS SHANAHAN
Correspondent

More Claremont residents are being urged to use a new daily commuter bus, or risk losing it.

The Town of Pickering launched the trial run in mid-January to replace the Toronto-Havelock VIA train, which was axed as part of the federal government's recent rail cutbacks.

The Pickering Transit bus makes a daily return run Monday to Friday from Claremont to Pickering's Go Transit station.

"The Town has made it quite clear that this bus service is being supplied on a trial basis and needs to be used, or it will be discontinued," says George Papik, Pickering's director of transportation.

"We'll conduct daily head counts to verify passenger vol-

ume and will reassess continuation of this run after two months."

Ward 3 Councillor Rick Johnson asked for the commuter bus last November following news that Claremont would lose its VIA train. A subsequent feasibility study was conducted by Mr. Papik, who determined the route could be successful.

The bus has been averaging about 10 passengers per day and Councillor Johnson urges more people to take advantage of the service.

The commuter bus, which operates at a cost of \$1,800 a month, begins its run at 7 a.m. with stops at Claremont's train station hut on Old Brock Road and the Four Corners. It also stops in Brougham (Brock Rd. and Hwy. 7) at 7:10 a.m. and again at 6:20 p.m.

The return time from Pickering

station coincides with the arrival of the 5:13 p.m. Go Train at approximately 5:55 p.m. The bus arrives back in Claremont at 6:30 p.m.

The daily fare is \$1.10 cash each way, plus a Go Transit pass or fare.

Mr. Papik encourages Claremont commuters to use the bus as often as possible, and also urges them to write Town officials requesting the service be continued on a permanent basis.

It's being reviewed and a decision will be made in the near future, said Mr. Papik.

"It seems pretty positive. Riders are finding it's quicker than going to Stouffville and taking the train from there," he said.

A group of Claremont residents fought unsuccessfully to save the VIA line, which they feel is more economically feasible than a bus.

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