

York day-care faces subsidy shortages

Private day-care centres throughout the region may be forced to shut down if York doesn't buy more subsidy spaces from private centres, said a Woodbridge day care centre operator last Thursday.

Mary Gabriele-Skelley, of St. John Basco school in Woodbridge, told regional officials that "verbal commitments" from regional staff at the time centres were built suggested the schools would be full of children.

But now that York Region has placed a freeze on subsidized day care due to lack of provincial funding, the centres "are in financial difficulties," Mrs. Gabriele-Skelley said.

"We may be forced to close (many of the centres) which will deny families needing subsidy," she added.

Many parents and their children attended the meeting and held up yellow "Save our Spaces" signs in children's handwriting to oppose the freeze.

Mrs. Gabriele-Skelley represents operators at several private-owned day care centres and urged officials to set up a formal committee, made up of parents, regional staff and politicians to investigate the problem.

Meanwhile, York's Community Services Commissioner Peter Crichton told officials it would cost taxpayers about \$77,000 annually for 195 additional spaces (to reach its space purchasing goal of 1,443 spaces) but added the Child Services budget is already operating at a \$70,000 annual deficit.

Currently there are 500 children waiting for subsidy to attend day care centres, but the region has fallen short on its goal of purchasing 1,443 spaces.

Markham Councillor Frank Scarpitti said the problem "indicates we need to seriously review this whole process. We should know by a more formal process what status we're in," Councillor Scarpitti said.

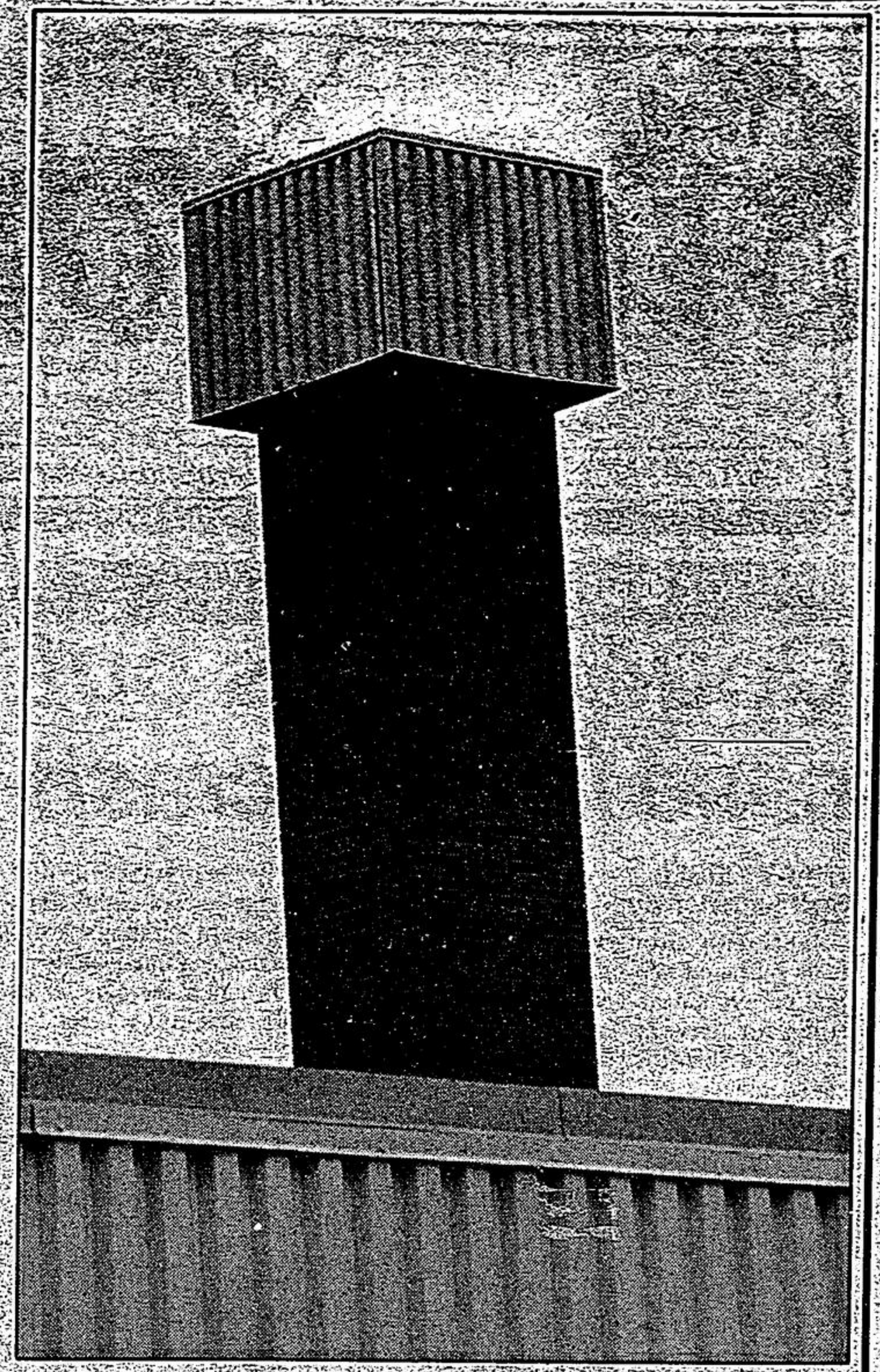
Mr. Crichton said in a report that of the 6,906 licensed daycare spaces in York Region's centres and private facilities, 1,248 are subsidized.

The Region could purchase a maximum of 25 per cent of a centre's spaces for subsidy, but that figure is not guaranteed, Mr. Crichton said.

Council voted to have Mr. Crichton review the issue further and have the Community Services committee present a report in the new year.

Name that building

Can you name the building pictured at right? If so, then you're eligible to win a \$25 gift certificate redeemable at Kellington's family restaurant in Stouffville. Simply clip the photo out and identify the building, and drop it off at the Stouffville Tribune office at 6291 Main St. If your name is drawn at the end of the week with the correct identification, you win. Last week's winner was Muriel Hoover of R.R. 2 Markham, who correctly identified Buckingham Manor on Main Street in Stouffville. In the meantime, put your thinking caps on and play our weekly reader contest. It's the easy way to a meal ticket in Stouffville.



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Charges are stayed

From page 1
Chalet dinner at 7 p.m.

Melinda was pronounced dead 54 minutes later in Newmarket following the fatal crash.

The evening would be the beginning of a nightmare for the Wardley family.

Police say Mr. Damato, 23, of Uxbridge, later charged with making an unsafe turn by York Regional Police, tried to make a left-hand turn onto McCowan Road.

Another car, heading eastbound on Stouffville Road, struck his car and killed Melinda, who was in the passenger seat.

Severe head injuries took her life minutes after the collision, police said. Her sister received minor injuries.

York Regional Police Sgt. Norm Miles said the case can't be reopened and, even if Mr. Damato had been convicted, he would not have gone to jail. Instead, he could have received a fine from \$78.75 to \$2,000.

But Mrs. Wardley would like to see a stiffer punishment.

"I would like accountability stressing the seriousness of the matter," she said.

Sgt. Miles, meanwhile, says police are equally baffled.

"It's just as frustrating for the police. Officers spend a lot of time investigating motor vehicle fatalities more than people realize. It's not like on television. For any high profile case like this the paperwork takes days. Officers investigate skid patterns and do interviews and reconstruct the collision," Sgt. Miles said.

But Mrs. Wardley said her family now has to live with the fact that a driver, whose fatal judgment error at the wheel killed one woman and injured three others, will not face the charge in a court of law.

"Our lives will never be the same. There are no Christmas lights up at my house," Mrs. Wardley said.

THE TOWN OF PICKERING

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
and
IN THE MATTER OF
THE LANDS AND PREMISES
MUNICIPALITY KNOWN AS
North Part of Lot 19, Concession 8, Claremont
IN THE TOWN OF PICKERING
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Pickering intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337:

Thompson House
North Part of Lot 19, Concession 8, Claremont

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Thompson House, built between 1845 and 1855, is one of the oldest remaining homes in Claremont. It is unique in its architecture and construction, yet represents the type of home typical of early rural settlers of modest means.

Complete documentation of the Thompson House is available for review in the Clerk's Department from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays.

TAKE NOTICE that any person or agency may appeal this Notice by filing with the Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Pickering a statement outlining the reasons for the objection within 30 days of the date of this Notice of Intention to Designate.

DATED at the Town of Pickering this 5th day of December 1990.

Kathryn McKay, AMCT, Deputy Clerk
Town of Pickering
One The Esplanade
Pickering, Ontario
L1V 6K7 420-4611

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Looking forward to everyone visiting us in the New Year