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York centre needs another \$16 million

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

York's multi-million dollar administrative centre still needs \$16 million worth of work before it's complete, a report to the region's management committee revealed last week.

The regional building, which is located at Eagle and Yonge Sts. in Newmarket will be open for business this fall and is expected to hold a \$63.5 million price tag.

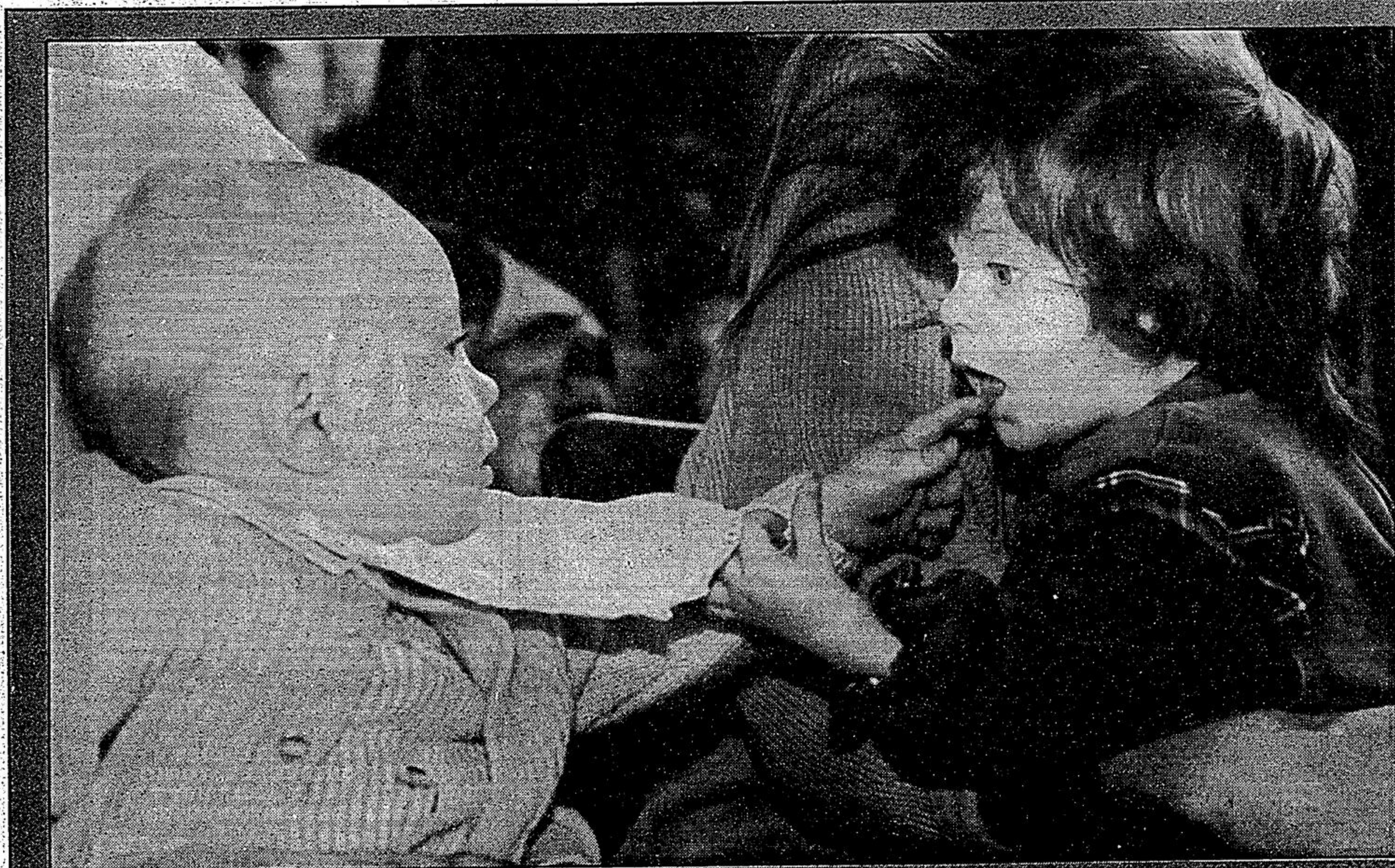
The latest cost summary shows the project budget has climbed to \$47 mil-

lion - leaving about \$16 million to complete the headquarters without going over its approved budget.

The headquarters will bring York's employees, the police and its new 911 emergency telephone system under one roof.

So far, the bulk of the \$40 million construction costs went to contractor fees, \$34.5 million and architect's fees, \$3.4 million.

The region is also expected to spend \$1.4 million in furnishings and equipment.



How do you do?

Harrison Long and Molly Shannon get to know one another better during the Claremont Winter Carnival Baby Contest judging Sunday at the Claremont Community Centre. Molly won her age category (6-9 mos.), as did Patrick Garrett (3-6 mos.), Brenden Carruthers (9-12 mos.), Emily Harper (12-18 mos.) and Emily Uzzell (18 mos. and over).

Service swap may see taxes rise 17 to 20%

York homeowners could be faced with a 17 to 20 per cent tax hike in 1994 if Queen's Park goes ahead with plans to swap services with the region.

The province has offered to take over 100 per cent of welfare costs, which totalled more than \$60 million in York last year. The region currently pays 20 per cent of the welfare tab - a \$9.5 million expenditure last year.

In turn, York Region will be expected to take over the maintenance and repair of an additional 81 kilometres of roads, currently under provincial jurisdiction.

The highway transfer plan will increase the regional road system by about 20 per cent next year and will mean a \$75 million road construction tab by the year 2001, a regional staff report estimates.

York taxpayers can expect to spend from \$9.4 million to \$17.8 million every year for the next eight years if the plan goes through, York officials estimate.

Under the plan the region (Please See Page 3)

People

Choir's visit music to the ear for Franchot Franklin

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A Special Evening of Song at Markham Theatre, featuring the Canadian Male Orpheus Choir, represents the first appearance in York Region of one of the country's foremost choral groups.

Organizer Franchot Franklin explained that the event came about through a chance encounter at the engineering firm where he works.

"I heard my co-worker singing and humming away, so I was kidding him about it and he told me about this group he was a member of," said the

Stouffville resident.

"I told him I hadn't heard of it, and the following day he brought me in a tape. I listened to it and I was awestruck. The strength of the music and the harmony was just wonderful."

When he learned that the Orpheus Choir had performed internationally and had raised thousands of dollars for charity, Franklin, who is on the advisory board of Christ Church Anglican, asked his colleague if they would be willing to perform at a fund-raiser for the church.

"He said they had never been

to Stouffville or anywhere else in York Region, and he gave me information about who to contact. I presented the idea to the board and they were all very supportive."

It soon became clear that there was no suitable venue in Stouffville for a choir comprised of more than 100 members, so Franklin contacted Markham Theatre and arranged for representatives from the chorus to visit the facility.

"They were totally delighted with the setting and the acoustics and they're really looking

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Franchot Franklin and family, seated left to right, Jermain, Hope, Jessica and Julian.