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Signy Lawson
MONEY CONCEPTS
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FOOD
 Low-fat options,
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Public banned from municipal building

■ *Safety concerns force closure of hall to residents*

JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Reporter

Serious safety concerns linked to the Whitchurch-Stouffville municipal building means there will be no more public meetings in the hall, local council decided in an emergency meeting Friday.

While town staff will continue to work out of the building, public meetings will shift to the Christian Blind Mission on Stouffville Road. This includes the May 26 evening meeting dealing with the Secondary Plan.

Local council meetings slated for May 27, June 9 and June 23 will also be at the Blind Mission.

The number of people attending recent council meetings "exceeds" the fire regulations, reported town clerk Michele Kennedy.

A report of a compliance audit carried out by Sirman

Associates Ltd., stipulates that the repair bill for the Civic Avenue building would range from between \$468,000 and \$701,000.

Parts of the building pose fire hazards, Sirman Associates reported.

The consultant recommends that the town develop procedures for "fire, bomb threat and any other condi-

tions that would involve the safe exit of employees from the premises."

Local fire chief Bob Brown said, "There's so many problems, it's hard to know where to start."

Brown said some of the repairs will be carried out immediately. The safety issue has been discussed for

■ Please see page 4 ■

Councillors ponder local prison option

Individual members of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council have two weeks to decide if they want a 1,200-inmate prison in their neighborhood.

While most municipal councils in York and Durham are rejecting the idea of housing a correctional institute, last Tuesday, Mayor Wayne Emmerson asked the councillors to think about the proposal which is being circulated by the Ministry of Solicitor General and Correctional Services.

Emmerson said the municipality does not, at this time, have the services (sewer) to accommodate such a facility. "But, I'm giving the councillors a chance to review it," he said.

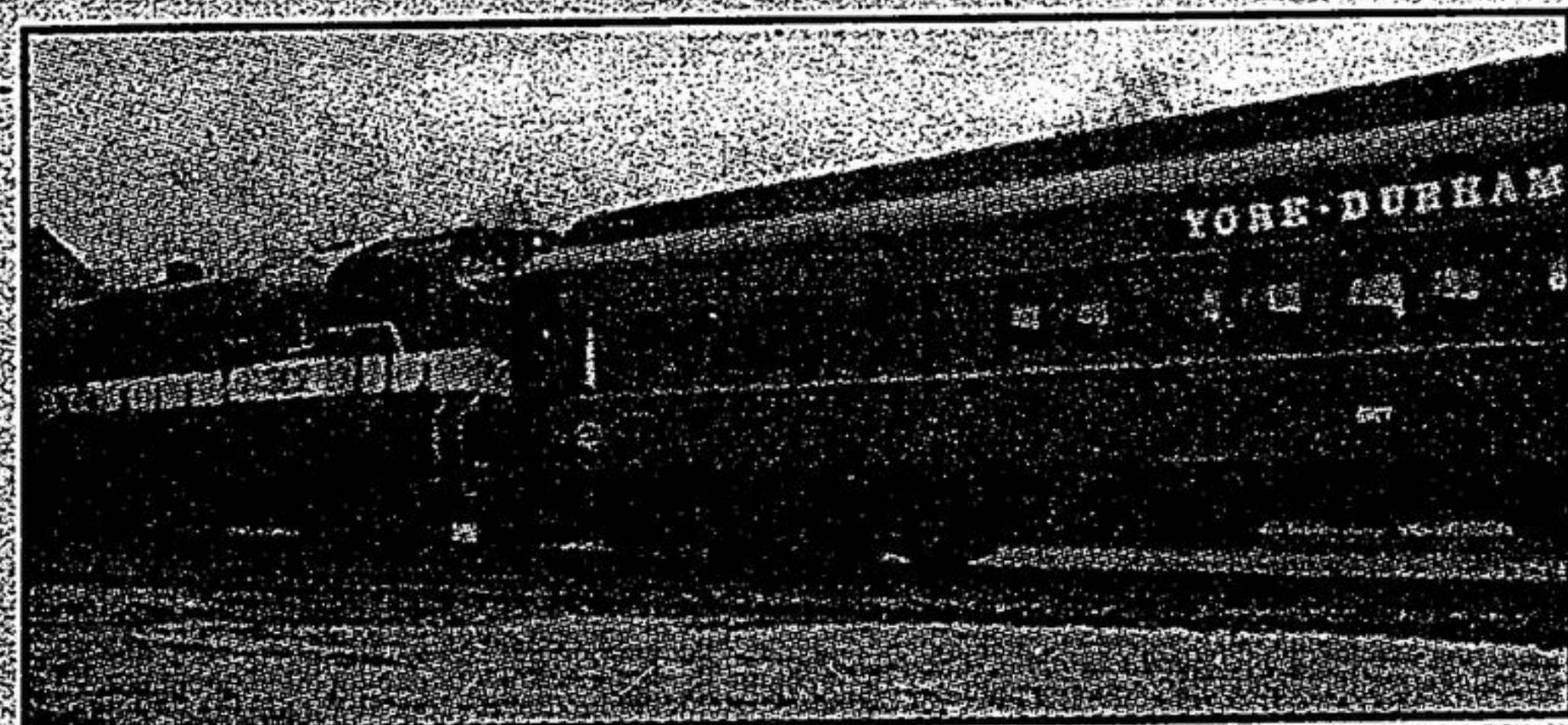
The province plans to build two large jails in this part of Ontario by 1999.

Councillors are to bring their answers to the next council meeting on May 27. The ministry has invited responses from the municipalities by June 4.

—Joan Ransberry



All aboard!



TRAIN'S ON TIME: The York Durham Heritage Railway set off Saturday, launching its summer season that will last until mid-October. Top, taking a trip on the maiden voyage of 1997 are Sean and Neil Poulter who are getting a helping hand from conductor Brad Lawrence. Above, the tourist train travels the tracks between Stouffville and Uxbridge.

Photos by SCHERYL JOHNSON



News you can use

The New Democratic Party remains in the lead in the Stouffville

cookie election. So far 354 NDP cookies have been sold at Heritage Ice Cream Parlour and Bakery. The conservatives have been snacking to the tune of 285 cookies while the Reformers are in third place with 230 cookies. Lagging behind are the Liberals with a cookie tally of 155.

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