

# Dywallers holding business 'hostage' claims builder

Local builders say they feel intimidated and upset by a drywallers' union that has stopped York Region home construction.

And they agree politicians must act to force a quick end to the strike, which began May 1. Jeff Silverberg, president of Edgeport Home Corporation said yesterday.

The union for the drywallers, whose tie vote this week rejected going to final arbitration, "is out of control," charged the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association, noting less than 20 per cent of members voted. The local votes again Tuesday.

Silverberg, who has 50 homes stalled at the drywall stage in Richmond Hill, said offers already rejected by the union have been too generous.

David Fine of Meadowbrook Homes agreed. "Every three years they hold you hostage," he said.


Meanwhile, many families waiting to move into homes are in a "traumatic" situation, said builders' spokesperson Kelly Patcher.

"One guy was telling me he's going to have to live in his van."

-Mike Adler



M&M Meat Shop in Markham participated in the Company's Annual Charity Burger Day last Saturday for the Crohns & Colitis Foundation. At the grill: Pat McGouran, Paul Fournier, Mark Fournier, Leanne McKinzey, Mark Arsneau.




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## TOWN OF MARKHAM DELAY IN ISSUING 1998 FINAL PROPERTY TAX BILLS

### New Assessment and Taxation Legislation

As part of the new assessment and taxation legislation introduced by the Province of Ontario for 1998, York Region Council was granted several new responsibilities. These responsibilities include making policy decisions in the areas of phase-in programs, treatment of charities, tax assistance for seniors and disabled, and a number of policies affecting the taxation of business properties. Council for the Town of Markham is responsible for setting the tax ratios and rates.

### Delay in Setting Tax Policies and Tax Rates

It was anticipated that the policies related to phase-in and the taxation of businesses would be established by the end of May in order to allow Markham Council to set the tax rates in preparation for the 1998 final billing. New legislation is still being introduced by the Province which will have an impact on the decisions to be made at the York Region and Markham levels. As a result, it is not anticipated that these policies and the tax rates will be finalized until mid-July.

### Delay in 1998 Final Property Tax Billing

This is not a normal tax year. Provided there is no further legislation introduced by the Province, the Town of Markham is anticipating that the 1998 final tax bills will be mailed in mid-August with due dates in September, October, and November. Property owners are advised to make the necessary financial preparations because the tax due will be closer together this fall.

This is for 1998 only. In 1999, the normal schedule of tax billing will resume. Bills will be issued in January and June with payment dates in February, March, April, July, August, and September.

### Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Plan Users

Those taxpayers on the pre-authorized payment plan will continue to have withdrawals on the first business day of each month until the 1998 final property tax bills have been issued. Once the 1998 final tax bills have been generated, we will recalculate your 1998/99 monthly pre-authorized payment and advise you accordingly.

### Assistance for Seniors, Disabled Persons and Charities

The programs to assist seniors, disabled persons, and charities will not be implemented until the fall of 1998. The Tax Department has been recording the names and addresses of those people/groups interested in receiving information about these programs once they have been established by York Region. If you would like to be added to the list, please contact our office at (905) 475-4864.



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