

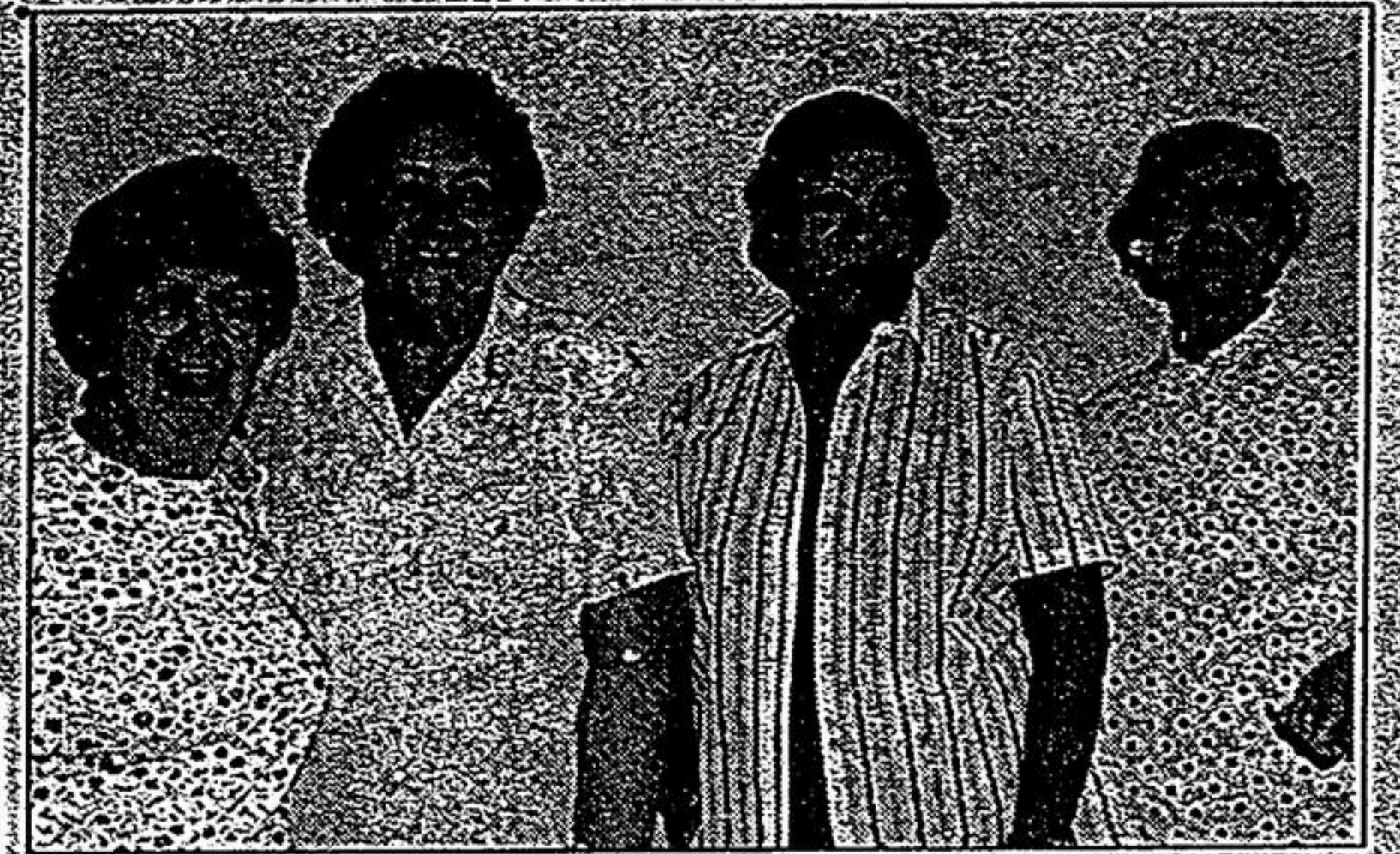
PEOPLE: Many York Region seniors say they're struggling to make ends meet, month after month

Giving in one hand, taking from another

BY DAWN LIERSCH
Staff Writer

Roy Law is dusting off his walking shoes, preparing to travel by foot for the next little while.
When his car conked out recently, he had no choice but to feed it to the wrecking ball. Living on a fixed income, the Richmond Hill senior can't afford to buy another vehicle.
"I can afford to buy a car, but not a decent vehicle. It's not worth it. I guess I'll just be walking a lot," he said.
"I would like to see a tax break for the older person. There

are a lot of people struggling."
According to a new report from the National Council on Welfare, Law is not alone; many seniors in Canada are struggling to make ends meet.
The report says there are 600,000 poor seniors in Canada, representing about 17 per cent of those 65 and older.
The hardest hit, according to the report, are single seniors, particularly women, living on their own.
June Padley, a senior who is on the advisory board of the Newmarket Seniors Meeting Place and who volunteers at the centre, says she has seen the struggle first hand.



STAFF PHOTO/DAWN LIERSCH

Markham residents, from left, Terry Needham, Barbara Miller, Joan Gomes and Irene Lusty talk about life as a senior in York Region.

"You know by the way they spend their money," she said. They're not crying poor, but they'll say, "Oh, no, I can't afford it if a bus trip is a little higher than the norm."
Padley points out there are perks to being a senior, such as exemption from bank charges, free coffee refills at some restaurants and reduced rates for theatre and airline tickets, hotels and at some businesses.
But paying taxes on your pension once you start drawing from it can be a real drain on resources, she stressed.
"They give it to us in one hand and take it back in another," she said.
"All our lives, we've worked hard and paid our bills... and for someone to say, 'We're taking this away from you,' it's disheartening."
Markham senior Joan Gomes would prefer money over seniors' discounts.

"They give us passes for buses and subways that are of no use to me. If they gave us money, we could spend it on whatever we want," she said.
The Council on Welfare report suggests the federal government could find the \$1.5 billion needed to raise the incomes of poor seniors to the poverty line, by converting tax deductions for RRSPs to tax credits.
"People have money invested in RRSPs and they can't cash it in because it cuts into their income. A tax credit would not take away from your income," Law said.
"There are some people who only have their pension to live on. At the end of the month — during that last week before their pension comes in — they're really skimping."
Gomes noted some seniors are then forced to move away from family to find a home they can afford.
One single woman at the Newmarket seniors' centre, who refused to give her name, said the tax burden has forced her to sell her home and live with her daughter. While she doesn't mind the arrangement, she admits she is disappointed she isn't financially able to go it alone.
"We enjoy each other's company and I still have my independence. She (her daughter) understands and lets me come and go as I please," the woman said.
"But it is harder for a single person to make ends meet."
Barbara Miller, a Markham senior and widow, suggested the government has focused more on extracting money from seniors than helping them.
"They keep you in poverty," she said.
"They give you a pension and then take it away at tax time... I'm thinking of going back into the workforce."
Christine Tomaselli, the communications co-ordinator with York Region's Community Care Access Centre, said the report wasn't surprising. But she points out that future seniors may have an easier time.
"With more women working, they'll be eligible for Canada Pension Plan benefits later in life," Tomaselli said.
She added the centre, 1-888-470-2222, can link seniors with social services in York.

SKI & SNOWBOARD LIQUIDATION

SHORT NOTICE

DUE TO NEW 2000 PRODUCT ARRIVING, WE ARE OFFERING EXISTING INVENTORY AT LIQUIDATION PRICES. MANY ITEMS AT OR BELOW COST!
FINAL SALE ON ALL ITEMS. LIMITED SIZES AND QUANTITIES.

Some Examples:	
SKIS:	Atomic Beta Race 9.28, Volant Superkarve I-MSL upto \$949 \$479.98
	Atomic Mega Carry 7 6.24 Volki Carver Access-MSL upto \$530 \$249.98
SKI BOOTS:	Nordica GP C-Xtreme & Next 6.0 Tecnica TR-MSL upto \$850 \$299.98
	Dalbelto MIX 58L, Nordica Next 57, Rossignol STX-MSL upto \$550 \$179.98 or less
SKI BINDINGS:	Marker M51 EPS, Tyrolia TD9, Rossignol FT 100-MSL upto \$250 \$149.98
	Tyrolia T7, Rossignol FD 65 CUT, Marker MA 1-MSL upto \$200 \$99.98 or less
SNOWBOARDS:	Elan Seth Miller, Limited All Around - MSL upto \$575 \$299.98
	Ride Timeless, Option Signature, Limited Transition-MSL upto \$700 \$399.98
Blowout prices on remaining snowboard boots & bindings	
All ski and snowboard wear 50-70% OFF	

PLUS SUMMER PRODUCT CLEARANCE

Sale runs: Thurs. 10-9, Fri. 10-10, Sat. 10-9, Sun. 11:30-5:30

FIREHALL SPORTS
Unionville 170 Main Street • (905) 479-0442

global pet food

SAVE 15% OFF ALL ACCESSORIES ALL YEAR ROUND!

Only With **ECONOMIST & SUN**
294-2200 FOR MORE INFORMATION

OROMART Summer Sale

70% off most items...

Enjoy big savings storewide and no tax to pay!

Shop early for best selection. Supplies are limited.

GYMNASTICS

AT **ACADEMY OF SPORT & FITNESS**
"HOME OF PROVINCIAL & NATIONAL CHAMPIONS"

1500 sq. ft. Facility

Centrally Located to Serve the Markham Area

FALL PROGRAMS

- Full range of competitive programs
- Special group rates (brownies, pre-schools etc.)
- Recreational gymnastics & dance gym - evenings & weekends
- Pre-school gymnastics - days, evenings & weekends
- Sport specific training (flexibility/conditioning for skating, hockey etc.)
- Acro for dance
- **Birthday parties**

NEW! Art Lessons (painting, drawing & cartooning)

Tae Kwon Do / Karate Programs conducted by Canada's Ultimate Martial Arts Leader **SAMURAI CLUB - IMPACT**

OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, September 15, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
905-780-0913
40 VOGELL RD., UNIT #31
(North Off 16th Avenue, 1 stop light west of Hwy. 404)

Seiko Watches
\$99⁹⁹
SALE PRICE from \$149⁹⁹ With leather band

Princess Emerald & Diamond
Ring \$149⁹⁹ Earring \$199⁹⁹
Compare at \$499.00 Compare at \$799.00

Diamond Cluster Ring
\$699
Compare at \$2,600.00

Exquisite one carat
Sale ends Sept. 6, 1999

OROMART
The Jewellery Outlet Store
Cookstown Outlet Mall Hwy 404 & 89
705 458-0640

Dr. Estralita McCarthy & Dr. Carolyn Wong
are pleased to announce the opening of their new optometric practice at the Markville Shopping Centre, 2nd level by Sears.
Call (905) 940-1013 (for appointments)
NEW PATIENTS AND WALK-INS WELCOME