

Concrete truckers cement a deal

Eight-week strike delayed thousands of new homes

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

Concrete truck drivers were back on the job yesterday after an eight-week strike that left thousands of homeowners in the lurch.

And while many were relieved to hear the strike was over, they still face long delays before moving in and thousands of dollars in unexpected expenses.

"We've had to rent a short-term accommodation starting in July and going into September or even later than that," said Omar Ariburnu, 29, who was supposed to move into his new Markham home in the Kennedy Road and 14th Avenue-Maplewood development June 15.

"It's huge," agreed Richard Lyall, executive director of the Metro Toronto Apartment Builders Association and the Toronto Residential Construction Labour Bureau.

He's spent time crunching numbers trying to get a sense of what the GTA-wide strike really cost.

Housing starts are down 28.4 per cent from April to May, which translates into about 29,000 homes. The Toronto-

area unrest reduced housing starts across Canada by 10 per cent.

"Builders will be able to catch up on some things — but some things are gone forever," Lyall said. "If we lose 4,000 housing starts at a conservative \$200,000 each, that's \$800 million — close to a billion dollars."

Include delays on the Toronto subway construction and renovations at Pearson International Airport at "\$30 or \$40 million each" and the figure is well over \$1 billion, Lyall said.

Drivers agreed to an interim deal Friday after being told by Ministry of Labour officials they could be legislated back to work.

Both sides — four Ready Mix Cement companies and about 600 full and part-time drivers — must continue to work out the thornier issues within 60 days. If not, they will go to binding arbitration.

Teamsters local 230 is demanding all drivers, including new employees, be paid at the same rate to discourage companies from denying more experienced drivers jobs or overtime in order to save money.

The interim agreement calls for new drivers to be paid \$5 less an hour.

Daniels Corporation is looking at hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue, said senior vice-president of design Tom Dutton at a press conference last week.

ECONOMIST & SUN Stouffville Tribune

Plan to Visit the 5th Annual Art in the Park



July 15th and 16th

Now at the Markham Museum



If you are a fine artist or musician interested in participating at the show, please call Sara at (905) 294-2200



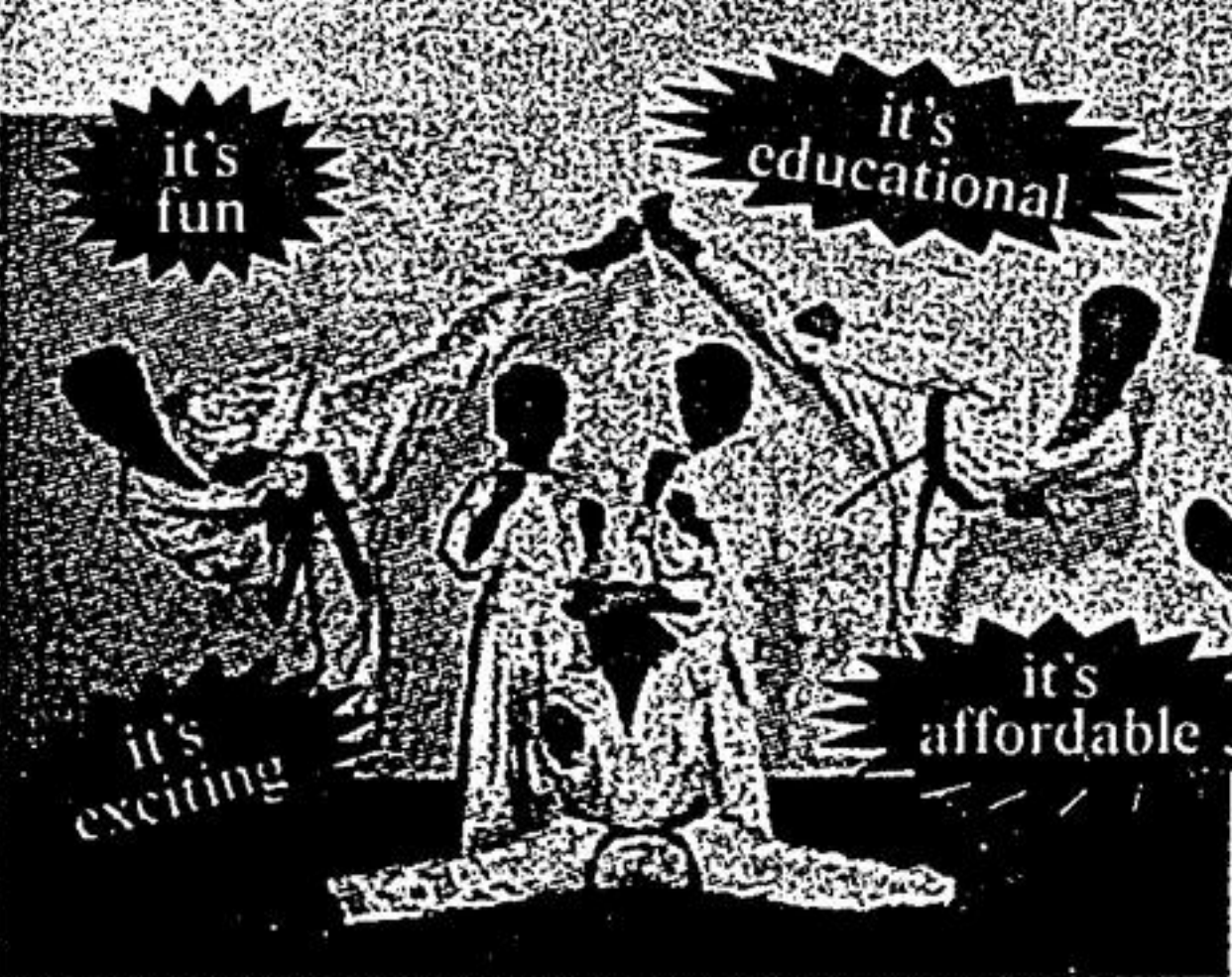
Full admission to Fine Art Show and Sale as well as the Markham Museum 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
\$5 Adults \$3 Children & Seniors

Sponsored by:



SEONG'S TAEKWONDO ACADEMY

Official Medal Event at the 2000 Sydney Olympics



50% OFF

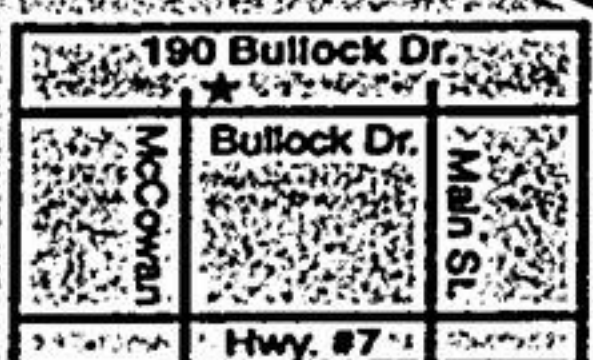
- Discipline
- Courtesy (Respect)
- Self-Control
- Self-Esteem
- Self-Confidence
- Perseverance
- (Patience)
- Integrity
- Concentration
- Personality
- Motivation
- Stress Relief
- Fitness

SUMMER SPECIAL
(FREE UNIFORM - First 30 New Members Only)



www.taekwon.com

(905) 294-1884



FREE TRIAL CLASSES



Windows installed from as low as

\$249

So much

Hinges

on your home's

Doors and Windows



Improve the look & value of your home and increase your family's comfort and security.

We offer a wide selection of quality energy efficient windows and doors at competitive prices.

OntarioHydro energy™

Your one stop source for home essentials.

- Easy to Clean
- Maintenance Free
- Easy to Afford
- Energy Saving
- Professional Installation
- Lifetime Warranty

PLUS! NO PAYMENTS UNTIL JANUARY 2001 (O.A.C. with financing option)

Call today for a free estimate!

1-800-664-3377

Ontario Hydro Energy Inc. OFFER NP106