

Bereaved Families of Ontario (905)
York Region 898-6265
 An Association of families who have experienced the death of a loved one. bfoyr@bellnet.ca
 www.bfoyr.com

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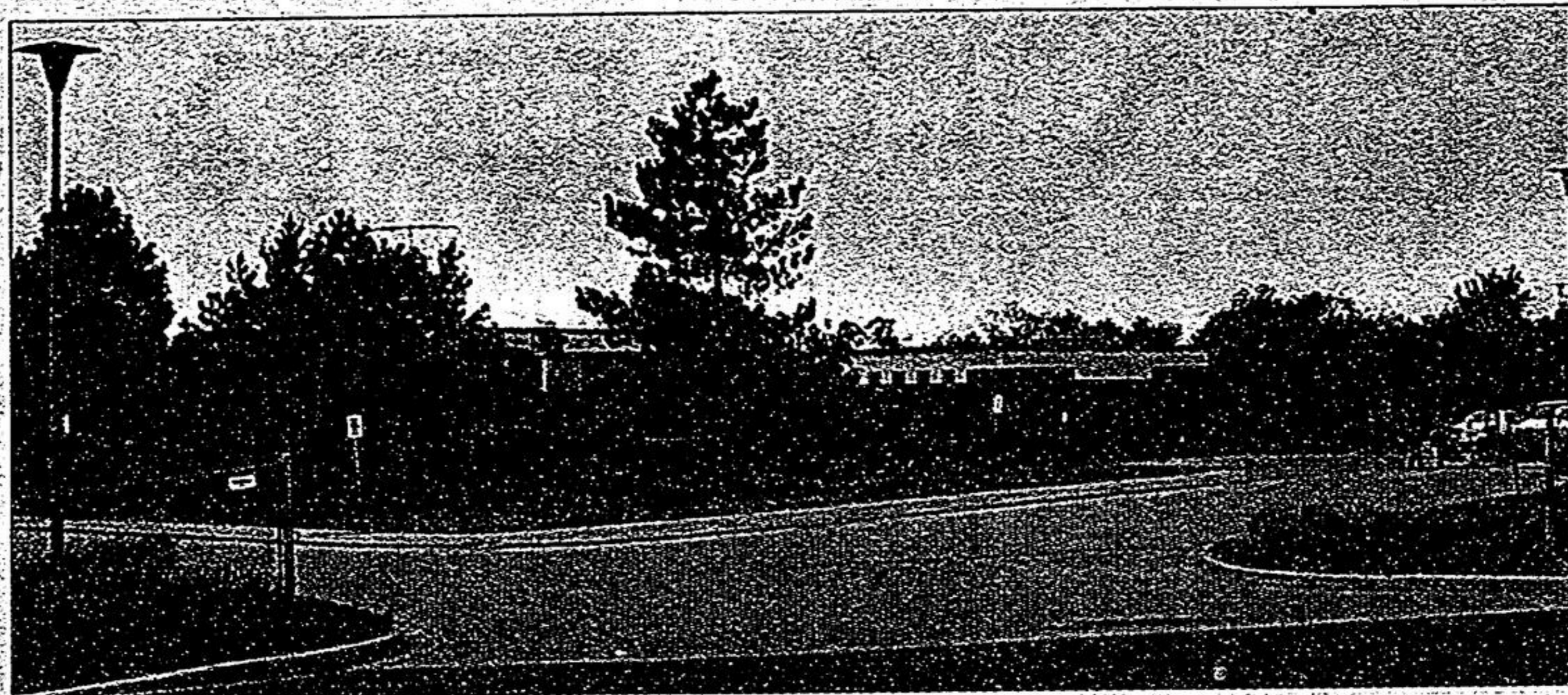
Revised routes/schedules

Starting July 1, 2007, YRT is revising select bus schedules and routes within the Town of Markham.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Route 1 - Highway 7 | Route 2a - 14th Avenue |
| Route 8 - Kennedy | Route 9/9A - Stouffville Local |
| Route 40 - Unionville Local | Route 41 - Markham Local |
| Route 301 - Markham Express | Route 302 - Unionville Express |

For more information, call YRT/Viva at 1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978) or visit the YRT/Viva website at www.yrt.ca

York, connected.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Whitchurch Highlands Public School had classrooms without walls when it opened in 1968. Students will attend Orchard Park Public while it is demolished a new facility built on the site.

'New age' school to be replaced

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
 Staff Writer

The life of Whitchurch Highlands Public School, a "new age" school when it opened in 1968, is likely coming to a close.

When it was built, pods or classrooms without walls were the latest fashion. The gym is in the middle of the school with classrooms surrounding it.

It is one of nine York Region public schools being reviewed for replacement.

If it is approved in the fall, a new school should open in 2009 on the same site at Bloomington Road and Warden Avenue.

During construction, the 300 or so students will attend Orchard Park Public School in Stouffville.

"Parents requested that of the board, that all students be kept together," principal Arnis Pukitis said.

Orchard Park will be empty in 2008, with its students heading off to schools on two new sites in

Stouffville.

A school is considered for replacement if the cost to repair it is more than 65 per cent of the cost of a new building, public board spokesperson Lucia Cascioli said.

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A feasibility study is in progress and the new school will be much more energy-efficient, she added.

"It was one of the first open-concept schools," former public board chairperson and trustee

Harry Bowes recalled.

The guest speaker at Whitchurch Highlands Public School's opening was the late Elwy Yost, who hosted Saturday Night at the Movies for many years on TVO, Mr. Bowes said.

In the late 1960s and into the '70s, children could move freely between classrooms. Walls between classes didn't go up until around 10 years ago, Mr. Pukitis said.

The acoustics were so good at the school, children in adjacent pods couldn't hear other classes, said Marilyn Newton, whose father, Wes Brillinger, was chairperson of the board at the time.

Ample grounds surrounding the school made the site ideal for environmental innovations, which include two outdoor classrooms and natural areas.

Updates on school replacements are available by checking out www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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