



Men and machines slowly win battle against winter's worst storm

It was a tough struggle but we made it. That's what road maintenance crews are saying today. On Sunday morning, however, when this picture was taken, the situation was very much in doubt. Stranded cars, located everywhere, made snow removal all the

more difficult. This scene is on the Stouffville-Gormley Road, west of Ringwood. It was completely blocked, Saturday night, but opened to one-way traffic by Sunday noon.

—Jas. Thomas.

Century City

Farmers rally forces prepare court action against developers

We've waited long enough' — chairman

GOODWOOD - Like an exasperated general attempting to rally the ranks of a disorganized army, Grant Drewery, pre-appointed committee chairman, pleaded for total co-operation in facing, what he termed 'a very troublesome situation'. His remarks, Feb. 11, were directed to 42 mortgage-holders, assembled in the township hall at Goodwood. All were present for the same purpose, to win a release of interest and principle payments, dating back to May, 1970.

While one speaker in the audience, ex-reeve Earl Dowswell, felt the farmer's fight was with the government and not Century City Developments Limited, the majority, including some members of council, held an opposite view.

"Whether Century City comes to Uxbridge Township or not," commented councillor Frank Hendy, "they owe you the money and should pay it to you right now".

The majority also felt that through the formation of a Century City Mortgage-Holders Association, a much stronger 'test case' could be prepared for the courts.

"Let's get the ball rolling so someone, either Century City or the Provincial Government will get off their rear ends," said Tom Layoie, Goodwood, R.R. 1. "We've waited long enough,"

agreed chairman Drewery. "United, you will go some place, but divided, you'll go no place," said Reeve Bob Nesbitt.

In the vote that followed, the result in favor of the association was 37 to 5.

Members include - Grant Drewery, Harry Harper, Donald Hope, John Hulshof, Sidney Mason, John Spang, Norman Tapscott and Frank Vivian. The membership fee was set at \$10.

Grant Hill wanted to know the feeling of council with regard to the development. He suggested that some members had earlier opposed the project and he wondered if this opinion had changed.

Reeve Nesbitt admitted that initially he had opposed the venture, mainly because the promoters wished to separate the 'city' from the rest of the municipality as an 'improvement district'.

Councillor Hendy, referring to his nomination notes of Nov. 1969, said that, in principle, Century City could prove a benefit to Uxbridge. He denied that council was responsible in any way for its delay.

While solicitors Donald Hindson of Markham and Gordon Ness of Stouffville were present at the meeting and spoke briefly, Mr. Drewery said the committee had reached no conclusion concerning the selection of legal counsel.

Recommends public protest

GOODWOOD - The farmer's fight should not be with the developers but with Queen's Park, ex-reeve and County warden Earl Dowswell told a mortgage-holders' meeting in Goodwood, Feb. 10.

He suggested that court action against the Century City firm could be a prolonged and costly affair. Even if successful, he said, the end result could be the return of all properties to the original owners, something he personally opposed.

"Let's hire a bus and take our protest to the government," he said, "perhaps, in this way, we can bring them to their senses".

Mr. Dowswell argued that if Century City did not proceed, the farmers would never receive their mortgage money or back interest.

Bus costs hiked 25%

YORK REGION - The York Separate School Board is viewing with concern, the 25 per cent increase in student transportation costs, charged by bus companies within the Region.

Members fear that a monopoly has been created, whereby an 'agreed' figure has been established. They are calling for a complete investigation into the matter. They are also asking for a Province-wide system of tendering to bypass regional boundaries and combinations of companies.

Commuter service study is approved

STOUFFVILLE - Member of Parliament, John Roberts (York-Simcoe) has announced the introduction of a study, at the federal, provincial and metro levels of government, to ascertain the feasibility of a rail commuter service out of Toronto.

Present lines would be utilized, Mr. Roberts said, including the C.N.R. right-of-way

into Stouffville. Mr. Roberts told The Tribune he had discussed the matter with Ministers Donald Jamieson (Dept. of Transport) and Robert Andros (Dept. of Urban Affairs). On the basis of information received, he raised the question in the House.

Mr. Roberts contacted The Tribune, Friday, from his Ottawa office.

Kin fun day

STOUFFVILLE - This Sunday is 'fun day' for the whole family on the Bruce Harper farm, O'Brien Avenue South, Stouffville.

Activities, to include snowmobile races, rides for the kiddies and a lucky draw on a 1971 Ski-doo, are sponsored by the Stouffville Kinsmen Club.

Events begin at 12.30 p.m. Refreshments will be served on the grounds.

Life threatened

GORMLEY - A Gormley area woman, testifying before Judge Russell G. Pearse, told how her husband had thrown several knives at her and threatened to cut her throat.

Susan Kemp, Gormley, R.R. 2, appeared with her husband Robert in Richmond Hill Court, Feb. 4.

The accused admitted the threat.

Judge Pearse permitted his release on \$500 bail, but ordered the couple to stay away from each other pending an appearance in Family Court, Newmarket.

Crawls mile in storm

MT. ZION - There are hundreds of stories to be told out of Saturday's storm, but none are more frightening than the experiences of Mrs. Tom Davis, conc. 8, Pickering.

She crawled home, a distance of 1 1/4 miles, on her hands and knees.

Mrs. Davis is a school teacher in Oshawa.

She was returning from an afternoon shopping trip, but could get no further than Balsam. She started out to walk but was soon bogged down in waist-deep drifts. Almost frozen and weak with exhaustion, she luckily found an unlocked car, with blankets and a coat inside. She remained there two hours, then walked the rest of the way, arriving home at 12.30 a.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis reside on the former Jack Empringham property, R.R. 1, Ashburn.

Hit by train

VANDORF - Two residents of King Township miraculously escaped serious injury Monday, when their late-model car collided with a south-bound freight train at an unmarked crossing on a private road.

Police said Jean and Walter Bick were returning from Slater's Pool at the time of the mishap.

The couple were taken to York County Hospital by Newmarket ambulance. Mrs. Bick was treated for lacerations and released. Her husband suffered head injuries.

Private roads - keep out

STOUFFVILLE - Individuals living in homes on private roads can't expect the Town to plow their lanes and drives, Whitchurch-Stouffville council agreed, Feb. 9.

By a vote of 4 to 1, members rejected a request by a Stouffville area man who asked the municipality to clear his lane.

Albert Thomas, Stouffville, R.R. 3, explained there were several homes on the road and it was used extensively during the

summer months.

Mayor Ken Laushway said it would be difficult to operate equipment on a road of sub-standard width. He also noted that to plow one would result in similar requests throughout the Area.

The lone dissenting vote was cast by councillor June Button. She argued that people living in homes on private roads were entitled to the same kind of service accorded other taxpayers.

King mayor admits mistake

Wrong-way vote favors new police building site

YORK REGION - After three hours of intense debate, Regional Council has turned down a proposal to locate the new Regional Police Headquarters in the Office Specialties Building in Newmarket.

By a one vote majority, council decided not to act on a report from the engineering committee, recommending the purchase of the 22 year old site for \$252,000.

The tie-breaking vote was cast by King Mayor Ken MacTaggart who sided against the purchase by mistake.

Mr. MacTaggart told council he had misunderstood the motion on the floor and voted against the project when he actually had intended to vote for it.

But despite a note of caution from the Police Commission warning that a new building

would cost over \$1,000,000 and take at least a year to construct, councillors from the southern municipalities weren't convinced that the Office Specialties Building was a good site for the new headquarters.

Richmond Hill Councillor Gordon Rowe opposed the project commenting that the Office Specialties Building is 'in no way suitable for a Police Headquarters'.

He told council he had inspected the premises on 240 Prospect Street and found there was extensive roof damage. He was also critical of the lack of storage facilities and predicted the building would be difficult to heat.

"Why not construct a building with all the ingredients of a first class centre?" he asked, "let's get off on the right foot and build a headquarters with laboratories, garage facilities

and a rifle range". Richmond Hill councillor Don Plaxton was equally opposed to the project. We warned council that the purchase of the building would be a mistake that would be with us for many years to come."

"The acquisition of the building is a permanent thing", he said. "I'm afraid the argument that we could save \$1,000,000 doesn't impress me very much".

He suggested that the headquarters be located somewhere on a main artery in the vicinity of Oak Ridges. "It's very important that the headquarters be conveniently located for all parts of the Region".

"I've nothing against Oak Ridges as a possible location for the headquarters", said Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth. He described the location of the

Office Specialties Building on the corner of Prospect and Water as the 'worst intersection' he had ever seen anywhere.

"Why pay 1/4 of a million dollars for an old building on a poor site when we could have a building we could be proud of at a negligible extra cost?"

"We still don't know how much the building will cost with renovations. We're only borrowing trouble. Let's build for the future and get something for our money."

Debate grew heated as Donald Taylor of the Ontario Police Commission appealed to Council not to 'procrastinate over the choice of a site' by making it a 'political issue'.

"There is an emergency to get organized and we are very concerned about undue delay," he said, "we can't let the situation coast along. The men on the force are concerned about

their future."

"We're concerned about the undue influence of some people here today", fired back Mayor Illingworth. "Is it undue delay to ask for a period of 30 days so we can obtain estimates on the cost of a new building?"

Markham Councillor Jim Jongeneel agreed. He felt an initial cost of \$252,000 represented 'only the beginning'. "We have no idea how much renovations on the heating system and parking facilities will cost. There may not be much difference between the cost of a new building and an old one."

After an appeal from East Gwillimbury Mayor, Gladys Rolling, urging council not to leave the issue in a nebulous state, a motion was passed requesting the Police Commission to submit alternative sites.

Thrown out of bed by quake

STOUFFVILLE - It was terrible, just terrible, I'm never going back.

Those were the feelings of Mrs. Isabella Morrison, 86 of Tenth Line North, Stouffville. She was in Alhambra, California, ten miles out of Los Angeles, when the earthquake struck, Feb. 9, causing an estimated \$1 billion damage.

While L.A. took the full force of the shock, the impact was so severe in Alhambra that houses shook and windows were broken. Mrs. Morrison was thrown out of bed.

The initial tremor was felt about 6 a.m., and it lasted about two minutes. "It seemed like an hour," she said. While there was no noticeable damage to the exterior of the house, dishes and glassware were knocked from shelves and smashed.

Mrs. Morrison left Stouffville in January, planning to spend four months with her son and daughter-in-law in a warmer climate. The day following the quake however, she agreed to return home.

"Since I have a choice," she said, "I'll take the ice and snow".

No 'flashers' in 35 zones

YORK REGION - It's illegal for school bus drivers to utilize their vehicle's 'stop flashers' in zones of 35 miles per hour or less, according to a recent reply to the York Region Board of Education from the Minister of Transport, Irwin Haskett.

Board members requested clarification on the matter after some parents and drivers pointed to the risk involved.

In areas over 35 miles per hour, a stationary school bus with its red lights flashing, means that traffic in either direction must stop.

Mr. Haskett noted that in reduced speed zones, crossing aids are provided.

"It's obvious, the Minister has not seen too many of the 35 mile zones in York," commented a trustee.