

'FREEZE' 158,000 AIRPORT ACRES

Rural buildup banned Noise chief concern

STOUFFVILLE - Acting with surprising swiftness and without consultation with local municipalities, Queen's Park has imposed a 'freeze' on an estimated 158,000 acres of land, lying on four sides of the proposed international airport in Pickering Township.

In Whitchurch-Stouffville, the 'freeze' covers 30,000 acres, including parts of conc. 6 and 7 and all of conc. 8, 9 and 10, with a few minor exceptions. (See map Page 3).

Excluded are properties within the former village of Stouffville and an area south of Hwy. 47 to Ringwood; also the hamlet districts of Bloomington, Musselman's Lake, Ballantrae and Pine Orchard.

In Markham, the 'freeze'

covers 30,000 acres, including 4,000 acres of actual airport land; 10,600 acres in Uxbridge; 37,400 in Pickering and 50,000 acres in the Twp. of Scott.

Sixteen hundred acres of 'claimed' land in Uxbridge, is owned by Revenue Properties Limited.

Acting mayor Gordon Ratcliff of Whitchurch-Stouffville said the 'freeze' could work a considerable hardship in the municipality since buildup, particularly on estate lots, had been contemplated. He suggested, however, that it could spur residential growth in Stouffville. The 'sterile' zone, covers three-quarters of the Town; but does not curb buildings for agricultural purposes on 25 acres or more.

Mr. Ratcliff said he had no idea how long the restraining order might last, but suggested it could continue 'for two or three years'. He indicated that the move was made to halt mass land purchases for speculative purposes. He warned against such practices, calling it 'very risky'.

With respect to the direct effect of the airport on Whitchurch-Stouffville, councillor Ratcliff said his chief concern was 'noise'. He admitted that Stouffville, located between the prongs of four runways, was in a very vulnerable position in this regard.

District maps, as provided by Member Bill Hodgson, (York-North), showed takeoff and landing strips slanting north-west and due west. Two would extend between conc. 7, Pickering and the Uxbridge townline, while two others would stretch into Markham, north of 16th and 18th Avenues. The initial stage will include two runways and one terminal building. The completion date is tentatively set for early in 1979.

Government assistance promised

STOUFFVILLE - Hon. Darcy McKeough, Ontario Minister of Finance, has promised assistance to municipalities directly affected by the new airport plan.

In a statement made in the Legislature, Mr. McKeough said meetings would be held with each of the municipalities, to discuss the impact of the airport, and to consider changes that will be required in their development policies.

Experienced staff will be made available to assist in making these necessary adjustments, Mr. McKeough said. Special attention will be given to those situations where high noise levels are expected, where land use policies are inadequate or non-existent and in critical areas close to the airport.

Councillor Clark Muirhead

Claims Stouffville to be 'obliterated'

UXBRIDGE TWP. - Strong opinions were triggered by the word 'airport' at the Uxbridge Twp. council meeting, March 6.

Councillor Clark Muirhead, on studying the layout of the airport site and its flight paths, stated emphatically "Stouffville will be obliterated by this!"

Mr. Muirhead, who trained in aeronautical engineering, said that, regardless of assurances to the contrary, there was no way that Stouffville, smack-dab in the middle of converging flight paths, would not be consumed by noise. He added that he had been trying for a year to find some reason for the need of another airport, without success. He felt that the facilities at Malton, except for the passenger terminal, were adequate and added that London and other cities, larger than Toronto, were functioning successfully with one major airport.

Dep.-Reeve Don Jackson also expressed strong objections to the airport site and suggested 'starting at the top' of the Ministerial ladder in voicing opposition.

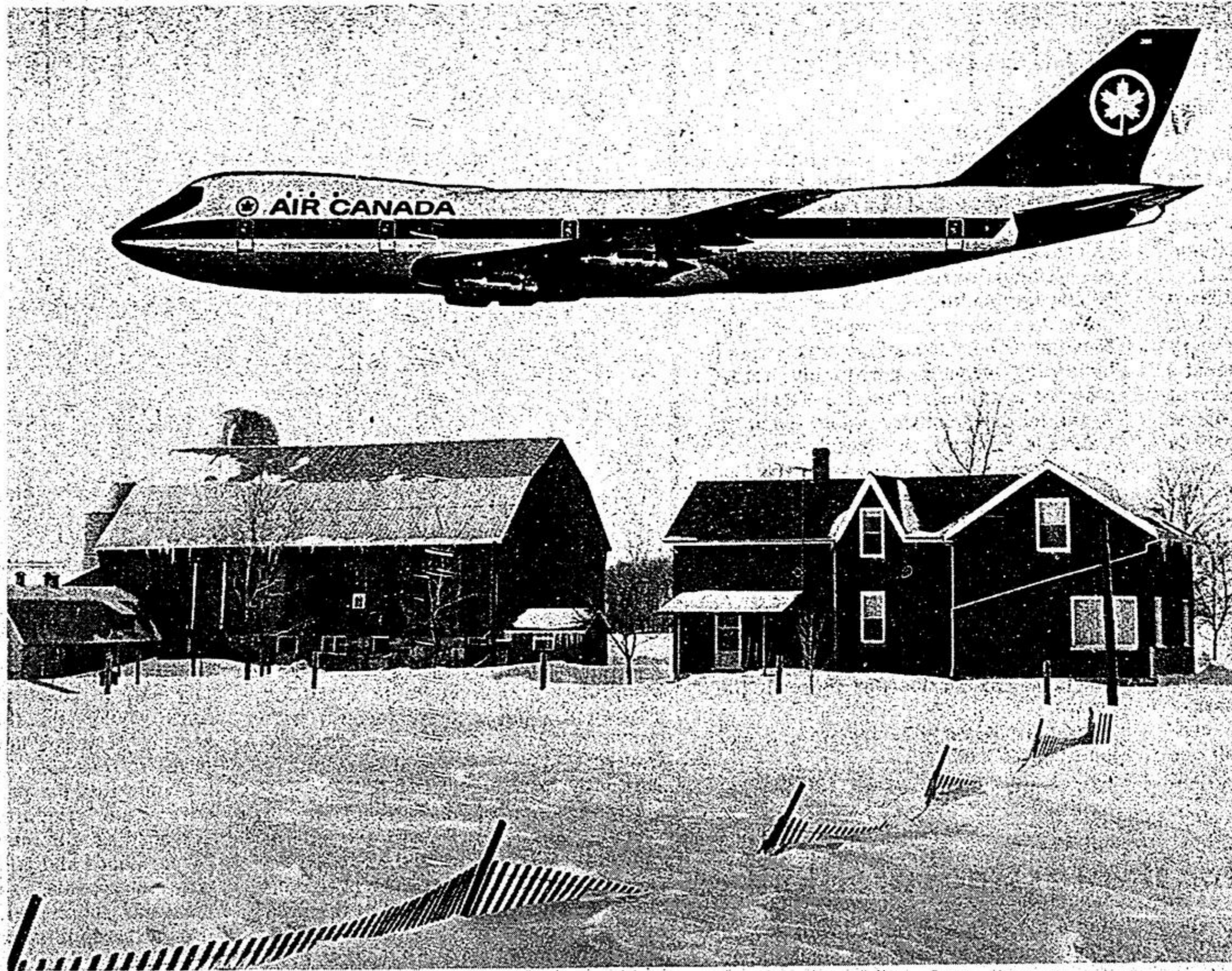
Councillor Hendy reminded council that he had always been

in favor of the airport for Ontario County and still is. He felt it would be a tremendous boost to the economy of the area and pointed out that people born there would at least have the opportunity of finding work, through the commerce the project would stimulate, without having to go further afield.

Councillor D'Arcy Higgins commented, "It doesn't matter where you put the airport, it will ruffle feathers". He prompted Council to consider the main concern - what direct and damaging effects the airport's proximity would have on Uxbridge Township.

One direct effect is a land freeze covering lots 1-25, Conc. 1 - except East 1/2 of Lot 1; Lots 2-14, Conc. 2 - except West 250 feet of Lot 6; Lots 1-11, Conc. 3; Lots 1-4, Conc. 4.

Within the 'freeze' zone, land use and building structures will be limited to agricultural purposes - including 1 single farm dwelling, used in connection with each agricultural operation; minimum frontage to be 600 feet; minimum Lot depth, 3 times the frontage; minimum front, side and rear yards, 50 feet.



Don't be alarmed; Air Canada has no 747 flights scheduled out of Pickering Township just yet. That phase of the project is still seven years away and the photo (above) is only a mock-up version of what

folks can expect to see, come 1979. Unfortunately, however, farm buildings, like those on the Allan Murray property, will have long since passed from the rural scene.

Metro line to stay at Steeles

YORK REGION - The north boundary of Metropolitan Toronto will not move. Rather, it will remain at Steeles Avenue. The announcement was made in the House, March 2, following persistent questioning by M.P.P., Bill Hodgson, York-North.

Mr. Hodgson's query as recorded follows:

Mr. Speaker - I would like to ask the Minister, with regard to his announcement, (the airport site), that since he has pretty well clarified where the eastern boundary of Metro is going to go, is he in a position to clarify the northern boundaries between Metro and the Region of York?

Hon. Darcy McKeough - I am pleased to clarify that it is the decision of the government that the northern boundary of Metro will remain at Steeles Avenue.

The decision will remove the concern held by many municipal government officials, that Metro might come as far north as Hwy. 7 or even the Stouffville - Gormley Road.

Airport a disaster - delegation spokesman

PICKERING TWP. - "It's a national disaster. It's a prime example of the inadequacies of our present government...to take up thousands of acres of good land - to take away its history. I think the people who made this choice are a monument to the stupidity of our governments."

These were the brief but explosive words of Jim Anderson, speaking on behalf of a huge delegation of people who vehemently protested the location of an airport in Pickering Township, at a council meeting, Monday.

Councillors had just returned from a conference with federal and provincial authorities. Dissatisfied with the answers, they unanimously passed a resolution opposing the location of the airport in Pickering Township, and opposing the



No trespassing signs are common in Pickering, but their intent was to keep out intruders on foot, rather than in flight. To some, one is no more welcome than the other.

method of implementing such a project.

Reeve John Williams declared that the whole plan was a shambles from beginning to end. There had been no real planning for this facility, he said.

Council had pointed out to the government: heads that its zoning did not permit an airport in the rural area. The committee of adjustment had just recently refused an application for a flying field for light planes. Yet, said the reeve, here was the federal government designating a site for jumbo jets.

Councillors learned at their conference that the government would like to have the property acquisitions in the airport area done in two or three months - but admitted that the target date would probably be two years. Provincial controls have been placed on the lands to the east of

the airport site, north in Uxbridge, west in Markham and Stouffville, and in Scott Township. What it amounts to, said Mr. Williams, is sterilization.

Claremont is not proposed to be expropriated and is not subject to these controls.

Flight paths would be over Whitby, Ajax, the north portion of the Town of Whitby. Take off, to the north-east over Markham, Stouffville and Uxbridge, and the north-west part of the Town of Whitby.

The site of the airport should be north or east of the one that was selected, contended Deputy Reeve George Ashe, and authorities were creating the same problem as at Malton. Cost, he said, was the reason for the selection, and even though the acquisition of land would be more expensive the servicing

Historic family farms in path of 'progress'

PICKERING TWP. - History, that is more easily measured in generations, than in years, will bow to the bulldozer's blade, when construction work begins on the new 18,000 international airport in Pickering Township.

One such property, the Gostick family farm on Conc. 7, dates back to 1832, when first settled on Crown land by Rev. Thomas Gostick. Sons to follow included Thomas Jr., Fred and Russell.

The Hugh Miller farm, Conc. 7, east of the Brock Road, has been maintained through five generations, dating back to William Miller, 1839. John Miller followed, then John Jr., the present owner, Hugh Miller and his sons, John and James. The property contains just over 200 acres.

The Grenfell Wilson farm goes back 130 years to William Thomas Wilson. There are 100 acres there and a third generation, including Kenneth Ivan, George and Alma. "As far as we can figure out, we're half-way down runway No. 2," said one member of the family.

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Cost, he said, was the reason for the selection, and even though the acquisition of land would be more expensive the servicing

costs, transportation, and roads would offset it.

Councillor John Anderson, who is in the expropriation area, spoke of the rural atmosphere. "The properties are beautiful," he said, amid hearty applause, "and I go on record as supporting the motion". Councillor Mrs. Jean McPherson said she would wholeheartedly support the resolution to protest.

Three hamlets to disappear

PICKERING TWP. - The completion of the new 18,000 acre airport in Pickering Township, will see three and possibly four hamlet communities removed from the area map.

A certainty to go is Atha, identified only through the Community Centre and once the schoolhouse serving that section. Its location, on conc. 8, Pickering, is in the 'heart' of the airstrip plan. Also directly affected will be Altona to the north and Mongolia to the west.

Hamlets located on the 'sterile' fringe are Green River, Brougham, Claremont, Glasgow, Lincolnville and Dickson's Hill.

Don't panic - realtor

STOUFFVILLE - The emotion buildup over the airport plan that, in some areas has reached fever pitch, has been described as 'asinine' by Stouffville realtor, Gerry Meharg.

Mr. Meharg points out that from the hub of the airport site to the centre of Stouffville, is a distance of five miles. He notes the tremendous growth that has occurred within the same radius at Malton.

"Many people are becoming emotional over this thing - unduly so, in my opinion," said Mr. Meharg. "After all," he pointed out, "no planes will be flying for eight years, if then."

Farmers meet

ATHA - An important meeting of the Pickering Twp. Federation of Agriculture will be held, Tuesday, March 14, in the Community Centre at Atha.

While the proposed airport plan is not listed as a topic for discussion, it will undoubtedly rank high on the agenda.

The guest speaker is William Newman, M.P.P., Ontario-South. An official of the Ontario Federation will also address the gathering.

\$7,400 damage

ALMIRA - Damage has been estimated at \$7,400 in a fire, Sunday, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Stanley, 19th Avenue, Markham, east of Conc. 6.

Chief Myrl Smith believes the blaze started in a car, parked in the ground-level garage. Brigade units from both Markham and Stouffville attended the scene.

The family, that includes three children, suffered no injury.

AIRPORT - 'HOT LINE'

STOUFFVILLE - Seeking information on the proposed international airport in Pickering Twp., and its effect on lands in Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Uxbridge?

Queen's Park has established an Airport Information 'hot line'. The number is 365-4716.

However, to assist residents on a more localized basis, acting mayor Gordon Ratcliff of Whitchurch-Stouffville, said information booths, possibly located in portable trailers, would be set up in individual municipalities.