

This Old School House was founded in 1869. It is now the Cedar Grove Park and Community Centre.

Ontario anxious to preserve old landmarks

The Ontario government, aware that there are old buildings and landmarks of genuine historic interest standing on the lands the province will acquire in connection with the new airport, is anxious to preserve as many of these as possible, Treasurer Darcy McKeough said this week.

McKeough issued the statement to offset fears, especially among local residents, that development of the new community of Cedarwood would mean demolition of many fine old houses, buildings and landmarks of historic interest.

He said government planners are being instructed to produce "careful and sensitive designs" for the new community and for the province's airport-associated services, to minimize the impact on the existing pattern of settlement.

London airport to expand

Expansion of London Airport, announced March 2 by federal government authorities, involves acquisition of 380 acres of land, strengthening and extension of existing runways to 8,800 and 7,200 feet, and installation of additional terminal radar and control tower equipment.

The longer runways will enable long-haul charter and international flights to use the airport. Increased domestic use will also become possible.

Authorities said the runways are laid out in such a way that adjacent residential communities will not be affected by the increase in aircraft noise.

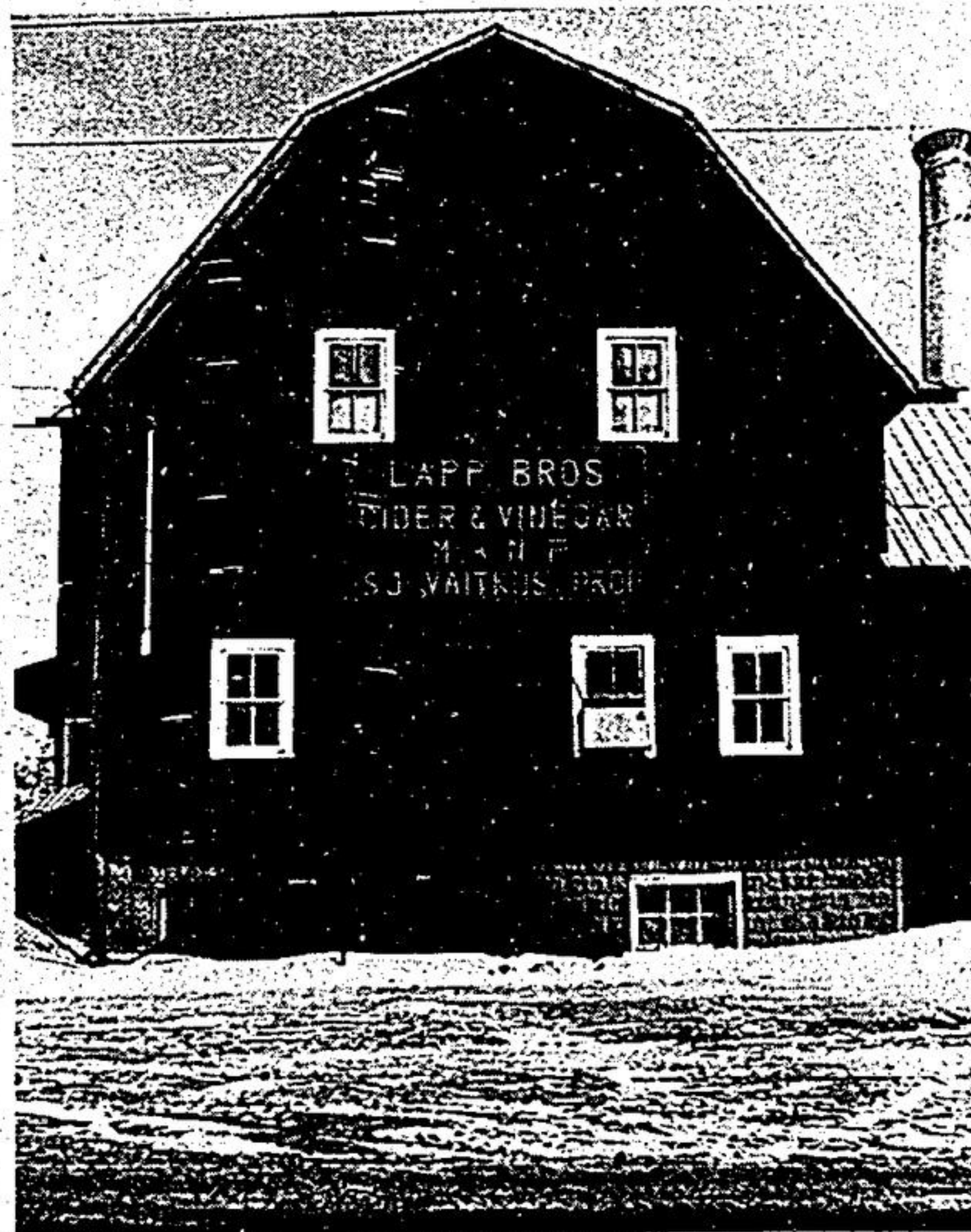
Work on the expansion program is to begin this

"I see no reason why many of the fine old homes in the area designated for Cedarwood cannot remain just as they are."

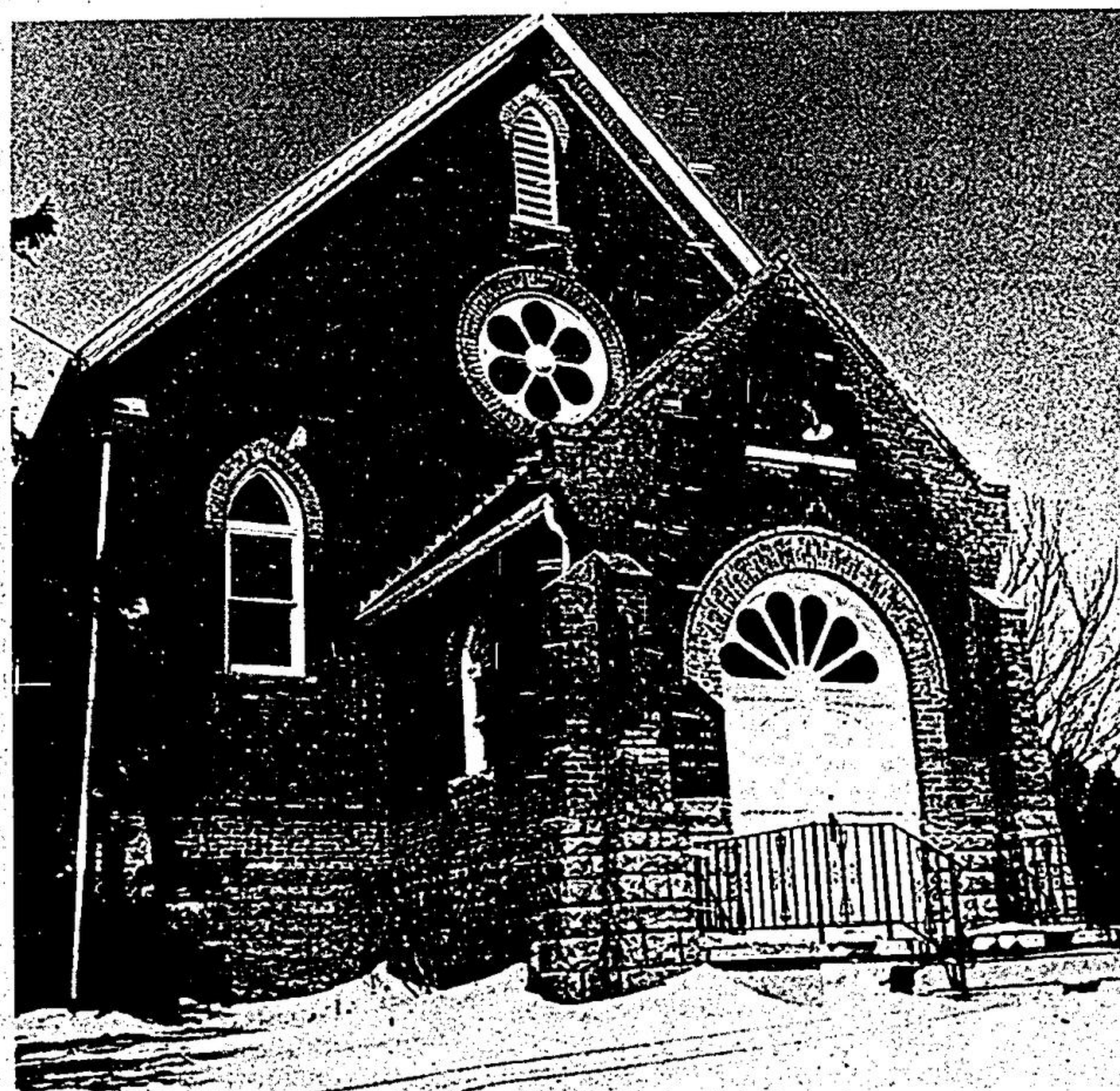
The Ontario Treasurer said legislation is being considered to preserve Ontario's historical buildings.

McKeough said he has asked the Cabinet Minister responsible for the Ontario Heritage Foundation to work with local historical societies on plans for preserving old buildings and landmarks likely to be affected by airport-associated projects.

Ontario will also take the matter up with the federal government, which is acquiring the site for the airport itself, McKeough said.



The Lapp Bros. cider and vinegar plant is just outside Cedar Grove.



ONTARIO OPENS LOCAL OFFICE

To provide as much information as possible to people in and around the site of the new airport, the Ontario government has opened an office on Brock Road at the 4th Concession road (just north of the CPR tracks).

In charge of the office is M. G. (Milt) Phillips of the Regional Development Branch. Phillips is already well known in the area for his liaison work with the Regional Development Council and other officials of the Central Ontario Eco-

nomie Region, which includes Pickering Township.

Two members of the provincial Airport Implementation Team who are concerned with property appraisal and acquisition are also at the on-site office.

At a later stage of the project, the province's entire property acquisition team will set up offices in the area.

At Queen's Park, telephone inquiries about the airport project are being handled at 965-7971.

Local press has mixed reaction

Local press reaction to the announcement of the new airport site has been mixed, with two main issues emphasized: economic development and the dislocation of Pickering township.

The Pickering's Bay News noted that "the new airport, plus industrial and residential expansions that will follow, should be good economically for all living here" but also expressed sorrow for those who would be "uprooted from their homes and farms".

The Markham Economist and Sun printed both positive and negative commentary but the accent was placed on the question of future expansion of Markham itself.

The Stouffville Tribune emphasized that the Pickering site was final and that the area would "have to make the best of it" and "face up to reality".

The Pickering Post reiterated the unlikelihood of changing the site, noting that "the cost of provincial services was the clincher for Queen's Park" in its

support of the Pickering location.

The Uxbridge Times-Journal expressed some concern over the lack of prior consultation with local authorities and the environmental impact of the new airport. But farther to the south, the two Ajax papers expressed satisfaction over the new development now expected east of Toronto. The News Advertiser emphasized the beneficial economic aspects of the new site, while the Guardian accented political considerations, noting, "We will now be part of an Oshawa-based regional government with the economic incentives needed to develop a region east of Metro".

The Oshawa Times also interpreted the new site choice favourably, declaring that the airport "will have a fantastic effect on the Oshawa-centred region . . . many, many jobs will be created." The lead editorial also reflected upon the unfortunate dislocation of Pickering Township, but concluded that the chosen site was best when regional planning objectives were taken into account.

Governments chose site together

"No one has been more critical of federal policies than the Treasurer of Ontario. However, today I am happy to acknowledge the results of this form of joint planning."

In those words, Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough concluded his comments to the Legislature on the Pickering Township airport site—and summed up the attitude of co-operation that made the choice possible.

The choice of the airport site, as such, is a federal responsibility, but both governments agree that such a choice would have been unlikely, if not impossible, without provincial co-operation. The Ontario government, in on the decision from the outset, needed assurances that the chosen

with its plan for the Toronto-Centred Region. Its concern also focussed on the servicelands, parkland and prospects for community development—all provincial responsibilities in the two-government scheme.

Now authorities from Ottawa and Queen's Park are preparing to enter negotiations to determine various details of cost-sharing that were set out only in principle at the time the Pickering site was chosen and announced.

Meanwhile, Ontario government representatives are arranging consultations with municipalities in and around the Pickering site, to help devise appropriate zoning bylaws and other regulations which the presence of the airport will ne-