

Ringwood Public School, built in 1887, was sold, Saturday for \$41,500. The purchaser, Rev. Howard Minaker of Scarborough, is pastor of the Bethel Assembly of God, a

congregation that now holds services in the Stouffville Masonic Hall. —Mark Niblett.

# Rabies control creates cost crisis

## STOUFFVILLE

The Ontario Humane Society may have to abandon its activities in the field of rabies control.

According to a letter received by Council, May 9, the bulk of the Society's \$50,000 deficit last year was caused by a dramatic upswing in rabies cases, and the need to quarantine suspected carriers. Council's support was requested for an approach to the federal Department of Agriculture, when the Health of Animals Branch will be asked to establish a central quarantine facility.

Councillor Tom Lonergan indicated that such a central lockup would mean a vet could be available at all times. The local Society, he said, cannot afford to support a full-time veterinarian.



Kinette Fashion Show well attended

A large crowd attended the Kinette Club-sponsored fashion show in Stouffville's Latham Hall, May 9. Two of the local

models were Jean Foley, Fairview Avenue, (left) and Cathy Joice, Rupert Avenue, Stouffville. —Jas. Thomas.

# Ten minutes concludes 85 years of history

By Mark Niblett  
RINGWOOD - It took auctioneer Gordon Orr less than 10 minutes on Saturday to sell 85 years of history - the Ringwood School.

The sale began shortly after 11:00, and by 11:15 it was all over. The school was sold to Rev. Howard Minaker, of Scarborough, pastor of the Bethel Assembly of God. The winning bid, \$41,500 was the highest for any of the five schools sold that day.

Half an hour before the sale began, the school lot was crowded. Cars were parked along both sides of the highway. Potential buyers, former students, and the merely curious, rubbed shoulders in the hall as they looked over the old building and its more recent addition. Out back, on a weed-grown sports field, a few children played soccer.

The Ringwood School is one of a vanishing breed. A few small signs show unmistakably what it once was. A long-forgotten notice is tacked to a door: "Mrs. B. Wideman, Grade 1 & 2". The amputated stub of a crayon remains half-hidden in a chalk-tray; a two-inch pencil still lies in the corner where it was dropped, years ago.

Mrs. Lila Campbell was a student at this school, in the days when a picture of King Edward VII greeted pupils each morning. She spent her first schooldays, beginning in 1906, at Ringwood - and those days are still vivid to her.

Mrs. Campbell recalls the gallery at the back of the school. She remembers the old wood stove.

"I used to like the stormy days, when we could sit around it and

get warm," she said. She remembers Arbor Day, May 1, when all the students worked together to scrub the wooden floors, clean the desks, and rake the yard. Later, they would go across the fields at the back and return with wildflowers. Mrs. Campbell speculated on how much times have changed - and demonstrated that she has changed with them.

"Have you read 'Future Shock'?" she enquired. "It's amazing how fast changes are coming. All the old things are vanishing. I hope I live a long time yet," she concluded. "It's all very exciting."

Mrs. Campbell watched silently as Gordon Orr ran the bidding up from \$12,000 to \$41,000 in a matter of minutes. Rev. Minaker's concluding bid was

\$41,000, but upon opening the reserve, Mr. Orr had to tell him that this figure did not match or exceed it. After some discussion, the minister was offered the chance to raise his bid. He agreed to \$41,500, which was accepted.

The Bethel Assembly of God has been meeting in the Stouffville Masonic Hall, and will begin work as soon as possible to refurbish

the school.

Other school prices on Saturday were: Hagerman, \$32,000; Hillcrest, \$32,000; Snowball, \$35,000; and Temperanceville, \$35,750. The Vandorf School was not sold.

By 11:30, almost everyone had left the Ringwood site, and the old school was again sitting peacefully on its 3 1/2 acre lot. "Union S.S., No. 2, 1887" is the faded legend on the

cornerstone. The mellow brick recalls the days of Queen Victoria, King Edward, horses and cutters, Model T Fords - days that are gone forever. The students who grew up, who came to this building to learn "readin', ritin', and 'rithmetic", are gone too. The days of the one-room country schoolhouse are past.

Lila Campbell came to say goodbye.

## Question conflict of interest

# Legal firm rapped on development plan

STOUFFVILLE - A proposal by Sidney Homes Ltd. for a combined commercial-apartment building on Main St. was rejected by Planning Committee, May 15.

At an earlier meeting May 12, lawyer Jerry Shibley described plans for the building, to be located on an empty lot next to Cadioux's Studio. The ground floor would be occupied by 3 small stores and an office, which would have above them 8 apartments. The smallness of the lot gave rise to some problems.

"This was designed under the terms of your new bylaw", Mr. Shibley told the committee. He admitted that there is not room to put in a 20-foot driveway, but wondered if a single driveway might be allowed. Such a driveway would be too narrow for two cars to pass one another.

Mr. Shibley revealed he has attempted to purchase Elgin Wagg's property on Park Dr., to overcome the problems of parking and

driveways, but was unable to do so.

"I offered him \$25,000 for his house", said the lawyer. "I made a sincere effort to buy it, but I just couldn't."

Mayor Ken Laushway was opposed to the project, on the grounds of inadequate parking space.

"I don't agree with what the bylaw says, for the downtown area", he stated. The Mayor was also concerned about the small stores, which would be 800 square feet in area. Mr. Shibley suggested such accommodation would be suitable for a barber shop, real estate office, or similar business. He requested a decision before May 16.

Unwilling to make an immediate ruling, the committee met again, May 15. Mr. Shibley was not present at this session. Building Inspector Marshall Miller said he had studied the plans, and listed a number of objections. Among them were the gross floor area, number of parking

spaces, and width of the driveway.

The crux of the matter, said Mr. Miller, is that the Town's bylaw defines such a development as an apartment building, since it has more than 5 units. The development falls short of several criteria for that type of building. Committee members seemed inclined to agree that the project is not a desirable one.

"This would mean just more little stores along Main Street", observed Councillor June Button.

"He's trying to jam a whole town onto a little lot", said Councillor Herb Simpson. Only Councillor Betty vanNostrand was dubious about refusing the project. She pointed out that a builder is allowed two apartment units per commercial use in a commercial building, and that this development comes very close to qualifying under that section of the zoning bylaw.

"I'm not trying to

convince you it's a good proposal", she said, "but I'm worried that he might be able to go ahead whether we like it or not."

A possible conflict of interest also bothered several members. It was pointed out that Mr. Shibley is in partnership with the Town's solicitor, Paul Mingay.

"It seems to me there's a conflict of interest here", said Councillor Gordon Ratcliff. He urged that Council obtain "a clear understanding" from the law firm.

"Do they want to be our lawyers or do they want the development business in town?" he demanded.

"They are taking advantage of their position", agreed Councillor Button.

"We should have a meeting with Mingay", said Councillor Merlyn Baker. "This can't go on."

"It puts us in an awkward position", observed Mr. Ratcliff. "We're not in an awkward position", replied Mrs. Button. "We can fire him any

time".

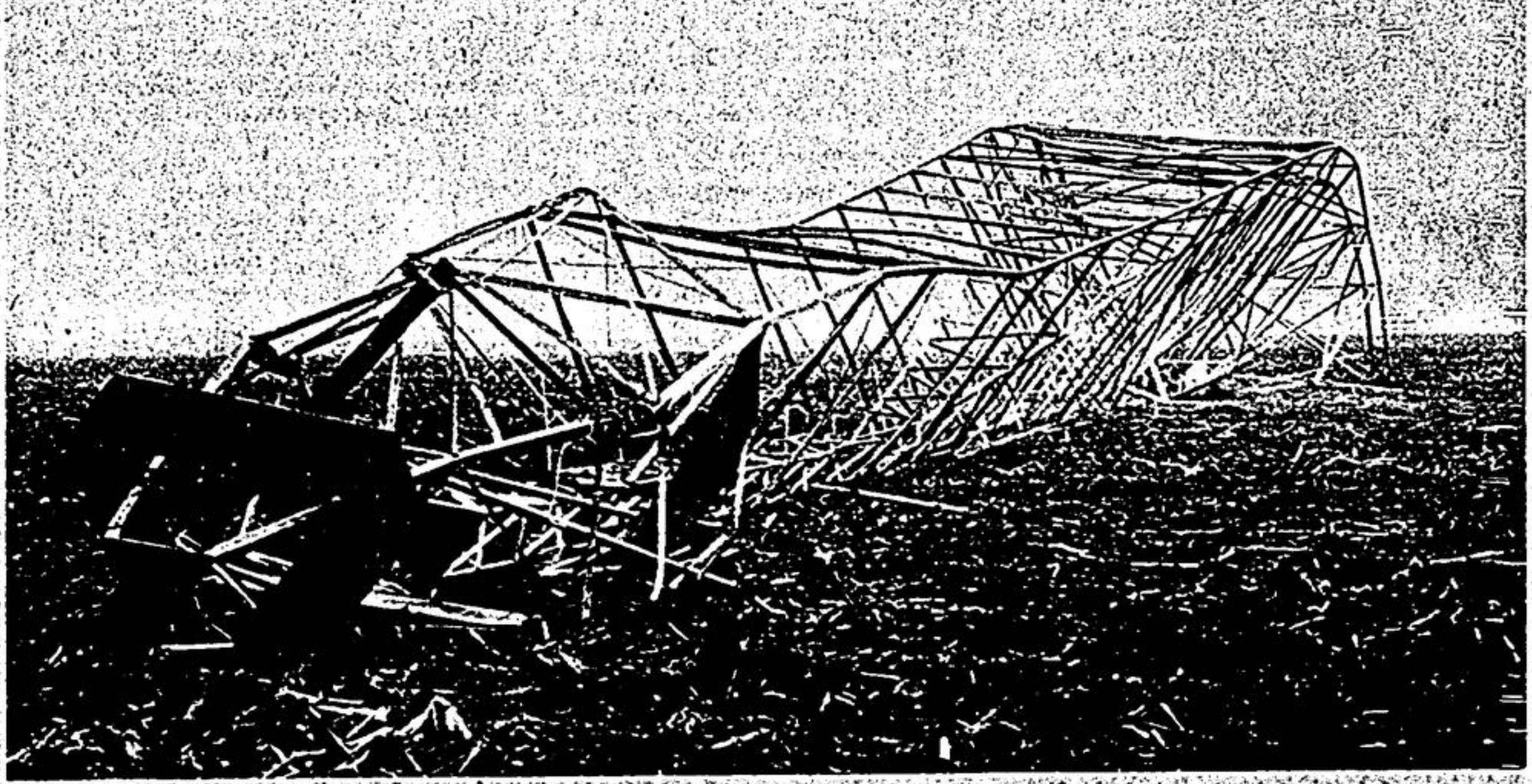
Mayor Laushway summed up the position.

"We should just tell them our interpretation (of the bylaw), and let them prove we have to allow the development", he said. "They should move Wagg out, at any price. It would be a lot better to have a big apartment building there that's something that's

needed downtown". This suggestion met with general approval, and Mr. Baker suggested the Town start proceedings to rezone that vacant lot for apartment

development. A resolution, stating that the committee does not approve of the site plan because it conflicts with the zoning bylaw, was carried unanimously.

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Large survey tower wrecked by vandals

A 110 foot high survey tower, leased by federal authorities for work on the proposed Pickering Twp. airport site, was wrecked, Sunday, when pulled over by vandals. A large

tractor was used to haul the structure down. Police are investigating the incident but so far, no arrests have been made. —Jas. Thomas.



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