

Decision on Halton Hills truck complex deferred

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He also stated the long term goal is to have an industrial area in Halton Hills in order to allow people to work within the community and stop commuting.

After the discussions the committee passed the application to allow for a height increase.

Later during the meeting the bigger issue with the Fifth Line residents was brought up for discussion. The application to build a truck loading/parking space has residents concerned with what will happen to the environment, public health as well as safety and security amongst others.

The residents are concerned with the level of noise that will be produced from this trucking space in the area and that their wells they drink from will become negatively affected by the construction.

Another major concern is what will happen to the air quality.

"The Halton Region is already a sorry recipient of the GTA smog and regular poor air quality - we don't have the by-laws in place to allow this to extend to this Region for reason. This type of air pollution is not acceptable in this fragile environment," stated the Fifth Line Residents' Committee in a response and submission to Mayor Bonnette, Halton Hills Town Council and the Planning Department Staff.

The residents are very concerned over public health stating that there are children and elderly residents in the area with immunity and respiratory disorders.

"We cannot ask any resident to reduce their expectation on their own health simply because a non-complying building must go in down the street," stated the submission.

Another concern is safety while using the country roads. Residents are worried about increased speeding and more accidents as a result of added truck use, especially with cyclists using the roads.

At the meeting Glover started the discussion stating that the town staff is not sure of the site plan and would like one to be made for review and wanted the decision to be deferred to a later date when more information would be available.

"We're committed to bringing first class industrial development and employment to Halton Hills," said Barré when given his chance to speak on the matter.

He also stated that he anticipates that he would be able to persuade one of the companies interested in the land to make a detailed design of the site even though it is a very expensive process. He had no objection to the deferral.

Resident John Koop said he was not against industrial development and stated his concern over the announcement of waiting on a site plan. He wanted to know if it would address the access on roads and said that Steeles Avenue cannot handle 400-600 trucks per day.

Residents believe that if the truck terminal is built, trucks will be traveling down Fifth Line 24/7 and estimate one every minute with storage for 156 trucks and 108 loading bays for the terminal.

After the meeting residents were still left with concerns.

Sandy Grant, a Halton Hills farmer is worried about emergency situations.

"In Halton Hills our emergency calls go to Milton and with all the truck traffic on the roads how would the police, ambulance or fire trucks ever get to us in time?"

She also doesn't mind the warehouse that will be built but rather the number of trucks that could be coming and going all day.

The next meeting regarding by-law 57-91 has been postponed indefinitely. The application decision was deferred by Committee Members and the next meeting cannot be scheduled until a site plan is handed in.

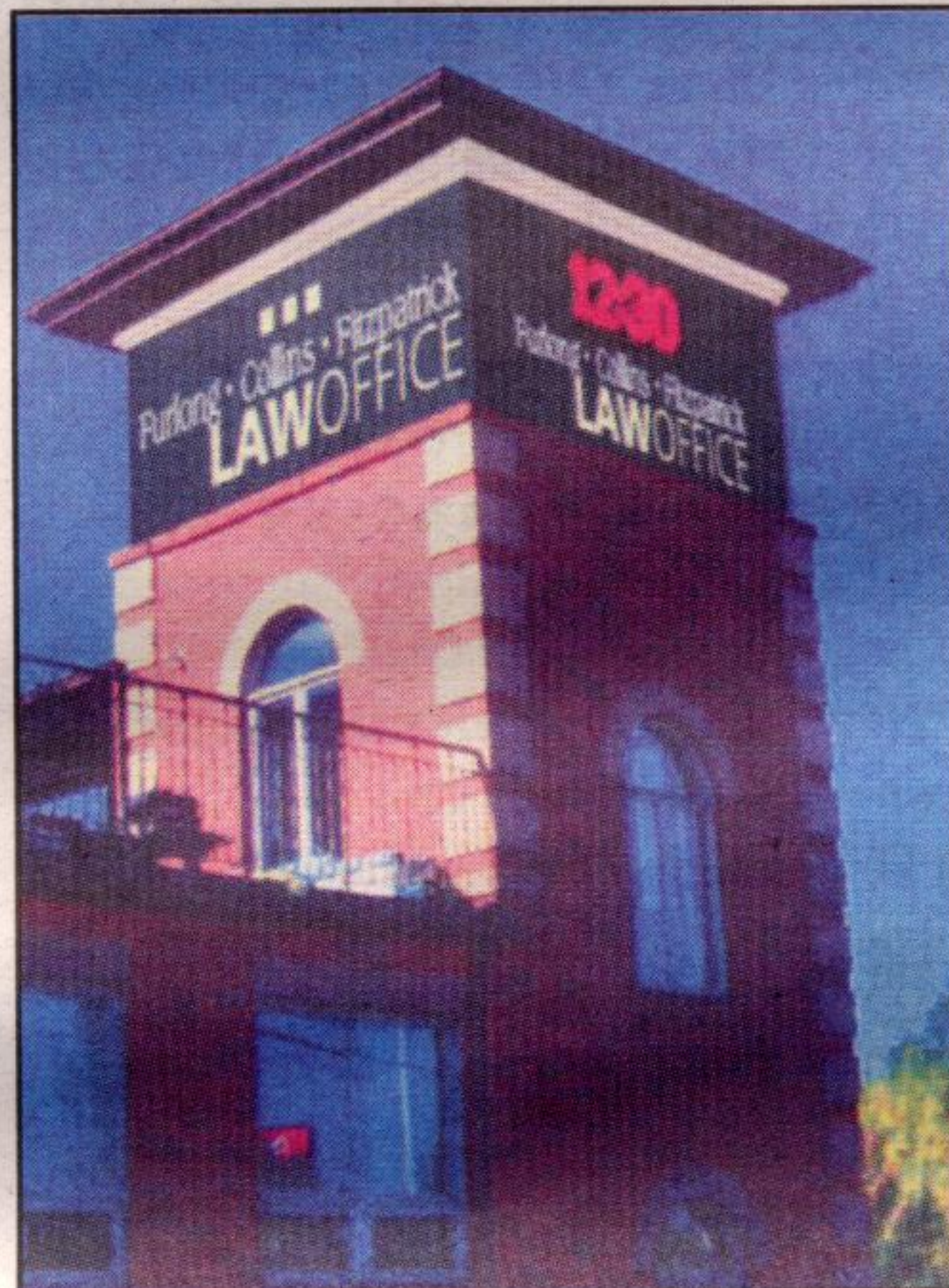
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