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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 52 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included) 44 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Commonwealth support

Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes — including Olympic gold medal cyclist Lori-Ann Muenzer, Olympic silver medal trampoliner Karen Cockburn and highly-decorated wrestler Daniel Igali — accept a cheque for \$400,000 from Hudson's Bay Company President and CEO George Heller (centre) during Wednesday's fourth annual HBC golf tournament at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club. The money will help send amateur athletes to the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Council turns down centre proposal

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion
 Town council turned down a proposal for a spiritual development centre on Sixth Line last week after it was deemed premature by staff. The idea was put forward by the Radha Soami Society Beas-Canada, which submitted an application for a temporary use bylaw to convert an existing 18,000-square-foot barn into a Science of the Soul Study Centre for three years. The centre would be used as a non-denominational meeting place about once a week for up to 500 people,

who would be instructed in the study of mystic philosophy and the writings of many world religions. Lands around the centre are currently used by the society to grow fruits and vegetables to be donated to local charities, such as food banks. But Town staff recommended that the application be denied because, in their opinion, it was premature, not in the public interest, was in an area where there's no secondary plan and would most likely be a permanent facility. "Staff is of the opinion that the proposal is premature as it advocates the establishment of a land use in a location which does not have the existing

or planned infrastructure, including private servicing, to support it," a report from Director of Planning and Development Mel Iovio said. "Staff is further of the opinion that due to the build form involved, the use is essentially permanent in nature and consequently should not be introduced through a temporary use bylaw." The Radha Soami Society previously submitted an application for official plan, and zoning bylaw amendments to create a permanent study centre on the Sixth Line property. But even then, staff had thought it was premature, so the group withdrew the proposal.

"In the spirit of co-operation, they agreed to withdraw this application," said Glen Schnarr of Glen Schnarr and Associates, who represented the organization. "The application was not premature." Mr. Schnarr worked hard to try to convince council to approve the current application. "I believe this land use can fit seamlessly into the official plan. We believe that it is a most desirable use." He asked that council continue circulating the application and hold a public meeting. *Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadian-champion.com.*

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