No building money in sight, says Bailey

from CATHOLIC on page A1

As a tie vote, the motion lost.

That prompted Bailey to say that without the campus there will be no board office since there's currently no provincial money forthcoming to build one. (According to senior staff, the campus could prove to be an important step in solving overcrowding at the HCDSB's cramped administrative facilities and save taxpayers even more money through a host of efficiencies.)

"If we turn this down, there is no money," said Bailey.

An emotional LeMay then said there's actually more at stake than just an office, namely a faith predicated on going out into the world like Jesus' disciples and not remaining insular. "We have to be able to work together to live and grow together. We have to be an inclusive society."

LeMay said trustees have to listen to the will of taxpayers, who stand to save considerable money from the project. "I'm really disappointed this is falling apart," she concluded.

Viana argued that his board has a one-time-only chance to be one of four distinct partners in the project.

"We should be at the centre, not some isolated, standalone location," he said. "Don't let this pass through your hands."

Three of the four dissenting trustees declined to disclose their rationale for opposition and Van de Vrande refused to speak until everyone else had their opportunity. Finally, he explained that initially he was in favour of the campus and that "many valid reasons" remain to join. He said he listened to his constituents in church and at the mall, however, and was "surprised how many came out of the woodwork" against it.

At that point, Bailey stopped Van de Vrande cold, maintaining that procedure dictates that Van de Vrande could vote against his own motion, but not speak against it. If he did, he'd have to withdraw his motion, which Van de Vrande refused to do.

Van de Vrande then voted against his second amended (and ultimately redundant) motion to approve "the next steps necessary to move forward" with the project. Trustees were again split as they were for the first motion.

"I'm not sure where we go from here," said Bailey.

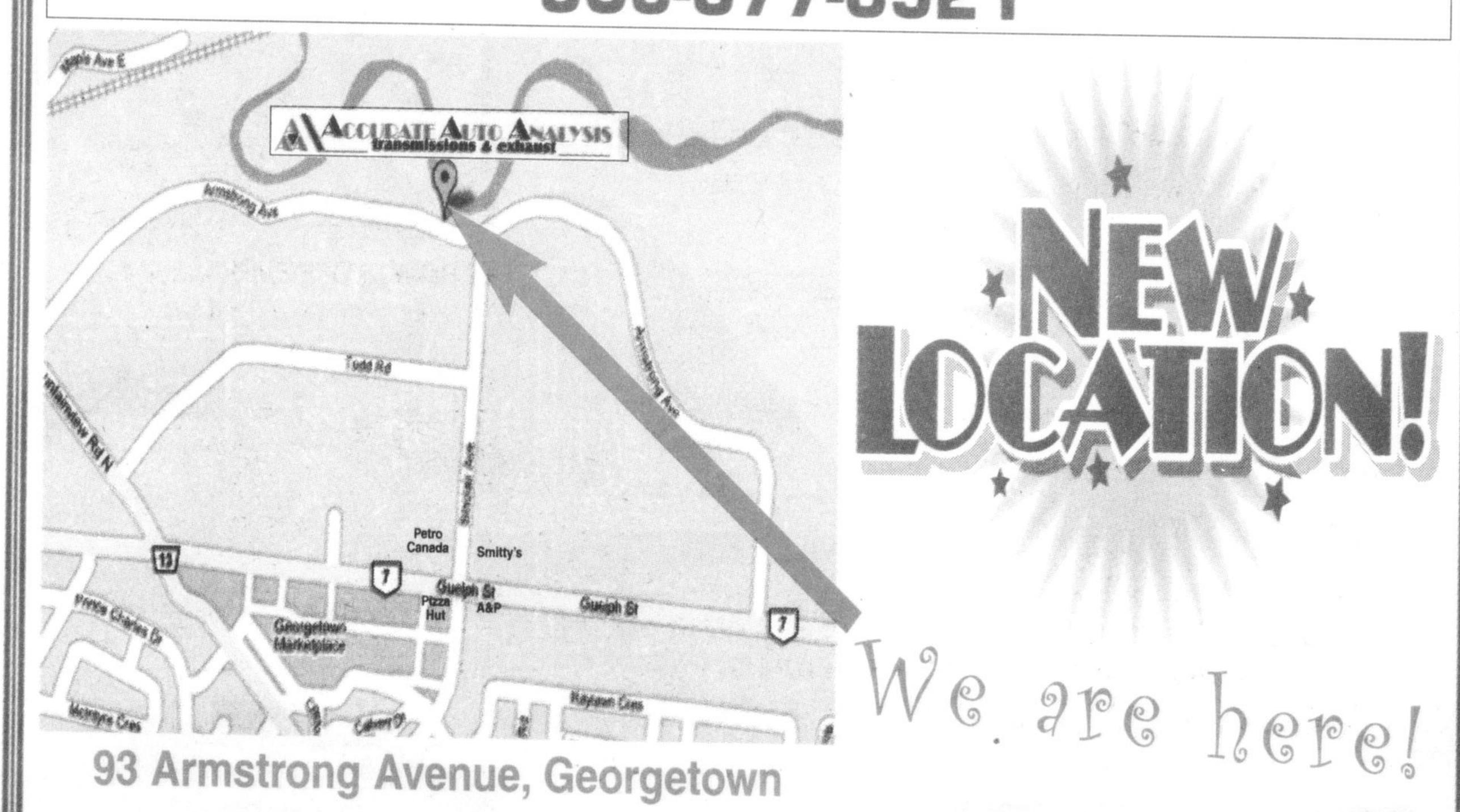
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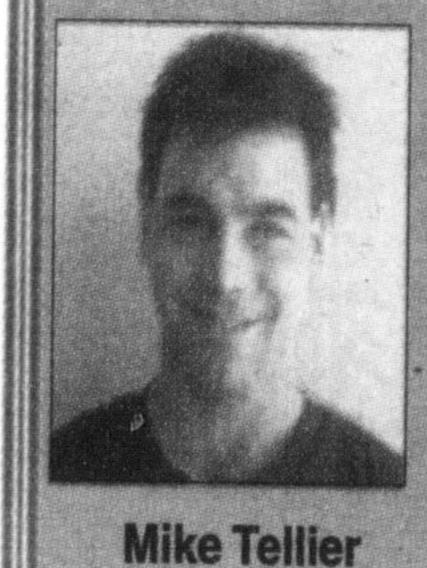
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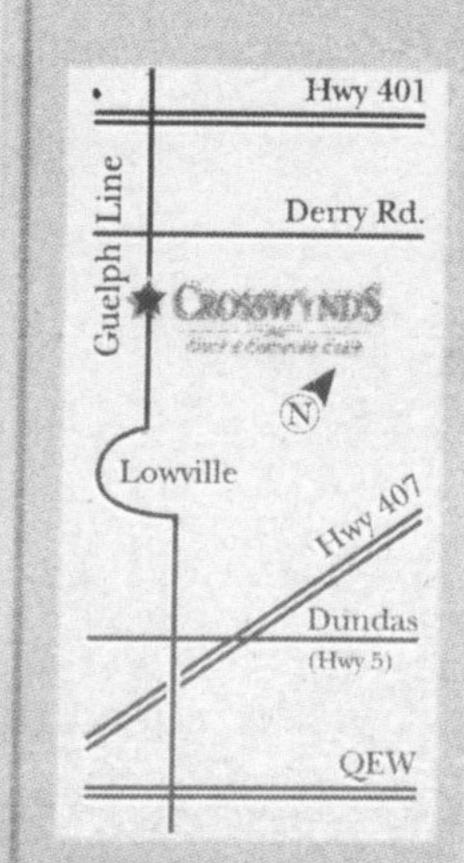
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