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Carriage Square vacancies a 'concern'

from VACANT on page 1
"It's a worry, and it's been a worry for a long time," she said. "But our (DBIA) hands are tied when it's private property."

Owned by a Toronto real estate company, Carriage Square lacks adequate parking, said Mr. Willis, which acts as a deterrent to shoppers.

But Ms Martin argued some tenants have left the plaza because rents have been too steep — as much as \$22 per square foot.

"It's just unfortunate," she said. "I think the property owners need to address the fact that it's price that's forcing people to leave."

Now, in tough economic times, more affordable leasing rates may have come too late. Recent advertisements in local newspapers offering Carriage Square space at reduced prices have attracted scant interest, added Mr. Willis.

Over the past two years specifically, a number of merchants in the plaza have come and gone — indicating the recession has compounded the problem.

A card shop, jewelry store, flower shop, passive exercise centre, and two women's clothing stores have all fled or failed, and other businesses have changed hands.

More recently, Bergsma's Paint and Wallpaper relocated to the new Town Square, and Danté Gentleman's Apparel moved to the Main Street lot previously occupied by Knight's Men's Wear.

"It's too bad it's a big dark horse," commented Danté's owner Bill Mathers, who defended the plaza.

He said it wasn't the state of Carriage Square that drove him out. Mr. Mathers decided to relocate his store

"It's too bad it's a big dark horse. It was kept clean and tidy. I have no qualms. I think it might do well in the future."

Bill Mathers
on the state of Carriage Square plaza



when the lease was up because he "always wanted to be on Main Street."

"It was kept clean and tidy," he said. "I have no qualms. I think it might do well in the future."

Mr. Willis said businesses currently located in the plaza have been successful, but contract agreements restrict him from leasing space to certain types of stores.

He went on to explain that a convenience store isn't currently permitted in Carriage Square because it would likely take away business from another tenant, Shopper's Drug Mart.

He added that in the future he's hoping to lease space for a recreational facility, which may attract shoppers to the quiet complex.

MILTON LEISURE GUIDE CORRECTIONS

OOPS. There are a few errors in the Fall '92 Leisure Guide. Please refer to your copy and make the following changes:

- Page 7 Aquacize time should read 8:00 to 8:50 pm instead of 8:00 to 8:50 am. For your safety there will be a class maximum of thirty participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Page 8 Recreation swimming admission should be \$1.75 not \$1.00.
- Page 9 Grandparent/Parent and Tot Swim should be 11:00 am to 12:00 noon instead of 10:30 am to 11:30 am.
- Page 8 & 9 Adult Swim times should read Monday through Wednesday 9:00 to 10:30 pm instead of 9:00 to 10:00 pm.
- Page 15 Milton Youth Place dance nights are for participants 10 to 14 years of age rather than for all ages.
- Page 16 Fitness Zone Country Fit times should be Monday and Thursday 8:00 to 9:00 pm instead of 8:00 to 9:00 am.
- Page 22 Older Adult Special Events Open House should be Tuesday September 8 instead of Wednesday September 9.
- Page 50 Milton Santa Claus Parade - the Parade Marshall is Wendy Ferguson not Wendy Marshall.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.
If you need any more information please call
The Department of Leisure Services at 878-7211.

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