

Fireworks storage a blast to Kinney confidence

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Milton was made at least somewhat less of an investment option for a major retail chain because of what happened at town council Monday night, according to lawyer David Thompson. Mr. Thompson represents Kinney Canada, a shoe retailing firm with a distribution centre employing approximately 100 people on Industrial Drive. Monday night councillors approved a request from Hands Fireworks, currently located on Nipissing Road, to move its operation to Industrial Drive. Fireworks will be stored at the new site, and Mr. Thompson warned that Kinney has deep safety reservations about its new neighbour.

While stressing that Kinney had no immediate plans to move elsewhere, Mr. Thompson didn't rule out the possibility of new long-term strategies being formulated if fireworks are stored across the street.

"In times like this, you're always looking at re-allocating resources and we've got to look at that carefully," he said after the meeting. "It's safe to say that tomorrow we're not going to sell. It's also fair to say we've got to look at all our options."

Jerking a thumb in the direction of Dick Brown, the fireworks company president, Mr. Thompson added,

"we want to get further information from this guy."

Hands Fireworks formerly manufactured its product in Milton, but now only operates offices and some storage facilities on Nipissing Road. The offices are to be relocated to Industrial Drive, but the controversy surrounds the fact that Hands also plans to set up two tractor trailers at the rear of the new property to store what are technically termed 'explosives'.

In 1977, while the company was still manufacturing at the Nipissing Road site, there was a spectacular fire in which stored smoke bombs billowed into the air,

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Truck crash ties up 401 traffic

A truck driver from Quebec says he blacked out and possibly suffered a heart attack moments before the tractor-trailer he was driving flipped over on the westbound Highway 401 early Monday morning.

The 41-year-old driver wasn't injured in the crash which caused traffic congestion for four hours while a crane removed the over-turned vehicle.

The accident occurred just west of Guelph Line at 1:15 a.m., according to the Milton OPP. But the crane, which needed to be operated in daylight, didn't arrive at the site until 9 a.m.

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