

business beat

The BIA wants you



JOHN HULME
BIA chairman

By LISA PARTSA
Staff Reporter

As new chairman of Markham's Business Improvement Area (BIA), John Hulme says he hopes to involve more merchants in plans to improve and develop Main St.

"I want to get the whole business area involved," stressed Mr. Hulme, 44, who was elected chairman at a Dec. 28 BIA meeting. "All businesses in the area should participate to create a nice place where shoppers will want to come to," he explained.

The Markham BIA is among 36 central Ontario organizations that make up the Ontario Business Improvement Association, formed in early 1982. It evolved from the original Markham-Merchant's Association three years ago, and now has approximately 70 merchants and 30 businesses in the downtown area. It's emphasis, said Mr. Hulme, is to co-operatively expand and improve the shopping conditions in the Main St. area.

According to former Chairman Diane Stewart Nigh, the BIA's progress since its beginning has been "fantastic", but agrees that more input from other members is imperative.

In the past, the BIA has planted flowers in the spring, and put up decorations and banners throughout the year to make the Old Village of Markham more attractive to visitors, Mrs. Nigh noted.

"Many people said they were glad to see that we were trying to revitalize the Main St.," added Mrs. Nigh, who was chairman for one year until she left the business area. "The biggest problem was that only 15 to 20 of the same people were involved."

Mr. Hulme said he hopes to see more people at the upcoming general meeting in February. Currently, the BIA has an executive committee, including the chairman, vice chairman, original member Bill Jackson, merchants Lloyd Barthau and Betty Keller, and an advisory council composed of 12 business people. Mr. Hulme said that any member of the BIA can become involved.

"As a group, we should formulate more plans to attract the public," said Mr. Hulme, using the upcoming Ground Dog Day on Jan. 28 as an example.

"We are striving to make Main St. an exciting and dynamic place to shop. We are starting to create a different, friendlier atmosphere here."

He emphasized the Old Village business area can't compete with the larger, new shopping centres, but can provide unique services and a merchandizing mix that will attract regular shoppers.

"We do have shops you don't necessarily see elsewhere," explained Mr. Hulme. "We can offer excellent, hand-picked merchandise, and in many cases, the public would be dealing personally with the owner. This adds to the atmosphere."

Although the BIA is still in the process of formulating definite objectives, Mr. Hulme said that recommendations have been made to council.

First, Mr. Hulme said that the BIA will continue to beautify the Main St. and maintain a friendly atmosphere for shoppers.

Second, expansion will be encouraged on Main St. The BIA hopes to gain a variety of merchants, with more of a cross-section of businesses.

"We would welcome any type of business that would complement the street," explained Mr. Hulme.

The BIA is also planning to involve the public by distributing a survey asking what they would like to see done in the downtown area.

"These people are using it, so they should have a say," said Mr. Hulme.

The BIA is also considering the possibility of gaining financial assistance from the Provincial government. According to Mrs. Nigh, there are many kinds of grants available.

Community Renewal Officer Kim Warburton, of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, said the first BIA in Ontario was formed in the Bloor-West Village in Toronto in 1978. A group of merchants in the area had been utilizing their own funds to improve the business district.

Warburton said the merchants approached the Provincial government and requested legislation that would give them distinct guidelines on how to generate a levy. A section was consequently introduced into the Municipal Act that listed the mandate of the BIA and included guidelines for financial assistance.

"BIAs will usually set themselves up," explained Warburton. "We can give them copies of the bylaw, and as they develop, inform them on what programs are available to help generate a budget."

There are currently 165 BIAs in Ontario with more forming each year.

Business Briefs



Unionville has BIA

A Unionville Business Improvement Area (BIA) has been approved by the Ontario Municipal Board.

Six people, two from council and four from the business community in the designated area, will be appointed to a Board of Management for the BIA.

At a meeting held last week by merchants in the Unionville Business District, four people were informally elected to the board.

The following were elected: Terry Cowan, of the Unionville House Restaurant, John Kerr, of Mr. D. International, Raylene Murphy, of The Jug and Basin, and Hans Klebesits, of the Old Country Inn.

AMP expands plant

AMP of Canada Ltd. has completed a new manufacturing plant at their head office in Markham.

AMP added 27,000 square feet of plant area an extra 5,000 square feet for offices and facilities devoted entirely to manufacturing.

Established in 1952, AMP of Canada Ltd. manufactures electrical and electronic connection products. New product lines and increases to the metal stamping and connector assembly lines will also be possible this year in the new facility.

Steelcase adds line

Steelcase Canada Ltd. will soon be offering customers office furniture made from wood.

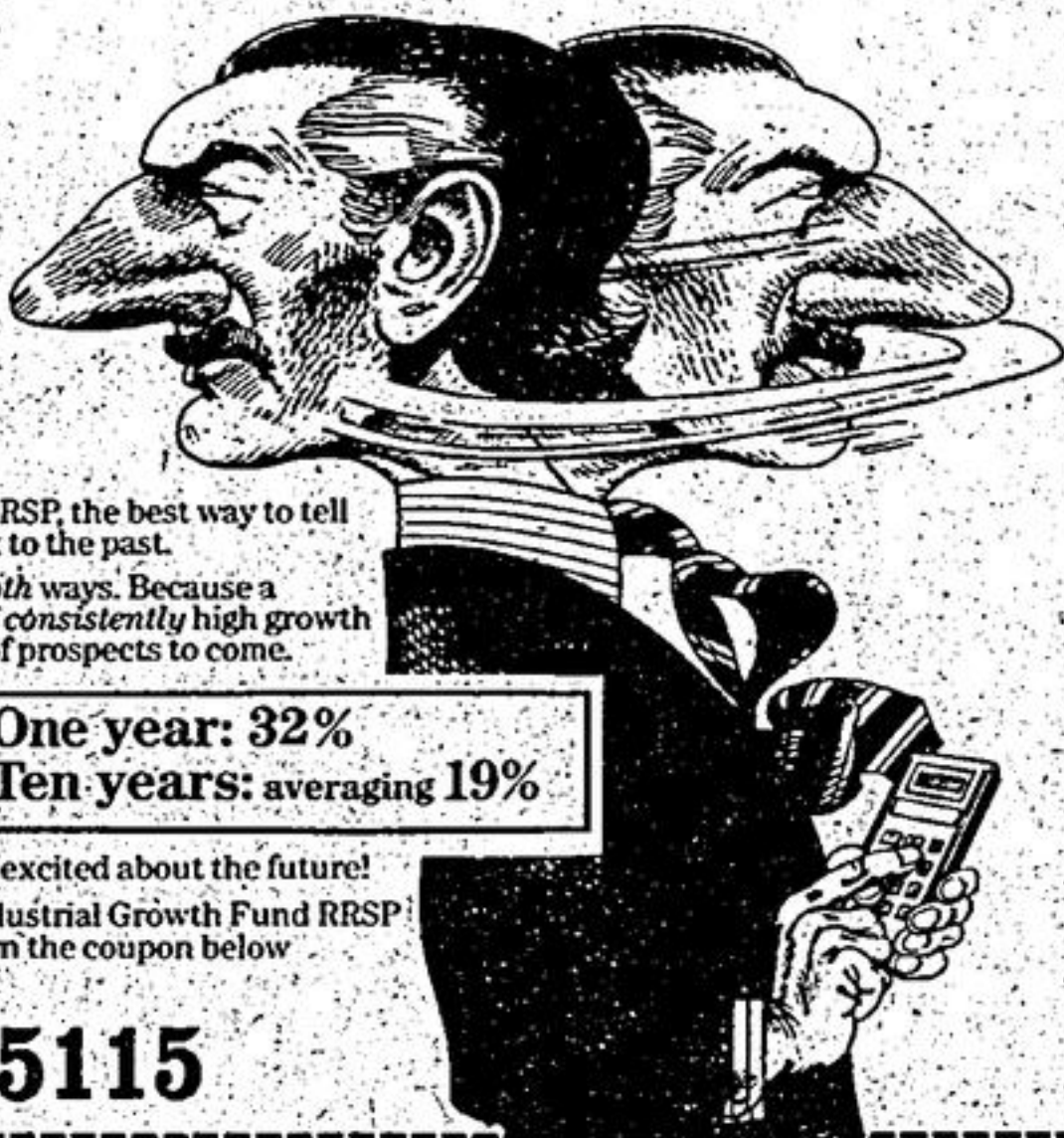
In a move to broaden its office furniture systems product line, Steelcase is acquiring Proform Furniture of Mississauga. The move allows Steelcase to augment its already successful line of steel office furniture.

Steelcase President Peter Wege said he expected that Proform's sales would add 15 to 20 per cent to his company's 1984 sales and double its exports.

Steelcase Canada has a 700,000 square-foot production and distribution facility in Markham and employs 380 people there and in sales offices across Canada.

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NOTICE

Proposed By-laws to stop up and close and sell a portion of a Lane (west of Peter Street) adjacent to Lot 39, Registered Plan 1105 more particularly described as being Part 1, Reference Plan 65R-6697.

TAKE NOTICE THAT The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham intends to pass By-laws to stop up and close and to offer for sale to the abutting property owner, a portion of a lane, located west of Peter Street adjacent to Lot 39, Registered Plan 1105 more particularly described as being Part 1 on Plan No. 65R-6697.

The proposed By-laws and a copy of Plan No. 65R-6697 showing the portion of the lane to be stopped up and closed may be seen in my office in the Municipal Building at 8911 Woodbine Avenue, Buttonville, Ontario, during normal business hours.

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham shall hear in person or by his/her Counsel, Solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the By-laws and applies to be heard at a hearing to be held on Tuesday, February 28th, 1984 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 8911 Woodbine Avenue, Buttonville, at the hour of 7:30 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

Gary F. Roseblade, A.M.C.T., C.M.C.
Town Clerk, Town of Markham,
8911 Woodbine Avenue,
Markham, Ontario L3R 1A1

Dated at Markham, Ontario this 25th day of January, 1984.
Published a first time this 25th day of January, 1984.
Published a second time this 1st day of February, 1984.
Published a third time this 8th day of February, 1984.
Published a fourth time this 15th day of February, 1984.

MARKHAM
MARKHAM
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AND in the matter of the designation of the following property:
135 Bay Thorn Drive, Thornhill
NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW
TAKE NOTICE THAT The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham has passed By-law Number 331-83 on December 13th, 1983 to designate the above property.
DATED at the Town of Markham this 25th day of January, 1984.
GARY F. ROSEBLADE, A.M.C.T., C.M.C.
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Published a second time this 1st day of February, 1984.
Published a third time this 8th day of February, 1984.

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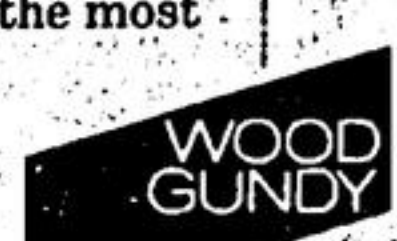
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