



business beat



Workers put finishing touches on a car at the Markham Van-Car Wash on Laidlaw Blvd. The owner, Rick Cooper says the nearby Petro Canada station is slowly putting him out of business. —Sjoerd Witteveen

Owner takes on Petro Canada

Business down the drain

A Markham car wash owner angrily resents having to pay taxes to put himself out of business.

Rick Cooper has owned and operated the Markham Van/Car Wash on Laidlaw Blvd. for three years. When he originally opened his business, it was the only one in Markham.

"It wasn't an instant success," explained Mr. Cooper, "but it was growing." That was until a Petro Canada gas station and car wash opened on Hwy 7 near Kennedy Rd. six months ago.

Since then, claims Mr. Cooper, his business has dropped considerably. "I don't think it's a fair deal, when the government opens up a competitive business," he said.

On a Saturday, he said his operation should be washing from 200 to 500 cars. This winter he hasn't had a Saturday with 200 customers.

He said he doesn't think it's fair that he is paying taxes in order to help the Petro Canada station. He explained he cannot compete with the company's advertising campaign, which promotes the Canadian nature of the business.

"I haven't the frontage for the advertising. But I'm paying taxes, and they are used against me," said Mr. Cooper.

He said customers tell him that he washes better than the Petro Canada station, and he charges less — \$3 per vehicle, while the

other stations, Sunoco included, charge \$3.50. The problem is, the customers can get a cheaper wash if they fill up with gas. Then they can get a wash for a mere \$1.75, and Mr. Cooper said he can't compete.

According to Petro Canada spokesman Carol Pressalt, the company's policy "is to remain competitive in the market place."

"Petro Canada has received funding from the government, but it is a business, and it also pays federal, provincial and municipal taxes," explained Ms. Pressalt.

She said the company also draws funds from itself, and the rest goes towards Canadian exploration activities. She said the Petro Canada is receiving so much advertising because "we found people

want to know what we're doing with the monies."

She also pointed out that location is a very strong factor in any business, and Petro Canada has a better location, being on Hwy 7.

Darrell Morrison, manager of the Sunoco car wash on Wellington (Hwy 7) said he has not noticed any drastic decline in business since the Petro Canada opening.

"We have been doing less than we projected when we originally opened (three years ago), but there has been little difference in the last six months."

Mr. Morrison said the difference in business may be attributed to the Sunoco having "a better wash," than the other businesses.

THE YORK-PEEL FEDERAL PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING

THE HONOURABLE SINCLAIR M. STEVENS
Speaker

PAT CARNEY
Guest Speaker

At the
Aurora Highlands Golf Club

On
Wednesday, February 22, 1984
at
8:00 P.M.

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Sign bylaw under fire from Canada Trust

The first Canada Trust branch in Markham will not look the same as other branches across Canada.

In view of the town's "severe sign by-law", the Canada Trust branch opening soon at McCowan Rd. and Hwy 7 was not permitted to erect a sign which specifies hours of operation and bank services as well as the company's name.

Canada Trust representative Diane Maciejewski told the town's planning committee last week their signs are consistent across the country.

But Councillor Ron Moran argued that Markham's "severe sign by-law" was meant to "upkeep our town" and prevent it from looking like Scarborough.

The town's planning committee objected

to the list of bank's services and operating hours which, they said, would advertise the company.

"It doesn't really look like a sign," said Councillor Mike Popovich. "Others will want to hawk their wares in the same way."

When Ms. Maciejewski protested there were many signs of such a nature in Markham, especially in certain strip malls, committee members pointed out the malls were older and located in one area.

The town's sign bylaw governs only the size and location of signs.

But in an agreement between the town and owner of the building, Truscan Realty Limited, all signs must be approved by the planning committee.

Day Care coming soon in Milliken Mills area

A new daycare centre will be opening in Milliken Mills on March 1.

Marianne and Peter Gaettens, owners of Unionville Daycare Centre on Hwy 7, are expanding their centre to the premises of former Marklee Public School.

Their current daycare program has no room for additional children, explained Mr. Gaettens, who has been operating the centre with his wife since 1966.

There are approximately 65 children from the ages 2 to 6 enrolled in the centre. The majority of those are from the Markham area.

"We have been turning people away," said Mr. Gaettens. "We also had no room here to have a toddler group, from 18 to 30 months."

The new school, located on Lee Ave. east of Kennedy Rd., has room for almost 100 children. It has four large classrooms, one

of which will be converted into a kindergarten.

The toddler group will be located in the new location, as well as a senior kindergarten class. Each age group will have their own separate class and program.

Mr. Gaettens said the kindergym is a good addition to the program, as the children will be able to improve their coordination and strengthen their muscles with the various activities. Although the Unionville Daycare Centre has a large playground, there isn't adequate space to have a gym.

The daycare programs will have educational programs, including Introductory French, Diploma teachers, assistants and a cook will be located on the premises. For information on registration, call the Unionville Daycare Centre, 477-4778.

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MARKHAM PROCLAMATION

That Monday, February 20th, 1984 be proclaimed as "Raise a New Canadian Flag Day" in the Town of Markham.

Anthony Roman
Mayor

MARKHAM 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

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THE YORK REGION BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following public meetings will be held to provide parents of children presently in Kindergarten with information about the French Immersion Program.

AURORA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL
85 Tecumseh Drive, Aurora
727-6902
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - 7:30 p.m.

BEVERLEY ACRES PUBLIC SCHOOL
283 Neal Drive, Richmond Hill
884-5059
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29 - 7:30 p.m.

MEADOWBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOL
233 Patterson Street, Newmarket
895-3081
TUESDAY, MARCH 6 - 7:15 p.m.

WOODLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
150 Henderson Avenue, Thornhill
889-4910
MONDAY, MARCH 5 - 8:00 p.m.

Further details may be obtained by contacting:
Mr. Steve J. Bacsalmasi
Principal
Jefferson Public School
11570 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill
884-4802

W. Monroe
Chairman

R.A. Cressman
Director of Education

MARKHAM PROCLAMATION

The Acting Mayor and Members of Council of the Town of Markham hereby proclaim the Week of February 20th, 1984 as "MARKHAM ROTARY CLUB WEEK" in the Town of Markham.

Carole Bell
Acting Mayor

MARKHAM PROCLAMATION

The Council of the Town of Markham hereby proclaims the week of February 20th, 1984 as "Junior Achievement Week" in the Town of Markham.

Anthony Roman
Mayor.

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