

Weekender

Builder anxious to begin work

Architect Jack Shaw says he's as anxious as anyone to begin the \$600,000 redevelopment of Stouffville's former Sanders Block building.

"We would love to start construction today," he told members of the Town's planning advisory committee at a meeting Tuesday.

But before he and partner John Baird's long-awaited project can get underway, the developers require a site plan agreement. This will enable them to obtain the necessary building permit.

Mr. Shaw assured committee members that he'll knock down the existing structure as soon as he's issued a demolition permit. First, he has to complete all his architectural drawings, a task he expected to finish by Oct. 16.

"We can't start today. It's a catch 22 situation," the architect said, noting that he has a builder willing to work through the winter months.

"I never thought I'd have to do all the drawings before hand," Mr. Shaw added.

The existing structure at 29-33 Main Street West is to be demolished and rebuilt over the original foundation. When completed, it will have four ground-floor commercial outlets plus a total of nine apartments.

Ward 1 councillor Margot Marshall questioned the length of time the project has taken to date.

"If just don't see us moving ahead too much at all," she said,

suggesting a time limit be placed on the developers.

However, it was noted that the onus is now on the municipality to finalize the site plan document.

Councillor Marshall described the new building as a "focus point" of town. Until it's completed, she claimed, other planned downtown improvements can't go ahead.

"I think why we're so anxious to do this is that it'll be the beginning of better things for Stouffville," noted Ward 4 representative Fran Sainsbury.

Mayor Tom Wood told the applicants that Town staff is "working diligently" to process the site plan, which was submitted Oct. 2.

The building's design will be based on the "flapper era" of the 1920s instead of the present structure's turn-of-the-century style, according to Mr. Shaw. It'll feature a light brown mixed Georgetown brick, etched windows, grey walnut doors and awnings with green and brown stripes.

Signs will be painted directly on store windows, eliminating the use of any other type of exterior advertising.

"I'd like the place to look elegant," the building's designer said after the meeting. "I don't want to spend \$600,000 and have it look poor."

Mr. Shaw estimated that he and Mr. Baird have each invested approximately \$100,000 in the project.



It's that time of year

Alison Chepack, 5, (left) and her sister Andrea, 2½, put the finishing touches on their scarecrow. Day project, about seven Princess St. residents took part. The grand prize winner (not available at press time) will receive a bushel of apples. Entered in Markham's first annual Princess St. Scarecrow Competition. Held as a Thanksgiving. — Greg Coates

Police seek suspect

Police detectives are continuing their search for a suspect in connection with a Sept. 15 abduction incident in Uxbridge.

A 30-year-old Pickering woman told Durham Regional Police that she was driving alone at about 7:40 p.m. when she stopped her blue 1981 Buick Regal at the intersection of Church and Toronto streets.

Before she was able to proceed away from a stop sign, a man wearing a nylon stocking over his face allegedly opened the passenger door of her car and jumped inside.

The woman said she was forced to drive to a secluded area south of Coppins Corners, where she escaped after a brief struggle with her assailant.

Police have a detailed description of the man, who was wearing a black leather jacket with zippers running down the forearms. He also had on a pair of surgical gloves.

The suspect is described as six feet, three inches tall; heavy set; clean-shaven, with a low voice; squinty eyes and predominant lips.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detectives Tony Turner or Peter Moore at Division 17, Oshawa. Phone is 852-3366 (ask for Div. 17, ext. 211).

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