

Dominion store opens Sundays

Mixed reaction from residents, staff and competition

By ROBERT DONNELLY

At 8 a.m. Sunday, Markham's New Dominion at Hwy 7 and McCowan Rd. opened its doors for business.

At 10 a.m., in response to numerous complaints from area residents, York Regional Police charged the store with violating The Retail Business Holidays Act.

It is the first grocery store in Markham to defy the Sunday closure law and joins 17 other Dominion stores in the Metro Toronto area open on Sundays in apparent violation of the law.

Consensus among many members of the retail industry is that the provincial act prohibiting Sunday shopping creates an unfair arena for competition by allowing only some stores, such as those in designated tourist areas, to open Sunday.

Many also agree that the law discriminates against non-Christians who may appreciate the convenience of Sunday shopping.

While most supermarket chains and independent grocers want changes in the law, there are disagreements about how it should be achieved.

Store manager Bob Simpson, a Dominion employee for 16 years, defended his company's decision to open Sunday.

"Maybe if all the retail chains open up (on Sunday) and force the issue onto the government, then the government will have to make a decision."

Although the turnout to the first Sunday opening was sparse, Mr. Simpson is confident that interest in a Sunday shopping day will increase.

Markham resident Donna Ter-

minesi, 25, was one of the few who took advantage of the inaugural Sunday opening.

"I hate shopping Saturdays," she said while loading a few bags of groceries into her car. "I work all week and I don't have very much time to spend with my daughter. Now I can leave Saturdays free and spend more time with her."

Another Markhamite, Elizabeth Recillo, also appreciated the convenience of shopping on Sunday.

"This Saturday we arrived too late to do any shopping, but then we noticed the sign that said they were open Sunday," she said.

The store manager, on the other hand, who maintains that he is not "a religious person", pointed out that he didn't mind working on the traditional 'day of rest'.

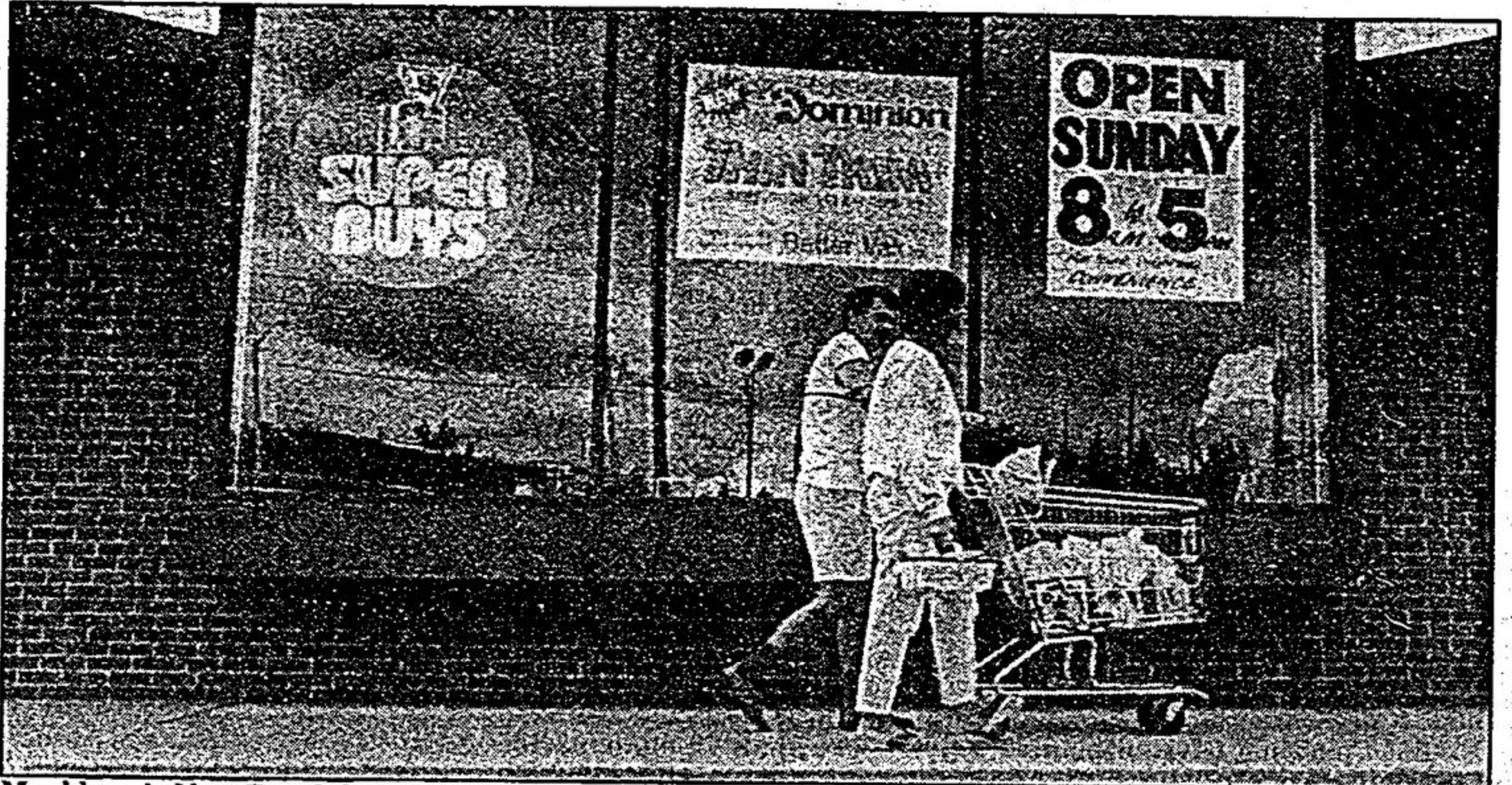
"Down the road...Sunday is going to become just another day," he said.

However, Don Boynton and 27 fellow employees at the Markham Dominion store view working on Sunday differently: They have signed a petition to demonstrate their unhappiness with the new arrangement.

Echoing the sentiments expressed by their union — The United Food and Commercial Workers Union — Mr. Boynton believes that the extra day will disrupt workers' family lives.

"Sunday is the only time we get to spend with our families," he said. "There is no need for grocery stores to be open Sunday. If people can't shop in six days they shouldn't be shopping at all."

Mr. Simpson was unaware of any employee backlash against the implementation of the additional workday.



Markham's New Dominion at Hwy 7 and McCowan Rd. opened for business Sunday and was charged by York Regional Police with violating The Retail Business Holidays Act. The act is currently under review by the Supreme Court of Canada. — Bill Lanning

He explained that under the current agreement with the union, employees are compensated for working a Sunday shift which pays full-time staff double their hourly wage and part-timers one-and-a-half times their usual salary.

Mr. Simpson stressed that working on Sunday is "voluntary".

"Certainly, nobody in this store has been forced to work," he said. "And we have no problems in filling the schedule."

He said although being open every day is more convenient, it is not going to get the regular customer to spend more on groceries.

Mr. Simpson added, however, that by being the first out of the gate to offer Sunday shopping Dominion could reap substantial benefits by luring away the competition's customers.

But, Dominion will not remain unchallenged for long.

Across the road at Markville Shopping Centre, Miracle Food Mart could also be open Sunday.

"We don't want to be a leader in the marketplace as far as opening on Sunday is concerned," commented store manager Callum McClean. But he noted that the competitive nature of the business will dictate that Miracle Food Mart will reluctantly follow Dominion's lead.

"What indicates for Miracle Food Mart whether we open on Sunday or not is competitive activity," he explained.

Should the supermarket open this Sunday, it will become the eighth Miracle Food Mart to open Sundays.

Opposing the move to Sunday shopping in Markham are the three IGA stores owned by the Didier family and Knob Hill Farms on Hwy 7 in Unionville.

Despite the fact that the manager at Knob Hill is in favor of the move, head office responded coolly to the idea. Company lawyer Howard Wood criticized Miracle Food Mart's competitive policy as "strange".

"Does that mean if the guy next to you on the highway is speeding that you're entitled to speed? Or if he shoots his wife then you're entitled to shoot your wife? Or if your neighbor's wife shoots her husband, then your wife is entitled to shoot you?"

Knob Hill Farms, while opposed to the current law, will wait until it is changed before deliberating on whether opening on Sunday is a good idea, he said.

"There is a piece of legislation in place in the province of Ontario, and until that legislation is changed, that's the law of the land," said Mr. Wood.

Equally adamant against open-

ing on Sundays is Dan Didier, manager of Markham's three IGA stores.

"Sunday for the people of Markham has always been a family day," he said. "This could force all food stores to open in order to remain competitive."

He added that his family and staff at all three Markham IGA stores prefer that Sunday not be a business day.

"There are already six shopping days in the week," said Mr. Didier. "It's too bad they (New Dominion) have gone this route."

As to whether IGA will follow suit and open on Sundays, Mr. Didier said, "it's hard to say."

York Regional Police Deputy Chief Darrell Burbine said that enforcing The Retail Business Holidays Act is proving to be a big headache due to the sheer volume of retail operations testing the legitimacy of the law in the courts.

"Let's clear it up once and for all," he said.

"We are wasting cops' energy running around laying charges, with many stores before the courts, and none of them have been disposed of," he added.

Later this year, the Supreme Court of Canada is expected to rule in one of these cases as to whether prohibiting Sunday shopping in Ontario is constitutional.

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Markham at its meeting held on August 18th, 1986 heard a presentation on behalf of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Markham with respect to a Peace Statement "To the Peoples of the World" on the occasion of the International Year of Peace;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the day of September 16th, 1986 be proclaimed as an "International Day of Peace" and that the week of September 15th to 21st, 1986 be proclaimed as "1986 Markham Peace Week".



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM NOTICE

PROPOSED BY-LAW TO CHANGE A STREET NAME IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 210 (SUBSECTION 105) OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham intends to pass a by-law to change the street name "Miramar Crescent", as dedicated on Registered Plan 65M-2416, to "Kimbarck Crescent".

The proposed by-law and a detailed plan showing the lands to be affected 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-law and applies to be heard at a hearing to be held on Tuesday, October 14th, 1986 in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 8911 Woodbine Avenue, Buttonville at the hour of 2:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

Christine Palmer, A.M.C.T.,
Deputy Clerk,
The Town of Markham,
8911 Woodbine Avenue,
Markham, Ontario,
L3R 1A1

Dated at the Town of Markham this 26th day of August, 1986.
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MORTGAGE RATES

Economist & Sun/The Tribune compiled these rates as of Monday, Sept. 8, 1986.

MORTGAGE LENDER	VAR. RATE	6 MTHS	1 YEAR	2 YEAR	3 YEAR	4 YEAR	5 YEAR
BANK OF MONTREAL	9.75	9.75	9.75	10.25	10.5	10.75	11
NOVA SCOTIA	9.75	—	9.75	10.25	10.5	10.75	11
C.I.B.C.	9.75	—	9.75	10.25	10.5	11	11
ROYAL BANK	9.75	—	9.75	10.25	10.5	10.75	11
TORONTO DOMINION	9.75	9.5	9.5	10.25	10.5	10.75	11
CANADA TRUST	10.25	9.5	9.5	10.25	10.5	11	11
FAMILY TRUST	—	9.75	9.75	10.25	10.5	11	11
NATIONAL TRUST	9.75	9.5	9.5	10.25	10.5	11	11
STERLING TRUST	—	—	9%	10.25	10.75	11	11.25
STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LTD.	—	—	9.5	10	10.5	—	—
ROYALLEPAGE	—	9.5	9.75	10.25	10.5	11	11