

**Planning briefs**

**Public to consider bid for rezoning**

The town has called a May public meeting to consider a rezoning bid on Hwy 48.

The meeting was called to consider a redesignation of lands on the northwest corner of Hwy 48 and 16th Ave. from agricultural and rural residential to commercial.

If passed at the public meeting and by council, commercial uses including professional offices, medical clinics, restaurants, banks or day care centres would be permitted.

The land, because of the agricultural zoning, is being removed from the town's interim control bylaw to update its designation within town boundaries.

**Prestige office plan approved**

Town council's masterplan for lands surrounding its forthcoming civic centre is starting to take shape.

Planning committee Tuesday approved an application to construct a three-storey office building on Town Centre Blvd., west of Unionville High School.

An architectural firm plans to use one-third of the building as a head office and lease the remainder of office space.

A planning committee report indicates this is the first phase of what is expected to be a four-building office complex.

**Buttonville plan stalled**

Oil giant Imperial Oil Ltd. was delayed Tuesday in a bid to build a

service centre in Buttonville.

Planning committee deferred Imperial Oil's attempt to build a service station and gas bar at the corner of Woodbine Ave. and 16th Ave. until it's Official Plan Review is complete.

Two buildings on the property are included on Heritage Markham's Building Inventory list.

A planning staff report said the need for the service centre could only be dealt with when considering future land needs. Approval of the plan would involve extension of Markham's current urban boundary — 16th Ave.

**Day care duo given hearing**

Two local businessmen planning a Markham day care centre had their proposal clear another hurdle Tuesday with Planning committee's vote to forward it to a public hearing.

An application by Ian Buchanan and Gord Gontier to open the centre on 16th Ave. at Elizabeth St. requires rezoning to permit the conversion of a home into a children's centre.

The centre, if approved, will supervise up to 40 children. A "creative" playground will be installed in the backyard.

Last April, council rejected an application by the pair to convert the ground floor of the house into a restaurant-tavern.

**Talks continue with RC teachers**

York Catholic teachers and the school board burned the midnight oil this week during their last ditch contract negotiations.

Negotiating teams for the two sides returned to the bargaining table Wednesday morning with mediator Dr. William Marcotte at the Inn on the Park hotel in midtown Toronto. They were given until yesterday to work things out. The outcome was not available at press time.

Neither side will speak to the press until either a settlement or a deadlock is reached. If negotiations are succeeding, but the teams need more time to come to a final agreement, they can extend the talks past the deadline of midnight last night.

Teachers are set to strike against the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board if an agreement is not reached by next Wednesday.

**Ed and Claudette**

PLUMBING SUPPLIES



"Do you also sell life jackets?" ARD/87

The Mac's Milk store on Wellington St. West in Markham is now selling condoms. The chain of convenience stores decided to stock the items to help fight AIDS which is usually transmitted by sexual intercourse. — Sjoerd Witteveen

**Markham convenience store selling condoms**

By PAUL PIVATO Staff Reporter

You can now buy a pack of condoms at your neighborhood Mac's milk store.

Condoms have been selling at the Mac's outlet on 206 Wellington St. West for about two weeks, said manager Yeghishe Derjalstanin.

And, he added, "they've been selling pretty well."

The other Markham-area Mac's outlet on 227 Main St. North has yet to stock condoms, but manager Paul Park said he expects to begin selling them any day.

The nation-wide chain of convenience stores approved the sale of condoms last month, according to Mac's executive vice-president Russ Egerdie.

He said Mac's decided to sell condoms after he got a call from a Vancouver radio talk-show. The topic that day: preventing the spread of AIDS.

"They wanted to know if we would begin sell-

ing them in our stores," said Mr. Egerdie. "We had a meeting and we approved their sale in all our 790 stores."

The condoms will be sold behind the counter but displayed openly, said Mr. Egerdie.

Concern about the spread of AIDS was the main reason for the decision to sell the controversial product, he said. Condoms help prevent the transmission of the AIDS virus, which can be spread through sexual intercourse.

"More people — especially young people — do their shopping at Mac's than at a drug store," he said. "It's just more convenient."

So far Mac's has had "a very favorable reaction," said Mr. Egerdie.

The Becker Milk Co., which owns Scarborough Fair convenience stores, does not sell condoms.

But several privately-owned convenience stores in Markham, including Hasty Market and Kwik Stop, have been selling condoms for several years now.

**Strike looming**

York Region's public school caretakers have voted overwhelmingly to go on strike within two weeks.

At a meeting on Sunday, the board's 400 caretakers voted 272 to 41 in favor of striking on April 10 if mediation talks with the board fail.

The caretakers, members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 1196, maintain 75 public elementary schools and 16 high schools in York Region.

Both sides have agreed to meet in early April for mediation talks, but a firm date has not been nailed down.

The caretakers' union reportedly wants a one-year contract and higher wages. The board has offered a two-year contract.

**Car frames taken in theft**

Police said \$20,000 worth of fibreglass moulds for car bodies were stolen from Markville Motors on 12 Heritage Rd. Monday night.

The lock to a trailer at the rear of the building was pried open with a crowbar, police said.

**They 'pass' on pass**

A new rail pass for the Toronto-Havelock commuter train service has so far failed to increase ridership, says a VIA Rail spokesperson.

"These things usually take a while to catch on," claimed Beverley Smith, VIA's regional manager of public affairs. "We're running at about 80 passengers each way and that's about the same as it was

before the new pass was introduced."

The commuter train runs with two coaches, one of which is for non-smokers, and includes stops at Myrtle, Dagmar, Claremont and Locust Hill en route to Union Station.

The new pass, called Take 10, allows passengers 10 same-day, round-trip tickets for use over a 21-day period. Cost is \$100 for Myrtle passengers.



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