



Rainy rollover

Pickering firefighters examine this overturned Dodge, which lost control and flipped over on Brock Rd. north of Hwy. 7 last Saturday afternoon. Brian Lymburner, 22, of Uxbridge, was taken to hospital with minor injuries. Durham Regional Police cited rainy weather as a possible cause of the accident. — Alan Shackleton



Poppys in bloom

The annual poppy drive starts Saturday in preparation for Remembrance Day services Nov. 7. Markham Veteran Jack Harris pins a poppy on cadet Scott MacKenzie at the Memorial at Markham Library. Scott is a member of the Governor General Horse Guards, 748th Markham. — Sjoerd Witteveen

Plaza compromise has residents relieved

By STEVE HOUSTON
Staff Reporter

A "livable solution" has been hammered out between a local developer and several Markham area residents, halting an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing in mid-session.

Town officials struck a deal with Minnow Construction Ltd. on

Tuesday over a controversial Hwy. 48 and 16th Ave. plaza plan that area residents have vehemently opposed for some months.

Minnow Construction officials agreed to several concessions in the proposal that will minimize the development's impact on nearby homeowners.

Markham Solicitor Ray Kallio said the compromise included the deletion of take-out fast food restaurant uses and taxi stands.

But he said a full service restaurant — minus take-out facilities — was given the okay in the plan.

Kallio also conceded that the town "didn't have a case" in attempting to prove at the OMB the southeast corner of the intersection should remain a residentially designated area.

The other three corners in the area already are, or have been recently designated, for commercial development.

The town unanimously vetoed the plan earlier this year, leading to the objection and call for an OMB hearing.

"I think we met more than half-way and got an excellent deal for the ratepayers," Kallio concluded Wednesday.

Cathy Lee, a nearby Elizabeth St. resident whose property would be affected by the plan, called the compromise a livable solution.

She and other residents were informed of negotiations between the town and Minnow Construction officials, and met with Mayor Carole Bell on Tuesday — the first scheduled day of OMB discussions.

She admitted Minnow Construction's evidence that residential construction on a corner surrounded by commercial developments was a strong argument before the OMB.

And she said the compromise avoided a possible victory at the board by Minnow Construction, leaving room for a development the residents would be more opposed to.

"After banging our heads against the wall enough times, we realized this was really the only way to fly," she said in an interview.

Kallio said a written decision from the OMB will likely be handed down within a month.

Town centre Work to start soon

Markham Council and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Joe Pickard are nearing the final stage of pre-construction duties with the town's new \$23-million headquarters.

Council received an information report at its meeting on Tuesday from the CAO.

Regional Councillor Ron Moran said the town is itemizing details in the plan and preparing for ground-breaking ceremonies.

The first shovel is expected to hit the ground sometime next month, Moran said.

Parks department staff off to Orillia

Eleven staff members of Markham's Parks and Recreation department will head to the north country next month for a four-day training excursion.

The annual event, being held this year at the YMCA's Geneva Park in Orillia, is organized by the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation in Ontario.

Council okayed the request for Parks and Recreation Director Brian Wigglesworth and 10 employees to attend the series of training seminars to keep local recreation policies "on the leading edge in this field."

The bill will total an estimated \$2,600 for the excursion.

Decorative traffic lights for Main St.

Ornamental traffic light standards will be installed on Markham Main St. as part of the final stages for the commercial core's beautification program.

Council voted Tuesday to purchase the standards and remove the ones now in use.



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