

Weekender

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Truck terminal proposed

Vintage Fords, Chevs, Plymouths and Buicks may soon be replaced by Macks, Kenworths, GMCs and Freightliners.

This is the proposal for a Stouffville Road site, once unique in York Region and perhaps Ontario.

Classic Cars, owned and operated by Gormley's Al Webster, opened only last spring with all the promise of becoming an auto museum. Chrome-plated oldies, seldom seen under one roof, were on display.

But all this seems a thing of the past. G.M. Smith of G.M. Smith Heavy Haulers Ltd., Unionville, considers the ten-acre site ideally suited for its needs. The only problem relates to 'outside storage'. Mr. Smith wants a definition from the Town.

Councillor Wilf Morley was upset over the timing of the presentation, Nov. 24. The question of re-zoning was on the evening's agenda.

"The applicant is changing the whole proposal before the ink is even dry," charged Morley. He claimed Mayor Fran Sainsbury was 'out of line' in permitting discussion.

"You're the one who's out of line," shot back Councillor Ron Robb, "let's hear what the delegation has to say."

Mr. Smith explained the area where he's presently located, is 'filling in'. He said GO-Transit wants the property for a station. A small plaza is also planned.

He said neighbors had circulated a petition asking the firm not to move. Support of their business operation had also come from the Town of Markham, he stated.

G.M. Smith Heavy Haulers Ltd., first located in Unionville 25 years ago. In 1983, the firm won an award for 'The Best Industrial Front Yard in Markham'.

Councillor Morley agreed the company has always maintained an impressive operation. His concern, he said, related to the meaning of 'transportation terminal'.

Smith explained little business is done locally. Trucks, he said, travel as far distant as coast-to-coast across Canada and the United States as well as Mexico, sometimes not returning for two weeks. A second terminal is located in Montreal.

"We require a new head office," he said, "and a place to complete repairs."

He wanted to know if over-night parking would constitute 'outside storage'.

Council turned the request over to their chief planner for a report.



Off limits

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville plans to come down hard on householders who use Town property like it was their own.

Council's particularly concerned over the practice of planting trees and erecting buildings and fences on lands that legally belong to the municipality.

At a meeting, Nov. 24, it was agreed that offenders be sent letters requesting such items be removed.

If this doesn't bring about the required results, a second notice will be sent by registered mail.

Failure to comply with this warning will result in action by the Town.

The greatest concern is in Stouffville's Dulverton Subdivision, Council was told.

Thumbs down

While sympathetic to a lack of 'affordable housing' in Whitchurch-Stouffville, Council has no intentions of getting into the development business.

Members made this clear at a meeting Nov. 24.

Councillor Wilf Morley said a commitment of this kind would constitute a financial burden on the Town.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury claimed Stouffville's sewage capacity is already close to maximum. She said zoning laws would have to be changed. At the same time, she suggested a needs study could be undertaken since it's wholly funded by the province.

Mayor Sainsbury observed that it's all very well to shift the responsibility to Queen's Park. "What they decide may work well in Scarborough and North York but not in Whitchurch-Stouffville."

Address caught Olympic spirit

Eleven-year-old Melissa Austin, a Grade 6 student attending Summitview School, Stouffville, won the Olympic Spirit Public Speaking Contest Wednesday. Melissa will attend the 'Share The Flame' ceremony on the grounds of the Whitchurch-Stouffville

Museum, Vaudorf, Dec. 22. Here, she receives an official Olympic Pin from Town committee chairperson, Marlene McKee-Wetheral.

—Jim Thomas

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