

**More editor's mail**

# Civic centre move is distressing

To the Mayor and members of Council:

My purpose in writing is to express serious concern at your intention to move the municipal offices away from Main St., Stouffville.

As a former merchant of Main St., Markham, I am very aware of the devastating results when the focus is gradually moved from the downtown area.

In Markham, the problem is too much competition from strip plazas (e.g. along Hwy. 7) and too many malls. Consequently, Main St. is dying.

The more we detract from the Main St. as a focal point, the more business is drawn away to other locations. Business becomes too spread out and no one benefits.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is in the process of making its first decision to destroy the unity of Main St. if it allows the town offices to be moved to Hwy. 48.

Whether we allow an abundance of strip plazas and malls, or the displacement of our municipal offices — which are the largest employers in town — it matters little. The results are the same.

Traffic decreases and business gradually dissipates. Main St. becomes less and less important.

The potential effects on the community are also disastrous. If Main St. becomes a "ghost town," as is happening in Markham, property values will

decline and our community will no longer be a great place to live.

Lost will be its small-town atmosphere of uniqueness and friendliness. People will go elsewhere to shop and live. Do we want to chance this?

In conclusion, your proposal is counter-productive to the well-being of your Main St., your merchants and your community.

Sincerely,  
Jane Rooney  
Proprietor

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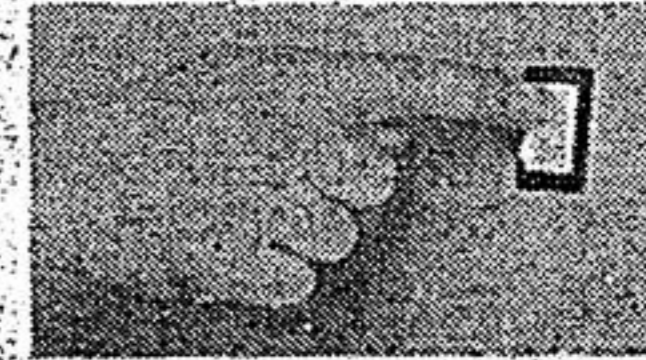
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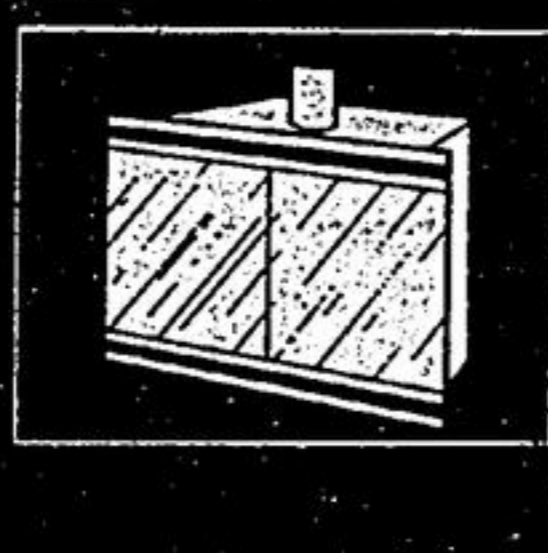
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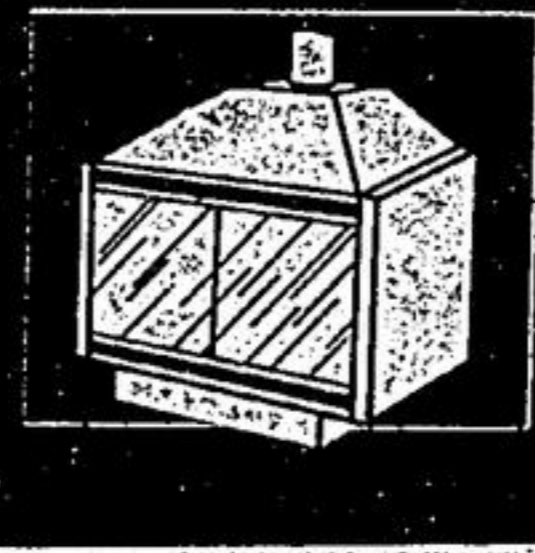
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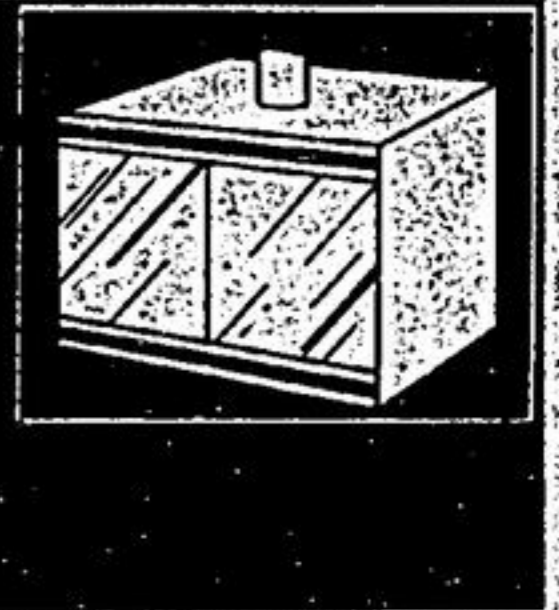
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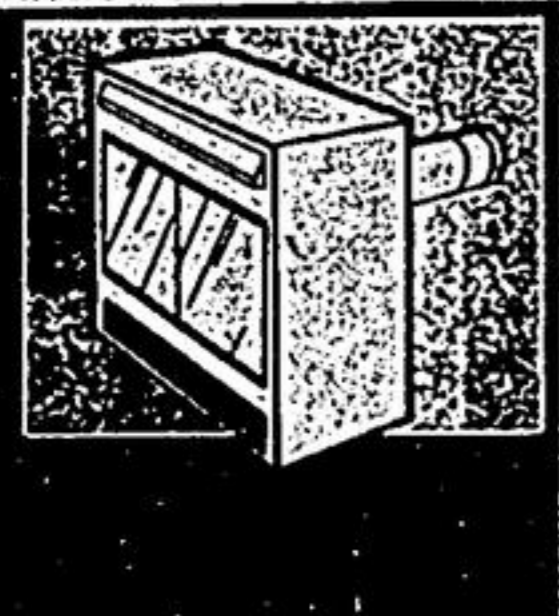
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