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We are the champions

Photo/RICK MADONIK

Paul Guest retrieves the ball from the net while son Jeremy, 6, (right) and friend Jason Hiner, 6, (goalie) celebrate the goal. The three spent Sunday afternoon on the driveway of the Guests'

Millard St. home with a friendly yet competitive game of road hockey. The two six-year-olds were victorious.

Sunday opening

Sports store charged, flea market missed

York Regional Police once again charged Stouffville's National Sports Store last weekend for defying Sunday shopping laws, said Sergeant Norn Miles.

But the Big Flea Market was given a reprieve by police in light of a letter from Whitchurch-Stouffville Council stating its approval of Sunday exemption. Now, police will not charge those merchants at the Hwy. 47 location.

Although the final decision must be made at the Regional level, Sgt. Miles said the force will honor the Town's request to exempt the Auction Barns from the law.

At the Jan. 16 council in committee meeting, Council voted to approve an exemption, but stipulated each business must not be more than 2,400 sq. ft.

But because National Sports, which also opens seven days a week, is larger than 2,400 sq. ft., police will continue laying charges, Sgt. Miles said.

The region will vote on the exemption at an upcoming meeting. Until then, the Stouffville Flea Market is off the hook with police, he said.

Business on farm a no-no

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A Hwy. 48 potato shed should not be turned into a computer software business and the owners "have done everything possible without a permit," said Ward 1 Councillor Margot Marshall at Tuesday evening's planning meeting.

"This whole thing throws me right off. They have been pleading innocent all the way along and doing everything without going through the proper channels," she added.

Since last September the Tsao/Tseng property, located on a three-acre parcel on the east side of Hwy. 48 just north of St. John's Sideroad, has been discussed extensively in Council chambers.

Originally against the operation of a business on agricultural lands, Ward 2 Councillor Ron Robb later revised his statement after a tour of the renovated potato shed office.

Councillor Robb said the owners "sneaked in a business"

Council members disapprove of computer firm operating on agriculturally zoned land. They'll vote on the matter next month.

when the issue was first brought to council's attention, but after the tour, changed his stand.

"I am impressed with the business," he later remarked and asked council to postpone its decision and to pass a temporary use bylaw.

The owners failed to apply for a permit last year and began operating a computer software administrative business on lands zoned agricultural. When the building inspector told them a permit was needed, Ms. Tseng declared "we were not aware we were doing anything wrong."

Although there is little to no traffic at the business location, and although the regional health department reported it has no problem with the parking area, council would not pass the requested three-year temporary use bylaw for the owners Tuesday night.

"I am definitely against this. It opens doors to a lot more of the same coming our way," said Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson.

"When it comes to business I really feel (the owners) are using the system and playing innocent.

It's precedent setting and I don't believe we should even grant the three-year permit," stated Councillor Marshall.

Ward 6 Councillor Jim Sanders agreed.

"It is precedent setting. They set up their business then came to the Town for an application. We have to make sure things are done properly here. Also we have to protect the rights of residents complaining about this. We have to respect their rights," Councillor Sanders added.

But Ward 5 Councillor Doug Alles said, "We have to be careful here. We did encourage the temporary use bylaw and to be perfectly fair there were residents in support of the bylaw."

But Councillor Marshall maintained "the owners have done everything possible to offend the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville."

Council voted to defer the final decision to Feb. 6 when Councillor Robb, absent at the Tuesday planning meeting, can be present.

Information on water available from region

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Boiling water suspected of containing high nitrate levels will not decrease nitrate concentration but will probably increase it, reports the York Regional Medical Officer of Health, Helena Jaczek.

Writing to a Musselman's Lake resident in response to sampling sent by the taxpayer, the health unit supplied the man with descriptive material about water.

Also listed in the information: (Please see page 3)