

Prestige office development planned by Stouffville man

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Farmer Jack's new development — Burrow's Business Park — will "enhance the interests of the Town", said Jack Burrows at a recent planning advisory meeting.

Hoping to start construction in July, Mr. Burrows told the committee members "we've done a

lot of research and are aware of the types of businesses" the town would benefit from.

The 14.5-acre parcel, located on lands directly behind and to the east of the Stouffville Garden's plaza, would house prestige businesses including financial institutions, law firms, real estate brokers, and patio/fireplace stores to name a few.

But Mr. Burrows said the main problem in getting a commitment from potential tenants comes down to sewage allocation — of which the Town has "tentatively" reserved 7.3 acres — half of the entire land size.

The development scheme would consist of 1.63 acres for an industrial condominium, 2.56 acres for a packaging warehouse, 4.43 acres for an inside mini-storage shed. The remaining 2.69 acres would consist of roads to and from the business areas.

Although Mr. Burrows said he wouldn't need sewage capacity for several acres including the mini-storage location, Ward 4 Councillor Wayne Emmerson pointed out that sewage allocation is granted on acreage and not what types of businesses or buildings are erected on the land.

"The Region looks at the amount of area of the building," he added.

Mr. Burrows also told the committee he is "dealing with the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario before signing a site plan agreement."

He said he's "getting very close" to construction and hopes to begin in mid-July.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury pointed out construction should be started as quickly as possible because "we have to allocate to people who are serious to build. We need a time-frame. We need taxes and can't tie-up the available sewage space."

Mr. Burrows has applied to the Region of York for rezoning.

Affordable housing in Stouffville limited

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Insufficient sewage capacity will limit Whitchurch-Stouffville's ability to provide affordable housing units that the province wants municipalities to set aside, said Mayor Fran Sainsbury.

But the Town voted to supply the province with an affordable housing statement provided it receives funding and grants as well as regional approval, she added.

"We have to look at what we have and decide how we can cope with that."

The province is requesting that rural Ontario municipalities set aside 25 per cent of future planning sites for affordable housing.

"We have no sewage capacity for density housing, 25 (per cent) of nothing is nothing. If we can't provide the physical (housing) why do the study," she said.

The Town will hire The Starr Group to prepare the housing statement on the basis of 75 per cent provincial funding through the Ministry of Housing and a 25 per cent municipal share.

Also requesting the region's support, the Town will ask for funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to carry out a residential intensification study that deals with existing housing to see how "we can accommodate (housing) in town without sewage."

"There may be ways we could accommodate to some small degree," the mayor added.

She pointed out two kitchens in one home are illegal and some older farm homes in the rural areas already have two kitchens in place. This could be one area looked in at in the intensification study.

Council passed the special resolution to undertake the two affordable housing steps last week.



Perfect spiral

Markham-Stouffville Hospital will benefit from the artistic talents of Ron and Linda Baird, whose sculpture 'The Spiral of Sharing' will hang in the main stairwell of the new building. The piece being displayed by the artists here is actually a scale model of the finished product, which will be 25 feet tall and six feet in diameter.

Crushing demand drains funds from Life Centre

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

The Markham/Stouffville Family Life Centre wants to clarify that its financial shortcomings are not due to a lack of funding by the United Way.

Executive Director Ed Meade said the reason the service agency is "suffering financially" is because "this centre is the most used agency" in York Region.

The Family Life Centre — offering counselling to needy families — ran out of money last year and had to delay services, Dr. Meade said.

But the United Way is not the

Stouffville man charged

A 20-year-old Stouffville man faces break and enter and possession of stolen goods charges after he and three Newmarket men broke into and removed merchandise from a Consumers Distributing store in Newmarket last Sunday.

York Regional Police officers obtained a search warrant to a Newmarket home where they discovered stolen property valued at about \$40,000.

Officers arrested the four men on Jan. 21 and made 14 charges in total: seven break and enter charges, four charges of stolen goods possession over \$1,000 and three charges of possession of a prohibited weapon.

While one of the men was released, police held the other two Newmarket men and the Stouffville resident in custody until a court appearance.

reason the centre was short of funds last year, he added.

"We were very busy with needy clients like single moms with three kids who can't afford the fees. We would continue to see them," he said.

Dealing with violence, abuse and other family problems, Dr. Meade said the centre "had to go out on a limb to help these people. We went to such an extent that we went under this year and had to get a loan."

The centre will receive \$102,000 from the United Way, although it asked for \$132,000. The charity funds 23 per cent of the centre along with 31 other service agencies throughout the region.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services — under a

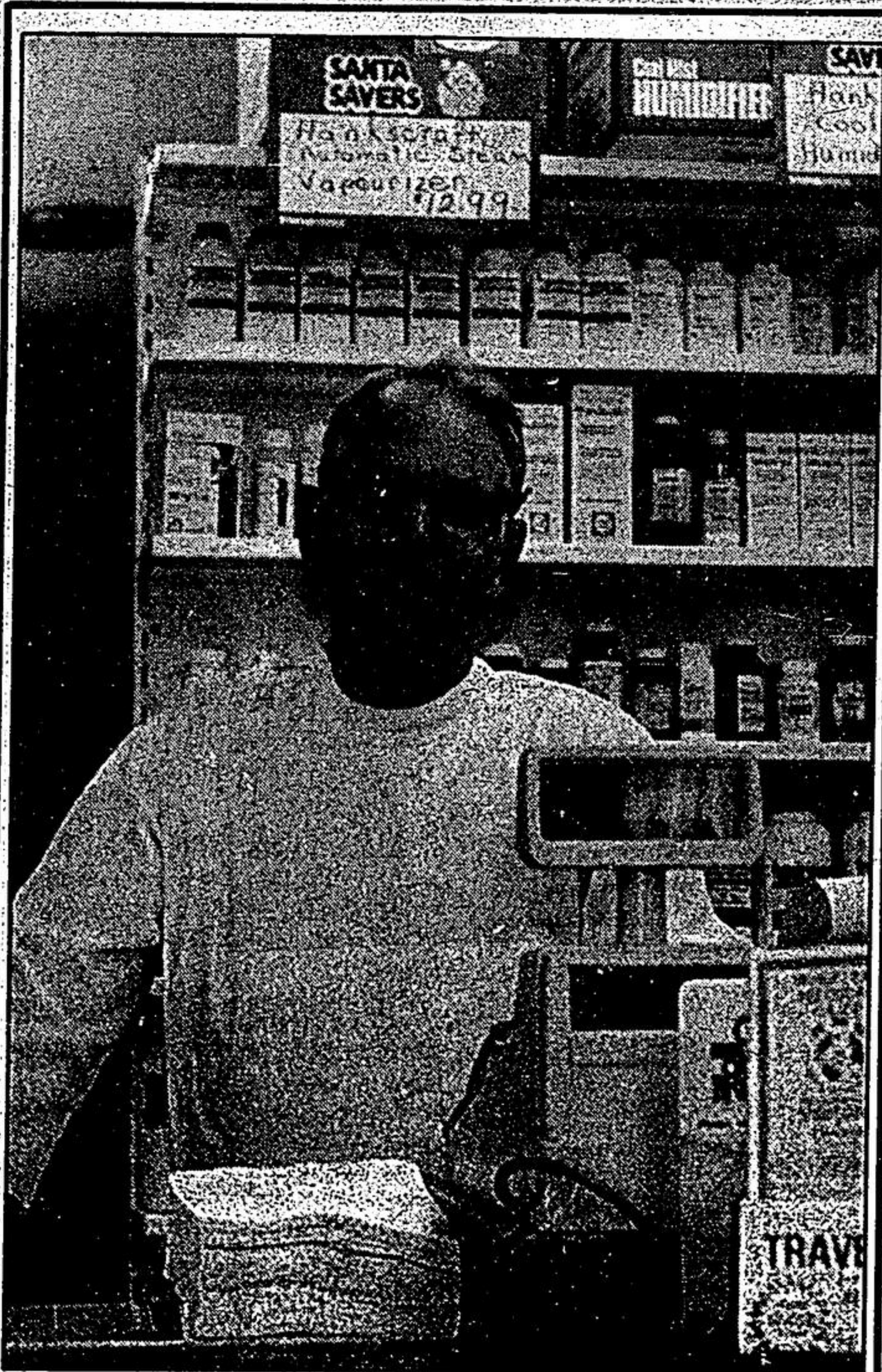
"purchase of service" contract through the region — provides another 25 per cent funding.

But Dr. Meade said the four per cent increase is not enough to meet the demands for counselling and the rapid growth increase in York Region.

"It's a question of the four per cent rollover being inadequate. It's not realistic to growth and puts us further behind. We deal with low income people on welfare, unemployed people and single mothers."

Dr. Meade stressed the United Way assistance is not the thorn in the centre's side but can be contributed to "far more demand than we can contract for."

"We have to be regulated this year," he said.



Photo/Tracy Kibble

Phantom pharmacist

Stouffville Main Street pharmacist Bill Gibson was all smiles behind the counter of Houston's Pharmacy recently in preparation for a night at Pantages Theatre in Toronto. Mr. Gibson won tickets to see the smash hit Phantom of the Opera in a draw sponsored by the Stouffville Business Improvement Area as part of its Festival of Bells celebration. The tickets were used at a Jan. 22 performance.

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