

SPORTS

Pee Wee Clippers lose heartbreaking finale to tournament. See page 10.



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Rumors swirling around McNeil sale

SAL BOMMARITO
Staff Reporter

Rumors continue to swirl around the future of the McNeil Pharmaceutical Ltd. building located on Main Street. But no buyer has yet been found, said Les Gagnon, the company's president.

The building, which is owned by Johnson and Johnson, McNeil's parent company, will be vacant as of December 18.

That's when McNeil will be moving to a temporary location in Don Mills while the company's permanent home there undergoes renovations, said Gagnon. McNeil will share the location with Ortho

Ltd., also owned by Johnson and Johnson.

Meanwhile, the company is entertaining offers from prospective buyers for the company's Stouffville building, Gagnon confirmed.

"We don't have anything in our hot little hands. We have people looking. We're anxious to get it sold," he said.

However, Gagnon would not disclose any details or reveal identity of any of the prospective buyers.

"As soon as something concrete happens, I'll be happy to give you a call," said Gagnon.

He did say "a new party" has come forward in the last week.

NovoPharm Ltd. president Leslie Dan would neither confirm nor

deny rumors his company is interested in the building.

"If anything develops, we'll let you know. There's no comment at

the moment," said Dan from his Toronto office.

"We'll have to wait, there's nothing I can say at this time," he said.

Ministry investigates 'shots'

The Ministry of Labor is investigating a construction company after a Stouffville man and his stepson found some misfired cartridges near Summitview Public School.

A ministry of labor investigator visited the school construction site last week after being contacted by Keith Gutkind, a Main Street resident.

A stop-work order was issued to Schonberg Construction Ltd., which is building an addition to the school, said investigator Jim Gardner.

The order was issued under a section of the Occupational Health and Safety Act which covers the disposal of "misfired loads from an explosive-actuated tool," said Gardner.

The contractor is required to have a water container on site for proper disposal of the loads or cartridges, he said. Once the company has complied with the order, work can resume, he said.

He stressed the incident is still under investigation and that no charges will be laid "until I found out what happened that day."

"Awareness is the key factor. We don't want to ignore the seriousness or the potential (danger) involved. Generally in construction you'll find (misfired loads) lying around. We have to educate the kids to stay out of the areas," said Gardner.

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Photo/ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI

Shepherds watched their flock

Students from St. Mark's school in Stouffville were not sheepish at all about their role as shepherds in Saturday's Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade. For more on the 25th annual event, see page 16.

New council inaugurated amid pomp, circumstance

SAL BOMMARITO
Staff Reporter

The new Whitchurch-Stouffville council officially embarked on its three-year term last Tuesday night as about 80 well-wishers jammed the tiny council chambers to witness the 45-minute inaugural ceremony.

The ceremony began with the Call to Order by town crier Marcel Bossi, followed by the singing of O'Canada by Carrie Garrett.

"There's a lot of hard slugging and a lot of rough going

ahead," Rev. Bryan Coker said during the invocation. "Council, God bless you in your tasks," said Coker, before leading the prayer. A hymn by Garrett followed the invocation and prayer.

Those in attendance included friends and relatives of the new council, as well as dignitaries and members of the media.

Regional chairman Eldred King, MPP Larry O'Connor and Chamber of Commerce president Larry Rogalski also attended the ceremony. Participants and observers were invited to a reception following the ceremony at Sleepy

Hollow Golf and Country Club.

Mayor Fran Sainsbury and councillors were sworn in by town solicitor Paul Mingay, who lead the oath of office and oath of allegiance.

Council members sat solemn-faced as their colleagues were sworn in one by one.

Sainsbury's emotions came to the surface, however, following the presentation of the chain of office and gavel by Mingay.

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