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Region

## York snubs Gormley industry... again

TRACY KIBBLE  
Staff Reporter

York Region officials appear once again to be snubbing the town's efforts to snag some industry in Gormley - despite a move last year to scale the plan down by more than 900 acres.

The town scrapped its original 1,300-acre industrial park project last December because both York and the provincial government made it clear they

wouldn't support placing that much industry on unserved, rural land.

Consequently, the five-year project, to be located north and south of Stouffville Road and east of Hwy 48 in Gormley, was quashed, but not until officials brought forward a smaller version, known as Official Plan Amendment No. 88 (OPA88.)

The new 325-acre plan would grind through the planning

process far quicker and would likely garner mandatory support from York and Queen's Park, officials said.

But it looks like the town's plans to gain industry might be dashed once again, after recommendations to defer the plan reached at York's planning committee last month.

The region's planning commissioner, John Livey wants a settlement capability study undertaken prior to OPA88

approval, and wants a letter sent to the province in that regard.

"The industrial development proposed by OPA88 could pose environmental problems such as contamination and depletion of groundwater supplies which serve the site and the surrounding area," Livey's report states.

Livey said a settlement capability study, which regulates how much industry can safely

be placed on unserved, rural land, would erase dangers to the environment and would fall within York's policy.

The planning commissioner does, however, agree the OPA88 secondary plan "has planning merit," but warns even with the installation of a communal waste disposal system the development could still "pose a threat of groundwater contamination."

York also has concerns about how much a communal sewage treatment facility would cost for a 325-acre spread and wants two provincial ministries to state their positions on the plan.

Town officials incited an outcry last December from developers who were cut out of the original plan when smaller boundaries were drawn.

Despite opposition from groups of developers, the town drew up the smaller plan.

## Volkswagen denies plans to locate in Stouffville

Despite reports this week, a Volkswagen official denied the automobile company is seriously looking at relocating its headquarters in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Volkswagen spokesman Ron Zidner said a Thursday Toronto Star report stating the company has applied to construct an office building and warehouse in the town's proposed 325-acre Gormley industrial park "is just not true."

"This is plain sensationalism on the part

of some reporter," Zidner told the Tribune yesterday. Although Zidner admitted the company is "window-shopping in many different regions" for a location where it may re-locate its Scarborough office, there is no formal indication that Whitchurch-Stouffville is preferred.

"There has been no communication, no preference and no promises, let alone a decision," Zidner said.

"I can't deny we haven't looked at the

Whitchurch-Stouffville (location) but we certainly haven't zeroed in," he added.

Zidner said even if the company did locate in the unapproved Gormley industrial park proposal, it would mean very few employment opportunities, since staff would be re-located also. York Region chief administrative officer, Bob Forhan agreed the region "had no knowledge" of such an application.

~ Tracy Kibble

## Area woman reunited with family

KATE GILDERDALE  
Correspondent

When Wendy Graham turned 27, she got an unexpected birthday present - a whole new family.

"That was the day I found out I was adopted," explained the Musselman Lake resident. When she first heard the news from her older brother she was sceptical, "so I asked my mother and she said it was true."

At first her mother was upset that Graham had been told. "She said she felt I wouldn't like her any more when I knew I was adopted." Her mother's fears were unfounded, however, and Graham took the news calmly, although she admits it took some getting used to.

It wasn't until recently (Please see page 29)



Wendy Graham meets long-lost birth sister Pauline.

## Dance to help youth centre

The Stouffville Youth Centre will be among the beneficiaries of this year's Bouwmeister charity dance.

This is the eighth year for the dance, held once again at the Markham Fairgrounds, on Saturday, June 5.

Sponsored by Gary Bouwmeister of Bouwmeister Landscaping, the charity dance will feature Grant Fullerton's Rock and Blues Band and a rock and roll disc jockey. The Q107 Community Cruiser will also be on hand broadcasting from the event.

Proceeds from the dance will go to the Optimist's fundraising drive for the Youth Centre, and the Lions Club charities in Whitchurch-Stouffville. In past years, the Bouwmeister dance has raised between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for local charities.

Every year, between 1,000 to 1,200 York Region residents come to the dance, but there will be no advance tickets, so participants are advised to arrive early. Tickets are \$12 and the dance runs from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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