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Development

Residents protest Millard homes

By MIKE RUTA
 Staff Reporter

A Monday night information meeting between representatives for Dulverton Developments and residents heard many concerns raised about a proposed 54-lot subdivision on Millard St.

But one thing was clear: the roughly 30 residents in attendance, many of whom live in the immediate area, were opposed to the extension of Baker St. into the new subdivision.

When moderator Hessian Rimon, president of PMG Planning Consultants, asked the residents if they would prefer a plan with a dead-end Baker St., the reply was 'yes.'

But with two dead end streets in the proposed development, Rimon explained that

the opening of Baker St. would be essential to provide adequate fire routes.

This opinion was echoed by town planning co-ordinator Bill Moyer, who said the fire department stresses two access routes into a neighborhood.

Moyer said the town was in favor of opening the street for another reason.

"The town recognizes few downtown links between Millard and the downtown area," he said. "This is an opportunity to provide another link."

Most who spoke on the issue said the extension would mean an unacceptable increase in traffic.

Douglas Jordan, a transportation engineer with Dillon consultants, attempted to placate the traffic concerns, explaining that he forecasted

only a 20 per cent increase in traffic volume.

But Jordan was challenged on the validity of his traffic study, conducted both in the morning and evening rush hours on the Thursday before

a long weekend.

Residents argued that it was a poor time to study traffic in the area because many people were on holidays, and the children weren't in school.

Jordan explained that he

had to do a study in time for the meeting, leaving him no opportunity to pick and choose his date.

"These streets are designed

(Please see page 3)

Biway coming to town

It's official: Biway Stores Limited will have its grand opening on September 26 in the Stouffville Place Mall. It will coincide with the opening of the Weston Produce grocery store.

The 7,500-square foot outlet will employ 15 full and part-time employees. Applications are currently being taken at the Markham Biway store.

"We think it's a community that would benefit from a Biway because there are a lot of families there," said Janice Partington, Biway's vice-president of marketing, in referring to the children's goods and family apparel found in the chain's stores.

"We are a convenience-oriented operation," said vice-president of real estate Nitti Vincent, adding that the store's location on Main St. is ideal for maximum exposure.

Vincent said the old mall was all but dead, and the two new stores will hopefully be a "complimentary combination" to revitalize it.

"The developer, Weston Grocers, had to rethink the format of the shopping centre," he said. "It's a pretty mall—it was virtually brand new, but it wasn't working."

Biway is in an expansion mode, said Vincent, with 16 new stores opening by mid-September across the province.

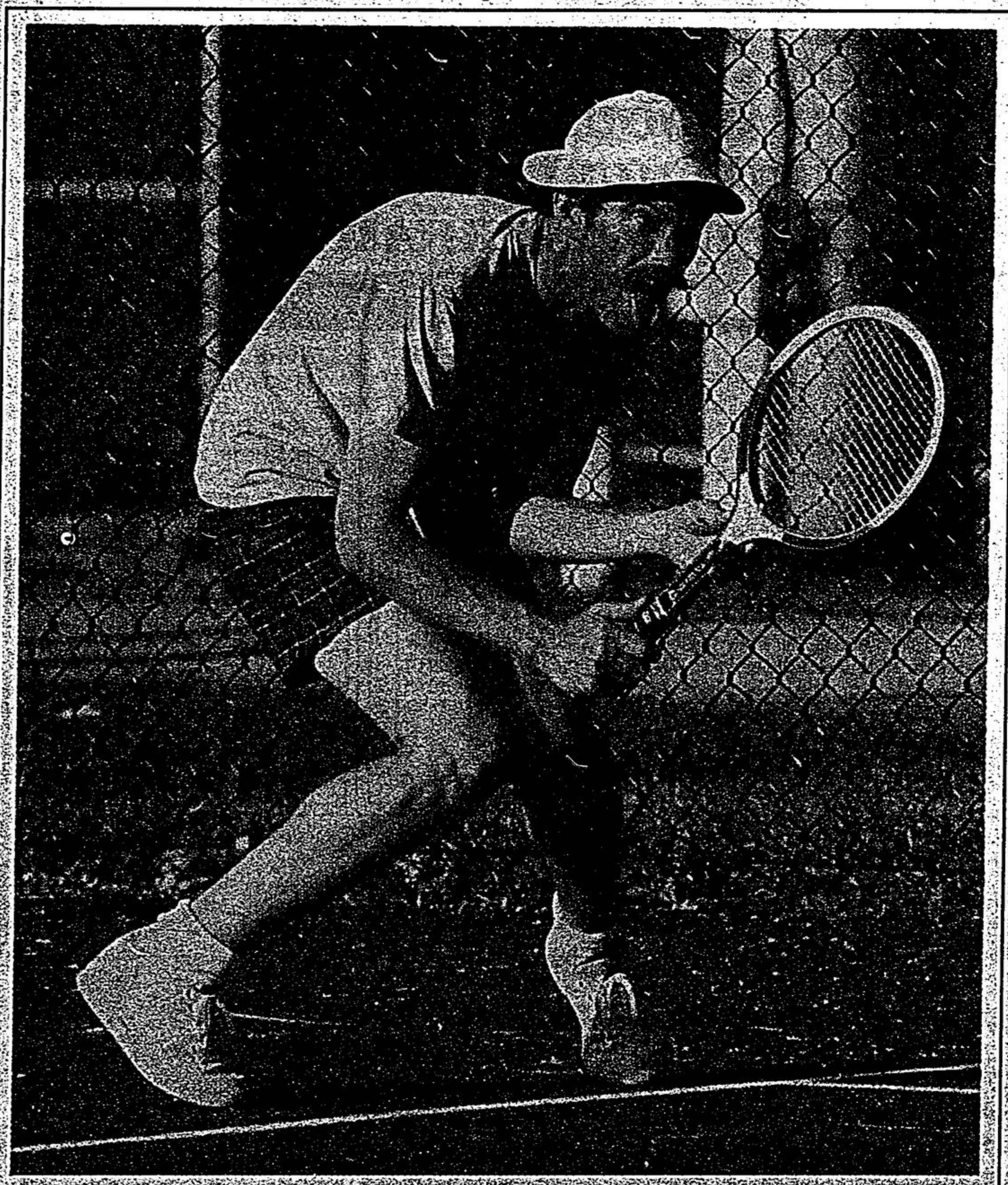
Partington said the decision to come to Stouffville was an easier one because there was an existing building in which to move into. Biway, said Vincent, did the usual homework before deciding to move to Stouffville.

"It takes about a year to look at the demographic profiles and make sure the timing is right," he said.

Biway will be open seven days a week, and the hours, though not yet confirmed, will be similar to the Weston store.

Vincent said the chain is hoping to settle in comfortably. "We believe in integrating into the community," he said. "We had a recent opening in Huntsville and it was just fabulous."

—Mike Ruta



Court jester

Frank Day reacts after making a fine shot at the tennis courts at Memorial Park Thursday.

Photo/STEVE SOMERVILLE

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