

Stouffville woman takes on Metro Zoo booze plans

A Stouffville mother of two has locked horns with the Metro Toronto Zoo over their plan to open a wine and beer patio which would be operated by McDonald's.

"The zoo is really geared towards young children," said Florence Neale, "and I don't think it's appropriate that they sell liquor to generate funds." Neale said children will be get-

ting a mixed message if they see alcohol being sold at the zoo. "Taxpayers are spending thousands of dollars to teach kids you don't have to drink to have fun," she said. Serving booze at

the Zoo, she argued, would not support that message. Neale has already succeeded in delaying for six to eight weeks the Liquor License Board of Ontario's decision on the matter. She received a letter on Monday from the LLBO acknowledging both the receipt of her letter and her opposition to the plan. The LLBO indicated that they may ask Neale to attend a hearing on the issue.

Neale said if they do, both she and Durham School Board trustee Harry Bowes, who supports her position, will attend. "Harry Bowes and I have sent out about 140 letters to individual schools in York Region," she said. Neale believes if the schools voice opposition to the plan it could have a major impact, since school trips

account for a large share of the visitors to the Zoo.

She has also begun a petition, and passed it on to others, in which she urges people to write the Zoo and the LLBO to voice their opposition.

Neale acknowledges that if both parties don't receive protest letters, she'll be a lone voice, and both the Zoo and the LLBO would have no reason not to go ahead.

A spokesperson at the Zoo told Neale alcohol would only be served in the summer months. A McDonald's representative assured her the staff would be experienced in selling alcohol. But she maintains it's a bad idea. "We've got to start setting examples for kids," said Neale. "It shouldn't always come down to the dollar."

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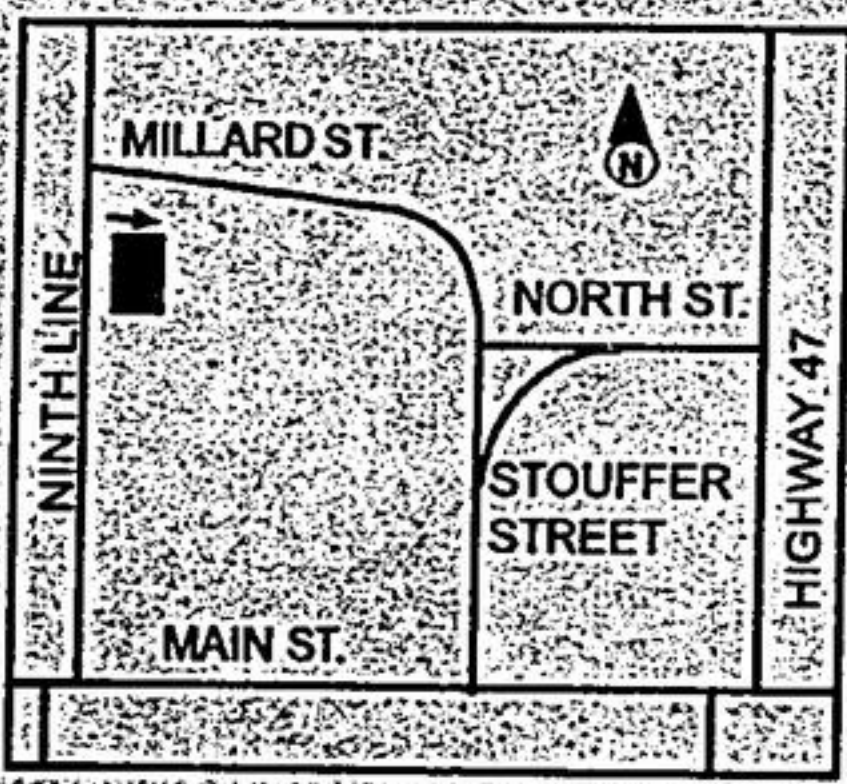
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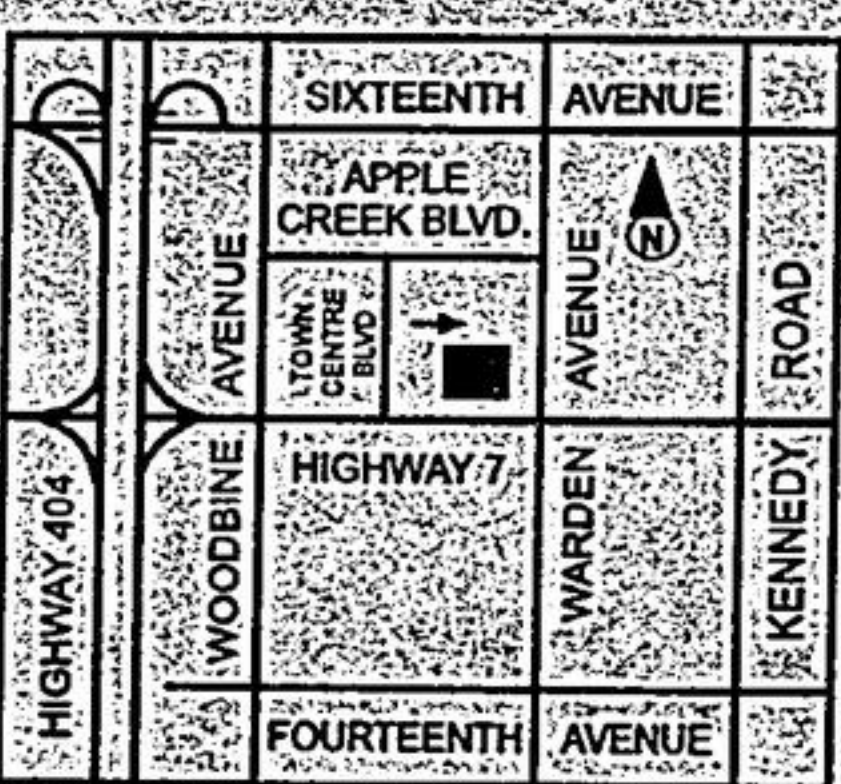
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Please note:

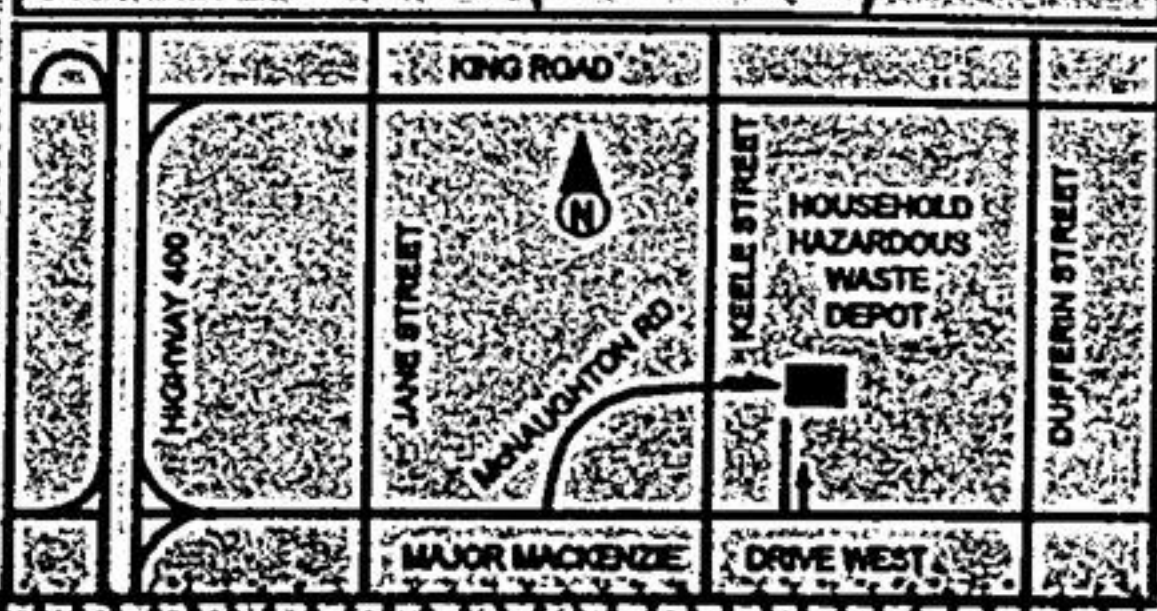
- York Region residents only (driver's licence required as proof)
- No commercial, industrial or medical office wastes accepted.
- No explosives (other than the above types), ammunition, PCBs, or radioactive wastes accepted.
- Needles and syringes from household medicinal use will be accepted in rigid containers only. No other pathological wastes will be accepted.
- Tires, motor vehicle batteries and oil filters will also be accepted.

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- The maximum quantity per drop-off is 50 litres of material.
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Scarborough Transfer Station
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