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Council

Town wants \$3.9 M civic centre

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

A \$3.9-million new town

hall is being considered for Whitchurch-Stouffville, *The Tribune* has learned. A new town hall is includ-

ed in budget talks scheduled for Tuesday. Merlin Dewing, administrator of Whitchurch-Stouff-

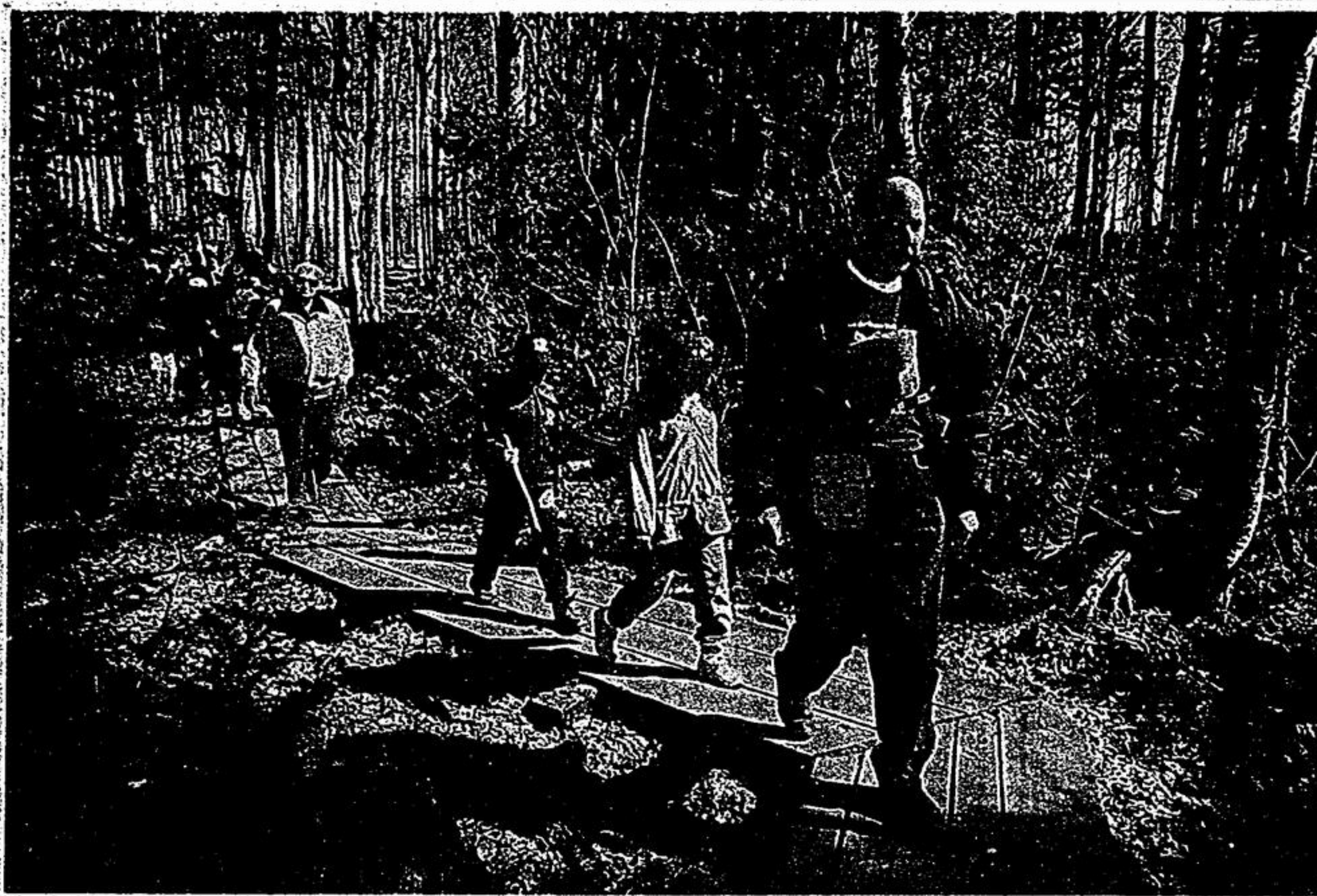
ville, confirmed that the new town hall will be on the municipality's capital project budget agenda.

The plan calls for a town hall "office design" to be passed for '95, while "office design-phase two" is slated '96 with construction start-up scheduled for '97.

A new town hall could also be part of an existing building, stressed Dewing. At this stage, no one

knows "where or how" it would be built, said Dewing.

The old town hall on Civic Ave. has "outgrown" itself. "And, we'd like it all under one roof," said Dewing. Whitchurch-Stouffville Council is expected to strike a budget soon.



Conservation migration

Robert Marshall was among a group of hikers who took a walking tour of the Bruce's Mill forest on Sunday as part of the Save the Rouge Valley System program.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Business

BIA calls for opening of side streets

By KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

Many residents are unaware of the range of goods and services available in Stouffville's downtown, said Sandra Stronach.

As a result, they go out of town to shop and that hurts the local economy, noted the BIA president and owner of Freckles. To counter the problem, she and her fellow merchants are working hard to encourage people to shop locally.

"We are not going to try and do anything new, but to spruce up what we have, to make it attractive and busy, so that people will see the downtown as a going concern."

She cited the Town Crier, formerly the Stouffville Deli, as one example of the renewal that is taking place. This year, she said, merchants are planning many special events and activities to bring people into town.

"We've got all sorts of things organized, starting with the Legion's May 6 VE Day Parade. We're going to have flags up and down the business area and displays in store windows. We have something planned at least once a month during the summer, including the Strawberry Festival."

"The Horticultural Society are doing our planters this year, so we're working hand-in-hand with them. We want to make people feel proud of this town."

The BIA would like to see side streets in town opened up to local traffic to improve access to the downtown for residents. From groceries, clothing and books to jew-

ellery, photographic equipment and crafts, as well as a good selection of restaurants and the local park, downtown Stouffville has a lot to offer, Stronach said.

People should at least take a look at what's available in Stouffville before going elsewhere, said Tom Thompson of The Villager, which sells women's and men's clothing and a selection of gourmet coffees.

"They will find that in many cases, the prices are the same or a little less in town." If people are not willing to give local merchants a chance, he said, stores will close and property values will decrease.

"The street openings are extremely important. What (the present system) does is to cut the town literally in half." He would like to see works from the Latham Gallery's Sculpture Walk moved onto Main Street, to advertise the gallery and enhance the streetscape.

"A lot of people don't even know the gallery is here," he pointed out.

His other suggestions include damming up Duffin's Creek to create a pond with a fountain and putting a band shell in an accessible area to encourage both visitors and residents to stop and look around Stouffville's downtown.

"It's up to the merchants and the town," he said. "This town is too fond of saying, 'What if (something goes wrong)?' instead of 'Why not?' And we as merchants have to do more research as regards to what it is that people are looking for."

John and Maureen Breen of The Town Crier are relative newcomers to Stouffville, but

they have already built up a loyal clientele. Recent renovations have created a delightful neighborhood restaurant and bar and John Breen plans to have sidewalk tables and chairs out in the summer. He has found town staff helpful, but would like to see more signage to advertise the stores and services in town. As well, he would like to see speed bumps installed in the downtown area.

To Frank Cassano of Villa Italian Bakery and Food Town on Edward Street, the cure for what ails the town is obvious. "Open all the streets. It's ridiculous," he said.

"Since they put that gate up here (north of his store) they just cut our legs off. It's not just ourselves; stores on Main Street are also affected by it. People don't shop in town because of the access

problem." He would also like to see attractively designed wooden signs directing people to the businesses and the restaurant on Edward Street.

Markham East sewer may be oversized to assist Stouffville

Markham will be asked to oversize its sewer system to accommodate growth in Whitchurch-Stouffville, if council goes along with a proposal.

Tonight, (Tuesday) Whitchurch-Stouffville council is expected to review an engineering report on sanitary sewer oversizing.

Town staff has suggested that on receipt of approval from the Town of Markham to oversize, the Region of York's Environmental Services Dept. be asked to approve the project on the basis that the cost will be funded by a development group arranged

by Lebovic Enterprises of Stouffville. Markham's engineering department has indicated it has no objection to the oversizing, providing it bears no cost to Markham. Lebovic Enterprises' officials confirmed their request to oversize the sewers which are being designed and installed for their East Markham community to accommodate future servicing needs.

If Markham and York Region go along with the plan, an agreement would be struck with the development to provide the necessary funding.

Joan Ransberry

Council to hear golf business proposal

By JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville business wants to build a golf driving range at the corner of Bloomington Road and Hwy 48.

A public hearing dealing with the application is expected to get underway in the Whitchurch-Stouffville council chambers tonight, Tuesday, March 28.

The driving range is slated for 23-acres of land. The parcel of land

is presently vacant and developers want to put it to use as a driving range. It is bordered on the north by rural land and a commercial site.

The area includes some industrial land.

The application to rezone the land for a three-year period was submitted by Eglinton Golf Enterprises Ltd. and council was to debate the proposal.

So far, town staff is in support of the application.



MADD opens office

Janice Harrison, Mothers Against Drunk Driving York Region chapter president, cuts the ribbon to open the new MADD office in Stouffville last Thursday. Dignitaries from Stouffville, Aurora, Markham and the police service were on hand.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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