

BUTTONVILLE AIRPORT

Complaint meetings continue

BY MIKE ADLER
STAFF WRITER

Buttonville Airport has started regular meetings with Markham and Richmond Hill residents to deal with complaints about rogue pilots.

Management of the busy 16th Avenue airport agreed to the group, called the Buttonville Airport Community Committee, after nearby homeowners said they faced noise and danger from low-flying planes.

"Although most pilots adhere strictly to the rules, there are a few that, on a few occasions, don't," Markham Councillor David Allison said.

Gus Malezis, the ratepayers' president for Markham's Cachet Woods subdivisions, said the committee, which met for the first time Thursday, is off to a good start.

Malezis, a committee member, said he's now convinced the airport is committed to enforcing its longstanding "good neighbour" policy against improper flying.

But Buttonville, with the limited equipment it has, will have trouble registering hard evidence against pilots who break the rules, he said.

The new committee is chaired by Milt Farrow, an amateur pilot and former senior civil servant.

The future of the airport, privately-run in partnership with the Town of Markham, is still officially in doubt because its lease and \$1.5 million-a-year provincial subsidy expired in December.

Toronto Airways, the operators of Buttonville, had maintained a new subsidy is needed to secure the airport's future. A spokesperson for the airport couldn't be reached yesterday.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Unionville Village Festival Corporation

Thursday, March 11, 1999
7:30 P.M.

at the Old Train Station
Main Street, Unionville

All those interested in attending are cordially invited.

Larry Matthews
Chairman

Fraud charges laid

A high-end fraud worth almost a half-million dollars has been cut off by police with the arrest of a Markham man.

Det. Doug Dyke arrested the 33-year-old man Thursday and charged him with 25 fraud-related offenses involving at least 14 victims and \$400,000 in cash and property.

Police said the investigation is continuing and further charges are expected. The man is accused of impersonating real people, obtaining personal and credit information on them, then verbally convincing banks and private companies into extending him mortgages, credit cards, high-end car rentals, computer equipment and lines of credit worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

He appears in Newmarket Provincial Court March 9.

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