

THE REGION: Firing range not confirmed as tenant at new Vaughan mega-mall

Gun range concerns mall neighbours

BY CHRISTOPHER DOURIS
Staff Writer

Residents fear a gun range being considered for a Vaughan mega-mall will import the American gun culture into their neighbourhood.

"Our main objection is people will be able to walk through the mall (with guns)," said Nadia Magarelli, president of the Weston Downs Ratepayer Association.

"Once you have your licence, you can carry it with a trigger lock," she said. "If they're bringing their guns (to the mall), what are they going to do with them for five hours?"

"Right now it's an environment without guns, why should we risk that? It's one thing to have the stores here, but we don't want to import the U.S. gun culture here," Magarelli said.

She pointed out there's a city-wide bylaw prohibiting the discharge of firearms. The only exceptions are for farmers in remote areas to defend live stock and police officers using the firing range at the Vaughan station on Rutherford Road.

Vaughan Councillor Bernie DiVona, who represents the Weston Downs area, explained there appears to be two contradictory laws.

There is the city-wide ban on discharging firearms but there is also a law which allows firing ranges as an accessory use to a sporting goods store which sells firearms.

The residents are concerned because Bass Pro, a potential tenant of the Vaughan Mills mega-mall, has a firing range attached to at least one of its American stores.

"We're at the initial stage of planning (the mall)," DiVona said. "Bass Pro may be coming, it's premature to worry about something until we know (for sure)."

In conversation with mall executives last spring, DiVona said he received assurances there would not be a gun range at the Vaughan mall.

In the past, the corporate sector has responded favourably to requests (from the city)," DiVona said. He cited the Sports Authority in Thornhill, which agreed to remove crossbows and long knives from their stock.

But it's too early to say if a gun range is planned for Vaughan Mills, according to spokesperson Susan Goyette.

The main tenants won't be announced until Sept. 7 during a convention of shopping centres at the Toronto Convention Centre.

Construction is expected to start next April for the 1.7-million-square-foot mall, just south of Canada's Wonderland.

A joint project between American retail giant Mills Corp. and Toronto-based Cambridge Shopping Centres, the mall is expected to open in October 2001.

Saturday sales help local groups

Markham Youth Theatre is holding a fund-raising garage sale Saturday at 105 Fred Varley Dr.

This is to raise funds for its upcoming production of *City of Angels* at Markham Theatre Sept. 23 to 25 at 8 p.m. Call 305-SHOW for tickets.

The Salvation Army has some bargains at its thrift shop sidewalk sale, also on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The store is on Hwy. 48 at 16th Avenue at the McDonald's driveway.

CORRECTIONS

In a recipe for apple pie filling that ran in our Thursday, Aug. 19 edition, the list of ingredients should include 2 tbs flour.

In our community calendar which ran Tuesday, Aug. 24, the Canadian Cancer Society family fun day hosted by Magic Hill Tree Farm is taking place on Sept. 26.

We apologize for the errors.

CORRECTION NOTICE

MR. LUBE

The ad that appeared in the Tuesday, August 24th edition ran incorrectly.

The **ESSO EXTRA 10W30 Package** add \$2.00 for 5W30 should **NOT** have appeared.

The **OIL & FILTER CHANGE Special** should have read just \$8.00 Off.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused the patrons of Mr. Lube.

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