

MODEL HOME FURNITURE SALE!

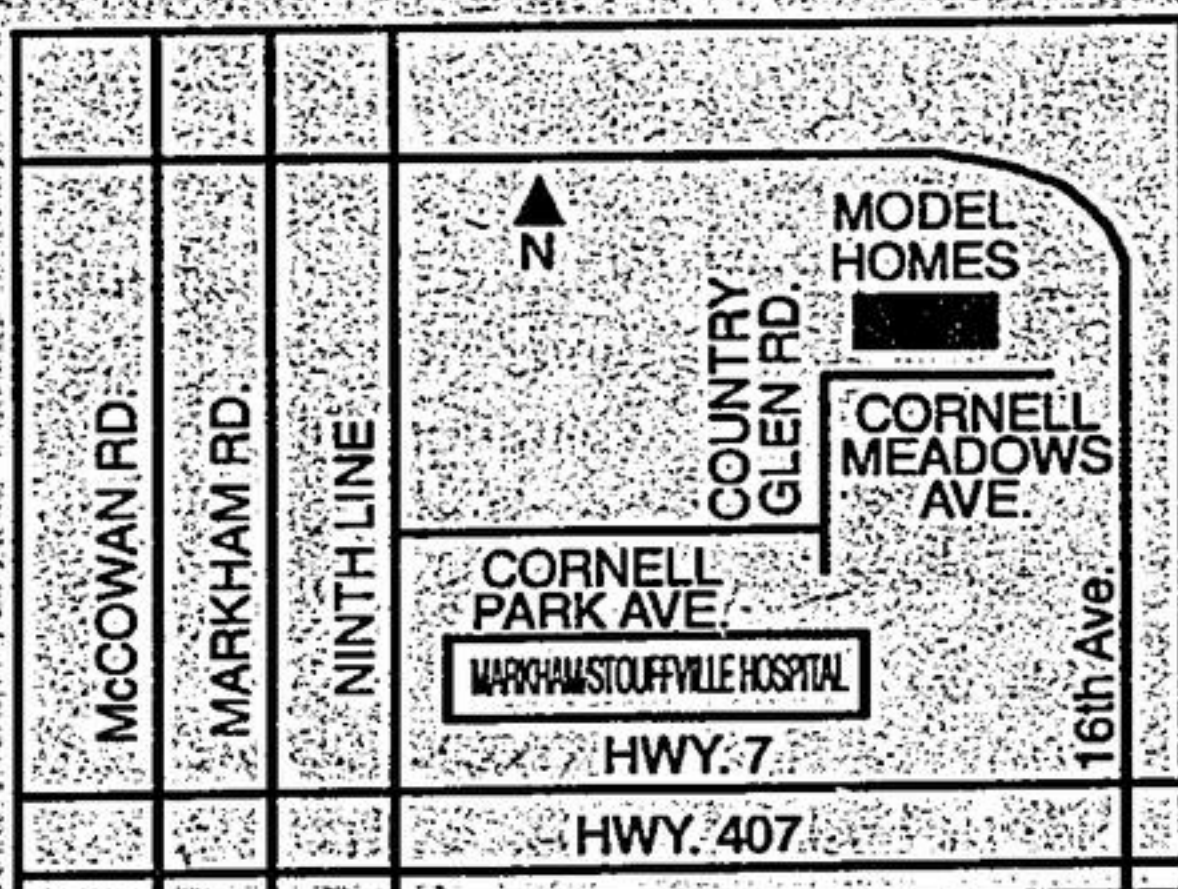
Ballantry Homes will be selling all of its designer furniture from the award winning Cornell Model Homes

~ Sale Starts ~

Saturday, March 11th, 2000

Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. ~ 1-8 pm
 Fri. ~ Closed
 Weekends & Holidays
 11am-6 pm



(905) 472-4488

Sale of hydro utility gets green light

MORE THAN \$5 MILLION COULD BE GENERATED FOR PUBLIC PURSE

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
 Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville is positioned to score a multi-million-dollar windfall, provided a local utility makes it to the auction block.

The plan to explore selling Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro got the go-ahead Tuesday.

The sale of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Hydro Commission could generate more than \$5 million for the public purse, explained hydro commissioner and councillor Peter Dobrich.

SOUND FINANCIAL HEALTH

Town council heard that the local utility is in sound financial shape, with about \$500,000 in the bank.

When the utility's 3,500 customers get their hydro bills later this month, a letter explaining the pending sale will be included.

Sale or no sale, "hydro rates are going up in 2000", Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson said.



WAYNE EMMERSON: Mayor says hydro rates will go up in 2000 "sale or no sale".

A lawyer has been hired to assist in the preparation of the request for proposal, said Dobrich. It could be a complete sale or an amalgamation, possibility with Markham, he said.

Meanwhile, the condition of sale includes job guarantees for the employees.

Last year, the commission

opted not to renew the contract of manager Nick Tatone. In the interim, however, the local commission appointed its chairperson, Charlie Jackson, to oversee the operation, Dobrich said, adding Jackson is paid by the hour.

Treasurer Nick Kristoffy said the 3,500 local customers, who live in the old part of town, represent a small percentage of the total power users in Stouffville.

PROVINCE-WIDE MOVE

Others, including residents of such hamlets as Preston Lake, Musselman's Lake, Vandorf and Ballantrae, are already served by Ontario Hydro.

The proposed sale is part of a province-wide move to get rid of municipal-owned electric utilities.

Major change came in October 1998 when the province passed the Energy Competition Act (Bill 35) as a way of introducing competition in the wholesale and retail sectors of Ontario's electrical utilities.

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