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Gala Event: 7:30 - 11:30 p.m.

For tickets call
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A fundraising event for the
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Town of Markham

Our thanks also to those people who joined The Markhaven Fund Club but did not wish to have their names published. As well as all donors not identified by fund club applications.

The Markhaven Fundraising Committee

Congratulations to Monica DeSouza winner of the Afghan Markhaven's Raffle at the Markham Fair and Peter Newman winner of the Ginderbread House Jerry Fisher winner of Gift Certificate from the Garden Basket - Volunteers Raffle at Markville in November.

Council frustrates jockey club officials

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
Staff Writer

Ontario Jockey Club officials say they're frustrated with Richmond Hill council for stalling their plan to build an off-track betting facility, even though they have moved it to a better location. Last February, council rejected an off-track betting facility at the Regency Hotel, which had been raided in 1998 after a five-month investigation into prostitution and proceeds of crime.

This week, the Jockey Club came forward with a plan to put the facility in a strip mall near Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive.

Councillors decided to hold an informal residents' meeting to get feedback on the issue before making a decision. The meeting is to be held by the end of April.

Club spokesperson Brian Brett said councillors had led him to believe they would allow the facility in a new location after giving a cool reception to putting it in the Regency.

"They didn't support the new site the way we thought they would," Brett said after the meeting. "We were a little frustrated."

Brett has noted the facility would bring money into the coffers of an industry that has fallen on hard times in recent years. The place would be up and running within months, he added.

Council isn't required to call a public hearing on the matter because current zoning allows for a place of recreation inside the mall.

Deputy Mayor Janet Mabley said the mall is in a more appropriate area.

"It's certainly a far better location than what he (applicant Jerry Spanos) was previously thinking," she remarked.

But when told the jockey club was frustrated, she said "it's too darn bad."

"We're not going to put an off-track betting establishment carte blanche anywhere that an applicant chooses."



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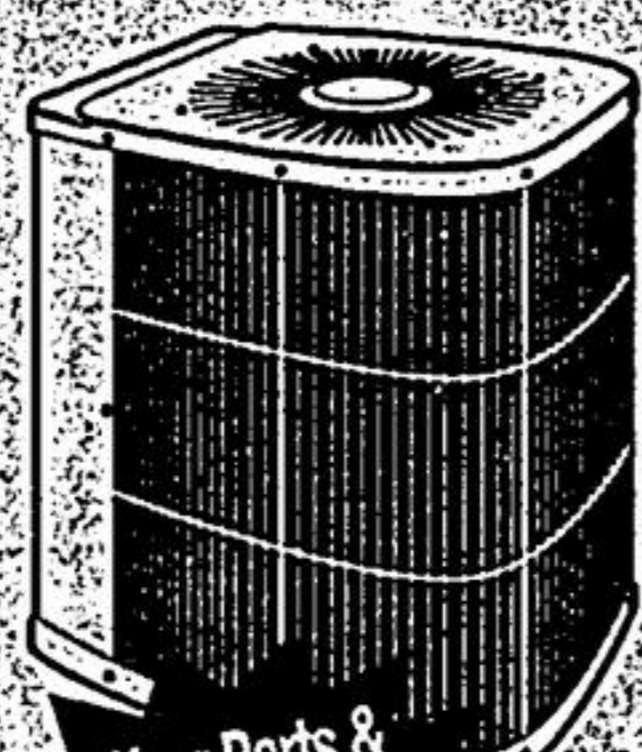
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