

Duck business grows

Even ducks are part of the current economic boom.

The size of the King Cole Ducks plant in Stouffville is about to increase.

On Tuesday, Whitchurch-Stouffville council agreed to let the agricultural business construct two additions to its Warden Avenue facility.

An additional 6,000 square feet will be added to the 18,500-square-foot processing plant and accessory buildings.

The expansion will permit enlargements to the evisceration room, the packing room and the dry storage room.

The company employs 120 people.

Parking crackdown

Whitchurch-Stouffville has declared war on illegal parking.

On Tuesday, council hired an additional municipal law enforcement officer to keep tabs on vehicle parking within the town limits.

The new officer will patrol restricted parking areas, such as no stopping, handicapped and no parking zones, within public areas of the town where parking problems occur.

Currently, the town has two full-time bylaw enforcement officers who are responsible for responding to all telephone complaints from residents, enforcing all town bylaws, attending court and issuing permits.

BUSINESSES SEEK EXEMPTIONS TO HOLIDAY OPENINGS ACT

Chinese cultural centre granted permission to open on holidays

BY PATRICK CASEY
Staff Writer

A word of warning to local business owners: If you wish to remain open on statutory holidays, plead your case to municipal politicians before requesting an endorsement from regional council.

Last week, York Region council was faced with six applicants requesting an exemption under the Retail Business Holidays Act in order to keep their stores open on eight annual holidays, including Christmas Day, Canada Day, Easter Sunday and Thanksgiving Day.

Under the act, regional council may permit retail business establishments to open on holidays to further the development of tourism, especially since tourism contributes more than \$450 million to the region's economy and brings in more than 2 million visitors every year.

A bylaw is passed only if applicants have demonstrated to their local municipality they meet the criteria of being located within two kilometres of a tourist attraction and are directly associated with the tourist attraction

or rely on tourists visiting the attraction for business on a holiday.

However, following two deputations and a lengthy debate, council agreed to only grant the exemption to the Pacific Mall Heritage Town, which comprises the south half of the second floor of Markham's Pacific Mall on Steeles Avenue.

"Pacific Heritage Town has been designed by some of the leading architects, designers and cultural experts in the Oriental tradition. It provides tourists with a similar feel to the markets one would visit in the Orient," explained lawyer Adam Brown.

"This is the largest and most detailed Chinese cultural centre of its kind in North America. The number of out-of-town visitors and tourists is increasing daily. Our client has spent a significant amount of time, effort and funds in creating this unique cultural attraction and experience, which is deserving of a designation as a tourist attraction."

Representatives of the mall, which promotes Chinese crafts and artifacts, had already received approval from

Markham council for an exemption.

York council told the remaining five requests — from businesses in Markham and Richmond Hill — to seek approval locally before requesting an exemption.

The decision was little help for Danny Didier, who has opened his Unionville IGA store on holidays for the past seven years before he was charged with violating the bylaw.

"I didn't realize we had to have our name on the list, so now I am asking to be added to the exemption list," Didier told regional politicians. "I clearly serve the local entertainment needs of tourists and those living within the area."

Although Markham Regional Councillor Ralph Aselin sought to have the IGA location exempt alongside the Pacific Heritage Town, council referred Didier's store, along with Markham's Almira Furniture & Interiors, Big Land Farm, Markham Village and the Four Five Six Supermarket in Markham and Richmond Hill back to their respective municipal councils.

LARRY FOCKLER

CONSTRUCTION

- Digging • Excavating • Waterlines
- Fencing • Holes Augered
- Tree Removal



Free Estimates

13454 Hwy. #48, Stouffville

(905) 640-2873

LOOKING FOR WORK?

NEIGHBOURHOOD EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTRE

The Neighbourhood Employment Resource Centre (NERC) is a year round, no cost facility open to community members and students of Stouffville and surrounding areas. This centre offers tools and resources to assist individuals in their search for employment

COMPUTERS*INTERNET*FAX*BOOKS*

***JOB POSTINGS*ASSISTANCE**

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 8:30 - 4:30 pm
Fri 8:30 - 4:00 pm

*Please check with the centre for upcoming evening hours.

The NERC is operated by the York Region District School Board and is located at the Stouffville District Secondary School, 183 Bramble Crescent, Stouffville, Ontario Room 109



(905) 640-2856

A funding partnership with the Government of Canada



Dr. Sheldon Lazier Family Dentist

Dr. Elliott Weidman Periodontist

Ed Edwards DD Denturist

are proud to announce that

DR. WASEEMA ALI

is joining our dental group.

Dr. Ali is a Family Dentist and she has a special interest in treating children.

- Dental care for the entire family
- Evening and Saturday appointments available
- New patients always welcome

DR. SHELDON LAZIER
and Associates



6212 Main Street

(just east of the train station)

Stouffville

(905) 642-7474

If we only had a dime...

for every time someone said "Being disabled means you can't lead a full life". We'd have the ability to help thousands more disabled adults live independently.

GIVE US THE ABILITY TO DO MORE. PLEASE GIVE TO THE ONTARIO MARCH OF DIMES.

York/Durham Regional Office
853-0383

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune