

Be wary of fundraiser, say officials

BY OLIVER FERNANDEZ
Special

York Region residents should be leery of a questionable fundraiser form circulating around the region, say officials.

A Stouffville resident

recently received a donation form along with a letter in the mail from the Heart Support of Canada.

Very little information about the organization was provided.

The documents included a post office address, but

there was no contact phone number.

Heart Support of Canada is listed in the Toronto phone book, but nobody returned messages left with an answering service.

Sharon Edwards, associate manager of public rela-

tions for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, said her office has received many calls about Heart Support of Canada.

"They're not affiliated with us," she said. "We know very little about them."

York Regional Police Det.

Mike Young hasn't received any complaints, but said, "If you don't think what you've received is from a legitimate organization, just throw it in the garbage."

The yellow-coloured 2001 Heart Drive Form asks donors to send \$20, \$35, \$75 or more. In exchange, contributors receive a free Heart Attack First Aid Kit.

People who don't want to make a contribution, but still want a request on the form and send it back to the Heart Support.

Ontario Consumer Affairs spokesperson Carolyn Lepard said reputable fundraisers usually want to provide donors with as much background about them as possible.

"Most charities give potential donors a full profile of the organization," she stated. "If someone says they're interested and want to learn more, the companies go out of their way to give information. They send annual reports so that you can trust them."

The resident also noticed that no tax receipts would be issued to supporters and

contributions would not be tax deductible.

All charities that issue tax receipts are registered with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. Heart Support is not registered.

According to Colette Gentes-Hawn, media spokesperson for the CCRA, fundraising groups are not legally required to be registered with the federal agency, but it's in their best interest to do so.

"It's a big selling point for charities to provide a registration number so that people can claim their donation for tax purposes."

While federal notification is not mandatory, a provincial act requires all charities to notify the province of their existence.

"The Charities Accounting Act requires any person or organization holding property in Ontario for charitable purposes to notify the public guardian and trustee office of its inception," said Brendan Crawley, media spokesperson for the province's Office of the Public Trustee. Heart Support of Canada has not done so, he added.

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MARKHAM VILLAGE CONSERVANCY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the members of Markham Village Conservancy (the "Corporation") will be held at the BIA Office, 132 Robinson Street, MARKHAM, Ontario on Wednesday May 30th, 2001 at the hour of 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the following purposes:

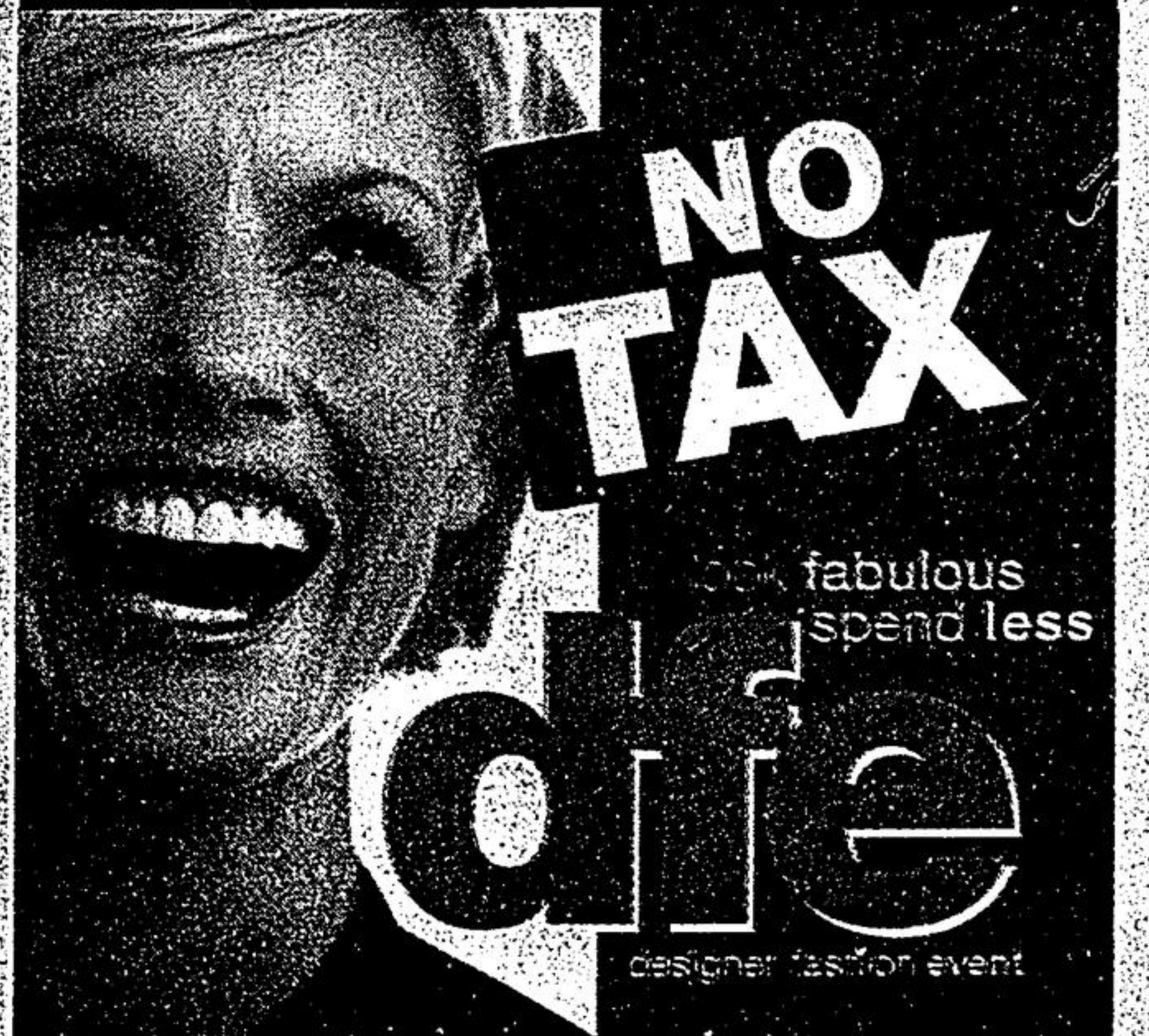
1. To receive and consider the financial statements for the year ending December 31st, 2000 together with the auditor's report thereon;
2. To appoint an auditor;
3. To authorize the directors to fix the remuneration of such auditor;
4. To elect directors; and
5. To transact such further and other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

DATED at Markham, Ontario, the 11th day of May, 2001.

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