

Developer has plans for old A & P plaza

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new quarters will be a smooth transition, said Mr. Brummer.

The doors of the old A&P will close for the last time on Feb. 28 at 6 p.m., while the new store opens 10 hours later at 8 a.m. on Friday. The one-level A & P store is large, measuring 44,600-square feet — about twice the size of the old store.

Under the management of John McErlain, the new A&P will have special features, including a full-service pharmacy, a floral department, a wine rack, a dry cleaners, a bakery, a large delicatessen and a fresh fish department, as well as a sushi bar.

Other A & P stores, offering similar services are very successful, said Mr. Brummer. "We've

had terrific response to these features," he said.

With the new grocery store comes jobs — jobs for local residents. "We'll have 280 (employees). We're hiring another 100 people. Yes, we're hiring local people," said Mr. Brummer.

Whitchurch-Stouffville now has plenty of choice when it comes grocery shopping, with the IGA Garden Market, which opened Tuesday, and No Frills, plus the A & P. All three stores are located on Main Street in west-end Stouffville. The A & P is quite comfortable with competition, said Mr. Brummer. "Competition is fine. Our customers vote every day on how they feel about us."

A & P is owned by The Great Atlantic & Pacific Company of Canada Ltd. With a total of 233

stores, 82 are A & Ps. The remaining fly under the flag of Dominion, Ultra Food & Drug, The Barn or Food Basics.

Mainsville York Holdings Ltd. owns The Stouffville Plaza, the home of the old A&P. Plans are already in the works to give the old plaza a full facelift.

On Tuesday, developer Michael Vong got the nod from Whitchurch-Stouffville council to put the finishing touches on his plan to have Shoppers Drug Mart, The Beer Store and the local liquor store relocate to his new \$13.5 million IGA plaza, located across Main Street. Vong said he expects he'll divide the space left vacant by the old A&P into a number of stores. "I have some good plans for the north plaza," said Mr. Vong.



A spectacular Ribbon Cutting, marked the opening of the new IGA Store on Main Street in west end Stouffville, Tuesday. From left, Eugene Duynstee (pres Sobey's ONT) Loretta and Sal Ippolito (store owners) Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Michael Vong and Susan Chiu (property developers plaza owners).

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