

STRETCHIN' FOR THE RUN

Faircrow, the Markham Fair mascot, helps lead participants warming up for Saturday's second annual Markham Grandma's Run for the Markhaven Foundation. More than 200 runners took part, raising \$50,000 for the non-profit foundation which is about to construct a new Markhaven Home for Seniors on Parkway Avenue.



PHOTO/HO KEI WONG

Asphalt plant restrictions stay, committee decides

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Writer

Angry neighbours of an asphalt plant helped convince Markham councillors not to lift restrictions on the plant this week.

Before Markham Council approved it in June, owners of the ConStrada Aggregate Recycling Facility agreed trucks supplying it with concrete, gravel and other materials would not use Rodick Road south of Hwy. 7, and that the plant would not operate on Saturdays.

On Tuesday, however, ConStrada representatives approached a town committee, asking that these conditions be lifted.

"There is no other business in Markham that is restricted from operating on a Saturday," said Joanne Barnett, a solicitor representing the company.

ConStrada's request was denied, but it prompted the committee to introduce a bylaw banning all trucks from using Rodick south of Hwy. 7, except for deliveries to the First Markham Place shopping centre.

Councillors first heard from area residents who had opposed plans for the plant, near the Rouge River on Rodick at Yorktech Drive, and were outraged by the company's latest approach.

Neighbours did not fight the plant at the Ontario Municipal Board because they trusted council and conditions it set, said Winnifred Ng. She added that lifting restrictions would be "like adding fuel to fire".

Council would be "cheating and betraying us" if Saturday operations are allowed, Patricia Lau added.

The plant will be open for a maximum of six years. It is part of an agreement that will extend Rodick and clean up a former dump at Yorktech Drive.

Regional Councillor Bill O'Donnell suggested these benefits might be lost "by arguing over trucks."

Ward 3 Councillor Joe Virgilio said restricting its truck traffic is like telling ConStrada its plant is not welcome in one of the town's industrial areas.

FRUIT OF THE VINE



PHOTO/STEPHANIE LAKE

Impromptu gatherings were the rage during last week's annual Markham Museum & Historic Village Wine Tasting. Among those enjoying the best of Ontario's wines are (front to back, left) Harry and Lynne James, along with Barb and Jim Beauchamp. At front right are Alan Kennedy and George Nagy. Hundreds turned out for the event, which is a fundraiser for the museum.

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