

Moraine land readied for houses

BY MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Developers continued preparations to build subdivisions on the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill Friday, angering conservationists who, hours earlier, believed the latest battle to save the landform was over.

Industry representatives, meanwhile, acknowledged talks were under way between the eight builders and Ontario's new government, denying hard feelings existed over Premier Dalton McGuinty's pledge to stop 6,600 approved homes on the moraine.

Environmental groups and some residents had welcomed news owners of one site, MacLeod's Landing, had stopped selling homes there until Nov. 5, although the builder said it will keep appointments with customers who

already purchased.

"We are respecting the request of the newly elected provincial government to temporarily close our sales offices," said notices posted online and on the property between Bathurst and Yonge streets.

The Metrus-controlled company's decision followed an agreement between the builders Tuesday to stop further sales so talks with the government could begin, said Lloyd Cherniak, vice-president of Lebovic Enterprises, which owns land east of Yonge around Bond Lake. "We all agreed to close up," he said.

But residents yesterday spotted crews paving a road and parking lot at MacLeod's Landing and said builders continued working at some of the other sites.

Ian McKay, who lives nearby, said earthmovers have disappeared from

property owned by Duke of Richmond Developments south of MacLeod's Landing, but trucks there are removing topsoil that can be used to restore the site.

The sales office on the Duke of Richmond lands appeared to be open, Mr. McKay said. "The guy there today said, 'We're open seven days a week.'"

Environmental Defence Canada said construction work was continuing on other properties west of Yonge and other sales offices appeared to be open.

'BACK TO BEGINNING'

"We're back to the beginning," said Rick Smith, EDC's executive director. "Clearly, the strategy on their part is still to make sure there is nothing left of this area to save."

A disappointed Carrie Hoffelner, president of the Jefferson Forest Residents Association, toured the building sites yesterday and said the province must do something soon. "I've kind of moved from drunken optimism to a realistic cynicism now," she added.

Mr. Cherniak said he is unaware of work continuing on the Bond Lake property, although the builder did do "a couple of things" the town wanted to secure the site. "It took about half a day and that was it."

Industry groups that characterized Mr. McGuinty's promise as "attacking the very basis of how land development has been done" and had warned of expensive lawsuits now say developers want to put the dispute behind them.

"I won't believe this government has an axe to grind with our industry," said Neil Rodgers, president of the Urban Development Institute.

Inflammatory things were said by both sides, but that's politics, Mr. Rodgers suggested. "It could've been unions, could've been teachers."

Elect

Thomas QU
Councillor Ward 6

(905) 940-8211
www.ThomasQu.com



RE-ELECT

Khalid Usman
Ward 7 Councillor

905-470-8111
www.khalidusman.com



Markham fundraiser tonight

BY SHEZA NAQI
Special

How far would you go for a friend? Lisa Nicole Tai is willing to run 10 kilometres in Barbados to honour her friend Michelle Genovese, a cancer survivor.

Ms. Tai is a member of Team in Training, a fundraising group for the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada. Her goal is to raise \$4,500 on behalf of the fund.

Inspired by her friend, Ms. Tai is adamant to join the fight against leukemia and blood-related diseases.

Ms. Genovese suffered for two years during which she felt "pained, tarnished and insecure," she said.

Ms. Tai is determined to meet her

commitment to the fund and is holding a fundraising event today at the Fox and the Fiddle on Markham Main Street.

The event, for those 19 and older, features finger foods, a raffle, local singers and two disc jockeys.

Tickets are between \$8 and \$15 based on income. Doors open at 8 p.m. and performances begin at 9.

To order tickets call 416-719-6438 or e-mail lisanicoletai@yahoo.ca.

To make a secure online donation, visit www.leukemia.ca.

Businesses or organizations interested in helping with fundraising or sponsoring other events Ms. Tai is planning from now until December — when she runs in Barbados — can e-mail the same address.

Registration



748 Markham Army Cadets

RECRUITING

YOUNG MEN & WOMEN NOW!!!

(12 to 18 years old)

For information and enrollment application attend our Recruiting Open House on Thurs., Sept. 11th, 2003

120 Rouge Bank Dr. (Old IBM Country Club)

7 - 10 PM

✓ Leadership Training ✓ Paid Summer Camps
✓ Adventure Training ✓ Free Uniforms
✓ Mentorship ✓ Free Registration

Call Capt. Keith Tullo

(905) 294-9063 or (905) 471-6274

ALEX'S QUALITY MEAT MARKET

IN-BUSINESS FOR
28 YEARS

OPEN:
TUES. thru SAT. 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Closed SUN. & MON.
7665 Kennedy Rd., Markham
(1 Street S. of 14th Ave.)
905-474-0179

COUNSELLING & ADDICTION SERVICES

Individual • Couple • Family

- Reduce Stress
- Improve Relationships
- Achieve Full Potential
- Know Serenity & Peace
- Gain Freedom from Addiction

John Derry & Associates

9275 Hwy 48, Suite 204, Markham
905-201-0118

Helping individuals and families find hope and health

SALON AND SPA
Svengali
November Special
HYDROOPTIMAL INSTITUTE
TREATMENT
Complete Hydrating Facial
Visit us at www.svengalisalon.com
39 Main Street North, Markham, Ontario
905-471-6268

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

ALEX'S Quality MEAT MARKET

FRESH BONELESS
SKINLESS
CHICKEN BREAST
\$3.99 /lb

GUARANTEE:
Everything Sold
is Federal Inspected
AAA or Angus.

"AAA" PRIME RIB "AAA"
\$4.89 /lb
Steaks or Roasts

Fresh made
Weekly / Daily Bacon,
Sausages, K-Bobs etc.
PORK LOIN CHOPS
or ROAST
\$1.99 /lb
min. 1/2 loin
or more

"AAA" NEW YORK "AAA"
STRIPLOIN STEAK
\$6.99 /lb
\$5.99 Whole Loin Price

FREE VAC. PACKING.
Min. Purchase
VEAL CUTLETS
\$4.99 /lb

7665 Kennedy Rd
(1 street S. of 14th Ave.) Markham

905-474-0179

OPEN:
TUES. thru SAT.
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Closed SUN. & MON.

AUTHENTIC AUTO REPAIRS

The only repair shop on Main St. Markham
10% OFF EXHAUST REPAIRS

GOOD OLD FASHIONED SERVICE

310 Main St. N. Markham
905-471-3021
Expires Dec. 31/03

Ashgrove Family Massage Therapy

- Therapeutic Massage
- Relaxation Massage
- Prenatal Massage
- Acupuncture & Reflexology
- Infant massage Classes
- CranioSacral Therapy
- Prenatal Classes
- Yoga & Pilates Classes

6633 Hwy. 7 E. Ste. 004, Markham
905-201-2816
www.ashgrovefamilymassage.com

To Advertise in
FOCUS ON BUSINESS
Call Your
Sales Representative
at
905-294-2200