

Proposed facade may highlight downtown's heritage nature

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Main Street could resemble an old-fashioned streetscape steeped in history if a proposed facade improvement project gets the go-ahead.

The idea is to highlight the heritage nature of the downtown core's buildings with the co-operation of business owners.

Drawings of how architectural details can change the appearance of buildings were presented to council by Juri Berzins of Urban Design Associates. The facade project would create guidelines for Main Street business owners to follow.

"Stouffville's core is in danger of losing its heritage identity," resident Fred Robbins said.

Introducing the concept to council, "With so much development on the outskirts of town, we need to address the core."

The cost of drawings would be \$8,750, Mr. Berzins said. They are a guideline for the town's planning department.

In towns with facade improvement guidelines, 15 to 20 per cent of properties will make improvements within two years, Mr. Berzins said.

He has created drawings for more than 100 communities including Orangeville, Port Hope and Sarnia.

There was a favourable response to the concept at a Business Improvement Area meeting, said BIA president Eric Button.

The facade improvement

initiative is the latest strategy to beautify the core of Stouffville. Over the past two years, new banners were hung, more flower baskets and planters were evident and more signs were designed to fit with the heritage nature of the town. This spring, an improved banner design will be unveiled.

This is all to give the core a more small-town country flavour", Mr. Button said.

The BIA also holds a number of events to draw more people to town, such as the upcoming Easter egg hunt.

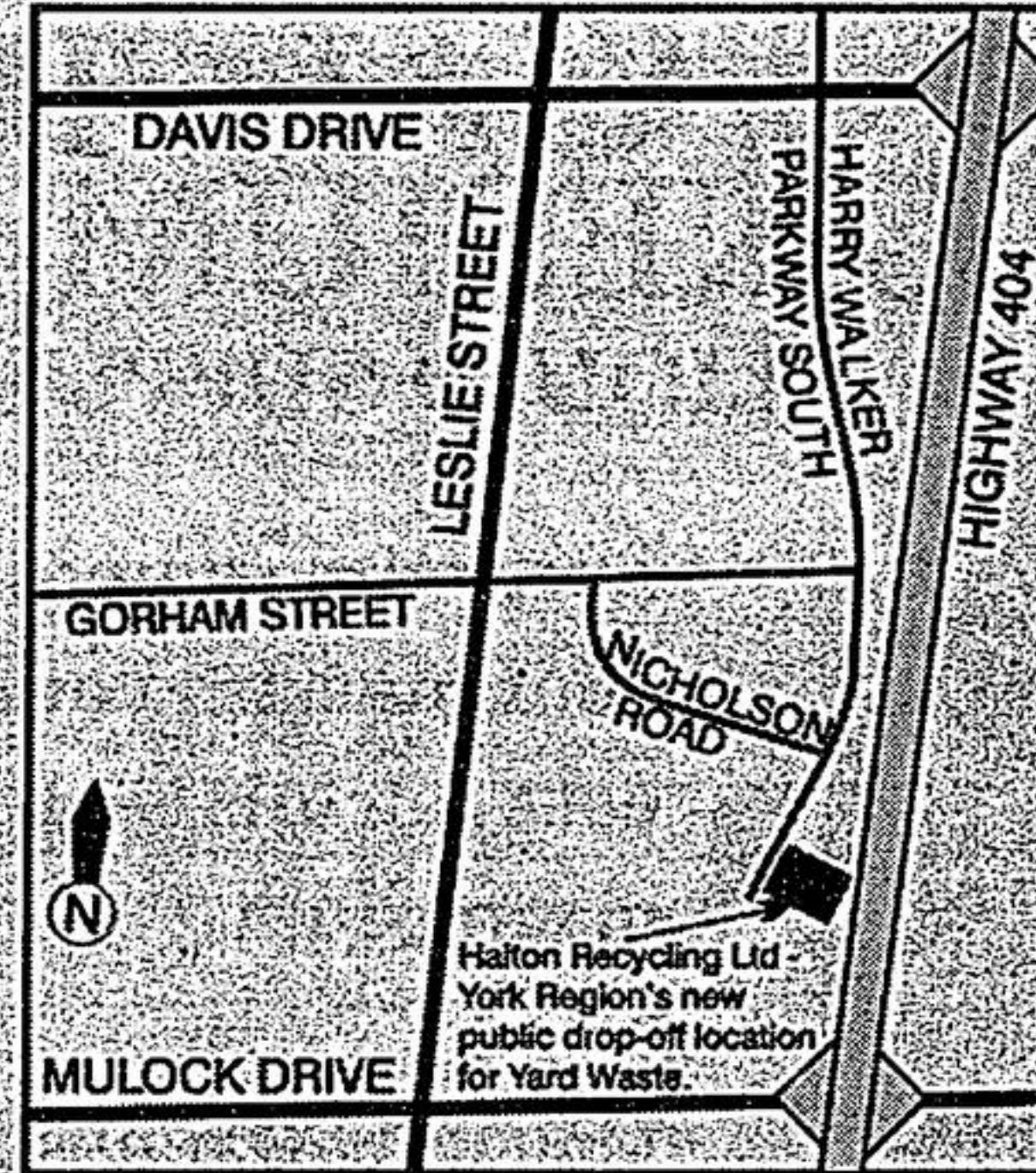
Another focus is trying to attract more specialty retail businesses to the core in conjunction with the Whitchurch-Stouffville business development office, Mr. Button said.

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR YARD WASTE?

As of April 1, 2004, Regional residents can drop off their yard waste FREE OF CHARGE!

THE NEW LOCATION

The new drop-off location, operated by Halton Recycling Ltd., is in the Town of Newmarket at 395 Harry Walker Parkway South. Please note that Miller Waste Systems is NO LONGER accepting yard waste dropped off by the public at its 1351 Bloomington Road location in the Town of Richmond Hill.



DROP-OFF LOCATION HOURS

Monday to Friday

April 1 to Nov. 30 (except statutory holidays) 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Evenings

April 1 to Nov. 30 Tuesday evenings only to 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays

April 1 to Nov. 30 (except statutory holidays) 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

WHAT'S ACCEPTED

- ✓ leaves
- ✓ grass clippings
- ✓ shrubs
- ✓ branches
- ✓ weeds
- ✓ vegetable garden waste
- ✓ flowers and garden plants
- ✓ sod (maximum two bags)

WHAT'S NOT ACCEPTED

- ✗ tree branches and brush larger than 152 mm (6 inches) in diameter and 1.8 m (6 feet) long
- ✗ stumps and root balls
- ✗ dirt and topsoil
- ✗ driveway and road sweepings
- ✗ kitchen and food waste
- ✗ animal droppings
- ✗ rocks and stones
- ✗ yard waste in plastic bags (must be emptied on site)

OTHER OPTIONS

Each municipality in York Region has a leaf and yard waste collection service in place. Watch for notices from your municipality or visit their website for further details. York Region residents can also access the City of Toronto's drop-off locations; however, a fee may apply. For more information, please visit their website at www.city.toronto.on.ca or call York Region at (905) 895-1200 and press 3 for waste management information.

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