

Town prepares for flu pandemic, just in case

Essential services must run: councillor

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

Ensuring Markham residents still have running water, electricity and other essential services if a flu pandemic strikes has become a priority for the town.

"If 50 per cent of town staff cannot come to work, how do we deal with that? We have to make sure services continue to be provided," Ward 6 Councillor Dan Horchik said.

"If there's a pandemic, it would probably affect everyone. Markham has to be prepared."

Markham council has created an emergency readiness committee to make sure the municipality is ready for a predicted pandemic.

The World Health Organization believes a world-wide avian flu pandemic will strike within the next five years, with the potential to infect thousands in Ontario alone.

Markham's plan will include a vaccination strategy for employees to help reduce the number of workers forced to take sick leave.

If a pandemic breaks out, some important decisions about vaccinations will have to be made, Regional Councillor Jack Heath said.

"If it (a vaccination) is developed, we would have to discuss who gets the first vaccination?" said Mr. Heath, who is on the pandemic committee.

It is yet to be determined if a regular flu shot would have an effect on the avian flu, Mr. Heath added.

It would be important for government and essential services, including the work of paramedics and hospital

workers, continue.

"You still have to make sure the water runs and is safe to drink, the electricity is on ... these things are essential services for everyone," he said.

"How can we make sure the services are running even if some government staff are sick or taking care of sick children? Will our schools stay open? Should they be kept open? A proper plan would look at all of these things," Mr. Heath said.

Members of the pandemic committee would have to discuss municipal responsibilities such as tax collection, recreation and library services.

"Activities we would decide whether to continue or not. Society would not come to a full stop," Mr. Heath said.

The town has held emergency strategy meetings for five years, partly in preparation for Y2K, Mr. Heath pointed out.

He also noted the pandemic may never happen.

"It's better to be ready than not, but I don't think people should panic or get really worried."

"Remember, did all of the concerns over Y2K happen? No."

The committee, which includes a representative from the Markham Board of Trade, IBM and both school boards, had its first meeting last Thursday.

'It's better to be ready than not, but I don't think people should panic or get really worried. Remember, did all of the concerns over Y2K happen? No.'

Jack Heath
regional councillor

Are You Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired?

If you suffer from chronic fatigue, persistent neck or back pain, weight gain, headaches or digestive problems, you may be suffering from adrenal burnout. To find out the latest research on this topic, attending this free symposium may be the most important thing you do this year. You will discover the true causes of these conditions and natural solutions you can use right away. Many are feeling healthy again for the first time in years. Dr. Allen Turner is an international speaker and lecturer who has been featured on the Dini Petty Show, National News and Canada AM. He will present a free symposium on Thursday, November 17th 7:30 pm at the Stouffville Health Centre.

Call 905-640-4440 for reservations.

MARKHAM
ECONOMIST & SUN & Stouffville Tribune
NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER ARE
145 RENFREW DRIVE, UNIT 160
MARKHAM, ONTARIO L3R 9R6
PH 905-513-1717 FAX 905 513-7525

CCAC COMMUNITY CARE ACCESS
Centre of York Region

We're here for you...

Coming out of hospital? Suffering an illness or injury?
Need personal care to maintain your independence?
Are you eligible for health care at home? Call the
CCAC of York Region at **1-888-470-2222**
This message brought to you as a community service of
The Economist & Sun/Tribune

WAREHOUSE SALE



CASH, MasterCard, Interac, VISA

SAVINGS UP TO 80%

Greetings from
Lisa's Cosmetics/Fragrances Ltd.

Featuring Elizabeth Arden
Cosmetics and Skin Treatment Products
THE BIGGEST SELECTION OF FRAGRANCES EVER WITH THE LATEST NAMES ON THE MARKET

- ★ Alfred Sung ★ Armani ★ Bob Mackie ★ Bourcheron
- ★ Burberry ★ Bvlgari ★ Calvin Klein ★ Christian Dior
- ★ Davidoff ★ Diesel ★ Dolce & Gabbana ★ Escada
- ★ Fendi ★ Giorgio Beverly Hills ★ Givenchy ★ Gucci
- ★ Guerlain ★ Hugo Boss ★ Jennifer Lopez
- ★ Kenneth Cole ★ Lacoste ★ Lancome
- ★ Liz Claiborne ★ Moschino
- ★ Oscar De La Renta ★ Perry Ellis
- ★ Roberto Cavalli ★ Swiss Army
- ★ Versace ★ Yves St. Laurent

and many more fine fragrances

MISCELLANEOUS

- ★ Leather Goods, Belts, Purses, etc.
- ★ Great Bath & Hair Care Products
- ★ Assorted Gift Items (perfect for Christmas)

23 DAYS ONLY

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

STOCKING STUFFERS

WHERE?
35 Valleywood Drive, Markham
www.lisascosmetics.ca

		16th Ave.	Ave.	
Leslie St.	Hwy. 404	Valleywood Drive	Woodbine Ave.	Warden Ave.
		Lisa's	Apple Creek Blvd.	
			Hwy. 7	

WHEN?
Nov. 5 to Nov. 27

TIME
Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.