

HOME Show



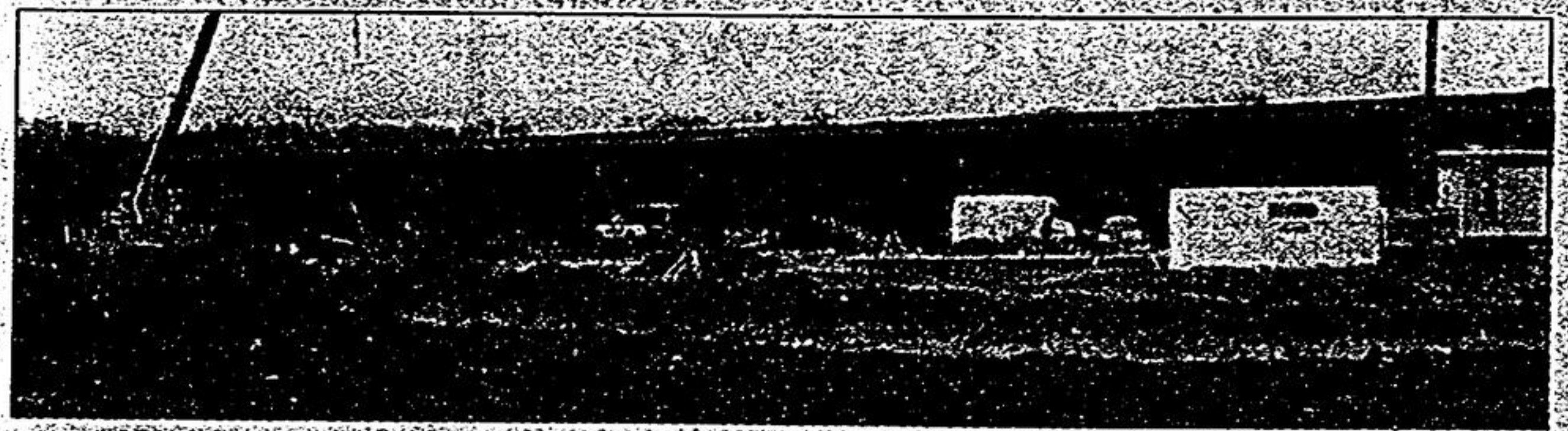
\$15,000 GIVEAWAY AT HOME SHOW!

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Arseneault of 126 Church Street, Markham are the proud winners of the \$15,000.00 kitchen given away by S.M. Snider Interiors and Exteriors at the fall Markham Home Show which took place at the Markham Fairgrounds last October. The prize included refurbishing their oak cabinets with crown molding, black granite countertops, stylish under mount double stainless steel sink and Moen polished chrome sprayer tap. The Arseneault's could not stop singing the praises of all the workmen employed by S.M. Snider Interiors and Exteriors as their workmanship was immaculate, professional and first-class from start to finish. All in all a very impressive job including very difficult colour matching of the stain required to blend into the existing kitchen environment. Their cook top and eye-level oven were installed to finish the project and give the Arseneault's back their newly face lifted kitchen and will definitely help them sell their home which is MLS listed. We wish them well in their new home.



S.M. SNIDER
INTERIORS &
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MARKHAM
ECONOMIST & SUN



STAFF PHOTO/HANNELORE VOLPE

Wal-Mart is scheduled to open in Stouffville in September. No other stores are confirmed.

Retailers prepare for big box stores

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thrive in the big box environment.

At a Stouffville business improvement area meeting held shortly after the Wal-Mart proposal was brought to the municipality, Stouffville business people expressed some concern about the Wal-Mart development coming to town, but no one was overly worried, BIA president Eric Button said.

Small businesses have to be well-run, emphasize specialty retail and offer good service, he added.

The town's commercial policy study helped to determine what would go into the big box store development. No banks are allowed, for example, so they won't compete with those already in town. The types of stores there are different from those in downtown Stouffville.

The climate has changed now, where big box stores and downtown areas don't compete against each other anymore, he noted. Representatives from the Geranium Corporation, the developer, met with members of the BIA to explain what would be happening.

Two pharmacies, the IDA Pharmacy and Houston Pharmacy, both on Main Street, were pro-active in amalgamating their operations about two months ago. The proximity of the Wal-Mart will affect everyone, pharmacist/owner Rob Croxall noted. Carrying a line

of products that isn't found in the big box retailers and increasing service to maintain a customer base are key components to success. The IDA now carries natural and alternative products and offers specialized nutritional and lifestyle counselling by pharmacist and certified clinical nutritionist Farid Wassef, along with the traditional pharmacy.

Big box stores have been in Markham for several years, said Keith Bray, president of the Markham Board of Trade.

Although many businesses in small towns across Canada have been apprehensive about stores such as Wal-Mart coming to their town, "retailers that know their niche and are service-oriented will thrive," he said.

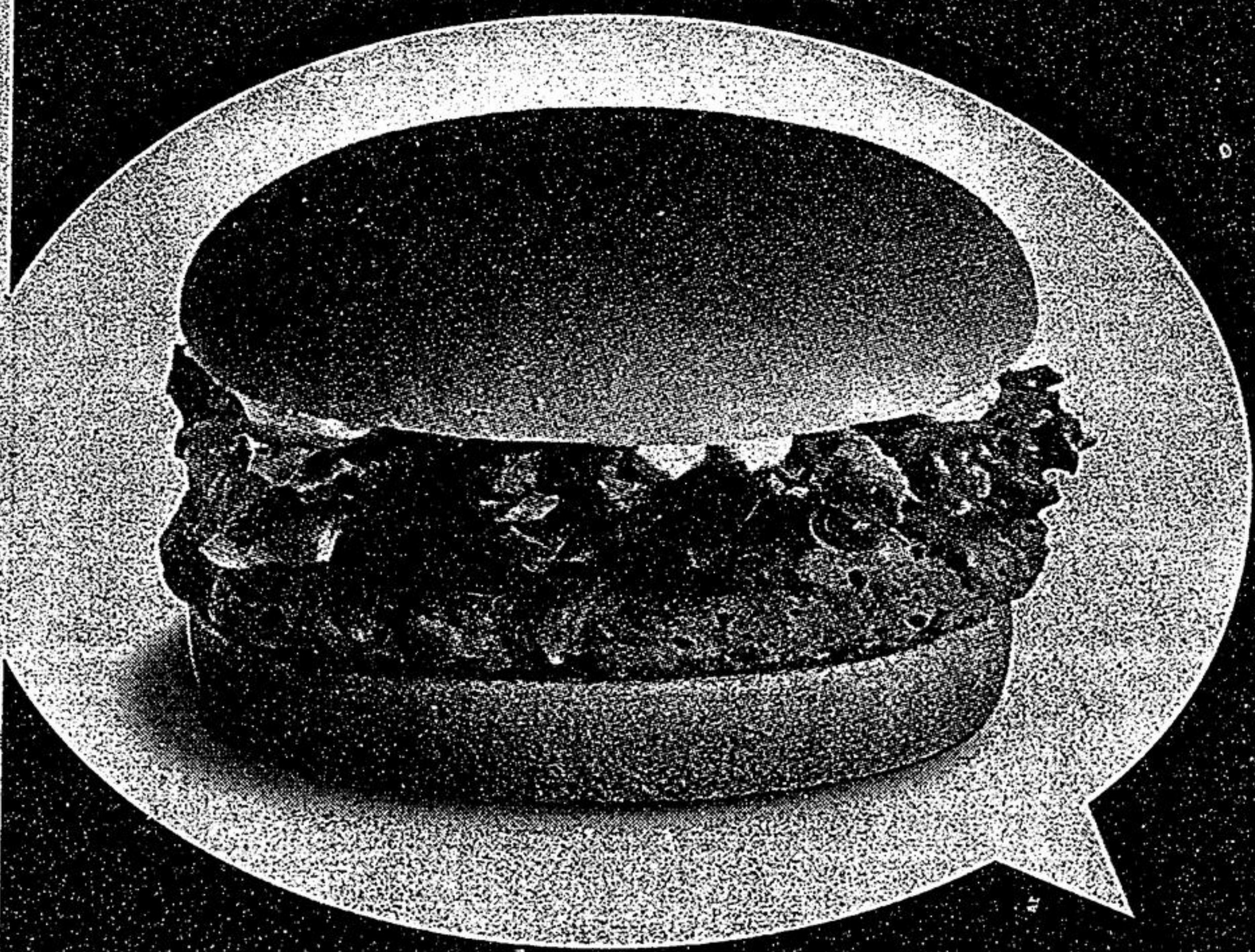
"Main Street Markham and Main Street Unionville are thriving," he said. Wal-Mart will bring increased business traffic that will spill over to well-run local businesses.

"You can't stand in the way of change," said Frankie Rose, owner of Cornercopia, a gift and decor store on Markham's Main Street. "But that being said, I do feel for the local business that will suffer as a direct result of this development. How much more big box will this region continue to allow?"

The workshop fee is \$25 and reservations are required. Call 905-642-4227.

To contact reporter Hannelore Volpe, e-mail to hvolpe@ymg.com

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