

Gormley lumber yard sold by Ratcliffs

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Ratcliff Lumber, which was the first business at the intersection of Woodbine Avenue and Stouffville Road in Gormley 40 years ago, is under new ownership.

Lou Cairo and Rick DeVincenzo took over the helm around three months ago.

They came to a much different setting than the original owners, Donald and Howard Ratcliff.

At that time, there were mainly fields. Now, there is a new gas station on one corner with a Tim Hortons and other businesses coming, an industrial area and the plaza with Famous Sam's restaurant and other retail businesses nearby.

A fire at Ratcliff Lumber about 20 years ago left one of its warehouses substantially damaged.

The new owners, who were in the construction industry, are familiarizing themselves with the business through the expertise of former owners Paul and Terry Ratcliff, the sons of Donald Ratcliff.

Their uncle, Howard Ratcliff, is the owner of Century Mill Lumber on Stouffville Road.

The new owners chose Ratcliff Lumber because of its growth potential and the fact the necessary infrastructure was in place.

"They have the staff, they have the building, they have the clients and they have the know-how," Mr. Cairo said.

"We are hoping to expand it," Mr. Cairo, who is from Toronto, said.

Growth will be gradual, he added.

Ratcliff Lumber provides lumber and building materials for the do-it-yourself market and contractors, Paul Ratcliff said.

A second location owned by Paul and Terry Ratcliff, Ratcliff Forest Products at Durham Road 30 and Bloomington Road, remains under their ownership.

Ratcliff Lumber is at 12307 Woodbine Ave. and can be reached at 905-888-1971.



PHOTO/COREY RICHARDSON

Stouffville musician Grainne Ryan is singing for the environment and writing a petition opposing the Pickering Airport at gopetition.com

Groups continue airport battle

From page 1.

Planes landing at Pearson Airport start circling over Scarborough. Preliminary plans for Pickering show three runways, he said.

Land Over Landings, according to its website, was formed in 2005 to protect tenants on the Pickering federal lands from their landlord, the Ministry of Transportation, and its management agent, the Ministry of Public Works and Government Services. Members include tenants on the lands, as well as people from the Greater Toronto Area and other municipalities.

The airport would use about 12,000 acres out of the 18,600-acre Pickering lands. A new airport would take this largely agricultural land out of commission for growing crops, going against the movement to buy as much

food as possible locally, Mr. Rodrigues said.

According to the Greater Toronto Airport Authority, a new airport in Pickering would be smaller than Pearson Airport, which now has five runways. A new Pickering airport would have two or three runways, Mr. Armstrong noted.

The airport project would be "financially disastrous", Mr. Rodrigues said. "There is not enough business there to support it."

According to the GTAA fact sheet 2007, the Pickering financial assessment analysis 2002, concluded that "an airport on the Pickering Lands is a feasible project and could be funded from the usual sources available to the GTAA."

People are bringing their concerns to the Greater Toronto Airport Authority, Mr. Armstrong said, adding there has been pub-

lic consultation on the airport since 2004.

Another group fighting the airport is Voters Organized to Cancel the Airport Lands (VOCAL).

They are a non-profit grassroots organization formed to focus and amplify the voices of the communities that will be negatively impacted by an airport in Pickering.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson said residents needs to get the facts before making judgments about the airport.

Want more information on a possible Pickering airport?

- Visit:
- ▶ gopetition.ca
 - ▶ landoverlandings.com
 - ▶ vocalvoice.ca
 - ▶ Transport Canada at [tc.gc.ca/Ontario Region/Pickering/pmenu.htm](http://tc.gc.ca/OntarioRegion/Pickering/pmenu.htm)
 - ▶ [airport-authority at gtaa.com/local/files/](http://airport-authority.at/gtaa.com/local/files/)

CORRECTION NOTICE

Dear 'The Garden Basket Customers'

In Thursday's November 1st Markham Economist & Sun, Stouffville Tribune the following errors occurred:

The picture of Hellmann's Mayonnaise (Squeeze Bottle) is incorrect. The picture should have shown the Mayonnaise in the 750ml glass jar.

The picture of the Kikkoman Teriyaki Sauce is incorrect and should have shown the Soy Sauce only. The Teriyaki Sauce is not on sale.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



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All Specials available 5 pm to close, some restrictions apply. Please see server for details.