

Displaced bowlers send petition, delegation to council

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The proprietor of the Stouffville Bowling Centre has gathered a petition of 300 names of people opposed to a proposal to turn the centre into doctors' offices.

John White presented it to Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Ward 5 Councillor Rich-

ard Bartley this week.

Some of those who signed the petition are the Markham Bowlers, a group of people with special needs. They were so upset at the possibility of losing the bowling centre several of them just showed up at Tuesday's Whitchurch-Stouffville council meeting. Because they didn't apply to

come as a delegation beforehand, however, they weren't allowed to speak.

SPECIAL NEEDS

That's something they will do for the next council meeting April 15, said their coach, Barb Anderson, who accompanied the group.

Some of them use walkers

and wouldn't be able to go to bowling facilities with stairs, Ms Anderson said.

It is too far for these bowlers to travel to Uxbridge or Newmarket for bowling, she said.

Mr. White is worried the bowling centre could be lost in vain if the building can't be upgraded to hold a second

floor to accommodate the doctors' offices.

Building inspectors check out a building after a site plan is approved and a building permit granted, Mr. Emmerson said.

The building likely needs to be upgraded to accommodate a second floor for doctors' offices.

So far, the town has just received an application for a site plan from the building owner, but nothing has come to council for a decision yet, the mayor said.

"The gentleman that owns the building has every right to do what he wants to do, within reason with the zoning that is in place," Mr. Emmerson added.

The owner's son is a physician, who is looking to have his own medical centre, along with one or two other doctors, he said.

Mr. Emmerson said he will go to visit the bowling centre after the matter comes before council, which could be sometime in May.

"I would hate to take recreation away from anybody," Mr. Bartley said, but there's "no question" more doctors will be needed in town.

CINEMA, BOWLING COMPLEX

Some municipalities offer doctors perks, such as paying for part of their education, to have them settle in their community.

Mr. Bartley, the area councillor, would like to see an entrepreneur develop a new bowling centre possibly associated with a cinema somewhere else in town, if the site plan application is approved by council.

He will meet with the bowlers and Mr. White "anytime," he said.

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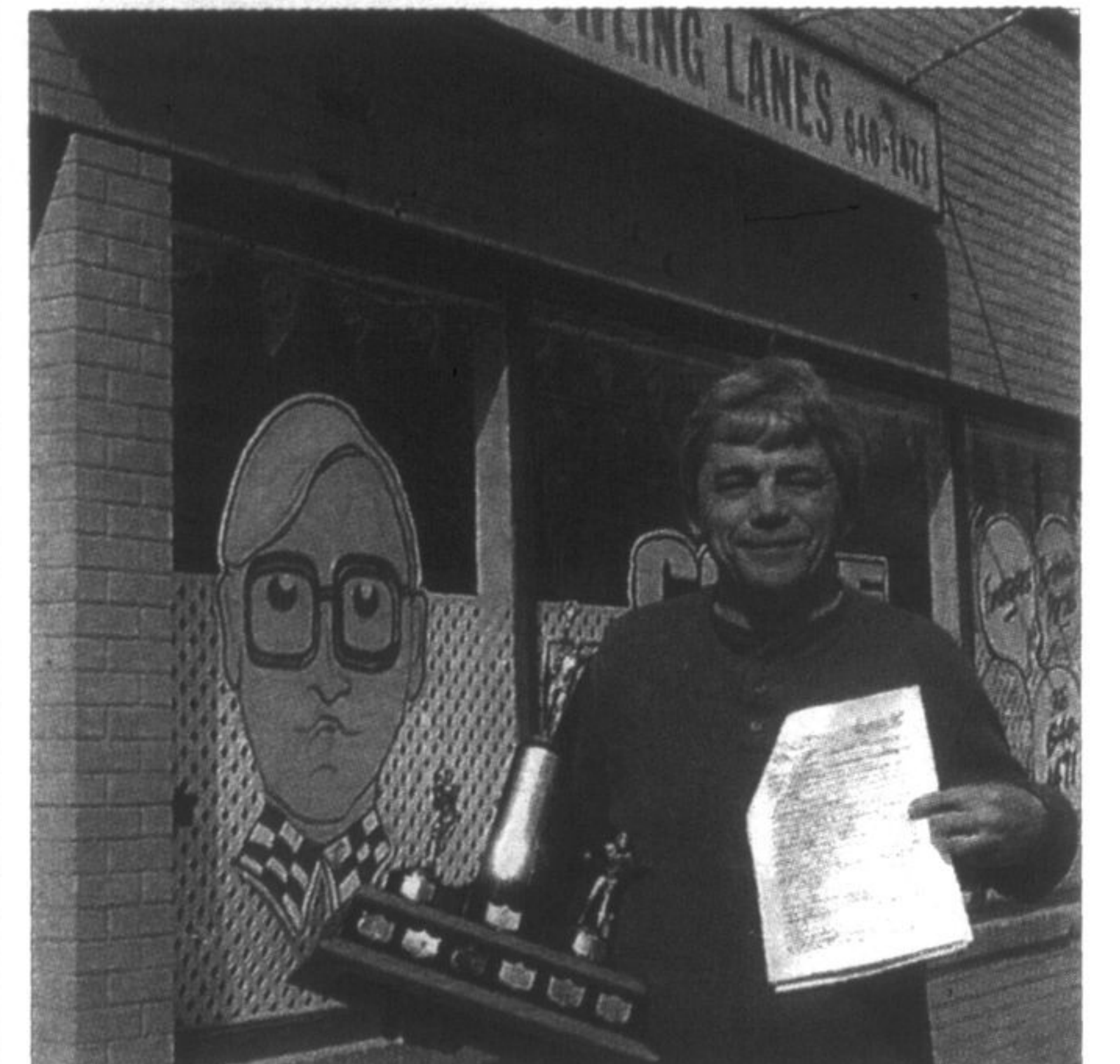
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