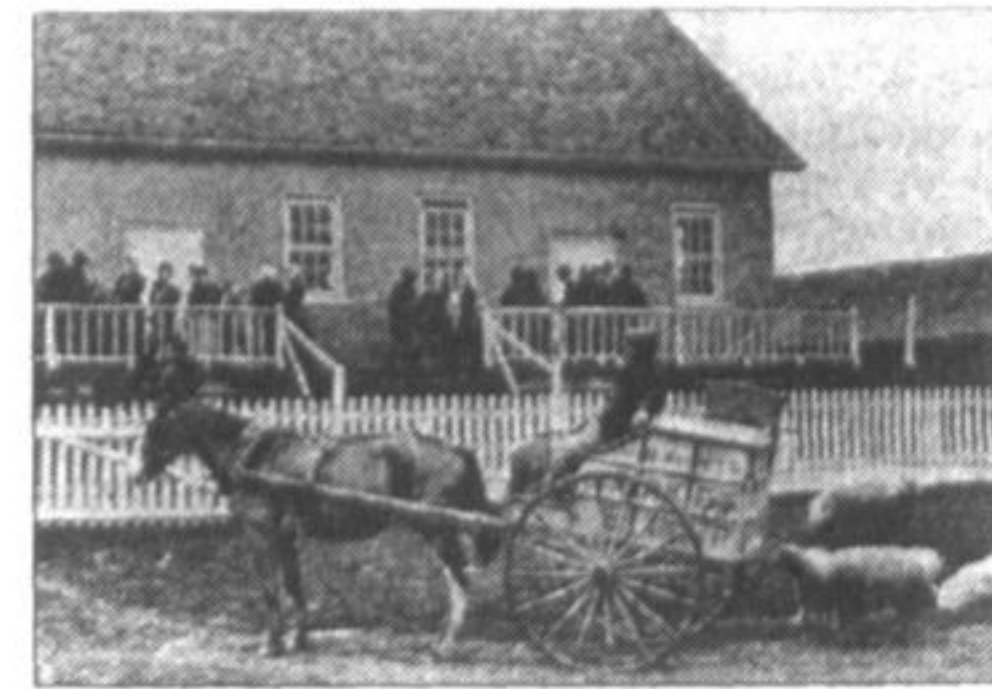


# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## HEADED FOR HOME

Emily Carter of Stouffville's Glad Park Public School runs hard around a bend in the Grade 7 girls' race at the York Region south-east cross country championships at Milne Park in Markham Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

# Rona not coming, Nofrills doubtful: Mayor

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

The retail development map of Stouffville is being updated.

It seems plans are constantly evolving, especially in the development department.

First, Canadian building supply retailer Rona has pulled out of the SmartCentres development in southwest Stouffville.

Now, plans for a new grocery store in the old Anderson Haulage property beside Tim Hortons may be on hold, too.

"Customers ask me everyday

(when we are moving)," said Steve Balsdon, owner of Nofrills on Main Street. "Until I see a shovel in the ground, I don't know. My office doesn't tell me much."

He isn't the only one that is unsure.

Dorie McDonald, vice president of Rice Commercial Group, developers of the old Anderson property, said the company isn't "100 per cent sure" whether or not a new Nofrills, part of the Loblaws chain, will be opening on the site. A sign front Main Street advertised the move.

"Hopefully, it's going to go," she said. "We would really love to have them there. We're keeping our fingers crossed."

Mayor Wayne Emmerson isn't as optimistic.

"Loblaws has downsized, and I don't believe they're considering coming to that site at this time," he said. "The way I understand it is that they're not coming."

Loblaws head office did not return calls from The Sun-Tribune.

As for the former Rona site, which was to host a 54,000-square-

foot store east of Wal-Mart, Mr. Emmerson said there's another plan in the works.

"I believe SmartCentres has another plan for that site," he said. "They will be bringing something different to us."

Calls to Rona's head office and SmartCentres were not returned.

A new plan for other stores is also expected to be presented, said Mr. Emmerson.

In June, representatives from MHBC Planning urbanMetrics made a presentation to council

backing a proposed amendment to change the restrictions on the zoning by-law governing the plaza that is also home to Canadian Tire to allow for smaller stores.

The proposal did not sit well with the Stouffville Business Improvement Area board or members of council, who all expressed concerns for the viability of downtown businesses should smaller stores be allowed in the plaza.

SmartCentres representatives are expected back at council next month with an update.

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