

## Tim Hortons not welcome in Gormley: plaza owner

BY SANDRA BOLAN
Staff Writer

Tim Hortons will be setting up shop across the road from Famous Sam's restaurant in Gormley and the plaza's owner is none too happy about it.

"We strongly oppose the Tim Hortons," Nick Kladis, owner of the plaza located on the northeast corner of Woodbine Avenue and Stouffville Road said. "We oppose this change as it will affect the menu sales of Famous Sam's, as they have similar menu options. Famous Sam's sells coffee, breakfast, lunch and dinner and Tim Hortons will be serving the same items."

The property on which Tim Hortons will build a 55-seat restaurant, complete with a drive-thru, is owned by the Rice Commercial Group. It's on Stouffville Road between Woodbine and Hwy. 404 next to Sunoco.

"I have to admit, promptly, in the short-term, Tim Hortons will take business away from Sam's," Whitchurch-Stouffville Councillor Clyde Smith said.

However, Councillor Richard Bartley noted people go

to Famous Sam's for quality, not necessarily convenience.

"Your restaurant is an icon.
I drive by two Tim Hortons to get to your restaurant," he said.

## 'Your restaurant is an icon. I drive by two Tim Hortons to get to your restaurant'

Councillor Richard Bartley on Famous Sam's

Mr. Kladis claimed Whitchurch-Stouffville is failing to protect the municipality's small businesses by allowing big corporations, including Tim Hortons, Sunoco and Petro Canada, to build right beside independent businesses selling similar products.

In 2006, the Sunoco station was built on the northwest corner of the busy intersection.

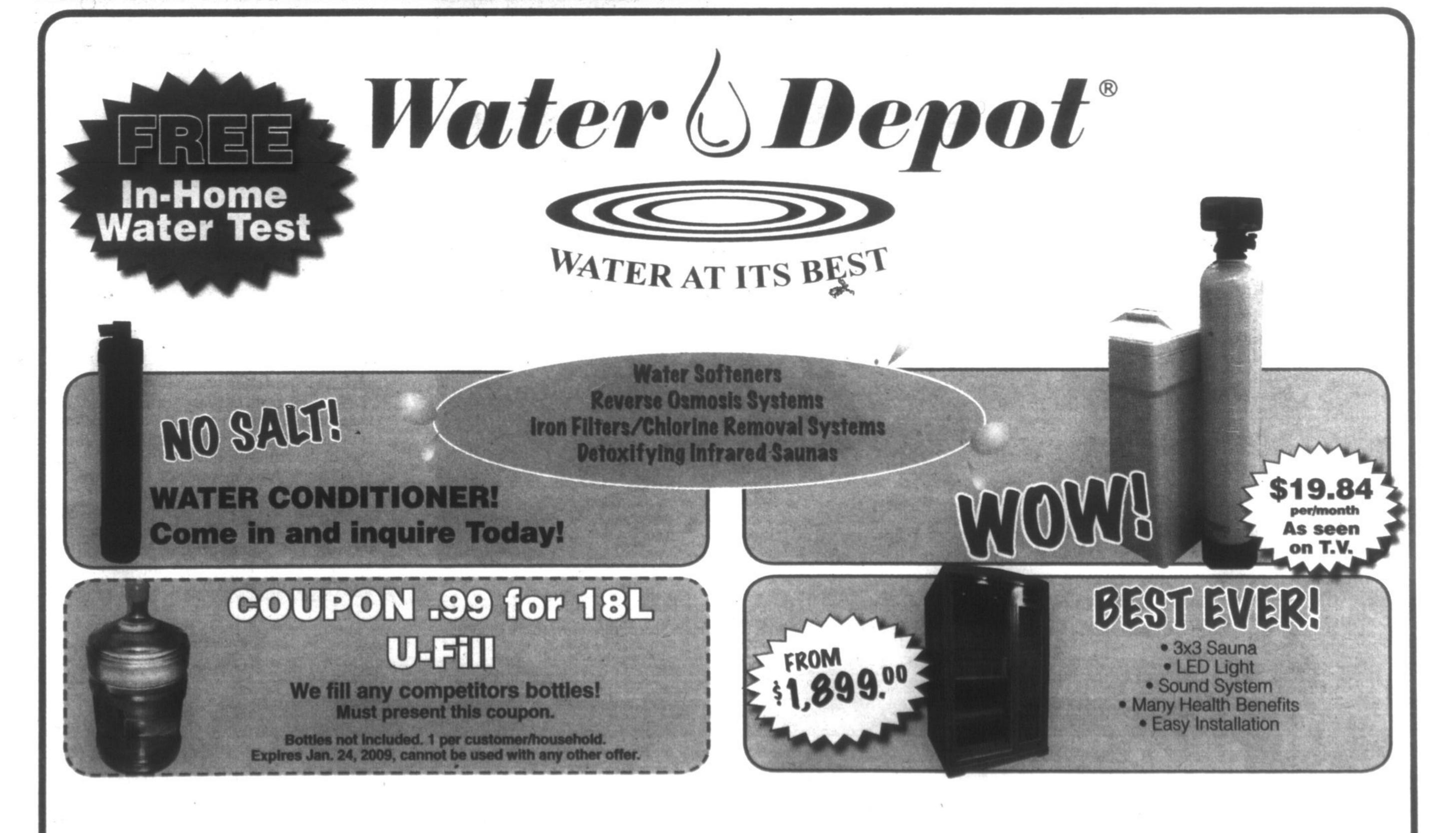
"The convenience store in our plaza has had its sales affected by the Sunoco gas bar as they sell more than just gas," Mr. Kladis said.

"It is clear that the proposed drive-thru restaurant will serve a broad market in the general community, as well as existing and future industrial uses," according to a report submitted to council by Alan Drozd, the town's manager of planning. "Its introduction into the area represents the addition of a modern facility into the community that meets the needs of the public and can serve to enhance the marketability of the Gormley area to future industrial users."

Because this Tim Hortons will have a drive-thru, an amendment to the town's official plan was required.

The area, however, will not be losing any prestige industrial space, as a 2.5-acre parcel of land located immediately east of Petro Canada on the southeast corner will be changed from convenience commercial to prestige industrial.

"We believe there is no erosion of industrial land because there is essentially just a swap (of land)," said Andrew McNeely, the town's director of planning and building services.



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