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## Food bank, job office could be in civic centre

From page 1.

to Ware Malcomb. Those employees will need 10,200 square feet of space.

"It is clear that the existing premises are intensely and efficiently utilized and face some noteworthy challenges going forward," according to the report by Ware Malcomb.

Those challenges include: lack of expansion space, overcrowded facilities, lack of town identity, remoteness of the fourth floor offices from the front doors, lack of public gathering space for public meetings, storage space and centralized public service counter.

Another option the town is con
The reserves are looking good needs of a town hall. templating is building its own town hall.

But building a town hall from scratch is not cheap.

Malcomb estimated Ware the type of facility required by Whitchurch-Stouffville will cost between \$250 and \$300 a square foot. The consultants also recommend the facility be 44,000 square feet, which equates to a \$13.2-million town hall, before design/project management and land costs.

"If we were going to build, we. have to look at our capital reserves because town hall is not eligible through development charges," Mr. Cash said.

and so are mortgage rates, accordand treasurer Mark Pourvahidi.

By 2011, the municipality's capital reserve fund will have \$5 million in its coffers specifically for a new School. town hall, thanks to the sale of the according to Mr. Pourvahidi, can be said. mortgaged.

ommendation to put in a long-term financing plan to replace the cost," he said.

Another option is to purchase a building and retrofit it to meet the

If this ends up being the preferred ing to the town's director of finance choice by council, Mayor Wayne Emmerson knows exactly which building he wants to move into - the former Stouffville District Secondary

The old

District

Stouffville

Secondary

School has been

closed for more

than two years.

Mayor Wayne

wants the town

building from

school board.

Emmerson

to buy the

the public

"I think it's time the municipalcurrent public works yard on Main ity has its own spot (and) I believe Street. The remaining \$7 million, the school site would be good," he

The school, east of the Stouffville "Town is presently paying a Arena on Bramble Crescent, has been monthly lease, so it will be my rec-vacant for two years and deemed surplus by the York District School Board, but it has yet to decide what to do with the facility.

> "We're still negotiating; we've been negotiating for a while," Mr. Emmerson said.

> Not only would the building be home to Whitchurch-Stouffville's town hall, Mr. Emmerson noted he'd like to see other community groups join them, such as the York Region Health Unit, YMCA Resource Centre and Whitchurch-Stouffville Food Bank, to name a few.

"There are so many avenues we could get involved with if we could acquire the school," Mr. Emmerson



In 2007, the town purchased half of the school's property, which contained the track, playing fields and tennis courts.

A decision on which route the town will eventually take is not expected to be made for some time.

"We're looking at all the options," Mr. Cash said. "We're trying to be efficient and frugal here."

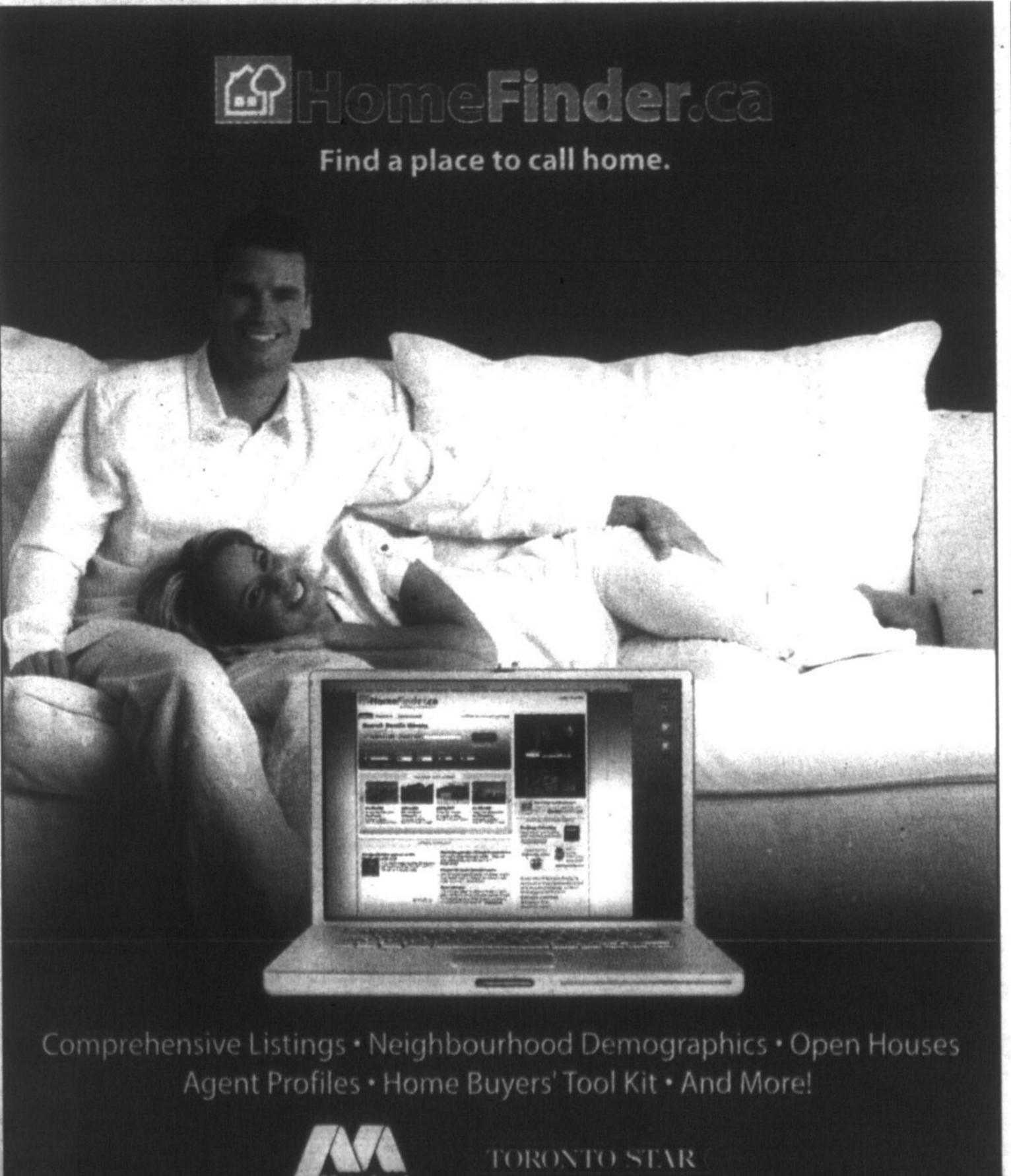
And for the more immediate future?

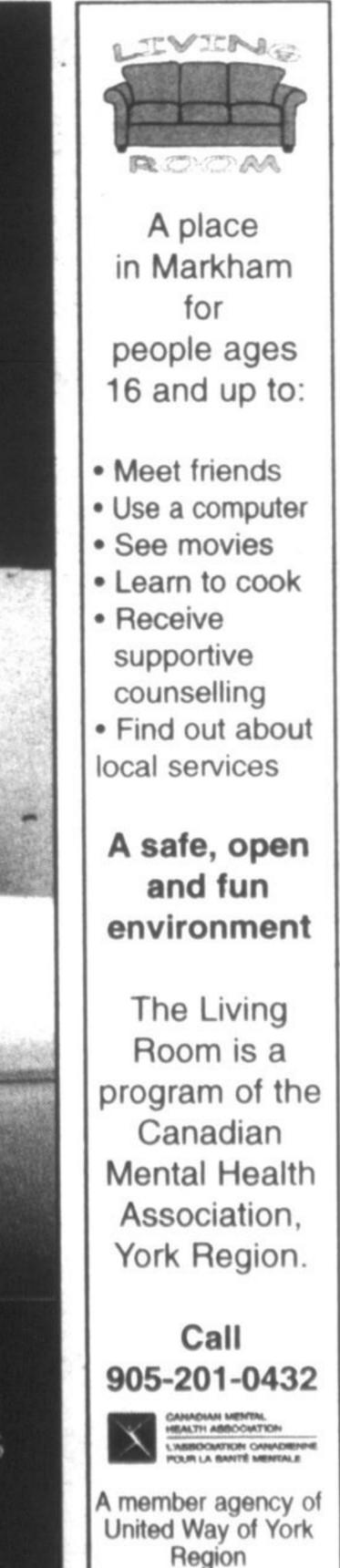
Once a new fire hall opens on Weldon Road in Stouffville, two fulltime and one part-time bylaw officer will move to the Ballantrae fire hall and set up shop in the vacated administrative offices.

However, this solution will only last until 2014, when fire service is expected to go 24/7 and those administrative offices will once again be required by the fire department.

A senior bylaw officer will still work out of the Sandiford Drive offices, Mr. Cash said.

Three public works operations staff will also be moving to new digs, the public works operations centre on Bethesda Road, which is expected to be operational by June 2010.





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service of Economist 8

Sun/Tribune