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BUSINESS: Metro location first under new drive-thru rules

Scotiabank opening new branch

BY SANDRA BOLAN

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Metro and Harvey's/Swiss Chalet are getting a new neighbour.

Scotiabank has received site plan approval to open a branch midway between Sandale Road and the Metro grocery store. It will front Main Street, with a drive-thru on the north side.

Construction on the single-storey 5,000-square-foot building is anticipated to begin this summer, with the branch opening in the spring, according to Scotiabank spokesperson Robyn Harper.

The fate of the current branch, located in downtown Stouffville at 6323 Main St., remains unknown.

"We're still considering our options," Ms Harper said.

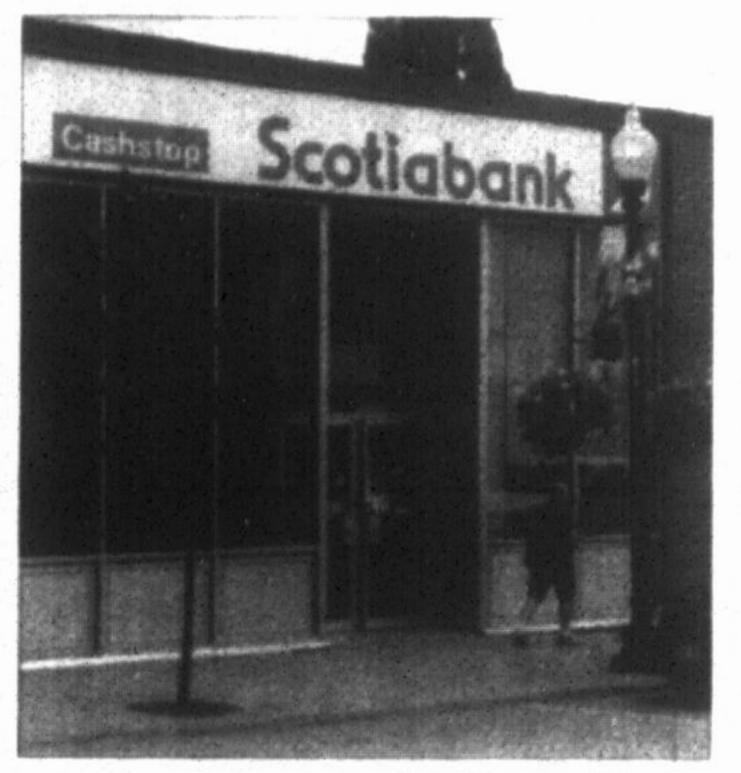
The site plan approval is the first one granted since drive-thru regulations were put into the town's new zoning bylaw earlier this year.

The stipulations, however, did not come without controversy.

When the town first tabled its new zoning bylaw in March 2010 it stated drive-thru facilities, other than those already in existence, would only be permitted by exemption.

Michael Polowin, a partner at Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP in Ottawa and solicitor for the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Associations, McDonald's, Wendy's, A&W restaurants and TDL Group, took the ban to the OMB.

Negotiations between both parties, prior to the OMB hearing, resulted in an amicable solution approved by the OMB: drive-thrus



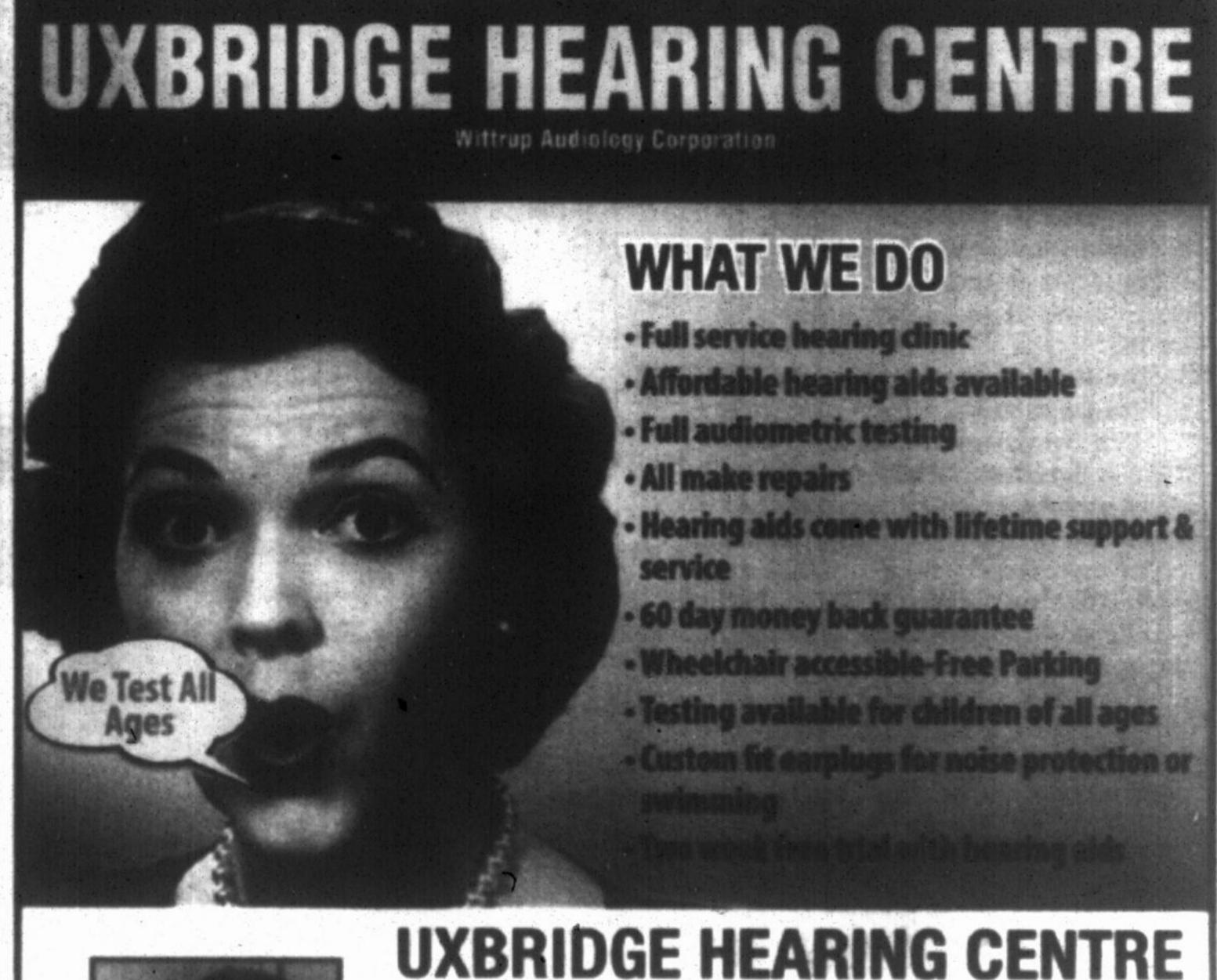
STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASO

The future of the downtown Stouffville Scotiabank branch has not been decided.

will be allowed, in conjunction with permitted uses in specific commercial zones throughout the town.

Drive-thrus currently in place include Main Street's McDonald's, Harvey's, Tim Hortons, Country Style, TD Canada Trust, RBC, Classic Greek and the former Burger King, as well as Tim Hortons and A&W in the SmartCentres development on Hoover Park Drive.

Prior to the new zoning bylaw, approval was given to Tim Hortons in Gormley.





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