

Few commercial vacancies in town

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Whitchurch-Stouffville's commercial vacancy rate is less than 1 per cent, or 4,000 square feet, despite the addition of 425,000 square feet over the past seven years.

"In a community like Stouffville, 4,000 square feet is practically nothing," said Alan Drozd, manager of planning services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"It means that you don't have a lot of vacancies. On the other hand, we're wondering if the lack of space is prohibiting people from coming in," Mr. Drozd said.

The typical retail commercial vacancy rate is 5 to 7 per cent,

according to the Sept. 18 report to council.

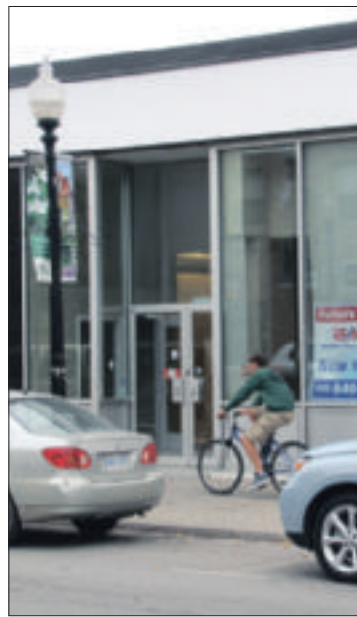
Of the occupied commercial space in Whitchurch-Stouffville, the majority (47.1 per cent) is compromised of non-departmental/non-food store retailers such as pet supply and drug stores, as well as florists, according to Mr. Drozd. This is also where the most square footage gains have been made, according to the council report.

Personal and professional services make up 15.6 per cent of the total, while food store retail comprises 13.8 per cent of the total, followed by restaurants (12.9 per cent). Home improvement retailers make up 2.9 per cent of total occupied space, according to the report.

Adding more commercial space rests with land owners of undeveloped properties, as well as other potential redevelopment sites, such as Main Street's former Canadian Tire site, according to the report.

There is currently 150,000 square feet of available space at the SmartCentre on Hoover Park Drive and another 70,000 square feet is expected to become available in the Baker Hill Boulevard and Main Street development project, according to Mr. Drozd.

A further report is expected later this year or in early 2013 that will provide more information on income and population growth and the types of businesses supportable within Whitchurch-Stouffville, Mr. Drozd said.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

The former Scotiabank will re-open as a real estate office.

Stores, town facilities closed for Thanksgiving holiday

All town facilities will be closed Monday for Thanksgiving.

Those buildings include town hall, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Leisure Centre, library and museum, as well as the two arenas.

The museum is also closed Saturday and Sunday.

However, the library, Stouffville Arena and Stouffville Clippers Sports Complex will operate as normal Saturday and Sunday.

The leisure centre's pool is open 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, while the fitness centre operates from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. those two days.

For more information, go to www.townofws.com

The LCBO, Beer Store, Metro and NoFrills are all closed Thanksgiving Monday.

Stouffville TOYOTA

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SALE LOCATION

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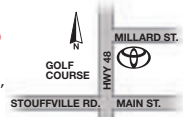
Getting There. Starts Here.

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1288 Millard Street (at Hwy 48),
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www.stouffvilletoyota.net

*Offers valid until October, 31, 2012. **See Stouffville Toyota for details.



CONVENIENT SERVICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday . . . 7 am to 8 pm
Friday 7 am to 6 pm
Saturday 8 am to 4 pm

CONVENIENT SALES HOURS

Monday - Thursday . . . 9 am to 9 pm
Friday 9 am to 6 pm
Saturday 9 am to 6 pm

Cancer affects us all...

Cancer will affect 1 in 3 Canadians in their lifetime and your hospital has programs and services to help patients living with cancer and their families.

Join us! for an information evening

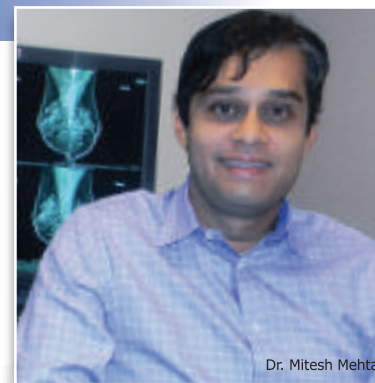
WHEN: **Wednesday, October 17, 2012**
6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Open house, information displays
6:30 p.m. Main presentation

WHERE: **Markham Stouffville Hospital Auditorium**
381 Church Street

WHAT: Patients, families and individuals can learn more about living with cancer, advancements in diagnostics, treatment options, importance of early diagnosis and cancer prevention.

FEATURED SPEAKERS: **Dr. Leena Hajra, Dr. Mitesh Mehta, Dr. Mateya Trinkaus**



Dr. Mitesh Mehta

A portion of the presentation will focus on breast cancer as October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Complimentary parking will be provided. Please bring your ticket with you to the event for validation.

Please email myhospital@msh.on.ca for more information.



Dr. Mateya Trinkaus

Dr. Leena Hajra



www.msh.on.ca



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