

# Stouffville has its own pot plant

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told The Sun-Tribune.

Other residents contacted by The Sun-Tribune did not wish to comment.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Councillor Phil Bannon, whose ward ends at the York-Durham Line, wished Uxbridge councillors consulted with them.

"As a councillor, I would have reached out to the bordering municipality," he told The Sun-Tribune.

Medicinal marijuana grow-ops are federally regulated.

Uxbridge's fire and emergency services staff told Whitchurch-Stouffville's counterparts about the possible large-scale pot plant out of courtesy as Whitchurch-Stouffville would respond to calls at that site because of its proximity to this municipality, Mayor Wayne Emmerson told The Sun-Tribune.

The large-scale grow-up is better than the small-scale operations currently set up in homes anywhere within a municipality, Bannon said.

Whitchurch-Stouffville already has one.

There is an approximately 30,000-square-foot operation on Woodbine Avenue, north of Bloomington Road.

The greenhouse permit was issued by municipal staff in July 2010, according to Andrew Jurrius, chief building official for the municipality.

"The plant materials are irrelevant to me. They can grow anything, including marijuana," Jurrius told The Sun-Tribune. "I don't have any authority over (what they grow)."

Within the past six months, the fire department, along with the Ontario Fire Marshal's office and Jurrius, inspected the facility and found it to be unsafe because it only had one exit, Jurrius told The Sun-Tribune.

Uxbridge council unanimously supported the application to turn a 115-acre farm at 7289 Durham 30, York-Durham Line into a medicinal marijuana operation.

This does not, however, guarantee the grow-up will be approved by the Health Canada, but it helps.

"The new regulations require that an applicant for a production licence advise local authorities of its application. There is no requirement for an applicant to confirm compliance with local zoning regulations, to obtain support of a local municipality, or to follow a consultation protocol, as is the case,

for example, with proposed new telecommunication facilities. Despite this, information provided by Health Canada indicates that municipal regulations including zoning must be respected," stated the April 15 Whitchurch-Stouffville staff report to council.

*The large-scale grow-up is better than the small-scale operations currently set up in homes anywhere within a municipality, Bannon said.*

The municipality has received a letter from an individual indicating he/she is applying for a licence from the federal government to establish a large-scale medical marijuana grow-up here, according to Alan Drozd, manager of planning for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

He has not heard back from Health Canada regarding the application's status, nor does he expect to.

Earlier this year, the rules for government-regulated medicinal marijuana grow-ops were expected to change.

The small-scale operations were to be shut down and replaced by mega plants. However, a recent court ruling has put those changes on hold. The federal government noted it will appeal the decision.

The proposed Uxbridge operation is spearheaded by pharmacist Kandavel Palanivel. Other members of his group include former Ontario minister of health and long-term care George Smitherman, retired Toronto Police deputy chief Kim Derry and Ken Richards.

"I view medicinal marijuana as an effective alternative for many people and I think that the science on this will grow and grow and grow," Smitherman said.

Should the group gain approval from the federal government, the plan is to renovate the 8,000-square-foot barn into the growing operation. The property would be fenced, patrolled and monitored by a security system 24 hours a day. There is currently a house on the property, but it would only be used for employee sleeping arrangements.

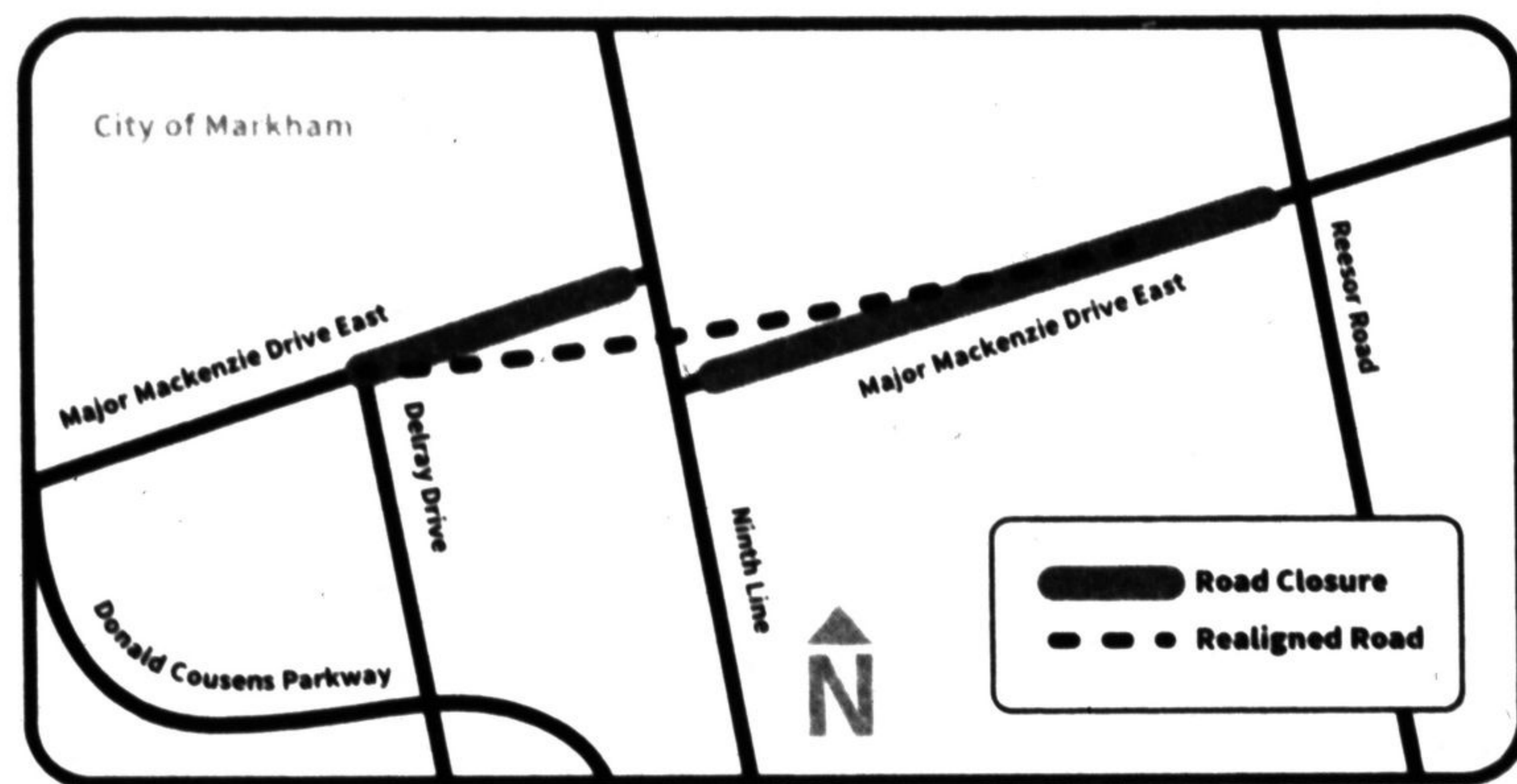
A report to Whitchurch-Stouffville council regarding large-scale medical marijuana grow-ops is expected to go before council later this year, according to Emmerson.

With files from *Torstar News Service and durhamregion.com*

## The Regional Municipality of York NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE Major Mackenzie Drive East Between Delray Drive and Reesor Road in the City of Markham

The jog at Ninth Line and Major Mackenzie Drive East is being eliminated to improve travel for its users. To complete this work, Major Mackenzie Drive East will be closed between Delray Drive and Reesor Road from June 14, 2014 to June 22, 2014.

A signed detour route will be implemented during construction. Residents are reminded to please reduce their speed in the area.



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