

BUSINESS: Hotel also rumoured for Hwy. 48 land

'Year or two' until Chinese trade trip pays off: Mayor

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If Mayor Wayne Emmerson visited every booth in Yiwu China's trade centre for only five minutes, he said it would take him a year-and-a-half to complete.

Earlier this month, the outgoing mayor was part of a weeklong trade mission delegation to China that went to see if a smaller scale Yiwu Futain Market was viable in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Also part of the delegation was Corebridge Development Corp. president Wilson Tran.

The company owns the 100 acres of vacant land at the northeast corner of Hoover Park Drive and Hwy. 48, across from Boston Pizza, which Emmerson said would be the perfect site for the one-million-square-foot wholesale trade centre the Chinese want to construct.

"Will it ever happen? It will take a year or two to prosper from this (trip)," Emmerson said.

While touring the wholesale market, Emmerson came across companies based out of British Columbia, Richmond Hill and Markham as well as Greece, Italy and England, to name a few.

If the trade centre were to be constructed in Whitchurch-Stouffville, "100 per cent, anybody could" sell their items, including local companies, through it, he said.

Prior to his departure, Emmerson said there was

misinformation circulating within the community regarding the type of facility this would be.

"It's not a Pacific Mall and we don't have a population to support a mall," he said.

During the weeklong sojourn, Emmerson pitched to a delegation of about 100 people why Whitchurch-Stouffville would be a good place to construct another wholesale trade centre.

He said about two-thirds of the audience indicated they wanted more information about the municipality, which he took as a positive sign.

Also being rumoured for that parcel of land is a hotel.

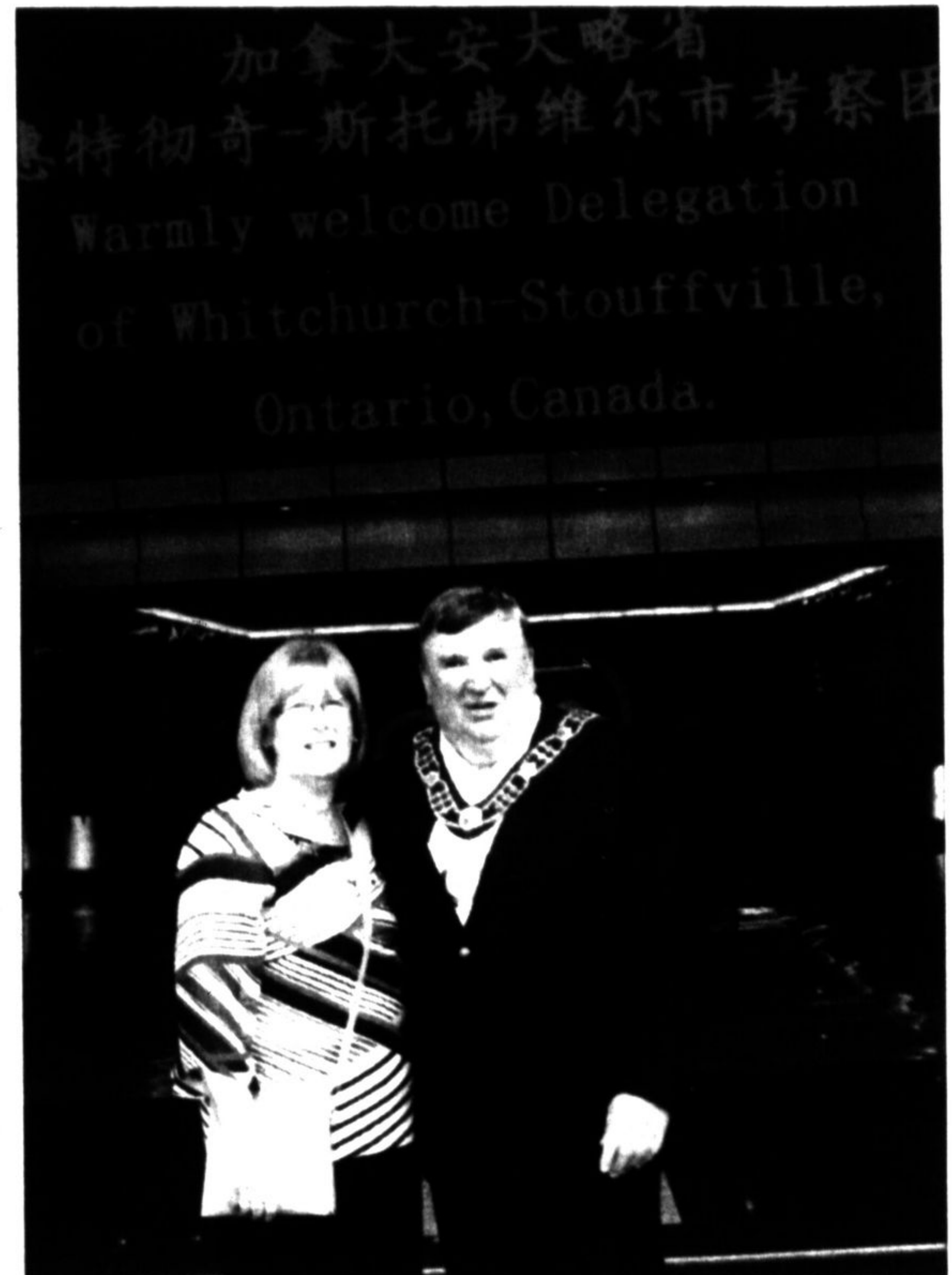
The land is zoned as employment business park, which permits office space, warehousing, wholesale sales and distribution, hotel/convention facilities as well as manufacturing.

"The hotel is not dependant on the trade centre," Emmerson said.

There are no applications before the town to construct a hotel there, he said.

Emmerson's trip wasn't all business. He managed to squeeze in some sightseeing that included the Bird's Nest, but from a distance, the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City.

A Corebridge representative was not available for comment prior to publication deadline.



Mayor Wayne Emmerson and his wife Debra at Yiwu China's trade centre during a trade trip earlier this month.

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