

Italian manufacturer wants to set up shop in Gormley

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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An Italian-based manufacturer of construction equipment wants to build their North American head office and distribution centre in Gormley.

Company officials for Pilosio want to move onto 74 acres of land at Bethesda Road and Woodbine Avenue. The land is owned by Verdi Alliance, along with others.

Proximity to the 400 series of highways and Toronto, along with its visibility from Hwy. 404 are what make the site attractive to Pilosio, according to Susan Rosenthal, a lawyer with Davies, Howe Partners and the legal counsel for Verdi Alliance and other owners of the property.

However, there is a bit of a problem.

In the early 1990s, the landowners tried to get the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville's official plan and zoning bylaw amended to permit industrial uses.

It went to the OMB, but the applications were never approved or denied.

So now, in order to move the process along, the landowners are working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to issue an order approving applications before the OMB.

As part of the process, the landowners sought support from council late last month. It was unanimously granted.

The landowners are also working with the town to get a temporary zoning bylaw so Pilosio can set up in mobile offices.

"Time is critical," Rosenthal told The Sun-Tribune, noting Pilosio has been working in Canada without a proper head office and there are opportunities in the United States they want to take advantage of.

She also told councillors last month if the

ministry does not approve the application immediately, the company will move on and build their head office elsewhere.

Pilosio is working on getting meetings with the ministry to approve the site, Rosenthal told The Sun-Tribune.

"We're doing everything we can to get them here," Ward 3 Councillor Hugo Kroon told The Sun-Tribune.

The company would be located in his ward.

Not only would Pilosio bring jobs to Whitchurch-Stouffville, but Kroon said there would be a domino effect and other like companies would follow.

"Even though it's blue collar, it's very skilled" and well paying, he told The Sun-Tribune.

Neither Kroon nor Rosenthal could indicate the number of jobs, but the councillor said it would be "reasonably substantial."

During last month's council meeting, Kroon noted Whitchurch-Stouffville was Pilosio's first choice for their North American head office.

"I'm very proud of that," he said during the meeting.

Pilosio was founded in Italy in 1961. The company manufactures, rents and sells building structures such as scaffolding, formworks for walls and slabs, retaining systems, as well as structures for entertainment events such as stages and grandstands, according to its website.

In 2011, the company created the Building the Peace award, which is given out annually to individuals or companies behind infrastructure, urban development, regeneration and restoration projects, which have contributed to the improvement of living conditions, as well as promoted tolerance and peace among people, according to the website.

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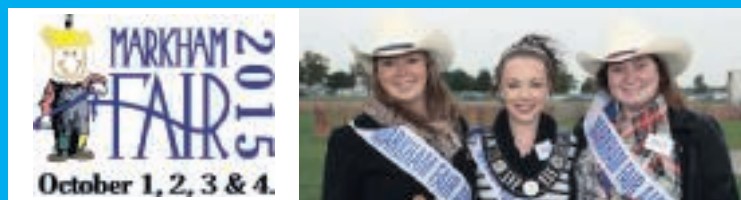
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Please direct all contestant inquiries to the Markham Fair Office
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