

Developer seeking speedy action, will appeal to OMB

Ture-Anderson (Eastern) Limited, the developers of the controversial R3 residential and commercial proposals in Lorne Park, have appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board to expedite the approval process.

Brampton lawyer Ron Webb, solicitor for the company, says he has written to the minister asking for an OMB hearing because "council has not dealt with our request and has refused to approve what we've asked for."

Town council's general committee had recommended approval of the proposals to put R3 and R2 homes, a shopping mall and a service station in about 25 acres on the south side of South Sheridan Way, east of

Streambank Drive and Crestdale Road, and north of the Hydro right-of-way.

However, when it went on to council, Reeve Lou Parsons headed a movement to have the application returned to planning board so that members might deal separately with the commercial and residential aspects.

Several councillors apparently approved the housing plans but had reservations about the shopping centre and gas station.

At planning board this week, the housing proposal was recommended for council approval and a resolution opposing both the service station and mall was introduced by Councillor

Ron Searle. Before the board could vote on the motion, planning consultant John Montague, who is associated with Ture-Anderson, asked for deferral because the applicant was not represented.

Webb said the following day he had not been informed that the application would be on the planning board agenda.

The appeal to the OMB is primarily to hasten processing of the development, Webb said. "The ratepayer's objections have been carried to the point that no matter what happened, there was going to be an appeal to the Board. Rather than take a lot more time, we decided to try and get it done now."



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Marv Sokoloff and his surplus, City Surplus can supply nose units for CF-100's or slide projectors for the home. The family-run business on Dixie Road has nearly four acres of equipment. City provides universities and colleges as well as movie and television enterprises. Family motto is "there is a use for everything."

CITY SURPLUS SALES

Sokoloff brothers find a new use for everything

BY JOHN KERNAGHAN

Need a cockpit for a CF-100, a couple of thousand machine gunner capes or a few dozen bomb releases? Fine! But whatever you do don't tell the Sokoloffs (Marv, Harry and Shelley) that you're looking for "junk".

They prefer the word "surplus."

City Surplus Sales has just less than four acres of paraphernalia including electronic parts, generators, aircraft parts and well, you name it, and they are liable to dig it out for you.

"There is a use for everything" Marv will tell you as he prowls through the first of the giant warehouses. "It's just a matter of adapting things."

After all, who would find a use for jet ejection seats.

"We took out one seat, sat it here on the floor and looked at it for two weeks. What could we do with it. Finally we found the answer," explains Shelley.

Most of the mechanical parts were retained for industry and the actual seats were sold to ex-RAF pilots as conversation pieces.

It's the same with most things that the brothers bring to the Dixie Road yard. The articles may sit for up to 10 years but in the end they are utilized.

Like the three piles of pay T.V. boxes in the corner of warehouse two. They were once used in an Etobicoke pay T.V. system. The Sokoloffs picked them up after the experiment failed, but with the possibility of

pay T.V. coming back, the stockpiling will probably pay off.

"We wouldn't have been in the business for 20 years if it didn't pay" asserts Marv.

City Surplus used to be located on Queen Street in Toronto but when the business started by father Harry ran out of space 11 years ago, the family toted their gear to Dixie Road.

"We thought the one warehouse would do the job but then we had to build the second one and now that one is filling up," says Shelley.

"We wonder where it's going to stop."

Part of the reason for the rapid collection of surplus equipment is that City is likely the only business of its kind in the country. Also, the Sokoloffs cannot resist a deal.

"We must be the only one in Canada" offers Marv. "We've tried to locate others to get rid of stuff they might use, but we can't find anyone."

City gets its goods from many sources but the major outlet is the federal government. Often, the firm is the only one answering tenders for used equipment.

"See this thing here," Marv enthuses. "This is a cartographic enlarger. Oh, the trouble I had with this one. I went to Ottawa to get it. Finally I hired some guys off the pogy and we just manhandled the thing."

He has the same connoisseur's sense with every piece of surplus he shows you. If collecting mechanical flotsam is an art, then Marv is a master.

"This is a CF-100 flight

simulator" he says with a proprietary air. "You sit in the cockpit and it gives you the same sensation as flying."

No one in the family has a degree in mechanical or electrical engineering but all are familiar with the basic workings of the sophisticated equipment they peddle.

"You could go to school but the only way to learn as you go along. We keep everything right here," he says pointing to his head to indicate City's cataloguing system.

The yard's customers vary from the weekend Mr. Fix-It to research and development teams from major companies.

"Our list of customers is surprising even to us," remarks Marv. "These guys come in here and tell us top secret stuff." He adds that the trade's by-word is discretion.

He does reveal some clients, like the CBC who searches his stock for props.

Then there are the universities and colleges that scrounge the warehouses for electronic equipment.

"But the average guy doesn't seem to know we exist," Marv laments. "You get people who come in here, poke their head in the door and ask, 'can you have a look around?' They don't know we're open to the public."

The Sokoloffs are going to fix that. They will put up a big sign and plan to advertise for the first time.

After all, someone out there can probably use their junk . . . er . . . surplus.

Streetsville police nab escaped mental patient

STREETSVILLE — A 30-year-old mental patient who had escaped from an institution in St. John's, Newfoundland was apprehended here and flown back last week to face theft charges.

Police said John Saunders was found lingering on

Queen Street in the early hours of Aug. 11. Upon questioning he told police he was out of money.

A 16-year-old companion, also wanted in St. John's, was hiding in a nearby field.

Police said he was armed with a hunting knife and threatened to use it if approached.

He escaped through the field and a subsequent search by area police forces failed to locate him.

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22 Hydro workers back on job

Twenty-two Hydro workers involved in surveying high voltage lines across the province have returned to work, according to Ontario Hydro regional information officer Charles MacIntosh.

He said 10 helicopter pilots and 12 mechanics and observers returned to their Malton base Monday to continue surveying work.

The return has been sanctioned by union executives by Branch 1000 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, MacIntosh said.

The helicopters trace the 115,000 and 230,000 volt lines that form a grid across the province, spotting for signs of deterioration.

MacIntosh said Hydro had not suffered serious damage to high voltage lines since the 22 workers walked out with other CUPE members.

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