

# Sign shop tax MPAC ruling reserved

An Orangeville sign shop owner's battle with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) was the subject of an Assessment Review Board hearing last week and both sides are now waiting for the board's decision on the matter.

Mr. Gauthier said he did a full inspection of Sign Needs after, he said, Mr. Filsinger filed an "application for review of classification" with MPAC. He said he also discussed the nature of the business with Mr. Filsinger.

"After I was fully informed, I concluded the property class was appropriate," Mr. Gauthier told the hearing.

The hearing, held at the town hall, pitted MPAC against Ken Filsinger, owner of Sign Needs on Centennial Road, who has seen his property taxes almost double after his business was upgraded to an industrial classification from a commercial one.

"Not only is it a process that falls under regulation," he continued, "it, in our view, is also the process of manufacturing an image."

In a later interview, Mr. Filsinger said he never discussed his business with Mr. Gauthier, nor did Mr. Gauthier see the operation in action. The only time he explained production to MPAC, he said, was at a discovery hearing in February, where he explained it to Ms. Douglas.

The Assessment Act terms a commercial property as one where the activities are limited to taking a product and reselling it as is; such as a retail store.

"I'd agree the wording is somewhat broad," said Mr. Gauthier.

When asked by Mr. Scott why other sign shops are not classified industrial, Mr. Gauthier said: "Just because it's a sign shop doesn't necessarily mean there's manufacturing going on." Minutes later,

Mr. Filsinger told the hearing that his tax classification changed from commercial to industrial after Sign Needs moved to its present location from Third Street. But the nature of his business didn't change, and tax rolls reveal that all other sign-making companies serving Orangeville have a "commercial" classification.

"Would you say it is overbroad?" asked Mr. Scott.

Mr. Filsinger has allies in his fight at a number of levels. In a letter to Ms. Douglas' law firm, Orangeville tax collector Debbie Goss related, in regards to Sign Needs: "The municipality at this time wishes to advise that we do not support the classification of Industrial

He says his taxes have increased from around \$6,000 to between \$10,000 and \$11,000 as a result of the change.

"In my personal opinion, I would say so."



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Photo/WES KELLER

**KINSMEN EXPRESS THANKS:** Orangeville Police Chief Joseph Tomei accepts a certificate of appreciation from Kin member John French as Kinsmen Kevin Eales and national president Doug Robinson, right, look on. The Orangeville Kinsmen paid tribute to more than a couple of dozen supporters and contributors last Thursday with a steak dinner and other awards.

## \$2.2M in grants for local projects

From page A1

frequently used by seniors.

Council.

The William Street project, where each level of government contributing \$600,000, involves the replacement of the water main and sanitary sewer on William Street from Town Line to Church and the reconstruction of the road to current municipal standards.

"This is a significant announcement for the Town of Orangeville," said Mayor Rob Adams, noting the federal/provincial funding partnership will permit the Town to upgrade the Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre, making it accessible and much more inviting. "The water main and sanitary sewer on William Street are both over 50 years old and in poor condition. Their replacement will be an environmental and financial benefit to the municipality.

up the \$4.7 million it had in reserves for water and sewer improvements and it is projected that the water and sewer reserve will have a deficit of about \$800,000 by year's end.

The Town's portion of this project will be funded from water and sewer rates, and other Town funds that are currently available such as gas tax and other reserve funds, but that distribution will be decided by

To fulfill the local commitment, the town has used

It is anticipated, however, that money from water user rates will be transferred to the reserve as part of the 2010 budget, a move that is expected to put the water and sewer reserve back into a surplus situation next year.

The town will also be assisted by the \$377,000 it raised for cash reserves by passing an average 2.5-per cent town-only property tax increase in 2009.

**GRADUATION**

Nathan Burnett obtained his Fish and Wildlife Technologist Diploma from Fleming College 2007 and his Honours Bachelor of Science Biology, Deans Honour Roll from Trent University 2009.

*Congratulations, Nathan Mom, Dad & Family*

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**2:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009**

Tender forms are available from the Public Works offices at 87 Broadway. Tenders must be submitted in the envelope provided, clearly marked as to its contents.

Questions regarding this Tender may be directed to Ed Gill, M.Eng., P.Eng., Managing Director of Operations and Transportation at 519-941-0440, ext. 222 or J.P. Marchildon, Operations Manager at 519-941-9124, ext. 4501.

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**PLAN NUMBER 7-4-966**  
**FOUR-BEDROOM COUNTRY CHARM**  
Country charm with a contemporary touch the use of metal roofing over part of the house will make this four-bedroom family home stand out from its neighbours. The great room's gas fireplace is flanked by entertainment units, and large windows look out to a sundeck and the back garden beyond. Separated from the great room by a half wall and another archway, the dining room boasts french doors that open onto a covered deck with a dedicated barbecue area. A dramatic double-height ceiling near the french doors will add drama and elegance to this room. The U-shaped counter configuration in the spacious kitchen, which is open to the dining area, promises efficiency, as does the central work island, which includes a small sink. Natural light will stream into the room through the windows over the double sink. Extras include a double oven and a phone desk, as well as a walk-in pantry. From the kitchen, access is easy to the laundry room, which includes a coat cupboard. With a doorway to the double garage, the laundry room can double as a mud room. Adjacent to the laundry room is a three-piece bathroom. A den with an extra-deep sill, located next to the staircase to the second floor, could double as a guest room with the addition of a wardrobe. The master suite occupies its own wing on the ground floor, and includes a generous walk-in closet. The bedroom, with a bayed-out window that overlooks the front garden, is set off from the ensuite by an archway. The toilet is tucked into its own small room, with a handy bookshelf, separate from the rest of the ensuite, which includes double basins, a shower stall with a seat and an oval soaker tub with a tiled surround. On the second floor, the three secondary bedrooms all roughly the same size share a bathroom with a double sink, as well as a linen cupboard and small storage area. An additional feature is the computer area at the top of the stairs. From the upstairs corridor, a step leads to the unfinished bonus room situated over the garage, included with the plans. Along with the unfinished basement, also included, this adds at least 1,000 square feet to this home. On the exterior, board-and-batten siding enhances the gables over the garage and the main house, while the gable over the master bedroom is finished in cut stone. The same cut stone accents the pilaster on the front porch, as well as the garage. A metal awning shades the master bedroom's window. This home measures 65 feet, six inches wide and 57 feet, six inches deep, for a total of 2,802 square feet of living space.

Plans for design 9-4-966 are available for \$787 (set of 5), \$883 (set of 8) and \$944 for a super set of 10. (Where applicable) to both the plan price and Priority charges.

Our 41ST Edition of the Home Plan Catalogue containing over 300 plans is available for \$13.50 (includes taxes, postage and handling). Make all cheques and money orders payable to "Home Plan of the Week" and mail to:

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