

Filsinger wins MPAC classification challenge

By DAN PELTON
Staff Reporter

While he may have waited longer than anticipated, local businessman Ken Filsinger still received an early Christmas present late last week when his sign making firm, Sign Needs, saw its tax classification changed from industrial to commercial.

Mr. Filsinger had appealed a decision by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to change the classification to industrial,

which would have seen the taxes on the Centennial Road location rise over \$4,000 annually, even though competing sign companies in the county were paying commercial rates.

He anticipated that, with the new classification, he would need close to \$100,000 of additional business to cover the increase.

He took his case to the Assessment Review Board (ARB) and had a hearing in early June, with the understanding that the board would render a deci-

sion within 60 days. The ordeal dragged on for six months, but Mr. Filsinger is nevertheless happy with the decision and grateful for the support he received.

"This (industrial classification) was wrong from the start," said Mr. Filsinger after hearing of the decision. "It is meant for large factories, not a father/son operation like this."

"I want to thank my lawyer, Chris Scott, the chamber of commerce, the Town of Orangeville and (Dufferin-Caledon MPP) Sylvia Jones. They stuck by me."

The decision means

less money in the town's tax coffers, but all indications are that the town could not be happier in this case.

"The decision is good news," said Mayor Rob Adams. "Taxation should be a fair and reasonable way for businesses to pay for the services they receive. No one should be unfairly burdened by it."

"Small business is the engine of our economy and we should be doing what we can to help it."

Town tax collector Debbie Goss said she was relieved the decision went in Mr. Filsinger's favour.

"I believe it is a precedent for all future ARB

decisions in regards to tax classifications.

With that in mind, MPAC has 21 days to appeal the latest ARB decision.

Had the decision not gone in its favour, Sign Needs would have seen the taxes on its Centennial Road property go up to \$10,428.33 from \$6,064.68.

Sylvia Jones had met with Mr. Filsinger and the Greater Dufferin Area Chamber of Commerce to discuss the industrial classification under Section 6 of the Ontario Assessment Act, which was the sticking point in MPAC's argument and the reason for the classification change.

Ms. Jones wrote to Minister Dwight Duncan asking for a change to the regulation to clarify the industrial class definition as recommended by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, but no action has been taken as yet.

"We need to support businesses and ensure they are fairly assessed by MPAC so they can compete on a level playing field," Ms. Jones said. "Small business operators should not have to endure months of legal wrangling with multiple adjournments and delays."

Saying she was "very pleased for Ken," she added:

It was his determination and perseverance to see this battle through to the end and that made the difference."



Bird release to mark Torch Relay finale

The conclusion of Orangeville's torch relay celebration on December 28th will be a memorable one.

After two hours of entertainment, four skydivers will come out of the sky, performers who will be spread throughout the area will dance to the song "Celebrate," and 30 white homing pigeons will be released.

Fred Byers and his son-in-law Brian Woolcott of Hillsburgh will release the birds, known as "California Bullets."

The training for the

birds to fly from Orangeville to Hillsburgh began in early December. Mr. Byers, who has had birds for almost 50 years and who sits on the executive of the Canadian Roller Club, has about 200 birds and six different breeds. He has been training the birds to fly to Kitchener, where he plans to retire and where he will do bird releases at weddings in future.

For now, Mr. Byers and Mr. Woolcott tend to their birds, including show pigeons which they enter in competitions in southern Ontario. They often do bird

releases at special ceremonies.

They let the birds out every day to go "rambling" for half an hour, familiarizing themselves with the surrounding environment.

"It will be exciting on the day of the Olympic Torch Relay as this is as close to Greece as these birds are going to get," Mr. Byers said. In the early days of the Olympics in Greece, pigeons were used to relay the results of the Olympic Games back to the contestants' home towns.

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Future Shop CORRECTION NOTICE

Gift Card with Koodo Phones 10113677/10133397/10107267. On page 16 of the December 18 flyer, please be advised that the Free Gift Card with select Koodo phones is only eligible on new activations. Offer excludes upgrades and renewals. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

Future Shop CORRECTION NOTICE

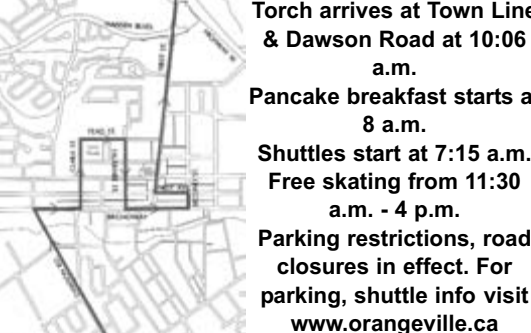
Nintendo Wii Console 10094487. Please note that only ten (10) \$20 gift cards per store per day will be offered to customers for our Wii in-stock guarantee, as advertised on pop-up page 2 of the December 18 flyer. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

Future Shop CORRECTION NOTICE

Toshiba 32" LCD HDTV and Wii Console Package 10094487, 10121906. Due to inventory delays, please note that some stores will not have the Wii console in stock, as advertised with this package on page 1 of the December 20 mid-week flyer. Please see a Product Expert in-store for details on alternative products for this package. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

The Flame is coming . . . December 28, 2009

**Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre
Ceremony begins at 9:15 a.m.
Torch arrives at site at 10:27 a.m.**



Torch arrives at Town Line & Dawson Road at 10:06 a.m.
Pancake breakfast starts at 8 a.m.
Shuttles start at 7:15 a.m.
Free skating from 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Parking restrictions, road closures in effect. For parking, shuttle info visit www.orangeville.ca

BE PART OF OLYMPIC HISTORY
Dec. 28, 2009 -- 9:15 a.m.
Tony Rose Sports Centre

Computers for Seniors

Computers for Seniors is a program to initially introduce 16 seniors to computers and the Internet. Participants will be chosen randomly from application forms submitted to the Town of Orangeville by January 11, 2010.

Those selected will participate in a weekly two-hour session for eight weeks, introducing them to computer basics, the Internet, digital cameras and standard computer programs. Seniors will receive \$50 to help with Internet services. All future costs are the participants' responsibility. Seniors will be able to access support for up to three months.

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**PLAN NUMBER 5-3-639
STYLISH BUNGALOW**

This stylish bungalow is considerably larger than it might appear from the outside, offering a simple yet functional design that provides everything for the today's busy family. Inside the covered entrance, the foyer is separated from the living room by a half-wall, which expands the feeling of space. The living room combines with the dining room to make one large rectangular room the ideal layout for entertaining. On the other side of the foyer, french doors open to the den, with a built-in desk, which could be put to any use that suits the family, from a home office to a computer room. An archway frames the entrance to the family area, at the rear of the house. The kitchen has a generous amount of countertop space as well as a central island with a raised eating bar. The breakfast nook is attractively set into a bay window which overlooks the large patio. The family room itself has a gas fireplace and a door opening to the patio. On the other side of the house, the master suite also is placed at the rear, with its own access to the back garden. A large walk-in closet and a five-piece ensuite bathroom with a soaker tub complete the master suite. Bedrooms two and three share the centrally-placed main bathroom, next to the laundry room and a linen cupboard. A second linen cupboard in the main bathroom and a coat cupboard make sure there is plenty of space for storage. The double garage has side door as well as access to the house through the laundry room.

The house is finished in siding and shakes with stone trim around the covered entrance, garage and front of the house. The house is 55 feet wide and 56 feet deep with 2,123 square feet of living space.

Plans for design 5-3-639 are available for \$711 (set of 5), \$796 (set of 8) and \$850 for a super set of 10. Please add 5% G.S.T. or 13% H.S.T. (where applicable) to both the plan price and Priority charges.

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