

# Residents question location of gas bar at Maple/Trafalgar

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE  
Staff Writer

Questions were raised by local residents about a proposed gas bar at the corner of the Maple Ave. and Trafalgar Rd. at a recent public meeting.

Official Plan and zoning amendments have been applied for to allow the gas bar, convenience store and accessory uses on the northwest corner of the intersection. Currently there are two homes on the joined lots.

Three residents questioned the wisdom of placing a gas bar on a tiny lot at the busy intersection that is also impacted by two rail crossings in close proximity.

Planning consultant Glenn Wellings, on behalf of the property owner, said the proposal made good planning sense at this location. Since 40 per cent of the lands will have to be dedicated to the Town and Region for future roadwork, a gas bar would make the best use of the remaining land—0.12 hectares (0.3 acres).

"Fortunately," he said, "a gas bar is not subject to a 30 metre setback." He said that setback makes the property virtually undevelopable for any other use.

Current permitted uses for the property are: bed and breakfast establishments, cottage industries, group homes, home occupations, private home daycare or single family dwellings.

He said the owner had attempted

to buy the third lot north of the land on the Trafalgar Rd. to increase the property size, but that owner refused.

Wellings said the property is already using Town water, and it would be the owner's preference that the Town sanitary system is extended across the road as well. He added, since the property will be included under the Urban Georgetown designation with approval of the new Official Plan, it would make sense.

Trafalgar Rd. resident Wanda Neal, who lives across the road from the property, expressed concern about the traffic congestion, especially when trains are passing, a sentiment echoed by Georgetown commuter Alistair Smith. Smith also spoke on behalf of the unnamed owners of the third property, who were concerned about potential spring flooding, gas tanks buried in "unstable ground" and a long list of other issues, including light and noise pollution, loss of trees and privacy concerns.

Wellings replied that a comprehensive traffic study had been done, and neither the Town nor the Region expressed any concern. He said if there are flooding conditions, it would be fixed during the development of the site and could actually improve conditions.

The deadline for comment to the planning department on this issue is December 12. To date there have been three letters, one e-mail, one telephone call and two counter inquiries, all in opposition to the plan.

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