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## Mattamy says homebuyers given right information about pond

**By JASON MISNER** 

The Champion

Mattamy Homes says it will contact homeowners in the Bristol Survey area to smooth over concerns after residents alleged they were told by sales agents that a conservation area-like pond would be built nearby.

Michael Vernooy, Mattamy's vice-president of land development, said he first learned about the allegations after reading it in The Champion last week. Messages were left with Mattamy for its response to be included in the original article but it called back after the story was published.

Mr. Vernooy said he has since spoken to the agents, representing the developer, and was assured plans were being conveyed accurately about land northwest of Derry Road and Fourth Line, east of the core.

"We've followed up with our agents to make sure they're telling people information that is accurate," he said. "They've told us what they told people, that there would be a pond there. There's nothing inconsistent with what's been shown people in terms of what's going to get built."

Mr. Vernooy said residents will be telephoned starting this week, or they can call him at (905) 829-7637.

"We just need to take one more step with the residents to follow up and find if there's any other lingering concerns. The last thing we want to do is mislead people. We'd prefer if people get accurate information right from the get-go."

The pond issue arose at the Town's March 26 planning and administration meeting, when staff unveiled a residential development proposal that would see between 233 and 280 homes and 52 townhouses built on 15.2 hectares of land at the northwest corner of Derry Road and Fourth Line.

The committee didn't vote since the proposal still must undergo a technical report from staff.

An Evan's Terrace resident told the committee Mattamy — a major builder in town — informed her in 2001 that a large storm water management pond, complete with trails and other amenities, would be built at the corner. Mattamy doesn't own the land.

A handful of other residents who live close to the property also attended the meeting. After the meeting, they alleged they were shown drawings of what appeared to be an expansive pond to be built on the corner. They didn't want to see an ordinary-looking pond constructed and surrounded by houses.

Mr. Vernooy said he spoke to the planner representing the landowners last week and was told the pond will go on the north side of Derry Road, on the corner. There was a possibility it might have gone on the south side of Derry Road.

"The exact size and all of the other characteristics that come with the pond will be sorted out, including the landscaping plan for it," he said.

Added Mr. Vernooy: "We have a big stake in the community of Milton so the last thing we want to do is leave behind ill feelings."

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