

Hawthorne Village residents start petition to stop nearby development

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Two Hawthorne Village residents are petitioning the Town to turn down the apartment building and townhouses proposed for land near their Beaty Trail homes.

Cliff Bowers and Chad Jackson will go door-to-door this weekend to gather names of those also opposed to the plans put forward by Summerwood Estates Inc.

The proposal includes a 208-unit apartment building and 518 single detached, semi-detached and/or townhouse units at the southwest corner of Derry Road and Fourth Line.

"We're concerned that the high-density building will provide further infrastructure challenges to the current and proposed roads," said Mr. Bowers. "We're also losing another portion of green space in the area. It's quite disappointing for us."

Mr. Bowers said many residents in the south side of Hawthorne Village who he's spoken with so far said they moved from Toronto to Milton to get away from the high-density housing and live in a neighbourhood of detached homes.

"Ideally, we would really like to see detached units or semi-detached," he said. "Townhomes or apartments are something that people just aren't interested in in that (Hawthorne Village) neighbourhood."

The natural environment and wildlife are some of the primary concerns of Mr. Jackson, who noted there's a small stream, which his house backs onto, that also runs through a portion of the proposed subdivision.

"Those little streams are very important," he said. "I've seen a lot of wildlife there (at the stream) get displaced."

While Mr. Jackson acknowledged an environmental buffer around the stream is included in the proposed plans, he said it's part of his due diligence to make sure the developer follows all the rules when it

comes to creating the buffer.

Mr. Bowers said he also has concerns with the Town's dissemination practices of such news, adding when he went door-to-door on the issue many residents had no prior knowledge of the proposal.

"There were a lot of surprised homeowners," he said. "There was also a lot of strong emotion opposed to the proposed development."

Town Senior Planner Barbara Koopmans said notice for the subdivision was provided in multiple ways.

"Notice signs have been posted on the property," she said. "We also mailed notification letters to all property owners within 120 metres of the subject lands."

She noted that since it's a developing area, signs have been posted in nearby home sales offices as well.

The Town has received an application for approval of the proposed plan of subdivision and a zoning bylaw amendment to take the lands from a future development zone to residential medium and high density, open space and greenlands.

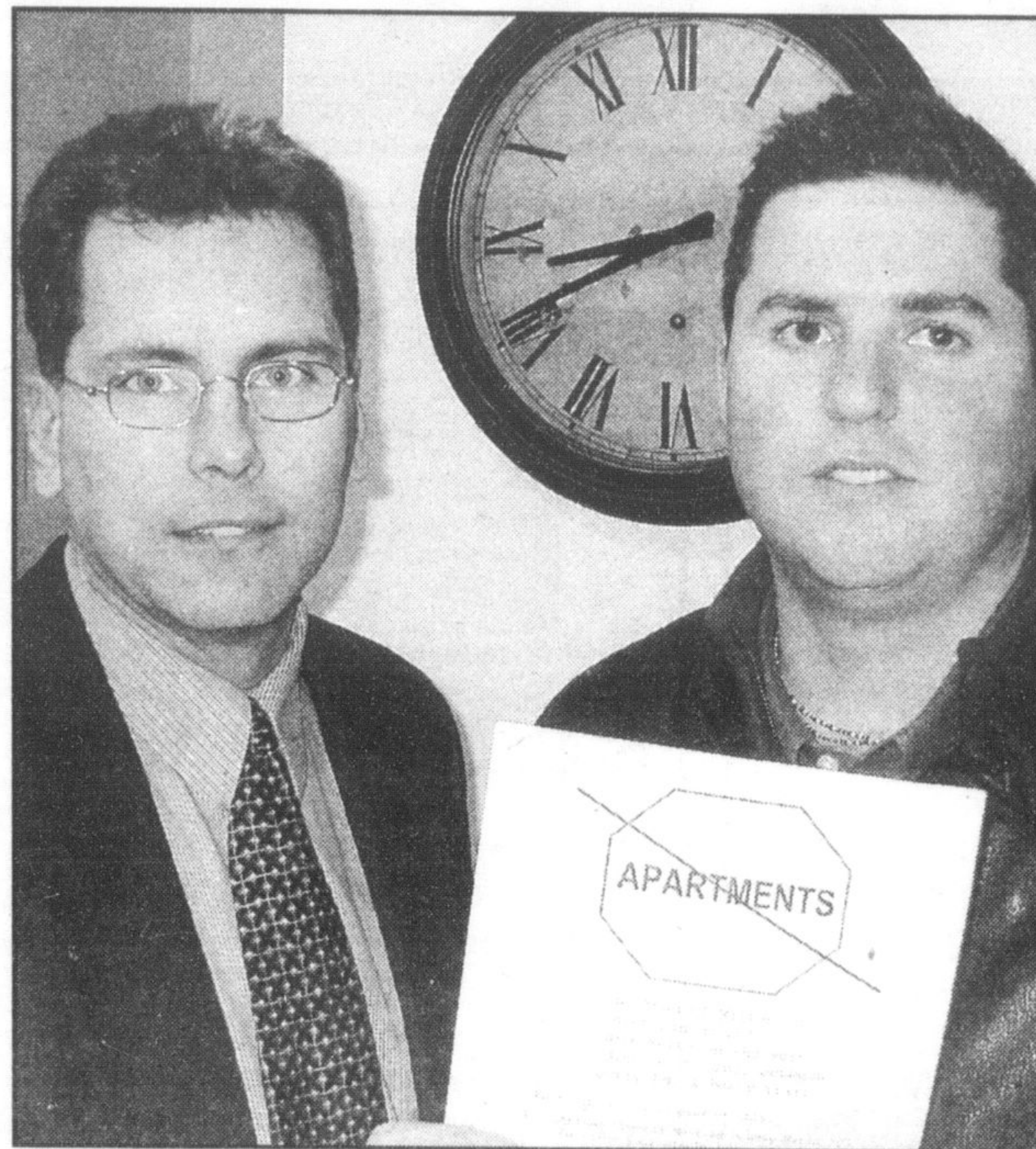
A public meeting on the proposed development is scheduled for Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. It's designed to be an information meeting only, with a staff recommendation on the plan's approval or refusal being brought forward down the road once a full review of the application has been completed.

Mr. Bowers said he's going to the meeting with the intentions of using a co-operative approach to the councillors.

"I don't want it to be us against them," he said. "I'm going to be looking to them for answers."

Those interested in having Mr. Bowers or Mr. Jackson stop by their home this weekend with the petition can e-mail cbowers@cogeco.ca.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



Cliff Bowers (left) and Chad Jackson may be at your door this weekend to oppose a proposed development of an apartment building and other dwellings at the southwest corner of Derry Road and Fourth Line.

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