

Vaughan hires 3 companies to study Maple dumping

Three planning firms have been commissioned by Vaughan to study the future land use potential of a 1,000-acre area near Maple, now being mined for gravel.

According to Councillor Jim Cameron, the study is based on the premise that the pits do not have to be filled with garbage.

To cost \$20,000 and be completed by February, the study is intended to assist council in assessing future garbage landfill applications.

An application for a recovery plant operation on 10 acres and a 50-acre sanitary landfill site has been forwarded by Crawford Sand and Gravel.

A hearing of the Environmental Hearing Board is still pending.

Earlier this month council rejected Cameron's recommendation that Vaughan seek a postponement of the hearing until the study is complete.

A motion from Regional Councillor Jack Gilbert leaves Vaughan with the option to support an application if beneficial terms can be hammered out with the applicant.

The consultants to work on the study are Comay Planning Consultants Limited, John Bousfield Associates and Paterson Planning and Research Limited.

Citizens grill the candidates in crowded hall

(continued from page 1)

Two different things," Stephenson said.

"What about bringing in a recorded vote next year?" he was asked.

"The new council could bring in anything they wanted," Councillor Stephenson said.

Development, or more precisely, redevelopment of the downtown, or old town core, occupied much of the meeting. Chairman Richard Hook opened the proceedings by asking the candidates what they would include in redevelopment.

No pat answers

And for an issue that was supposed to be at the heart of just about everything where the Town of Richmond Hill was concerned, not all the answers were that enlightening.

"I haven't given it much attention," said mayoralty candidate David Schiller, "so I don't have pat answers."

Historically, the downtown core must be retained, he said. Also, better setbacks were needed, so the "landscape, or skyline" could be retained.

"So far as specific projects are concerned, I haven't thought that much about them," Schiller said.

Retain the present and improve, rather than tear down, he concluded.

Mayor William Lazenby saw it as an area which should preserve much of the old village amenities, with a small grocery store handy to all.

The downtown area had professional offices, and with the development of senior citizens' apartments, it was necessary to have such things as doctors' offices and a food store nearby.

"In the balance of the core, we have churches and municipal offices, but we need a small variety store," the mayor said.

He cited Fisher Office Supplies on Yonge Street as the "kind of thing we need".

He said he saw no reason to knock out other homes. Some might be re-designed to fit in.

Regional Councillor Lois Hancey said redevelopment also meant revitalizing the commercial area; it was essential to "include maintenance and retention of previous things and examine those things in question".

For example: those stores on Yonge Street that could be converted to boutiques.

On the record

Mrs. Hancey said she was also "on record" to retain church spires and residential areas that were "characteristic" of the town; and for discarding that "which is no longer relevant".

Another regional councillor, Gordon Rowe, felt it was a matter of traffic.

But there was a problem they hoped to eliminate with the completion of Bathurst Street and Highway 404.

Mr. Rowe said a financial study would have to be made before Yonge Street could be redeveloped.

He said also he "appreciated" the churches and felt by proper planning they could be retained.

"But I think there will have to be some development on Yonge Street," he said. "I know you won't all agree with me."

Street improvement

Councillor Lou Wainwright, who is also running for region, said he would like to see some "proper storm sewers on streets adjacent to the high school".

Also, reconstruction of sidewalks in the old town and some "reforestation".

In the future, one-way streets would be needed to accommodate the new town fire truck.

Eric George, running for Regional Council, said redevelopment was "one of the stronger planks in my platform".

"I feel we need to retain our commercial area", he said, "not change it into boutiques. We need a bigger population for that."

A positive parking policy was needed, because when a town went out to find additional parking space, no downtown area could survive.

The Official Plan should encourage refurbishing the fronts of downtown stores. Buildings should be architecturally designed to suit the community.

Horn blows

At this point, Mr. George got the horn from the chairman signifying his five minutes were up. However, he managed to add the town hall should be kept where it is, and the residential area needed road repairs, before getting permanently silenced by a second horn.

Bill Fuller, of Oak Ridges, regional council candidate number 5, said he wasn't too familiar with the area in question. However, trees had been mentioned and he'd like to point out it took years to grow a tree, but only a few minutes to destroy one.

He didn't elaborate on the trees, or anything else for that matter, but he did invite the gathering to Oak Ridges and Fuller Auditorium "to show you what it's all about".

Councillor Stephenson also spoke in favor of redeveloping the downtown area, with boutiques, doctors' offices, et al.

He said he was a promoter of off-street parking, and as new development took place, the developer should provide his own parking. That should be part of the site plan agreement, he said.

Yonge St. core

Said Marylo Graham: "Development has horrifying connotations to those of us who have feelings about the amenities".

Church spires rising from the trees were symbolic of Richmond Hill. People should also recognize that behind the narrow Yonge Street core, a variety of houses were left that were more symbolic of the old town.

"We shouldn't sacrifice that to compound or rectify the errors of the past when Yonge Street merchants were driven out of business by the over-expansion of commercial outlets before Richmond Hill had the population to support them," Mrs. Graham said.

She said she was "convinced there is a future". They could have nearby stores, as Mayor Lazenby pointed out and as many of us remember and still have office space and possibly apartment space, if there is rezoning.

Questions, answers

In the question-and-answer period that followed, considerable concern was expressed about keeping outside traffic from using the area within Bathurst, Vaughan Road, Yonge and Elgin Mills Road as a through area. It should be preserved for local traffic, was the feeling.

Those candidates who spoke on the matter, agreed the area should remain basically residential, and any widening would change the character of the neighborhood and encourage through traffic.

However, Councillor Wainwright came up with what was probably the most succinct observation on the situation.

"We may not have arterial roads," said Mr. Wainwright, "but they're sure as hell being used as arterial roads."

His comments were greeted with a hearty round of applause.

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Duffy meeting Price in Ward 2

Speaking at Monday night's All Candidates' meeting at Richmond Hill High School, candidate for the Ward 2 town council seat All Duffy supported public participation in municipal decision-making.

He promised, if elected, to hold informal meetings to keep the people of his ward informed on what is happening and to learn what they want to happen.

Duffy said his training as manager for a consulting firm will help him find out the residents' problems and to find a solution for them.

He opted for a controlled growth rate every year. He said in the 11 years he has lived in Richmond Hill he has seen the population double and would like to see the community atmosphere retained.

2nd candidate

Dorothy Price who has served on many boards and committees in Richmond Hill is the other candidate for the Ward 2 seat. She recalled her first public service in this town was helping to shepherd the children to the newly built Walter Scott School through a sea of mud.

She favors controlled residential and industrial development saying, "There is no way we can stop the growth but we can control it."

She quoted Federal Minister of Urban Affairs Barney Danson as saying of mobile homes, "This is the answer to the housing shortage."

She closed with, "You have to wear the shoes, you have to walk the roads, before you know what it's all about."

150 citizens

The meeting called by the Civic Improvement Committee and chaired by Sam Hall was attended by about 150 people, approximately the number who would have attended a nomination meeting in the days when they were held.

Since separate all-candidate meetings have been held or will be held in four of the town's six wards, this appeared to be a reasonably good turnout.

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Some other issues presented from the floor: What kind of zoning would they consider for the Richmond Hill Golf Club property?

Stephenson: "We haven't received any applications for zoning. I understand it's been sold. . . It would have to be compatible with Ward 4 — single-family dwellings and large parkland".

He said council would try to retain the stream running through the property.

Graham: "Why should the golf course be developed? It's zoned for open space now. We don't have to rezone because the developer asks us to".

It could be used as a public golf course or a parkland, Mrs. Graham said. If it were decided some of it should be developed, it should be consistent with the

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