by Jim Irving

Despite objections by the owners and Richmond Hill council, the town is letter said. going to wind up as would rather be without.

Last week, after a marathon debate in which were "also vehemently that, so far as the area every member of council against not being able to being heavily treed, it spoke at least once, York have individual control of was doubtful anyone with Region council approved the access to the rear of the "kind of money" an amended recom- their property." mendation of its planning committee to convey 28 Houser said everyone any trees. acres of open space in a agreed on the future of draft plan subdivision at the land, but the regional Bayview Avenue and planning department.

was part of Markham.

"lands to be held in ownership." veved to Richmond Hill, said. the region, or Metro

The amendment to block at the rear. make it exclusively the by Vaughan Mayor \$175,000 to \$200,000." Garnet Williams towards Communal ownership the end of the debate.

Owners opposed

A letter presented to Houser said. council from the owners, announcing his visit, said many years (5) in the servation authority was they were not in offing; we would like to concerned mainly about agreement with the get on with it," he said. the condition of the planning committee's He said the con- woods. proposal to have the open servation authority said it One way of clearing up space under private control, "either by the present owners or by the future abutting lot owners."

The letter said Richmond Hill council had "unanimously approved" - Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Schiller said later approval was not unanimous, but by a 6-3 vote — a plan to divide the 28 acres so they would



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become part of each wanted to enter into an the re-charge area would could be better controlled tained?

It said that a check with content with the way we landlord of some land it 15 prospective buyers and plan it." future homeowners in the Richmond Hill Coun- Adams of Markham, subdivision showed they cillor Gordon Rowe said

In his presentation, the area would cut down

Gormley sideroad, to the As Richmond Hill didn't oner Murray Pound said want the land for parks, his department had no Until recently this land there was no reason to knowledge of the ministry Rowe. convey it to them, Houser accepting it. The original recom- said, "so we elected to mendation called for the keep them in private to their design, he said,

common by the present "I ask you to go along it was unacceptable. owner, or future lot with the plan as owners, "or to be con- presented," the speaker "important precedent to

"The owner would buy extended into the valley Conservation Authority, a lot at the front and a area, he said.

"These are houses that of that plan, but a town's concern was made we expect will sell at "matter of application to

ownership was con- town's Official Plan First to speak on the cerned, "how long would provided the flexibility matter was Elmore it last? No one is going to for private ownership; Houser, solicitor for the take a direct interest in it, the town was in a better as an individual would,"

"The plan has been She said the con-

with this position," the land, and the ministry of question, clear it up. housing was "perfectly

necessary to move into

Unacceptable

subdivision

Planning Commissi-

consider" if the lots were

It wasn't just a matter

Councillor Lois Hancey

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future plans as well."

than the region.

Ludicrous division Taking the opposite view was Councillor Bob

"Anything we can do to preserve the area, we should," he said.

"I think that dividing it into small lots is ludicrous."

A subsequent motion that the land be deeded to Ontario Heritage Foundation was defeated. "They can't even clean

up the land they already own," said Councillor "My phone never stops

The plan didn't conform He said he thought the and the number of lots on developers were "entitled to some con-There was also an sideration."

Councillors divided Mayor Bob Forhan of Newmarket said in some cases natural resources

Brown & Rechtshaffen

So far as communal of Richmond Hill said the **Optometrists** HILLCREST MALL position to interpret it

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Marathon region debate Gormley subdivision

"We, as owners, agree owners to keep up the that owned the land in body should be allowed to have the funds to either mobiles, campfires go in and resolve the clean or police the area. and such. Neither did the con-

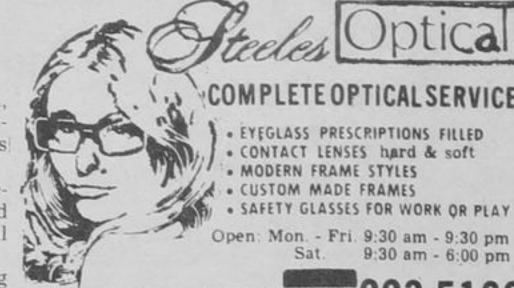
lands are too valuable to work. get out of public hands."

"The only ones with the Another motion calling Councillor Hancey said money and interest are for the matter to be sent the point was, how could going to be the owners of back to the planning the land be best main- those lands," she said.

If the public were let in, agreement with the have to be individuals privately. If not, a public Richmond Hill didn't it would mean snow-

The land was a re-Mayor George Burrows servation authority; it charge area "and should of Georgina, said "the was years behind in its be left in its natural state," she said.

committee was also lost.



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