

Residents, council question developer

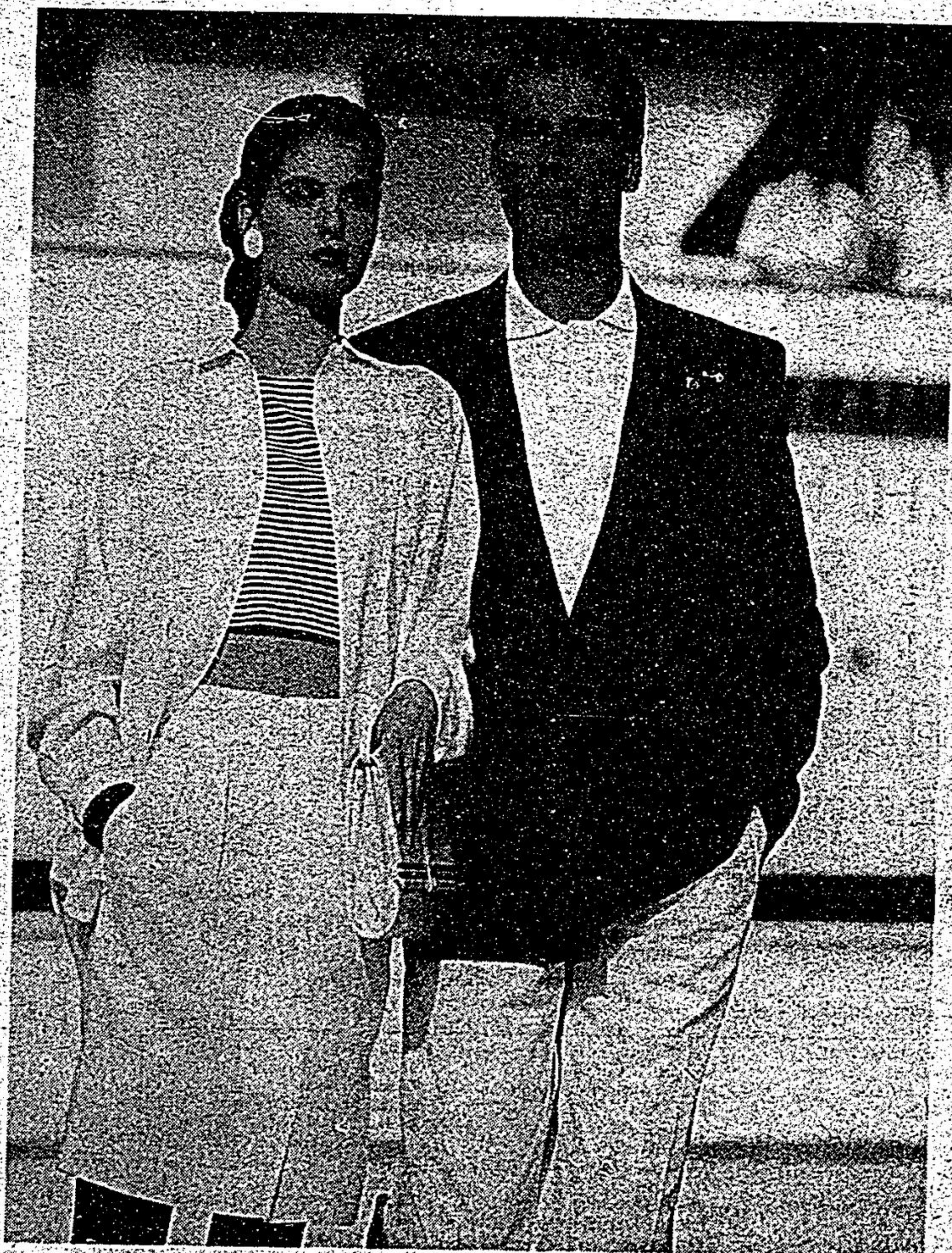
By KATE GILDERDALE
 Uxbridge council and local residents debated the merits of a proposed subdivision of 77 homes at a public meeting Feb. 29. Council heard the concerns of residents and questioned the developer about the project on lots 34 and 35 on the 6th Concession in Udora.

Before the subdivision can be considered, the applicant, Gino Testa had to seek a zoning change from Residential Holding and Rural to Hamlet Residential. Bryan Thomas, consulting engineer, presented plans for the subdivision. Mr. Thomas told the meeting that soil tests had been carried out by Dominion Soil and

that well testing had been arranged. The company will carry out a lengthy pumping program to determine the quality of water. Councillor Worsley asked if parkland is included in the plan and Mr. Testa said it is. When Councillor Worsley questioned whether ¼-acre lots were

too small for septic tanks, Mr. Thomas replied, "There is a report that says ¼-acre lots with raised beds would be okay." Mayor O'Connor said raised septic beds would be unacceptable. She cited problems in Stouffville and said council should learn by those mistakes. The mayor told Mr. Testa, "We want parkland plus a retention pond." She said the parkland should be suitable for baseball and other activities. "We don't want a bog or a big hole," she said. Councillor Austin asked what the smallest frontage would be. Mr. Thomas replied that it would be 30 metres (100 feet). Councillor Avery suggested the lots be larger.

Resident John Barry wanted to know whether the drainage would affect his property, which is just below the proposed development. Mr. Thomas told him that the area would have its own drainage. Mr. Barry wanted to know if there would be enough water. "That is what the tests will determine," Mr. Thomas replied. Mr. Barry also expressed concern about increased taxes resulting from the subdivision and asked if the tax of present residents would be affected to pay for services such as snow plowing and maintenance. Councillor Jackson told the man taxes shouldn't be affected.



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