

# These are crafty ladies



It was a fall bazaar with a difference, Saturday to the enjoyment of shoppers. Here, Evelyn day at St. James' Presbyterian Church, Stouffville. Prentice displays her talent in folk art. Various skills were demonstrated much.



Lillian Davidson, Rupert Avenue, Stouffville, demonstrates her quilting skills. Bazaar proceeds exceeded \$2,000. —Jim Thomas

# Town sold us out say rural residents

On Oct. 25, a delegation of ratepayers appeared before Whitechurch-Stouffville Council, expressing opposition to a 17-lot estate residential subdivision in the area of Conc. 9 and the Vivian Road. Two written statements were presented, one by Eric Garland, Lot 4, Chicamauga Estates. It reads:

"As taxpayers in the Town of Whitechurch-Stouffville, we believe the recent decision to allow development of a seventeen-lot subdivision, east of the Ninth Concession and south of the Vivian Road, known as the Baggio property, is an irresponsible act of Council. We believe that Council has made a serious error in supporting a project which so obviously contradicts the kind of future development proposed for the rural areas of our municipality. Your decision to allow such intense development in an area which already has an established subdivision where lots vary from two to seven acres, is without logic.

We ask that you understand, we are not against responsible development as set out in the Region's Draft Plan. However, we are not convinced that the Baggio proposal conforms to the criteria outlined for forested areas, nor are we able to imagine a subdivision of such density being compatible with that which is already in existence. Clearly, to repeat the kind of natural destruction which has taken place in other areas of our

Town would be a demonstration of further irresponsibility. It is hard to imagine why an elected Council would allow itself to fall prey to such poor decision-making. Perhaps the reason is that they were ill-informed about the property in question — its location, natural sensitivity or surrounding neighborhood. Or are we to believe that such decisions are based wholly on biased or out-dated studies prepared by consultants hired by self-serving developers.

The fact this decision was made, as you have suggested, to gain reprisal from court action, is hardly acceptable. We, as residents, resent being sacrificial lambs!

To demonstrate our strong resentment, we have been forced to commit much personal time and money in attempting to bring about a more logical and responsible decision.

### Craft Sale

Craft-seekers should circle the date of Saturday, Nov. 19. It's the annual Christmas Craft Sale in Latham Hall, Stouffville, sponsored by the Stouffville Christian School. The event extends from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Twenty craft tables are assured plus a tea room. Admission is free.

For additional information call 640-3297 (days) or 640-2954 (evenings).

We find it totally unacceptable that we are forced to fund a legal defense against poor decisions made by our elected representatives.

There is a larger issue here than our local example. If York Region is handing the responsibility of rural development back to the local community, they must come up with a format that works.

Although we commend the Council on their two acre lots bylaw, it is still not good enough! Any rural land division without regard for the natural topography of the site is unacceptable and can only result in the wholesale destruction of our rural countryside. Protection from destruction is left to concerned residents like ourselves.

In a democratic system, it is ridiculous that individuals have to go to this length and expense to protect their local environment from irresponsible politicians.

Your neglect in failing to notify us of the developments pertaining to the Baggio application, following the April 21, 1987 public meeting, as promised, is one which we cannot accept!

No apology is able to mend the outcome of this irresponsible action.

We believe you recognize our concerns as being justified and ask that, as our elected officials, you reverse your decision regarding the Baggio development at the Dec. 5 Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

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