

Council sides with developer

Despite objections from four government ministries and its own staff, Stouffville council sided with a developer last week in his bid to build a banquet hall and garden restaurant on rural lands.

Casey Van Maris wants to expand his one-acre Parklane Nurseries business on Stouffville Road near Warden Avenue to a 12-acre venture including a proposed 300-person banquet hall, garden art gallery and seven estate residential lots. He told

officials during a public hearing Tuesday that after four years and \$80,000 in studies he needs council support. "Without your backing we might as well stop right here and sell the land and move elsewhere," he stated.

In its report, planning staff suggested commercial development is not suitable on farmland, and that matters such as stormwater drainage, water quantity and quality, traffic flow and noise impact are still outstanding.

Other objections include those from the Metropolitan and Region Conservation Authority, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and York Region's Medical Officer of Health. All are requiring further studies be completed but Van Maris said he has already completed numerous, costly studies. "All our studies show no real problems, only some minor ones that can be dealt with at the draft plan stages," Van Maris said.

"We believe our proposal will be a real addition to Whitchurch-Stouffville. We are creating jobs, and providing garden art that can be found nowhere in North America in a natural setting." Council agreed to support Van Maris's bid to continue the project, provided all objections from other agencies are lifted or met.



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Photo CELIA BRONKHORST

Bridal show beauties

Tiffany Mifsud and Michelle Stevens model dresses at the Welcome Wagon Bridal Show at the Maples of Ballantrae Sunday. About 250 brides from across the region attended the show.

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Calendar

Gardening course on

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - A week of Celebration from March 2-8 featuring workshops all week long at the Masonic Hall in Port Perry from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
HOME GARDENING COURSE at Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Wednesday, March 4, 11 and 18 from 7:30-8:20 p.m. to cover planning, preparing and planting of a home vegetable area; the best varieties and starting plants from seed. Registration and more information at the library at 640-2395. Fee: \$45.

MARCH BREAK SKI DAY Friday, March 20 to Mount St. Louis - Moonstone. Bus departure from the recreation complex at 7:30 a.m. Return time to recreation complex is 6 p.m. Fee is \$35. Minimum age: 10. Student ID required. Call the rec centre for more information at 640-6527 or 1-800-267-PLAY.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
MORNING COFFEE hosted by the Goodwood and Port Perry Christian Women's Clubs at the Maples of Ballantrae Convention & Golf Resort from 9:30-11:15 a.m. for \$3.75 including complimentary babysitting. Theme is "Pretty as a picture" featuring local photographers.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER of St. James Presbyterian Church hosts the "Living Wisely with Creation" at 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
STOUFFVILLE SOCCER CLUB registration tonight between 7-9 p.m. at the recreation centre for all boys and girls born in 1986 or before.

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