

Editor's Mail

Monster home detracts from character of neighborhood

Dear Editor,
 In response to the letter "Whiners wasting time," we too would like to respond to the Church Street Monster Home dilemma.

No, we do not live on Church St. and do not know those who do. We are, however, proud homeowners and residents of Stouffville who often walk along Church St. with our children admiring the character and beauty of the street.

We have watched the progress of this new home in disbelief. We find it hard to believe that anyone would build or be allowed to build a house which detracts so much from the character of the area. The building looks like it is about to cover every square inch of the lot it sits on. We wouldn't be surprised if you have to turn sideways to squeeze between the building and the fence at the sides of the house. From past *Tribune* articles it sounds like the backyard is not much better. Is that attractive? Are we modelling ourselves after the "ghettos" of Toronto? Who would want to live in it?

We question its resale marketability and that of its unfortunate neighbors who have lived

there prior to its construction. We can't see how this will compliment the neighborhood or maintain the value of the surrounding homes. It is sad to see it crowding in the beautiful Century Home to the north of it. To the owners of this house our hearts go out to you! It is a shame that innocent people like yourselves have had to put up with the damages which resulted from the building of this poorly planned structure (eg. pool sinking and cracking). Where is there justice?

We have elected officials at our town offices whose prime function is to address our each and every concern in a caring, professional manner and if they don't carry it out according to policy then they may find they will be replaced. It is not a waste of their time, when a resident is upset with the issues concerning their very own backyard!

In light of important issues such as road safety, water regulations and the recession's impact on the community this matter might, on the surface, appear trivial to some, but it is worthy of a councillor's time and investigation.

Our homes are part of who we

are and when they are threatened, we are threatened. Hence we understand the concern of the neighbouring residents - we would feel the same way.

As members of the community we feel our home of Stouffville is being adversely compromised with little regard for the preservation of its heritage (historical homes and streets). There is also the moral issue of right and wrong. The builder should be liable for all damages incurred. It is unbelievable what has happened.

To the builder, the structure you are building appears to be a luxurious dream home but it deserves a more appropriate location. One with surroundings and space to compliment its design features. This lot does not do the house justice. As consumers we would not want to purchase a home from a builder with such shabby code of ethics and questionable building practices.

Surely there should be a way to right this wrong and prevent it from happening in the future. There must be some regulations on ratio of house to lot size. If the builder did not adhere to it, he

should deal with the consequences and be required to change the structure until it meets the regula-

tions.

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Pickering District Plan Review

THE PICKERING DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

On Wednesday, August 4, 1993, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the item may be heard, Town Council will consider a Planning Report on the progress of the Town's on-going Review of its Official Plan. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, Pickering Civic Complex, One The Esplanade, Pickering, L1V 6K7.

All residents, landowners and others interested in the Review are invited to the Council Meeting. Copies of the Planning Report will be available from the Town Clerk's Department on or after July 26, 1993 and at the meeting.

As part of the Town's Official Plan Review, a document entitled "Backgrounder Number One: Emerging Planning Issues and Priorities" was released in March of this year. Copies of this document are still available from the Town of Pickering Planning Department. You are invited to pick up a copy of the Backgrounder and provide comments to this Department.

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

If you would like more information on the Pickering District Plan Review, please contact the Planning Department at 420-4617 and speak with Miss Catherine Rose, Manager - Policy Division, or ask to speak with your neighbourhood planner.

WAYNE ARTHURS **BRUCE J. TAYLOR**
 MAYOR TOWN CLERK