

I would like to nominate for CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Please attach supporting reasons for your choice. One nomination per person please. Nominations without supporting reasons will not be considered.

The Tribune

Stouffville

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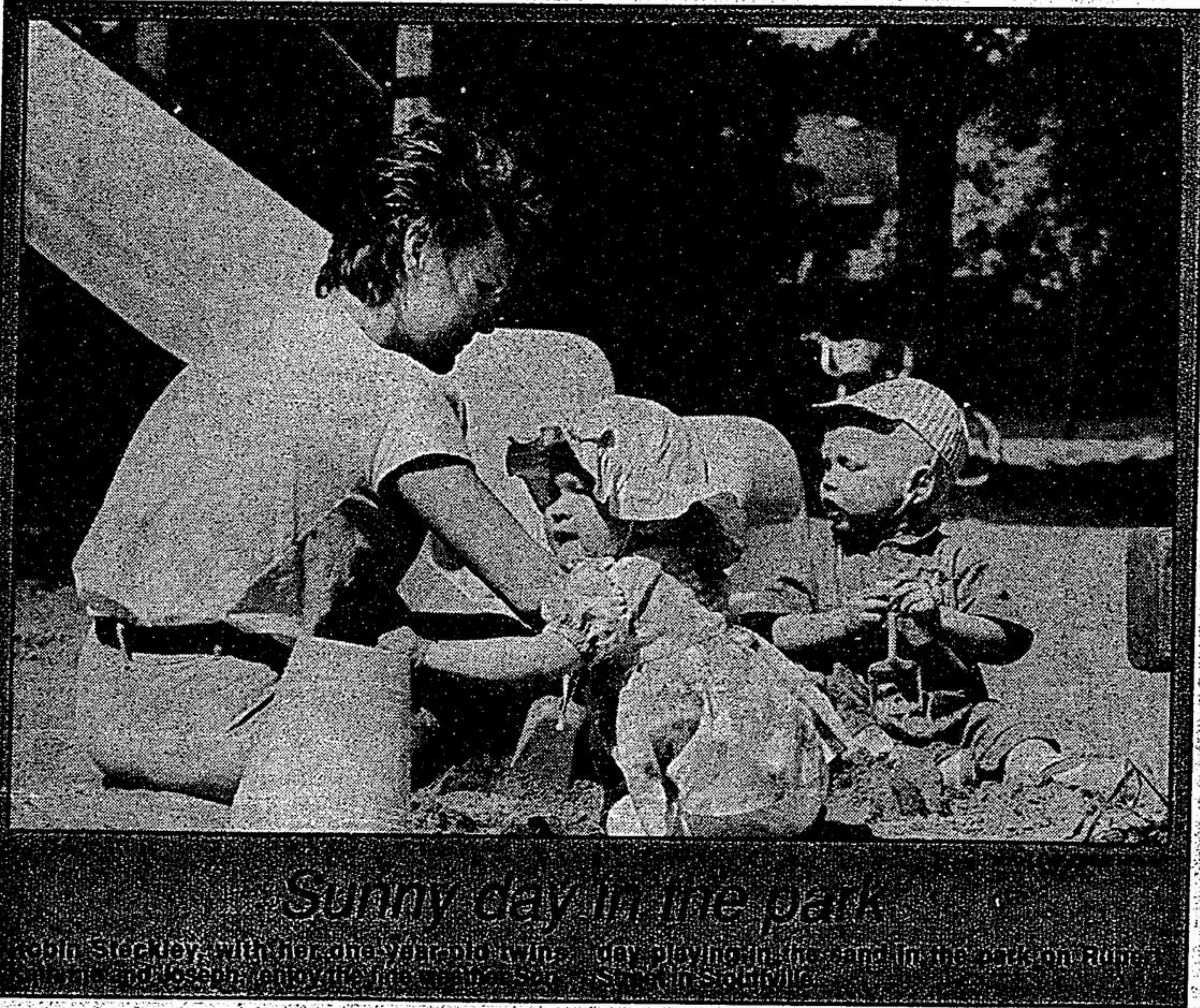
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Sunny day in the park

John Stecker, with her one-year-old twins, day playing in the park in the park on June 9, 1993. Photo by Joseph Lebovic for The Tribune.

Region

York wins first round in IWA court challenge

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

Ontario's dump search team will have to explain in court why it refuses to investigate waste management options like rail haul and incineration.

"York Region has been completely vindicated in its claim that the Interim Waste Authority's (IWA) dump search process is invalid," said chairman Eldred King this week.

Judge John Jennings ruled on June 1, after six months of preliminary hearings, that the IWA site search process might need some fine-tuning.

The Ministry of the Attorney General failed to convince Jen-

nings that it is not discriminating against York Region by forcing it to be the sole importer of Metro Toronto's waste for the next 20 years.

Attorney general lawyer Robert Charney argued unsuccessfully that residents of a specific geographic area don't face prejudice the same way racial or religious groups do.

The judge ruled the case be heard in court, giving York an excellent opportunity to stop the IWA from proceeding with its mega-dump plans, said the region's environmental lawyer, Ian Blue.

And that's excellent news for York residents who were beginning to feel the court battle was a losing cause, Blue said.

"This is a great victory for York Region. Rather than trying to persuade the NDP (that its dump search process is unfair) we can now work on persuading an independent and impartial judge," Blue said.

"The judge wasn't clear on why the province won't look at alternatives, so it's going to trial," Blue said.

"Maybe now the government will finally see the light and open up the IWA process to a full evaluation of alternatives. It is never too late to admit a mistake," King added.

The case began last year after regional officials learned the IWA was attempting to place North America's largest landfill in York Region.

York's case involves two issues. In one instance, the region is challenging the province's Waste Management Act, Bill 143, as unconstitutional and undemocratic, which forces York to take all of Metro's waste. In the second case, the region is paying legal costs for Georgina Mayor Bob Johnston to fight as a resident on grounds the IWA refuses to investigate alternatives to landfill.

"Jenning's ruling in favor of the region means the province's environment policy will be an issue in trial. A court will decide whether the IWA's

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West Hill Plan

Builder Lebovic says 'hands tied' on affordable housing in subdivision

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

If local residents are concerned about affordable housing in Whitchurch-Stouffville they should take their beefs to the province, said one local developer this week.

Joseph Lebovic said Ontario's Housing Ministry is "pushing (affordable housing) down (developers') throats," which ties their hands when it comes to building residential subdivisions.

Lebovic is reacting to public concern that his 25 per cent affordable housing block in the West Hill Redevelopment plan will bring a "Milliken Mills" atmosphere to Stouffville.

He said people think his 35-foot lot proposal is a way for him to build the cheapest homes on the least amount of land to make the most money.

But Lebovic has another story to tell. "I'm lucky if I make any money at all," on affordable housing, Lebovic said.

"I'm not being selfish. I can make a lot more money building 50-foot lots, but I'm being forced into the smaller ones," Lebovic said.

The province has passed legislation that won't allow any developer to create a subdivision without allotting 25 per cent to affordable housing status, he said.

But while Lebovic would rather avoid the red tape involved in building affordable homes, he said his buildings are anything but unattractive.

"I'm not some fly-by-night outfit here - I'm not building something cheap. I'm using smaller lots and building better quality homes," he told *The Tribune* during an interview at his McCowan Road office last week.

Lebovic has built more than 10,000 houses, apartments and condominiums and 1.5 million square feet of industrial buildings throughout Southern Ontario.

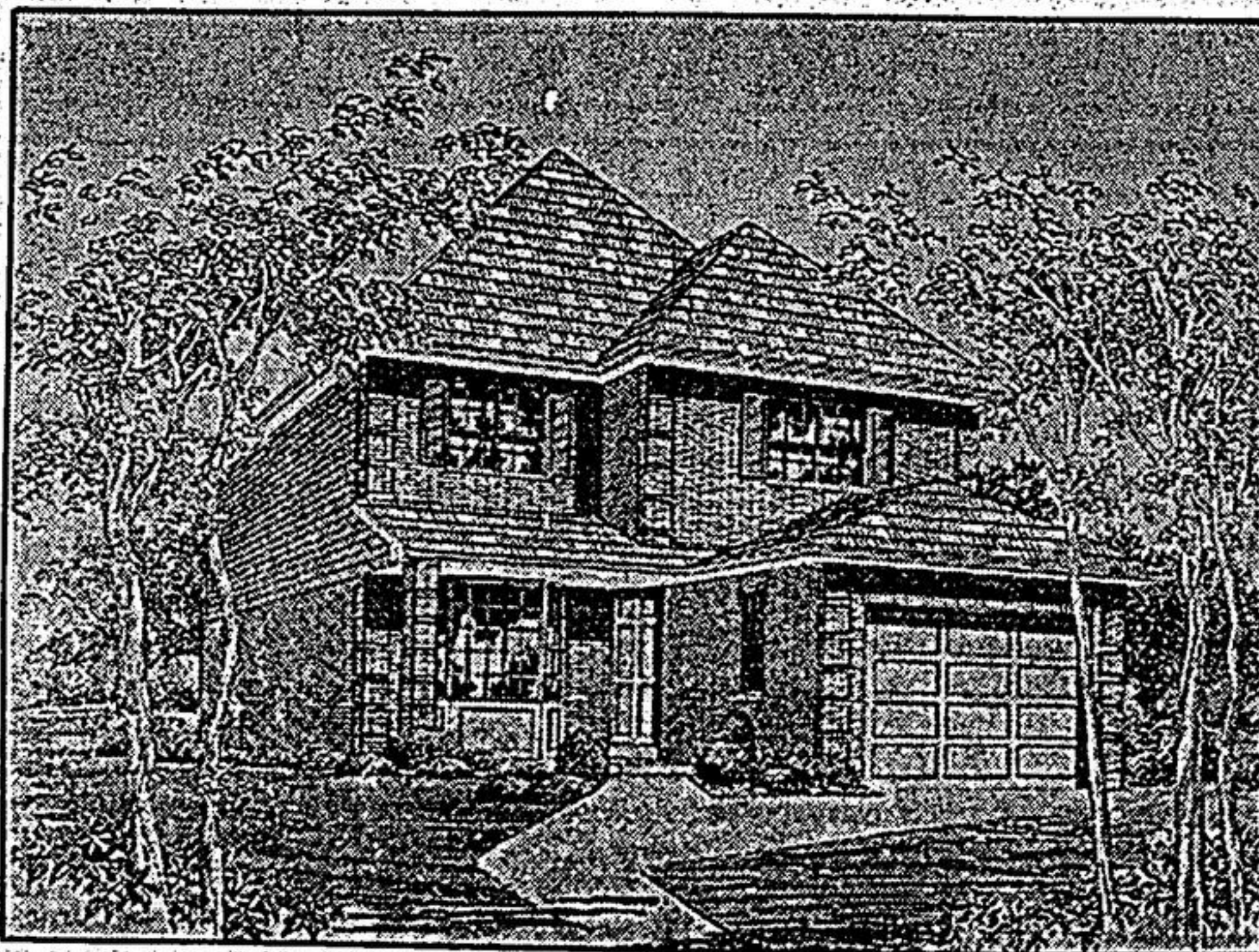
"No one has more to lose here than me. Why would I pull a fast one when I have 600 more homes here to build? I'm creating a showcase for future development in Stouffville," Lebovic said.

Lebovic, who has won numerous design awards for several condominium and other devel-

opments across the province and who was awarded a Canada 125 plaque for significant contributions, owns at least 700 lots in the most southerly portion of Stouffville.

Last year, after more than five years on an allocation list, he was granted sewage for development of 100 lots - if he can get past at least six provincial

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The illustration above shows an example of the type of houses Joseph Lebovic would build on 35-foot lots in the West Hill Redevelopment subdivision in Stouffville.

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