

# Former mayoral candidate questions developer's ad

Dear Editor,  
In regards to the ad placed in the Stouffville Sun Wednesday, Feb. 18 by Gino Testa Construction Ltd.

*bune last Thursday. Mayor Emmerson would place such an endorsement in an ad. denies giving any approval to this development and denies knowing the developer. Emmerson says people are not to call the town for residency inquiries.*

## LETTERS

As a resident and former councillor for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, I am appalled to see a letter included within this ad that is written by Mayor (Wayne) Emmerson (dated June 27, 1997) supporting and endorsing this development.

This is an outrageous practice. In my opinion no representative of a town should ever be advertising for developers in any manner.

As I stated, this letter of endorsement is dated June 27, 1997. At that time I was the Ward 2 councillor for our town, and I would like to state: At no time was I asked about, informed about, or given a copy of this letter. This was not done with council's support.

If I had known, as a councillor I would have immediately tried to put a stop to it.

To make matters even worse at the bottom of the ad in large bold letters it states: "To include your name on this list to reside in the exceptional new complex, call the Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor's secretary (905) 640-1900 or Gino Testa Construction at:--"

There are so many questions that arise from this statement and letter from the mayor, e.g. -- is our town staff selling real estate on the side? -- is the mayor's office available for use as an answering service and booking agent to everyone? -- can we afford to pay town staff to service developers instead of doing their own jobs?

A few years back the residents were getting a pool and possibly a library from this development; the town lost both. Then the residents were promised \$500,000 cash with this development. When I got on council I quickly discovered that I can see where the fine negotiating skills of our town's current representatives are honed to such a level that all we see now is the mayor get a big wooden chair from this developer, and the town placed in a very alarming legal position.

This is precisely why no political candidate should ever accept political contributions, favours or gifts (chairs and such) from anyone, especially developers we know we will be dealing with in the future.

In the long run how much do these deals really cost the residents and taxpayers of Whitchurch-Stouffville?

Mike Watson

*Editor's Note: As reported in The Tri-*

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