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Mayor says council is listening to growth complaints

From page 1.

Mayor Wayne Emmerson had to call the meeting to order.

The crowd was especially upset that neither developer attended the public hearings. Instead, they sent representatives to act on their behalf.

Whitchurch-Stouffville council listened as residents

outlined why they will not welcome Madori Ltd.'s plan to build 329 homes west of the Ninth Line north of Elm Road or Varkim Development Inc.'s plan to build 791 semis, townhouses and homes on 222 acres south of the IGA, Noma Cable Tech and Novopharm.

The Varkim development also includes lands for a high

school and an industrial park.

Andrew McNeely, manager of development services for the town, said access to the Madori property will be from the Ninth Line, Glad Park Avenue, West Lawn Crescent and Winlane Drive. Residents in this area worry that the new subdivision will create more traffic problems.

Sandra Mathers of West Lawn Crescent told council about 1,000 children go to schools in this area now.

New homes will raise more safety concerns, said Mrs. Mathers. "And, these lot sizes should be a minimum of 50 to 60 feet (wide)," she added.

Mayor Emmerson told the audience, council was listening.

"We hear you," he said. "You're telling us the

density is too high. This is just the beginning. This is not over. We'll deal with this again in the fall."

Since the projected growth over the next 15 to 20 years could see Whitchurch-Stouffville's population hit 44,000, John Donovan called on council to hold a referendum on the issue. "Let's have a democratic vote," said Mr. Donovan.

"Ask the people if they want this growth. Whitchurch-Stouffville's motto 'Country Close to the City' will be a farce, if this development goes through."

Resident Jeanne Major appealed to council to seek parkland instead of money from developers — municipalities are often given the choice.

The comments of Mrs. Major, who ran unsuccessfully for mayor in

2000, did not go over well with some councillors.

They angered Councillor Sue Sherban to such a degree that the Ward 6 representative ended a five-minute anger-charged lecture by telling Mrs. Major to "wipe the smirk off" her face.

The preservation of the environment was also on the public's agenda.

"The town should ensure that the preservation of the mature trees in this development is prioritized," Stouffville's Jill McWhinnie said.

"The day the bulldozers come to the last farm fields to tear up the land and cart away the topsoil, will be the day the town says good-bye to the last vestiges of its rural heritage."

"What is going to be left in its place?"



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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Business Development Office and Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce are jointly producing a Business Directory. If you are a home-based business and would like to be included in the directory please call the Chamber of Commerce at 905-642-4227.

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