

Bethesda Rd. residents lose works yard fight

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The town's new public works yard will be located on Bethesda Road, just west of Hwy. 48, Whitchurch-Stouffville council decided Tuesday afternoon.

That's despite a lot of opposition from neighbours in the vicinity of the new operations centre site, as it's called.

During the environmental assessment process to select the site, four public meetings were held.

Forty residents showed up for the fourth meeting in November and not one supported the site.

"This facility belongs in a light industry area," said Terry O'Connor at Tuesday's council meeting.

He lives on a 30-acre farm near the site.

Dr. O'Connor wondered what would happen to the rest of the street, lined with farms and residential areas, once the operations centre is built.

The Bethesda Road site was chosen because it had the least impact on the environment, residents heard at the fourth public meeting. The site chosen had "no

'This facility belongs in a light industry area.'

resident Terry O'Connor
on new works yard site

natural features to be concerned with," Paula Neto, a consultant with Totten Sims Hubicki Associates, said.

At the public meeting, people expressed concerns the new works yard could pollute their wells, increase traffic, create noise and light pollution and affect their property values.

"I am satisfied that the environmental and residential impact will be minimal," Councillor Susanne Hilton said at Tuesday's meeting.

The report prepared for the environmental assessment will be filed with the Ministry of the Environment and be available for public review for 30 days.

The current works yard property at 5827 Main St. will be part of a parcel land that will be home to a new fire hall and a multi-purpose facility, which will include twin ice pads and other facilities.

Town wants to 'WOW' you with new feature

To help you and your family find out what's happening in your community, the new "What's on Whitchurch-Stouffville" (WOWs) feature is being launched by the town in today's Sun-Tribune.

It will focus on fun, family-friendly events, programs and services offered by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library and Leisure Services Department — and more.

The section will highlight events and give readers, especially newcomers, a chance to find out what's available for them.

"We are beginning to offer more programs as the community grows," Andrew Brouwer, the town's deputy clerk, said.

Town departments are "looking at different programs for different age groups and different needs," he added.

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville page that appears in this newspaper every Thursday will continue. That's where readers can find out about public meetings, council meetings and highlights and other town happenings.

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