

20 years later, Bloomington still on hold

*Water worries
remain for 9th line
hamlet residents*

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The community of Bloomington's would-be developers aren't any further ahead than they were more than 20 years ago.

That's when many of them first put plans before the town for five subdivisions.

The situation hasn't changed for residents in the area, either. They are still worried about water levels falling and wells being affected if proposed developments do go through, as council heard loud and clear at a public meeting Tuesday night. And, Bloomington residents are still looking for a municipal water supply.

Among them are Bob and Maureen Wood who want the earlier promises kept that the developers originally made to extend a water supply to all homes in Bloomington.

TWO SUBDIVISION PLANS

More than 30 residents were at the council meeting to air their views on two developments proposed by one developer. At 13531 Ninth Line, south of Bloomington Rd., about 33, one-acre lots are proposed, while 34 lots are proposed for 6237 Bloomington Rd, east of Ninth Line. The lands about each other.

In 1990, the first subdivision was issued draft approval. The approval has been extended many times since then.

In the meantime, the region decided last year it is no longer allowing the extension of municipal water to the Hamlet of Bloomington and the subdivision lands.

That means any development would need to go ahead with private wells and septic systems.

Anytime development occurs on the basis of private well and septic, there is a concern about what is the impact on groundwater, well and cross-contamination, town planner Andrew McNeely said.

A local resident, Perry Rizzo, was hoping for a guarantee from the town regarding his well water supply, asking, "what would happen to our wells in the long term?"

Ninth Line resident Bob Lewis was part of a group of citizens more than 20 years ago which advocated for community water for Bloomington after the first develop-

ment proposal was put forth.

In 1989, York Region stated it would provide the water for the hamlet.

Now that the development has to proceed on private wells and septic systems, "they will be taking water from the aquifer we live on," Mr. Lewis said.

The development would be "putting our water in jeopardy with no guarantee," he added.

The proponent's representative, Bob Hodgson of W. R. Hodgson & Associates, said that the developer "would upfront the water supply to the existing Hamlet of Bloomington".

Test wells have been put on the two properties to assess ground water levels and studies are being done to study the effect of new wells on existing wells. The studies are examining "how long it takes for existing wells to recharge back to a normal level," hydrogeological consultant Gary Hendy of Jagger Hims Limited said.

Existing wells in the hamlet wouldn't be comprised by these new developments, he added.

Once completed, the consultants' studies will be reviewed by town staff.

If development were to proceed, 13 or 14 potential owners on the Ninth Line property could have the Goodwood-Glasgow Wetland Complex, which is designated as a provincially significant feature, in their backyards. This area takes in about half of each property. A tributary of Duffins Creek, a coldwater fisheries resource, is situated next to the easterly limits of the plan of subdivision.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS

"We know this application will have a significant environmental impact," Chris Jones from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority told council.

The environmental impact of the private servicing and the extent of development as currently proposed must be assessed before moving forward with further consideration of development in Bloomington, Carolyn Woodland, director, planning and development for the conservation authority, wrote in a letter to town staff.

Before any decision can go forward, the developer has to complete hydrogeological, environmental and other studies. Study results and comments from the public will become part of a report that will go before council for its decision.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

THE THREE TENORS?

Boston Pizza staffer Bev Brisebois (clockwise from front), York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, Oak Ridges-Markham MP Lui Temelkovski and Mayor Wayne Emmerson sing happy birthday to a patron at the Stouffville restaurant Wednesday. It was all part of a night's work for the celebrity waiters during a silent auction/celebrity dinner fundraising event in support of YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign.

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