

A compelling case against rural development proposal

Development threats to rural King are everywhere but hardly more critically at the moment than in the area of the East Humber River valley lands of Mill Road and Elmpine Trail southeast of Nobleton.

It is here where developers, V. and M. Pacifico, have made an application to resuscitate and amend the defunct Official Plan Amendment 58, hoping to allow this area, along with the Humber Trails Forest & Wildlife Conservation Area, to become a hamlet so they can add their urban-density retirement community as an extension to the proposed hamlet. This area has never been a hamlet, nor has the Township any intention to ever make it one. And the residents whose properties are swept up into the net of this amendment proposal are wholeheartedly against it, as evidenced by the Township having on file a petition against this development, signed by residents from every household affected.

Provincial land use planning policies including the Places to Grow Act, and the Greenbelt Plan legislate that this land, which is designated Natural Heritage agricultural land within the Greenbelt, remain agricultural and that developments such as the Pacificos' be directed to settlement areas, in Nobleton, Schomberg or King City. Not to be deterred by the thorough rejections of this proposal by the Region of York, the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority and the Township of King, the Pacificos have appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for approval, resulting in three OMB cases that will be considered at the upcoming OMB Pre-Hearing on March 11.

This very environmentally sensitive area, consisting of mainly hazard lands and floodplain, must be protected, and if a small cluster of homes such as this were to be declared a Hamlet by the OMB then a very dangerous precedent would be set to aggressively chip away at King's rural, natural heritage that many of us have fought long and hard to protect.

If anyone wishes to speak at the OMB hearing they must first request status as a Participant or Party at the pre-hearing on March 11 at the Township Council Chambers at 10 a.m. As a participant you will only be expected to give your name, address and email which will ensure that you will be contacted by the OMB about the details of the later hearing and when you might be expected to give your presentation. To support our opposition by attending on the 11th to just observe the proceedings would also be appreciated. For further information, contact the Township at 905-833-5321 or Mary at 905-859-4156.

Carlo Porco, Betsy Lawson, Mary Bromley,

Steve Hall and Ed Bartram

Residents of Elmpine Trail/Mill Road