

Cober maintains Schomberg's character can outlast any development

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There had also been concerns expressed about 10 lots slated to go on the west side of a road running north off of Dr. Kay Drive, adjacent to the Dufferin Marsh. There had been suggestions that the road be shifted, but planners have resisted that, pointing out it's going to be opposite one of the access points to the Brownsville Junction parking lot, which they think is desirable.

Planners also recommended that the applicants carry their share of the cost of planned improvements to the intersection of Dr. Kay and Highway 27.

Main Street resident Anni Bretschneider expressed appreciation for being included in the

consultations, although she wasn't completely pleased with the results. She maintained there should be more of a buffer between the properties on Main Street and those that will be backing onto them. A public path along that stretch was mentioned, as she pointed out there are similar facilities in other developments in the village.

Bretschneider told Councillor Cleve Mortelliti she had spoken to a number of residents of main Street, and they would prefer a path or natural buffer behind their homes, as opposed to fences.

She again stated the road running north from Dr. Kay should be shifted to the west.

"Sometimes, you just need to live in a place to appreciate it," Bretschneider

remarked.

She added the Schomberg Community Plan calls for strengthening of the community structure. She said the village is an area of cultural heritage significance, including such features as Main Street, Church Street and the Dufferin Marsh. These heritage resources need to be protected, and Bretschneider didn't think the development proposal does that.

She also wondered if the Township ever looked at the Heritage Act when it was doing its planning.

Bretschneider said the planners aren't experts in heritage matters, and she called for a cultural heritage evaluation of the subject and surrounding lands, to be conducted by a third party acceptable to the local

heritage committee and the Township, with the developer expected to modify the plans accordingly.

"We all want the absolute best for Schomberg," local resident Henry Verbruggen declared, adding he was pleased to see the \$103,500 contribution from Laurier. Where people play is an important part of a community too, he observed.

Main Street resident Vivian Perry pointed out there have been developments over the years that have impacted on the character of the community. She said there were bungalows built in the 1940s that would have contrasted with the houses already there, adding some of the houses on historic Main Street now have aluminum siding and painted brick.

Planning Director Stephen Kitchen defended the staff recommendations, observing they normally require buffers between conflicting land uses, not residential against residential. He added it will be up to the people living on Main Street and those with lots backing onto those properties to decide if they want to erect fences of their own, whether it's for more privacy or to keep their dogs from running.

Councillor Jack Rupke complimented staff for addressing so many of the concerns.

He also recalled there

were a number of people years ago who had problems with plans to open Dr. Kay, but the comments he hears now indicate it's been a benefit.

"Change is very difficult," Councillor Bill Cober observed, adding he's seen a lot of it in the years he's lived in Schomberg, except in the character of the community. "The character is the content of the people of Schomberg."

He also said houses can be hard for a community to absorb, but pointed out

Schomberg has been able to do it over the years. "Schomberg will remain the great place that it is," he remarked.

Councillor Jeff Laidlaw was still concerned about the 10 houses slated for the street running north from Dr. Kay.

"To me, they appear to be orphans," he declared, adding he could see no reason for having them there, apart from developing the maximum number of lots. "They take away from the whole hillside."

Gala put on by Yellow Brick House

This Valentine's Day, as couples struggle to find just the right way to say "I love you," Yellow Brick House in Aurora has the perfect solution. Treat your beloved to a glamorous night out.

The Mending Hearts, Creating Dreams Gala is the charity gala for Yellow Brick House, a non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter and services to abused women and their children. Join special event host Galit Solomon of CTV for an elegant evening of dinner, dancing, live entertainment, silent auction and much more.

The event takes place April 28 at the Hilton Suites Hotel at 8500 Warden Ave. in Markham. The reception begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7. Black tie is optional.

Domestic violence is a serious issue in the community and country. Yellow Brick House provides services to women and children who have had the misfortune of being affected by violence. In addition to providing intervention services, it also provides public education programs to York Region schools to prevent further abuse.

Tickets are on sale now for \$168 per person. Contact Marnie at (905) 727-0930 or 1-800-263-2231 ext. 2233 or marnies@yellowbrickhouse.org or visit www.yellowbrickhouse.org

Meeting contestants in Schomberg idol competition

Here are three more young people vying to be the first Schomberg Idol.

The Schomberg Agricultural Society, in co-operation with Arcadia Academy of Music in Nobleton, is sponsoring the contest, which is aimed at promoting

community pride and involvement, cultural environment, youth involvement and youth opportunity.

The first event will be March 3 at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Schomberg, at which all 13 contestants will be appearing.



Amanda Belardinelli

Amanda has played the piano since the age of six. She has recently added voice lessons and is currently pursuing RCM certification in both piano and voice.



Laura Grossi

Laura is in Grade 5 Voice (RCM). She won the 2006 Voice Scholarship at Funfest Arcadia. She has musical theatre experience and has performed in Oliver and Fiddler on the Roof.



Sandy Mosher

Sandy is Schomberg Fair Junior Ambassador. She takes singing lessons at Arcadia Academy, is a member of the York Region Children's Choir, and has performed in musicals.



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An Evening of Stewardship for Landowners on the Oak Ridges Moraine

An Open House presented by Halton-Peel Woodlands & Wildlife Stewardship and York Environmental Stewardship on behalf of all partners involved in the Caring for the Moraine Project: Western Headwaters Area

Where: Schomberg Arena Hall

251 Western Ave. Schomberg (west off Main St., south of Hwy 9)

When: Thursday February 22, 2007 6:00 — 9:00 p.m.
Presentations begin at 7 p.m.

Hear: Landowner perspectives on stewardship on the Oak Ridges Moraine
Talk to: Representatives of organizations offering stewardship programs and services
Learn about: Forest, stream, wetland and grassland stewardship, protecting your property's natural features for future generations, where to access technical and financial support, and more

Open House: Meet representatives of the Caring for the Moraine Project: Western Headwaters Area partner organizations:

- Credit Valley Conservation
- Halton-Peel Woodlands & Wildlife Stewardship
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation
- Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
- Oak Ridges Trail Association
- Peel Region
- Toronto and Region Conservation
- Town of Caledon
- Trout Unlimited
- Wetland Habitat Fund
- York Environmental Stewardship
- Other local partners

No Cost to Attend - For further information call: Brian Peterkin, Stewardship Coordinator — York Environmental Stewardship at (905) 713-7732