Residents see no need for sidewalks in estate subdivision

By Dan Pelton
Staff Reporter

Residents of the Master's Creek subdivision in Mono are protesting plans to install sidewalks on their properties, which they said would intrude on the estate lots they had purchased.

They say they were not aware that sidewalks are planned for the estate subdivision.

Mono's director of planning, Mark Early, counters that sidewalks had been in the development plans from the beginning in the subdivision, which is situated north of Cardinal Woods west of Highway 10.

Barb Witiuk, speaking on behalf of the residents at the last Mono council meeting, said they were "upset by sidewalks being imposed by the Town of Mono. Most residents purchased estate lots with the impression there would be no sidewalks."

Mr. Early points to the comprehensive subdivision agreement between the town and the developer, 1475934 Ontario Ltd., to back his contention that the residents should have been aware of the planned sidewalks.

According to the agreement, the developer was required to erect a "general land use sign" that would, among other things, map out "sidewalk layout."

The same agreement's subsection, "Agreements of Purchase and Sale," states as follows: The (developer) shall include in any agreements of purchase for the lots ... a copy of the plan, and with respect to sidewalks, a plan showing the location of sidewalks."

At the council meeting, Mr. Early reiterated that sidewalks have been in the plans "since day one" and said the residents must have known about it.

That prompted one of the residents to stand up, point to the large number of his neighbours in attendance and ask: "If we all knew sidewalks were there, why would we all be in this room, right now?"

Ms. Witiuk faxed a developer's plan to the Citizen which did not indicate any sidewalks. She also said the developer told her that she and her neighbours should sign a petition stating they didn't want them.

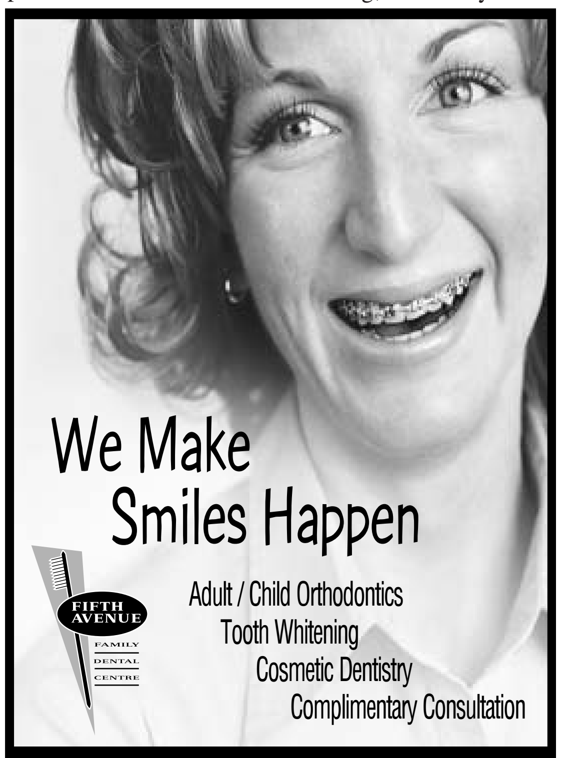
This seemed to surprise Councillor Laura Ryan. "This is my second term," she said. "and I have not heard of the developer having an issue with sidewalks."

Among the complaints the Master's Creek residents expressed was that the installation would result in, in the words of resident Ken Debruin, "sidewalks to nowhere.

"If there were sidewalks in (adjoining) Cardinal Woods that led to the park (at the intersection of Hockley Road and Highway 10), that would be different. We could walk right through. But there aren't, so what's the point?"

Deputy Mayor Ken McGhee spoke in favour of the sidewalks, stating safety and accessibility issues. A resident pointed out that she could not recall, nor heard of, an accident in Cardinal Woods, where most of the streets lack sidewalks.

Liability was another issue and council was of the consensus that the town would be at less risk if people were on sidewalks rather than on the road. There have been several Canadian case-law precedents, however, concluding that municipalities are responsible for the upkeep of sidewalks and liable for injuries caused by lack of proper maintenance.



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New dates for Jaffer, Docherty

By Wes Keller
Freelance Reporter

The appearance of former Edmonton MP Rahim Jaffer in Orangeville provincial court has been put over to Dec. 10 on his charges of driving with over the limit of alcohol in his blood and of possession of cocaine.

Mr. Jaffer was initially stopped by Caledon OPP for excessive speed in Palgrave on Sept. 11.

It will be the third scheduled appearance for the husband of federal Conservative cabinet minister Helena Guergis, the MP for Simcoe-Grey. So far, he has not been personally present but has been represented in court by Melissa Azevedo, a lawyer from the Toronto firm of Heller Rubel.

In other court matters, a date was to have been set for the beginning of the Superior Court trial of Kenneth Allen Docherty on his second-degree murder charge Monday but that, too, was put over to Dec. 9.

The change in Mr. Docherty's case resulted from his recent indictment on two charges of extortion. A third such charge was withdrawn at the preliminary hearing.

Mr. Docherty had been charged with the death of Kleinburg resident Tyson Weber in Orangeville on May 29, 2008, and has remained in custody since his arrest. He was committed for trial in Superior Court in March 2009 by Ontario Court Justice Paul Currie, and has elected for trial by judge and jury.

The Dec. 9 appearance is likely to set a date for a new trial, this time to include all three charges he faces. Mr. Docherty is represented by Orangeville lawyer Carrie-Anne Bellan.

H1N1 shots

• From page A2

ping vaccine to some doctors for their patients.

Dr. Mercer said Monday that the health unit itself had administered 16,700 vaccines, distributed 28,000 to physicians, and 7,500 to hospitals — including long-term care facilities and health workers.

She said the 22,000 doses received this week would likely be administered in the week but a shortage is unlikely as the unit is expecting a similar number next week, and added that 22,000 is a lot to administer in one week.

The health unit is predicting 50 per cent of the total population will want the vaccine, in which event supply would keep up with demand.

Although Guelph residents were reporting hour-long waits at the city's clinic, waits at the Orangeville clinic Wednesday afternoon were reported to be only about 20 minutes.

County tax

• From page A1

His motion, which carried by a vote of 25-5, was strongly supported by Shelburne Deputy Mayor Bennington who said, "I thank Wally for bringing that forward. There have to be efficiencies. It brings home the point as, last summer, I watched 700 of my coworkers walk out the door as one shift was laid off.

"I watched my own work week reduced to four days a week," he added.

The county's federal gas tax money of about $1,650,000 annually is being used partly for Dufferin Eco Energy Park development and for road improvements.

For 2010, $1.5 million of that money had been allocated to DEEP. Orangeville Deputy Mayor Warren Maycock queried Public Works Director Trevor Lewis about what funding was actually needed, and moved that $250,000 of the $1.5 million be transferred to roads.

The cumulative effect of all changes has reduced the county's tax hike to a point at which, in the words of the treasurer, "if you paid $1,000 (in county tax), you'll pay $1,010 in 2010."

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$1,000	$112
$3,000	$97

SE model shown with Podium Edition Package††

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FREIGHT & TAXES NOT INCLUDED

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$1,000	$126
$3,000	$111

AWD model shown††

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$3,000	$207

SLT-2 model shown††

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