

# PROPOSALS WOULD 'ADD STRESS ON AN ALREADY TAX-CONSTRAINED SYSTEM': RESIDENT

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zoning or official plan requirements.

While the official plan allows a maximum four-storey development, some Weston Downs residents have long objected to an application by Velmar Centre Property Ltd. to redevelop a plaza on the southwest corner of Rutherford Road and Velmar Drive into a seven-storey condo building.

"This development would put added stress on an already tax-constrained infrastructure system in our community. Heavy traffic infiltration and dangerous intersections of Velmar Drive and Rutherford

Road have seen numerous serious accidents over the last few years," resident Giovanni Losiggio said.

"We are not NIMBYs," Losiggio added. "We realize that we must all do our part to ensure that the provincial guidelines and legislation on density in urban sprawl be met."

At the end of the deputations, council decided to go for mediation with the developer, which chose to circumvent the residents and take the proposal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).

DeFrancesca, meanwhile, promised that if this fails, she will continue to fight against the proposal.

It's not only the Velmar residents who are concerned.

Residents from the designated low-rise and Hawman Avenue have already fought against a 12-storey condo at the intersection of Highway 7 and Kipling, in the vicinity of their homes, which they describe as tight.

This stretch of Highway 7, where it intersects with Kipling Avenue, is narrow and yet some residents have pointed out that it has one of the highest condos — 12 storeys. There is also a Petro-Canada at the intersection.

"I've had an accident at the intersection; in the last six months, we've had two

people hit at the entrance of Mckenzie and we had another one on the 22nd at the intersection, and the remnants are still on the lawn of the gas station," said Rosina Alimonte, a resident who made an emotional plea to council to reject the bid, citing the importance of safety for children and seniors, alike.

Another resident, David Arkell, said, "I really do think we should rethink how many condominium developments you're planning on putting in (around) Highway 7 and Kipling."

The area is getting more cars coming from Kleinburg, Nobleton and Nashville, which used to be "little places," but not so any-

more, he added.

With the area also in the vicinity of a railroad bridge, Arkell said, "As it turns out, we have the one condo that's proposed. We have the one on the southwest corner that's 12 storeys, and right across the street on the northeast side of Highway 7, we have three more (condos) with numerous townhomes. We also, on Coles (Avenue), we have 176 stacked townhouses, and you're planning on putting more on Mckenzie Street, which is about the size of a pen."

The current proposal, at 12 storeys, is four storeys less than the original. The developer's representative, Adam Grossi, said the

"length of the building stretching from Highway 7 has been substantially reduced to the point where the majority of the building is actually contained within the Highway 7."

"Grossi also added that the secondary access is no longer at Hawman Avenue.

Tony Carella, councillor of the ward, initially wanted to reject the application; however, he was advised to give the developer, First Avenue Properties, another month to continue engaging with the residents to avoid the LPAT.

*STORY BEHIND THE STORY: Reporter Dina Al-Shibeeb met with Hawman Avenue residents and attended a heated virtual meeting May 13.*



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## Paramedic Services Week May 23- 29, 2021



### Public education is focus of Paramedic Services Week

The theme for Paramedic Services Week, May 23 to 29, is Paramedic as Educator – Citizen Ready, a message that demonstrates the important role that paramedics play as educators to the public, according to organizers.

As healthcare professionals, paramedics are often incorporating the best research into practice but the public doesn't always know why, states the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada (PCC). In efforts to help the public understand why simple steps taken can make the difference in many emergencies prior to help arriving, the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada is building on existing education and incorporating



new trending treatments for the public to be "citizen ready".

"The commitment of paramedics deserves to be celebrated every week of every year. But it is especially important at this moment, as we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. Paramedics put themselves at risk to serve the public every day. When most of us are running away from danger, they are running towards it.

This is even truer today with COVID-19," states the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) on its website.

The statement acknowledging Paramedic Services Week goes on to say; "All front-line health care professionals, emergency medical staff, first responders,

dispatchers, and members of the paramedic team deserve our thanks for their heroism in these most difficult circumstances."

Each weekday, from Monday to Friday of Paramedic Services Week, has been given a specific public education focus that is designed to prepare citizens for an emergency with topics that include activation of 911, control of bleeding, high performance CPR, opioid overdoses, and emergency preparedness. Saturday, May 29 is Paramedic Services Recognition Day, an opportunity for the public to get to know their local paramedics and emergency medical responders through special initiatives.

To find more details about the focus of the week, visit the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada website at [paramedicchiefs.ca/paramedic-services-week-2021](http://paramedicchiefs.ca/paramedic-services-week-2021).



Photos courtesy of Ontario Paramedic Association