

MOSQUE WELCOME, EXTREMIST NOT, NEIGHBOUR SAYS

*Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen
will call police if community safety at risk*

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A mosque is welcome, but not this one, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen was to be told today.

The fact the leader of the Mulock Drive mosque is a noted Islamic movement commentator who spreads anti-Semitic and anti-American views has created a firestorm in the neighbourhood.

George Cunningham is concerned the plan was granted preliminary approval without public consultation.

But this particular (site plan) application does not require a zoning amendment or public hearing, Newmarket director of planning Rick Nethery said.

Since the property is zoned rural and includes the right to build a religious institution, council isn't required to host a public meeting when dealing with the application for the mosque.

However, before issuing a final decision, town staff must review drawings submitted by Mr. Bangash.

The council's committee of the whole could recommend a public information meeting be held, Mr. Nethery said.

"I don't want an Islamic extremist in my community," Mr. Cunningham stressed. "This is not our usual friendly

mosque. Take a look at this guy (Zafar Bangash). He's full of hate."

Mr. Cunningham, a nearby resident, has asked for a one-on-one meeting with the new mayor.

Mr. Van Bynen, who admitted he's not familiar with Mr. Bangash's political reputation, said if community safety concerns are raised in relation to the Newmarket mosque, he'll call police.

"I will call (York Regional Police) Chief Armand La Barge if the welfare and safety of our community is raised as an issue," Mr. Van Bynen said.

Last year, the Mr. Bangash-

'I don't want an Islamic extremist in my community. This is not our usual friendly mosque. Take a look at this guy (Zafar Bangash). He's full of hate.'

George Cunningham
Newmarket resident

led Islamic Society of York Region bought a house just south of the soon-to-open recreation centre.

In September, Newmarket council gave approval, in principle.

See WE, page A2.

COURTS

Halton still open

A Supreme Court judge granted Halton Recycling Ltd. permission to remain open until at least next month.

In a Newmarket court Tuesday, the judge extended the stay for Halton a second time and intends to deliver a decision on the fate of the Newmarket recycling company when court resumes Feb. 23.

The town opposes the company's request to remain open and outlined its objections in

court, while neighbours continue to complain about the odour which they compare to a mixture of sewage and cigars, linked to the Harry Walker Parkway industry.

During the stay period, which was initially granted at end of September, Halton is required to limit the amount of organic waste accepted for processing, reduce emissions and odours and fully implement a remedial action plan.

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