

Woods slated for development

By Andy Blatchford *The Chronicle*

Angry residents blasted Pierrefonds/Roxboro borough mayor Monique Worth Monday evening after council accepted a housing development plan that will eradicate a forested area. The approved 32-unit project, slated for a wooded property across from Brook Park, was not the same plan presented to the public at last month's urban advisory committee meeting.

Citizens passionately opposed council's decision and many shouted for fairness and democracy during the tumultuous gathering.

The plan presented to residents in October called for 31 units — 18 semi-detached and 13 single-family homes. On Monday, council approved a project for 28 attached homes and four isolated models.

Former Pierrefonds councillor Michael Labelle said the new homes won't fit in an area of single-family dwellings. He also decried the lack of sidewalks and underground power lines in the plan.

"It's typical cheap, cheap Pierrefonds low-cost," he said of the project's quality.

According to the plan shown last month, Harvey and Nadon streets were set to join. Now, Harvey will extend to Brook Street.

The borough has been widely criticized for allowing developments on its green spaces.

Worth said council decided on the project prior to Monday's meeting. "If we don't own the land, we don't have the power to change everything," she told residents. "We can't just stop all construction because people decide they don't want to be constructed anymore."