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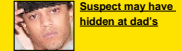
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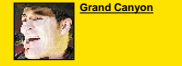
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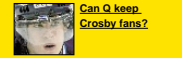
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NEWS
 Tuesday, September 13, 2005

Developer plans lawsuit against councillor opposed to 340-home project



Olympic International Realty president Ali Roshani wants to build Nova Scotia's first storm-proof community. (Photo: Jeff Harper)

'I'm being held hostage'

By Peter McLaughlin
 The Daily News

A developer planning Nova Scotia's first storm-proof community says he's being stymied by a Halifax Regional councillor who is against his proposed 340-home development near Paper Mill Lake in Bedford.

Papermill Lake Developments Ltd. and Olympic International Realty yesterday accused Bedford Coun. Len Goucher of being "unwilling and/or unable" of being persuaded to approve an amendment to a development agreement that would allow the project to proceed.

The developers say the longtime councillor is biased and they fear they will not get a fair hearing before the three-member Northwest Community council. They want him to resign.

"I'm being held hostage," said Olympic president Ali Roshani, who says he plans to launch a lawsuit next week.

Papermill Lake and Olympic want to build 172 single-family homes and 173 townhouses on 345 lots on more than 30 hectares, but are hemmed into a pre-existing development agreement that requires the construction of a new collector road.

Roshani and his partner are prepared to build their portion of the road, but a third landowner, United Gulf Developments, says it has no immediate plans to build its portion to Hammonds Plains Road.

The parcels were once owned by the Annapolis Basin Group.

Roshani said the project is a good one. He says it won't significantly increase traffic and will contain 22 per cent parkland. It will also be the first new development in Atlantic Canada to have its services underground, safe from ice storms and high winds. There would also be an emergency generator in each home.

"This development is in the best interests of Bedford," he said.

Goucher denied he is unfairly biased against the project. He said as a member of community council, he is prepared to listen.

"There have been many times ... I haven't agreed with things, I haven't supported them, yet because the public wanted it, I supported it," he said. "This is no different."

He accused Roshani of trying to short-circuit the ongoing public process.

"He has basically insinuated I am biased and we've delayed the process, which is not true," said Goucher.

"Mr. Roshani is unlike no other developer. He must go

In tomorrow's paper



Reporter Chris Lambie is with Halifax sailors helping Gulf Coast hurricane victims.
 Daily News

Reader Poll

What do you feel for former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney?

- Respect
- Respect and admiration
- Disrespect
- Disrespect and loathing

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through the process."

He said Roshani's real problem is with United Gulf and the agreement he inherited, which gives the owner of that land a 100-unit headstart before building the collector road from Moirs Mill Road to Hammonds Plains Road.

Moirs Mill Road is already at least 2,000 cars a day over capacity.

pmclaughlin@hfxnews.ca

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