

# Church and Town Protect Green Space

Written by Kathleen Griffin, Thornhill Liberal, September 30, 2001

St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Catholic Church has accepted an offer from the Town of Markham to purchase one of the last open Spaces in Thornhill; one that had been threatened by development.

The fact the two-acre meadow behind the church building will be added to the existing Pomona Mills Park is largely a result of residents' protests.

The church had applied to the town to sever the parcel, intending to sell it to an undisclosed developer. But residents, including the Pomona Mills Park Conservationists group, rallied with phone calls, petitions and deputations to Council.

"It's like a dream come true," said Valerie Burke of the conservationist group.

"Everybody is a winner, the community, the church, the town looks great and the environment."

She said while the Surrounding community benefits directly protecting greenspace is important GTA wide.

"It affects all of us even when it's not in your own backyard," she said, adding the town's park acquisition fund proves councillors are looking at the environment in a different way.

"I hope they purchase more greenspace in other wards. People don't want to see everything paved over - and many, many residents feel the same way"