



Willy Van Konynenburg: 'horrified'

# 'We won't move'

By DEBORAH IRVINE  
Times staff writer

They've been neighbors for more than 20 years, raising seven kids between them, sharing good times and bad.

But now the Fallises and Van Konynenburgs are afraid life on Tomken Road will never be the same. The city is taking steps to expropriate the Fallises' property for a road extension, which will be six feet from the Van Konynenburgs' bedroom window.

"It's a shame," says Dianne Fallis as she looks around the house she and her husband built 23 years ago. "It makes you sick. We don't know what to do

or who to turn to." The Van Konynenburgs agree. They are horrified at the thought of the house they bought from the Fallises 21 years ago being so close to a major road.

The proposed road, an extension of Willowbank Trail, is needed to serve a subdivision which Wimpey Construction Ltd. has planned east of Tomken Road.

The news that expropriation proceedings may be started again has shocked both families. The Fallises attempted to contact their lawyer, Pat Devine of Jarvis, Blott, Fejer and Pepino. But they learned that the firm is now engaged by Wimpey

to deal with other subdivisions and refused to take the case again because of conflict of interest.

An independent appraiser has valued the Fallises' property at \$80,000. The couple refused Wimpey's offer of \$80,000, but after more negotiations agreed to accept a lot owned by Wimpey just south of their present property. They say Wimpey agreed to build a house to their specification and add a lump sum of money for landscaping, broadloom, drapes and moving expenses.

Wimpey drew up blueprints of the new house in August and left them with the Fallises for

approval by their architect. But three weeks later Wimpey cancelled the deal without explanation and gave the couple a final purchase price of \$120,000.

"We were shocked," says Frank Fallis. "We thought it was all settled at last. I was so angry I told them I didn't want to hear anything more about it. And then I get a call that expropriation is going to begin again."

Frank has lived on the street for 40 years and the land upon which his house stands was a wedding present from his father. His roofing business and his ailing mother are on the same street and he vows he will not leave Tomken Road.

"I see my mother every day and it's these visits from the family which are keeping her alive," he says. "My kids go to school here and I've never had one bit of trouble from them so I don't want to move out of the area. I won't leave."

De Sylva says Wimpey has offered the couple all it can. He stresses that it is the city, and not Wimpey, which is insisting the road go through the Fallis property.

And so the Fallises and the Van Konynenburgs continue to hope that a miracle will happen before council makes its final decision regarding expropriation Oct. 9.



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