



Stop OPRE <stop.opre.brantford@gmail.com>

Save our Grand River Heritage - Stop the Brantford Oak Park Road Extension

1 message

17 January 2021 at 09:22

Dear Councillors and Mayor,

Turning to you for your leadership on a few questions surrounding Oak Park Road extension.

Is it wise to pave and pour concrete over every available green space in Brantford? To most, this is of no interest and yet this is exactly what is happening. This is not the Brantford people want or the Brantford I've known and loved for over 20 years.

I was a tremendously proud resident of this amazing city. However, now, it seems no green space is sacred in Brantford anymore. The cost of this destruction is enormous, irresponsible and irreversible.

This project is not helping these goals which, as has been mentioned by the City, are at the "forefront of mitigating our environmental footprint". Unfortunately, it does not correspond to reality.

The Oak Park Road Extension is a *grave* mistake. Mindlessly destroying nature, we destroy ourselves. The destruction of the trails is very disturbing and extremely serious concern.

Key objections:

1. _ Serious degradation of a provincially unique environmental area.

From all the places I've ever been to, the corridor being considered for the Oak Park Road Extension is the most beautiful place. Would you agree it's unique and scientifically speaking in times we find ourselves in, worth preserving?

2. Destruction of recreational facilities such as the Oak Hill Trail bridge and access to Brant Park

3. Disturbance of the Oak Hill Cemetery.

4. Noise and disruption to existing neighbourhoods on the Colborne West side.

5. Possibility of conflict with First Nations peoples over land claims and archaeological remains.

6. Extreme cost of the OPRE to the city (including ongoing maintenance costs)

Inquiries that I've sent to the City are dismissed by Parsons with justifications and no clear explanation. They are replied to by people who do not even live or care about this community and its people. I strongly believe the Key to the city and its interest and future continues to rest with the people and the City, and not Parsons.

Therefore, I am so happy to have this chance to raise them with you.

The preferred recommendation is to remove the OPRE entirely from the TMP (Transportation Master Plan) and immediately stop the wastage of taxpayers' money on further studies.

Failing that, I strongly recommend putting the OPRE into the more distant “2032 – 2041” timeframe from the current “2026 – 2031” mid-term so that there can be future evaluations of how the population growth of the city is evolving over the coming years.

In the intervening time, we can maximize investment in the positive alternatives and evaluate how well they are working.

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide this feedback and looking forward to your reply.