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COLLINGWOOD RESIDENTS FORCE DEFERRAL OF CONTROVERSIAL SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Collingwood, ON Wednesday August 15, 2018 - SOS Collingwood and an estimated 70 Collingwood residents achieved a major milestone Monday in their on-going effort to make local politicians bring shoreline and wetlands protection to the top of the municipal agenda. The group attended the Town's August 13th Development and Operations Services Committee meeting and delivered deputations focusing on three critical areas of concern regarding the Living Waters/Bear Estate development proposal, a project the group feels is an icon of what's wrong with development occurring along the Town's shrinking sensitive wetland areas. Those concerns were:

- 1.) The need for more independent and more comprehensive environmental impact assessments;
- 2.) The need for full compliance with Town bylaws, Official Plan, the Ontario Planning Act and the Town's Waterfront Master Plan; and
- 3.) The need for greater public transparency and consultation on all future developments near the shoreline and other environmentally sensitive areas.

SOS Collingwood spokesperson Jeff Newton noted, "The Town's Official Plan already states that these pristine shoreline areas are considered to make the greatest contributions to the natural heritage of the Town of Collingwood". It's time our local politicians got serious and put action behind those words". "They need to ensure these developments fully comply with all applicable laws and are subject to rigorous environmental assessments", added Newton.

Focusing on the proposed expansion of the Living Waters/Bear Estate as the latest example of what's wrong with waterfront development, SOS Collingwood drew attention to the fact that the proposal had not been subject to a full environmental assessment in accordance with the Town's own guidelines. They also raised serious questions about whether the proposed 5-story 889-person conference centre located 1.2 meters from the border of an Environmental Protection Area was even permitted.

Newton stated, "To be clear, SOS Collingwood and our supporters are not opposed to development in these areas, but we strongly believe that such development has to be respectful of the natural environment and our local politicians have to ensure that it fully conforms with Town bylaws and Plans."

Residents present at Monday's meeting were also advised that the project developer had requested that the Town defer consideration of its application until 2019. As a result, the Committee said it could not provide comment on the deputations presented or answer resident



questions. But SOS Collingwood and its supporters left undeterred, vowing to continue their effort to ensure that the process for evaluating and approving these projects changes, and changes for the better. Newton noted, "Today we tabled our recommendations on how this process can be improved, but this is not the end, it's just the beginning. At some point this proposal will come back before Council, and so will we".

LINKS YOU MIGHT FIND USEFUL

SOS Collingwood Website: www.soscollingwood.ca

Change.org Petition: <https://chn.ge/2NyMoZC>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SOSCollingwood>

Instagram: sos_collingwood