

Subject: City of Guelph, Margaret Greene Park, and Metrolinx

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: August-31-20 4:45 PM

To: Chair of Metrolinx; mayor@guelph.ca; christine.billings@guelph.ca; mike.salisbury@guelph.ca; mschreiner-co@ola.org

Subject: City of Guelph, Margaret Greene Park, and Metrolinx

METROLINX AND THE TWO WAY, ALL DAY GO SERVICE BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND KITCHENER, AND THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THAT LINE

I am writing to comment on many issues resulting from the above action. In principal. I am fully in agreement with the need for a two way Go Train service from Kitchener into Toronto. I am also, in principal, in agreement with the electrification of this service.

I am not in agreement with several issues in this process and decision.

1. Structurally dividing the city of Guelph (that's where I live, I can't speak to other communities) into two, with closure of streets and fencing off level crossings. This is dividing communities, school districts and limiting access to community centers, parks, and community resources.
The electrification of the entire line, using above ground poles and fencing, will be an eyesore in one of the oldest and most picturesque heritage communities in Ontario, perhaps even in all of Canada.
2. Defining Parkland as vacant land with no development applications, puts this valuable resource at the top of the list for land selection regarding Transfer Power Station, (a very large, constantly whining, fenced and lit, high voltage power installation), in the midst of residences, in Margaret Greene Park.
3. There were minimal communications and little transparency. Metrolinx states they worked with the City and stakeholders in selecting this land, but that did not include us. We are the stakeholders, the paymasters, the users. We were presented with this as the only option, when public engagement was requested, in the middle of the summer in the middle of a Pandemic. Although the public engagement period was extended, as requested by our MPP and Mayor, there has been no engagement from Metrolinx during this extension, leaving most questions unanswered.
4. This compromises one of the most at needs Wards in the City of Guelph, the Willow West Village, which has welcomed refugees from dictatorships and conflict across the world. The treatment this community is receiving from a Crown Corporation is not dissimilar to what they left. We have some explaining to do about this democracy, that railroads the rights of its citizens, because Metrolinx, as a Government Agency, chooses to enforce its power.
5. Sidestepping land assessments, environmental reviews, and health concerns, by ensuring that Crown Corporations are not held to the same standards as any other developer.
6. Failing to protect access to Green Space and Nature, with no clear definition of this land, and no firm protection of this resource.

A member of our community visited Barrie to see what this type of installation looks like. She discovered several things. First, their TPS is located about 0.5 km from the rail line, appropriately located in an

industrial area. The installation is bigger than we have been led to believe, stands about 3 stories high, continuously whines at a sound level that would be audible to all the residences surrounding the proposed site in Margaret Greene Park, is surrounded by fence, and will not in any way blend into a natural setting, or residential neighbourhood. But we still have not been presented with the full scope of this project, including how the powerlines will cross the rest of the park to connect the TPS. The selection of the area farthest from the Hydro TAP, tucked in between residences, leaves the balance of the park, ready for the future of being turned into a regional GO station (not stated, but implied by this selection), with easy access from the major expressway! This is the potential future of this parcel of land, generously donated by Margaret Greene to the city of Guelph, for use as parkland! Please investigate this situation, understand that this is not a cry of Not in My Backyard, rather this should not be in ANY Backyard.

Thank you for your attention to this situation.

Janet Kierdorf,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]