

Hello from London,On,

Please add my name to your list of supporters for the Guelph Heritage Committee's recommendation for Part IV and Part V of the Heritage Conservation Designation that will come to city council on June 14th/2021.

I appeal to you as a Horticulturist, landscape designer and installer, 30 year volunteer consultant at the Arthur Ford Nature Park in London (first of its kind in Canada), editor of the self- guided tour booklet for the nature park, and a graduate of University of Guelph (first to receive the Horticulture Communications award, "spreading the horticultural spirit").

I am also a strong believer in horticultural therapy. In its day, the Guelph Reformatory was way ahead of its time in its initiation of a very successful rehabilitation program involving the inmates working with many kinds of perennials, trees, and waterways as well as building the unique dry stone wall and stone bridge. This beautiful landscape needs to be maintained as a public space for people of all ages, nationalities and mobilities so they can experience it with all their senses and understand and appreciate this fitting tribute to all the hard work that went into transforming this large piece of land into a memorable naturalized parkland. I am pleased that the new vision will include a much appreciated horticulture therapy place and a teaching centre for all ages.

I am confident that these well organized groups will support the stewardship of the Yorklands by respecting, recognizing and protecting native plants, aquatic species, indigenous people, water and land resources .

I understand there are 11 buildings on the site considered to be provincially significant heritage sites, especially the Arts and Crafts and Tudor ones.

From an outsider's viewpoint, I see Yorklands as a huge gem in Guelph's landscape, such a beneficial project historically, horticulturally, educationally, socially, artistically and architecturally.

Certainly a unique "drawing card" for tourists and I , as one, can't wait to see the progress.

FYI, my 4 grandparents and parents all lived in Guelph and now my sister has returned there and lives only 2 blocks from where we lived when little ! I visit Guelph whenever I can and certainly have connections to the city and University.

Alison Ferguson (better known as Cricket)

Gentlemen: Please save Guelph Reformatory Lands... and designate the property as Part 4 AND Part 5 under the Heritage Act. One of Guelph's greatest assets are it's parks and green spaces; it would be a real shame to lose even one of them...and land is not replaceable. The wild life who live there, the dogs and people who walk there and the people who fish there and enjoy the natural habitat will put up with the ventilating noises and abattoir smells. I doubt that residents in a new subdivision would be quite as happy. Please save this wonderful open space. Thank you for your consideration, John & Joan Morley.
Ward One

This email is to inform you that I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act) for the Ontario Reformatory lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Thank you,
Kimberley Stark

I support the recommendations of the Heritage Guelph Committee for both Part 4 and 5 as it will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan.

Ruth Parent

Good morning Mayor Cam Guthrie and members of council,

I am writing you to show my support for the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND Part 5) for the OR lands, will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

My husband and two young children love to explore the Yorklands property, formerly the Ontario Reformatory lands. We have visited this beautiful property many times since the girls have been born, and hope to continue to do so as they grow up.

Thank you for your consideration, let's keep this beautiful piece of land accessible to the public for our future generations!

Regards,

Monica Holland

Dear City of Guelph,

Please consider protecting the buildings AND landscape of the Yorklands as a Heritage Conservation District. The lands and buildings contain so much history that our community and tourists deserve to learn about. I've enjoy visiting this location for years, exploring new trails every year. Most recently, my partner and I hiked there after he returned from completing his training at the Ontario Police College. We both find it fascinating and would love the opportunity for everyone in the future to have this experience. Over the last long weekend, it was a very popular spot for getting outside and exercising.

Best,
Liz Teel

Dear Mayor Guthrie:

I am writing to you today to express my passionate request that you and the remainder of City Council act to protect and preserve the amazing green-space we Guelph citizens know and love as the Ontario Reformatory (OR), aka the Yorklands. This is a very special piece of land, for both natural and cultural history.

I understand that on June 14, a key decision will be made by the City Council which will determine if the OR lands will receive the necessary protection for the future public enjoyment of its unique parkland. This is an opportunity for the key parts of the OR lands to be preserved as a rare treasure - a large urban green space accessible to the public, to be protected in its entirety for current and future generations, and shared use.

Not only is the OR, aka Yorklands, a special piece of land for its special cultural heritage, but for the opportunity it provides for the modern public to get out and enjoy nature, enjoy being with family & friends, and make memories that will last a lifetime. The ponds, pathways, fields & forests of the OR have been an important part of many Guelphites' daily life thus far, and they should continue to be so. A very important step towards protecting this special piece of land is to offer it the full protection it deserves.

Please support the Guelph heritage Committee in their recommendation of Part 4, AND 5 as well, to protect the Culture Heritage Landscape of the OR. This combination of protections will guarantee that these heritage assets will be protected for future generations as a Heritage Conservation District, and will provide a greater chance of the Ontario Reformatory lands remaining in the public realm.

It is not just the buildings of this special, historical place but the lands themselves that hold so much meaning, both in the past and in the present. This cultural heritage should be preserved, and the landscape is a unique treasure that deserves to be saved as a whole for the people of Guelph and Ontario.

I ask you to support the recommendation for the Heritage Guelph Committee because designating the OR as a heritage Conservation District (Part 4 & 5 of the Heritage Act) will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan.

Please keep this amazing piece of land within access of the public to continue to appreciate and enjoy. Please act to preserve the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the Ontario Reformatory so it can be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Andalyne Tofflemire

Dear Cathy and Leanne,

I urge you to support the recommendation of the Guelph Heritage Committee regarding the future of the site of the former Ontario Reformatory / Yorklands. I urge you to designate Part 5 of the Heritage Act as well as Part 4 and protect this property for future public enjoyment.

If you have time to read further, here is my thinking.

Yes, I applaud Council for wishing to protect several buildings on the site. But I feel it is also necessary to protect part of the property as a Cultural Heritage Landscape. The pandemic has made clear that such sites are essential to mental well-being, offering wonderful landscapes in all seasons with birds, animals, rare plants and trees. Please designate part of this beautiful historical and natural heritage as a Heritage Conservation District and so keep it public for everyone after its sale.

This is a Guelph treasure that we should not lose.

Yours truly,

Patricia Bell

Hello

We are non Guelph residents who often travel to your community to enjoy the grounds, trails and buildings of the former OR lands. While there, we visit local restaurants (obviously for take out now) and do a bit of shopping and sightseeing.

We strongly encourage Guelph council to support taking over these lands and preserve and protect a truly beautiful and remarkable piece of Guelph's heritage.

Sincerely

Ralph and Kathryn Gastmeier

Good day,

This entire piece of land is an extremely unique part of the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the city of Guelph. Not only does it benefit the quality of life of the residents of our city but if done very carefully, part of it could also become an extraordinary tourist attraction which could help stimulate our economy. A section of it could also be considered as a valuable asset for research by the University of Guelph similar to "Jokers Hill" in King Township which was donated as a research center to the University of Toronto.

This irreplaceable part of our heritage must be VALUED and protected as a Cultural Heritage Landscape in perpetuity. The residents of this city have expressed that they have a tremendous amount of value for it, now we are counting on you!

The diversity of the landscape has allowed for a distinct, thriving wildlife habitat that is very important and in need of protection, YOUR protection. The highest level of environmental assessment conducted by a respected independent organization approved by the Yorklands Green Hub should be conducted to find out exactly what species reside here before any decision is made.

The pandemic is as a result of climate change and should be a wake up call for all of us to reevaluate our priorities and Mother Earth should be at the top of the priority list. We are all in this together and need to act now by working together to rebuild the depleted tree canopy, what wetlands we have left and focus on anything and everything we can do to protect the small amount of green space we have left in this city. The pandemic has proven that humans need green space for well being.

This land is our land.

Do the right thing.

Thank you,

Sandy Nicholls

As proud citizens of the green city of Guelph, we urge the City Council to designate the Reformatory lands under both Section 4 and Section 5 of the Heritage Act.

Carolyn and Don Johns

City Council, Mayor Guthrie,

I am asking you to preserve and protect the Yorklands. These beautiful lands need to be preserved for nature, for the wild creatures who live therein and for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Once destroyed we will never get them back. These cultural heritage lands are a part of Guelph's history. Natural landscapes are filled with wildlife, ponds, water features and scenic spaces. So many natural areas are being destroyed for development. Please don't let this happen here. There are several groups working hard to purchase and protect these lands. Please don't sell as one parcel to developers!

You have a chance to save and protect this area within our City for the enjoy of many instead of lining the pockets of developers. It's time to put the interest of your citizens first. This delightful area needs your protection....for perpetuity.

A very concerned citizen.

Dianne Mackie

I support the efforts of the Heritage Guelph Committee regarding the O.R. property on York Road.

Thank you,
Janet Alilovic

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Council:

I would like to remind council of the following decision of Council on in 2014

Jail lands vision gets thumbs up from Council:

<https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/5868629-jail-lands-vision-gets-thumbs-up-from-council/>

And here's what the minutes of the meeting say:

First Amendment

8. Moved by Councillor Laidlaw Seconded by Councillor Burcher

1. That Council express support in principle, Yorklands Green Hub's vision for the use of a small portion of the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan to showcase environmental education and green technology demonstration.
2. That staff continue to discuss Yorklands Green Hub's submission with the group.

VOTING IN FAVOUR: Mayor Farbridge, Councillors Bell, Burcher, Dennis, Findlay, Furfaro, Guthrie, Kovach, Laidlaw Piper (Now Caron), Van Hellemond and Wettstein (12)

VOTING AGAINST: (0)

I delegated at this meeting; council has already unanimously voted in favour of supporting Yorklands.

Sincerely
E. Lin Grist

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillor Bell,

I am adding my voice to the people of our city who would like to see the Ontario Reformatory Lands be designated a Heritage Conservation District (part 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act).

Many years ago while I was a student at the University of Guelph, I volunteered at the OR. I was part of a group called Focus on the North which brought in educational materials for the Native Sons program. I remember being intimidated at first to go into the prison. But over time I learned so much from the First Nations inmates, particularly about the land and our need to honour and protect it.

I hope you consider how valuable and necessary the OR lands are to the people of Guelph, and also vital to the natural life of this area. As Guelph continues to grow we need to conserve these well loved green spaces that many of us have been using for years.

Thank you for your time.
Jacqueline Gilbey

Recognition of the historic value of the buildings is a good start, but it is not enough to save this whole landscape from the incursions of insensitive development. The buildings alone do not tell the whole story. If you have walked between the dry stone walls, or around the beautiful ponds, or explored the Eramosa River banks, or the amazing walls of the old quarry, you know this landscape is a unique treasure that deserves to be saved as a whole for the people of Guelph and Ontario.

Under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, a municipality can protect a landscape along with all the structures and buildings by designating it as a Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL) or a Heritage Conservation District (HCD). This designation could preserve the whole 225 acres, along with the historic jail buildings, the ponds, the Clythe Creek with its waterfalls and bridges, the dry stone walls, the quarry area, the banks of the Eramosa River and the wooden trestle bridge.

I support the support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Evelyn Schmitz-Hertzberg

Re: Ontario Reformatory Lands

I strongly support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Hamish Duthie

Protection of Ontario Reformatory lands

City Staff are recommending designation of several of the buildings on the OR under Part 4 of the Heritage Act which will only protect the buildings. The Guelph Heritage Committee is recommending Part 5 designation as well to protect the Cultural Heritage Landscape as a Heritage Conservation District which would include the heritage building and the lands that surround them including elements like the dry stone walls, the bridges, the quarrylands, etc. This combination of protections will be a strong guarantee of protection for future generations.

I support the recommendations above because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Sincerely

Lynn C. Allen

Greetings Mayor Guthrie

I am writing to support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the Ontario Reformatory lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

The residents of Guelph and environs deserve to have this distinctive and historic structure and its lands preserved for public use and public memory.

This year's annual publication, Wellington County History, contains two essays which touch on the unique place of the Guelph Correctional Centre. Hundreds more could be written.

Yours sincerely

Ian Easterbrook

To: Cam Guthrie, June Hofland and Phil Alt and other members of the Guelph City Council

I am writing regarding the Ontario Reformatory Lands.

It is important that the land and buildings be designated as Heritage lands so that they are preserved for the people of Ontario and in particular the people of Guelph. These lands have been a valuable resource for the people of Guelph and should continue to be so. Including Part 5 in the designation will allow people to continue to enjoy these lands.

Please ensure that the Heritage designation approved by the City include Part 4, as well as that recommended by the Guelph Heritage Committee – Part 5 to protect the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the former Ontario Reformatory.

Thank you for your attention.

Wanda Gordon

Good morning,

I would like to make it known that I support the recommendation of the heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a heritage conservation District (Part 4 and 5 of the heritage act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan.

I think it would be a shame to sell the land as being born and raised in Guelph in the ward off of York Road near Lions park we would quite frequently go to the OR and it brings back very good memories. This was such a beautiful place that my family and I would go to for lunch to have picnics or even go catch and release fishing. I would like to one day be able to take my children there in order for them to share in the memories of what beauty it has to offer.

Thank you very much and have a great day!
Holly Ponsonby

Your Worship,

I am a former worker in the correctional services in Ontario.

I spent 6 plus years as a deputy minister of that department. I had many experiences with the OR in my job.

I know that that institution has much history that relates to the ups and downs of the development of corrections on Ontario over the years.

I advocate that you vote as a Council to preserve a significant security building on the property plus the wonderful park in front of the buildings.

Perhaps more than at most times in my life public parks have become vital to physical and mental health. The history embedded in the building and the park could offer an historical attraction of importance to your wonderful city plus a place of reflection and beauty.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Glenn Thompson MSW

DESIGNATING ONTARIO REFORMATORY LANDS UNDER PART 5 OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT

Given that the province has delegated the decision regarding designation of the Ontario Reformatory Lands to the City of Guelph and,

Given that City staff have demonstrated that some built heritage resources satisfy Regulation 9/06 designation criteria under Part IV and,

Given that Heritage Guelph has demonstrated that the Reformatory lands satisfy the designation criteria for Part 5 protection and,

Given that Provincial Policy Statement (2020) Section 2.6.1 and Places to Growth (2020) Section 4.2.7 represent the most recent policy regarding significant built heritage resources” and “cultural heritage landscapes” and both mandate, in the public interest, that cultural heritage resources shall/will be protected,

It is incumbent on Council on June 14, 2021 to provide the maximum protection to the Ontario Reformatory Lands through a Heritage Conservation District, Part 5 designation.

Ian Rankine

Member of ACO and longtime heritage advocate

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councilors Bell and Gibson,

I am a current resident of Ward 1. I grew up using Guelph's parks and trails with my family and do the same now with my toddler. I am writing to express my support for protecting the former Ontario Reformatory lands along York Road as a Heritage Conservation District (Parts 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act). Full protection as a Heritage Conservation District will allow for holistic protection of the property's landscape as well as its historic buildings, and will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan. I feel this is appropriate given the property's historic use, and the way that the landscape itself was transformed by the reformatory's residents over time. Layering these protections also keeps the doors open for the property to be kept accessible to the public, and presents a rare and important opportunity to protect a large green space in the middle of Guelph with connections to trails throughout the city, and increasing the quality of life for our growing community.

I urge you to support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee.

Sincerely,

Eva Kuczynski

Dear Mayor Guthrie,

We have lived in the Guelph- Elora area since 1984, and I was a Guelph tax payer for more than twenty years. Added to this, Arend Nieuwland offered me the opportunity to volunteer in the Art Department of the Guelph Correctional Centre, which I did for four years. To me Guelph is part of 'home' and a place to shop, listen to good music, enjoy modern dance performances and have good friends.

Naturally, there are many long standing memories, from each time I visited the Centre, of the beautiful park lands on either side of the road leading to the main building, and now that it is closed, I feel that it is fortunate that so many people, including young families who may not have as much open space around their homes as others, can feel free to wander, run, play or simply enjoy the quietness of sitting by one of the streams or stone walls. We should honour William Hanna, who, as Provincial secretary in 1910, probably took a very brave step, following his humanitarian insight to build the prison farm, giving the inmates the tools / experience for their future lives when they were released. I believe he would be smiling now.

It is for this reason that I cannot comprehend how anyone can consider taking away those lands, created by those men so many years ago, the dry stone walls, parks, streams, the parkland which is now the only spacious natural area of that size within the city, from the people of Guelph. The York Green Hub have presented you with a very valid plan for the viably economic use of both buildings and grounds, to compliment the image of Guelph, providing both educational and recreational facilities for all who ask.

Please, put the people of Guelph first in your decision and help preserve the buildings and surrounding land which will be used to its greatest potential for many generations to come.

Carol Williams

Hello,

I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee to protect the Ontario Reformatory Lands because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Please consider the wishes of the citizens of Guelph in your consideration and final decision.

Kind regards,

Kyle Logue

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Please say YES to the recommendation of the Guelph Heritage Committee to designate a Heritage Conservation District for the OR lands.

The pandemic has shown how vital public urban green spaces are, and these lands deserve to be protected in perpetuity for public use.

Yours truly,

Lori Labatt

Dear Members of City Council,

We are very much in favour of keeping 785 York Rd and the land encompassing as a historical site and nature preserve for public use.

As a volunteer with Yorklands when our family first moved to Guelph, I learned much about the uniqueness of Guelph and the connection to land and nature. There is much interesting history about the reformatory and the trades that were taught. I enjoyed running the Noticing Nature program, where we toured kids around and invited them to capture the plants, flowers, ponds, bugs and birds in artwork.

This place has been a sanctuary for many during the pandemic, there are always so many cars parked on York Rd - this speaks to the need for public nature space in Guelph.

As a person of colour, I have also appreciated that Yorklands not only stewards the land and nature, preserves history, but it is also inclusive. I would like to specially mention that Norah Chaloner of Yorklands has been an amazing, tireless and welcoming community builder and champion. We recommend that Yorklands be designated as official stewards.

Thank you.

Sara Sarkar and Steve Chatfield

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As you know, the Ontario government is planning to sell off the Ontario Reformatory lands. This is an opportunity for the key parts of the OR lands to be preserved as a rare treasure – a large urban green space accessible to the public, to be protected in perpetuity for current and future generations and shared use.

City Staff are only recommending designation under Part 4 of the Heritage Act which would protect several buildings. The Guelph Heritage Committee is recommending Part 5 as well to protect the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the OR. This combination of protections will guarantee that these heritage assets will be protected for future generations as a Heritage Conservation District and will provide a greater chance of the Ontario Reformatory lands remaining in the public realm.

City Council has been handed a gift through the heritage designation process. The Province has asked the City of Guelph to carry out heritage designation for the site in Preparation for the provincial sale of the Ontario Reformatory lands. Under the Heritage Act, the City is able to spell out which cultural heritage assets should be conserved, including how the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the Ontario Reformatory can be protected for future generations.

We support the position of The Guelph Heritage Committee on the preservation of the site for future generations.

We will never get this chance again.

Thank you,

Annette & Ron Graydon

Dear Mayor Guthrie, and council members

I am a fairly new resident to Guelph, Ward 2. After due consideration comparing several communities, my husband and I chose to purchase and make our home here. We were impressed with Guelph's ready access to a variety of preserved natural areas, including trail systems and new as well as well established parks. We also believed, based on our research, in a shared philosophy of well planned growth that emphasized the vital importance of preserving and protecting the environment. These all pointed to a healthy, thoughtful community in which we want to become active citizens. I am concerned now that we may have been mistaken.

While we believe that the provincial government plan to sell the Reformatory lands is short sighted and false economics, we realize that the lands are not owned by the city. Once sold without appropriate protection, these will never be recovered and the financial reward to the province is short lived. That said, and since the province will move ahead for their perceived financial gain, it is essential that Guelph takes action to influence the future of this area.

We have enjoyed the Reformatory lands extensively, across all seasons. We are amazed by their rich heritage, and have spoken of this to many friends and relatives who were equally intrigued, and who as a result plan to come to town and visit once the pandemic is behind us. While on site, we have encountered citizens of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, enjoying open access in many different ways. It is truly a place for all and should be appropriately protected, even within the larger plan for development in the immediate area.

We do believe that YOU have the opportunity and responsibility to make the right decision about this very special place. We have heard consideration of finding more park space in the future. We encourage finding more green space, for the benefit of everyone in Guelph now and in the future. The idea of losing and then replacing much needed green space by recovering another area within the City of Guelph is, quite simply, a rather sad example of short sighted thinking that cannot represent an ethical plan. This space cannot be recovered through replacement of equal land space.

I implore you and council to support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee by designating the buildings AND land as a Heritage Conservation District (parts 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act) and thereby help to protect this historic, cultural jewel while fulfilling the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan.

Regards,
Lisa Demaline RN, BScN, MN
Citizen of Guelph by choice.

Dear Mayor and Council members,

I am writing to you about my concern about the upcoming decision to be made on June 14th on the heritage designation of the former Ontario Reformatory lands and buildings. This piece of property in our city is very special and has unique features that very few other places have, with its stone walls and gates, Clythe Creek and two large ponds that are home to a number of fish and wildlife species as well as the unique architectural aspects of all of the buildings. This property has been immensely important in particular over the last 1.5 years for so many people in this City as it is a place to get out and walk and enjoy nature but also learn about this City's history with the Reformatory. More and more studies have pointed to the importance of access to nature for mental health and how it improves mental health. My family have benefited greatly over the past few months during these very difficult times.

This property needs to be fully protected with both Part 4 and Part 5 of the Heritage Act for future generations. Even if it is expensive up front it will save taxpayers immensely over time, due to the physical and mental health benefits as well as local protection of habitats for many species. It is also an important step towards climate action.

Please I implore you to designate the OR to both Part 4 and Part 5.

Sincerely,
Lynn Bestari
Citizen of Guelph

Your Worship the Mayor,

I support the recommendations of the Heritage Guelph Committee for protecting the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the OR. I believe this is the right decision because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

These lands are currently well used and enjoyed by the public as a large green space. It needs to be protected in perpetuity for current and future generations and shared use. These lands have a remarkable history and it would be deleterious to pave over its history and heritage for development.

Thank you,
Margaret Boyd

We support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Parts 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan. We need to keep this valuable resource so that all residents can joy the entire area now and in the future.

Janice and Ed Gilpin

I absolutely support the recommendation of the heritage Guelph community for the OR
lands vision.

Ada Gadoury

I am writing to you today with regard to the Yorkland Green Hub and my support for the city to designate this space as heritage conservation space for generations to come.

While City Staff are only recommending designation under Part 4 of the Heritage Act which would protect several buildings, I fully support the Guelph Heritage Committee's recommendation for Part 5 as well to protect the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the OR. This combination of protections will guarantee that these heritage assets will be protected for future generations as a Heritage Conservation District and will provide a greater chance of the Ontario Reformatory lands remaining in the public realm.

I truly hope that the City proposes both designations in order to lead with both conservation and cultural relevance for our future generations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie McCann

Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Billings and Councillor Salisbury,

I am writing today to make my support of the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee to designate the former reformatory grounds a Heritage Conservation District.

I am a program coordinator for the Wellington Catholic District School Board and was excited to work with Yorklands Green Hub to use this space for the good of youth and residents of the City of Guelph at large. The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply punctuated the need for outdoor spaces, and the capacity of this project to bring this to younger generations is palpable. In addition, we need more spaces for education on environmental issues, and their resulting impacts on climate change, not less.

As a resident of Ward 4, I ask Councillors Salisbury and Billings to act to preserve these lands for all and support the protection of OR lands, and even more so, I ask Mayor Guthrie to do this on behalf of the entire city.

Sincerely

Yvonne Runstedler

Dear All,

Regarding the Reformatory Lands, I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

Sincerely,

Aaron Haddad

Dear members of City Council:

I have just submitted the following letter to the editor, and am copying it here to you. My message is simple: PLEASE take a complete and comprehensive view on June 14 when you vote on Heritage Designation for the Ontario Reformatory lands. I, along with many other citizens and groups within the Coalition to Protect the Ontario Reformatory Lands, believe that these lands must be designated a Heritage Conservation District - both Parts 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act. The heritage buildings and landmarks will not be fully protected and preserved unless they are also protected within the actual lands on which they exist - for public enjoyment and use, to preserve this important heritage within Guelph.

Here is the letter I just submitted to the Editor of our local newspaper:

City Council has a choice on June 14 regarding the future use and development of the Yorklands - listen to the limited recommendations of City staff or listen to the broader pleas of Guelph citizens who elected them. While City staff have acknowledged and recommended heritage protection for buildings and specific features (like the long fieldstone wall), they stopped short of recommending that the actual land on which these features sit should be protected from development.

Guelph citizens cherish the Reformatory lands off York Road - one need only observe the heavy usage of the lands to see that it is not just the landmarks and buildings that are valued, but the land itself - as host to the landmarks, as green space for walkers, as habitat for water and land animals, as park land in a city whose population growth outpaces access to green space.

City Council: On behalf of fellow citizens of Guelph, PLEASE designate the Reformatory lands for BOTH Parts 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act, as recommended by the many groups within the Coalition to Protect the Ontario Reformatory Lands and many Guelphites.

While we appreciate the recommendations of City staff, they simply didn't go far enough! You have the power and responsibility to make this designation happen - and it will further your goals for the Guelph Innovation District plan. We can ALL be happy about that!

Sincerely,

Pat Vanderkooy (longtime Guelph citizen, walker at the Yorklands, member of the Yorklands Green Hub)

Good Morning,

I am sending this email to express my views and hopes for the upcoming vote on the heritage designation for the reformatory lands. I am aware that city staff recommended designation under part 4 of the act but I am asking for you to vote in favour of both part 4 and part 5 (as recommended by the Guelph Heritage Committee). Part 4 will simply protect a few buildings but not the landscape in the area which is why part 5 is also needed. You have a great opportunity here to make Guelph a better place to live and a community that values the quality of life of its residents. There are not many chances to protect a large urban green space and I hope this opportunity will not slip away. It will be a great shame to the city if this land is not fully protected and is allowed to be developed into yet more urban sprawl type housing. Now is the time for bold thinking for the city and creative ideas to move towards a better future for all of us. Thank you for your time

James Bryson

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Councillors Caron and Downer,

I am a current resident of Ward 5. I have lived in Guelph for 35 years and have always enjoyed the many trails and parks within the city with my family. I am writing to express my support for protecting the former Ontario Reformatory lands along York Road as a Heritage Conservation District (Parts 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act). Full protection as a Heritage Conservation District will allow for holistic protection of the property's landscape as well as its historic buildings, and will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan. I feel this is appropriate given the property's historic use, and the way that the landscape itself was transformed by the reformatory's residents over time. Layering these protections also keeps the doors open for the property to be kept accessible to the public, and presents a rare and important opportunity to protect a large green space in the middle of Guelph with connections to trails throughout the city, and increasing the quality of life for our growing community.

I urge you to support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee.

Sincerely,
Barbara Kuczynski

I'm writing in support of the Heritage Committee recommendation that the heritage protection of the former Ontario Reformatory include the heritage building and the lands that surround them including elements like the dry-stone walls, the bridges, the quarry lands, the ponds, the walking trails and riverbanks along the Eramosa.

As our pandemic experience has highlighted, access to greenspace is critical for our social, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. The tremendous turnout for the Doors Open event held at the Ontario Reformatory demonstrates the strength of this community's attachment to its cultural heritage. My father, a 1950's immigrant to Canada, came to Guelph to work at the Reformatory. Now his grandson and great grand-daughter enjoy the ponds and landscape features for special father-daughter time together. It's this intergenerational connection to the land and its evolving cultural significance that grounds us and future generations as we engage in social and cultural innovation.

Sincerely

--

K. Vanessa Hyland

Dear Mayor Guthrie,

I am writing to voice my strong support for Heritage Guelph's recommendation of a Part V designation for the Ontario Reformatory Lands. I am very familiar with this property and its potential as it served as a study site for several of my graduate and undergraduate design studios to explore how cultural heritage conservation contributes to building diverse, sustainable communities. These lands are an integral part of our community and a landmark heritage site for our province. To properly preserve such a landmark site, we need tools beyond what is possible with a Part IV designation.

For example, with a Part V designation, there will be a Heritage Conservation District Study and Plan, which will identify and preserve a wider range of Cultural Heritage Resources as well as the linkages and landscapes that connect them. This plan will also provide developers with policies and guidelines so that any future development respects the features that make the property such a landmark site in the first place.

The Guelph Innovation District (GID) is an important vision for the future of our community. Central to the GID is the preservation of the landmark quality of the Ontario Reformatory Lands, which is only possible through the tools of a Part V designation. Similarly, it is only through a Part V designation that the Adaptive Re-use land use outlined in the GID can be realized as it provides developers with the tools to create compatible and respectful relationships with the surrounding landscape.

Sincerely,

Cecelia Paine

To Mayor Guthrie and Guelph City Councillors

Re: Heritage designation of the Old Reformatory (OR)

I was at the virtual meeting of the coalition to protect the OR on June 8 – thanks to Councillors Downer, Gordon, and Goller for attending – it's nice to feel that our representatives care about the people who live in Guelph.

I've been walking at the OR since I moved here to be with my family in 2004. I came from BC and I miss the emphasis on nature in BC, so I go to the OR to spend time in open space and natural surroundings. The OR has been my lifeline and I beg you please – please preserve as much of this land as possible for public use.

Many people seem to like my dog, so I talk to a lot of people at the OR and nearly all of the people I meet there appear to be relaxed and at peace when they are out walking. I meet many families - young and old who appreciate the beauty of the place and it's such a great place for kids to feel the freedom of being in nature. I believe it makes for a healthy community; it's the cheapest and best way for people to improve their mental health.

I agree with the people who think Guelph should run tours at the prison – there is a lot of interest in the prison and obviously having tours has been a successful venture in Kingston and elsewhere. Apparently, there are plenty of artefacts and stories which could fill a prison museum at the Guelph OR site. This would provide a source of income to maintain the buildings, roads, grass, parking lot, etc. and Guelph City Council could be proud to preserve the Heritage and meaning of this valuable place.

Thank you for your attention – I hope you will consider the people of Guelph in your decision making and allow the public to have continued access to the OR lands.

Please vote for Part V of the Heritage Designation to protect as much as possible of the OR lands and buildings. I realize this creates a lot of work for you and City staff, but I really believe that it will be worth it and future generations will appreciate the benefits of your current work if they can continue to escape to the OR lands.

Thank you.

Lynn Roodbol, BASc,CC,CWC

Good morning Mayor Guthrie, June and Phil,

I'm writing concerning the Ontario Reformatory lands. I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan. I really appreciate all the work Yorklands Green Hub does to ensure these lands are appreciated, valued and enjoyed.

Thank you,
Lisa Lindsay

Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I have lived in Guelph all my life and remember as a child the grounds at the Guelph Reformatory, they were beautifully maintained and farmed by the inmates. Many times we would drive out that way and see the inmates (in their denim shirts and straw hats) working very hard to maintain and farm these beautiful landscapes. These lands were prized by the residents of the city as beautiful place to come and enjoy the areas allowed for public use. It is sad to see the lands not being properly maintained right now by the province, the beautiful streams along the road side neglected. These lands and buildings are a treasure to have in our community, we must ensure that as much of the site will be protected for the benefit of our future and the future of nature.

I often think of the reformatory lands as our own Central Park! Yes it is not 840 acres but it is the last large parcel of land that we the city could have some tangible say in preserving and therefore protecting it for the future of all. Olmsted the creator of Central park felt "that well-designed and maintained parks and landscapes have the power to unite and strengthen communities by providing a place of rest and rejuvenation for all and invigorate public health".

The city has the chance to create and protect the Reformatory lands and buildings and create that much needed greenspace we as a city will need as we grow, much like New York needs its Central Park!

I therefore ask the Mayor and City Council to Support Heritage Guelph's recommendation: to include Part 4 of the Heritage act (to recognize the Heritage attributes of the historical buildings) and Part 5 (to recognize the Cultural Heritage Landscapes).

Thank-you for your time,
Lorraine Pagnan

Please know there is a great deal of community interest in making the best decision possible to protect this beautiful natural landscape with its water features and historical buildings. These lands are of great significance. There is nothing to compare with their beauty and history either in the City of Guelph nor in our province.

Have you been there recently? Please take a leisurely stroll with your family before Monday's Council Meeting.

I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfil the vision of the Guelph Innovation District Plan.

Dianne Mackie
Guelph

Councilor Downer,

Thank you for your presentation last night regards the OR lands designation. The evening helped clarify many of the issues regarding the lands designation. I believe we need to do all we can to control what type of development takes place on this property.

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Council,

I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee regarding the Ontario Reformatory lands, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 AND 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan. All of the natural lands on this property should be preserved as a green space for all people to enjoy as the lands continue to provide a safe space for wildlife, trees, shrubs and insects.

Regards,

Paul Freudenthaler

To Mayor, City Clerks and ward 4 councillors

We are writing to voice our support for Heritage Guelph's recommendation of a Part V designation for the Ontario Reformatory Lands. These lands are an integral part of our community and a landmark heritage site for our province. To properly preserve such a landmark site we need tools beyond what is possible with a Part IV designation.

For example, with a Part V designation there will be a Heritage Conservation District Study and Plan, which will identify and preserve a wider range of Cultural Heritage Resources as well as the linkages and landscapes that connect them. This plan will also provide developers with policies and guidelines so that any future development respects the features that make the property such a landmark site in the first place.

The Guelph Innovation District (GID) is a important vision for the future of our community. Central to the GID is the preservation of the landmark quality of the Ontario Reformatory Lands, which is only possible through the tools of a Part V designation. Similarly, it is only through a Part V designation that the Adaptive Re-use land use outlined in the GID can be realized as it provides developers with the tools to create compatible and respectful relationships with the surrounding landscape.

We are calling on you to follow Heritage Guelph's recommendations and vote in favour of a Part V designation. This is the best way to ensure that the public assets are preserved for generations to come.

Sincerely

James & Lynne Wilson

Hi there,

I am writing today to be another voice heard on the essential resource of the Ontario Reformatory Lands. While I don't live in Guelph, I visit all the time. I am a wife, mother of three and daughter to a Guelph resident. I have spent quality time with my mother walking on these grounds. This is one of her favourite places to visit on a weekly basis. These types of spaces are essential to people's mental health. As we have seen over the last year, having places to go outside remains paramount to people's mental health. She enjoys the nature, the peace and the quality of life that places like this afford her on a daily basis. As a single female, her need to have places where she feels comfortable being alone while she enjoys nature is essential in her daily life. It is simply shameful to destroy such green spaces in cities.

It is my hope that these grounds remain designated green spaces and not converted into any kind of residential space.

--

Thanks,
Claudette Halluk

Good evening Councillors,

I am writing to you in hopes that you vote to protect the Ontario Reformatory Lands with both a Part 4 and Part 5 Heritage Designation. As city staff recommend to protect the buildings under Part 4, the surrounding landscape is very much a part of what makes the structure what it is. It tells the complete story, with clues and lessons spread throughout the buildings' surroundings.

Unlike old factories or downtown churches packed between buildings, the ORL buildings are as much of this place's history as the land is. To sell them off or otherwise not protect them against future development is to remove another significant part of the city's heritage. I strongly believe that we should maintain areas of our cities that tell stories of who we are and where we came from. Guelph has plenty of protected buildings, but few protected green spaces that are home to numerous plants and animals, while also giving citizens an escape from what would otherwise be the side of another high speed, industrial roadway.

Please consider pushing beyond the city staff recommendations and properly protect this extremely unique landscape, where prisoners constructed walls, dug a pond with hand tools, and learned valuable skills to better their lives upon release. When our city is faced with the pressures of developers, climate change, public health, and preserving our heritage, designating the lands under both Part 4 and Part 5 is the right thing to do.

Thank you so much for reading. I truly look forward to Guelph's continued use of the lands for years to come.

Kind regards,
Jake Lipohar

The OR and surrounding land should be preserved, and designated a historical heritage site. It holds immense historic, cultural, educational, and social value. An investment in such could not only preserve the grounds, but also turn a profit for the city. Private money is also available if necessary, to supplement initial costs. Unlimited possibilities exist for this property that will benefit Guelph now, and for generations to come. It's big enough to be multi-functional. A museum, a space for training and workshops for those looking to turn their lives around, educational tours- (tourists, citizens, childrens' field trips), picnics, continued use of trails and outdoor space, events, local small businesses selling wares- (food & drink, handmade stuff) . A glorious opportunity to do something special. Selling it is of no benefit to the citizens of Guelph

Michael Schram

Good evening to you

I wish to present my feelings and opinion regarding the OR lands. I do hope that you keep an open mind to the delegates and we citizens who are making our voices heard- hopefully loud and clear!

A Part 5 heritage designation ensures that whomever wishes to develop these lands will be held accountable to designing their infrastructure in such a way that is in alignment with the heritage value of the property. Any future development here will be required to enhance the ecological and cultural appeal of the site as opposed to destroying it.

I have already had an email discussion letting my feelings and the ecological findings be known regarding the moving of the stream, bridge, removal of trees etc for the widening of York Road. The answer I received did not quite balance with the reports I found.

Please, please, be very careful with this.

Kind Regards

Linda Liddle

Your Worship and Members of Council,

I'm writing to ask that you support Heritage Guelph's recommendation for a Part V designation on the OR lands. The lands and buildings have been a part of Guelph's rich culture and landscape for longer than I can remember and worthy of designation as a landmark provincial heritage site. We need to ensure that it is given a Part V designation rather than a Part IV one, in order to ensure that it is appropriately preserved for the future.

Such an important asset, preserved for future generations, will be a proud legacy for City Council.

Sincerely,

Joan Eaglesham

June 10, 2021

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate - 785 York Rd under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act - 2021-165

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors:

With respect to the Ontario Reformatory (OR) and Innovation District lands I urge you to do everything in your power to protect the heritage and cultural values of this area by designating them under Part V of the Heritage Act. I have walked these lands many times and they have always been special to me, even more so now that I know more of the history of this place. The OR lands are such an asset to this city. I know they will be developed but I implore you to do what you can to ensure this happens in a respectful way while preserving the history of the site. Once they are developed there is no going back. We owe it to future generations not to destroy what can and should be saved.

Sincerely,

Teresa McKeeman

Dear Mayor Guthrie, Councillor Allt and Councillor Hofland,

We urge you to adopt the recommendation of the Guelph Heritage Committee to designate the Ontario Reformatory lands as a Heritage Conservation District (parts IV and V of the Heritage Act). It is important for the City of Guelph to protect these lands for future generations of citizens of Guelph. We realize that a Part V designation is a more complicated process, but we think it is in the best long-term interests of the community. Thank you for your hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Cathy and John Prescott

Councillors Goller and Gordon: I am a resident of Ward 2 and a member of the Yorklands Hub Group.

I support the recommendation of the Heritage Guelph Committee, because designating a Heritage Conservation District (Part 4 and 5 of the Heritage Act) for the OR lands will fulfill the vision of the Guelph Innovation District plan.

There will be a delegation at the June 14th meeting. The stone walls and bridges, trails, waterways and meadows constitute a unique landmark property that is well loved and used parkland. This would result in a Heritage Conservation District for our City. Any future development once the property is sold would have to respect this.

Part 4 under the Heritage Act protects several buildings. Part 5 will protect the heritage landscape as well.

Your thorough consideration of this important matter is appreciated.

Jeanne Forsythe

Dear Guelph City Councillors & Mayor,

I am writing about the beautiful historic & valuable parkland known as the Ontario Reformatory Lands & buildings including the lovely Clythe Creek waterway

I have enjoyed these lands through all four seasons over the past 20 years. I commend the citizen group Yorklands Greenhub for the energy, through research and highlighting the many values this area brings to the community.

Seeking a designation to create a Heritage Conservation District for our city that protects all; stone wall, bridges, trails, waterway, meadows & landmark property requires that a Part Five designation is required to safely name and protect these features.

I voice my support for Heritage Guelph's recommendation to preserve & protect this landmark.

I hope you and the many people who have benefited from this wonderful greenspace during close to home pandemic activities continue to enjoy the full Heritage Cultural District.

Sincerely,

Diane Hurst

To Guelph City Council,

I am writing to ask that you request staff to add a Part 5 heritage designation to the Ontario Reformatory Lands. The Part 4 designation on its own is not enough to protect much of the historical landscape that Guelph residents hold so dear.

Guelph is growing at a pace that alarms many of its long-term residents. With infill impacting our green space, and border development consuming our farmland and natural areas, we are at risk of becoming just another southern Ontario "Toronto-satellite community", without history, without adequate green space. Council needs to have the vision to seize every opportunity to protect our history, to protect the landscape that gives us such joy, pride and connection to something larger than ourselves. The OR lands are particularly precious. Please take the time and resources needed to add the Part 5 designation.

Thank you,
Dr. Meg Thorburn

Dear Mayor Guthrie and counsellors.

First, I would like to express my thanks for all you do to help steer our great city in the right direction. Thank you.

I am writing to voice my support for Heritage Guelph's recommendation of a Part V designation for the Ontario Reformatory Lands. This property is a magical part of Guelph and we must preserve it for its cultural contribution. Every time, I introduce a new Guelph resident to walk these grounds, they are awed by its magnificence and cultural significance. I could go on and on about feeling as if you are transported to someplace outside of a city setting when walking these lands, but you all know that already having experienced it first hand.

These lands are an integral part of our community and a landmark heritage site for our province. To properly preserve such a landmark site, we need tools beyond what is possible with a Part IV designation.

For example, with a Part V designation there will be a Heritage Conservation District Study and Plan, which will identify and preserve a wider range of Cultural Heritage Resources as well as the linkages and landscapes that connect them. This plan will also provide developers with policies and guidelines so that any future development respects the features that make the property such a landmark site in the first place.

The Guelph Innovation District (GID) is an important vision for the future of our community. Central to the GID is the preservation of the landmark quality of the Ontario Reformatory Lands, which is only possible through the tools of a Part V designation. Similarly, it is only through a Part V designation that the Adaptive Re-use land use outlined in the GID can be realized as it provides developers with the tools to create compatible and respectful relationships with the surrounding landscape.

I am calling on you to follow Heritage Guelph's recommendations and vote in favour of a Part V designation. This is the best way to ensure that the public assets are preserved for generations to come. There is no hurry to make a rash decision.

Imagine if the decisions makers in New York had not preserved Central Park. You have the same duty now to save our mini-version or an incredible culturally rich, historically-significant urban parkland. Please be remembered by many generations to come for having the vision and courage to do this now, before it is too late.

Thank you,

Trudy Dickinson

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council,

I am writing to fully endorse the Guelph Heritage Committee's recommendation letter to designate the OR lands with a Part 4 and 5 Heritage designation. A part 4 designation is not enough to ensure that our municipality maintains control over the development that will undoubtedly occur on this piece of beloved land. These lands are rich with biodiversity and support the mental and physical health of countless citizens.

It would be breach of duty to public care to allow these lands to fall entirely into the hands of an unknown developer when we have the power to claim our stake in the fate of these lands now. I am not naive to the idea that these lands will stay pristine as they are now, even with a part 5 designation. However, I recognize that a part 4 and part 5 together would ensure that we are able to participate in the decision making regarding what happens to this historic place. It is our responsibility to do everything in our power to ensure that these lands are not lost to us forever.

I understand that there is a conflict within the council right now in that we have already prioritized the Ward West Heritage district which means that there are not currently enough resources to delegate the OR lands with a similar level of protection. I am writing to implore you to reprioritize this. The OR lands are so much more valuable AND vulnerable. They need to take priority on this matter.

Please consider the urgency with which I am writing to you. Designate with a Part 4 and Part 5 Heritage Designation on Monday, for the sake of the land and us all.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

David Wison.

Dear Mayor and all City Councillors,

"They paved paradise and put up a parking lot
With a pink hotel, a boutique, and a swingin' hot spot
Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you got 'til it's gone
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot"-- Joni Mitchell, Big Yellow Taxi

I invite you to consider the sentiment of Joni Mitchell's inspired lyrics as you listen to deputations at City Council of those in passionate support of Heritage Guelph's recommendation of a Part V designation for the Ontario Reformatory Lands. You might even choose to hum along.

The lands of the Old Reformatory site are resplendent in natural beauty. If you have walked the land in the Yorklands Green Hub, you know this to be true. As a community we have an opportunity to protect the landmark heritage site for our province for generations to come.

The tools described in a Part V designation must be animated. We need to protect the landscape by giving developers the tools needed to do this.

I implore you to follow Heritage Guelph's recommendations and vote in favour of a Part V designation. This is the best way to ensure that citizens in the future will have access to protected space such as this beautiful part of Guelph's natural landscape. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Morris, Ward 3

Guelph, Ontario

These lands and buildings are beautiful and historical. They need to be protected. The lands are full of diverse species, and are worth protecting.

Thank you,

Susan Funkenhauser

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

The lands of the Old Reformatory site are an amazing asset for Guelph. Even when the reformatory was still operational and one could only view the property from York Road, it always felt special to see that inviting open space. Once the reformatory was no longer operating and it was possible to explore this space and discover the variety of natural areas and the effects of the inmates projects it quickly became a popular spot for people from Guelph and beyond. I have led many nature photo hikes for the Guelph Trail club and The Yorklands Green Hub to help people appreciate this unique asset.

If you have walked the land in the Yorklands Green Hub, you know this to be true. As a community we have an opportunity to protect the landmark heritage site for our province for generations to come.

The tools described in a Part V designation must be used. We need to protect the landscape by giving developers the tools needed to do this.

I implore you to follow Heritage Guelph's recommendations and vote in favour of a Part V designation. This is the best way to ensure that citizens in the future will have a chance to have access to protected space such as this beautiful part of Guelph's natural landscape. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Bob Fanning

Although we have lived for 48 years in Guelph, I only recently discovered the OR lands. I think we were just used to driving past and that it was a place (for many years) that was off limits. This spring I explored it with a friend and found it a very special place. The history there in the buildings is quite remarkable. The hospital portion was actually a quarantine hospital in a time of other infectious diseases. The whole history has the makings of movies. The grounds are also impressive with history and beauty. It is a gem for our city to keep as much control over as possible. Guelph is unique in that we still have open space all around our city. The urban areas all around us are slowly being absorbed into bigger cities. It is essential to protect what open space we have and particularly one with so much history. Susan Ratcliff has told you about all the points of interest. As we have seen in this time of COVID-19, open space has been so essential for our physical and mental health. Please Assign Part 4 as well as part 5 to the designation of the OR lands as a Heritage Conservation District.

Thank you, Margaret Abbink

Mayor and Members of Council,

Please accept my comments regarding the proposed Notice of Intention to Designate for 785 York Road, known as the Yorklands property or the Ontario Reformatory property.

The Yorklands heritage property is a significant heritage property in Guelph and deserves the protection of designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. However, I hope Council listens to the expert advice of its professional Heritage staff instead of the well-intentioned but mis-informed recommendations of the municipal heritage advisory committee and Yorklands advocates.

I am a resident of Guelph and also a Heritage Planner - I am a full professional member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (and Past President of the Board of Directors), a registered professional planner and a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners. I have been working in the heritage planning field since 2004 and have been a full time heritage planner with the Town of Oakville since 2009. I have been working with cultural heritage landscapes since 2013 through the Town of Oakville's Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy. These comments are my own professional opinion and submitted as a resident of the City of Guelph, not on behalf of my employer.

Designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act is completely sufficient to protect not just the buildings/structures on the Yorklands property, but also any landscape attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property. A Part V designation in addition to a Part IV designation is not necessary or required.

The Part V designation process requires substantial funding for the creation of a heritage district study, required public meetings and the creation of a heritage conservation district plan. In my personal experience, this process can take a year or more. Following the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act, Council cannot simply designate an area under Part V without having followed the appropriate process and giving appropriate notice.

For examples of cultural heritage landscapes protected under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (including buildings, structures and landscape features) designated by municipal government, I can point to several Oakville properties with information available on the Town's website: <https://www.oakville.ca/business/cultural-heritage-landscape-strategy.html>. To date, I have been personally involved with at least 6 cultural heritage landscapes designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Heritage district designation under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act can be a very useful tool to conserve heritage properties. However, it is not 'better' than Part IV designation and is not the only tool that can be used to protect cultural heritage landscapes. Both forms of designation under the OHA conserve the cultural heritage value of properties and both require permission for alterations to manage change. In fact, Part IV designation provides the opportunity for municipalities to protect interior heritage attributes, whereas Part V designations do not.

I appreciate the efforts of the municipal heritage committee and those residents and volunteers supporting the conservation of the Yorklands property. Public support for heritage conservation is greatly needed and their advocacy for heritage protection is important. However, I have read the staff report and agree with the City of Guelph's Heritage Planner, Stephen Robinson, who has professional expertise with heritage legislation. A Part IV designation under section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act is the most appropriate tool to protect the Yorklands heritage property.

Sincerely
Susan Schappert, Hon. BA, CAHP, RPP, MCIP