

January 14, 2019

City of Guelph

Mayor and Councillors

My name is Mackenzie Hughes. I have lived in Guelph for over 15 years, since I was 2. It is the only place that I have lived and I am proud to call it home. I am an honour student at Centennial and a proud competitive swimmer for the Guelph Marlins club.

I am writing to you about the difficult decisions that you are having to make about bringing more families to Guelph. As the city grows I think it is very important that we maintain its character. I don't want to live in a big and crowded city. Parts of a city need to offer different options like condos and high rises, but we need to make sure there are different types of neighbourhoods for families.

As I have learned in school and from growing up in Guelph, we also need to be worried about the environment and climate change, especially our water. I was happy when we elected a member of the Green Party even though I can't yet vote.

I have learned that the city is considering developing the Rolling Hills area, which has been a community for decades. This will be built on the moraine and will seriously risk damaging our environment's ability to absorb water and impact the water supply. There are many trees in the neighbourhood including many planted in the last 5-10 years that would be destroyed and I think that this is counterproductive. If you look at the environmental benefits of this land they far outweigh the benefit of building more houses along the main road.

I would like to spend many more years here, through and after university. I am concerned that the more we start to make Guelph look like the generic outskirts of the GTA, the more Guelph loses itself. It is viewed as a green city by those who live within in it and those that live elsewhere. I am hoping that you keep this in your minds when you evaluate what to do.

Please consider these points when you make your decisions and I thank you for your time working on City Council.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Hughes