

Gow's Bridge



Linking the Old University Neighbourhood to the City of Guelph since 1897

## Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association Inc.

**29 February 2024**

**Re: Private Tree Protection By-law**

**To:** Mayor and City Councillors

**From:** Old University Neighbourhood Residents Association (OUNRA)

Quite a few Old University neighbourhood residents attended the city consultation on "Gentle Intensification" on February 22. This was a consultation that was considering 4-Plex residential construction as-of-right in some areas of Guelph.

We see the Old University Neighbourhood of the city as a prime candidate for such intensification. We are close to the downtown and walking to the GO station. We are in easy walking distance of the University of Guelph as well as to shopping at the Stone Road Mall and neighbouring retail stores.

OUNRA recognizes the need for intensification throughout Guelph and in our neighbourhood. We have already begun to see what some of that intensification looks like in our neighbourhood. And some of what we are seeing, happening now, is raising concerns.

In particular, in relation to your current conversation as City Council regarding tree protection, in all intensification we have seen thus far, we have also seen a dramatic decrease in the trees on these properties. They have literally been clear-cut, and because the footprint is so large even boundary trees are under threat.

If the city seeks to meet its tree canopy goals this cannot continue. There must be some way to encourage intensification which is not at the expense of a healthy tree canopy on these private properties. Tree protection must be part of any by-law and site plan process.

Further, in the diagrams that the Consultant showed us on 22 February of potential intensification models, the challenge continues to be parking which ate into any green space around the illustrated properties. Perhaps regulated and licensed street parking would be the only solution – and this, we would suggest, also needs to be studied.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

John Lawson – President OUNRA