

Dear Clerks,

I would like to express my unwavering support for the Yorklands Green Hub and Urban Park Guelph - in particular, the rare opportunity for a National Urban Park on this site.

Society is slowly understanding the science and implications of climate change. However, there is little understanding of the bigger threats of rapid biodiversity loss. The Heritage Conservation Plan needs to protect the climate mitigating features of the site as well as preserve the critical habitat that supports its biodiversity. Studies show that the best way to protect our naturalized environments is to promote public access to as much Green Space as possible - you protect what you know and enjoy. The unique habitats that have evolved on the site are irreplaceable as is their role in public education and enjoyment.

The value of the site has equally important value for advancing healing, understanding and reconciliation with indigenous communities that lived in and built the features that remain at the site as well as a significant gathering place for First Nations communities further back in its history. As well as an incomplete understanding of our reliance on biodiversity, society has little understanding of the superior effectiveness of restorative (rather than punitive) justice and its rare history at this site.

Sincerely,
Michelle Bowman

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