Presentation to City Council
on
Official Plan Update

By

Laura Murr

February 10 2026

RECOMMENDATION

- The present Official Plan, which designates development on the 8 ha portion of the former Kortright Waterfowl Park lands on the south side of Niska Road between Ptarmigan and Pioneer Trail, creates an immediate threat of loss - not only of 8 ha of parkland but of a valuable cultural heritage viewscape.
- I urge Council to take immediate action to end the threats by restoring the open space designation for parkland on the 8 ha in the current Official Plan update.

"In the rapid growth of urbanization, which increasingly takes man out of harmony with nature, the opportunity for frequent return to a natural environment is most important, particularly for children and for elderly persons. Looking to a future of a City filling the present boundaries, and possibly extending beyond these boundaries, the lands which are reserved and preserved in our time will be beyond price."

FROM: Fred Woods P. Eng. City Administrator Report to City Council on the Hanlon Creek Conservation Area (January 20 1970)

NISKA ROAD/HANLON CREEK CULTURAL HERITAGE PRECINCT

This area is valuable as it represents an evolved cultural heritage landscape from Puslinch pioneer times that has retained its essential rural character while Guelph grew and urbanized around it.

We owe a immense debt to Horace Mack who had a vision of a wildlife preserve and purchased this land in 1948.

NISKA ROAD/HANLON CREEK CULTURAL HERITAGE PRECINCT

- Heritage Guelph Minutes November 9 2015
- “THAT Heritage Guelph recommend to Council that the Niska Road area bounded on the west by the Speed River, north by the township line, to the eastern boundary of the GRCA lands, and the southern city boundary be designated under the OHA as a cultural heritage landscape and be preserved in such a form as to continue its sightlines and its current land use patterns;

Carried

NISKA ROAD/HANLON CREEK CULTURAL HERITAGE PRECINCT

- Minutes of Guelph City Council December 3 and 4th 2015
- 1. That staff be directed to refer the Heritage Guelph recommendation to designate the Niska Road/Hanlon Creek Conservation precinct as a cultural heritage landscape to the IDE Committee for consideration of bringing forward a notice of intent to designate.