



**Grand River Conservation Authority
Addendum - Annual General Meeting**

Friday, February 23, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Auditorium

Grand River Conservation Authority

400 Clyde Road, Box 729

Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Pages

8. Hearing of Delegations

a. Ella Haley - Growing the Greenbelt

Written request to appear as a delegation received on February 22, 2018.

10. Correspondence

f. Jane Thornton - Growing the Greenbelt

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g. Kevin Thomason - Niska Bridge Area and OPA #48

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Feb 21-2018

To the Board of the Grand River Conservation Authority regarding your submission to the EBR posting on the expansion of the Greenbelt.

Dear Members of the Board of the GRCA

The Council of Canadians – Guelph Chapter is greatly concerned that the submission by the GRCA does not seem to include the urban river valleys you own as part of the designation of the proposed expanded Greenbelt in Ontario.

On reading the GRCA Strategic Plan we are impressed with the vision that includes protection of natural areas and biodiversity as well as providing environmental education to enhance and secure our watershed integrity. With this in mind, we urgently request that an amendment to the submission be made to support inclusion of the urban river valleys that the GRCA owns in this expanded Greenbelt plan.

Increasing settlement in our area will bring additional stresses of climate change. Heavier and more frequent storms will challenge our green infrastructure. In order to plan for and protect our watershed we need that added protection of an enlarged Greenbelt. And water/watershed protection are core values of our organization.

Please amend your submission to reflect this inclusion before you submit it.

Sincerely yours,

Ron East , Chair
Guelph Chapter- Council of Canadians.
e-address reast@uoguelph.ca

From: Kevin Thomason
To: [Eowyn Spencer](#)
Subject: Re: Niksa Bridge Area and OPA #48
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 11:23:29 PM

Hi,

I had sent this e-mail to GRCA Chair Helen Jowett earlier (along with other agencies/ministries involved) though it doesn't appear that it is part of the official GRCA record. I'm hoping that you can ensure that it is added to the GRCA Board package and that our concerns for this area and situation are noted.

Thank you,
Kevin.

Kevin Thomason
Vice-Chair, Grand River Environmental Network
www.gren.ca

c/o 1115 Cedar Grove Road
Waterloo, Ontario Canada N2J 3Z4

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Kevin Thomason <kevinthomason@mac.com>
Subject: Niska Bridge Area and OPA #48
Date: February 2, 2018 at 3:47:06 PM EST
To: "Ms. Helen Jowett" <hjowett@regionofwaterloo.ca>, mayor@guelph.ca
Cc: ndesrosiers@liberal.ola.org

I have been active in protecting the environment for decades. Several years ago I was contacted by friends who live near the Niksa Road Bridge in Guelph in shock that their natural area that had been increasingly neglected was now apparently being slated for development

While the community has done a good job of rallying people, holding garage sales and bake sales, and doing all that they can to protect the amazing wilderness along this part of the Speed River, it has been quite disturbing to see the City of Guelph Official Plan Amendment #48 to re-designate 19 acres of the Hanlon

Creek Conservation Area for housing and apartments.

We are in an era of needing more green space and public natural areas - not less. Worse yet, there seems to have been little public consultation on this and few answers for the hard-working community groups trying to ensure an adequate balance of green space and development in their rapidly growing community.

The sale of GRCA lands for housing was stopped here in Waterloo in 2003 when it was made apparently clear by hundreds of local citizens speaking up and getting the City of Waterloo to intervene in the GRCA plans. The public expects the GRCA to be the protector of lands - not the developer of our public lands - particularly lands they have been entrusted to maintain and steward.

I urge you to rethink things, to engage in public consultation, and to have local decision-making involving the community rather than OMB or LPAT hearings.

Sincerely,
Kevin Thomason

Kevin Thomason
Vice-Chair, Grand River Environmental Network
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