

Received
Jan. 3, 2023

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January 2, 2023.

Hello Mayor Elmslie,

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I live on Barron Blvd. My back garden backs on to the Scugog River.

I moved here 12 years ago when I retired from my position at the University of Toronto. I chose this location specifically for the beauty, peace and quiet of the area. I wanted to be on the edge and contributing to a thriving community with all the necessary infrastructure to support me in my ‘golden’ years.

One of my major concerns with the proposed 1700-unit development is the amount of people this will bring to our city. When I moved here 12 years ago it took me four years to get a family doctor. When I took my 96-year old mother to the emergency department at Ross Memorial recently with a broken ankle, we waited 9 hours before we were seen by an exhausted doctor. Ross Memorial is overwhelmed by the current population. What infrastructure will be in place for all of these new residents? Since I have lived here a large residential subdivision was built off Logie Street. Currently there is another very large subdivision being built on the corner of Hwy 35 and Colbourne Street. Another large retirement residence is being built north of Loblaws. How is Lindsay going to accommodate all of these people’s needs? What about schools for the children?

I am also extremely concerned about the environmental and ecological damage that will occur when such a large highly populated multi-storey complex is built on the river’s edge. I believe that the Trent/Severn waterway system is very strict about damage to existing river shorelines. Also, we have a nesting pair of blue heron on our shores as well as a nearby osprey nesting site – these birds fish on the bend in the river. They will be seriously disturbed and probably move on during and after any such development.

When I originally purchased my lot from the builder he was granted a building permit and proceeded to build my house. When it was completed and I had sold my house in Richmond

Hill I was prepared to move in but the Council would not grant an occupancy permit. I was virtually homeless for six months while the insufficient pumping station was upgraded. Apparently the initial property developer did not provide the proper services to accommodate our subdivision. The original pumping station would only accommodate six dwellings – I was number seven. How are the existing utilities going to be improved to cope with the increased demand? I know that one of my neighbours on the corner of Simpson and Barron had her basement flooded 2 or 3 times because the drainage system was inadequate.

Another example of poor planning was my other bugbear – the sidewalk. All of us in Barron Blvd did not want a sidewalk. But it was in the budget and therefore it had to be built. So we now have a sidewalk that goes from one open field to another open field. I was told that there needed to be accessible access to the Canada Post Boxes – well another example of poor planning – the Canada Post Boxes are on the edge of an open field on the north side of Simpson Road - the accessible sidewalk is on the edge of another open field on the south side of Simpson Road.

Yet another example of how our Municipal government works. In the third year of living here one dark, cold, blustering November night I looked out of my front window to see a very large bulldozer and a group of people proceeding to dig a large hole in my front lawn. I ran out the door, said, “Stop. Who are you? And what are you doing?” They said that were from the Council planting the Council’s tree. I said if it is a Council tree please put it on Council property, the boulevard next to the road. No they said they couldn’t do that because the amount of salt that is put on the road in the winter will kill the tree. Well, two years later when the rest of the trees were planted they were ALL planted on the boulevards next to the road. Only one of them has died. Four years later it is still dead, still on the boulevard, untouched.

All of the houses in Barron Blvd and St Peter Street are single family homes. They are all brick and stone built – we all pay substantial property taxes. How exactly does this new development marry with our ‘executive-style’ homes? What sort of prices, etc. are these prospective buyers going to pay for their units. And what are these units – hopefully owner/occupier and not rentals?

I know there are no guarantees in this modern world but what is the track record of this new developer? What other establishments have they produced? Where are they? Were there any revisions, problems, etc.?

I am very unhappy at the prospect also of the proposed ten-years of construction. Should this dreadful event be thrust upon us how are we to be compensated for the upheaval of years of noise in the construction process? I also am concerned about the increase in traffic that will impact our community. I do not think our existing roads can cope with such a large increase in the number of cars.

While I accept that every community, small town and city is striving to meet the demands for increased housing I seriously hope that it is not at the expense of upsetting existing residents.

I hope that the Council will seriously consider and review this major blight on a tranquil and peaceful slice of heaven on earth.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynn Welsh".

Lynn Welsh