

Dear County Council Members:

I have been an Oxford County resident for over 25 years. For 18 of those years I had the pleasure of residing on the beautiful Thames River in Woodstock on Tecumseh Street. All those 18 years, I was very concerned and watched over the wetlands and woodlands, specifically beside Tecumseh Street, in Burgess Park, the Standard Tube Trail area. I saw how it was treated and maintained.

As years passed, I saw more and more of this beautiful area being destroyed and wildlife disrespected. It was very disheartening to watch. Myself along with numerous others tried to get the City of Woodstock to understand that this area needed to be treated different from urban parks in the area and how its walking trails are an asset. To this day, the Burgess Trail is still disrespected; turtle nests are blatantly being destroyed. The piling of gravel on the trail and beside it appears to be done with no regard to wildlife, the river, the wetlands or woodlands.

I no longer live at this residence but my heart will always be there especially for the animals and endangered specials of wildlife which should be our duty to preserve.

I believe if this area cannot be respected as a natural feature accessible to people, it should be closed off and let nature rest and rebuild.

I sat on the Upper Thames planning committee that worked very hard to set a plan for these wild life areas and to restore precious habitat. I watched: the whole plan was not followed by the city; instead employees did things in blatant contradiction to the best advice of professionals and the community.

I have long held hopes for this area. As council members, you can see how important this area is to not only Woodstock but to Oxford County. As a result you would want to hold to account the people responsible for maintaining not only relevant bylaws, but also the plan that the City of Woodstock adopted when presented by the Upper Thames Conservation Authority Staff. This area needs more tender care because of the wildlife, birds and endangered species of trees. It deserves different treatment from a sports field and surrounding grasslands.

Regards

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Resident of Oxford County

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