

GWCA presentation to Council, July 13, public meeting relating to the Severance Application from Sheridan Nurseries

Good afternoon madam Mayor and councillors.

I am here representing Glen Williams Community Association to speak regarding the Sheridan Nurseries application for an Official Plan amendment to permit a 200 acre severance.

I have only lived here for 45 years; Sheridan Nurseries has been here a lot longer. The story of Sheridan Nurseries is a great story, and it has strong roots here in Glen Williams and Norval. Property owners have rights and Sheridan Nurseries has decided to exercise their right to put their land up for sale, and has exercised their right to apply for the Official Plan amendment that is the subject here tonight.

The land in question is at the north east corner of Glen Williams. Slightly further east lie the vast subdivisions of Brampton, where they are continuing to build their highest concentration of new housing, directly on our NE corner. 30,000 new residents arrive in our NE neighbour every year, the growth is four times faster than Canada, five times faster than Ontario. There is immense pressure to build housing on our NE corner.

The subject application does not ask for any change of land use, which is agricultural.

On the other side of the Sheridan lands lies Glen Williams, a living, breathing heritage hamlet that we are all familiar with. There is one road for traffic from the burgeoning megapolis on our NE corner to get westward, and that is the ancient Main Street that runs through the heart of the village, and through the heart of village life.

Here, there is a narrow road that evokes the characteristic feel of the historic village. People meander. School children meander. Tourists meander. This road is busy, with people.

Planners would dream to be able to create such a community environment.

Fitting to the context, the road has no curbs, there is no rigid demarcation of boundaries, people stroll, cars park, often reverse-park. Fitting to the local businesses, that thrive, the pace and the feel is relaxed, even when packed with tourists. We are all familiar with the many businesses that operate, and thrive, in that heart of the village. People live here, they don't just sleep and commute, many of the local homeowners live and actually stay and spend their time right here, in the living, breathing village core that is centred on this Main Street road.

My ask here tonight is that council resolves, alongside the subject application, to get the missing part of 22 side road built, between 10th line and 8th line. Building a direct route between our

NE corner and highway 7 on our west side would give traffic an attractive option to funnelling through the heart of the heritage village, and would directly contribute to preserving and enhancing the irreplaceable heritage asset that is Glen Williams.

Thank you for your time.

Roger Stopford

Glen Williams Community Association