

Submission by Sue Rau for the draft of the Town of Tecumseh Official Plan

November 12, 2020

After the 1999 amalgamation, the Town of Tecumseh sold the Public Works Yard in Sandwich South as well as the municipal offices. They also received \$400,000 from Sandwich South, who at that time, had the third highest tax assessment in Essex County because of its industry.

A request from a group of Sandwich South citizens for a community centre was approved by the Town in March of 2003. \$300,000 was put in reserves for this project. In October of 2003, the Policies and Priorities Committee recommended dedicating 3.5 acres of Town land at HWY 3 and Walker Road for the community centre. The citizens group was prepared to present a cheque for \$5,700.00. Numerous organizations expressed interest in using this facility.

At the Town's Budget Meeting in January 2004, Dennis Laporte, Recreation Director, presented a request for a 1.2-million-dollar centre. Laporte could not explain this huge increase in expected cost. Sandwich South Councillor J. Jobin recommended withdrawing almost \$800,000 from the requested amount as she didn't feel a community centre was warranted. So much for her representing the interest of the people in her ward. She wanted a Public Works garage to benefit two of the Town's employees. The community centre project was effectively derailed.

The following year a petition was circulated among the residents of Maidstone and Oldcastle requesting a heritage park on the 3.5 acres that had been reserved for the community centre. On December 8, 2005, a large delegation from Sandwich South presented the 772 signatures to the Town Council. Once again, our request was denied.

After countless hours of work by a dedicated group of volunteers, the residents of Sandwich South were left with nothing. **Now is the time to rectify the situation by retaining this municipal property at HWY 3 and Walker Road for future community purposes.**