

From: judy robson
Sent: May 21, 2019 12:29 AM
To: Laura Moy
Subject: Support of New Plan of Development for Del Duca Lands

Mayor and Members of Council

Report Number: PBS-2019-08

I would like to register my support for the alternative development land use plan for the Del Duca Property.

My perspective, as a long time resident of Oldcastle who has lived and worked in the former Township of Sandwich South most of her life, has been consistently one that envisions a balanced growth plan for the Hamlet that will sustain my community for future generations. To obtain this goal, is to encourage and plan for a substantial residential component in our long established community.

Historical records show that the first Irish settlers arrived and began settling in the Oldcastle area in the 1820's with the completion of the Talbot Trail. These pioneer settlers sacrificed much to clear this heavy swampy, forested land situated within the interior of Essex County far from the support of lakes, rivers and earlier settlements. Eventually, these early pioneer farmers carved a way of life out of this wilderness and Oldcastle became an agricultural centre for Southwestern Ontario whose descendants still live and farm on this land today.

Growing up in the 50's and 60's Oldcastle, the seat of Sandwich South Municipal Government, was belonging to a vibrant rural community. Multiple components made up this small agriculture district contributing to a balanced way of life. It was composed of agriculture industries, commercial corners, churches, schools, residential clusters, parks and places of entertainment. There is no question that this rural hamlet was a vital agricultural hub in Essex County. The Oldcastle Co-op was the largest feed and grain store in Southwestern Ontario. Other agribusinesses such as, the tomato station, pea vinery and Weston Abattoir (still in existence today) as well as the loading of livestock and grain that was transported by rail (the railroad ran through the heart of the settlement) made Oldcastle a busy farming community, especially in the summer months. McCord's garage, Edward's electric and the Oldcastle Cold Storage located on the corners of Walker and #3 hwy provided daily services to the

community. Kavanagh's gift, variety store, restaurant and post office, camper cabins as well as Beaver Motel and Pool, Windsor Drive -in, Weston park and even our own gambling house supplied the recreation and entertainment component to the community. St. Stephen's Church and St. Mary's Church were the spiritual corner stones of the early hamlet and small two room schools were strategically placed within the township. Clusters of houses were located on the Oldcastle Road, 8th Concession, Walker Rd., South Talbot Rd., North Talbot Rd. and Outer Dr.

The Oldcastle of the 50's is much different today, but it still plays a major role, not as an agriculture hub but as an important industrial centre. It is the home of one of the busiest event centres, Ciociaro Club, in the region and the start of the County's longest continuous multi use trail connecting almost all of the towns, villages and hamlets in the region. However, because of the inability to obtain a sufficient sanitary removal system, the residential component has not developed proportionately. In fact, the residential units in Sandwich South has actually declined with the amalgamation of lands by the City of Windsor containing housing clusters, the building of the Herb Grey and through the consumption by industrial developments. As a result, schools in Sandwich South have been under threat of closer, church membership has declined and the identity and future sustainability of the community is in question. With the lack of housing units, seniors and those having to downsize must move out of their community, workers are forced to traverse into Oldcastle from other areas in the county and the next generation, born and raised in the area, must locate to other communities.

The small primary settlement of Oldcastle, I believe, is a hidden gem within the Municipality of Tecumseh. With the installation of sewers, the following of sound planning principles can be implemented by building a substantial residential component. The Oldcastle Hamlet has the potential of becoming a healthy, balanced, vibrant sustainable community reaching the goal of the province's smart growth plan where people live, work, play, shop and worship in a small radius promoting active transportation and reducing the carbon footprint.

Residential use of the Del Duca Lands aligns with my vision of a more balanced Oldcastle and therefore I endorse this alternative development land use plan.

A Strong Oldcastle Community is the foundation of a Stronger Tecumseh Municipality.

Respectfully,

Judy Wellwood-Robson