

Sent: 07 July 2008

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am strongly opposed to the newly proposed changes to the OCP and associated by-laws. I believe this only weakens Urban Containment, and opens the door for capricious and arbitrary expansion of infrastructure. This new proposal has been advanced so quickly that I haven't had time to understand the various terms used within. So what follows is my best attempt to sort it out.

I am, however, speaking from almost 40 years experience in natural water systems (oceans, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, etc.) where experience has taught me that so-called "motherhood issues" can often be used as obfuscation to cover complex issues that require careful thought and public debate. Such motherhood issues - and 'public health' and 'fire suppression' are good examples - can often be used against the public good. We hear a motherhood word or phrase, we all tend to jump up and down yelling, "yeah", without looking at what this means, the steps required to get there, the cost and - importantly - the collateral damage.

It is my understanding that in the present case it is proposed that a water extension can be made outside the wording of the existing COP so long as it addresses public health and fire suppression. But we have seen over the extended debate of the pipeline extension that the "health" is open to interpretation and, in fact, one wants to know what our public health officials think. The same can be said for fire suppression. Obviously, nobody wants to see a fire sweep through our neighborhood. But everyone also seems to assume that hydrants are the answer, because they work well in urban situations. But, are they necessarily the best answer for rural fires, where time is of the essence? I doubt it and I think a comprehensive plan is in order. In all such cases study and debate are warranted, and overturning votes by council and/or free action by staff are simply unacceptable.

The OCP was painstakingly crafted by hard working people over a number of years. It serves us well; it facilitates community debate and real democracy. It is transparently clear that these changes are being ushered through simply to facilitate the Pipeline Extension. The OCP should not be changed to rush through a project that is dividing our community.

Sincerely,

Eddy Carmack

900 Mt. Newton Cross Road.

