

From: Jeff Miles
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 9:53 AM
To: Hubert, Paul <phubert@london.ca>
Cc: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>
Subject: Sidewalk Petition for North Mile, East Mile, West Mile Roads

Dear Mr. Hubert:

There is currently a petition circulating in my neighbourhood, which aims to prevent the city from installing sidewalks on North Mile, East Mile, and West Mile Roads in Oakridge.

I fully agree with this petition. We do not want a sidewalk.

To be sure, a re-paved road with new curbs would freshen up the look of the neighbourhood and would be a welcome infrastructure upgrade. But a sidewalk would cause several problems. First of all, many local residents have large trees on their properties, which would need to be cut to make way for a sidewalk. In the past few years, the city has planted many trees as part of a rejuvenation project. These would need to be cut as well. North Mile, West Mile, and East Mile embody the idea of London as the "forest city" and any initiative that requires destruction of trees works against this important ideal.

Furthermore, residents do not want to see their lots reduced in size. Installing a sidewalk means that several metres of each residential lot will be allocated to public use of sidewalks. The reason we have chosen to purchase homes in this neighbourhood is because of our beautiful, private front lawns. Sidewalks will be a blemish on our properties, reducing property values, diminishing privacy, and reducing the standard of living.

To my knowledge, there have been no fatalities or incidents involving pedestrians on these roads. If safety is a concern, then perhaps speed bumps would be a better solution.

The previous owner of my house, John Thiel--one of the original 1953 residents of Oakridge Acres--was strongly opposed to sidewalks in this area. In keeping with this legacy, I wish to continue to advocate for maintaining our trees and lots by not installing sidewalks.

Thank you for listening to the concerns of your residents. Please forward this e-mail to anyone who might be involved with this decision-making process.

Best wishes,

Jeffrey W. Miles
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