

April 17, 2018

London City Council  
London City Hall  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
London, Ontario  
N6B 1Z2

Dear Members of Council,

**Re: Conservation Master Plan – Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA South**

My wife, three children and I have lived at 1663 Gloucester Road for the last twenty three years. Only within the last four weeks did we learn of this CMP for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest and the major interventions being contemplated. Through a series of emails with City staff, we learned that we were outside the notification area even though a long portion of a proposed trail will require two access points into the Medway Heights neighbourhood (along Gloucester Road). We were made aware of a Planning Committee meeting which we attended this past Monday and learned more about the negative impact the CMP was going to have on this very environmentally sensitive area within our community. We write this letter to express our views and opinions as to why we cannot support the CMP as currently proposed, and they are as follows:

1. **Lack of Consultation:** As previously noted, we were only made aware of this plan 4 weeks ago through a neighbour. The local community of Medway Heights is directly affected by the CMP and consideration of our concerns for a plan 5 years in the making should not be ignored.
2. **ESA Protection:** The proposed intensification of the valley as presented in the CMP will no doubt have a negative impact on this wild and beautiful area. This was eloquently articulated this past Monday night by a number of experts who said as much – "When it is gone, it is gone forever." There has been no reasonable evidence given that the valley will be better off than you found it, should this plan proceed.
3. **Due Diligence:** From the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday night it became apparent that certain studies and required consultations have not taken place. Without proper due diligence how can the CMP receive approval from City Council?
4. **2 Bridges:** Bridges A and D are the most deleterious intervention to this portion of Medway Valley and will require a massive disruption to the natural environment not to mention the added foot, bicycle, and skateboard traffic which is sure to follow. The 2 bridges proposed are in direct conflict of a major principle of the CMP which is to protect this environmentally sensitive area. How will you as our elected representatives reconcile this divergence?
5. **Access points 11 and 12:** The CMP proposed that the trail system be divided and that two access points be erected in a residential neighbourhood that would bring hikers, bikers, pedestrians and pets etc along Green Acres and Gloucester Road for about 350 meters. City staff have not looked at the impact to this neighbourhood. It is inconceivable that because this portion of the trail is outside of the CMP study area that there was no reason to consult with the neighbourhood. This lack of transparency has not been well received by the residents of Medway Heights who would like to participate in any planning that impacts their neighbourhood.

6. Lack of Support: At the Planning Committee meeting held this past Monday night, it became very apparent that the public was overwhelmingly not in favour of the CMP. In Medway Heights alone we have a signed petition with 98% of the signatures voting against the interventions proposed for the south portion of Medway Valley.
7. Impact of Accessibility: It is not evident in the CMP how all of the proposed barrier free routes will be achieved. Recognizing that the detail isn't there yet, it is obvious to us that more natural surface area will be disrupted in order to allow for proper barrier free access than is currently being identified. This likely will mean extensive ramping and switch-backs. How does this additional construction improve this environmentally sensitive area?

We would respectfully ask that each of you please not support the current CMP and cast a negative vote. We thank you for your attention to this most important matter.

Yours truly

Handwritten signatures of Tom and Jane Tillmann in blue ink. The signature for Tom is on the left and for Jane is on the right, separated by a small blue symbol.

Tom and Jane Tillmann

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