

**From:** VICKI VAN LINDEN

**Sent:** Sunday, October 14, 2012 8:43 PM

**To:** Lysynski, Heather

**Subject:** Confirming previous request/ speak as delegate/Planning and Environment Committee, Oct. 15th, 2012

Dear Ms Lysynski:

This is to ensure that I am registered to be a delegate at the Planning and Environment Committee on Oct. 15th, regarding the issue of the Stanton Drain.

**To be submitted to the PEC Added Agenda:**

It is of deep concern to me that a wetland is about to be destroyed to accommodate new and recent development.

I am appealing to each of you to ask Council to put the Bull-dozers on hold, and direct staff to find another way to address concerns in the Stanton Creek/Drain area.

The vital importance of Wetlands has been well known for many years, even ten years ago when this plan was first set into motion. The idea that Wetlands, Woodlands, and Wildlife habitat are lands that can be treated with such disregard was outdated and wrong-headed even back then.

This plan should never have been allowed to move ahead from the very start. It was regressive and ecologically unsound from the beginning.

It is unfortunate that money has already been spent on moving this project forward, but this is not the responsibility of the present council, or the many Londoners who do respect the natural environment and want this Wetland saved.

We as a city can draw a line in the sand right now, and make it clear that London is a progressive city that will not settle for the old, slash-and-destroy way of doing business. Destruction of delicate, complex, and vital ecosystems is an the old idea from the past.

We can still develop and build, but can also protect the little urban wild areas that we have left, and a Wetland should never be damaged.

We often hear that London wants to attract young professionals and families to our city. And we know that more and more people place a high value on the natural world.

New York City, one of the most famous and exciting cities in the world, maintains room for Central Park, which takes up 843 acres of urban space, - that is 6% of Manhattan's total acreage - and includes 136 acres of actual woodlands.

Lawns and playgrounds are in addition to the woodlands. Yet our much smaller city seems unwilling to protect this very small bit of natural space at Stanton Creek. New York City, one of the largest and most urban cities on our planet offers citizens as much as 136 acres of woodlands right inside their city, yet, here in London, it seems we will approve any development plan no matter the cost to the environment or how old-fashioned and regressive the plan is.

If London is really going to become the kind of vibrant and exciting city that we are promised then we have to do things differently.

As well, any plan to trap and move the beavers at this time of year is almost certainly a death sentence. Beavers would not have time to build a new lodge and cache enough food to support themselves through the winter. It takes great skill to humanely live-trap beavers without drowning them. Few people in Ontario have done this successfully.

Using the services of a licensed trapper, that is someone who has skill in the process of killing beavers during the trapping process so that they can cut the fur off of the dead animal's body, does not in any way suggest that there is any concern for the well being of these animals. Hiring a licensed trapper to supposedly 'humanely' live-trap and move these beavers is like hiring a butcher instead of a veterinarian to care for a sick animal.

Licensed trappers are the killers of beavers, not their protectors, so I urge the members of your committee to not be swayed by any suggestion that a 'licensed' trapper is an expert in the care or protection of beavers.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has a mandate to protect the economic 'resource' of wild animals so that they can be killed by hunters, trappers, and anglers. It is not the mandate of that ministry to protect the welfare of wild animals, but instead is focused on maintaining large enough populations of certain species so that money can be made by allowing people to kill the animals. Their training does not include how to protect the lives of individual animals.

The MNR protects hunters, trappers and anglers, not wild animals and we should be clear about that when we interpret their recommendations.

If any of the animals, including the beavers, are going to be protected, it will be up to us together as a city. Please do not allow these animals to be killed.

Yours truly,

Ms Vicki Van Linden  
431 Ridgewood Crescent  
London, ON, N6J 3H2