



**Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community
Association**
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**“Our Mission: To Preserve and Protect
the Integrity of Meadowlily Woods.”**

City Clerk’s Office
Attn: Heather Lysinski
Planning and Environment Committee
London City Hall
300 Dufferin Street
London, Ontario

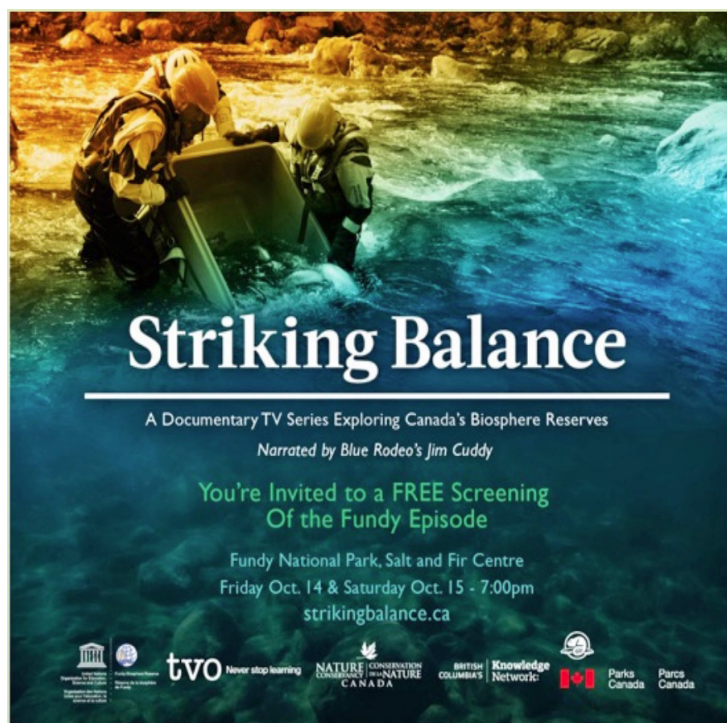
Presentation to Planning and Environment Committee, 19 October 2020

Chairperson and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee,

First of all we would like to thank once again Natural Resource Solutions for the thorough and in depth study of Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area and its significant features and natural treasures. It is a valued and important part of our community and neighbourhood. I’d also like to thank the people, organizations and agencies that have helped to protect and preserve this vital natural area: Nature London, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, its province-wide manifestation and the London Branch in particular as well as the Thames-Talbot Land Trust Meadowlily Nature Preserve and the hiking and running groups that help to protect and maintain our Environmentally Significant Area. Meadowlily Woods does represent almost all of the valued types of terrain and features listed as worth protecting and maintaining by the London Plan Natural Heritage section as well as the Environmental Guidelines for the existing Official Plan: valley lands, upland forests, significant wetlands, creeks and streams that service the Thames River and it is also identified multiple times as

being a groundwater recharge zone (see Paragraphs 1304-06, Page 350 of the existing London Plan, 2019 and Map 6 of the same plan). The protection and preservation of these sensitive and important characteristics of the natural heritage system is identified multiple times in both versions of the Official Plan and the London Plan. As a part of the Meadowlily community we support and uphold that such a degree of protection preservation are warranted. We would also like to thank members of the Environmental and Ecological Advisory Committee for the various studies and reviews they have given on our behalf over the years.

I would like to focus attention to a key idea I wish to present for the committee's consideration as I seek to give cause for such protection and conservation. I would draw your attention to a very in depth and powerful program on the TVO network called, "**Striking a Balance**" as a way of illustrating my view of how I feel the environment and heritage are key parts of the value of Meadowlily Woods and area and this is what is revealed so poignantly by the Striking a Balance series. At the outset it was says "a quest to find a balance between economic prosperity and environmental protection." (Introduction page)



This is what we'd like to see done here with regard to our environmentally significant area, its heritage resources and the neighbourhood around it: that development is possible here and that it needs to be kept in balance with the existing conditions of our area and the people and houses in it. We would welcome development that reflects and corresponds with a fair number of single dwelling units that would add to the spacious and open views and vistas of our road and green spaces. What we'd like to see is a balance struck between development, heritage features, environmental consideration and neighbourhood atmosphere. Meadowlily Woods and area is a part of the Thames River Watershed and what we do to our water and its wetlands, creeks and groundwater zones, we also do to ourselves and our children for years to come. In all of the episodes of this series a balance is struck between considerations of potential for development and respect for water, resources, community and history. We believe that Meadowlily as a whole deserves such respect and consideration. To overwhelm this space with high and medium density housing will destroy its most desirable components.



Wetland and standing water which is the source for Meadowlily Creek

The "Striking a Balance" series (TVO) is a good example of a variety of important environmental and heritage areas being valued and protected in their own right as we feel Meadowlily area and neighborhood deserves: forested areas both east and west of Meadowlily Road South, the water resources and wetland recharge features of the whole Meadowlily area, heritage features too (Park Farm, Meadowlily Heritage Designated Bridge and the Plewes/East End Mill ruins) and everything from the top of the bank along here near Commissioners Road to the Thames River should have the lowest form of impact possible in terms of any kind of future development and the highest form of protection. It would make more sense to have the lowest impact possible on these significant and sensitive features on the Southeast London landscape and the whole Thames Valley along here from Veteran's Parkway to the river bend in the west near St. Julian Park. Single detached dwellings and a R-1 designation is all that should be allowed here. An example would be the houses at the top of the hill near Commissioners Road and nothing more.

We would like to reiterate our request for consideration and protection in the area of important habitat for species at risk is the large patch of milkweed in the area of what has been known and identified as the Baseline Right-of-Way just to the south of 129 Meadowlily Road South (vacant lot) and just north of 135 Meadowlily Road South. This is an important environmental feature for our area and ought to be included as a part of the expanded Environmentally Significant Area. As far as we know it is city-owned property.

We value and have great regard for the stewardship and protection of our natural and heritage resources here at Meadowlily.

Sincerely,

Gary Smith, President, Friends of Meadowlily Woods