

From: Steve.O
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 6:08 PM
To: Lysynski, Heather <hlysynsk@London.ca>
Cc: AnnaMaria Valastro; Louise White
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Restore Harris Park

I strongly echo the comments below.

"It is time to give the park back to the community."

Steve Olivastr
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Dear Committee Members,

There is a lot of opposition to both expanding Rock the Park and patios. Rock the Park and patios on Richmond St. consistently break by-law rules for sound and the volume of people that crowd the small surrounding neighbourhoods is overwhelming. My guess is you would hear from people if this decision wasn't being made outside of a public meeting.

Harris Park needs to be returned to the community. Because of Rock the Park, the park cannot be used for any other purpose. It is a holding tank for this one event. The core desperately needs a dog park, cannot be 'treed' and is being eroded from trampling. It is along the river and distorted sound travels along the water way as far away as Byron. Large heritage homes are not sealed and the loud sustained sound vibrations from Rock the Park penetrate into people's interiors and have health impacts.

Rock the Park needs to leave Harris Park altogether. It is a pariah to the community. The organizers threaten to pull charitable donations if it doesn't get its way and the City charges them pittance to use a public space for a 'for-profit' event. In a private venue they would need to pay a premium price and that's why they push council to stay in the park taking it away from residents.

Other cities require organizers of outdoor venues to erect sound barriers at their own expense as part of their permit to protect residents. Other 'more music' cities in Canada promote festivals responsibly with residents' well being in mind. Instead here in London, it has become common practice for Councillors to dismiss public concerns by rationalizing that there 'will always be push back' so why listen. Both Councillor Fyfe-Millar and Lewis have already announced their decision through the media on this matter without even blinking at concerns residents' have been raising for years.

It is time to give the park back to the community, and start charging money-making events 'market value' for public space. We deserve it.

AnnaMaria Valastro