

MGWA News

November 2005

“Preserving significant environment and property rights in north Cambridge...”



Photo of Arriscraft property between Briardean Rd. and Hunt Club Rd. taken Nov 9. Representatives from the company state that they believe that they are legally entitled to cut down Provincially Significant Wetland forests that had been identified by the watershed study.

The Process

Development applications will be approved, or not, depending on whether they comply with rules established by government agencies and decisions made at the various stages in the planning process.

Following the watershed study, there will be a community plan, which is now underway, followed by an Official Plan amendment. The Official Plan is where the rubber meets the road in terms of legal standing.

Committee Success

The first stage of this process was completed with the help of your volunteers from this community through the HWSS Working Committee. This effort was a large scale success.

At the end of October one year ago Cambridge City

Council passed the repaired watershed study. Many will recall that at that time Council also approved the MGWA recommended buffers which provide appropriate protection to sensitive natural features.

Speed Bump

In February 2005, however, two councillors introduced a motion of reconsideration for the area south of Maple Grove Rd. The good news is, for the area north of Maple Grove Rd., the natural areas continue to be protected by the MGWA recommended buffers at widths determined by the sensitivity of the natural features.

One of the Councillors commented that it was his perception that it was mainly those landowners in the north that were interested in preserving the rationalized buffer structure approved in October 2004.

Actually, the MGWA is comprised of advocates, property owners and residents, north and south. We all continue to support buffers based on science and the degree of sensitivity of the natural features being protected.

Your Community Plan

On October 12, 2005 many of you attended the Community Plan Open House at Wanner Mennonite Church on Beaverdale Rd. In response to the request of the MGWA, two area residents were appointed by Council to the Community Plan Steering Committee. The appointments of Ron McKitrick and Dan Weinhardt, should help ensure that the views of the local community are represented in this critical stage of the planning process.

This represents a new thing – area residents have not normally been invited onto this critically important committee. It is vital that each and every resident exercise their civil duty – get to know your representatives and ensure that they know your views. Contact information is included below.

Attend this Workshop

Be at Wanner Church on Beaverdale Rd., from 5:30 to 9:00PM, on Thursday November 17, 2005. If you live south of Maple Grove Rd., you are directly impacted.

Nominations

If you've been thinking about getting involved in the MGWA, now is the right time. Nominations will be received in preparation for our upcoming MGWA election.

Members of the public with an interest in the north Cambridge between Riverbank Drive and Highway #24 are eligible for nomination, no previous experience required.

Please submit your nomination by providing the name, address, phone number, e-mail address, including a brief as to why you are qualified.

Use the contact information found at the "About the MGWA News" to nominate the candidate of your choice before November 30, 2005.

Steering Committee Appointments

Dan Weinhardt and Ron McKitrick have been appointed to the Technical Steering Committee for the Hespeler West Community Plan. They are there to represent your interests as the various studies, including the Hespeler West Subwatersheds Study, move closer to being formalized into zoning bylaws.

In a written statement to the MGWA News they state that it "is important for everybody to pay attention to what is happening to ensure that we continue to have an influence on Council's decisions. Come to the public meetings and make your concerns known." Dan is a business owner within Waterloo Region and resides in the west part of the community plan area. Ron is an engineer by profession and resides in the east part of the community plan area. On behalf of our readers, thank you both for your willingness to volunteer your valuable time and energy.

Dan can be contacted at: e-mail: dweinhardt@cmpinc.ca Phone: 653-1490
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Ron can be contacted at: e-mail: Ronm3@sympatico.ca Phone: 654-9012
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About the MGWA News

The MGWA News is now published once a year and on special occasions by the Maple Grove Wetlands Association, in Cambridge, Ontario. It is made possible by the generous contributions of members like you. Opinions expressed herein are the authors', and may or may not necessarily reflect the views of the Association. For more information please contact us:

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