

October 22, 2017.

City of Barrie,
Barrie,
ON.

Re: Southshore stadium proposal

Dear Mayor Lehman, Barrie City Councillors and Mr. Walter Fisher,

Recently, a deputation was made to the City Council with a proposal to build a sports/entertainment stadium and commercial space in the open natural space at the eastern end of the Southshore Park. I carefully watched the video of this presentation and as a result I am most decidedly against such a use of this naturalized area of the park.

Over the years this council and previous councils have done a wonderful job of creating and making the area around Kempenfelt Bay a beautiful passive park for residents and visitors to enjoy all year round. 90% of the park is landscaped with different areas lending themselves to many different self directed activities most of the year. Intermittently, there are organized activities that are here for a weekend or single days. These events are enjoyed by thousands but the event ends and the park is available to everyone again.

The only area of the park that is in a naturalized state is the east end past the Southshore Community Centre. It is an area of quiet contemplation where everyone can enjoy their pursuits of bird watching, wildlife viewing, photography, walking and biking etc. The open meadow that has naturalized and the woods around the path and along the water have all become a home to wildlife, sightings of which bring joy to the thousands of residents and visitors that frequent this area. Kempenfelt Bay is directly in the Eastern Migratory Flyway for many species of birds and many of the birds stop here on their journeys north and south. Many have taken to nesting in the appropriate areas along the water, in the trees and shrubs and on the ground depending on their habits.

In the City of Barrie Strategic Plan it states that it is the City's mandate is to "acquire lands in order to develop a continuous public open space system encircling Kempenfelt Bay". It also states that the City is to practice "environmental protection and stewardship" of said lands and to preserve "unprogrammed green spaces".

To allow a huge structure like a sports stadium to be built there would be contrary to all of the City of Barrie's contracts with its residents to protect the environment around Kempenfelt Bay.

There are many environmental impacts to be considered with a stadium structure and commercial enterprises:

- Loss of wildlife
 - Destruction of naturalized meadow lands. Preservation of meadow lands is as important to nature conservancy as is the preservation of wetlands.
 - Inevitable loss of trees
 - This area of the park would no longer be passive and would not be available to Barrie residents unless paying to attend an event.
 - Noise pollution-there are many residential areas close by that would be severely impacted by the noise of events being held much more frequently from May to October than are currently being held in other areas of the park.
 - Light pollution-massive light standards would have to be installed to have evening events.
 - Car pollution- the Lakeshore road was kept purposefully to two lanes to encourage drivers to use alternate roads like Bradford and Young St. It does not have the capacity to accommodate frequent large events.
 - Lack of parking- to assume that parking is not a problem would be negligent. A stadium that seats 4000 people would need thousands of spots for big events. That would mean paving the rest of the meadow that the building and fields didn't cover. One can assume that the neighbourhood is not going to be able to absorb these vehicles. The assumption that people would be content to walk to the stadium is entirely unrealistic. Most of the public wants to be able to drive to their destination.
 - Runoff water from both the stadium fields and paved areas would be a contaminant to the bay water.
 - Duplication of facilities - another outdoor music venue is currently being constructed across the Bay in Downtown Barrie.
- One of the major arguments for this stadium was for a home for Barrie's currently successful baseball team, The Baycats. Although I do not want to take anything away from their accomplishments, they already have a wonderful stadium to play in. The Barrie Community Sports Complex has devoted Coates Stadium to be their home. It is reputedly the best field in the league. I paid a visit up there and I can't see why it is unsatisfactory for the team to call home. There is ample parking and a beautiful well lit, well maintained field in an appropriate setting. There are few neighbours to disturb and it is easy to get to. If there isn't enough seating, more bleachers could be built. If some residents have difficulty getting out there perhaps a shuttle system could be developed for game nights. If there are other issues that make the team feel they need to move, the city should resolve those so the taxpayers aren't on the hook for another unnecessary outlay of our tax money. Certainly a second stadium at a huge environmental cost on the Southshore is not necessary.

In closing, I would respectfully request that the Eastern portion of the park on the Southshore remain an environmentally protected space and no further development be allowed there now or in the future. The environmental costs and the inconvenience to nearby residents are onerous compared to any perceived benefits from the proposal.

Thank you for considering my points,

Sandra Orr,

From: janie harris
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2017 12:49 PM
To: CityClerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Subject: Waterfront Stadium

Janie Harris

For: Circulation to members of Council via Circulation List

Dear Mayor Lehman and Members of Council,

A group of us walk the waterfront every morning. It is gorgeous, and the City does a wonderful job maintaining and expanding its amenities. The stretch from The Southshore Centre to Minets Point is a lovely haven of wild flowers, trees, birds, foxes, and the occasional deer. It is in keeping with the City's waterfront 'vision'. It is perfect.

To put a ball park there is a travesty. It is pristine waterfront property-keep it that way. Jamie Massey can put his ball park anywhere in the City. I am sure that there are lots of areas which would be far more appropriate for a ball park, with room for parking and good transportation- the Lakeshore is not one of them.

Janie Harris

Petition No. 1

P E T I T I O N

SAVE BARRIE'S MILITARY HERITAGE PARK FOREST & WALKING TRAIL (SOUTHSHORE CENTRE) ALONG KEMPENFELT BAY

TO: MAYOR JEFF LEHMAN, officeofthemayor@barrie.ca; COUNCILLOR BONNIE AINSWORTH, bonnie.ainsworth@barrie.ca; and BARRIE CITY COUNCIL

The area suggested for the proposed stadium is home to the Military Heritage Park Forest & Field area of the walking and biking paths which are the habitat to numerous species of birds and animals as well as deciduous and coniferous forest as well as the many Barrie residents and visitors who walk and ride the paths daily.

The new facility with its suggested 21,000+ square feet of commercial, retail and on-site restaurant space could possibly draw more than 3,000 to 4,000 people and cause parking and traffic problems along Lakeshore Road.

We are asking the new stadium and multi-use complex with its proposed site being ^{east} south of the Military Heritage Park Forest (Southshore Community Centre) along the Kempenfelt Bay shoreline, be located in an alternative area of Barrie.

Barrie's waterfront green space and park area is considered to be one of the nicest parks in Canada. The walkways and bike paths, from Minet's Point/Military Heritage Park, through downtown, to the North Shore Trail, are used by hundreds of people daily. These walkways link up to the Trans Canada Trail.

It is of the utmost importance to protect the forested area east of the Military Heritage Park to Minet's Point as it is the only forest on the Barrie portion of the walking and biking paths. Especially in the fall, it gives one a feeling of being out of the city into the country side. There is little traffic noise, just the beauty of the trees, and the smell of the leaves. It is truly an escape into nature right in the city.

The city salts the paths to accommodate winter walkers and runners. It is so easy, you can park downtown, at the Southshore Centre or surrounding city streets and you are mere feet to the waterfront and forest...in the middle of Barrie.

The city has spent millions to create this environmentally-centred space. It is considered vital to the vibrancy and well-being of Barrie, its residents and many visitors. This park has been strongly supported by Barrie residents since its inception. Our waterfront, where you can swim, boat, bike, walk and jog is the Heart of Barrie.

Petition signed by 42 residents