

COMMUNICATION C7
ITEM NO. 3
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
(PUBLIC MEETING)
October 5, 2021

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Judy Jeffers <Judy.Jeffers@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Concerns and perspective regarding My Place on 7 Inc. (4850 Hwy 7 and 79 Arrowhead Dr) for the Notice of Public Meeting Oct 5

Community: "a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common".

I could state the obvious – the concerns over increased traffic and congestion and all its safety ramifications, or height and shadowing that will affect our skyline. I could focus on the increased noise levels, or disruption to the neighbourhood from the high turnover rate that comes with rental units in a high rise and the transients it may attract. I could also mention things such as rights of ways, setbacks and all the technical planning and engineering specifications that are of concern. Instead, I will focus on the most important quality superceding all others – the nourishment of the heart, soul and spirit of a community which is the result of good planning.

There were many reasons that led to our family setting roots in the Seneca Heights community in 2017 in what we hoped could be our "forever" home. Among its many desirable charms, the most interesting was the heritage and history of this once quaint little village formerly called Burwick, established in the late 1700's, now known as Woodbridge, Ontario.

Immerse yourself in this history while strolling through Woodbridge Avenue or along Islington where you can appreciate the numerous Victorian homes, old churches and catch a glimpse of the memorial tower unveiled in 1924 as a monument to our beloved fallen soldiers. You can also visit the Woodbridge fair grounds where the first agricultural fair was held in 1847 and so many other subtle reminders of an **organic and naturally** developed community with an identity and unique character.

But this *spirit* doesn't matter anymore in our times. Contrast the old-world beauty and character to the sterile and ever-present ominous high-rise abominations that supplant our communities. This destruction happens when the residents and care givers of the community are swept aside to accommodate "intensification" quotas driven by apathetic government bureaucrats and greedy corporations who are concerned only with profits and taxation of the masses. Senseless rezoning and modern building standards dilute any sense of character through "modern cut and paste" construction requirements that dull and vex the senses. This relentless pursuit of greed masked by policies and mandates alienate the citizens and destroys the heart and soul of a community.

I would like to conclude my perspective on hopeful note through the following appeal and challenge: **Please reconsider the development of these lands for something greater, for a higher purpose.** Please engage the people and identify real opportunities to revitalize the spirit of the Seneca Heights community and inspire future generations. Here are some ideas:

- Mini cultural centre, museum or meeting place commemorating Burwick's early settlers that founded our great community
- Mini cultural centre, museum or meeting place honouring the indigenous people that call this place home.
- The above in a park format
- Let's talk about other ideas – shall we?

Doesn't that sound like good and wise planning to you?

Gerardo Vecchiato ([REDACTED] Tayok Drive)

(M): [REDACTED]