

Sept. 11, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a representative of The Friends of Silver Creek (FoSC), a citizens group that came together in 2020 to protect the Silver Creek Wetland, a Provincially Significant Wetland, from destruction by developers wishing to develop the land that represents the last wetland in South Georgian Bay. If developed, the destruction of the Wetland and surrounding area will have, over the long term, devastating implications for the rare species, birds and salmon that inhabit the area and the aquifers that support it.

I am writing this letter to register the FoSC's deep concern regarding the proposed development at Grey Road 19 Housing Development PDS.24.087 and the request for an MZO application. Affordable rental housing is important to the region, but it is also very important that necessary studies of the area's natural heritage and ecological studies are conducted by the NVCA to ensure that the protection of the Wetlands and surrounding area, the species contained therein, are duly protected. Already Grey County has registered staffs' opinion regarding the potential impact to natural heritage needs to be assessed through a scoped Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS). In addition, as flooding concerns are of greater certainty, as we have witnessed this summer, this must influence the playbook of all municipal development planning objectives.

Any development in The Town of the Blue Mountains must be subject to scrutiny of all plans and studies including the properties' Environmental Impact Study, Tree Inventory and Protection Plan, Landscape Plan, and Grading Plan. This must not be overridden by an MZO designation -- that which is nothing more than a travesty to destroy the Town's ability for due diligence and to ensure all required studies will satisfy the protection of the development area and its environs. It is also clear that the property does lie within an area designated as having potential influence on highly vulnerable aquifers, and as such, any development must be closely reviewed and committed to insure that only low-impact development and infrastructure is approved.

In our position as a group who are committed to protect a very valuable environmental asset that may be affected by this rush to develop, we implore you to reconsider any action to approve an MZO application. Please take the time to recognize the importance of the land around us and the ecosystem supported by it.

Sincerely,

Katherine Holmes  
Chair, Friends of Silver Creek (Collingwood)