

To the Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong support for preserving the green space at 130 King Street—a location that, while unfamiliar to many by name, holds immense value for our community. This parcel of land, nestled along Peel Street North, represents the last significant green space north of Highway 26 on the west side of the Little Beaver River, stretching all the way to the 10th Line. Once developed, this natural haven will be lost forever—an irreversible decision with lasting consequences.

As a resident of Peel Street North for the past 12 years, I have witnessed the rapid and often disjointed development of our neighbourhood. Despite the proximity of thousands of residents to Georgian Bay, public access to the water remains virtually nonexistent. Unlike the east side of Thornbury, which boasts parks, beaches, and maintained public fire lanes, our side has been left without meaningful access to the waterfront. This lack of planning has forced residents to rely on vehicles for even the simplest outdoor activities, increasing traffic and diminishing the walkability of our community.

The absence of accessible green space has left a void in our daily lives. There is no nearby park where neighbours can gather for a barbecue, children can play together, or friends can meet for a walk, a game of bocce, or a quiet moment by the river. This is not how vibrant, connected communities are built. We need spaces that encourage interaction, recreation, and a sense of belonging.

I wholeheartedly urge the Town to designate 130 King Street as parkland. Imagine a space with trails leading to the Little Beaver River, shaded benches, picnic tables, a children's playground, flower beds, public restrooms, and a shelter for community events. With the long-awaited pedestrian bridge over the river at Bay Street expected to be completed soon, this area will naturally attract more foot and bicycle traffic. A riverside park would be a perfect rest stop and gathering place for residents and visitors alike.

As we face increasingly hot summers, the importance of preserving green spaces cannot be overstated. These areas provide natural cooling, promote mental and physical well being, and enhance the livability of our town. The land at 130 King Street is not just a piece of property—it is a rare and precious opportunity to invest in the health and happiness of our community.

Please, let us not trade this irreplaceable green space for concrete. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

Sincerely,
Veronique Ponce