

From: D. W.. [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 11:56 AM
To: OfficialPlanReview <officialplanreview@markham.ca>; Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham <krea@markham.ca>
Cc: Siobhan C. [REDACTED]; Dianne More [REDACTED]; D. W.. [REDACTED]
Subject: Official Plan Review

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Hi,

I am a resident living in my Heritage Home on Peter St for 43 years. I live in Historic Mount Joy. I am with the OMVR, Inc (Old Markham Ratepayers, Inc.) and the Markham Village Conservancy (restorers of Markham Train Station and Homeowner Historic Plaque Program).

Please keep me informed of anything that has to do with Historically Designated Historic Mount Joy (not the new Mount Joy north of 16th Ave.) We are the original Historic Village on Main St N., Markham. And we are a village full of homeowners that are on Main St N and the side streets of Peter St, Elizabeth and Wales. Many of us have lived in the area for over 40 years and even one family on Main St has had their home in the family for over 150 years.

As a ratepayer group, we have strived through the years to keep our village mainly residential. There are pockets of grandfathered commercial. The focus has always been Homeowner occupation, even those who have Professional Office designation. We have chronically had to fight against those who wish to destroy our village and change things to retail, hard commercial. That is why Commercial has been designated north of 16th and in the Village Core, plus South of Vinegar Hill.

Our biggest worry is that we have empty residences at night, which invites crime like that of American cities. None of us want a dumpster backing onto our properties that invites rats and noise. Or parking lots that butt up to the properties not providing proper drainage. We were adamant that a 10 ft landscaped buffer protect us, but that appears to have fallen by the wayside. Not great for our area that has underground rivers and springs.

I have copied in Ken Hoyle, Landscape Architect who designed all of Main St Markham VISION. He also designed Galt and other historic areas. He was formerly the President of the OMVR, Inc. (Old Markham Village Ratepayers, Inc.) Unfortunately since the City took over Hwy 48, the Historic Mount Joy area has never had any revitalization whatsoever, parking removed and is a four lane highway. It is expected for the area to have finally some calming so we can actually enjoy crossing the street without being killed. One man was.

We have fought long and hard to keep Mount Joy Village a place to live, keeping commercial out, but it is a constant fight. I back onto C4 which is institutional, doctor's offices and finally now have responsible owners that show respect for those residents that back onto it. That property was grandfathered. In addition there have been illegal AirBnBs and only recently did we see this as a single family dwelling on Main St. Illegal.

<https://www.realtor.ca/real-estate/27417662/295-main-street-n-markham-old-markham-village-old-markham-village>

Historic Mount Joy is a residential village and that protects our village keeping Commercial/Retail out of it. Unfortunately with the 4 lanes plowing through it has caused this disrespect for the area. The City doesn't even enforce its own speed signs. Hopefully though we will see the proposed calming, but with all those high-rises coming north of 16th and no infrastructure to take the traffic away from the Village, the entire Historic Main St Markham from 16th to Vinegar Hill.

Unionville has had several Revitalizations, yet we sit here 30 years and to date we have had no revitalization of all of Main St N Markham. We have paid our taxes the longest and sadly only now we might have some attention. Ford has proposed removing bike lanes and I think that is plain wrong. Hopefully we will not be threatened by this and our section to return to Hwy 48 status.

You see, the entire Historic Markham Village, that includes Historic Mount Joy, is a jewel of the community. No where else is there a village, a destination that has the best Museum I have seen at the north end and at the south end a library and a National Park at the other. I think it is imperative that everything is done to protect this gem, while Markham grows even more. Respecting Canadian history is paramount and with Markham Village being the largest Heritage Conservation District everything should be done to protect it. We won the first world's ever Prince of Wales Award and now with the Prince being King Charles then every effort to protect the village should be done. Keep commercial/retail I north of 16th and in the Village core.

Ken Hoyle designed the Main St Vision and as a ratepayer group we fought for over 30 years to keep Historic Mount Joy residential. Several times being even at the OMB. And we follow the strict rules of the Heritage Markham. We remained here on that basis of being protected and not losing the value of our properties being devalued by more hard commercial/retail building and especially phantom landlords who do not care about their neighbors.

So, please keep me informed of Historic Mount Joy and know that we wish it to remain RESIDENTIAL/Homeowner Occupation. NO HARD COMMERCIAL. We are so tire of the scheming going on to change it. Also, to take what I have said into consideration as we have a long history trying to work for our village to remain a place to live and enjoy. It is imperative for you to know the hard work we have done and the direction we want. We want to grow old here and not have to put up with say a 24 hr coffee shop behind us as one was trying to do.

I encourage you to think of what a goldmine that Markham Village is and what a tourist draw it is now and will be in the future. Historic walking tours, museum, Morgan pool, library, Milne Pond, and National Rouge Park that is all a DESTINATION. Entire Markham Village is the heartbeat, the core of Markham society now and for future generations to live and enjoy. We must keep it special.

I will be forwarding to you another email that you may enjoy reading about the plaque program for century homes. Also, the booklet on the History of Peter St that you will find interesting.

Please feel free to contact me with regards to my email. I am available to meet as will others.

Thanks you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Donna Wigmore, RN., BA

City of Markham Official Peter St Historian

Email: [REDACTED]

OMVR, Inc.

Cc: Siobhan Covington, President OMVR, Inc.

Cc: Dianne More, President Markham Village Conservancy.

Bcc: Ken Hoyle, Consultant.