



Office of Councillor Curry

Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, MPP, MD
Suite 100
240 Michael Cowpland Dr.
Kanata, ON K2M 1P6

Dear Dr. Fullerton,

On behalf of concerned Kanata North (Ward 4) residents, as well as surrounding communities, I am deeply concerned about the March 22, 2022, Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) decision that has created considerable confusion in the community regarding the proposed development of the much beloved Kanata Golf Club and Country Club lands.

Although this decision does highlight that the 40% Green Space agreement between the City of Ottawa and ClubLink Corporation ULC is to be clarified by the courts, this decision downplays the importance of green space preservation agreements between municipalities and land developers by having important conditions as appendices when they should have been considered as the reasons why the land should not be developed. Instead, the community and the City will have to spend decades and millions of dollars working through the many conditions, so many of which make it clear that the environmental concerns are myriad. Nonetheless, the court processes going forward with appeal after appeal will likely be our future unless the Provincial Government takes action.

What is clear to all of us is that the OLT did not fairly or properly consider the potential environmental and community impacts of such a development on the surrounding area; including but not limited to the increase demand on pre-existing infrastructure, an increase in storm run-off entering the municipal storm system, the threat to natural habitats and wildlife, contamination concerns, as well as a decrease in the City's canopy cover and tree inventory. Their decision was determined on technical planning grounds alone with conditions left for the City and residents to have to deal with one by one, with court case after court case for decades to come. This costly and emotionally exhausting process cannot be allowed to go on.

A precedent was created when the owners of the property opened the ground for public access years ago. In fact, the residents of Kanata consider the lands to be a park where people golf for a few months of the year. It is quite apparent that the potential developers of this land have not engaged the community in much needed and robust consultation processes. This is a process that should be respected given the age and significance of this green space.

This decision now puts into question the conservation and right-to-access public/private green space in the ever-expanding urban area. By allowing additional development on these lands, Ottawa and the Government of Ontario's goal of expanding protection and preservation of green spaces throughout this province is being undermined. In addition, it is well known that the Kanata North green space is one of the features admired and used by our growing and successful technology leaders to attract talent and bolster our Special Economic Zone, the Kanata North Tech Park.

Recognizing there is a need for both housing developments and respect for environmental and climate goals, the Province and the City of Ottawa have attempted to balance both needs year over year through the Official Plan. The confusing and strangely structured OLT ruling will see ongoing challenges for the residents, the City of Ottawa and the Province to achieve all of their common goals as all have tried to do in a balanced way.

As you know, the Mayor of Ottawa has written a letter to the people of Kanata North confirming his commitment to protecting the 40% agreement and the greenspace. Ottawa City Council rejected, unanimously, the application for development of the lands. This current Council has made it clear where it stands. I encourage you to remain steadfast in your recognition and support in preserving this unique green space and I ask that you urge the Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Government of Ontario to intervene in the protection of our community's green space.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of Kanata North, I am asking you and your Government to do three things:

1. support and request a full third-party environmental assessment of our Kanata North greenspace lands in question here,
2. ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the similar intervention he led in the Club Link development at the Glen Abbey Golf Course, and
3. to assure the residents and businesses of Kanata that a full, non-partial, community consultation will be provided before any decision is taken.

Keeping Kanata green is important to all of us here in Kanata North (Ward 4) and your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Cathy Curry
Councillor, Ward 4 – Kanata North