

Laura Rupprecht

Subject: FW: Parkette use on Campbell Drive

From: john watters [REDACTED]
Sent: September 14, 2022 10:53 AM
To: Willie Popp <wpopp@uxbridge.ca>
Cc: Dave Barton <dbarton@uxbridge.ca>; Debbie Leroux <dleroux@uxbridge.ca>; Kristi Honey <khoney@uxbridge.ca>
Subject: Re: Parkette use on Campbell Drive

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I understand that a presentation was given at council in regards to a desire to add playground equipment to possibly an existing Passive Park on Campbell Drive. As well a survey had been undertaken by well intentioned but like-minded individuals in this regard. As a resident of Campbell Drive, I asked if some changes to the survey could be made so that my perspective could be better represented on the form and was told that no changes would be considered.

I would first like to say that additional parks in any form are welcome by me for the Town of Uxbridge as long as they follow good planning practices, satisfy a need and are fiscally responsible for the tax base as this is where the funding originates.

As you know the Passive Park on Campbell Drive was created at no small expense in conjunction with the Town, the developer and the Conservation Authority and is now just realizing its full potential as the trees and plantings mature. As a resident abutting the park I have observed and benefited from the many opportunities that this park currently provides. A number of parents with children are seen using the space for creative play, older children use the open space for active activities, others use it as a meditative/quiet/reflective space while sitting at the gazebo.

I personally enjoy the many nature viewing opportunities through the seasons that this type of mixed transitional forest, retaining pond space provides. Whether it is the return in spring of the red winged blackbirds, nesting American woodcock, any number of warblers, orioles, etc. Soon to follow by the chorus of spring peepers, and other amphibians. The nesting and fall hatching of snapping and blanding turtles. The comings and goings of deer, rabbits, muskrat, opossum, skunks, racoons, mink, ermine, etc. and yes even coyotes. The transition to the summer with the variety of flowering plants, orchids, etc. that form the perimeter of the park. The hum of insects that fill the air as the song birds calls retreat into summer. The sound of cicadas resonates in late summer and early fall to welcome in the changes of the leaves to autumn. Only to be replaced with chickadees, and cardinals and the birds that overwinter.

As you can see, I am passionate about the current form of the park and the many uses that it affords the broader community. To some it may appear as an empty space that needs to be filled. To others it is a space that is already teeming with opportunity that only needs to be explored and appreciated.

If the town is considering an alteration to the use of the Passive Park before allocating any resources to this endeavor I would expect as a minimum the following to be considered.

A formal consultation by the Town with the impacted residents, a traffic study to understand what impact this change may create, a cost estimate including alternate location(s) that could be considered.

I realize that the Town has to satisfy a variety of needs at any given time and public resources to fulfill these obligations are finite. The Elgin Park accessible play area is over budget, residents impacted by the tornado are being under served, the new dog shelter has yet to be realized, we are in litigation over the downtown culvert project.

The alteration of the Passive Park in my estimation is a want, and the needs are far greater elsewhere. There already is a park, open for play, visitors, socializing, and nature observation and it is the Campbell Drive Passive Park. We can look to Port Perry and appreciate their Reflective Park. We should rejoice at our own existing opportunity.

Thanking you for taking the time.

John Watters

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