

Hello,

Could you please forward the following letter to Parks Manager Wendy Martin and to all the councillors and the mayor?

Thank you so very much.

Very best, Dianne Rinehart

Hello Mayor, Councillors, and Wendy Martin,

I am writing to express my concern about the plan to add more parking at Sunset Point and the additional plan to change the Huron Street lot from residents-only to general public use.

First, I am not aware of any public meetings that were called on this plan.

Second, I honestly believe paving over paradise to put in a parking lot, to paraphrase Joni Mitchell, is a very bad idea.

There are two problems in the summer. Only one of them is parking. The other is a lack of green space.

So regarding the green space: So many times I go down to walk and swim with my dog in the summer on the weekend, and not only are there no picnic tables or benches available for me to sit at, but there is not even any green space to lie on. I once found a spot on a bench and the park was so crowded that people laid a towel to lie on that literally touched my feet. How is creating more parking by taking away green space going to help that problem?

As for parking, I note in the Collingwood Today story that Ms. Martin says the Huron Street was underutilized by Collingwood residents. May I suggest that may have been because it was not well-signed as being such?

I go down there almost every day, and I never even knew that space was for residents. Instead I would circle the park searching for any place to park because the other spaces for residents were already being used. On two occasions on glorious summer days I gave up and just went home.

I don't live down at Sunset Point, but a third problem with this plan is that expanding parking options at this wonderful resource will only encourage more people to come in on day trips from afar and add to the traffic woes that nearby residents face. Have they been consulted for their ideas?

All planners know that expanding lanes on the 400 series of highways, only solves the problem for a little while. Then congestion builds again, as more people choose to drive rather than take transit.

It will be the same at Sunset Point.

The bottom line is if you expand parking at the expense of greenspace, you will be killing the goose that laid the golden egg -- that is you will be killing the green oasis that this waterfront park is. Whistler, B.C., understood that when it put a cap on development at that resort. They wanted to protect the green spaces that people were coming to enjoy.

Please, please reconsider this plan, or at least give residents of Collingwood a chance to have input.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very best,

Dianne Rinehart

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Thank you very much for your consideration.

Regards,

Sue Jane Chong

Concerning augmented parking at Sunset Point Park

Council:

I object to paving over more of the Park to add parking spaces. Certainly, there is demand for more parking on summer weekends. Probably there is not enough parking allocated for the exclusive use of Collingwood residents. However, the fact is that there could never be enough parking even if you paved over 100% of the Park. Sunset Point Park green space is a very limited and valuable resource, and so is the available parking. You could never satisfy all the demand. And if you have determined that there is not enough dedicated resident parking, then simply redesignate some of the paid parking for residents only. Again, you could never satisfy the demand for visitor parking.....sorry.

Several years ago I was part of an informal "Friends of the Park" group that fought plans to pave over much of the western end of the Park. That would have been a travesty, and I'm happy that we were successful in beating back most, (but not all) of that plan. I worry that we're going down that path again. And I sincerely doubt that "temporary" parking created for the (5 or so years) duration of the WTP expansion would ever be unpaved and returned to the Park.

I would be OK with adding parking in underused areas such as the eastern and western corners of Huron and St Lawrence. But not by removing parkland along St Lawrence. You might relieve some of the visitor parking demand by encouraging visitors to use Harbourview Park and the Arboretum, perhaps by installing signage at Sunset Point directing visitors there. That is an underutilised asset.

I might say that I was very disappointed to see the amount of the Park and parking that was lost to the Water Treatment Plant expansion. (And with zero public notice until the day the fencing was installed!) I maintain that with some effort the footprint allocated for staging, parking, construction mobile offices, etc. could have been much, much smaller, by setting up an offsite staging area. I have seen 50 story condo projects in downtown Toronto that get by with a fraction of the space lost here. It's not too late to recoup some of that space and move the offices, staging & storage offsite to rented land on Raglan Street for the duration of the project. That would restore some parkland and parking.

So Council, I encourage you to please prevent any more paving of Sunset Point Park!

John Megarry

[REDACTED]

Collingwood, ON

[REDACTED]