

Gone Forever!

Rural North Burlington and Halton's Escarpment Recreational Playground

Imagine your favourite place to get away—that green place where you exercise your city-weary limbs, fill your lungs with fresh air and bathe in the beauty of the countryside. Now imagine a super-highway—six solid grey lanes of asphalt—fracturing and fouling your get away place with noise, rattling trucks, pollution, and anything but beauty.

Ludicrous you say, to slash a highway through such a place and yet that is precisely what certain provincial officials and politicians are proposing. The recent Proposed Draft Decision of the Regional Official Plan amendment, known as ROPA 38, has drawn what is quickly becoming an infamous “GREEN” arrow across Map #3, indicating a transportation corridor, passing through the beautiful rural lands of North Burlington's Niagara Escarpment: a permanent scar through our MECCA for Sports and Leisure.

How ironic that this invasive arrow is ‘green’, slashing the largest ‘green’ space in Halton Region.

This is Halton's backyard and playground!

Thousands of Ontario residents, travel great distances to use the area for joy-filled outdoor activities. The absolutely gorgeous rural countryside provides a peaceful and inspiring environment for recreation and leisure.

Hiking, cycling, jogging, fishing, swimming, skating, x-country skiing, tobogganing, rock climbing, painting, wild-life and bird watching, photography, equestrian, camping, golfing, picnicking, and spontaneous family activities in the Lowville Park, Sidrabene Camp, and Cedar Springs Community, all take place within the region of the proposed highway.

All this will be lost!.. Gone forever! In times when OBESITY is a major health issue, and our government is encouraging us in a “Participation Program”, why is our Provincial Government taking away a natural playground which promotes healthy outdoor exercise, with good quality air, away from the fumes of the City? Shame on them!

The Mt.Nemo and Lowville area (both of which fall ‘under the arrow’) are written up in travel brochures as destinations for the avid hiker and cyclist. The new highway would splinter the gem that is the Bruce Trail, adding pavement over top of soft woodlands. Cycling clubs from St. Catherines to the GTA use these rural roads for their training. The roads provide safe yet challenging routes surrounded by gorgeous scenery.

The broad flood plains of the Bronte Creek, Twelve Mile Creek, and Indian Creek, would require large structures for a highway to pass over them, cutting deeper into this valuable Mecca.

If this highway goes through, you will have to imagine the view facing east from top of Mt.Nemo, overlooking this expressway, with its bridges and underpasses, fumes, noise and constant motion.

How inspiring! How healthy! How tragic!

Janie Moore