

January 22, 2024

Marie Pavey

RE: Schneider's Family Land Donation to rare Charitable Research Reserve

Dear Mayor Salonen; Councillors Cressman, Wilkinson, Sidhu, Dunstall and Martin;
CAO, Sharon Chambers;
Township Clerk, Jeff Bunn;

The Schneider's Family properties are a jewel of Wilmot Township that I have long treasured. Currently, my health limitations prevent me from hiking there, but memories inspire my recovery. Oh, to be able to stand in Wilmot and hear nothing but birds chirping, to see nothing but beautiful woods, monarch caterpillars and butterflies, to breathe fresh air, to ramble and discover streams, climb hills and to connect to nourishing planet earth as she provides us with all we need; this one planet who we all rely on, our home. For it is when we connect to nature that we indeed connect to our own humanity, which is so rapidly slipping from our fingers.

I wish to thank, from the very bottom of my heart, the Schneider family for seeking to grant such a generous and precious gift to Wilmot and area residents of today and generations to come. Such generosity is becoming even scarcer in our world where business models and profits rule our morality.

The Schneider family and rare Charitable Research Reserve have clearly been working very hard to negotiate this transfer. Please do everything in your power to expedite this severance application quickly, find solutions and provide no further hindrances.

Parking is an important issue to consider, but sometimes exceptional circumstances require granting of exceptions and working hard at other options. Here is one such time. As clearly laid out by the applicants, there is no need for a parking lot. The intent is not to have an over-run resource, nor to have further environmental impact on a sensitive area. The parking has been sufficient until now and remains so. An example of a Wilmot trail with no parking lot is the one on Walker Road, which is a far busier road than these are. And, sections of the Avon trail within our township do not have parking lots attached.

Clearly, it is to the benefit of all residents of Wilmot that a timely resolution of this application be achieved, before this opportunity is lost.

Respectfully,

Marie Pavey

cc: James Bow, rare