

Appendix C – Public Comments

E-mail received Thu 01/11/2018 9:49 AM

To Whom It Should Concern,

We, the owners of a 55 acre parcel of the remaining Carolinian Forest left in Essex County, are concerned with the impact a commercial greenhouse operation within 30 feet of our property may have on the environment and on the habitat of the remaining wildlife left in this area.

Our property is home to deer, coyotes, fox as well as many smaller mammals, A cougar was also sighted on our property on two occasions. (One of our neighbours has a picture of a footprint.) In addition, there are fox snakes, turkeys, snapping turtles, possums and frogs. Wood ducks, geese, pheasants and many migrating birds frequent our property, which has a large pond.

In addition, a large portion of our property is part of the Managed Forest program. This spring we received a letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources which stated that several acres of our property contain wetland that is considered environmentally significant. In the past, we were asked to allow our property to be designated environmentally significant. Although we declined this designation, the fact remains that the environmental value of our property has not changed.

At the moment the farmland next door to our property is up for sale , it is a 50 acre parcel that has grown corn or soybeans for a long time. We have been advised of a possible new owner who intends on putting up a Greenhouse /Factory, (in other words a commercial operation) within 30 feet of our Woodlot. The impact on the environment and wildlife would be a terrible loss for all of us in our opinion.

It is a very crushing thought that this could happen and we need your input and support in preventing this from occurring. We do not farm our land nor make a profit from it. The neighbours south of us are Bill and Jack Balkwill whose wooded area backs onto ours. They also have been good stewards of The WOODS.

This is a natural corridor for Wildlife, Trees, Watershed, and Plants. We have spent the last 30 years maintaining this land as Nature intended. Please help with your support to suppress any changes that would affect all of us, all of this, and all of what is left Naturally.

There is a Town of Kingsville Council Meeting at 7:00 pm on November 13th. The possible change in use to a greenhouse operation of the property that is for sale will be discussed. We would urge you to send a representative from ERCA to address the environmental impact of this and help STOP it from occurring.

Sincerely,
Denny & Carolyn Langlois
1683 Road 3 W
Kingsville, On.
N9Y2E5

Email received Mon 29/10/2018 1:36 PM

Good afternoon Kristina, As a long time resident of Kingsville I am taken back by the lack of actions of the elected officials and employees of this great town to maintain its integrity and reputation as one of the nicest towns in this area. The invading greenhouse industry will destroy our town's great appeal to the residents, tourists and future generations. These greenhouses are not the small 1 or 2 acre greenhouses like my grandparents had just outside of town and took care of themselves. They are massive industrial operations and zoning by laws should be amended and updated as this industry has evolved. They should not be allowed to be built near any residential area whether it is close to town or in rural areas. Drive through Leamington any given day of the week and even worse on the weekend. People are not comfortable in their own town with literally thousands of migrant workers flooding the downtown core. This would destroy Kingsville's beautiful downtown. Property values are destroyed and that money is taken from people who have worked hard to maintain their homes. I believe it is time that the town takes steps forward to protect our town, not destroy it. It is clearly evident that people are opposed to the marijuana industry and greenhouses in general. Council meetings have clearly shown this. Look at road 3 east, it is destroyed since they started building them there and many, many homes are up for sale. Who wants to live next to that? Groups are forming in opposition to this industry. What is the town doing to address these concerns and save our town?



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Email received Tue 30/10/2018 5:30 PM

Town of Kingsville/council members

Have you looked at how the Town of Leamington, has destroyed their city with the NEW STYLE OF GREENHOUSING. The City of Leamington Councillors have decided to expand and support the greenhouse growers to create a city under glass. If that is where you choose to live and do business, then that is where it should stay.

Years ago, when the Ontario/Town governments designed these by-laws for the expansions of the greenhouse industry, they NEVER thought that a greenhouse would be built from the usual 1-10 acre building, 15 feet high, using the natural sunlight to help grow products all year long.

Now, they are 100+ acre building to 30 - 35 feet high, with huge amount of lights to grow their product at night, high volumes of water, gas and hydro. They use many transports to move their product, up and down roads, that are not wide enough, or designed for heavy traffic. The greenhouse companies also build large bunkhouses for their migrant workers.

All this is done on farmland that has been farmed traditionally for 100's of years. Greenhouses have a loop hole of being zoned agricultural,(which they are NOT any more). They are factories, building permanent huge buildings, with lights, water, gas, loading docks, housing, offices etc. The majority of the farmland is cover by a structure.

These by-laws must be up dated. The greenhouse companies are building their factories all over the county, with NO REGARD for county residents. There should be designated Greenhouse parks, just like the light industrial parks in other parts of this county.

Country living has completely changed in the Leamington area. That works for them but it doesn't work for the citizens of Kingsville. The citizens that live in the country do it for a reason. They like to see the sunset, the sunrise, farmers planting their crops, harvesting their crops. Watch the birds fly across the open fields, deer grazing in the back fields and taking long walks without a lot of traffic. You are able to see your neighbours across the fields in the winter months and not in the summer months due to the crops in the fields.

If, Ontario/Essex County continue to grant greenhouse expansion at any farm, anywhere, down any road, next to any resident, next to forests, bird sanctuaries, deer paths, etc. You will create the worst scenario for the MOST BEAUTIFUL TOWN IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO.

The Town of Kingsville has to update the by-laws, create light industrial parks that are close to main truck routes. (NOT COUNTY ROADS). Leamington has started designing greenhousing parks on HWY 77. Very little population, good roads to drive transports up and down. The greenhouse parks should be close to the 401.

The NEW STYLE OF GREENHOUSES are now factories of produce and should be treated as light industry. These are not agriculture farms anymore and the laws have to be changed.

The TOWN OF KINGSVILLE should be standing up for their citizens that live here. There should be NO MORE GREENHOUSES BUILT in KINGSVILLE at all. This is a beautiful place to live and the greenhouse business should stay out of Kingsville.

The property at 1577 Road #3 West, has a large wood lot beside the open field. The wood lot is full of wild life. Deer, wild turkeys, hawks, coyotes, fox snakes, birds, fish, trillium flowers, etc. A greenhouse would interrupt the wild life and the wood lots, tree growth as well as other plants in this area.

We have no problem with the land severance, but the problem will be with the person/company that wants to change the farmland to an greenhouse factory. The land should never be transformed to greenhousing. The property should be severed and sold to a person that is or want to do traditional farming. Only traditional farming would not hurt the wild life and neighbouring properties.

Chris and Carol O'Neil

1661 road #3, West, Kingsville, Ontario, N9Y 2E5