

**Received via EMAIL**

**From:** Sarah-Jane <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:13 PM  
**To:** Committees EA <[committeesea@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:committeesea@thebluemountains.ca)>  
**Cc:** Rob Sampson <[REDACTED]>; Attainable Housing <[attainablehousing@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:attainablehousing@thebluemountains.ca)>; Gavin Laws <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Kandahar/ Heritage Park - proposed site for attainable housing

Dear committee members, Mr. Sampson

I remain in disbelief that you have revisited Heritage Park as a potential site for the attainable housing project. Our neighbours let their guard down when you and your members publicly disqualified lands designated "parkland" from your search.... we read your assessments in the papers and believed that a motion had been passed and our precious park was no longer considered a viable site. Last November, we thought we had elected politicians who regarded the value of green space and well thought out, planned community development.

I do not know where Mr Sampson lives, but I have lived 4 years, full time, next to Heritage Park. I would be surprised if he was a member of this community as he feels our park space is under utilized. I consider it a hub for a community that is population dense with 3 large condominium developments surrounding the park, others within walking distance of it and a numerous single family homes.. .... Heritage Park is the only public green space. I have always considered it well used and beautifully maintained by the town. The playground equipment is first rate, the new basketball court is a great addition, beautiful green grass, washroom facilities and a ball diamond used for softball, all types of skill development and Frisbee, baseball..... all areas of the park are well used by all ages. For the last 2 weeks I have paid VERY close attention to the comings and goings in the park ... what I observed....

Kite Flying, Tai Chi, Reading, Family groups on blankets, Small children trying their running skills in a safe soft environment, Ball tossing, kicking, catch, Babies learning to crawl and walk, Family baseball, groups of friends, weekend pick up ball with a welcoming group of people. People with dogs enjoying walking on grass not pavement, Landscapers, construction workers ....having a nice lunch break away from their site, Frisbee, Small children with plastic golf clubs and wiffel balls thinking they are playing golf with Mom and Dad, People just walking the perimeter.

The sounds coming from the park are happy, enthusiastic, energizing, encouraging and playful.....a pleasure to live beside and "play in".

I encourage your committee to come out of the big "blue" glass building in Thornbury and understand what an important piece of the community this is! Children and adults should be encouraged to "play", exercise outdoors and enjoy the beauty of this place we all call home. Our society is becoming sedentary, obese, inactive and diseased and we should be encouraging activity instead of removing places to be active! We do not all have the luxury of our own backyard and all our residents need space! I propose you remove all defined and developed parkland from your search and concentrate on areas where well planned development would refurbish or build a community instead of devastating an existing one!

School is back in today, the park is quieter....I am available to sit with any of the members of this committee and discuss the importance of this space and allow you all to experience first-hand, the livelihood and the beauty of the area! I applaud your sense of community and commitment and hope you see the value of "green".

Very Sincerely

Sarah-Jane Laws