

Hello Caledon Residents,

This rather long notice is to inform you about the latest developments re the Badlands or Clayhills as they are referred to by the local residents. Located on Olde Base Line and Creditview Rd., the Cheltenham Badlands are part of the Niagara Escarpment, recognized by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve. This particular property has been recognized as an area of natural and scientific interest (ANSI). Over the last few years local residents have watched as literally hundreds of visitors have left their footprints on the “not to be walked on” ground. This has occurred because of public ignorance and perhaps a lack of stewardship on the part of the land’s governing bodies.

This land was purchased in 2000 by the provincial government and is now held in trust by the Ontario Heritage Trust and maintained by the Bruce Trail Conservancy, neither of which it would seem, have the funds or staff to carry out its mandate.

A Notice of Decision dated May 2014 proposed a 33 car plus 2 school bus parking lot to be constructed on Olde Base just east of the site. This decision was appealed resulting in continuing discussions in the form of a pre hearing. All environmental decisions should involve all those affected by such a proposal. To date there has been one public hearing in 2008 and one in 2014. No viable consultation has taken place within the last 15 years.

Residents and visitors understand that Olde Base Line is very typical of Caledon terrain, very hilly, very scenic and possibly dangerous, without speed controls in place etc. (After all there is a reason Caledon is called Caledon Hills). Concern for both visitor and resident safety is paramount. Olde Base is also the most **direct** route for emergency vehicles to access **some** Escarpment residents. Our safety cannot be compromised.

The Badlands discussions will continue on as a formal hearing. Your support and voice is needed to make sure that the appropriate and necessary measures are implemented. **Please attend the June 11, 2015 Regional council meeting (10 Peel Centre Dr. Brampton) and /or get in touch with one or all of the following. See below**

The Caledon community has been instrumental in making good decisions a “trademark” of their villages and neighbourhoods. Educate yourselves about these local matters. Nobody knows, understands or appreciates our land, water, hills, roads or vegetation as do the people who live here.

Many thanks,
Bonnie Ledson

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