

The Friends of the Drumlins of Dummer Inc.

1842 Cty Rd 6 Douro-Dummer, ON K0L 2H0

drumlinsofdummer@yahoo.com

January 14, 2025

RE: Proposed Plan of Subdivision (at the former Hall's Glen)
County Rd 6, Douro-Dummer, ON K0L 2H0

Ten minutes is definitely not enough time to talk about the 30+ year old Proposed Plan of Subdivision located on County Rd 6, Douro-Dummer, (at the former Hall's Glen) and how it, will negatively impact our Township or how it continues to pose weighted concerns and remains traumatizing for existing property owners. We continue to live in fear of how such a large, proposed build will impact our availability of water for general use, potable (cooking & drinking) water, overwhelm our rural lifestyles and affect the value of our property, as we all rely on private wells for survival. It is well noted that we are located on a unique ecotone, and we cannot ignore the negative impact to our natural resources, availability of water, riparian water rights as it affects Stoney/Clear Lake, the volume of above ground septic systems, the removal of trees, the disruption of existing natural habitats, nor has there been any consideration for the construction noise and pollution that we will have to endure. There has been no public input, nor transparency and we remain frustrated that the Municipality does not consider their responsibility to protect the health of existing properties. We are frustrated by the lack of current updates on the many "red line stipulations" required to be completed prior to approval being granted or how we will be protected from this development. Good planning leads to healthy inclusive communities, but this proposed Plan is not an affordable or sustainable location for the slow, gradual growth previously noted in public releases. Our Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing notes growth should occur where communal services are readily available, and will limit our carbon footprint.

The hydrology report presented for this development was conducted in 2016 and is now almost 9 years old. I could inundate you with hard data on what we have all seen with the significant change in weather patterns since 2016, and our water tables throughout the province, or how we have all been considerably affected by these weather patterns with many areas throughout rural Ontario noting low water tables due to lack of precipitation. Our own Fire Boards also confirm this. Environment Canada notes 2024 with having the warmest fall on record and the hottest year. Lack of precipitation, more aggressive and dramatic weather patterns have also grossly impacted our local water table. 25 properties are immediately affected by this proposed plan. The water growth rate here has increased by at least 17 new wells, since the original Proposed Plan of Subdivision was first introduced. One well is noted as being over 300' deep, all causing added strain to the existing aquifer. With 3 additional properties now approved, water flow, and run-off will become a larger problem with greater opportunity for contamination. Clean water is essential for human health and an essential component to a healthy environment. We need to keep our water safe, clean and well managed.

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We believe property owners should not be forced to endure financial costs of protecting their water, such as having their water tested. Tests wells done in 2016 impacted neighbouring wells with 2 losing water for a day, an additional one suffering "hiccups" for a couple of days, and a fourth well that went completely dry, and was replaced. These noted issues were reported to both the Township of Douro-Dummer and to the County of Peterborough. Underground gas tanks from a long-closed gas center, and run off from 2 decommissioned land fills, all raise additional concerns of water contamination. 11 families in this area have been impacted by Cancer.

We continue to oppose this development and see no benefit to any property owner to have a "new" Town built here. We were told over 30 years ago this subdivision will never be done as the cost to complete such a build was astronomical. CBC news reports over 200 development sites in the province have come to a standstill as a result of developers "running out of money to complete these builds". A current tragedy we see for residents on Television Rd, in Peterborough is something we desparately wish to avoid. We do not want to become another news story. Everyone is entitled to a life of equality, dignity and respect free from discrimination. We have not been treated well. The mental stress and the fear of losing our water is real and we will be forced to move as we cannot survive without water. We have previously provided numerous Affidavits from area residents, including a prior Councillor who believed that this Proposed Plan had lapsed, with their concerns noted as to why this would not be a good idea. We have been told to leave it to the experts however, the experts do not live here, will not suffer the long far reaching after affects if this Proposed Plan if it is allowed to proceed. The Township has a responsibility to monitor and inspect this development process although they continue to state that they have no authority. We want to confirm who will assume liability for any problems that do arise. We do not want our tax dollars used for financial gain for a developer that will place us in harm.

To date a significant amount of money has been wasted protecting our properties as a result of this proposed Plan. Many Township residents are not happy with this Council and their prior decision-making choices with their lack of consideration for this precedent setting issue. The Township has not tried to work with us and has been unwilling to hear our concerns. None of you live here and we are confident that you would not endorse this project if you did. We would like to thank Tom Watt, our Councillor at Large, for taking the time to hear us and offer support for

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such a difficult topic. We have done a significant amount of research to fully understand the implications of such a large development at this location and remain frustrated by the Township's perception that we are uneducated and unable to understand the details of development or expectations of growth. We need to stop the "us" versus "them" mentality that is crippling this Township and find a way to work together for sustainability, and growth while protecting the quality and sustainability of water resources critical to our survival. Without this mindset the only people who will get rich from this Proposed Plan of Subdivision at this location will be the lawyers.

Elaine Hilker Chair for
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