



Supporting and Preserving Our Rural Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL RATEPAYERS WIN PROVINCIAL AWARD

MIDHURST, ON: October 28, 2015 – The Midhurst Ratepayers' Association (MRA) has won the prestigious Margaret and Nicholas Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape Award from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) in recognition of its efforts to preserve cultural landscapes and natural heritage from a mega-sprawl development, the Midhurst Secondary Plan (MSP).

Susan Ratcliffe, Chair of the Awards Committee, says the MRA was chosen for “ (its) work to preserve (the) environment and cultural and agricultural heritage of Midhurst village from the threat of intrusive development.”

“It’s an honour to win this award and be recognized for the tireless work we do to protect the places and spaces people love,” says MRA president, Sandy Buxton. “This battle isn’t about stopping growth. It’s about putting it in sensible places that don’t spoil what we love about our community. This win is for every David who is fighting a Goliath. Never give up.”

If ultimately approved, the MSP will pave over nearly 2000 acres of some of Canada’s best farmland for up to 10,000 homes – a plan at odds with provincial planning policy, saved only by a custom ministerial loophole which green-lit roughly half of it after a deal was struck behind the people’s backs. Then there are the consequences of dumping 10+ million litres *every day* of treated wastewater into the globally significant Minesing Wetlands, which are on a par with the Everglades. Famous Canadians - including Margaret Atwood and Maude Barlow - have joined us in opposing this

egregious plan which threatens our local farm economy, fresh water sources and sensitive natural heritage.

Says Buxton, "This fight is far from over. We're constantly turning up new evidence about how harmful this super-sized housing development will be for our community. Receiving this important award shows us we're on the right side of the issue. Our ever-growing collective voice is serving notice that it's time for corporate greed to play second fiddle to our water, our farmland, our community and our future. We want to see ethical smart development become the norm, not the exception, in Simcoe County."

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The Midhurst Ratepayers' Association (MRA) is a grass-roots organisation representing over 1000 residents from both Midhurst and Springwater Township at large through membership and mailing list. Our "Save Midhurst Village" campaign has garnered the support of over 45,000 people on our petition as well as the backing of major celebrities like Margaret Atwood and Maude Barlow.

The MRA was established to protect the integrity of Midhurst and Springwater Township at large. It stands up for the best interests of residents and for responsible growth. The MRA has a positive vision of growth for the area. Our goal is for primarily rural Springwater Township to develop a more fiscally responsible and ecologically sound plan for growth, one which will ensure precious farmland and water resources are protected and preserved for future use. You can find out more about the MRA and the Midhurst Secondary Plan on their website www.friendsofmidhurst.ca or through their Facebook page "Save Midhurst Village".