

RECEIVED MAY 27 2016

May 26 2016

Mr. Bill White, CAO

Town of Minto

5941 Highway 89

Harriston, Ont.

Dear Mr. White;

Re: letter regarding former Harriston Public School Property

We were the second house custom built on our block over 40 years ago. We built our home on this site [62 King St. N. ] to be close to the school for our children. The school property was well maintained with a playground area and three baseball diamonds.

After the school closed the property deteriorated and was not maintained. The property was sold the new owners let the property deteriorated even further. It became a dump site with weeds overgrowing on the property, dumping ground with sewer pipes, discarded cement sidewalks and rubble from the former school scattered on the site.

Recently the property has been cleaned up for the first time since the School board sold the property a few years ago.

The retirees in our community are in desperate need of retirement condos. Numerous seniors have moved away from Harriston as a result of lack of retirement condos. As soon it was learned that Mr. Wideman is serious about building condos for seniors a number of houses have gone on the market and retirees are planning to relocate to the new condos on the above property. Most of the homes sold are being purchased by young couples. This Has a important positive effect on our local economy. We need housing for young people to fill the shortage of employable people in the local job market. The condos will be a positive contributor to our tax base. Seniors will not have to move out of our community away from friends and family.

It is a known fact that seniors are the largest group of people volunteering to support the communities greatest needs.

I realize some people do not agree with the expansion the letter outlines regarding the above property.

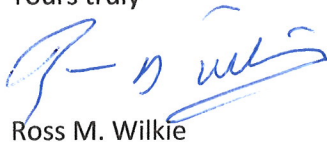
A community working together can find solutions to problems without confrontation. Compromise is not defeat, it is a solution to satisfy the majority. A community working together can achieve great results. Let's work together on this project for the betterment of our town.

The communities GREATEST NEED today is Condos for retirees. The condos are not low rental housing. The rental costs are at a level that eliminates the fear anybody has about the quality of people that will be renting the units.

As I mentioned, we are in urgent need of seniors condos in Harriston. From my understanding most of the originally planned units have been rented. It is my hope the project will not be delayed. I plead with the council and those opposed with the project to compromise and find a common solution so the project can succeed.

We all know the answer and that is Condos for seniors is a high priority in Harriston. Let's move forward together as a community and resolve the issue without delay. Retirees are expecting to move into the condos by Oct. 15/16.

Yours truly



Ross M. Wilkie