

https://www.thespec.com/news/council/ancasters-book-road-west-included-in-provincial-greenbelt/article_61b25ef6-833e-5145-8464-94bbcc6a2bf4.html

Home / News / City Council

CITY COUNCIL

Ancaster's Book Road West included in provincial Greenbelt

Councillor Lloyd Ferguson says it's a question of growth

Despite protests from landowners, Hamilton councillors approved a recommendation to locate the Book Road West lands in the provincial Greenbelt.



By Kevin Werner Ancaster News



Lloyd Ferguson, Ward 12 councillor, Sept. 7, 2016 - file photo by Gord Bowes

Despite protests from landowners, Hamilton councillors approved a recommendation to locate the Book Road West lands in the provincial Greenbelt.

“I had a sleepless night on this issue,” said Ancaster Councillor Lloyd Ferguson, who supported placing the lands in the protected area. “This is one of the issues that our community is divided on.”

The land – about 1,200 acres - Hamilton is recommending to the province is bordered by Fiddler’s Green to the east, Shaver Road to the west, Garner to the north and Concession I south of Book Road.

This is the second round of recommendations the city made to the province about the Greenbelt. Initially the province did not include the Book Road West lands in the Greenbelt in the 2015 and 2016 recommendations. Hamilton planning staff did not recommend them for inclusion.



Sponsored by **Alt Calgary**

Wake up Westside and start your day where the city's vibe comes alive. Visit our new hotel in Calgary's University District.



Our New West Hotel

[Book now](#)



Cosy Up in West Calgary

[Book now](#)

Ferguson, who is not a member of the planning committee, said later that he “made a plea” to the Sept. 6 planning committee to include the lands in the Greenbelt.

He said it is a question of growth. During the mid-1980s, Ancaster was a quaint, small-town community of about 14,000 people.

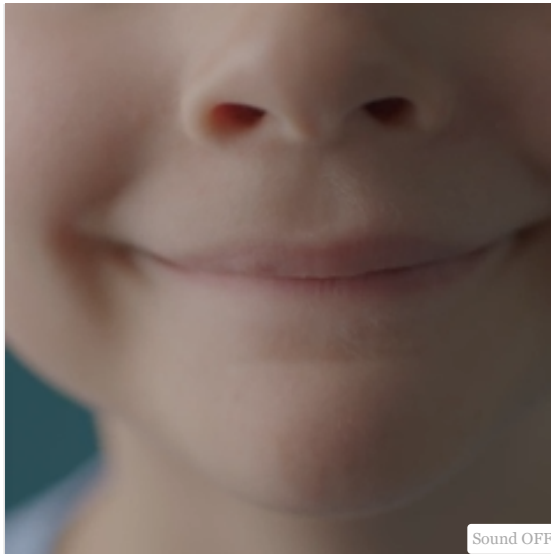
“It’s now 40,000 people,” said Ferguson. “We have gone through explosive growth.”

He said roads, especially Wilson Street, are congested throughout the town.



Sponsored by **Government of Canada**

Applications for The Canada Dental Benefit are now open! Find out if your family can get up to \$650 per child this year.



Sound OFF

Are you eligible?

Don't miss out on dental care — apply for a second payment of up to \$650 per child

[Learn more](#)



Children under 12?

Are you eligible?

Don't miss out on dental care — apply for a second payment of up to \$650 per child

[Learn more](#)

The councillor said the Book Road West lands, which encompass about 120 landowners, should have been included in the original Greenbelt legislation in 2005. After a decade, the province is updating the designation.

Ferguson said the lands are in a rural area without any services available.

“It should be in the Greenbelt,” he said.

But homeowners in the area don't think that way.

In a letter to council Pam Rodgers, writing on behalf of the Morelli family, stated they are “appalled, angry and frustrated” at the decision to locate the lands in the Greenbelt.

Rogers stated that despite the lands not being re-designated for years, they believe council's recommendation will “robs us of our right to (the) future with our land.”

Other landowners argued placing their lands in the Greenbelt will lower property values and limit future growth options.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton, which owns about 38 acres in the area, stated it wasn't informed of the decision to place their property into the Greenbelt.

The Most Rev. Douglas Crosby stated in a Sept. 12 letter to council that “our property will be prohibited from further development related to Diocese activities.”

Famous People Players, which has an open application to allow an arts and agricultural centre at 450 Book Rd. W. stated in a letter, it has “significant concerns” about placing the land in the Greenbelt. It stated the decision “will have significant negative implications on FPP’s long-term plans for this site...”

Famous People Players application, filed in March 2007, is to build a permanent home for the troupe, currently based in Toronto.

Steve Robichaud, manager of development planning, said based on the city’s Growth Related Integrated Development Strategy the Book Road West lands will not be included in the urban plan until at least 2041. Development plans are currently focused on the Elfrida and Twenty Road areas.

Ferguson said he had been “neutral” over the Book Road West lands, but decided to side with relocating the lands in the Greenbelt for the betterment of the community.

“I support the province to protect agricultural land,” he said. “I thought it was important.”

Ontario is proposing to expand the Greenbelt, currently about 800,000 hectares of protected land that borders the Greater Golden Horseshoe area, by about 9,000 hectares.



Kevin Werner is a regional reporter for Hamilton Community News (Ancaster News, Dundas Star News, Mountain News and Stoney Creek News).

Read more about

[REPORT AN ERROR](#)

[JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS](#)

[ABOUT THE SPEC](#)
