

Help Save Hidden Valley

Hello all environmentalists, hikers, and people who care about clean air, clean water, nesting and migratory birds, diverse trees and wildflowers, beavers, wetlands, species at risk, and beautiful Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas (ESPAs)!

As the population of the Region grows at a never-before-experienced rate, it would be wonderful if we could guarantee that Hidden Valley, Kitchener, could be protected from development and saved as a Kitchener landmark Natural Area Park. Located near the Grand River and Highway 8, Hidden Valley is a unique, exceptionally beautiful, 200 acre area, designated by the Region of Waterloo as Environmentally Sensitive Policy Area #27. What better time to save this area to become a significant Kitchener Park, than as the city celebrates its Centennial, next year!

Jefferson salamanders, a species at risk, were found in Hidden Valley two years ago. Since then, planners have been researching these rare salamanders. The presence of Jefferson Salamanders indicates that Hidden Valley is currently a very healthy area. The Species at Risk Act, unfortunately, does not guarantee that these salamanders, or their habitat, will be protected. The River Rd. extension may cut into their vernal breeding pools. Heavy and Light Industrial "parks," a business "park" and subdivision could pollute the 3 Provincially Significant Wetlands and impact 25% of the Region's drinking water. Nesting and migratory birds could lose their homes and sanctuaries. Wildflowers and resident animals would also lose their habitats, if development proceeds.

Some places are just too special to develop, and the Friends of Hidden Valley think Hidden Valley is one such area. Turning the area into a large natural-area park near the centre of the Region would be a wonderful gift for generations to come!

The River Rd. Extension Public Consultation Centre (PCC) event is described below. Please note the Planning and Works committee date, and the Q&A period on Tuesday May 17 from 7-8. If River Rd. is extended around Hidden Valley, it will open the area to development, permitted due to out-dated Kitchener zoning.

Please save the date and come to the PCC ... and bring your friends and families who are concerned about inappropriate development close to the Regions' reservoir for 25% of our drinking water.

Hope to see you there!

Please share this information!

The Friends of Hidden Valley website is:

<http://sites.google.com/site/hiddenvalleyorg/Home>

Sincerely,

Daphne Nicholls
for
Friends of Hidden Valley

Something to Think About

"This is God's world, given on loan;
no other earth shall be our home;
so let us bless, honour and tend
what God, in love created."

From a hymn from The Iona Community, 2008

Something Else to Think About

"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed;
if in terms of ten years, plant trees;
if in terms of 100 years, teach people." Confucius

The Public Consultation Centre

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Times: Drop-in 4:30 p.m.

Presentation and Question & Answer Period 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 110 Manitou Drive, Kitchener, ON

Information Package Available from the Region of Waterloo

The Region has identified the url for the project as

www.regionofwaterloo.ca/riverextension .

This url was taken directly from the notice the Region published with its announcement of the meeting information. As of this printing this url was not functioning. If it doesn't work for you, try the alternate one of the alternate routes suggested below.

Alternate Route

Telephone or email one or more of the following people, explain that the url for the project, as given in the public notice regarding the May 17th meeting, is not working and ask how you may obtain a copy of the Information Package for this project.

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OR

Contact the [Regional Clerk's Office](#) or call 519-575-4400.

You may also try the following route.

Go to the Region's web site at www.regionofwaterloo.ca/

Enter River Road Extension in the Search box at the top right. Click Go.

Click [Notice of Public Consultation Centre River Road Extension](#).

You may obtain a little information from this page. The project url is also available in the bottom third of the page.

This information will be updated as better information becomes available.