
Subject: Ginter's and the Escarpment

From: Shirley Burkinshaw [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Kellett, Leslie <Leslie.Kellett@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Ginter's and the Escarpment

Hi Leslie

Please have my letter included as part of Ginter's and the escarpment discussion . Also, please have it included in the re-zoning application for 22 Avenue. I'm not in favour of this re-zoning as it will inevitably clear more forest, however, as it is private land this could happen anyway. This re-zoning, if it goes ahead will increase the density of this neighbourhood and that makes it more crucial to protect the existing green belt along Ginter's and the escarpment as more people mean more green space is required for healthy living.

Thank you

Shirley Burkinshaw

Begin forwarded message:

From: Shirley Burkinshaw [Redacted]
Date: September 19, 2023
To: mayorandcouncil@princegeorge.ca
Cc: cityclerk@princegeorge.ca
Subject: Ginter's and the Escarpment

Dear Mayor Yu and council members

With the summer of 2023 being the worst fire season on record I implore you to recognize the value of and protect the existing green space and urban forest of Ginter's and the escarpment above it for the following reasons:

During the heat wave when temperatures were 35 C I started at Ospika and walked straight back to Ginters. For each street I crossed there was a noticeable difference in a drop in temperature. The closer to the escarpment at the base of Ginter's I walked the cooler it got. The escarpment provides a cooling effect on all of the homes in its vicinity. Walking the forest trails of the escarpment it was cooler yet. Not only does the escarpment contribute to cooling the air, it cleans the air. With all the fire smoke Prince George has contended with this summer, the filter the forest provides is crucial to the health and well being of the citizens of our city.

Another reason keeping the escarpment intact as green space is the natural fire guard it provides for our city. The preponderance of deciduous trees, especially aspen is crucial as a fire break. We just drove past the fire around Boston Bar last week. There were kilometres of burnt evergreen trees, but in that wasteland, pockets of aspen were untouched by fire. For that reason, Ginters and the escarpment are a

natural fire wall for the city. If it were lost to development, there would be nothing to stop a fire from west of town blowing into the city and torching everything in its path. Since the winds usually blow from west to east, that is a real possibility. As we've seen in cities like Fort McMurray, Kelowna and many others, houses burn very easily. Can you imagine a city our size on fire and everybody having to evacuate? The cost to rebuild homes and lost jobs would be astronomical.

I understand the housing shortage in Prince George, but I think there are other areas of the city where houses can be built. Ginter's and the escarpment are too important to lose to development for the fire protection, cooling effect and air quality they provide for us. I suggest doing a land swap with developers and putting in a subdivision at the base of Hart Highlands in the area originally set aside as a golf course. There is too much development west of town. Development would be better North, South, and East of the city to help spread out the traffic. I don't have numbers, but I suspect schools in those directions aren't as full as schools in the College Heights area.

One concrete step the city can take immediately is to require home owners to plant trees in their yards from a list of approved species in the new subdivisions to help cool the city. In University Heights Subdivision, there are homes that have never planted trees since they were built many years ago. Global warming is here and is not going away. The only thing we can do is to plant as many trees as we can to try and counteract its effects.

Another value Ginter's and the escarpment provide is recreational. An urban forest with trails is a rarity and something that makes Prince George a desirable city to live in. The trails are well used and provide a place for citizens to get exercise, socialize and build relationships. Citizens and their four legged friends all love Ginter's. People of all ages and abilities are able to enjoy nature in the meadows, and on the trails. It is too valuable to our city to ever lose it to development.

Sincerely

Shirley Burkinshaw

3675 Gould Crescent