



Quinte Field Naturalists

The Quinte Field Naturalists Association is affiliated with Ontario Nature, a non-profit organization sponsoring nature education, conservation and research.

January 26, 2025

Dear Mayor Steve Ferguson and Prince Edward County Councillors,

The Quinte Field Naturalists appreciate the challenges facing municipal governments as they seek to address simultaneously two important issues facing our society today, one being the demand for more housing (preferably truly affordable housing units) and the other being the protection of the ecological integrity of the lands within the municipality's boundaries. The latter issue is of increasing importance as we attempt to deal with the impacts of climate change. We understand these two issues present a challenging balancing act for our municipal governments and planning departments.

As advocates for the natural world, the QFN strongly encourages the Prince Edward County Council to thoroughly review the environmental and ecological impacts of any proposed development within your jurisdiction. It is important to preserve biodiversity by identifying and protecting the habitat of species that are rare in the County. Biodiversity is our strongest natural defence against climate change.

The Waring's Creek area's development project currently presents an issue that has potential to impact the biodiversity of Prince Edward County. More specifically, the QFN recognizes that Waring's Creek, whose headwaters start on the western edge of Picton and whose waters empty into West Lake, is a body of water with special significance. The creek is the only cold water creek in the County that is able to support a population of Brook Trout.

Regarding the proposed housing development within the upper headwaters of Waring's Creek, adjacent to the Sandy Hook Road, QFN strongly urges Council to support the implementation of proper watershed mapping for these lands. It is important, as regards the potential impacts of any development in this area, to consider all available hydro-geologic data in making a decision about whether or not to grant approval for the aforementioned development.

Our understanding is that Council has agreed in principle to cooperate with the Waring's Creek Improvement Association (WCIA) in conducting the appropriate study which will include a cumulative impact analysis. We strongly encourage you to honour this pledge.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Churcher

Dr. Elizabeth Churcher
QFN Corresponding Secretary