

**Jim Wright, 8300 Osgoode Drive, Richmond**

Mayor Brodie and Councillors, I'm speaking for the Garden City Conservation Society, mainly about Item 10.

First, though, some quick comments on Items 7 and 9.

In Item 7, it's good to see progress toward efficient control of soil dumping on farmland.

Item 9 is Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Options. From our beginnings eight years ago, Garden City Conservation has always valued respect for our less advantaged citizens, which goes hand-in-hand with respect for our natural legacies. The thorough Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing report in Item 9 is consistent with that value, and we hope it will move full-speed ahead.

Item 10 is rezoning for 9560 Alexandra Road, which also borders on Alderbridge Way (it's right across Alderbridge from the Garden City Lands). For time reasons, I'll have to just focus on the screening aspect of the environmental conservation package in the report. Essentially it is good, especially if the same package applies widely to the many properties lining the north side of Alderbridge. If it is put into action promptly and thoughtfully, the natural screening effect could even become *amazing*.

From the south, which means the Garden City Lands area of the City Centre, the legacy of the natural panoramic viewscape has been lost. However, the Item 10 rezoning provisions could

significantly restore it and even benefit the developments at the same time. I just hope the promising intents for natural screening can be implemented with a focus on *excellent* results.

The rezoning provisions for 9560 Alexandra include a 4-metre-wide strip of trees and shrubs within a wider setback along the south edge of Alderbridge Way. The need is for stable, fast-growing and long-living evergreens that grow tall enough to generally screen the Alexandra developments when citizens look north toward the mountains from the area on and around the Garden City Lands. Lots of kinds of trees are tall enough for that without being so tall that they block out the mountains.

I hope that the stated intent of *native* trees will be interpreted broadly. For instance, the trees there shouldn't have to be shore pines and crabapples, which can be saved elsewhere—like on the Garden City Lands if the surviving ones get flagged so that the annual mowing starts avoiding them instead of butchering them every year.

The rezoning provisions for 9560 Alexandra also include infill trees added to the treed median of Alderbridge Way. That's good in principle, but I see the *median* trees as supplementary. Since the legacy of the mixed urban forest on the north edge of Alderbridge is lost, let's at least do a great job of making the new treed buffer *there* as effective as possible—including for natural screening that could make a big difference, mainly for community wellness but also, as a big bonus, for tourism.