

SCHEDULE 23 TO THE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING FOR PUBLIC
HEARINGS HELD ON
AUGUST 23, 2004.

(1)

August 19, 2004

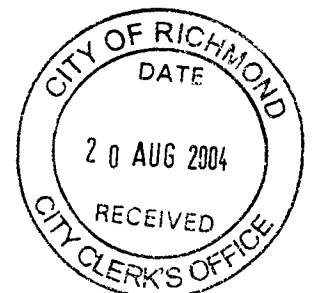
Attention: City Clerk

Re: Zoning Amendment Bylaw 7774 and 7766 (RZ 04-266836)

My name is Sharon MacGougan. I live at the northwest corner of Ash and General Currie Roads (7411 Ash) and co-own the property next door (7391 Ash). The east side of the applicant's property borders the back of my two lots. My concern is parking. The development proposal is for four dwelling units with the equivalent of one and a half parking stalls per unit. This translates into six parking stalls. My question is: where will the other cars be parked?

Most households have at least two cars, and more, if there are any teenagers in the equation, or live at home twenty-year olds, not uncommon today. As many as eight to ten cars could be generated from this one property that only has permanent parking for four. (I assume that the two extra spots are for guests). I believe that it is not reasonable to develop a property with the expectation that the overflow cars will be permanently parked on the street. Where else would they go?

My house faces onto Ash Street. I left the back and the side of my property (bordering General Currie) in a natural state, with a grove of birch trees and natural undergrowth. The strip of land next to the road, bordering my property, is municipality owned. However, my husband and I maintain it. We cut the grass, pick up the constant litter, and cut back the blackberries and morning glories as needed. I foresee that this strip of roadway is where the permanent parking will take place. I object to cars being permanently parked there because there isn't room on their own property.



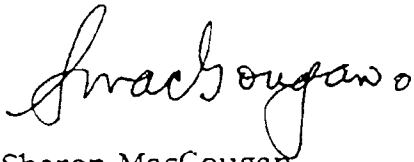
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I grew up on Ash Street. When I was a little girl, an old woman named Mrs. Louis lived on the property I currently own. She had an amazing garden, a magical place to a young girl, filled with fruit trees and blueberry bushes and all variety of flowers and vegetables. We loved her. She was so kind and welcoming to everyone in the neighbourhood. When she died, my parents bought her property. A little over 20 years ago, I built my home here. While I'm not and never could be, the gardener she was, I wanted to remember and preserve some part of her here, on the piece of land that she loved.

That's why I left so much of my property in a natural state: to honour Mrs. Louis, to respect her love of this land, to enjoy what surprises spring from the soil. I only discovered recently the cherry tree that is beside my house, and the holly trees hidden among the birches. Blueberry bushes still thrive, interspersed in the natural growth, and hazel nut trees and oak and a damson plum tree, and so on. Of course, there are now many pressures on this tiny piece of Richmond's history.

My little grove of trees is being fast encroached upon by a rampant need to develop. I anticipate that I'll soon receive complaints about falling leaves from new neighbours who have different ways of viewing the world. And, if the planning is not changed, cars permanently parked on the little strip of Richmond's past that I would like to continue to preserve for all.

Respectfully yours,



Sharon MacGougan
7411 Ash Street