-----Original Message-----
From: A&L DeSousa  
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2006 9:25 AM  
To: West, Kristen  
Cc: Mitchell, Dave

Subject: Proposed Zone Change Mount Hope - File #ZAC-06-53

Dear Ms. West,

Thank you for the opportunity to table our concerns regarding the proposed zoning change in Mount Hope (File # ZAC-06-53). The letter dated September 15th was proposing a "zone change application for town houses and 3 apartments for 89 dwelling units" in our area. We would like to express our strong opposition to this action, and our concerns are as follows:

Esthetics of the New Subdivision

We are concerned that the building of multiunit dwellings (apartments & townhouses) on the corner of Whitechurch Rd and Hampton Brook Way will negatively impact the overall esthetics of the subdivision. This corner is the primary entrance into our community and we are concerned that row housing, especially apartment buildings will infringe upon the esthetics. Many new subdivisions (Garth Trails for example) have stone walls and beautiful landscaping at the entrance welcoming visitors and homeowners, not apartments.

Vandalism & Crime

There is a large concern that the increased population in such a small pocket will bring with it an increase in the potential for crime, vandalism and theft in our area. We are very concerned that the building of 89 units on that corner alone will become a breeding ground for truant activites and behaviour. Although we don't have hard statistics to support our concern we have talked to many individuals who have worked in and lived in areas where such action has taken place (Stone Church & Upper Ottawa for example) to only experience such problems. We are parents of a young child and are concerned for the safety and well being of all children in the neighbourhood.

Traffic & Street Congestion

There currently is no public transportation servicing our area. The concern is that with only two entrances/exits to the subdivision (Hampton Brook Way & Provident Way) there will be a significant increase in the vehicular traffic in the area. Individuals living in the proposed 89 units will have to drive. Many households as we all know have more than one vehicle. This opens the door to have potentially upwards of 100 additional vehicles in the area. We are
concerned about not only the street congestion, but the increase in pollution both noise and otherwise.

Parking

We are concerned about parking facilities for the proposed apartments. We assume some form of lot or parking space will have to be provided for not only residents but visitors as well. Again, we don't believe this type of space would compliment a rural setting. In fact, we fear the opposite - that this would decrease current property values by making them less attractive for resale. Moreover, we are also concerned that visitors to the apartments will ultimately end up parking on our streets.

Rural Living

We, like many others in the community moved to Mount Hope to enjoy a taste of rural living and the country lifestyle. We left the city to move away from the busy streets and over populated areas. We sought out a quiet community to grow our family and feel our efforts are now being jeopardized. We do not want to drive into our community on a daily basis and be reminded of where we came from by looking at a wall of apartments and multiunit dwellings.

Threat of Affordable Housing

We are concerned that adding affordable housing to our area will decreased the value of our properties. We didn't buy a home in this brand new subdivision to see it lose market value by the addition of apartments and multiunit dwellings.

This matter is of significant importance to us and we hope that our concerns will be reviewed and taken into consideration. We are strongly opposed to the zoning changes and look forward to the Council meeting on October 3rd. If you could confirm receipt of this email it would be much appreciated.

Kind Regards,
Lesley and Armene DeSousa
43 Solsbury Cres.