

STATEMENT FOR CONCERNED CITIZENS OF PORT HOPE

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Mayor Bob Sanderson has “no expectation other than saving the Penryn Forest”

The Mayor’s Powerful Declaration

‘Let’s preserve that woodlot’ and
‘Strengthen our position on the environment’

(March 4, 2020) – I am releasing this statement based on heartening comments by Mayor Bob Sanderson last night at the town council meeting and Committee of the whole .

The Mayor said he has “no expectation other than saving the Penryn Forest” in the face of the Mason Homes residential development and said he and council have heard the community’s concerns “loud and clear.”

Mayor Sanderson said public opposition to the Mason Homes application for an Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw amendment is “all part of the process, a very important part.”

The mayor declared “let’s preserve that woodlot” and “strengthen our position on the environment.” He recounted his reasons for running for election as Mayor: that is, “to keep Port Hope, Port Hope.”

He also said that a Heritage Impact Study of the tree lands “is on our agenda,” as called for by citizens opposing the Mason Homes application.

Looking back to Ontario Municipal Board decisions in the early 2000s governing the residential and commercial development of the site, Mayor Sanderson said “what was good 15 years ago is not right for us now.”

He emphasized that the only acceptable outcome of current negotiations with the developer was “what is best for the municipality” and town council has heard the community’s concerns and opposition to the development ‘loud and clear.’

The Mayor also stressed that the Public Meeting being held at the Port Hope High School on this matter March 10 (6.30 p.m) would not produce a decision by Council on approving or not approving this developer’s application.

Mayor Sanderson affirmed last night that he has told the developer that the woodlands must be saved, that the only question was “how not if” this will be done.

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