

Jennefer Driver

December 22, 2020

I am writing this in regards to the article about City of Port Colborne donating the Chestnut Park to Port Cares. That is such a beautiful gesture for the City of Port Colborne but I would like to bring up some very important issues on this.

I just moved to Port Colborne one year ago and chose a house right across from the park. I had other options, such as in other cities but chose Port Colborne as I heard many good things about it. I chose this house because of the location and the park. I have watched children play and families use this park a lot and my own daughter and I have enjoyed this park so much as well. It is now going to be taken away and there is really not a park close within walking distance and a park through a city's planning should be within a certain walking distance. There is one across the bridge but that is not feasible as the bridge is up very often for the water way traffic.

I am completely in support for Port Cares and low income housing and have donated many times to help out but looking through Port Colborne, I have noticed that there is actually many other lots that are suitable and actually may be more beneficial compared to Chestnut Park. For example, there is one located just down the street from Port Cares which I believe would be more suitable.

I look at it from this point of view, you are building a low income housing to help those that do not have much and most times. They don't have the luxury of owning vehicles so most of the time they are commuting on foot or buses. If they are in an area such as Chestnut Street, where is the closest access to stores for groceries or necessities? Where can they walk too? In the location that is close to Port Cares in downtown, look at the amenities the individual would have. Would that not be better suited for families in low income?

I understand this concept very much as I have had my own experiences affected in living in these situations and having amenities within walking distance was very important.

I am asking the council and the city to please, take a good look at this before making the final decisions. With being a homeowner that would be affected with the decision that will be made, I was disappointed with not being informed about this happening and having a chance to help bring ideas to the table. With this said, I hope to have some feedback on these issues.