

Community concerns regarding
decision-making about the potential
loss of 2,700 trees


**SAVE OUR
TREES**
PORT HOPE

We're here because residents want to know (and are entitled to) the facts

March 15 report to Council surprised all, including adjacent neighbours.

Planning for this industrial waste removal project required public input, but as yet consultation has not taken place.

Long-term health and safety risk assessment information still not provided by MPH or PHAI in a transparent way.



Evidence of risk from contaminated soil must be weighed against the risk of losing trees

Character of our town's landscape
Stabilizing our land
Supporting mental health and wellbeing
Cleaning our air
Sequestering carbon
Mitigating against extreme weather and heat in the age of climate change

Low-level Industrial Waste – we recently learned what is there and that it is buried well below the surface, but not of the potential risk/harm. Has there been leaching? Is there a risk if the soil remains undisturbed?
Please make the risk analysis public.

PHAI provided 2 alternatives to clear cutting, again details were not shared with the public by Council or staff.

Why do we care so much?

Because we're actually talking about 50,000 trees!

We must reassess risk/benefits in the PHAI agreement signed 20 years ago (before the testing and before this impact was known).

We must keep the big picture in mind as we weigh the risks based on what we know now about the importance of our Tree Canopy.

It is, after all, our Tree Canopy that is at stake...it's not just 2,700 trees.




Let us not make the mistake of failing to see the forest for the trees!

Behind closed doors, piecemeal decision-making will not allow us to properly weigh the risks.

Long term human health and safety is everyone's priority.

Which is why decisions of this magnitude – like losing our urban tree canopy – surely deserve pause and serious consideration on the basis of all the evidence available to us now, in 2022.




Citizens are entitled to a voice through an open and transparent process

Council and staff have a legal obligation to inform and consult with the public per the *Municipal Act*

The requirement for transparency and public input is included in the terms of the *PHAI agreement* signed by MPH.

The lack of transparency and public consultation – *including keeping abutting neighbours in the dark* – for the decision about the clean up at Lions Centre Park sets a dangerous precedent.



Let's evaluate the decisions made 20 years ago based on what we know in 2022 working with the people who are here in 2022

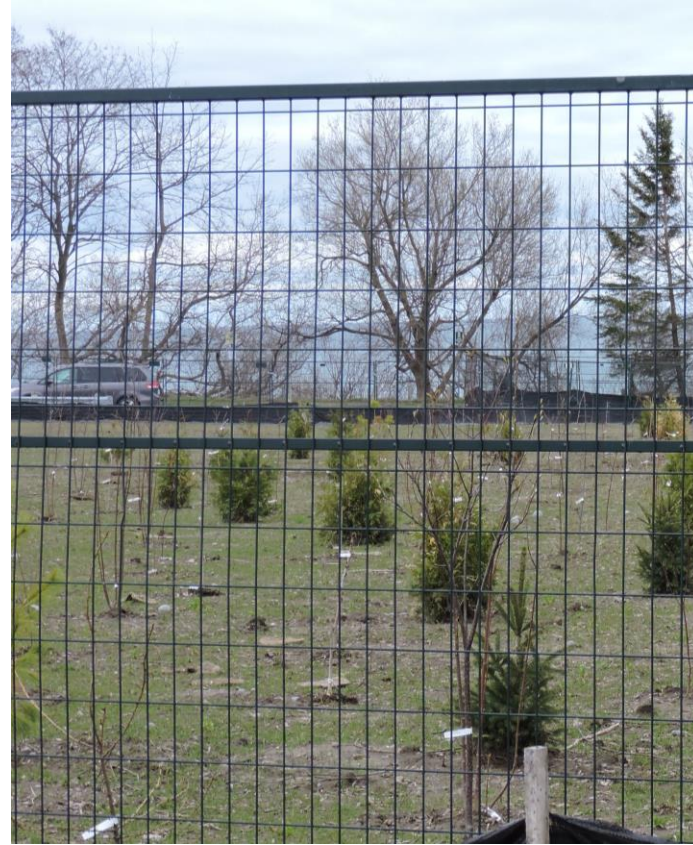
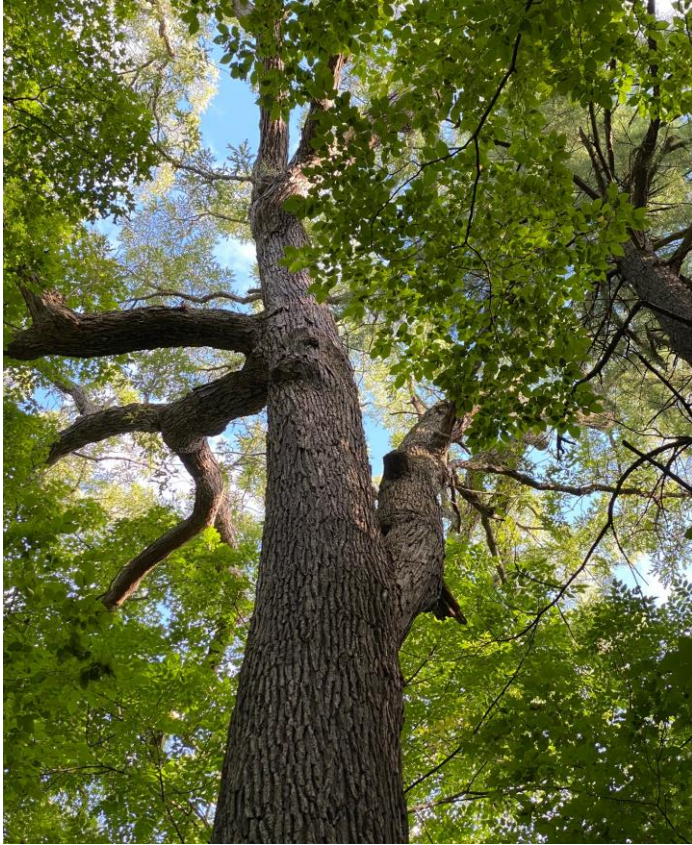
Will Council commit to engaging with citizens through an open and transparent process?

Will Council commit to weighing the risks of soil contaminants against the risks of losing 50,000 trees – a huge swath of our Tree Canopy?

Let us work together to make the best decisions in the interests of our community!



If we're going to turn
this.....into this.....



Surely, we will all sleep
better knowing we
weighed all the risks
and decided based on
science and the will of
the people.

This plea is voiced not only by our organization, but by hundreds of individual residents

Community Rally Saturday April 23rd – 150+ neighbours showed up, voicing frustration at lack of consultation and asking to know on what basis the decision about the 2,700 trees at Lions Centre Park was being made.

Petition – As of April 26, 178 residents had signed the online petition, joined by 80 signatories on the paper version we submit to you this evening.

