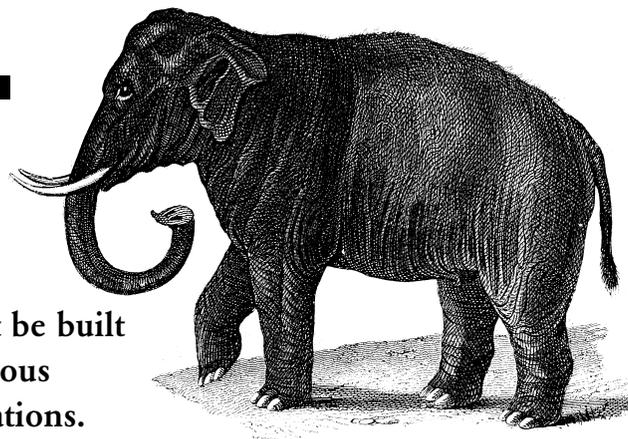


Mrs. Quarrie, an elephant is about to sit down in your garden.



That's what a Wal-Mart at the corner of Woodlawn and Woolwich may look and feel like. An elephant in the garden.

Yes, many people want Wal-Mart in Guelph (although many others don't). And Wal-Mart will likely come. But we believe it should not be built between Woodlawn Cemetery and the Jesuit retreat centre, for obvious reasons. One big reason: There are two other perfectly suitable locations.

{ Here, in TEN QUICK CHAPTERS, is how we got into this situation. }
 { At the bottom of the page is what you can do about it. }

1 Guelph's Official Plan is in limbo. Since two developers lodged appeals with the Ontario Municipal Board in 1997, there has been little commercial development in Guelph. It's hard to imagine why other developers would want to make major investment decisions when it's unclear whether the City will uphold its Official Plan.

2 Wal-Mart wants to change our Official Plan. Our Official Plan says Woodlawn and Woolwich isn't a good place for a regional shopping centre. But Wal-Mart has the money to fight for whatever site it wants, and it wants this one. *It wants to do the planning.*

3 It's not about Wal-Mart. It's about the location. Residents for Sustainable Development has opposed a Wal-Mart at Woodlawn and Woolwich for seven years BECAUSE IT IS THE WRONG PLACE TO PUT ONE. The proposed location is between our city's two largest cemeteries and adjacent to a spiritual retreat centre that has been there for almost 100 years.

4 Wal-Mart could have located here several years ago. There are two properly zoned locations in Guelph for Wal-Mart - at Imperial and Paisley in the west end (next to the new Zehrs) and at Clair and Gordon in the south end. *A Wal-Mart could go on either one tomorrow. Most people don't know this.*

5 Shopping should be where people live. If you put shopping where people live, it's more convenient. People drive less. Some won't have to drive at all. That means less traffic, less congestion, less pollution, fewer accidents. There are 25,000 people living near the available west-end site and thousands more living near the south-end site, where new houses are going up every day. In the vicinity of the proposed location at Woodlawn and Woolwich there are only 3,500 people. *It makes no sense for Guelph to have a Wal-Mart there.*

6 Wal-Mart's stubbornness will cost Guelph taxpayers over \$1 million. The stubborn fight to change Guelph's Official Plan has cost Wal-Mart a lot of money. But it's the largest corporation in the world. It has the money. Guelph taxpayers shouldn't have to match Wal-Mart dollar for dollar. Yet so far, Ontario Municipal Board hearings have cost our city over \$700,000 - and another \$340,000 is budgeted for 2004. That's over \$1 million because Wal-Mart won't locate at commercially zoned sites that require no hearings and cost the city nothing. *We believe that's just wrong.*

7 It would be nice to have a supermarket in the north end. For several years, the Wal-Mart proposal included a food store. They've taken that out. So people in the north end who wanted a regional centre because grocery shopping would be more convenient are out of luck even if Wal-Mart builds there. Instead, we'll have a giant big-box at Guelph's northern gateway - the same giant big-box that makes every other city in North America look alike. From being a distinct someplace special, we'll be just another no place in particular.

8 We asked the mayor to show leadership on this costly, divisive issue. In January, Residents for Sustainable Development asked Guelph city council to have the mayor contact Wal-Mart directly. She could suggest the corporation do the right thing for Guelph by opening in one of the city's existing shopping centres - because lots of people live nearby and there are established shopping patterns. The mayor's office has confirmed no contact has been made. This is very disappointing.

9 Our City Council has changed its mind again. For two years, Guelph's city council fought to uphold our Official Plan. In 1999, a new council supported the developers. In 2001, another new council opposed them. Last November, several new pro-Wal-Mart councillors and a pro-Wal-Mart mayor were elected. At a public meeting on May 25, there were 36 presentations opposing the Wal-Mart proposal. Only six people spoke in support. After four hours of impassioned pleas, council voted 10-3 to approve Wal-Mart. Incredibly, none of the councillors voting in favour bothered to ask any questions of the citizens who opposed the development. They made no statements to justify their decision before voting. In short, our city council abandoned its Official Plan without comment and turned its back on the community values that make Guelph special.

10 It's not over. The OMB will again hear arguments from 6&7 Developments and Residents for Sustainable Development, the only group now left standing against the retail giant. We still believe Guelph is worth saving. *We believe a large corporation should not dictate the way our city looks and feels.*

Defend the Guelph you love. Here's how:
 If you agree that someone should stand up to these out-of-town developers who want to tell us how to run our city, then please show your support. It's vital at this time. Help us pay our legal expenses.

Please make cheques payable to Residents for Sustainable Development in Guelph. Your contribution can be dropped off at Thomas Entertainment, the Flour Barrel, or Planet Bean, all in downtown Guelph. Or mail your cheque to the address below.

Yes! I want to help defend Guelph!

Name _____
 Address _____
 Postal Code _____ Phone _____
 Email _____

To join RSD, inquire at Thomas Entertainment or send your cheque for \$10 to the address on the left. All donors will automatically be made members. Please use the form when sending in your cheque.

www.not-there.ca
 Email: rsd@not-there.ca

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