

WITNESS STATEMENT OF OLGA PROTZ – July 20, 2004

MY NAME IS OLGA PROTZ, MY FAMILY HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF GUELPH FOR 40 YEARS, A PLACE WE ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME. THE TWO AREAS I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS ARE;

1. AS A CHAPLAIN FOR 20 YEARS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY NEED AND WANT TO LEARN A WAY TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE, WHY THEY ARE HERE AND TO DISCERN WHERE THEY ARE TO GO IN THEIR LIVES IN A WORLD FILLED WITH CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE.

FOR YEARS THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS FROM OUR SCHOOLS HAVE ATTENDED DAYS OF RETREAT AT THE IGNATIUS COLLEGE GROUNDS. THESE DAYS OF QUIET AND REFLECTION HAVE BEEN FACILITATED BY THE CHAPLAINS WITH THE HELP OF SENIOR STUDENTS ATTENDING THESE SCHOOLS.

ON THESE DAYS THEY LEARN TO REFLECT ON THEIR LIVES, TO BE QUIET AND STILL WITHIN THEMSELVES, TO LEARN HOW THEY ARE CONNECTED TO NATURE, EACH OTHER, GOD AND ALL OF HUMANITY. THEY LEARN THAT PEACE IN OUR WORLD COMES FROM PEACE WITHIN.

THIS IS WORK SPEAKING TO THE HEART AND SPIRIT AS WELL AS ENGAGING THEIR PHYSICAL SELVES. THE STUDENTS HAVE COME TO RELATE TO THE EARTH BY PLANTING MANY TREES ON THE GROUNDS, BY EXPERIENCING THE NATURAL HABITAT OF THE AREA WHICH INCLUDES WILDLIFE AND A VARIETY OF WILD PLANTS.

WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT THE GROUNDS AT THE IGNATIUS CENTRE HAVE BEEN WELCOMING TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE THERE UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OUR ADOLESCENTS HAVE AND WELCOME THEIR PRESENCE.

I BELIEVE YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO HAVE PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR REFLECTION AND SILENCE. WE NEED TO PROVIDE THESE EVENTS SO THEY CAN SEE THEIR IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF HUMANITY; THAT IT IS IN KNOWING THEMSELVES THAT THEY SEE THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOODNESS THERE.

IGNATIUS COLLEGE PROVIDED THE NEEDED PLACE FOR THESE EXPERIENCES CLOSE TO GUELPH.

A HUGE WALMART STORE ALONGSIDE THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA WILL DESTROY THE TRANQUILITY AND SERENITY OF THIS SPACE. THE CONTEXT FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.

THERE ARE OTHER AREAS WALMART CAN BE BUILT, THERE IS ONLY ONE
IGNATIUS FARM!

I IMPLORER YOU TO NOT SUPPORT THESE STORES TO BE BUILT IN THIS
AREA, TO SHOW, AS ADULT LEADERS IN THIS BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY
THAT YOU VALUE WHAT THIS PLACE PROVIDES FOR AND WILL CONTINUE
TO PROVIDE FOR OUR PRECIOUS YOUNG PEOPLE.

2. MY LATE HUSBAND IS BURIED IN THE MARYMOUNT CEMETERY. A
WAL-MART SHOULD NOT BE ALONGSIDE THIS AND THE OTHER
CEMETERY-.DESIGNATED PLACES OF QUIET AND SACRED SPACE.