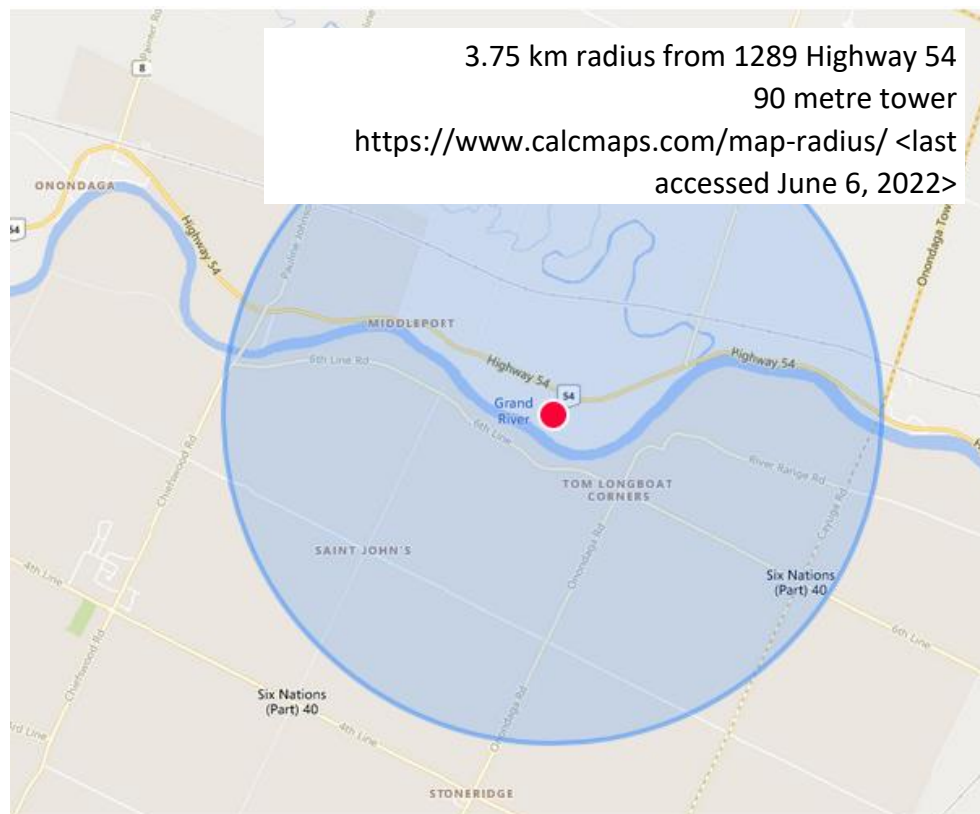
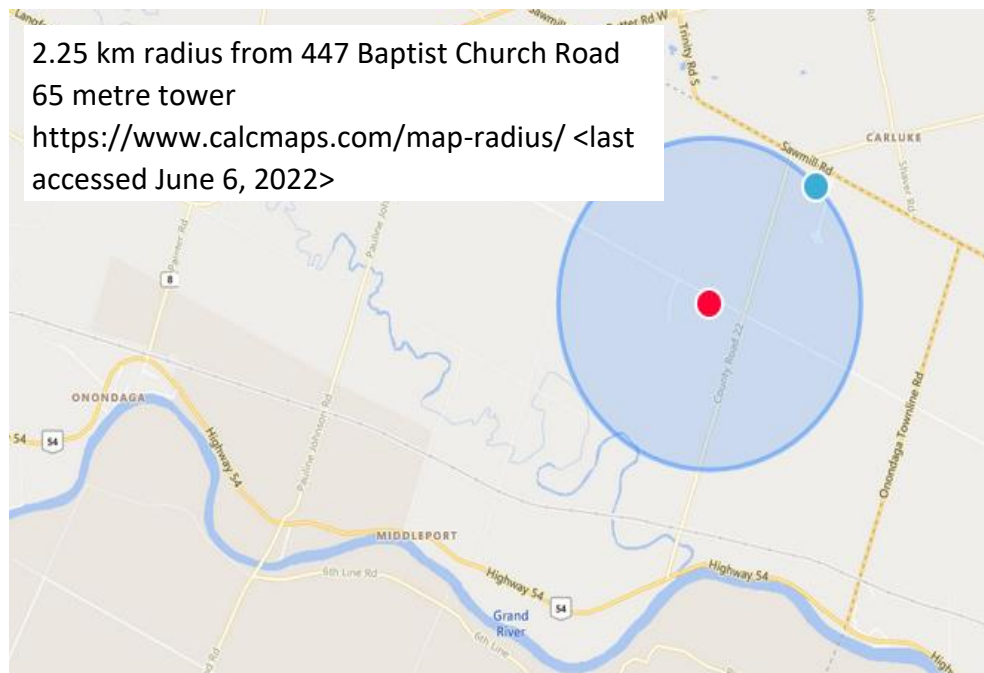


## Concerns Regarding Application Number CT5-21-DN

### 1. The 1289 Highway 54 Tower Project

- a. There is a proposal before council for a communications tower to be built at 1289 Highway 54 (Blaindale Farm); this location is a far better choice for a communications tower:
- b. This is a working farm with a large acreage to support a project like this; they will be able to meet the guidelines outlined in the *Communication Tower and Communication Antenna Preferred Location Protocol* **and/or adjust for any deficiencies**
  - i. This proposed tower will be 90 metres in height, which would translate to a service area radius of 3.75 kilometres, **providing an additional 1.25 kilometres more coverage than the tower proposed at 447 Baptist Church Road**
  - ii. While the coverage area of the proposed tower at 1289 Highway 54 does not quite reach Onondaga Township, it is still a full 4 kilometres closer than the proposed tower at 447 Baptist Church Road
  - iii. As you can see from the maps below, the proposed tower at 1289 Highway 54 will provide much more coverage to residents and businesses **and will even provide some coverage to the areas that fall under the 447 Baptist Church Road proposal**





## 2. SWIFT/Xplornet Communications Project

- a. The County has undertaken an enormous project with SWIFT and Xplornet to expand internet coverage; even this early in the project many areas are already seeing the benefit of this partnership
  - i. As per the news release April 20, 2022: The \$9.4 million broadband project will service 126 kilometres of roadway with fibre-optic cabling to bring high-speed internet service to four separate areas within the County of Brant, **including the community of Onondaga** (<https://swiftruralbroadband.ca/swift-broadband-project-underway-in-brant-county/> last accessed June 6, 2022)
  - ii. This will address the concerns brought forward by the Ward 5 constituents regarding lack of internet access

## 3. Loss of Property Enjoyment

- a. The proposed tower is directly in our sightline and can be seen through every window on the east side of our home (kitchen, dining room and upper hallway)
- b. Aside from the structure itself, any lighting on the tower will filter directly into our windows
  - i. As per the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, **Shared Tower cannot guarantee whether or not Nav Canada will require that lights be added to the tower structure**; however our own research shows that lights are usually added to communication towers
- c. "The proposed **tower will be just 40.35 feet from the neighboring property line** and **visible above the existing (110+ year old *our emphasis*) established tree line.**" <E-mail from Tracey Pillon-Abbs, November 10, 2021 and STC 0079 Site Selection Report p. 7>

- d. As confirmed by the Planning Department, the proposed tower will be built directly along our property line, and does not meet the County's standards as outlined in the 'Preferred Location Guidelines' of the *Communication Tower and Communication Antenna Preferred Location Protocol*

#### 4. Lower Property Values

- a. Real estate agents have said to expect a 20% reduction in expected home resale value; Share Tower has argued that in some cases communication towers can increase property values, **but has not provided any evidence to support that statement**
- b. We **have** spoken to realtors and received the following statements:
  - i. As more and more cell towers are being installed, **the negative impact on property values is apparent to realtors.** "It will definitely affect the value. **You will have a very small pool of people that would want to purchase your property.**" <E--mail message from Rose Levie, Broker, Royal LePage State Realty (Ancaster), November 8, 2021>
  - ii. "People shy away," Ms. Canaris, Associate Broker, Co-owner of RE/MAX Hearthstone said. "If they have the opportunity to buy another home, they do." She said "**cell antennas and towers near homes affect property values.** Increasing numbers of people don't want to live near cell towers. In some areas with new towers, **property values have decreased by up to 20%.**" <<https://stopdellwoodcelltowercom.wordpress.com/about/> Last accessed June 4, 2022>
- c. Lowers our investment and retirement portfolio

#### 5. Environmental Issues

- a. We would be subject to constant and increasing environmental pollution, as more communication devices are expected to be added to the tower
- b. Ongoing water displacement issues that will damage our young hazelnut/truffle orchard

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In closing, we would like to reiterate that we are not against infrastructure progress, but feel there are better choices for this type of project. Choices that would not require Council to vote against the recommendations of their Planning Department, disregard the guidelines outlined in the *Communication Tower and Communication Antenna Preferred Location Protocol*, and address our concerns as homeowners and tax payers.

We respectfully ask that the County issue a letter of non-concurrence with regards to application number CTS-21-DN.

Thank you.

Colleen & Matthew Kelly