

Otto Hans Feiden
Architect and City Planner

By email

County of Brant
Mrs. Haylee Hallema
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November 17, 2023

Dear Mrs. Hallema

Re: Proposal for a 50 m telecommunication tower at 525 Scenic Drive, St. George Brant

With this letter we strongly oppose the proposal, - A 50 m telecommunication tower does not belong into a residential area!

There are several reasons to dismiss the proposal:

1. Distance and health issues:

Although the proposed site is in possession of the county, this does not necessarily mean that the site is appropriate. Indeed, it is just the opposite.

As a retired Architect and Town planner, I was for decade's owner and head of a consulting engineering and architectural firm. Our recommendation to our clients (towns, cities) for such telecommunication towers were: distance to residential neighborhoods **minimum 800 meter**. We also recommended **a location in forested or wooded areas** as the tree canopy so will hide the first 15-20 meter of height making the tower less prominent visible and less dominating. When you journey Europe, you will always see those towers located in forest areas or industrial locations.

I have read 4 or 5 years ago a scientific study, so far I recall, from a British research group regarding Telecommunication towers near residential communities. This researchers warned about possible health issues from so called "hyper magnetic fields" surrounding such installations. Their recommendation **was a distance of 1,000 meter (1 km)** between tower and residential neighborhoods.

This proposed location here is **in the middle of a residential neighborhood**. The distances to nearby housing are (see attached google maps excerpt):

House A, 296 East River Road = 99 m
House B, 300 East River Road = 158 m
House C, 515 Scenic Drive = 157 m

House D, 524C Scenic Drive = 136 m
House E, 524B Scenic Drive = 152 m
House F, 280 East River Road = 151 m
House G, 293 East River Road = 169 m
House H, 524 East River Road = 203 m

Also, of great importance is where the re-recreational sites of those properties are located and how much the distance of those to the proposed tower are. By house A is this distance about 70 meter, by house C about 115 meter. That means in effect that the **kids are playing “ under the tower”**.

We should not take to gamble and wait until in those nearby houses babies get born without limbs or damaged organs or the cancer rate there is much above the average.

2.Reasons of aesthetics and environmental damages:

An 50 meter Telecommunication tower can compete by its height with the highest church towers in Ontario. In the middle of a residential neighborhood its height is overbearing on the nearby homes and dwarfs them accordingly. Therefore we recommended always to locate such towers into forest canopy to make them more acceptable to the landscape appearance. In our modern times such aesthetics sometimes get to often just brushed aside but they are nevertheless important to a suitable and less disturbed environment. We have to imagine that to the lower Scenic Drive area the tower height will even be more harmful as the topography adds another 12 meters onto height. Coming Scenic Drive from the East to the West, the tower will actually appear 62 meter high, an all overbearing monster!

3. Damages to real estate value:

There can be no question that the real estate values for the nearby houses will significantly negatively impacted. For the houses A-H previously mentioned, this property decline will be in the range of approximately 200-300 thousand Dollars per house, further away real estate will suffer by half as much. **The overall negative financial impact on those residents of Brant County will be easily 4-5 million Dollars. This is in no way acceptable!**

4. Overall need of a tower is questionable:

My researches have led to the result that for the residential area here in question **an additional telecommunication tower is not needed**. Customers of Bell, Rogers Fido, Virgin have sufficient signal strength for their handy's. So why then an additional tower, we ask? Is it only for the profit of the applicant?

5. Involving the public:

By such an important development which impacts an far and wide area of Brant County (the tower will be seen from 30 km distance) I find it non-sufficient to inform just properties in 500 meter distance, even if government regulations require not more. Brant County should been interested in public opinion far beyond this. It is interesting and tells much that the government is apparently not interested on independent long term research studies about health impact to the public regarding radio towers. In fact, there are none

existing. So we are, in that respect, **“fishing in the dark”**. As most everything is (over)regulated, this may seem strange to us.

6. Conclusion:

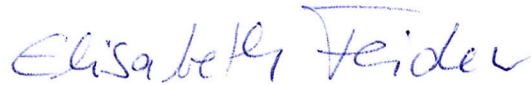
An Telecommunication **tower is totally misplaced in the middle of a residential neighborhood**. As the County **is owner of the proposed location** we request that the County will protect their residents from such an irresponsible project and will dismiss the proposal.

People deciding about this should just think about a proposal to put this tower into their garden. We asking, how would their decision then turn out? Everyone knows probably!


Otto Hans Feiden



Elisabeth Agnes Feiden



Michael Feiden



Maria Agnes Dorothe Rabenstein



1 Attachment: Locations Google Maps

Copy to: ISED, Burlington
Fontur, Richmond Hill



PROPOSED TREE - REMOVE 52.5 SCENIC DRIVE
ST. GEORGE BRANT

ATTACHMENT 1 TO OBJECTION LETTER
FROM NOV. 17, 2023