

Proposal "Have Your Say" Re Brookside Cobourg Ontario

Dear MPP Piccini:

Brookside Detention Centre for Youth has just closed. This land should remain provincial as the provincial government has needs at this time that can fulfill visions that support a prosperous Ontario economy. The current Brookside land is surrounded by three schools that focus on elementary and high school studies and there is a need to be sensitive to the needs of youth while imagining a positive and realistic future for our next generation of contributors to the Ontario economy.

Our recommendation is to replace the closed centre with an accessible **Post-Secondary Education Centre for Arts and Technology**. This centre could fulfill education needs focussing on four main areas, Arts, Design, Gadget/Gaming and Engineering/Arts. A Post-Secondary Education Centre that combines arts and technology could be a satellite offshoot from any of the successful Colleges/Universities in Arts/Technology. i.e. Concordia, Sheridan, McMaster University.

Why focus on arts and technology? The future is in art and technology. Career roles in animation, drama, music and entertainment are a few that we can think of. However on a larger scale the role for collaboration amongst artists and others outside of art can lead to broader innovation in other industries i.e. engineering.

What is needed are motivating educational opportunities for youth that help build careers while building on the foundation of our economy! We need to create a reason for current youth and the migration of additional youth to Cobourg and Northumberland. In this manner the Ontario Provincial Government is creating benefits both from an educational standpoint and more. Broad benefits in new skills and personal development will encourage a rippling economic effect. We are encouraging society to develop and we are encouraging a more prosperous community in South Eastern Ontario.

The 2020 Economic Report For Ontario forecasts for economic growth across Ontario are varied. The forecasts show Golden Horseshoe and Ottawa surpassing other areas. If we do not create a viable reason for people and industry in Cobourg and the Northumberland area then what will become of Cobourg and other small communities in this part of Ontario. There is little current industry in this community and it is possible that without a long term future growth prospect we are creating a future retirement community with an aging population. We need revitalization in industry that is not based primarily on retail! Investing in the educational services industry is vital to economic growth in South Eastern Ontario.

The provincial government could build a space that enables and inspires our youth to explore and create a better future. Imagine either that the current "heritage" main building remains in place and the other buildings are repurposed into new buildings that form a collaborative scholastic environment. **OR** create a brand new higher education centre in arts and technology in Cobourg that becomes both a motivational and available path of success for everyone in Cobourg and the surrounding area.

Paula and Tom Hacking 461 Foote Crescent, Cobourg Ontario