

To: Brock Township Council

13 October, 2021

Dear Mr Mayor and Council Members;

My name is Joanne Payne and I have lived in the [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]
in Cannington for four years.

My greatest pleasure here has been my ability to rent garden plots at the Maple Tree Community Garden; not only have I been able to grow my own organic vegetables and herbs – and share them with several fellow building residents – gardening has been my means of staying fit and healthy, both physically and mentally. Especially during these last two ‘covid’ years, the garden has been my premier source of wellbeing. As a pensioner, the food I produce has a huge beneficial impact on my budget, as well as these health benefits.

Having the garden within walking distance has been important for me. I don’t own a car and while I have borrowed one occasionally to haul bags of soil amendments, tools, etc to the garden site, I can’t do that for the daily requirements of tending, watering, weeding, crooning, harvesting, etc.

We were informed on 20 September 2021 that the owners, TNDF, are going to repurpose the whole site following next year’s growing season. After 2022, garden plots would no longer be available to the public. This was a severe blow to me, for all the reasons I’ve stated.

Fellow gardener, Monique Bonk, is scheduled to speak to you later this month on behalf of the gardeners affected by TNDF’s decision in hopes that Brock Township may have useable sites in town that could be cultivated as community and/or allotment gardens for those without other means of growing their own food.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly

Joanne Payne, [REDACTED]

Cc: Councillor Cria Pettingill; Monique Bonk