

Angie McDermott

From:
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 6:18 PM
To: thoreng

Demolition of the South Street Bridge, Port Robinson

My wife and I attended the information meeting at the community center and to no surprise to us we were among the many concerned residents of Port Robinson. The bridge not only holds a large historic value to our community, it also serves as a major travel route to the towns core. I cannot help to be concerned that absolutely no consideration was taken at this decision. We have only been residents for 6 years but have used the bridge hundreds of times and enjoy the scenery and calmness of the area. Having spent years in construction I can't accept that this piece of history in which it was built cannot be refitted and restored to accept foot traffic for years to come. The environmental impact would cause construction costs to sky rocket and the concrete removal would be expensive today as well. Please reconsider this action, as the members of this community realize the need and importance of this structure. Thank you.

8 Hamilton Blvd
Port Robinson

Angie McDermott

From:
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 7:47 PM
To: thoreng
Subject: old Port Robinson Bridge

To Whom It may Concern,

As residents on Melrose Av. Port Robinson, my husband and I are very upset about the demolition of the old bridge. We've been residents of

Port for 11 yrs and never realized what an idyllic spot the area around the old bridge is! We are senior citizens who love to walk across the bridge to pick up

our mail, go to the park, etc. The community was never consulted regarding this. All age groups utilize the bridge not to mention all the new housing being

built in our neighbourhood. It's a beautiful spot to just stand and enjoy nature. It is home to birds, fish, muskrat, frogs. And

snapping turtles nest along the guard rails at the roadside, so any replacement walkway up there would endanger them.

With the demolition it will mean walking along River St next to a road used by trucks, cars, and not to mention dirt bikes and quads. It's easy to say just take

the car but that's not the point. We walk to keep healthy, young mothers with strollers lull their young ones to sleep, children learn to ride their bikes ,

others dog walk. And some just enjoy the peace and quiet . We've already lost 2 woodlots for new construction. Enough is enough.

Unless the bridge is in danger of collapse, why can't the railings be replaced and more fencing put around it!

A replacement of some kind must be built so our citizens can continue to enjoy our nature walk in safety if the bridge has been deemed that unsafe.

Please advocate for us, as we feel as though our side of Port Robinson just doesn't matter to city council

Sincerely,

Angie McDermott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 10:34 PM
To: thoreng

I am a resident of Port Robinson resident and writing regarding the bridge being torn down...I agree the bridge is unsafe and probably not worth rebuilding...but it is our access to walk to the park, mailbox and go for bike rides. Will the bridge be replaced by accessible sidewalks?? It is not safe to walk the road with kids...people fly around the corner and cannot see if people kids are there. The region continues to find a ferry for some reason to "connect" the town...do we not deserve a safe way to walk to the park with our kids. We also have people who deserve access to wheelchair accessible ways to get around the town.

Port Robinson resident

Angie McDermott

From: Port Robinson <portrobinsonproud@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Terry Ugolini; Tim Whalen; Jim Handley; Ted Luciani; Fred Neale; Michael Charron; Anthony Longo; Sergio Paone; Shawn Wilson; Manoj Dilwaria; thoreng
Subject: Fwd: Port Robinson Bridge

Mayor Luciani and Members of Council, CAO Dilwaria and Director of Operations

Please find enclosed a copy of the email that was sent to Mr. Dunsmore regarding his request for input from the residents concerning the Port Robinson bridge pursuant to the conversations of last night's meeting.

We want to thank Councillor's Handley, Whelan and Ugolini for their presence, support and input last evening. I am certain that the residents appreciated that you attended and took the time to listen to their concerns and suggestions.

Port Robinson Proud would like to be part of future discussions about the bridge issue (and the issues concerning the trains, the fire hall, the ferry etc) and we would once again like to offer our social media and printed newsletter as a tool for communication to the community when issues arise out here.

We have asked many times to be included as many of our residents do not get St. Catharines newspapers and not all have internet access or tech savvy. There are always more ways to communicate with residents and we ask you to please consider Port Robinson Proud in the future as well as your usual methods of communications. We are always happy to help and we have many times demonstrated our willingness to work with and in support of the City of Thorold.

We thank Mr. Dunsmore for his professionalism and empathy during a sometimes passionate dialogue with Port Robinson residents. He handled the somewhat heated exchanges with grace.

We look forward to future discussions and are happy with the first steps in achieving a safe and accessible community for all of our residents and cycling visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Waters
Port Robinson Proud

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Port Robinson <portrobinsonproud@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 24, 2018 at 11:37 AM
Subject: Port Robinson Bridge
To: thoreng@thorold.com

Sean, thank you for your patience and diplomacy last night at the information meeting in Port Robinson. I know you took a lot of heat over the bridge issue and I appreciate that you handled it with such grace.

The community is passionate about the bridge and wants to save it while making it safe and accessible and maintain the charm and heritage of the structure. Im sure that those points were made very clear last night and it was apparent that the most important potential solution going forward is to find a way to keep the bridge as a pedestrian and cycle path-way.

Port Robinson Proud was part of the efforts to save and find funding to keep the Port Robinson Ferry with the City of Thorold and the Region of Niagara a few years back. Port Robinson Proud also had a seat on the Tourism Committee for the City of Thorold.

The ferry is an important "bridge" (hence the name Bridge-It) for the east and west sides of Port Robinson to remain connected. Thorold tourism has been working hard at promoting the City as a cycling tourism destination and the ferry played a huge role in that plan as Port Robinson is the halfway point in the lake-to-lake route for the Greater Niagara Cycle Route.

The Port Robinson bridge, while being incredibly important to the residents, is also a charming cycling detour for the thousands of cyclists that pass through our community via Bridge-It each year. *That point was missed last night.*

The accessibility of the bridge is of course important for the disabled residents but also for the large number of young parents who regularly walk across it with their children in strollers, bikes, wagons and of course the dog walkers. I know that making the path from South Main St to the north end of the the bridge will be a challenge especially since the platform of the bridge is heaving in places and the existing sidewalks need some maintenance and repairs, but the points that were made about the dangers of River Street were not exaggerated. (At all!)

Living in a rural community like Port Robinson with all the trails and open land is a natural invitation for dirt bikes, quads and four-wheelers all year round and snow-mobiles in the winter. Its very common to see them along River Street riding side by side and usually travelling at a high speed as they cross from the trails next to the canal over to the brush land bordering River Street and then back again.

They are a menace and a perennial problem but they come with the territory. Policing them works for a short time but the NRP cannot be out here all the time and the trail riders know it. River Street is the natural crossing and travelling point. Residents know this and have grudgingly accepted it as part of living in Port Robinson, a fair trade off for not having to deal with Brock students, perhaps?

;))

But the safety of pedestrians on River Street cannot be overstated. Its just a poorly designed road that was never intended for pedestrian traffic.

That being said, the fact remains that residents need a safe and accessible route into the community for their mail pickup, small groceries at Savona's, visiting families and friends, going to the park and splash pad and over to the ferry.

Cyclists need this safety as well. River Street is regularly populated with cyclists who love the view along the canal and as a quick route to Welland, Chippawa and then on into Niagara Falls. (part of the tourism plan)

The one thing that I took away from this whole situation is that unless you live here with this community's quirks, charms and eccentricities one cannot understand the symbiosis of living here. Yes, we are in Thorold--- but not really.... if that makes sense. This community has felt cut off from the rest of the City for probably most

of its existence and I'm sure most people are fine with that until something of the importance of possibly losing the bridge (or the ferry, or the fire hall or the community centre) comes up.

I believe that most situations can be handled or reacted to in a reasonable manner but when decisions are being made without proper communication from the City and at the very least a semblance of transparency, then Port Robinson residents stop being the quiet southern hamlet and the fight is on. That is the point that I think was missed in all of this situation. No one likes having a decision shoved down their throats without possibility of input or feedback. That is what this whole process has felt like.

I know I have stated this many times to the clerk's department, to other staff and to Council and the previous CAO, that communication, transparency and fairness must be priority one when dealing with issues in Port Robinson. Our social media pages, and our presence in the community for the folks who don't get a newspaper or have internet access is always available of the dissemination of information. There are many ways to communicate and Port Robinson Proud is one of those solutions to getting information out to the residents. Things can always be handled better.

We would like to part of the solution and we have proven our ability to get things done and to effectively partner with the City of Thorold time again and again. Please always feel free to connect with one of us and we will be happy to offer our support and help in any way. Had that been done, last night's fury and the storm of controversy on social media might have been mitigated (somewhat)

Living in Port Robinson comes with a unique set of challenges and folks here accept those challenges for the privilege of living in such a pretty, historic and quiet place.

Connecting with the people who call this place home is the first step before making decisions that affect our quality of life. Port Robinson Proud is a willing conduit between the City and the community and we are always happy to help.

In closing, thank you to you Sean, to Kory and to George for your professionalism and empathy last night and for taking the time to listen to the residents. I think good first steps were achieved and we look forward to the next steps to make Port Robinson safe and accessible for all.

Nancy Waters
Port Robinson Proud
905-384-6886

Att: George

Director of Engineering
and Operations

APRIL 26, 2018.....ADDENDUM # 1 TO

DUE DILIGENCE RESPONSE FROM THE RESIDENTS OF PORT ROBINSON EAST to the suggestion by the City of Thorold to demolish the South Main Street Bridge Written by Ron Devereux, 43 South Street, North, Port Robinson EAST

1. The ecosystem and its habitats around the Bridge have existed in a significantly-natural state since approximately 1970. There are LARGE snapping turtles in this section of Chippawa Creek with shells as large as the size of a banana box. In June, they climb up to the top of the Creek bank on the WEST side of the Bridge to lay their eggs in the gravel along the EAST side of the guardrail that lines River Road at this location. The heat of the Sun, warming the gravel, promotes the development and hatching of the eggs.

Any construction activity in this Creek Bank area on the west side of the Bridge will significantly-disrupt...even DESTROY...this traditional egg-laying area and this egg-laying activity...which maintains the Turtle population.

2. Any temporary sidewalk built to the south of the Bridge to get up to River Road, to accommodate walking, jogging, riding around the Bridge must be wide enough to accommodate more than the width of a wheelchair, as there other Residents in the Village (an amputee for example)...whose hand-powered disability "bicycle" is very wide. Contact Paul and Peggy Humber at 13 Canby Street, Port Robinson EAST for specific details.

3. We wish to re-emphasize that there are no PUBLIC facilities in Port Robinson for Active "Fitness" Recreation enjoyment by ADULTS except the Bridge...as outlined in SECTIONS 1 & 2 of the original report.

4. We wish to re-emphasize the importance of the large size of the Bridge Deck for accommodating Active and Passive Recreational activities SIMULTANEOUSLY as per Section 2B of the original report...

QUOTE: *"The length and width of the Bridge provides ample room for the complete range of outdoor activities described in this report...to occur simultaneously in the same space...without participants being in conflict with each other, as would be the case if the Bridge did not exist"...* OR if it was replaced with a simpler, narrower "footpath only/pathway-style" Bridge.

5. The Bridge fulfills a role similar to that of the Boardwalk in Mel Swart Park, where the natural, outdoor "experience" can be enjoyed with minimum interference/destruction of the natural habitats of the ecosystem!

6. As emphasized in the SYNOPSIS of the ORIGINAL REPORT:

QUOTE: *"The CONTEXT of our opposition to its demolition requires a change of focus by City Staff. OUR PREMISE is that Instead of the BRIDGE being viewed ONLY as an OPERATIONS LIABILITY, as a "simple" walkway, it must, instead be viewed as an INVESTMENT in a COMMUNITY, FAMILY-oriented, NATURE-related, OUTDOOR, RECREATIONAL FACILITY/RESOURCE. This Bridge fulfills MANY important, valuable, and unique functions to ALL residents."*

RECOMMENDATION: WE suggest that as a recreational facility/resource, it should be investigated if there is recreational funding available for repairs to the Bridge from other levels of Government, in addition to any infrastructure funding that may be available for repairing "just" a Bridge.

7. Summary of Collection of Petition Forms from Port Robinson Residents in OPPOSITION to demolition:
Responses to date:

92 signed Petition Forms collected, with SIGNATURES of 210 Adults, + 50 children counted in those households.

THESE FORMS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE CLERK'S DEPARTMENT ON THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018.

Forms will continue to be collected up to the day that Council makes a decision on the Engineering Staff Report.

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2018

CITY OF THOROLD CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Keep this TOP portion of this notice as a convenient reminder of this IMPORTANT MEETING!
This information sheet was prepared by Ron Devereux, 43 South Street, North, Port Robinson EAST
URGENT MESSAGE about AN URGENT Port Robinson PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, April 23, 2018 ... TIME: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Information Session...Come -and-Go...at your convenience... during these hours!

PLACE: Port Robinson Community Center, corner of Cross Street and South Street, South

Purpose/Subject of the Public Information Session:

The City of Thorold is proposing to **DEMOLISH** the "Walking and Bicycle" Bridge...on South Main Street over Chippawa Creek...which joins the Southern "subdivision" area of the Village to the rest of Port Robinson EAST.

Please Support Your Neighbours in This Vital Community Effort Against Demolition!

SAT-SUN-MON til 4pm, please leave this form in the container MARKED "PETITIONS" at 43 South St., North.

AFTER 5pm Monday, please leave this form in the container MARKED "PETITIONS" at The Community Center

Cut and detach here-----

WE CANNOT LET THIS DEMOLITION HAPPEN!.....WE WANT THE BRIDGE SAVED!

PETITION TO: CITY OF THOROLD: Summary of **SOME** of our **POSITIVE** views on the South Main Street Bridge.

The **SOUTH MAIN STREET BRIDGE** fulfills **MANY** important , valuable, and unique functions for **ALL** residents.

1. PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE CONNECTION...(Utilitarian Function)

The Bridge is a **SAFE** "pathway" over Chippawa Creek...free from vehicular traffic...for walking/cycling to & from Port Robinson Park, Post Office, Bridge12 Pub&Eatery, Community Center, homes of friends & neighbours , etc.

2. The Bridge is a VERY valuable...even PRICELESS...Resource for Outdoor Recreational and Leisure Activities:

A.) It serves as a Fishing Pier. (Active Recreation)

B.) It is an Elevated "Observation Deck": Viewing the natural life in the Creek's ecosystem: (Passive Recreation)

C. LEISURE-WALKING: (Active Recreation)

Leisure-walking, dog-walking, jogging are popular activities regularly-embraced by many Village residents, who use the BRIDGE due to the quiet, safe and natural environs that can be experienced and enjoyed.

D. Participating in Outdoor Activities in a Natural Environment (Active and Passive Recreation)

(EG. as provided and expedited by the South Main Street Bridge) **is Good for Your Brain and your Well-Being!**

SOURCE: <https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/07/22/how-nature-changes-the-brain/?action=click&pgtype=Homepage®ion=CCColumn&module=MostEmailed&version=Full&src=me&WT.nav=MostEmailed>

nav=MostEmailed

3.) Current Condition of the Bridge:

A.) On what basis is it unsafe? Condition-assessment report(s), the documented deficiencies, etc. are required!

B.) What are the documented costs of repairing the railings and deck-support -piers compared to demolition?

C.) If it's unsafe, WHY HAVE SIGNS NEVER BEEN POSTED warning of personal danger to users of the Bridge?

D.) The City's public notice says the purpose of the meeting is to discuss "options". WHAT ARE THEY and COSTS?

Please answer these questions with full documentation in the Staff report.

WE ARE NOT IN FAVOUR OF DEMOLITION of the South Main Street Bridge !!

PETITION SIGNED BY ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OVER. Number of other people at this address under age 18: 2

(We Live in Port Robinson)

Print

1. Name: _____ Address: _____ SIGNATURE: 

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE – MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018

DEMOLITION OF THE SOUTH MAIN STREET BRIDGE

DARLENE RYAN PORT ROBINSON COMMUNITY CENTRE 5:00 p.m. TO 8:00 p.m.

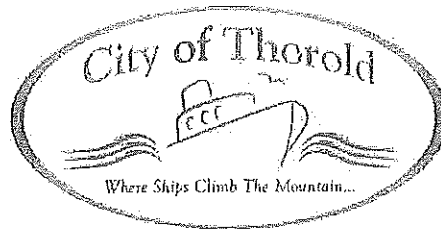
COMMENT SHEET

NAME & ADDRESS:	Port Robinson, ON
COMMENTS:	I moved my young family to Pt Robinson 7 years ago. We feel like we're in the country & enjoy the small village charm. I have a son with Autism who enjoys the outdoors, walking to the park & the bridge. His Dr. has suggested he gets more physical activity. Without the bridge we would have to walk on the extremely dangerous road. It is safer to walk over the bridge than on the road!! I run across the bridge a few times a week & on summer nights we walk to the bridge & look for fish. The bridge is very important to my family!!

Please forward the completed sheet to the Public Works & Community Services Department by Friday, May 4, 2018 using one of the following methods:

- 1) Mail – 3540 Schmon Parkway, P.O. Box 1044, Thorold, ON L2V 4A7
- 2) Hand deliver to the Public Works & Community Services Department at 1543 Beaverdams Road
- 3) Fax to Public Works @ 905-227-3666
- 4) Email comments to thoreng@thorold.com

Your comments are greatly appreciated.



PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE – MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018

DEMOLITION OF THE SOUTH MAIN STREET BRIDGE

DARLENE RYAN PORT ROBINSON COMMUNITY CENTRE 5:00 p.m. TO 8:00 p.m.

COMMENT SHEET

NAME & ADDRESS: RF Robinson
COMMENTS: You cannot demolish the bridge! Questions: Do you want to divide our village further? What's the cost to repair? What's the cost to demolish? What exactly makes it unsafe? How could you let my family walk across it for yrs if it really is unsafe? We need safe walking access to park & post office!

Please forward the completed sheet to the Public Works & Community Services Department by Friday, May 4, 2018 using one of the following methods:

- 1) Mail – 3540 Schmon Parkway, P.O. Box 1044, Thorold, ON L2V 4A7
- 2) Hand deliver to the Public Works & Community Services Department at 1543 Beaverdams Road
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Your comments are greatly appreciated.

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DUE DILIGENCE RESPONSE
FROM THE RESIDENTS OF PORT ROBINSON EAST
to the suggestion by the City of Thorold to demolish the South Main Street Bridge

Written by Ron Devereux
43 South Street, North, Port Robinson EAST

Prepared for the Port Robinson PUBLIC MEETING
Information Session

DATE: MONDAY, April 23, 2018

TIME: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

PLACE: Port Robinson Community Center, corner of Cross Street and South Street, South

PURPOSE/SUBJECT OF THE MEETING:

OVERVIEW:

The City of Thorold is proposing to **DEMOLISH** the concrete "Walking and Bicycling" Bridge... which joins the Southern "subdivision" area of the Village to the rest of Port Robinson EAST. These areas are otherwise physically-separated from each other by the "dogleg" branch of Chippawa Creek.

THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!!

THE BRIDGE MUST BE SAVED!

IRONY OF THE SITUATION:

Pointed out by Port Robinson residents in the last 96 hours...in conversations about the South Main Street "BRIDGE SITUATION": "Here we are again...as PR residents...fighting to keep a Bridge so that our Village is not physically-divided, yet again, by a body of water!!"

SYNOPSIS:

The CONTEXT of our opposition to its demolition requires a change of focus by City Staff. OUR PREMISE is that Instead of the BRIDGE being viewed ONLY as an OPERATIONS LIABILITY, as a "simple" walkway, it must, instead be viewed as an INVESTMENT in a COMMUNITY, FAMILY-oriented, NATURE-related, OUTDOOR, RECREATIONAL FACILITY/RESOURCE.

This Bridge fulfills MANY important, valuable, and unique functions to ALL residents.

1. PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE CONNECTION...(Utilitarian Function)

The Bridge provides a SAFE "pathway" over ChippawaCreek...separated from the vehicular traffic on River Road...for walking/cycling to and from the recreation facilities of Port Robinson Municipal Park, the Post Office, Bridge 12 Pub and Eatery, Port Robinson Community Center and to the homes of friends and neighbours who are otherwise separated from each other in the Village by the "dogleg" section of Chippawa Creek.

It serves this function for a wide-range of Village Residents...Such as all children and adults including Seniors; those disabled in wheelchairs; mothers and fathers pushing strollers and/or pulling wagons; children riding tricycles and bicycles; adults riding bicycles, etc.

City of Thorold Operations Dept. ordered the Bridge CLOSED on Friday, April 21, 2018. Access to cross the Bridge was stopped/prevented/denied by the placement of concrete barriers and snow-fencing at the North and South ends of the Bridge. If safety and liability concerns were the issue that prompted this decision, it actually made our real concerns for safety and liability WORSE. The only alternative way to walk around the closed Bridge is to use the adjacent /nearby section of RIVER ROAD...which has no sidewalks, at some points NO shoulders, and

also an “S” bend with visibility blind spots. This section of River Road NEVER has speed limit enforcement, so vehicular traffic is regularly-observed travelling above the posted speed limit.

2. The Bridge is a VERY Valuable...even PRICELESS...

RESOURCE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

For 48 years, the Bridge has been a public asset to Port Robinson residents, that has cost the City of Thorold virtually **NOTHING** to maintain, averaged annually.

For 48 years, NO Recreational/Leisure/Parks Department **OVERSIGHT, PROGRAMMING** or **STAFFING COSTS** have been required from the CITY for the free , spontaneous, self-directed, recreational activities that the Bridge provides access to, for Port Robinson Residents...as outlined in the following pages.

2A.) It serves as a Fishing Pier. (Active Recreation)

i.) Many species of fish are caught in this section of the Creek...perch, rock bass, black bass, pike, sunfish, crappies, bluegills, catfish, etc. This section of the Creek is a valuable spawning ground for them... which maintains the fish population to sustain the ongoing fishing activities.

ii.) Throughout the fishing season, as many as 6 to 10 anglers may be present on the Bridge at any one time. Anglers are not only Port Robinson residents. They also come from many other parts of the Niagara Region to fish here...St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, other parts of Thorold, Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Fort Erie.

iii.) The length of the Bridge provides much more space accommodation for anglers than is available by attempting to fish from the overgrown shore locations along the swampy Creek shoreline.

iv.) Fishing from the bridge reduces trampling and destruction of the natural shoreline ecosystem and habitats of native Creek “wildlife “ species that live in this section of the Creek...beaver, muskrat, ferret, migratory birds (nesting grounds), fish, snapping turtles, mud turtles, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, frogs, etc.

v.) In this day-and-age when children spend so much time indoors glued to electronic devices, having easy access to free fishing resources located in their neighbourhood, close to home, should be highly-valued...to get them outdoors, actively-enjoying nature.

2B.) It is an Elevated “Observation Deck” for viewing the Creek’s ecosystem activities: (Passive Recreation)

Overhead viewing: Observation, discovery and self-education about the Creek ‘inhabitants’, habitats, ecosystem. The Bridge provides an elevated perspective not available from a shoreline location at water-level.

Beaver, muskrat, ferret, fish, snapping turtles, mud turtles, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, frogs, etc. can be easily-observed from above the water.

Nearby activities of other wildlife of the Creek ecosystem can be easily-watched also: bald eagles, swans, Snow geese (seasonally), kingfishers, gulls and many species of migratory waterfowl (ducks, Canada geese, coots) year-round.

NATURE SOUNDS of the Creek ecosystem can be enjoyed.. .croaking of frogs, quacking and honking of waterfowl, trill calls of songbirds (red-wing blackbirds, cardinals, robins, Larkin wrens, etc.)

The length and width of the Bridge provides ample room for the complete range of outdoor activities described in this report...to occur simultaneously in the same space...without participants being in conflict with each other, as would be the case if the Bridge did not exist.

2C.) Leisure- Walking: (Active Recreation)

Within Port Robinson East, leisure-walking and dog-walking are popular activities regularly-embraced by many residents due to the quiet, safe and natural environs that can be experienced and enjoyed. Being able to walk longer distances (walking recreation) is enhanced by the Bridge...by being able to SAFELY walk the full-length of the Village from Allanport Road to the far-end of the “subdivision” (Old Biggar Road) via the “connection” of the South Main Street Bridge.

Beyond each of these Village boundary points, leisure walking is not “pedestrian-friendly” due to the absence of sidewalks along the adjacent high-speed, rural roadways...Allanport Road and Biggar Road.

2D.) Health Benefits of Participating in Outdoor Activities in a Natural Environment

(Active and Passive Recreation)

(For example, as provided and expedited by the South Main Street Bridge)

is Good for Your Brain and Your Well-Being!

i.). SOURCE: <https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/07/22/how-nature-changes-the-brain/?action=click&pgtype=Homepage®ion=CColumn&module=MostEmailed&version=Full&src=me&WT.nav=MostEmailed>

ii. The Discipline and Science of Practical Psychology

NUTSHELL summary of the LINKED article above:

Reynolds writes:

“(Increasingly,) many of us today live in cities and spend far less time outside in green, natural spaces than people did several generations ago. City dwellers also have a higher risk for anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses than people living outside urban centers, studies show.” (in Practical Psychology)

These results strongly suggest that getting out into natural environments could be an easy and almost immediate way to improve “moods” (sense of well-being) for city dwellers.

iii. Many other similar studies and sources can be found at this GOOGLE SEARCH:

<https://www.google.ca/search?q=walking+in+nature+changes+the+brain&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiqz8j7xrzaAhWK6oMKHYS4DywQ1QIIAEoBA&biw=1280&bih=590>

E.) The Discipline and Science of Recreational Geography

It is a well-established FACT, in the Discipline and Science of Recreational Geography, that water-based, recreational opportunities, in a natural setting, are the most highly-valued asset of all recreational qualities for outdoor enjoyment!

F.) Location, Location, Location:

As residents, we like to say, “Port Robinson is 10 minutes from everywhere...in the middle of NOWHERE!”

The site and situation of the Village of Port Robinson in the Niagara Region and

the site and situation of the South Main Street Bridge in Port Robinson :

i.) Combine to provide and expedite a rich, unique and highly-valued, naturally-blessed, rural, residential community...and sub-communities within it.

ii.) Combine to provide **easy public access** to the Chippawa Creek ecosystem and its environs...**right near the CENTER of our Village**. THIS is a significant asset to our feeling of living “in the middle of NOWHERE”...and a key component of the reality of our enjoyment of the quiet, rural, natural setting of our quaint residential enclave...that makes Port Robinson a special place to live.

G.) Physical Analysis of the Bridge:

i.) Researched and Anecdotal History of the Bridge:

Based on some research on the History of the Welland Canal, and conversations with long-time Village residents, suggest that the Bridge was “decommissioned” from vehicular traffic around 1970. At that time, the natural course of the Chippawa Creek was changed due to realignment/reconstruction/straightening of the Welland Canal from Port Robinson to Port Colborne.

This realigned Canal channel is known as the Welland By-Pass.

This realignment created the “dogleg” branch of Chippawa Creek, that the South Main Street Bridge spans.

This realigned Canal channel is known as the Welland By-Pass.

This realignment created the "dogleg" branch of Chippawa Creek, that the South Main Street Bridge spans.

ii.) Current Physical Condition of the Bridge:

a.) The Bridge has not accommodated vehicular traffic for approx. 48 years.

So, it has been spared all of the daily negative effects of heavy vehicular traffic for all those years.

Also, without vehicular, it has not been subjected to the negative affects of road salt.

Given that the heavy construction of the Bridge was intended for constant vehicular traffic,

it is obvious from the **good condition of the Bridge deck and the Bridge sidewalk**

that the light pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the last 48 years

has had negligible "wear-and tear" effects on the Bridge's structure.

b.) The integrity of the Bridge deck and the Bridge sidewalk is totally-intact.

There are NO holes, breaches, cracks, tilting or signs of any unsafe deterioration of these surfaces.

The Bridge surfaces appear strong and in excellent condition to continue to accommodate light pedestrian and bicycle traffic for possibly another 50 years!

c.) There is obvious **visible deterioration of the Bridge's horizontal metal railings**. All need replacement.

Gaps in the continuity of these railings have been closed by the installation of chain-link fencing

along the full-length of the Bridge on both sides. His fencing needs replacement.

d.) The concrete vertical supports that "connect" the railings together show visible deterioration due to

"freeze-thaw" activity. However, each concrete support is reinforced by 4 reinforced-steel rods which are

securely-fastened to the Bridge deck. Some of these vertical railing supports need repair to their concrete outer surfaces.

None of these concrete railing supports is loose or in danger of falling off the Bridge into the Creek.

e.) There is some freeze-thaw damage to the structural supports that support the Bridge deck UNDER the

Bridge. Repairing this type of damage is very common and regularly done to bridges around the World .

It is not rocket-science!

f.) It is simple **common-sense** to assume that repairing/upgrading the condition of the Bridge railings and the

structural supports under the Bridge deck would be a **minor cost** compared to demolition of the Bridge.

After these repairs are done, given the same weather conditions and current use conditions, it is reasonable to

expect that little additional maintenance would be required for another 50 years...so the Bridge can continue to

be an extremely-low-cost (averaged annually), valuable, utilitarian and recreational asset to Port Robinson East for at least another 50 years!

f.) No signs warning that any imminent personal danger exists to users of the Bridge have **EVER** been posted.

g.) **No one is aware that any formal written complaints have ever been lodged** concerning potential dangers of using the Bridge.

h.) **No one is aware of anyone ever having been injured** due to using the Bridge in its current condition.

H.) Questions that need to be asked.

Please note this request that they ALL be answered in the Staff Report.

i.) When the City placed the "Notice of the Public meeting", in the newspaper, was there not a legal or technical obligation for the City to post a "Notice of Meeting" and a "Notice of Possible Closing" at the Bridge also??

ii.) What were the circumstances that brought it to the Operations Dept.'s attention that an engineering report on the Bridge's condition was required?

iii.) When was the Bridge deemed unsafe? Date?

iv.) Who determined that the bridge is unsafe for walking and bicycle traffic?

v.) On what basis is it unsafe...

an enumeration of all the issues, condition-assessment report(s), the documented deficiencies, etc. is required!

vi.) Where are the estimates outlining the cost of correcting/repairing the documented deficiencies...compared to the cost of demolition?

vii.) Despite the best **demolition** techniques, some damage will occur to the Creek ecosystem, fish habitat and spawning grounds that will be detrimental to the future of fishing activities.

Where is that environmental assessment report?

viii.) What are the DOCUMENTED average annual maintenance costs that the City has spent on the Bridge in the last 48 years??

ix.) What are the City's positive views of saving the Bridge?

x.) The City's public notice says the purpose of the meeting is to discuss "options".

WHAT ARE THEY...and their costs...compared to and/or in addition to the demolition costs of the Bridge?

xi.) When will the City Staff report on the Bridge be available to the public.?

How will the residents be notified of the availability of the report?

When will it be presented to the City Council for a decision?

I.) Delegation" presentation to Council:

Depending on the recommendations of the Staff Report, the writer of this Residents' DUE DILIGENCE Report officially requests to reserve the right to make a "delegation" presentation to Council in response to the Staff report, at the Council meeting when the Staff Report is presented, discussed and voted on.

A RECORDED VOTE is requested.

J.) An information flyer/petition form was hand-delivered to every household in Port Robinson after the PUBLIC NOTICE appeared in the newspaper on Thurs. April 12. The results of those petition forms will be tabulated...and subsequently delivered to the Clerk's Department at Thorold City Hall not later than Thurs. Apr. 26 at 12noon.

A sample copy of that form is included with this report as the LAST page.

K.) Below is a sampling of comments posted by Port Robinson residents, on the Facebook page of PORT ROBINSON PROUD between April 12 and April 22 regarding the issue to demolish the Bridge.

Ron Devereux : IRONY pointed out to me in the last 48 hours...by PR residents, as we have talked about the South Main Street "BRIDGE SITUATION". Here we are again...as PR residents...fighting to keep a Bridge so that we are not further divided (again) by a body of water! Thanks for all the encouragement and support that I am receiving from residents as I am doing the deliveries!! I was planning to bring my son and grand-daughter to fish from the Bridge next Saturday! Now that's all in LIMBO/SPOILED!!! 😞😞😞😞 THIS AMBUSH by City Engineering Staff Member is so MEAN, Inconsiderate, and handled SOOOOO poorly...and totally-unnecessary!!!! I love living here in P.R SO MUCH! And the Benefits of that Bridge are part of the Heart-and Soul, CORE-IDENTITY NATURE EXPERIENCES THAT WE CHERISH! I would never be able to live with myself if I didn't oppose the demolition!

Ron Devereux: The OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT STAFF of the City of Thorold has so TOTALLY MIS-managed this whole situation!! Their failure to COMMUNICATE about this issue, and the TOTAL AMBUSH of Port Robinson citizens by closing the Bridge without even at least waiting until after the Monday Meeting is unparalleled by any government administration that I have lived in, in my life-time. Of course, I have never lived in any country ruled by a dictatorship!! In my opinion, the CITY'S LIABILITY is far worse now as they are forcing residents to walk on a section of road where there are no sidewalks...and a lot of vehicles speed around the blind curve on the

road where Adults and Children are now forced to walk! THIS IS SO WRONG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! They have now UNNECESSARILY created an EMERGENCY SITUATION...of even WORSE LIABILITY...so their OBLIGATION NOW is to make FIXING the Bridge, TOP PRIORITY. JUST FIX THE BRIDGE!!! Please do not blame CITY COUNCIL for the way this has been handled...they have been very understanding YESTERDAY and helpful to those of us who contacted them about this AMBUSH by City STAFF yesterday!

Ron Devereux : I have just finished delivering the flyers to all of the "subdivision" south of the Bridge! I am soooooooooo encouraged! I talked to a lot of people and no one is in favour of Demolition...they are so angry that the City would even think of doing that! It is going to be packed at the Comm. Center and I encourage everyone to attend...It's going to be a raring, rousing entertaining hot time in the old town on Monday Night! WE are winning, winning, winning!!!

Ron Devereux: What a great SUNNY, SPRING AFTERNOON to be out walking through all of Port Robinson's great neighbour hoods...BUT I WOULD RATHER BE FISHING FROM THE BRIDGE!!

Ron Devereux: The Thorold Operations Dept. has put up barriers and fencing and Danger Signs at the South Main Street Bridge to create a VISUAL IMAGE of GREAT DANGER and IMMINENT COLLAPSE of the BRIDGE possibly to try to convince you that the Bridge cannot be repaired and that it must be demolished! They possibly want deter you from attending the meeting to reduce the amount of opposition to their plans!! HAHHAHAHAHA! WELL, they have TOTALLY-UNDERESTIMATED the resolve of Port Rob. residents!! The Barriers have had the totally-opposite effect. THEY have just insulted our intelligence even more!!! They have GALVANIZED us into a state of SOLIDARITY, and UNITY of Purpose to save the Bridge FASTER than I have seen on ANY other issue in the Last 32 years here in Port!! GOOD FOR YOU...to everyone in Port! I am proud to see the GROWING community spirit that is crystallizing in our little Village! It was great to talk to so many of you ...in person...in the last 48 hours as I delivered the petition-form-flyers to every household! Your support and enthusiasm has been very encouraging and energizing! See you all on Monday at the meeting...5 to 8pm...Port Robinson Community Center!!

Judy Gray: We moved here for the peace and small town charm and when we saw the bridge that we walk daily was so awesome. Can't believe they think destroying it is cheaper . Also it will leave a big empty hole and will look terrible. Just leave it and fix it new fencing will make it perfect. The Operations Management seem to be just thinking about themselves They don't live here they don't care.

Ron Devereux:

UPDATE on our OPPOSITION...

against The City of Thorold's PROPOSED Demolition of the South Main Street Bridge in Port Robinson EAST:

1. Delivery of an information Flyer to EVERY Residence in Port Robinson East begins this afternoon and will be completed by Saturday Afternoon.
 2. it summarizes the Residents' opposition to this demolition and outlines many reasons how and why the Bridge is an important asset to us.
 3. At the bottom of the flyer are spaces to sign your name to our petition.
- Please Support Your Neighbours in This Vital Community Effort Against Demolition!
WE CANNOT LET THIS DEMOLITION HAPPEN!
WE WANT THE BRIDGE SAVED!

Ron Devereux: URGENT! URGENT!! URGENT!! URGENT!!!URGENT !!!!! !FRIDAY 12:50 pm...I called the City...They are placing another block on the north end of the Bridge this afternoon. They said they have an engineering report that says the Bridge is unsafe. I told him that they can't block the Bridge until they provide a safe walking alternative to get from the South subdivision to the rest of the Village. Sean Dunsmore said that keeping the Bridge open for the weekend is not going to happen!! Flood City Hall with calls ALL AFTERNOON !!! Operations Department and the Mayor's office and any Councillors you know personally! It is totally unfair that they are doing this before the MONDAY MEETING!!!

Nicole Hirst: Oh great so when I go out with my 2 boys to do garbage clean-up like we do every year I can't even get around... and the road is out of the question when we go about doing this... not impressed...

Ashley Shore: This is sad. I know first -hand walking along River road is very unsafe. A few years back my sons bus stop was on the corner of Bigger and River. Waiting for the bus was a nightmare as too many people speed along River. After myself and the bus driver making a few reports as people wouldn't see us until the last minute. the bus company deemed it unsafe. Walking along the bend with my dog was even scary. Again people don't slow down. So now what? They expect residents to walk on one side where its never maintained and the grass so high and full of ticks? Or walk on the side full of their gravel dumping and full of nasty pot holes so people can hope not to get hit by a car... but sprain their ankles or break a leg. So sorry you all have to deal with this mess.

Nicole Hirst: Yes I am glad I wasn't down there with my stroller like I usually am daily!!! I went for a run down there and saw this... was not impressed.

Kristelle Hipwell: This is absolutely heart breaking the lack of care they have to the situation. I understand the bridge is older and slowly falling apart but surely this is not the best way to handle this. This bridge is the safe path from one end of Port Robinson to the other and a sentimental place for many if not all of the town. Perhaps reinforcing the bridge or replacing all or portion with a bridge in memoirs of the old one would be more appropriate. It's an expensive operation either way.

Judy Gray yes only one end cause they cant get to the other end.. Like seriously its a land mark .. fix it up and let us have it to enjoy the peace and beauty of it. .. they don't care , They don't live here..

Michael Brown: Lots of money to destroy the bridge but no money to fix the shitty roads it's a joke

Paul Humber : As usual they don't think about an alternative before they close it down.

Ruth St: I can't make it on Monday I'm working! 😞 give 'em shit for me please!

Mary Wiley If it's unsafe then their so called engineers should make plans to fix it. Sick of them instead of fix the problem for the community they just rip it out. We the people of Port Robinson deserve this bridge to be repaired. Make it safe for all to use.

Mary Wiley: think that bridge be repaired families can walk to town bikes safe from traffic and come on only way to get to town if removed is that long road no sidewalks nothing to help people that like to walk. repair the bridge. many would use it daily. come city hall ,open your eyes .people here deserve this.

Ruth St: So now those with strollers and or mobility issues have to walk on the road? Everyone knows cars go Lickety-split on the main road. It is very unsafe. Unfortunately they will realize when someone either gets hurt really bad or God forbid killed.

Judy Gray: Really this is terrible we walk there all the time it s beautiful and peaceful and don't have to worry about the cars racing down the road ... its so nice to walk down and along the bridge for kids and the dogs and taking the strollers and our bikes . This needs to be stopped. .. they are just doing it without blinking an eye. just cut us off from the other part of our town why don't they? The big city people pulling all the big shots. what do they care they don't live here . they don't understand small town charm...

MY COMMENT: Congratulations to the Port Robinson residents above for your Facebook comments that capture so many of the elements of the "Village atmosphere" that those who don't live here, don't understand and never get to experience!

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Keep this TOP portion of this notice as a convenient reminder of this IMPORTANT MEETING!

This information sheet was prepared by Ron Devereux, 43 South Street, North, Port Robinson EAST
URGENT MESSAGE about AN URGENT Port Robinson PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: MONDAY, April 23, 2018 ... TIME: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Information Session...Come -and-Go...at your convenience... during these hours!

PLACE: Port Robinson Community Center, corner of Cross Street and South Street, South

Purpose/Subject of the Public Information Session:

The City of Thorold is proposing to **DEMOLISH** the "Walking and Bicycle" Bridge...on South Main Street over Chippawa Creek...which joins the Southern "subdivision" area of the Village to the rest of Port Robinson EAST.

Please Support Your Neighbours in This Vital Community Effort Against Demolition!

SAT-SUN-MON til 4pm, please leave this form in the container MARKED "PETITIONS" at 43 South St.,North.
AFTER 5pm Monday, please leave this form in the container MARKED "PETITIONS" at The Community Center
Cut and detach here-----

WE CANNOT LET THIS DEMOLITION HAPPEN!.....WE WANT THE BRIDGE SAVED!

PETITION TO: CITY OF THOROLD: Summary of **SOME** of our **POSITIVE** views on the South Main Street Bridge.

The **SOUTH MAIN STREET BRIDGE** fulfills **MANY** important , valuable, and unique functions for **ALL** residents.

1. PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE CONNECTION...(Utilitarian Function)

The Bridge is a **SAFE "pathway"** over Chippawa Creek...free from vehicular traffic...for walking/cycling to & from Port Robinson Park, Post Office, Bridge12 Pub&Eatery, Community Center, homes of friends & neighbours , etc.

2. The Bridge is a VERY valuable...even PRICELESS...Resource for Outdoor Recreational and Leisure Activities:

A.) It serves as a Fishing Pier. (Active Recreation)

B.) It is an Elevated "Observation Deck": Viewing the natural life in the Creek's ecosystem: **(Passive Recreation)**

C. LEISURE-WALKING: (Active Recreation)

Leisure-walking, dog-walking, jogging are popular activities regularly-embraced by many Village residents, who use the BRIDGE due to the quiet, safe and natural environs that can be experienced and enjoyed.

D. Participating in Outdoor Activities in a Natural Environment (Active and Passive Recreation)

(EG. as provided and expedited by the South Main Street Bridge) is **Good for Your Brain and your Well-Being!**

SOURCE: <https://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/07/22/how-nature-changes-the-brain/?action=click&pgtype=Homepage®ion=CColumn&module=MostEmailed&version=Full&src=me&WT.nav=MostEmailed>

3.) Current Condition of the Bridge:

A.) On what basis is it unsafe? Condition-assessment report(s), the documented deficiencies, etc. are required!

B.) What are the documented costs of repairing the railings and deck-support -piers compared to demolition?

C.) If it's unsafe, WHY HAVE SIGNS NEVER BEEN POSTED warning of personal danger to users of the Bridge?

D.) The City's public notice says the purpose of the meeting is to discuss "options". WHAT ARE THEY and COSTS?

Please answer these questions with full documentation in the Staff report.

WE ARE NOT IN FAVOUR OF DEMOLITION of the South Main Street Bridge !!

PETITION SIGNED BY ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OVER. Number of other people at this address under age 18: _____

(We Live in Port Robinson)

Print

1. Name _____ Address _____ SIGNATURE _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Angie McDermott

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@ca>
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 7:47 PM
To: thoreng
Subject: old Port Robinson Bridge

To Whom It may Concern,

As residents on Melrose Av. Port Robinson, my husband and I are very upset about the demolition of the old bridge. We've been residents of

Port for 11 yrs and never realized what an idyllic spot the area around the old bridge is! We are senior citizens who love to walk across the bridge to pick up

our mail, go to the park, etc. The community was never consulted regarding this. All age groups utilize the bridge not to mention all the new housing being

built in our neighbourhood. It's a beautiful spot to just stand and enjoy nature. It is home to birds, fish, muskrat, frogs. And

snapping turtles nest along the guard rails at the roadside, so any replacement walkway up there would endanger them.

With the demolition it will mean walking along River St next to a road used by trucks, cars, and not to mention dirt bikes and quads. It's easy to say just take

the car but that's not the point. We walk to keep healthy, young mothers with strollers lull their young ones to sleep, children learn to ride their bikes,

others dog walk. And some just enjoy the peace and quiet. We've already lost 2 woodlots for new construction. Enough is enough.

Unless the bridge is in danger of collapse, why can't the railings be replaced and more fencing put around it!

A replacement of some kind must be built so our citizens can continue to enjoy our nature walk in safety if the bridge has been deemed that unsafe.

Please advocate for us, as we feel as though our side of Port Robinson just doesn't matter to city council

Sincerely,

[redacted]