



Improvements to the Grand Trunk Trail at Wellington St. North

Presentation to St. Marys
Town Council

June 13th 2017

Dr. Emily Kelly, MD, MSc

About Myself



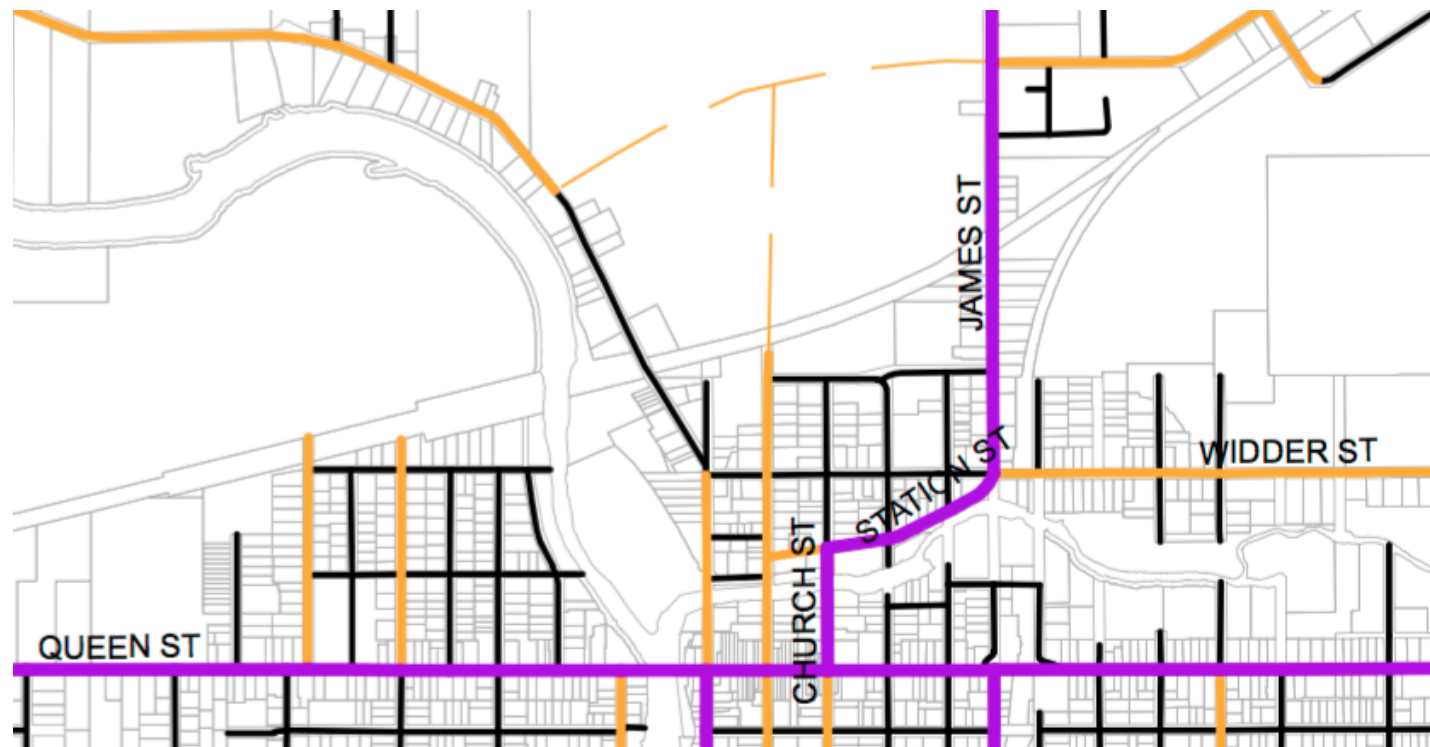
- Working as an emergency physician in Exeter ON.
- Lived in St. Marys for 5 years and plan to raise my family here for many more.
- Passionate about encouraging healthy, active lifestyles.
- I love trees.

About our group

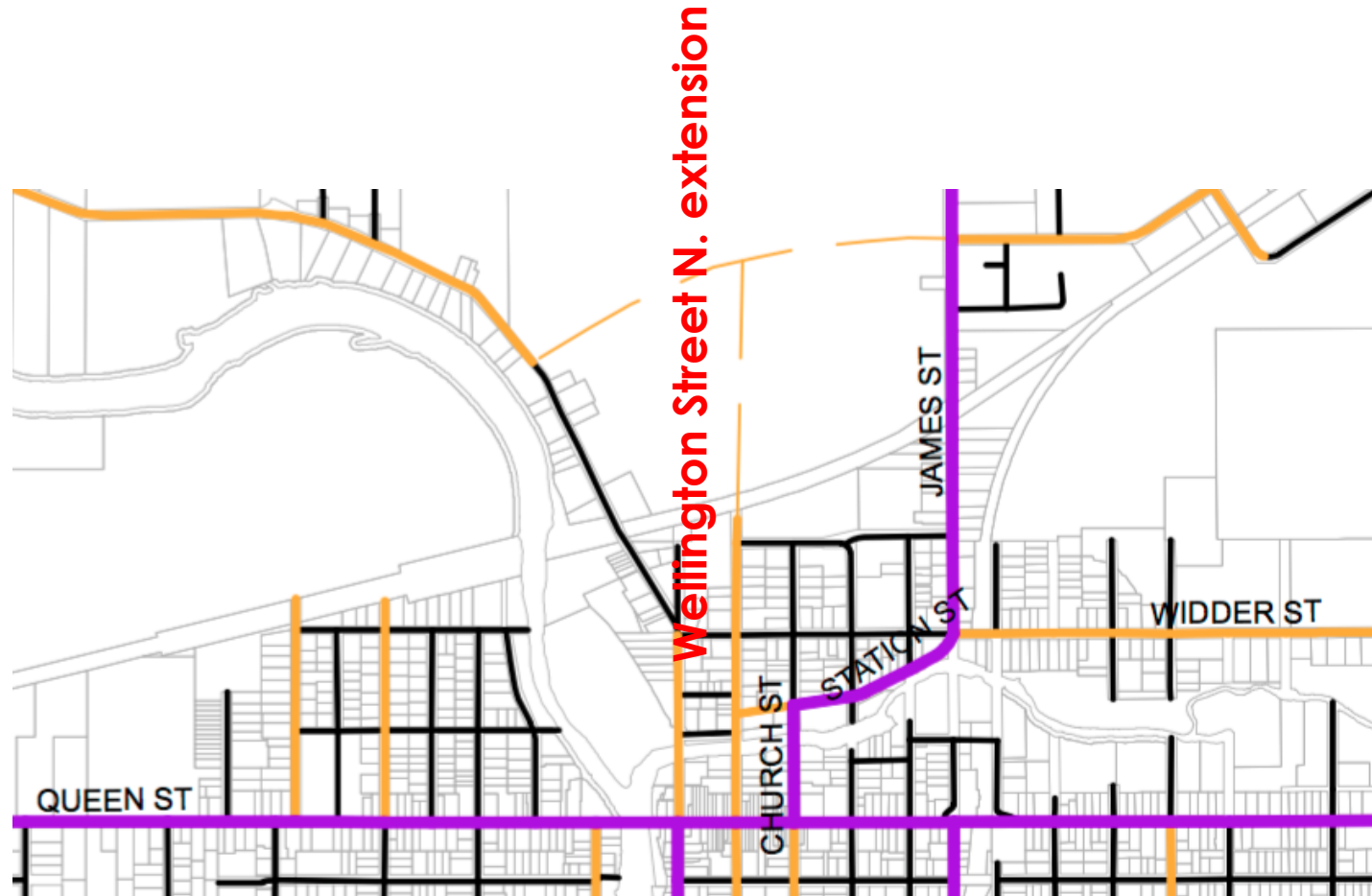
- Tree Protectors of St. Marys is a group of residents who are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our town's natural heritage.
- Our creation has been sparked by public concern about the destruction of green space associated with the Emily Street and Ardmore Park developments.



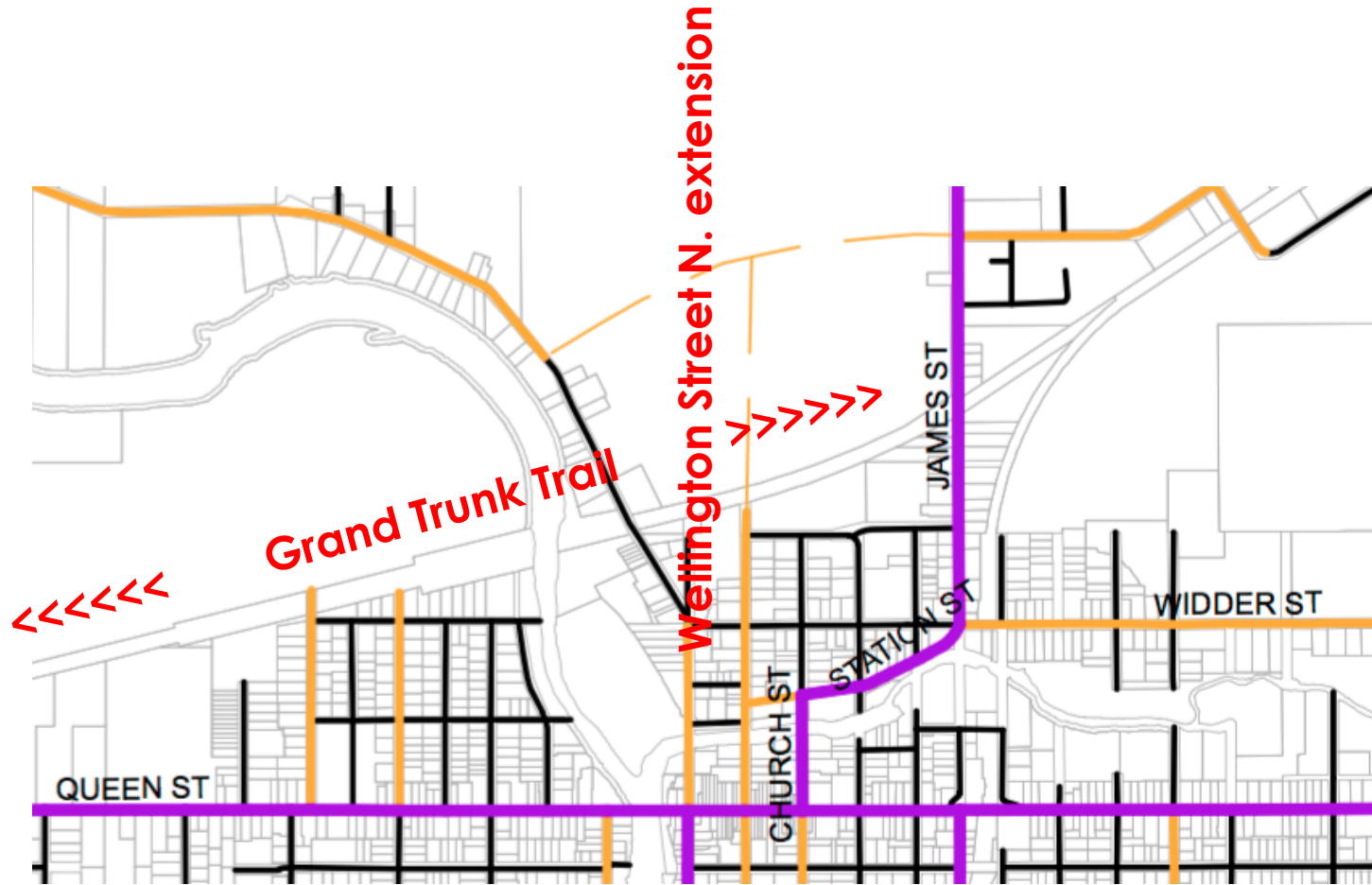
What's the big deal?



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Why is Wellington St. N. being extended?

- St Marys is a growing community
- The area south of Glass St will see up to 400 units built in the next ten years
- Traffic needs somewhere to go

Why might extending
Wellington St. be a bad idea?



Trees, Water, Birds, Frogs



The site where Wellington Street meets the Grand Trunk trail features:

- Twenty-five healthy, mature maples
- Dozens of young black walnuts
- Bird habitat, including golden flicker, song sparrow, and eastern bluebird
- Turtle and frog habitat in the pond and streams



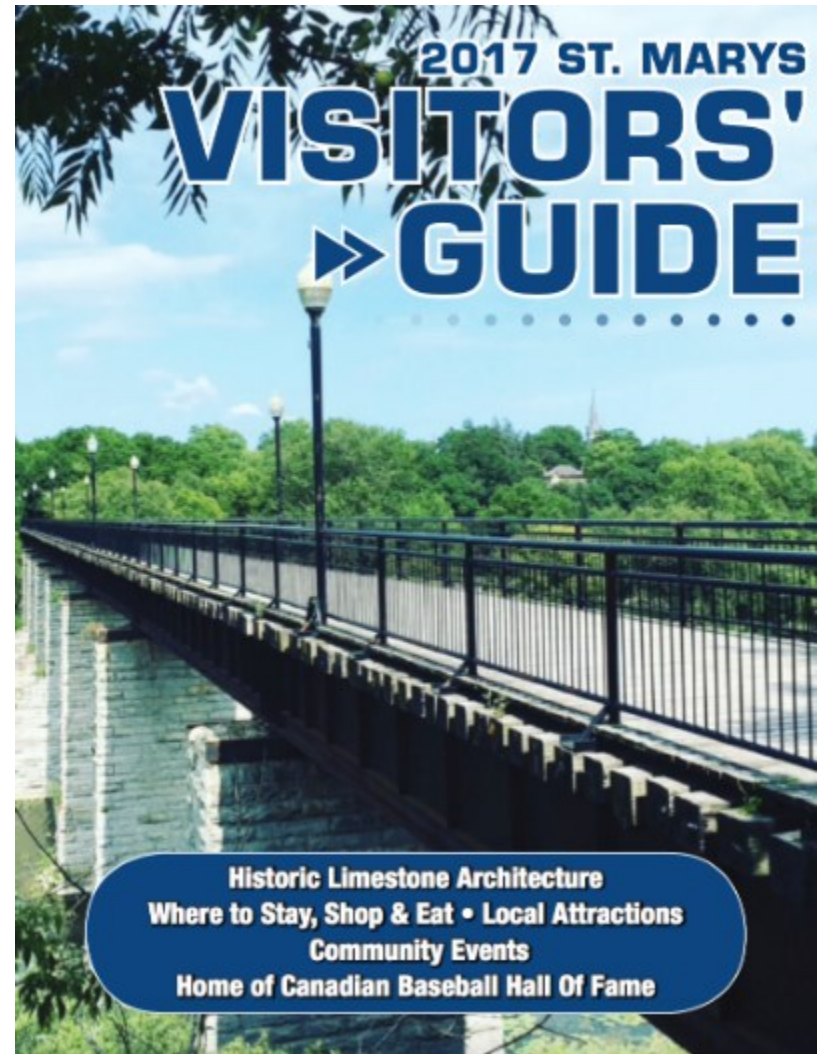
This location is a Water Course on Schedule C – Flood Plain Areas

St Marys Official Plan 3.8.2.1

...In addition to the applicable policies associated with their respective land use designations, these properties shall be subject to the policies of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority...

Humans, too!

- The Grand Trunk Trail is a treasure used by hundreds of pedestrians, cyclists, dog-walkers, and nature-lovers
- Major draw for local tourism



Don't cut the trail in half



Don't cut the trail in half





Don't cut the trail in half

- “Active transportation” -biking, walking, and jogging- cannot be combined safely with heavy traffic
- Users will abandon the trail rather than make a risky crossing
- Pedestrian bridges are expensive and fraught with accessibility issues



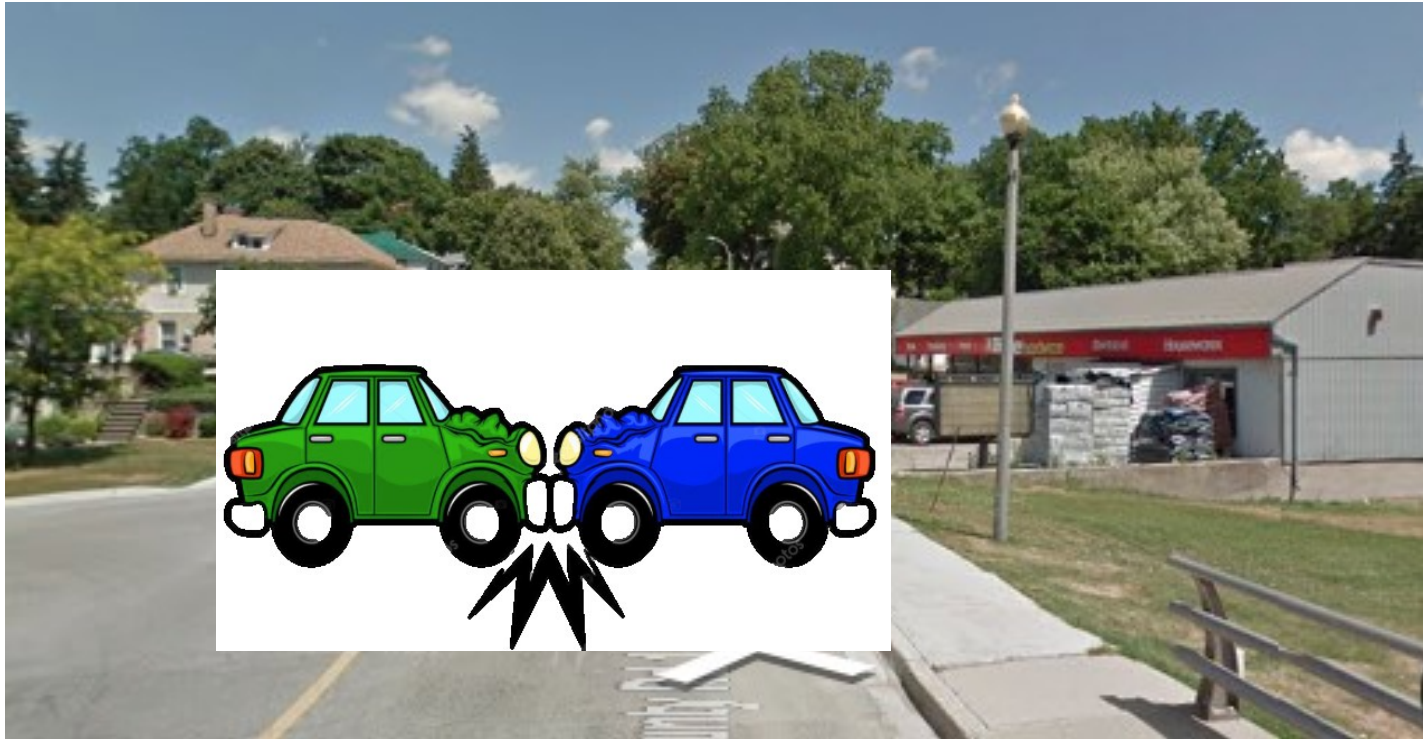
Downtown traffic congestion

- Building a bigger road doesn't decrease traffic: it increases it.
- Parkview Dr., Station St. and Wellington St. will become an uncontrolled intersection with heavy traffic coming in three directions.
- Wellington Street is already busy, especially by the post office.

Downtown traffic congestion



Downtown traffic congestion



Downtown traffic congestion



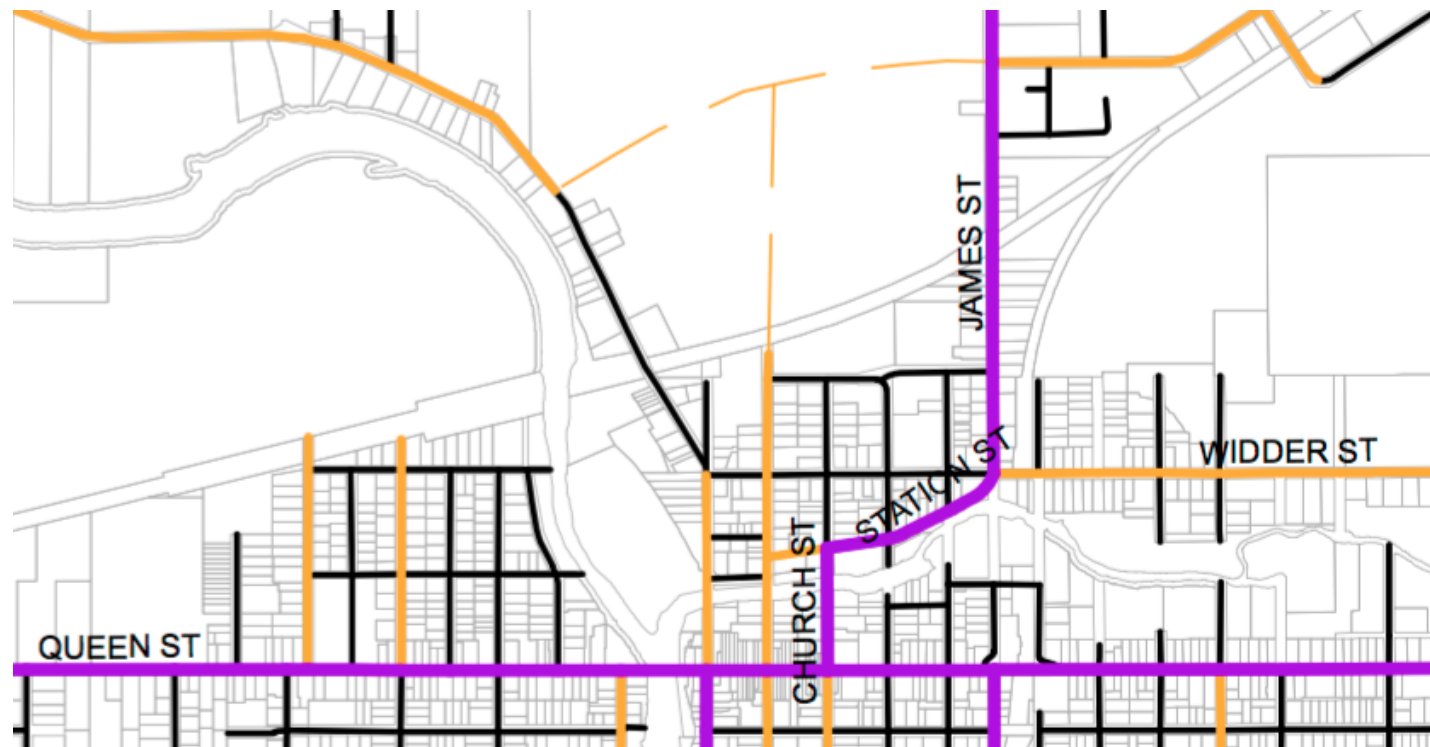
Downtown traffic congestion



The Wellington Street extension is unnecessary

- **5.3.8** All new developments must front on and have access to a public road, which is constructed to meet the minimum standards established by Council. New development or redevelopment proposals of more than thirty (30) dwelling units shall incorporate at least **two** points of public road access.

The Wellington Street extension is unnecessary



The Wellington Street extension is unnecessary



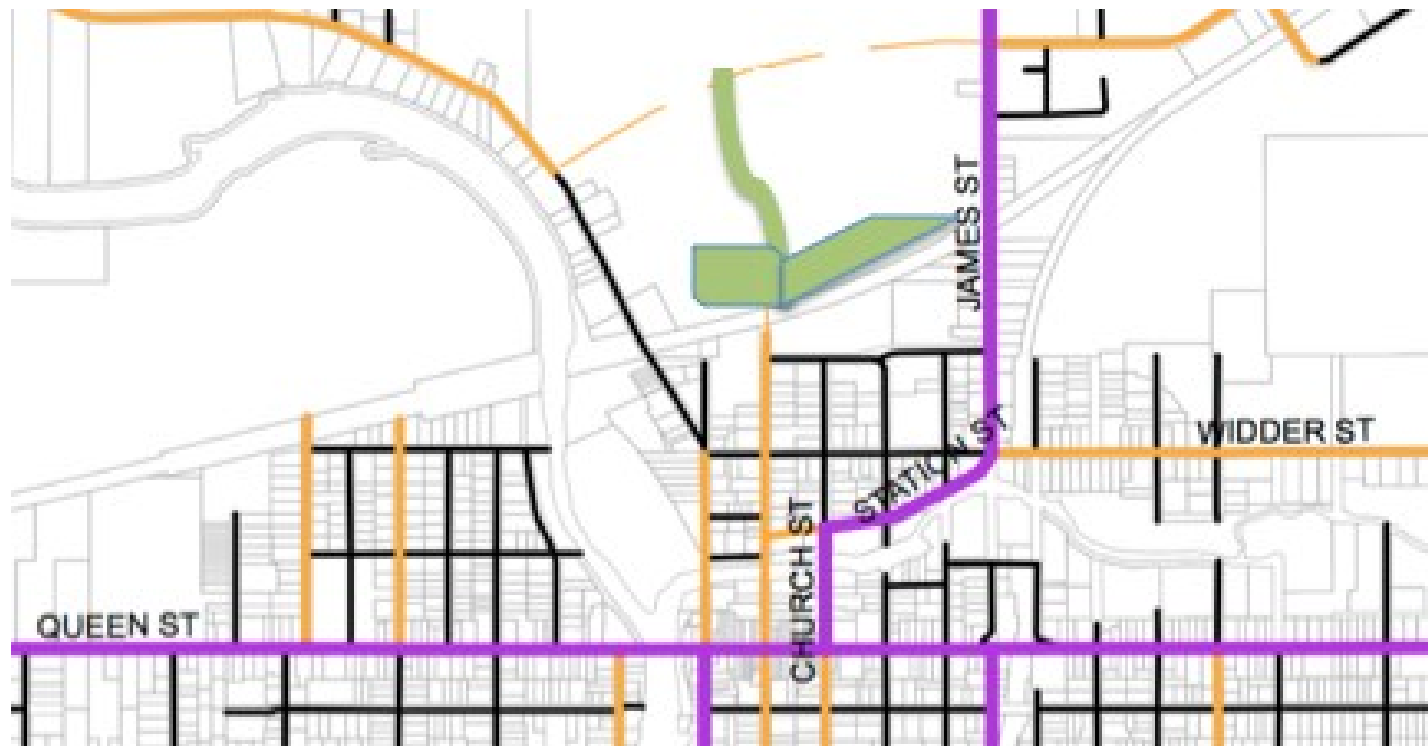


Wellington Street North is *not* a “Collector Road”

- Collector roads take heavy trucks and traffic
- Collector roads’ traffic flow cannot be interrupted by frequent driveways
- Wellington St. North runs through a residential district of heritage homes, many of which carry official designations. This is a neighbourhood, not a throughfare.

A better alternative:

Extend the trail and build a park



A better alternative

7.15.2 Trails

The development of hiking, walking, and bicycle trails is a significant resource to the Town. **Opportunities to develop new trails or extend existing trails throughout the Town will continue to be encouraged** and shall be identified on Schedule “B” to the Official Plan. The use of public lands, the floodplains adjacent to the watercourses, and private lands may be used to develop or extend the trail system.



A better alternative

7.15.4 New Parks

Council recognizes that need for the establishment of a **new Town Wide park in the north Ward**. Opportunities to develop such a facility, in conjunction with private land developers, will be explored when considering any new development applications.

Healthy Communities in the Official Plan

2.6 HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Council encourages actions/initiatives that support a healthy community in the Town of St. Marys and healthy living by the residents of the Town. While the ability of an Official Plan document to achieve a healthy community and healthy living in the Town is limited, this Official Plan supports and encourages actions/initiative such as:

- a) the development of a compact development form in order **to encourage and facilitate active transportation (i.e. walking, cycling, etc.)**;
- b) the siting of new public buildings, where appropriate, in locations that encourage and support active transportation;
- c) **subdivision designs that include suitable open space areas, incorporate walkways, and provide space for active living**;
- d) the linking of neighbouring residential and commercial areas with open spaces and the watercourses, where appropriate;
- e) the development of recreational facilities, open space areas, and trail systems to cater to the recreational and healthy lifestyle needs of the Town's residents; and
- f) encourage the use of and sustain existing trails and open spaces throughout the Town and linkages with those in Perth County.



Healthy Communities

- Residents who live in walk friendly neighbourhoods walk more often than those who do not
- Creating walk friendly environments is one of the most effective and cost-efficient means of tackling obesity.
- Walkable neighborhoods are inversely associated with the development of diabetes.
- Walking can offset trends such as attention disorders and depression.
- Walk friendly communities are often joyful places that are a delight to be in and experience.



Next Steps

Remove the extension of Wellington St. North from the Official Plan as it is detrimental to future development.

Create an extension of the Grand Trunk Trail to link with the new subdivision, and incorporate a much-needed new North Ward park.

Next Steps



- Watch for results of our petition to “Protect the Grand Trunk Trail” at the June 27th council meeting
- Sign the petition at change.org, or on paper at Jennies', The Flower Shop, or Petals and Foliage
- Tree Protectors of St. Marys is growing! Find us at facebook.com/st.marys.trees, or email st.marys.trees@gmail.com.

Thank you for listening!

