

Sinclair has alternative ideas to parking lot

Caledon mayoralty candidate Ian Sinclair met with a group of concerned citizens regarding the new plan for the Badlands parking lot.

Sinclair reported the general consensus from the group was, "The parking lot will cause further congestion on the Old Base Line as the cars will be forced to pull in and out of the parking area, onto a road that due to the undulating nature has very poor visibility." Another major concern for this group was the lack of preservation and protection from erosion of this extremely rare and unique geological formation at the Badlands.

"The Badlands features won't last another 10 years with everyone climbing all over it," one resident told Sinclair. "All the parking lot will do is allow more people the opportunity to destroy this beautiful natural feature."

Sinclair said he believes the parking project is "very ill conceived."

"There is no complex thought process here," he stated. "It's not as simple as just throwing up a parking lot and believing the real problems are going to solve themselves. There's far more to it."

He added his vision for the Badlands is more comprehensive.

"There's a ready-made parking location on the southwest corner of the Badlands," he said. "That's where the parking area should be. Build a wooden walkway around the back of the feature, taking the pedestrian traffic off Old Base Line Road and construct a lookout platform on the north east corner."

He said he believes the front should be completely fenced off to stop further erosion to the lands themselves through human interaction. He envisions a mesh fence with vines to obscure the property, forcing the visitors to the lookout platform.

But Sinclair believes the even bigger problem is systemic.

"The Town of Caledon no longer consults the citizens for what they want, and what they see as solutions in their own community," he said. "The Town, in its wisdom just rolls out what they believe is best, force feeding their ideas to the citizens."

"That's not the kind of representation the people of Caledon deserve," he stated, "but it's happened here at the Badlands, it's happening in Belfountain with the new road planning, it happened in Bolton with the Canadian Tire plant and . . . the list goes on."

Prompted for a solution, Sinclair quoted a portion of the Municipal Act that he said states very clearly: "It is the role of council to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality;"

"That," he said "is the motto every politician should be living by."

"Caledon needs a Mayor that will bring back the voices, opinions and concerns of the taxpayer to the Town Hall. That's why I'm running for Mayor," Sinclair stated, "The citizens of Caledon deserve true representation."