

PROPERTIES WERE HOME OF ANNE OF GREEN GABLES AUTHOR

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tion of 60 additional parking spaces to the area, and any changes to the residential zoning of the properties at 402 and 404 Draper St.

The properties at 402 and 404 Draper St. are where the famous author of Anne of Green Gables lived from 1926 to 1935.

"The Norval Community Association has falsely led the Town of Halton Hills to believe that consultation with the local residents has been undertaken," said Gladstone. "There has been no such consultation, involvement or even notification provided to the residents of any of the undertakings."

Fraser, who is also involved in the projects, says the purpose of the proposed development is threefold: to provide a broad range of educational, recreational and cultural services; to support and enhance a variety of arts and cultural opportunities for the enjoyment of residents; and to promote opportunities for tourism.

"I think the Norval people who have signed the petition care deeply about their community and I'm happy to meet with them anytime," she said. "I'm also happy to see what ideas they have for the property other than 'No, we don't want it,' because it is coming, it is going to come and it needs to come."

In a letter sent to Mayor Rick Bonnette in June from Gladstone and local residents, Gladstone outlines her reservations with the proposed development stating that "any non-residential development of 402 and 404 Draper Street, Norval would drastically diminish the dollar value of neighbouring properties" and "have a significantly negative impact on the quality of life of the residents."

Norval resident Cheryl Dziergas lives across the street from the Manse and cottage and says she has concerns about the proposed museum and literary centre, as she has two small children, one with autism.

"This is a health concern for my daughter. Noise is a huge thing for her," Dziergas said. "We bought this house because it was a quiet little cove on the street. Now, are we going to have to move?"

Dziergas says the current traffic from visitors coming to Draper Street and the Children's Garden of the Senses throughout the year is already a lot for her daughter to handle.

"There are cars everywhere. People park on the street, they block people's driveways, they walk on people's lawns," she said. "They have no consideration."

Dziergas said she only heard about the proposal for the museum this past summer after one of her neighbours moved out of the area as a result of the impending developments. She said not long after, Gladstone began approaching residents to sign a petition.

Gladstone said she first came across a mention of some of the proposed Norval developments accidentally, in December of 2015.

"I was Googling something - completely oblivious to anything that was going on here - and the first thing that popped up to me was a PDF from a Town of Halton Hills meeting," she said.

The document referenced a September 2015 meeting, when the Norval Community Association presented plans for a Norval Park redesign, which included enlarging the existing parking lot, adding a wheelchair-accessible washroom attached to the Norval Community Centre, and adding an en-

trance and pedestrian walkway off Draper Street, as well as gateway signage for Willow Park and Norval Park.

"The Norval Community Association had gone before the Town, under the guise of representing the residents, and asked for money to remodel the whole park," she said. "And I was thinking, 'This property abuts me, why don't I know about what's going on?'"

The proposal was deferred from budget consideration at that time, until more research and information could be collected.

That same year, the Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills was awarded \$90,000 by the Town for the acquisition of the Norval Manse on the condition that the foundation create a business plan outlining the viability of a museum and literary centre on site.

According to Gladstone, though a public fundraising event was held to aid in the project in 2016, Norval residents were only formally told about the Lucy Maud Montgomery Museum and Literary Centre at the first and only public consultation session to date, held at Upper Canada College in March of 2018 - a meeting that Fraser says was an unamicable one.

"I went into the March meeting that the Town had called with great expectations and very happy to explain what our vision was," Fraser told the committee on Dec. 11. "I felt personally attacked the whole time. I didn't feel that people were there with an inquiring mind but were there to rabble-rouse."

"We were asking questions that they wouldn't answer," Gladstone said of the meeting. "Were there voices raised? Yes,

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