

## **COMMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED CANNABIS POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF PELHAM**

As concerned citizens of Pelham, we would like to address how the CANTRUST grow op facility is impacting us, and how the planned further expansion will affect our lives going forward.

We moved to Cherry Ridge Blvd in Fenwick over 6 years ago. We were looking at Pelham and the Niagara Region as a peaceful place to live for our retirement. This is a residential neighborhood but also conveniently located as it is close to all amenities, restaurants, wineries and golf courses. Our residence was previously surrounded by cherry orchards, farms and greenhouses growing flowers. We have grown to love this community and have become very involved.

Within a few years, we then realized that the floral greenhouse at the corner of Balfour and Highway 20, near the entrance of Fenwick, was being transformed. It became quite apparent by the amount of cars, security detail, specialized workers, money spent on installations and all the homes around the facility that quickly went up for sale, that our local florist was transitioning into a Cannabis grow up due to the new legalization of Cannabis in the country. At no point did we receive any kind of notification that this was taking place.

Since the opening of this grow op, there are very visible large orange clouds that can be seen from a very far distance coming from Hamilton or even St Catharines, not to mention the strong and unpleasant odor taking over that entire area when driving by. Then, the house on 1350 Balfour was purchased with the land behind it and all the cherry trees were cut for a future expansion of CANTRUST. When all the cherry trees were previously there, the grow op was more hidden, but once the removal of the trees took place, it has become very hard to miss due to the significant amount of commercial lights. So, our little paradise in the country is no more....

Meanwhile, as concerned citizens, we went to Townhall meetings at the Meridian centers to get some information about the grow-op facilities in Pelham. We have assisted to presentations where another Company was presenting new technologies to diminish the odor and the visible pollution. That is when we realized that the facility on Balfour didn't use any of that technology that was being presented. We were also upset that CANTRUST put up a new greenhouse on Highway 20 but didn't use any dark screen to avoid the excess lighting. (I don't think that it is normal to get up during the night and not have a need to turn on the light to go to the bathroom or the fridge because the orange "glow" is lighting up the house). We were also present at the meeting where the mandate was giving to the CCC to create some BYLAWS to stop the CANNABIS growers from impacting our life.

Following one of the meetings, CANTRUST invited the neighbourhood to an open house where their employees tried to convince us that they were not "bad guys". It was all smoke and mirrors. They didn't have the plans of the expansion structures but showed us the plans of the existing structures. We explained to them that we should be able to enjoy our backyard without that unpleasant smell, which has since been "perfumed" to try to diminish the odor. We asked for studies that prove that the new lavender "perfume" was not toxic however, those studies were never made accessible...They explained to us that they couldn't put the blackout cover on the existing greenhouses because they were filled with plants but that when the next phase would be done, they would transfer the plants to the new

greenhouse and fix it. That doesn't explain why the empty greenhouse on Highway 20 was never built with a blackout screen...

Basically, Pelham needs BYLAWS to force the growers to protect our quality of life. We think that Health Canada should require security standards to protect citizens and that no Cannabis grow op facilities should be given licenses in residential areas. I don't think that our City should spend our taxes on changing and enforcing new bylaws and on increased policing costs. I am glad we are doing it but it is because of an oversight of Health Canada. We moved here to pay less property taxes, so it would be also very important that the Cannabis growers should be charged commercial taxes and not agricultural taxes. They opened up here because of the low taxes and now are destroying our neighborhood's value.

Now, the expansion of those facilities, especially the Balfour one should be stopped for the following reasons:

- The extra traffic created by the workers will damage the roads: more taxes \$ for the residents??!!
- More pollution from extra cars and paving agricultural land for parking lots as extra parking spaces will be necessary: destroying our air quality and green spaces.
- The electricity used by grow-ops will put a burden on the electrical grid and decrease the sustainability of the whole electrical system: The consumption of electricity should be constantly monitored.
- The amount of water used could affect our water pressure: the consumption should be monitored and paid accordingly.
- The overall amount of greenhouses gases produced carbon-dioxide which has a major environmental impact: effect on global warming that should be measured for each kilogram of cannabis produced.
- Health threat from chemical (pesticides, fertilizer, herbicides) that can be harmful to the environment and to humans: detrimental impacts on the respiratory system.
- Septic tanks and waste removal must be inspected and monitored constantly: to avoid any contamination, most of the issues need to be continuously monitored and measured.
- Fire or explosion hazards? no public data available.

More research studies and data collection are required to measure and understand the impact of policies related to cannabis. We need initial and continual funding by governments from sales taxes reinvestment into harm reduction.

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2016-r009/index-en.aspx#pubhea-1>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/resources/roles-responsibilities-under-cannabis-act.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/proactive-disclosure/briefing-documents/ministerial-briefing-volume-1-overview-health-portfolio.html>