

May 24, 2023

Dear Mayor and Members of Cornwall City Council:

Re: The use of the former Bob Turner Memorial Centre and Joe St. Denis Field.

We, the undersigned, residents of Cornwall, while understanding and supporting the need for more Housing in Cornwall, wish to ask Cornwall Council to consider other more suitable sites, such as those listed below.

**We strongly express our opposition to the building of housing on the site of the former Bob Turner Memorial Centre and Joe St. Denis Field, for the following reasons.**

This land has been used for recreational purposes by the citizens of Cornwall for over 120 years. Outfitted with floodlights it is an active site used for both daytime and evening activities, making it a uniquely inclusive recreational facility for all of Cornwall's citizens. It would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to replicate.

When the Memorial Centre Arena was constructed it was dedicated to the men and women who gave up many years of their lives, in some cases paying the supreme sacrifice, to preserve our freedom in World War II. When recreation director Bob Turner died, his name was added to the building as a fitting tribute to a man who did so much for our youth and the community.

We believe that there is no better location than this historic, active, centrally located site for an inclusive youth centre. We believe that the continued use of the sports field coupled with a youth centre would be a fitting lasting tribute to those who served in World War II, and to Bob Turner.

We also believe that to build housing here would remove one of the few remaining, and much-needed, substantial green spaces in the downtown core. We ask you to consider that its removal would be environmentally detrimental, particularly given that we have so many derelict sites throughout the City which could be used instead. (See list below.)

Furthermore we cannot understand how the fact the site may be contaminated makes it unsuitable for a youth centre, yet appropriate for residential use. Shouldn't level of exposure be considered? We find something missing in the reasoning that it would be unacceptable to potentially expose youth to toxins for the few hours each week that they would be on site, and yet expose affordable housing residents to the same potential toxins for many more hours each week, year-round.

For these reasons we respectfully request that the City preserve this active green space, and honour our proud former citizens. We also request Council to seek input from the Royal Canadian Legion, and look into alternative locations before proceeding.

Respectfully,

ALTERNATIVE SITES that do not remove GREEN SPACE. Short list.

1. The derelict General Hospital Parking Lot on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E.
2. The derelict General Hospital Parking Lot on Marlborough St.
3. On undeveloped land around the Benson Centre.
4. On undeveloped land around Cornwall Public Works, or move the large Parking Lot and build affordable housing on it. There appears to be ample space just north of Public Works.
5. On the site of concrete slab that once housed the indoor tennis courts, at Saunders and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. W. There is a lot of housing development taking place in this area, and the site as it is, is derelict.