

Ottawa Citizen, Feb 7, 2008, p B4

Do not build on flood plain

Re: Kanata West put on hold, Feb. 5.

Some city councillors have begun to take notice of the morass called Kanata West. "This is going to be looked at very, very carefully," assures Kanata North Councillor Marianne Wilkinson. "Alarm bells are ringing," chimes Kanata South Councillor Peggy Feltmate.

Meanwhile, a *Citizen* subheading, "Alarm sounded since 2004," points to a gaping hole in the city's emergency damage-control plan.

It is worth repeating that city planning staff, engineering consultants, bureaucrats from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Transportation as well as the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority failed to discover a fundamental error in a Totten Sims Hubicki Associates modelling study, according to many city officials. It also is worth repeating that Ted Cooper as well as several members of local environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, Green-space Alliance and Friends of the Carp River have spent countless unpaid hours warning of the dangers of this project, shouting Cassandra-like: Do not build on flood plains.

This news story serves as a wakeup call for those who continue to mute the alarm, for those who have delegated most of our personal and civic duties to our "experts," our elected representatives and our protection agencies. This is a call for the resurgence of common sense and the drowning of hubris. This is a call for the citizens to repeat and repeat aloud until all our experts and representatives have memorized the lesson: Do not build on flood plains.

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PAUL DEHLER,
Ottawa

We need more Coopers

Re: Sweet vindication for crusading engineer, Feb. 5.

What a refreshing story. In spite of ridicule, reassignment and belittling by

others, water resource engineer Ted Cooper has persisted in doing what is not only the correct thing, but has upheld the ethics of professional engineers.

He has been shown to have had legitimate concerns even facing down consulting firms and others who wear the profession's iron ring. He did not flinch at the approval process of the provincial ministries of the environment and housing.

Mr. Cooper is one of the few who are willing to risk their futures for what is right and necessary to protect the future homeowners and the environment from the rubber stamp of profit.

We need more Mr. Coopers in all levels of government.

BRUCE WEBSTER,
Kanata