



Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital  
Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

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Mayor Watson

Today is a day of shame for Ottawa. A plan that was developed decades ago will be pushed to its final conclusion. To do so, an old growth forest will be cut down, mountain tops will be razed, stream courses will be changed and wildlife will be killed or displaced. It is happening right here in Ottawa, starting on January 4, in the Kanata Highlands, and will continue into August 2017.

This is not a proud day for our green city. Two hundred and fifty acres of forest greenspace will be lost forever. This is not a run of the mill development project. It is hard to overstate the enormity of the disaster that will befall this natural community.

We understand that you may be powerless to stop it. Our volunteers, who have pored over mountains of documentation, plans and legal texts, spanning years, in some cases spanning decades, know all the ins and outs of the labyrinthine rules and regulations that seem to drive these events inexorably along, as in a Greek tragedy, to an inevitable end.

All that our Alliance of environmental organizations can do at this point is to register our shame and dismay that this is happening in our city. But maybe some good can come of it. If our urban forest is to be made whole, then we call on you to provide restorative compensation for this loss of greenspace by adding 250 acres of protected greenspace to the City's natural system. This is within your power. Only such a grand gesture can really wipe out this blot on this city's environmental conscience.

Paul Johanis  
Co-chair, Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital

*Since 1997, the Greenspace Alliance has worked with community organizations and individuals to preserve and enhance natural areas in the National Capital area, including public and private green spaces, wetlands and waterways. We believe that urban greenness is essential for a community's quality of life, contributing to our personal, social, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being. It also connects us with the natural and cultural history of our region.*

