



Bronte Village Residents Association

PO Box 35013
Bronte Village Post Office
Oakville, Ontario L6L 0C8
brontevillageresidents@gmail.com
brontevillageresidents.com

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Dear Lorraine Mitchelmore,

It has come to our attention that Bell Mobility has approached Shell regarding the installation of a telecommunications tower (cell tower) on the property located at 3451 Rebecca Street in Oakville. As President of the Bronte Village Residents Association, I am writing to explain some of the recent and significant history that this community has had with cell tower proposals. While cell towers in other communities may go up quietly, please understand that this has not been the case here. This may be of interest to you as a visible and recognizable company in this same community.

While residents understand that such structures are necessary in modern life to support communication, they have expressed concerns about the potential health implications of such structures and have been opposed to towers so close to their homes, schools, daycares and other sensitive areas. Many residents are well-versed in the details of “Safety Code 6”¹ (Health Canada’s guidelines for this type of radiation) and the legislation which surrounds cell tower implementation, and are not convinced that the status quo is sufficient in protecting the health of their families.

A quick summary of recent events regarding the installation of such towers for your consideration:

1. **Bronte Fire Station One** – In 2012, Bell Canada proposed cell antenna installations on a pre-existing radio tower at Bronte Fire Station One. Residents rallied against this installation², presented intelligent arguments against the proposal and were ultimately ignored by Bell. The community has not forgotten the blatant disregard of Bell for the people it purported to serve. C4ST (Canadians for Safe Technology) was born from this local grassroots response, and has since grown into a national organization to help create change in legislation to better reflect the latest research and to advocate for safe technology, while continuing to remain actively involved in local cell tower issues.
2. **Drago’s Autobody** – In July 2013, Bell Canada proposed yet another tower mere blocks away from Fire Station One, this time at 3135 Lakeshore Road West. This tower was particularly insidious, not only because of Bell’s recent and obvious disregard for the community’s feedback, but also because this tower measured 14.9 metres, allowing them to exploit a loophole in legislation. Again, the community quickly responded³, and in January of this year, the property owner pulled out of the deal with Bell.⁴
3. **Bronte Estates** – In July 2013, Rogers proposed the installation of antennas on top of a residential high-rise, “Bronte Estates” at 128 Bronte Road. Residents in the building created overwhelming pressure and the property management suspended the installation in response.⁵

¹ <http://www.c4st.org/safety-code-6>

² <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/2896598-public-to-meet-over-bronte-cell-tower/>

³ <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/4025926-bronte-mobilizes-against-cell-tower-plans/>

⁴ <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/4320620-cell-tower-plan-nixed-in-bronte-village/>

⁵ <http://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/4045654-bronte-cell-tower-put-on-hold/>

4. **Rooftop antennas** on various high-rise residences along Lakeshore Road are still a visible entity in our community, overlooking schools, homes, and senior residences. The community remains vigilant and aware. We have received feedback from the residents who are concerned about these structures in such close proximity to their homes and their children's schools.

In the meantime, our MP, Terence Young, is dedicated to this issue and maintains that “cell towers remain the biggest issue in Oakville.” In a statement made to Parliament in June 2012, Terence Young said “Bell Canada has placed powerful antennas 11 metres from a child's bedroom and over the heads of our firefighters and refuses to move them. This is intolerable.”⁶ And again, in May of 2013 stated “But, ethically, how can Bell callously ignore the legitimate health concerns of Canadians – many of whom are their own customers. Today, I call on Bell Canada, for the second time in this house: listen to the children, move the Bell antennae away from homes and schools!”⁷

While the siting of such antennas is ultimately under federal jurisdiction, the Town of Oakville's Interim Radiocommunications Protocol recommends Industry Canada not approve of such structures within 200 metres of sensitive land use, such as homes and daycares.⁸ The Shell gas station is approximately 50 metres from residences, and 100 metres from a daycare centre.

We can only anticipate that the reaction in the community to such a proposal so close to a daycare and residential area will be in character with previous responses to similar proposals: swift and overwhelmingly opposed. While residents generally do understand the need and desire for such infrastructure to support modern technology and communication, the underlying desire is for the *responsible* placement of such towers, not so close to sensitive areas as is the case here.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this issue. We look forward to your response on the matter and we will be relaying such to our community.

Ana Hourahine
President
Bronte Village Residents Association

⁶ <http://terenceyoung.com/newsletter/august-2013/beaver-column.html>

⁷ <http://terenceyoung.com/event.php?id=celltower3>

⁸ <http://www.oakville.ca/assets/2011%20planning/Interim-Radiocomm-Facilities-Protocol.pdf>