

Good afternoon.

I am writing to you in response to the request by Shining Hill Estates developer to amend Newmarket's official plan to redesignate sensitive Oak Ridges moraine land - Environmentally Protected Lands - to allow for it to be developed into residential and commercial buildings.

As a Newmarket resident and one of the hundreds (if not thousands) of people who enjoy the trails which border these lands - including the wildlife that call these lands home - I fail to see any reason why one of the last remaining greenspaces in all of Newmarket should be developed. Especially one that is part of an important greenbelt and ecologically sensitive area, the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Newmarket has had a long history of the intention to protect environmentally protected land and green spaces for decades. They were wise enough to formalize these intentions under the leadership of past municipal representatives. There is a reason that this was protected in Newmarket's official plan. Has the need for environmental protection changed? I would think that it has only become more important as in the 20 years since formalizing the environmental protections were put in place to continue with that position, particularly since we have seen the rest of the green spaces disappear in favor of housing developments in Newmarket and surrounding areas. Does that not mean anything? There is development everywhere now and attempts to develop will only continue. No one with a monetary stake is coming to the town asking for more environmental protections. That is why it is the job of municipal representatives to preserve and protect what can never be reversed.

Please stand by the protection given to these, now rare, natural spaces. Once gone they can never return.

The Maio Family