

I am writing to voice my concern and objection to the application by property developer Shining Hill Estates to have the southwest corner of Newmarket redesignated from an environmental protection area to allow a residential subdivision to be built.

The Town and the Region have already spent millions of dollars to develop Yonge Street and Davis Drive to allow for more high-density development of both commercial and residential properties. I agree there may be a shortage of housing available, but these corridors were developed to address this shortage and in accordance with the long-term plan for our population growth.

Canada is already lagging on our commitment to protect the environment and provide more protection for endangered wildlife. Further development of this sensitive area will only serve to line the pockets of developers for short-term gain. This will further result in the decline of the sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine. I believe allowing the development of this area would be a short-sighted decision on behalf of this Council and would do irreparable harm to our ecosystem.

The Town is already heavily invested in saving the old Mulock Estate property and further investing to develop this property for townspeople to enjoy. I am not disagreeing with this decision and look forward to seeing the end result. Based on the plans released, I believe the development of this property has shown great vision.

What we already have in this disputed area of Town on the Moraine does not require any further investment by the Town. It is an already a naturally developed area that Mother Nature has provided with biodiversity such that no Town Planner could even come close to developing or maintaining. We need such areas not only for our citizens but to maintain a habitat for the flora and fauna that reside there and would otherwise be destroyed by our folly of allowing it to be developed.

I would ask this current Council to not only reject this request, but structure the response in such a way that this land remains protected from development for the next 20-50, or even 100 years, if it is possible to do so. This would exempt this property from being exploited by future Councils down the road. It seems Aurora has already sold their soul to appease a developer. Let's show them Newmarket is not for sale and that we are on record to protect and stand up for what is left within our green spaces and natural boundaries.

Sincerley,  
Walt Klywak  
Concerned Newmarket Citizen and Voter