

To: Town Council, CC: Mayor John Taylor, Pam Wilson (my wife)

I am not available Monday afternoon to comment on the development of currently environmentally protected land, as I will be working - I am a teacher and unable to leave my screen before 3:00 pm.

However, I do want to state unequivocally what a bad idea I think it would be to develop environmentally protected land.

My family and I have never been more connected to nature than we have been in recent months. Bear in mind we were hikers and campers long before the pandemic, but since last January or so, we've made a point of enjoying the area's green spaces every day, if possible, and at least 3x per week. To us, this is what makes this area special. My wife and I both come from Essex County where there are but two "forests" people can use - Ojibway Nature Centre and Point Pelee National Park. Because it is a considerable driving distance for most, many of the people we know at home don't really take advantage of green spaces. For me, it the availability of nearby green spaces is what would keep me here, in the long term.

Point Pelee is a fairly famous area for birding. I really wonder if that's because birds have a long way to fly before they find much forested area, as they fly over Kent and Essex Counties.

In addition, there has been considerable damage from flooding in Essex County over recent years, because everything is farmland and concrete. We don't even have the farmland here. As climate change hits us with increasingly more potent storms, I think it would be foolish to rely exclusively on the drainage ponds, alone, as a buffer for flooding.

We don't need more development in Newmarket, particularly as the Yonge and Davis street debacles make existing traffic gridlock even worse.

At the risk of being a nimby, let the sprawl skip over Newmarket. Some other community can deal with the consequences of poor planning and over development.

RE: <https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/whats-coming-up-at-newmarket-council-moraine-development-proposal-emergency-order-by-law-3264672>

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