

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to urge you to not proceed with your plans to develop this section of Newmarket.

Green space is essential to the well being of the members of the community, in both aspects of physical and mental well-being. It would also be detrimental to biodiversity within the environmentally sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine to pursue its development.

The definition of sustainability is the pursuit of ecological balance. How can we establish an ecological balance when we continue to degrade the environment and fail to implement policy to protect, restore, and conserve?

In 2021 we should be establishing ourselves as leaders in sustainability, by promoting initiatives that preserve the environment (one such pressing example being the preservation of environmental protections in the Oak Ridges Moraine) and working towards becoming recognized as a community that champions the environment. This all starts with policy and the initiative of our representatives to use their elected positions to advocate for those (inclusive of the environment and its landscapes) who cannot advocate for themselves. At what point is enough development enough? Do we wait until we've gone too far? The adage goes that "hindsight is 2020", let us instead be a community that is revered for its sensibilities of foresight.

I urge you once more to please, put the needs of the collective above the desires and allure of capitalistic gains. Profit over people, over the earth, is absolutely not sustainable in the long term. Don't take it from me, there is scientific data readily available to support these assertions. Please, deeply consider the implications of your plans to roll back these environmental protections. Allow this segment of the Oak Ridges Moraine to remain intact.

Respectfully,

Scarlett van Berkel