

I am puzzled that the option to re-designate is under consideration.

The Town of Newmarket once felt so strongly that the lands in this area be protected, that they appealed a developer's plan to the OMB and won.

I urge the Town Council to reject the portions of the proposed amendment that would over-ride the protections enacted from the 2007-2008 OMB Victory.

Kathy Kumpula

The following is copied from a newspaper article in 2009:

Newmarket celebrates key OMB victory

Newmarket Era

Friday, January 9, 2009

The Ontario Municipal Board has ruled in favour of Newmarket in a hearing between the town and Mademont Investment Ltd. regarding development of a portion of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

"This case demonstrates the effectiveness of having an open process to ensure that resident's voices are heard and acted upon," Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen said. "This is truly an example of the town and the community coming together to protect our environment."

Mademont's request to build on the Oak Ridges Moraine was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in September 2007.

The land is designated as Environmental Protection – Oak Ridges Moraine in an amendment to Newmarket's 1996 official plan.

This amendment provides a higher level of protection for lands on the Oak Ridges Moraine as mandated under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan introduced by the province in 2001.

Mademont's appeal to the OMB was for approval to build 448 homes on the east side of Bathurst Street, south of Mulock Drive on 25.6-hectares of land.

The first phase of the two-phased hearing took place August to September 2008 and the decision was announced at the end of December.

This decision means that the second phase of the hearing will not proceed.

Newmarket's solicitor, Esther Armchuk-Ball, described the decision as a victory for the town.

"We hope this case will set an example and help lead the way for other municipalities that are also dedicated to preserving green space."

https://www.newmarket.ca/en/townhall/resources/3556748_january_07_2009.pdf
<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/1447812-newmarket-celebrates-key-omb-victory/>