

Rollback of environmental protections on Oak Ridges Moraine land

We, having been Newmarket residents for over 30 years, are writing to wholly object to Shining Hill Estates Collection Inc.'s application to redesignate land usage. It is clear their proposal negates the protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Tagged onto the end of their proposal is "Natural Heritage System" and by the way as an afterthought "Environmental Protection Area- Oak Ridges Moraine". What precisely is "Natural Heritage System"? The only "System" IS the environmentally protected area that IS the Oak Ridges Moraine.

This is a blatant example of big business i.e., a developer & associates with very deep pockets scooping up parcels of land - in this case precious environmentally protected space - solely for adding to their own purse. Clearly Shining Hill Estates and their collection of partners have decided to pursue this action because of Doug Ford's disastrous "Open for Business" Act (Bill 66) that was purposefully buried in legislation and quietly passed. This Bill prioritized developers over the people, the environment and the wildlife of Ontario.

As far back as the 1990's or before, a very wise Town of Newmarket recognized the ecological importance of the Oak Ridges Moraine and was very careful in it's treatment of this sensitive area. In 2003 a forward-thinking Town of Newmarket went a step beyond the Provincial regulations and designated Moraine lands as an environmentally protected area.

Protection of our farmlands, wetlands, forests and watersheds is critical to our health and wellbeing. As well as to the health of the vast array of wildlife who use the Moraine corridor. At a time when solid science proves we are in a climate crisis, now is NOT the time to dismiss the environment as an afterthought.

The development plan calls for yet another street to empty onto an already extremely busy Bathurst Street. As residents who live very close to Bathurst we can attest to the very high volume of cars and all size of trucks, that barrel along ignoring speed limits causing consistent noise and diesel pollution throughout the day & night. We no longer feel safe walking along Bathurst and riding a bicycle is absolutely out of the question due to the frightening speed with which cars and trucks travel. We most definitely do not need additional traffic which would be a result of the proposed development.

Regarding affordable housing, this should have been considered long ago when Leslie St. and elsewhere were being developed. Building up, not sprawling out should have been implemented in these areas especially with the close direct access to the 404. Sprawling out over the sensitive Moraine is not an acceptable solution to so called "affordable housing". In the end would the housing even be affordable given what we have seen over the past few years?

We fully support the woodlots and sensitive areas be taken into public ownership and used as trails for all people of Newmarket to enjoy. Focusing on being a "Green Town" would benefit our precious wildlife, watersheds, wetlands and forests giving enjoyment to many generations going forward. Not to mention the endless educational possibilities for all Newmarket students.

We implore the Mayor and all elected officials of the Town of Newmarket to reject Shining Hill's redesignation application. Thank you.

Eleanor & Brent Hubbard