

Newmarket Town Council Electronic Public Meeting

January 18, 2021

Nancy Watt

Re: Shining Hill Proposed Official Plan Amendment

To the Town of Newmarket:

I note the timing of this attack on the Oak Ridges Moraine with wearied cynicism.

The developers who throw their weight behind this proposal have the interests of themselves only at heart ("Hey fellas, I have an idea -- let's move the restrictions around whilst everybody else is paying attention to the unfolding of the apocalypse!) But, grim prognostications of the end of times aside, what will happen if we turn the watershed to crap by disin-tree-ing it, burying and filling the water sources, scarring and artificially reforming its earth whilst excavating the homes of all those elements of the wild which preserve the ecosystem? You know the answers to these questions and ignoring them for whatever advantage can be pursued in lining the pockets of people who have many other avenues for lining their pockets is short-sighted, grasping and hideously destructive.

Please consider saving and protecting what we have left of the Moraine by whatever means is necessary. If the Official Plan is to be amended, please consider the following change:

1) Protected lands should remain protected **permanently**.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is an ecologically important landform which protects wildlife and the safe movement of naturally roaming animals. This area is a natural water shed and its natural water purification abilities must be protected, especially in view of the looming shortages of water in the rest of the world.

This site has been targeted for development over and over and over again, no matter what its protected status. There is far too little left of it already and there are huge opportunities for infill in all of our urban and suburban areas.

I would urge the Town's planning department to act responsibly for the long term betterment of Newmarket. Please include this email in the correspondence to Council.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy E. Watt