

Hello My name is Denise,

This is my formal request to the town of Newmarket and it's councillors to please reconsider the reclassification of the section of Newmarket that borders the Oak Ridges Moraine. These are my reasons why. My family and I moved up here almost 20 years ago from a condo in Scarborough so our children could play in their own back yard, go to great schools and enjoy all the benefits that offered, and we could experience urban life surrounded by all beauty of rolling hills, lush farmland, an abundance of forest trails and parks, arts, culture, and history exclusive and unique to Newmarket while at the same time enjoy the close proximity of local shopping, hospitals, and major highways, it was the ideal place to raise a family. How things have changed. The farmland is all but gone, it was the 1st thing to go, replaced by Go stations and subdivisions with houses and townhouses packed tightly together row upon row, often with only a narrow, sunless gap in between them. The wooded trails were paved over, which is great for bicycles, but greatly increased the local traffic, and a peaceful nature walk is harder to come by. I am fortunate to live in an area that still has a few of these trails around, and I'm grateful to still have access to them. Retail areas exploded, big box stores and shopping plazas multiplied like rabbits, followed by the installation of rapid bus lanes with the hideous bus shelters that often smell of urine and cigarettes blocking the view, or causing the moving and/or permanent damage of beautiful historic buildings (but not the adult video store or tattoo parlour thank God !!) while all this was going on I witnessed the slow, painful death of main st. and all the local businesses due to the retail expansion and all the construction that followed which took years, went way over budget, was behind schedule, and caused a traffic nightmare the whole time !! I'm happy to say have also seen Main St. rally and rise like a Phoenix out of the ashes to become the cool, thriving, hub of great gatherings, events , shopping, the showplace for the arts and entertainment that it was meant to be, and one of the best places to grab a drink and a bite of the most delicious food anywhere, but it is took a very long time to rebound from the "improvements" previously done. Green Lane has been forever altered, stripped of the forests and farmland on both sides, the rolling hills replaced with subdivisions and shopping plazas on both sides, an increase in traffic, pollution, and fatal car accidents which has resulted in me now hearing the constant noise of cars and trucks as they zoom by, along with the trains, which at least before the forests acted as a buffer. I have had everything from the usual rabbits,squirrels, and chipmunks to snakes, groundhogs, otters (swimming in my neighbors pool !!), hawks, foxes, and coyotes in my back yard and wandering the streets because there is just nowhere else for them to go!! Other than the pre existing Tom Taylor Trail, there is little to no green space set aside on Green Lane for public use or animal habitat !! The new housing being built is by no means affordable, no matter whether it's high density or not, that's just a thinly veiled excuse for developers to do whatever they want once they get approval, and I won't be convinced otherwise. Can't meet the demand for housing ?? Too bad, are you trying to tell me there's nowhere else housing can be built to meet the demand ??

Now you want to reclassify a part of Newmarket that borders the Oak Ridges Moraine, and do the same thing that has been done to other parts of Newmarket, and until now I've been silent, but I feel I can't do that anymore hence this long letter, along with a plea to seriously think about the impact this decision, your decision will make on the people who already have made Newmarket their home, the wildlife, the protected areas of the Oak Ridges Moraine, the environment and it's preservation , not to mention the impact on the demand for services like accommodations for the influx of traffic and road maintenance, water supply, hydro, and other services such as waste collection to name a few. Having said all that, I don't have confidence it can be done in such a way as to take all of that and what it truly entails into consideration. I implore you please don't do this, don't redesignate/ reclassify this precious part of land, if you do and it's damaged or even partially destroyed, It can't be replaced, you can't go to the store and get another one, it's gone forever plain and simple. Thank you for your time and consideration Sincerely Denise Argiriou