

Elaine Pratt



Richmond Hill, ON

L4E 4Y7

18 July 2018

Dear Chair and Members of the Authority,

RE: Macleod's Landing community support for trail extension

I have been a homeowner and resident in the Macleod's Landing community for over twelve years. I've raised my two sons here, who are now 13 and 16, and over the years we have been hoping to enjoy the beautiful lakes and trails surrounding our neighbourhood. In fact, when we moved here from High Park back in 2006, one of the main reasons we chose this area was because of the extensive Oak Ridges Trail System that would literally be right in our backyard. We envisioned being able to ride our bikes, walk our dog, and go for long hikes or a run through the extensive network of trails that the system offers.

As one of the first residents to move into the area, I was patient at first, while we waited for a path to be built from our neighbourhood connecting us to the trail. As the years went on, the other neighbourhoods off Bathurst and King all had trails built that lead them safely to the Moraine trail system. Meanwhile I, my children, my dog, and my 2,500+ neighbours continue to this day to have to either drive or walk as far as 1-2km to an access point—one of which is off busy Jefferson Sideroad with no parking, with the other being a kilometre up Yonge Street's dangerous gravel shoulders with no sidewalks.

Most people in my neighbourhood are especially frustrated since a trailhead already exists from Silver Maple Road, but it just comes to a dead end at the Macleod Estate property line. We always believed that surely the Town would eventually extend it so that our neighbours, including Macleod's Landing Public School and the Upper Canada Daycare Centre, could access the trails without having to travel along a major highway.

You can imagine our excitement when a few years ago we learned that the Town of Richmond Hill had purchased land from the Macleod Estate and were finally going to finish the trail! And then you might imagine our huge disappointment when we found out that the walkway was just going to connect to a nearby street and not to the trail at all.

My neighbours and I immediately reached out to our community to let them know about the Town's plan so that we could collectively convince the Town to reconsider what we felt was a useless and undesirable plan. We were easily able to get signatures from over 500 households in our community, everyone agreeing that they would much prefer their tax dollars go towards a trail that connected us to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail rather than a neighbouring court.

We all agree that having a connection from Silver Maple Road to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail would provide numerous benefits to our community:

1. It will be much safer, particularly for our elderly residents, children and pets, since currently it is impossible to access the trail without travelling 1km or more, and along either busy Jefferson Sideroad, or up Yonge Street, a highway with no sidewalks.
2. It will enhance our community by providing a common pathway for us to access a trail that can finally be used by all residents, especially those who don't drive and are therefore unable to access it from the other points on Yonge or Jefferson.
3. It will provide our community and other users of the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail an opportunity to view and appreciate the Macleod Estate manor and property, which is one of the most significant historical landmarks in Richmond Hill.
4. It will provide the students at Macleod's Landing Public School with the opportunity to take walks in nature, perhaps as part of the science or physical education programs.
5. It will provide Upper Canada Daycare with interesting and safe trails to take the children on their daily walks. Currently the only option they have for their daily walk is to parade up and down Silver Maple or Shirrick Drive.

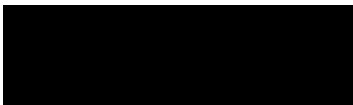
Unfortunately due to a business trip, I am unable to be there in person today to tell you how much this means to our community.

I hope that you will consider our request for this long-awaited trail in your pending approval for the TRCA to proceed.

In closing, please find attached some of the 50+ comments that I received from my neighbours during the online petition in support of this trail. This is only a representation of the comments that have been made to me in person, supporting our efforts and hoping, like me, that we will one day have direct access to the Oak Ridges Moraine trail, as do all the other neighbouring communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Kind regards,



Elaine Pratt

Macleod's Landing resident since 2006

Attachment 1**Petition to Town of Richmond Hill regarding the proposed trail extension in MacLeod's Landing - online comments**

Name	City	Postal Code	Signed On	Comment
marina fehrenbach	Richmond Hill	L4E4Y7	1/30/2016	I've been waiting 10 years to take my children bike riding and walking along this trail. I bought in this neighbourhood thinking it was eventually going to be connected to the Moraine.
Elaine Pratt	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y7	1/31/2016	I bought my house in this area 10 years ago with the belief that we would have access to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trails. Since the MacLeod Estate property was recently put up for sale by the Provincial Government, there is an immediate opportunity for the Town of Richmond Hill to purchase or do a land swap for the piece of the land between the end of the existing path up to the land owned by the TRCA, and build a connecting trail that will give everyone in our community direct access to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail system. We must act fast to convince the Town that our community would rather have a trail that extends north than one that extends south to just another street in our subdivision, which offers our residents no benefit at all.
Alina Muscalu	Richmond Hill	L4E4Y6	2/1/2016	We moved in this community more than 10 years ago and would be great to finally have direct access to the Oak Ridges Trail network.
Brandy Tanenbaum	Richmond Hill	L4e4z1	2/2/2016	The Town's proposed trail will contribute to an increased risk of injury to residents forced to travel in traffic to reach the desired trails. This proposed alternative trail is logical and will contribute to overall community health and safety.
Karine Lachapelle	Richmond Hill	L4E0C5	2/6/2016	I want to improve the WalkScore of the neighbourhood as well as have direct access to the trail for health and recreation purposes.
Marco Fragomeni	Richmond Hill	L4e0m3	2/7/2016	Its good for the community

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Nicholas Tutunovsky	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Z1	2/7/2016	The master plan had a direct access to oak ridges moraine on vaneervoort and now that's been eliminated. The only access from Yonge, which is very risky and dangerous for all individuals. The other access is from Bathurst but you would need a vehicle to drive there. Bathurst would be another issue though since it is a very busy street as well. Another access is from Jefferson which is not within our community that may be dangerous since the high volume of traffic. Please consider and review other options to provide access within our community for safety reasons as originally promised when purchasing my new home in 2005 from the builder on their master plan.
Lisa Del Vecchio	Richmond Hill	L4E 0J6	2/12/2016	I think it's a great idea to connect all the paths.
Jose Ferreras	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y6	2/14/2016	Strongly agree with this petition
Vlad Rashkovsky	Richmond Hill	l4e4y5	2/15/2016	I want a connecting trail to the oak ridge trail from the neighborhood
Jerry Chen	Richmond Hill	L4E 0C8	2/15/2016	It makes sense from a long-term perspective and particularly it would benefit to the community as a whole.
Dina Melino	Richmind Hill, Ontario	L4E 4Y8	2/15/2016	The current proposal makes no sense. Rational minds must prevail...go with the north access proposal....I live here!
Alexander Kourys	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y7	2/15/2016	When this subdivision was built, it was advertised at that time that we will have direct access to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail. And it never happened. Time to do it now. Proposed pass makes no sense and just waste of money (our taxes).
Jen Short	Richmond Hill	L4E4Y5	2/15/2016	I like the proposed alternative better. Looks like more people will benefit from it and the other hardly seems worth the time.
Natallia Kourys	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y7	2/15/2016	This is a right alternative we will support.
Elizabeth Kolosowska	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y5	2/15/2016	Currently, in order to access the trail system, residents must walk 0.75 - 1km up the shoulder of busy Yonge Street, or along busy Jefferson Sideroad towards Bathurst. The Yonge Street access route is particularly unsafe, with no sidewalk and only a shoulder to walk on, where cars, trucks and buses travel over 60km/hr only a few feet away.
Mark Davidan	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y8	2/17/2016	I'm signing because it makes sence
Yulia Davidan	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y8	2/17/2016	I'm signing because it makes sence
Ashleigh Dixon	Richmond Hill	L4e0b6	2/22/2016	This addition just makes sense and will make our community better and safer!

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Nagaratnam Sivarama	Richmond Hill, Ontario	L4E 4Z1	2/22/2016	Connecting the trail to the existing trail in the north would be of immense benefit not only to those attending MacLeod's Landing Public School but also those living around the school.
Viral Patel	Richmond Hill	L4E 0B7	2/22/2016	i would agree that green path will have better & effective connectivity to oak ridges trail network from macleods landing community
Firuz Davletshin	Richmond Hill	L4E 0B7	2/23/2016	I care about my community!
Mauro Jim Brancato	Richmond Hill	L4E 0B1	2/23/2016	The continuation of the trail makes sense going North connecting to the other trail where you can enjoy walking without worrying about the traffic of vehicles.
Dean Edamura	Richmond Hill	L4E 0C5	2/23/2016	Are there plans to connect the pathway between numbers 35 and 37 Vandervoot Drive to the Oak Ridges Trail? That would be another alternative if the connection near Philips Lake does not go through. Even better, having both would be perfect.
dan butto	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Z4	2/23/2016	to support the proposed redirection of the trail extension from Silver maple road to connect with the oak ridges moraine trail.
Mihai Berinde	Richmond Hill	L4E0C5	2/23/2016	This trail is long overdue....
Juana Perales	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y6	2/23/2016	Access to the trail will now be available for everyone living in this sub-division, without having to go to Yonge Street or Bathurst. I support the good effort being made by Elaine Pratt.
Pauline Karam	Richmond Hill	L4E 4 Z3	2/25/2016	Why to do the job twice. Do it right from the first time. Connect path to Oak Ridges Trail ! ! !
Allen Yiu	Richmond Hill	L4E4Z3	2/26/2016	I'm signing because this proposal would be greatly beneficial to our community
Samuel Chung	Richmond Hill	L4E 0C1	2/27/2016	This will encourage more people to use the trail by connecting business on Yonge Street, and Viva/York Transit bus stations within the neighborhood. This option is the best choice.
Viral Patel	Brick	8724	2/28/2016	outdoors are best
Amisha Sheth	Richmond Hill	L4E 0C1	2/29/2016	I am signing because I live just off Silver Maple Road and have used the Oak Ridges Trail many times in summer. I have had to drive up the road to access the trail, park, and cross the road in order to access the trail. A walking path directly from Silver Maple would make it way easier on anyone who wishes to use the trail. Extending it south sounds like a waste of money and rather pointless.

Petition to Town of Richmond Hill regarding the proposed trail extension in MacLeod's Landing - online comments

Rose Brancato	Richmond Hill	L4E 0B1	3/4/2016	Extention of the path from Silver Maple Road to the beautiful Oak Ridges Trail makes more sense than extending to MacLeod Estate Court where there are just homes and no sidewalks.
Liana Brancato	Richmond Hill	L4E 0B1	3/4/2016	Connecting the path from Silver Maple Road going North to the Oak Ridges Trail makes more sense than the proposed path extension to MacLeod Estate Court.
Dennis dixon	Richmond Hill	l4e0b6	3/5/2016	We just want to be connected with rest of the neighborhood.
Phoebe Cheng	Richmond Hill	L4E4Z5	3/11/2016	It would be great to have a direct path to the Oak Ridges Trail System!
Alexey Molin	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y9	3/12/2016	I want easier access to the trail from my house and my kind's school.
Yansong Gao	Richmond Hill	L4E4Z2	3/13/2016	This would a lot benefit for the entire community and make this area more healthy!
Elifa Chan	Richmond Hill	L4e4y6	3/13/2016	I would like to have direct access to the trail to enrich the experience of the local communities
Juan Velazquez	Richmond Hill	L4E4Y4	3/13/2016	It's a great choice fo exercise and connect with nature.
Steve Hwung	Richmond Hill	L4e4r2	3/13/2016	Silver Maple also nicely connects the to be built Neighbourhood "Foresthill" by Heatwood Homes - 113 homes on south side of Jefferson Side Road. So the trail extension would difinitely benefit the new Neighbourhood.
Cheryl MacIntyre	Richmond Hill	L4E0M4	3/13/2016	I use the trails regularly and would like them to expand
William Zhang	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y9	3/13/2016	I support the petition.
Guilan Li	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y9	3/13/2016	A good petition
Chi Liang	Scarborough	M1H 0A1	3/13/2016	It's important to have access to trails so that the young generation connects with nature. Our neighborhood needs direct access. We are disappointed with the the town's current plans.
John Lin	Richmond Hill	l4e 4y9	3/13/2016	It makes sense and make community better and safer
Ellen Yan	Richmond Hill	L4B 4n4	3/13/2016	Support it
Mark Ho Sue	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Z1	3/13/2016	It's a great idea to extend the green trail to the Oak Ridges Moraine Path network. Much safer for my kids instead of Yonge street or Bathurst street.
Susan Karakashian	Richmond Hill	L4C 4YC	3/13/2016	I live in the community and there is no safe way to access the trail from Silver Maple. Yonge St has no sidewalks.
alston Martins	Richmond Hill	L4e0c5	3/14/2016	I did not anticipate the number of sub divisions coming up. it was not disclose d when we moved in . Let's be the change for once

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Yiqing Liang	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y9	3/14/2016	I live in Richmond Hill and this sounds very beneficial
Maria Gutierrez	Richmond Hill	L4e 4z2	3/14/2016	Great idea!
Nicola Fernandes	Toronto	M6k3r4	3/14/2016	Would like my nephew to have access to hiking trails where he lives
Ovidiu Popa	Richmond Hill	L4E0B3	3/14/2016	It is a great idea that would benefit all McLeod's Landing residents from.
Michael Vannicola	Richmond Hill	L4E0B1	3/14/2016	Having small kids, that play and ride their bikes on Macleod Estate, I don't want the added traffic on my street. I support the path from Yonge connecting north to the Oak Ridges trail.
Monica Petrascu	Richmond Hill	L4E 0B3	3/14/2016	To the City decision-makers: My husband and I are big nature walkers and also dog owners. We and our friends love our long walks in the Macleod's Landing conservation area and this path would make our access to the trails a lot easier and more enjoyable and diverse. I understand that it might be more complex and more costly to implement the green path, but the value added to us, living in this beautiful area, would be much higher than the red line could contribute. Thank you for your consideration!
Ann Marie Romanovich	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y6	3/15/2016	The walking trails linking to Oak Ridges were a key selling point in the description and site map when we purchased this home in 2003. We have waited over 10 years for the neighbourhood to reach completion. Access to the established trails will provide educational and health benefits related to the environment for our children, ourselves and future generations.
Ario Hadian	Richmond Hill	L4E4Y8	3/15/2016	I wanna walk my dog
Anton Mirash	Richmond Hill	L4e4y8	3/15/2016	this is a great idea
Karen Maharaj	Richmond Hill	L4e 4y7	3/15/2016	I support access to the Oak Ridge trail
Jerome Ombico	Richmond Hill	L4E4Z1	3/15/2016	This makes it more convenient for the MacLeod's Landing community to access the trail.
david Pacheco	Richmond Hill	L4e 0c6	3/15/2016	it will help teach children in the community about nature.
H Donald Wood	NORTH YORK	M2J 2H5	3/15/2016	I would like easier access to the trail for walking our dogs.
Roger Wong	Richmond Hill	L4E0B7	3/15/2016	Please connect us to the Oak Ridges Trail network!
Zhaowei Liang	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Z2	3/16/2016	We like this proposal and We live at this area.
Luis Gutierrez	Richmond Hill	L4e4z2	3/17/2016	I want safe access to the trail!
Mauricio Martinez	Richmond Hill	L4E 0C5	3/17/2016	Current Proposal makes no sense since there would be no link to the main trail