



Toronto and Region  
**Conservation**  
Authority

**OAK RIDGES CORRIDOR CONSERVATION RESERVE TRAIL PLANNING  
PROJECTS**

**MACLEOD ESTATE TRAIL LINKAGE  
SITE MEETING – VANDERVOORT DRIVE TRAIL OPTION**

**Monday, November 12, 2018**

**1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

**Vandervoort Drive and Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve**

**PRESENT:**

**TRCA: Mike Bender, Deanna Cheriton, Corinna Thomassen-Darby,**

**TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL: Angelo Vincent**

**MACLEOD'S LANDING NEIGHBOURS: Sheila Meghadashi, Kamran Anvari, Marjan Asmani, Joseph Huang (+1), Whenjun Zhu, Donald Lau, Jose Barturem, Tony Campisi, Denis Khabas, Evgenia Khabas, Sarah Ramiz, Thomas Ha, Mojdah Tanarosh, Lisa Lianos, Oksana Kripak, Vitaly Kripak**

<b>MEETING NOTES</b>
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**Background**

At TRCA Board Meeting #6/18 on July 20, 2018, RES.#A110/18 was carried as follows:

***THAT*** item 8.1 – Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve Trail Planning Projects be referred to staff;

***THAT*** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff work with concerned residents and Town of Richmond Hill staff through detailed site planning and design of the trail implementation project to ensure an appropriate trail setback from private property and the incorporation of full season planting buffers and screening for privacy, as well as safety;

***AND FURTHER THAT TRCA*** investigate the Vandervoort Drive entrance to the Conservation Reserve as an entrance to the spine trail.

As part of efforts to address the final part of this resolution, on October 22, 2018 TRCA distributed a notice to 39 addresses along Vandervoort Drive and Miles Hill Crescent

whose properties immediately border the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve (ORCCR) near the area where a potential trail connection from Vandervoort Drive would be located or construction disturbance for this trail could occur. These residents were invited to a site visit on November 12, 2018 to share their thoughts regarding a potential trail connection from the Town of Richmond Hill's Vandervoort Drive stormwater management access block to the ORCCR spine trail, based on a feasible trail corridor for this connection previously outlined by TRCA technical staff.

## **On-site Discussion**

### **Security**

The neighbours in attendance expressed concerns regarding the security of their homes. The identified trail corridor is relatively close to their rear yards, and the elevated location of the trail provides unobstructed sightline opportunities into these backyards. The proposed trail corridor passes through open meadow near the top of a long ridge behind these homes, and there is a low berm providing some visual cover for trail users. The neighbours expressed concern that trail users could easily leave the trail for a few metres to the top of the hill and have a full view of their backyards. They feel that with this open landscape and easy visual access, trail users could easily intrude into their properties by jumping over their rear fences. They noted that there have been multiple break-ins in the area, and they are concerned that the trail would invite additional intrusion into their properties. TRCA staff suggested that additional vegetative screening between the trail and the neighbours' rear yards could help to mitigate these sightlines and deter trail users from approaching private properties. It should be noted however that vegetative screening could not be possible inside the Town of Richmond Hill's narrow corridor of land between 35 and 37 Vandervoort Drive. In addition, vegetative screening material may be difficult to establish on the berm and be slow growing depending on soil conditions, as the berm appears to be man-made.

### **Safety**

The neighbours relayed that they have seen wild animals such as coyotes along their street in the evenings, and they feel that opening the gate to the ORCCR from Vandervoort Drive and constructing a trail will exacerbate this issue. They suggested that opening the gate could lead to more frequent wildlife encounters, which poses a risk to their families' safety.

### **Drainage**

The neighbours relayed that there have been localized flooding and drainage problems in their rear yards for 9 years, since the Macleod's Landing neighbourhood was completed. They stated that the steep slope which rises immediately behind their properties was created as part of the construction of the neighbourhood, and this grade pattern creates stormwater issues for their rear yards. They suggested that these issues need to be urgently addressed, and prioritized for funding ahead of a trail connection for

the neighbourhood. TRCA offered to coordinate with the Town of Richmond Hill technical staff to further investigate the causes of these drainage and flooding issues and determine how they might be resolved. TRCA will also have to coordinate the findings of this review with the Province of Ontario, as they are the land owner adjacent to the homes.

### Privacy

The neighbours expressed concern that the private and quiet nature of their street would be compromised by people coming from outside the neighbourhood to park on their street and access the trail if the proposed trail's entrance from the street is located beside their homes. One of the reasons that these neighbours purchased their homes was because of the secluded residential nature of the street. As children often play in the street, the neighbours feel that the presence of strangers to the neighbourhood is both a privacy and safety issue.

The neighbours noted that sightlines from various locations on top of the berm along the trail corridor lead straight into the second-storey windows of certain properties. The privacy and undisturbed natural view into the ORCCR from these properties was factored into the purchase price of their homes, and they have paid a premium for these views, privacy and location.

### Parking

The neighbours in attendance expressed concern that street parking along Vandervoort Drive and nearby streets would be overwhelmed with people coming from outside the neighbourhood to access the trail system. As a trail access point from Vandervoort Drive would be relatively close to the existing trail entrance to Bond Lake (from Yonge Street), the neighbours suggested that Vandervoort Drive would become the secondary parking area and trail entrance for Bond Lake, which draws visitors from beyond the surrounding area. The parking lot for the Bond Lake trail entrance is frequently busy. Constructing a trail connection from Vandervoort Drive would therefore undermine the purpose of the trail to serve the Macleod's Landing neighbourhood as a local connection.

The neighbours noted that there is not a lot of existing space for on-street parking, with it being limited to the area between residential driveways. The neighbours are concerned that emergency access to the street could be impaired by on-street parking to access the proposed trail entrance. The neighbours identified that Vandervoort Drive is often one of the last streets to be ploughed after a snow event and that snow is piled high at the end of the driveways. This contributes to dangerous driving and parking conditions along Vandervoort Drive that could be exacerbated with additional parking pressures from trail users.

### Litter and Environmental Protection

The neighbours in attendance expressed concern for the environmental protection of the ORCCR. They referenced that Bond Lake has a proliferation of unauthorized trails, litter, and undesirable activity. They suggested that the primary purpose of the ORCCR should be environmental protection and introducing a trail through the area will invite further human disturbance and litter. Efforts to resolve issues of dumping and litter are made by TRCA staff for the entire trail system as part of on-going land and trail management activities.

### Neighbourhood Service Area

During the site visit, the neighbours in attendance noted that the proposed Vandervoort Drive trail access point is at the far end of the neighbourhood. They suggested that this location is much less convenient and accessible to the majority of homes within the neighbourhood than the original Macleod's Landing Trail Linkage alignment as recommended by staff at TRCA Board Meeting #6/18. They noted that the original recommended alignment is much more central within the neighbourhood, connects to the existing Town of Richmond Hill trail along the carriageway from Yonge Street to Silver Maple Road, and is closer to the Macleod's Landing Public School.

### General Opposition

The neighbours in attendance presented TRCA staff with a petition stating their opposition to the proposed trail location. The petition was signed by 23 people at the time of the meeting. The neighbours identified that they are still getting signatures on this petition.

### Timing and Next Steps

TRCA staff reviewed tentative timelines for returning to the TRCA Board of Directors in response to RES.#A110/18, scheduled for March 29, 2019. TRCA staff suggested that the neighbours could send correspondence in advance of this TRCA Board of Directors Meeting outlining their positions, or they could make a delegation at the Meeting. This would ensure that the TRCA Board of Directors hears their comments directly, and that these comments are included as part of the formal record of the Meeting. TRCA committed to notifying the neighbours once the report is available and advise on how they can submit correspondence or request a delegation.

November 12, 2018

To: Toronto and Region Conservation for the Living City

**Re: Re: Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve Trail Planning Projects – Macleod estate Trail Linkage Projects**

We received your letter dated Oct 22, 2018 and we are extremely worried and deeply concerned about the privacy, safety and security of our families as you are suggesting a trail behind our backyard fences.

1. Privacy:

This will affect our privacy; our backyard, living room and even our bedrooms will be visible from any potential trail. Many of these homes have swimming pools that the residents and their families enjoy during the summer season. Any such trail will drastically affect the use and enjoyment of homeowners both inside and outside of their homes drastically, in our backyards and also our enjoyment inside of our homes. We are certain that you are not and will not be able to control and govern people after you allow them to walk and populate behind our fences.

2. Security:

Some of us have already experienced break ins. The suggested new trail is raising even more concern to our security. Due to the lower land elevation of Vandervoort properties in comparison to the Oak Ridges land on the other side of our fences, inside our homes, and for some, even second floor bedrooms are entirely visible from the moraine. Allowing public access to the back of our properties will result in decreased security for the residents and their families - these properties were not designed with this new plan in mind. You are not able to guarantee no break ins will happen as a result of this new plan and public access to the back of our properties.

3. Safety:

The Moraine is a sensitive ecosystem and a shelter for wild animals. We all know that behind our fences, a wide variety of wild animals are living. We have seen many of these animals, year around, and they include but are not limited to: deer, coyotes, foxes, turkeys, and various other smaller wild animals. We chose and enjoy living beside them and count on our fences for protection. When you open the gate to the moraine, our families will not feel safe anymore. There is also a pond very close by the Vandervoort entrance; and we have safety concerns for our children to be safe from now on with being in such a close proximity to the pond right outside our doors.

4. Access:

We have heard of previous plans by TRCA to connect the neighbourhood to the trail's main spine. There was the original plan of Macleod estate trail linkage to connect the existing and original treed trail path from Yonge Street (right across Stouffville Rd.) passing through Windrow St. and Silver Maple Rd. and connecting it to MacLeod Estate Crt. We heard this plan was cancelled. The second plan to connect the same existing trail towards north and connecting it to the main trail spine was opposed by neighbouring properties; hence the study of Vandervoort Dr.

We strongly believe the Vandervoort entrance is NOT a good option as it is located in the far end of the community, as oppose to the original plan which is located at the heart of the community and provides more people larger access to the main trail and area. What is the valid casue of relocating the Macleod estate trail linkage project from its original location and close proximity to Macleod estate to more than a kilometer away to the border of the community at vandervoort?

We suggest TRCA goes back to the original plan if it is a must that a new plan is created. Otherwise, the trail already exists. We as a community have enjoyed walking and biking in the existing trails around us, using either the Yonge street entrance across Bond Lake or Jefferson Sideroad entrances. Our community agrees that the trail entrances and accessibility is adequate and that there is no need for a new entrance.

When we purchased our homes in this neighbourhood we all paid high premiums for having the moraine and no public access behind our homes. We were told that the Moraine land is protected and belongs to the Province and no one is able to touch it by law.

When we asked the developer at time of purchase to change the elevation so surface water does not flood our backyards and wash-off soil (due to the elevation), they said this is not an option, as no human is allowed to touch the moraine; but now we are witnessing that the town can in fact touch it and is in the process of reducing our security and making it an unsafe area for us to live and raise our families.

By signing this letter we the undersigned express our strong objection and concern regarding your proposed Vandervoort trail suggestion.

Regards,

Kamran Anyar

Natasha Liang

M. M. (111)

CHI MING DONALD LAU

Mojdeh Tanavosh,  
Siamak Bashan

Sumita Ramroop

Tony Campisi

Denis Khabas

Evgenia Khabas

Vitali and Oksana  
KRIPAK

ELIZAVETA LIANDS

Mahdi Memarpour

Rumiz Sarah

Jose BARRERA

Marine Billa

Timmy

Clung Wong

Fan Lutan

FLAVIO LORENZINI

Leon

龍崎

## Item 7.1

To whom it may concern,

July 9<sup>th</sup>2018.

My Name is Mark Curtis and I live with my family at [REDACTED],  
Richmond Hill ONT L4E-4Z2.

The reason for this letter is express opposition to any form of proposed hiking trail in the immediate rear of my property adjacent to The Crown Lands that are owned by her Majesty (Province of ONT) and are operated by the TRCA.

I purchased my residence in Jan.2006 from Aspen Ridge Homes understanding that I was buying a home that would be backing onto crown lands with No chance of future development as outlined in the 2006 MacLeods Landing subdivision agreement. The reason for this non-development was of course due to the highly enviromental sensitivity of the Oak Ridges Moraine corridor, not to mention the fact that the protection of Phillips Lake was the obvious High ranking priority. I also wanted to mention that I had to pay a Lot \$ premium for my home in order to achieve this Lot privacy. At the time, \$120,000 was the amount I paid to the builder.

I understand that the new owner of 16 MacLeods Estate Court has entered into an agreement with both the Town of Richmond Hill and the ONT Govt wrt stewardship program of the property known as Drynoch (Former Gray Estate). The idea to put in a trail would constitute further headaches and problems for this individual to overlook the property let alone police it all by himself. The design of this proposed trail does Not even allow the users to get a proper full view of the Historic property, not to mention the many other issues associated as I will list below. Here are some of the many important reasons to Not allow for the building of this trail...

1. Actual Statistical By-Law set back Data as provided by the Planning and Engineering Depts
2. Safety for the Current residences who back onto the Crown lands
3. Potential Trespassing violators to Phillips Lake
4. Litter and garbage



5. Environmental pressure to the existing species of plant and animals native to the local area
6. Accessibility only during Summer months hence not being able to use it during the winter since they will Not plow it
7. The path will Not have regular park hours meaning it will be open 24/7 creating limitless hours of disruption for those who live nearby.
8. Parking will become a major issue and negatively affect local roads and trail entrances
9. \$Cost (spend the money on Hospitals & infrastructure to be used year round.)
10. Grading and Low land areas pose a challenge to the so-called intended buffer zone to help create privacy for adjacent landowners.
11. Who will properly Police this trail, will they use Drones?
12. Adjacent Landowners property values will drop significantly.

I also understand that I am a spit in the ocean when it comes to my actual opinion in the matter as acknowledged with my many conversations with this issue as pertaining to the discussions I have had with Councillor Greg Beros, TRCA staff Corinna Thomassen-Darby and with Tracey Steele planner with the Town of Richmond Hill. Unfortunately I will Not be able to attend the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting b/c I will be in Florida on a 1-week vacation returning July 22<sup>nd</sup>. I am self-employed and only take one week vacation a year. Hopefully the rest of those sitting on the panel can understand my reasons for opposition and vote against such a proposal because it would truly be a shame if this trail goes thru and we end with a similar scenario as what is currently the reality on Bond Lake. That is, Mass confusion and chaos with No clear level of authority to protect and police the area. Hopefully this decision can be deferred to a later date to ensure that this is the best option for all those involved. There are other solutions to connect to the existing trail system.

Thank-You, Mark Curtis

Attachment 1: Residents in support of the letter

MAGED FARAG

Stephen BLACK

Mohsen Arjmand

Qiang Ma

Olga Parkhomenko

Vince Chu

FOROUZAN BAZVAK

## Attachment 2

### 2.3.7 OFFSET FROM PROPERTY LINE

Where possible, provide spatial separation between trails and rear and side lot lines of adjacent private property. As a general rule, trails should be kept as far away from private property boundaries as possible, recognizing that there are other factors to be considered.

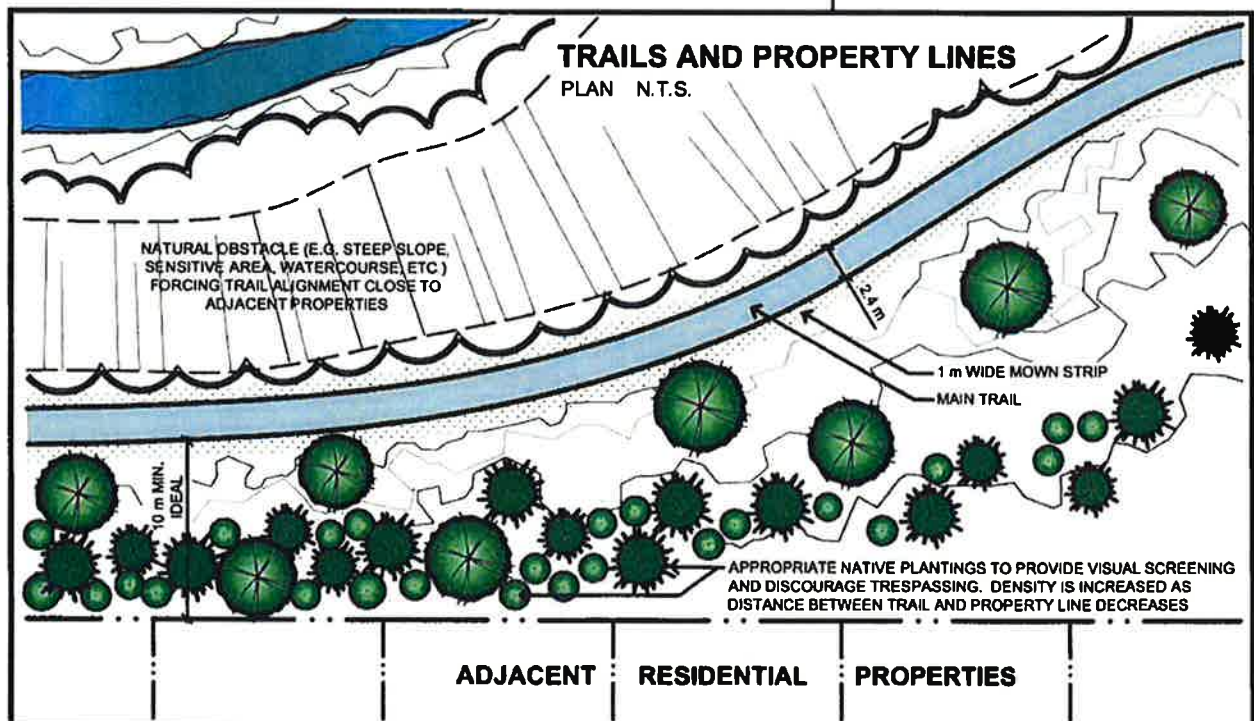
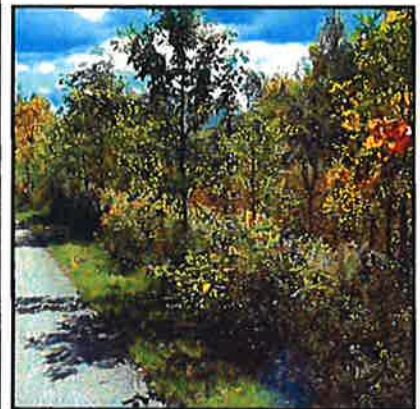
- Minimum clearance of 10 m where feasible.
- Where trails are closer than 10m to property lines include buffering measures (planting) to provide visual screen between trail and adjacent property owners and to buffer environmental areas from residential, commercial and industrial uses.
- Topography (natural grade separation) may also be utilized to provide appropriate buffering.
- Be aware that residents generally
  - want to maintain views of adjacent natural areas;
  - prefer their view uninterrupted by the trail;
  - do not want their property visible or accessible to trail users.

See also Appendix A: "Typical Trail Planting Plans and Cross Sections" for valleylands with adjacent residential development. These drawings were prepared by the Town for the Bayview North Trail and have relevance in other instances.

*Planting visually screens industrial lands for trail users.*



*Planting visually screens the trail for adjacent residential properties.*

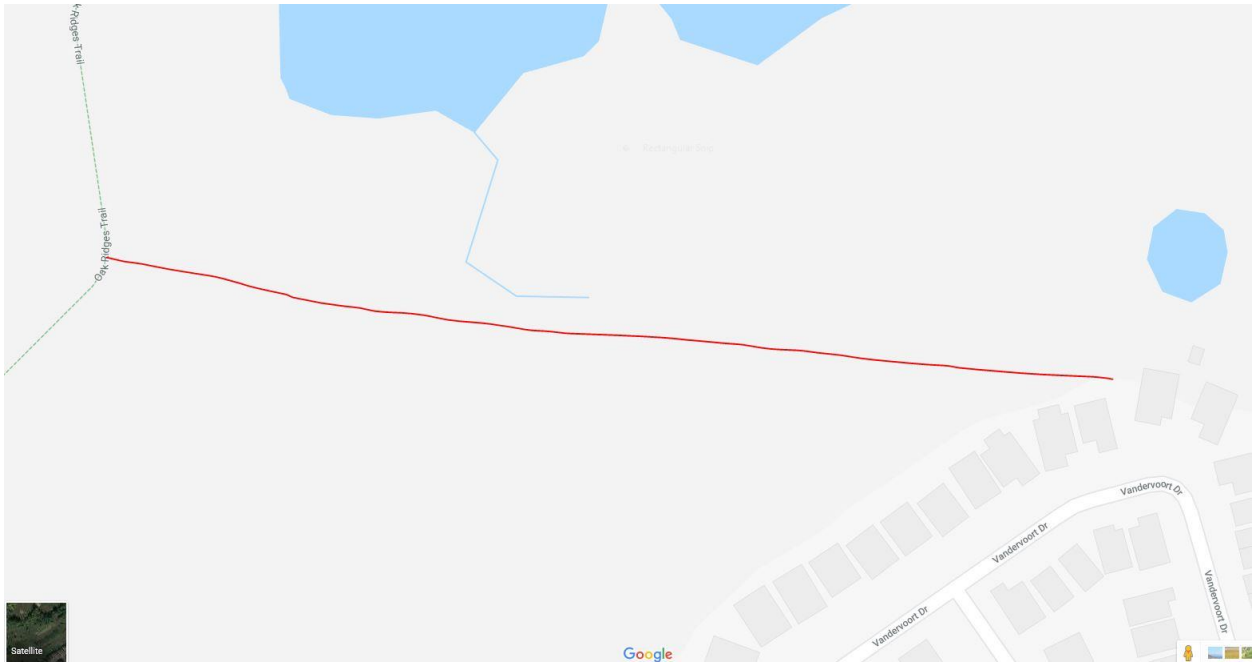


### Detailed Design Section 2



## Attachment 3









## Item 7.3

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our family own and occupy the 4 homes, encompassing the entire west side of Macleod Estate Court, immediately south of the Macleod Estate. Each of us fully supports the plans of the Town and TRCA to extend the existing walkway which runs from Silver Maple Drive to the Macleod Estate boundary. The proposed extension is to run along the eastern side of Phillips Lake, to join up with the existing Moraine Trail System.

By way of background, our family acquired the Macleod Estate about 50 years ago. The property included the original home of the very famous Macleod family.

Colonel James Farquharson Macleod emigrated from Scotland in 1845 when his father acquired Drynoch Farm and built the existing manor house. He later became the second Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and then a Justice of the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories. He negotiated the most important Indian treaties including with Sitting Bull, Crowfoot and others. Fort Macleod (now Calgary) was named after him.

In short, he was one of Canada's most famous early settlers and the Macleod Estate is one of Canada's most important historical sites.

During our 40 years' ownership of the manor house, we completely renovated and restored it under the architectural guidance of Napier Simpson, a resident of Richmond Hill and the most important name in the restoration of early Canadian homes.

Phillips Lake is adjacent to the Macleod Estate and has been protected by us since we acquired the property, around 1970.

In 2004, the Ontario Government acquired the estate and lake. As part of that arrangement we required that the lake be fenced in and totally protected. We formed a partnership with the Government, with a

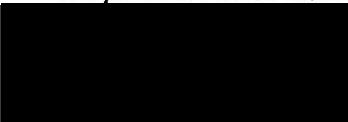
committee of three of our family members now working with the TRCA (representing the Government) to protect Phillips Lake.

In order to preserve the manor house, we leased it back until recently, when the Government put it up for sale. We reacquired it and later sold it to Mr. Tiz Fantin on the understanding that he would restore it, as zero capital maintenance had been carried out during the previous 13 years.

Mr. Fantin, fortunately for our community and at very considerable cost, has done just that. Although the proposed trail extension will run through his property, Mr. Fantin is strongly supporting it and has agreed to ensure that those using the trail will have an excellent view of the famous Macleod manor house, now fully restored, with restoration of the grounds just commencing.

It has been troubling that we have an entire community of over 2,500 residents to the south and east of the Macleod estate, who have no reasonable access to the Moraine trails, the only neighbouring community to be so deprived. At present, to get to the trails, these residents have to walk a kilometer or so, up the shoulder of Yonge Street (there is no sidewalk), an adventurous and quite dangerous undertaking. Nor do any Richmond Hill residents, except a very few, have any way to see one of Canada's most important heritage sites, the Macleod manor house, which will be possible from the new trail.

All of the foregoing are the reasons for our Family's support of the trail extension. And we are backing that support with a \$100,000 commitment towards the cost of this highly important project.



Gordon Gray


July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.



Patricia Gray



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COUTLÉE, THÉRÈSE-GENEVIÈVE -  
Volume VI (1821-1835)  
d. there 17 July 1821 at the Hôpital  
Général

Confederation

Responsible  
Government

Sir John A. Macdonald

From the Red River  
Settlement to  
Manitoba (1812-70)Source: [Link](#)

**MACLEOD, JAMES FARQUHARSON** (his first names may have been James Alexander Farquharson), militia officer, lawyer, NWMP officer, magistrate, judge, and politician; b. probably 25 Sept. 1836 in Drynoch, Isle of Skye, Scotland, son of Martin Donald Macleod and Jane Fry; m. 28 July 1876 Mary Isabella Drever, and they had four daughters and one son; d. 5 Sept. 1894 in Calgary.

James Farquharson Macleod emigrated from Scotland with his family in the summer of 1845. His father purchased a farm at Richmond Hill, north of Toronto, near the lands of John Beverley [Robinson](#)\*

and the late William Warren [Baldwin](#)\*, and in 1845 he enrolled James, who had been educated at home to this point, at Upper Canada College. Financial difficulties forced his withdrawal in 1848, but he returned three years later to pass with honours his final examinations and the entrance examination for Queen's College, Kingston. During these years life on the farm influenced Macleod at least as powerfully as his schooling. Hunting trips with his father and brothers left him with an abiding love of the outdoor life, and the Macleods' friendship with a family of local Ojibwa Indians imparted to James a lifelong respect and admiration for the native people of Canada.

Macleod's father, who had lost seven brothers to tropical diseases while they were serving in the British and Indian armies and who had himself fallen seriously ill while on military service in Demerara (Guyana), had left Scotland to avoid a similar fate for his sons. In his master plan for the family, Martin Donald Macleod saw a career in law for his son James and thus in 1851 sent him to Queen's to obtain his BA. After a year the young Macleod announced his intention to become a civil engineer instead. Only an impassioned plea from his father caused him to remain in the arts, which he found boring, and in 1854 he managed to graduate with an honours degree in classics and philosophy. His lack of enthusiasm for the legal profession was evidenced by the fact that he twice failed the entrance examination for law studies at Osgoode Hall in 1854 before passing in November 1856. He then joined the Kingston law office of Alexander [CAMPBELL](#) to article, but by this time he had found an activity that interested him much more than the law. In the summer of 1856 he had joined the Volunteer Militia Field Battery of Kingston as a lieutenant and his enthusiasm was such that his brother-in-law William Augustus Baldwin (a son of William Warren) persuaded Governor General Sir Edmund Walker [Head](#)\* to offer James a commission in the British army. His father was naturally horrified and insisted that the offer be refused.

In 1860 James passed his bar examinations at Osgoode Hall. For the next decade he practised law at Bowmanville and retained a strong interest in the militia. Transferred in 1862 to the Bowmanville Volunteer Militia Rifle Company (which became part of the 45th (West Durham) Battalion of Infantry four years later), he was promoted captain in 1863 and major in 1866. Active service during



Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Sir George-Étienne  
Cartier

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The Fenians

Women in the  
DCB/DBC

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The Charlottetown and  
Quebec Conferences of  
1864

Introductory Essays of  
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Canada's Wartime  
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The First World War

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the *Trent* affair in 1861 [see Sir Charles Hastings [Doyle\\*](#)] and the Fenian raids of 1866 [see Alfred [Booker\\*](#)] confirmed his taste for the military. In 1870, through the political influence of his former employer Alexander Campbell, now a cabinet minister in the dominion government, and of Prime Minister Sir John A. [Macdonald](#), Macleod obtained a commission as brigade major with the expedition under Colonel Garnet Joseph [Wolseley\\*](#) sent to quell the uprising in the Red River settlement (Man.) [see Louis [Riel\\*](#)]. The arduous journey westward through the wilderness was made to order for Macleod's talents; his leadership during the expedition earned him praise from his commanding officer as well as a CMG. He remained with the Canadian militia force at Lower Fort Garry until the spring of 1871 and while there he met Mary Isabella Drever, the daughter of a local trader. Their marriage plans were disrupted when Macleod failed to obtain appointment as commanding officer of the garrison and returned to Ontario.

Macleod was promoted lieutenant-colonel in the 45th Battalion of Infantry in December 1871, but his law practice and part-time soldiering no longer held much attraction for him. In late 1872 he left for England and Scotland with the idea of remaining if he could find suitable employment. In the spring of 1873 Prime Minister Macdonald offered him a commission as superintendent and inspector in the newly established North-West Mounted Police [see Patrick [Robertson-Ross\\*](#)]. Macleod accepted and returned quickly to Canada. In October he left from Collingwood, Ont., for Upper Fort Garry (Winnipeg) with several other officers and 150 men.

During the winter of 1873–74 Macleod and the other officers began the training and organization of the NWMP at the Stone Fort, Lower Fort Garry, under the command of Commissioner George Arthur [French\\*](#). In December Macleod commanded the first patrol, to investigate a complaint that lumbermen on Lake Winnipeg were trading liquor to the Indians, and on 1 June 1874 he was appointed the force's first assistant commissioner.

In the spring of 1874 the NWMP were ordered farther west to deal with American whisky traders operating near the fork of the Bow and Belly (South Saskatchewan) rivers, in what is now Alberta. Under French, Macleod set out from Dufferin, Man., on 8 July with 318 men. The trip turned out to be much longer and more difficult than expected. At the end of July part of the force had to be detached and sent to Fort Edmonton (Edmonton) with the weaker horses. The remainder struggled on, finally reaching their destination, ragged and starving, on 11 September. Macleod, with half the force left under his command, was ordered to establish a post near the border to control the whisky trade, and French returned to Manitoba. By the end of October Fort Macleod (Alta) had been established, at a site chosen by mixed-blood scout Jerry [Potts](#) on the Oldman River, and Macleod was engaged in the work of suppressing the whisky trade and establishing relations with the different tribes of Blackfoot Indians in the region. On 1 December Macleod held the first of a series of meetings with native leaders. Blackfoot head chief Crowfoot [[Isapo-muxika\\*](#)] and Blood head chief Red Crow [[Mékaisto](#)] liked and trusted Macleod from the start and agreed to cooperate in ending the whisky trade. Macleod did much to set the tone of patience, reason, and diplomacy for NWMP dealings with the native population which was to survive until the 1890s.

Macleod's most serious problems during the winter of 1874–75 were the result of isolation and boredom. Lack of horses prevented much activity, the men had not been paid since leaving Manitoba, and their uniforms were in rags. There were rumblings of mutiny and 18 men deserted. In March Macleod and a small party rode through a late winter blizzard to Helena (Mont.) to pick up the men's pay and receive the first instructions from Ottawa since the departure of French. While there Macleod began proceedings for the extradition of several Americans

accused of the 1873 massacre of a band of Assiniboin Indians in the Cypress Hills near Battle Creek (Sask.) [see [Hunkajuka\\*](#)].

In May 1875 Macleod sent a troop under the command of Inspector James Morrow [Walsh\\*](#) to establish a post, Fort Walsh (Sask.), in the Cypress Hills. That summer Inspector Éphrem-A. [Brisebois\\*](#) travelled to the Bow River to build a second major outpost, Fort Brisebois, subsequently renamed Fort Calgary (Calgary) by Macleod after one of his favourite places on the Isle of Mull, Scotland. Most of his attention that summer was absorbed by the Cypress Hills massacre extradition case. Macleod and Inspector Acheson Gosford Irvine travelled to Fort Benton (Mont.) in June and arranged for the arrest of seven men thought to have been involved in the killings. NWMP efforts to bring these men to justice aroused intense public hostility and the result of the extradition hearing, held at Helena in July, was probably a foregone conclusion. The prisoners were set free at the end of the month and Macleod was even jailed for a few days on a charge of false arrest.

Although Macleod had initially got along well with Commissioner French, by the end of 1875 relations between the two men were deteriorating. French had been stuck at the Swan River Barracks (Livingstone, Sask.), the NWMP headquarters, hundreds of miles from the scene of most operations, while Macleod, in *de facto* control of the majority of the force for more than a year, communicated directly with Ottawa on all matters of importance. French became increasingly critical of his assistant commissioner, and under the circumstances Macleod welcomed an appointment as stipendiary magistrate for the North-West Territories on 1 Jan. 1876 and left the force. Apart from professional considerations, this appointment allowed him to return to Winnipeg to carry out his long delayed plans to marry Mary Drever.

Macleod's separation from the NWMP, however, was short-lived. French, at odds with the Liberal government of Alexander [MACKENZIE](#) over NWMP policy, resigned in June 1876. The post was offered to Macleod and he accepted without hesitation, taking over as commissioner on 22 July 1876. In an age of untrammelled patronage, it was remarkable for someone of Macleod's well-known Conservative connections to be appointed by a Liberal administration.

The new commissioner plunged immediately into an exhausting round of activity. After his wedding in Winnipeg on 28 July, he rode to Fort Carlton (Sask.) for the signing of Treaty No.6 with the Plains Cree [see [Pitikwahanapiwiyin\\*](#)]. He then left for Swan River to oversee the moving of NWMP headquarters to Fort Macleod. Both forts Macleod and Walsh were reinforced in anticipation of trouble from south of the border. On 25 June the United States army had suffered a disastrous defeat at the hands of the Sioux leader Sitting Bull [Ta-tanka [I-yotank\\*](#)]. Macleod was well aware that the Americans would pursue Sitting Bull relentlessly and that the Indians were likely to seek refuge in Canada. In December they began to arrive in the Cypress Hills area.

Macleod had retained his appointment as stipendiary magistrate and under the terms of the North-West Territories Act of 1875 he, along with the two other territorial magistrates, Hugh [Richardson\\*](#) and Matthew Ryan, was a member of the Council of the North-West Territories. Early in 1877 he attended his first council meeting, at Swan River, and then travelled on to Ottawa for consultations on the problem of the Sioux, before returning to Fort Macleod.

In September 1877 some 5,000 Blackfeet, Bloods, Peigans, Sarcees, and Stoneys assembled at Blackfoot Crossing (Alta) to sign Treaty No.7. Crowfoot, Red Crow, and several other chiefs made it clear that Macleod and the NWMP were the principal reasons their people were willing to sign the treaty. The commissioner next rode on to Fort Walsh for talks between American authorities



and Sitting Bull aimed at inducing the Sioux to return to the United States. Macleod persuaded Sitting Bull to participate but the negotiations accomplished nothing. Macleod then interviewed Sitting Bull and set out the Canadian government's position: the Sioux could remain in Canadian territory as long as they obeyed the law, but there would be no treaties, no reserves, and no government rations for them.

By 1878 Macleod was becoming seriously worried about the rapidly decreasing numbers of buffalo on the plains. The presence of the Sioux intensified competition for an increasingly scarce food supply and threatened to lead to warfare among the plains tribes. At the 1878 meeting of the NWT council, Macleod introduced legislation that attempted to regulate the buffalo hunt in an effort to slow down the slaughter. Although well meant, the regulations had little effect, and by the end of the year the buffalo were alarmingly scarce. Because of his worries about the effect of food shortages on the Canadian Indians and pressures from Ottawa to resolve the problem, Macleod became dissatisfied with the seemingly dilatory efforts of Inspector Walsh to persuade the Sioux to leave the NWT.

The crisis Macleod had feared arrived early in 1879 when all the plains tribes faced starvation. In the spring Macleod made a lengthy visit to Ottawa to discuss the situation with the recently re-elected Macdonald government. He returned to the west in July, bringing 80 new recruits as well as food supplies for distribution to the Indians. Edgar Dewdney\*, the newly appointed Indian commissioner, travelled west with the NWMP. He and Macleod spent much of the last half of 1879 visiting the Indian agencies throughout the NWT.

In the spring of 1880 the NWMP came under attack in parliament for financial carelessness. There was some foundation for the charge: Macleod hated bookkeeping and had no talent for the management of money. But it is doubtful that anyone, however skilled, could have done much better under the circumstances. Apart from his trip to Ottawa, Macleod, whose health was beginning to deteriorate under the strain, travelled more than 2,300 miles by horse in 1879 to conduct his police work and to fulfil his judicial responsibilities. There was also a widening gap between Macleod's understanding of the government's obligations towards the native peoples under the treaties and that of the Macdonald administration. In letters to his wife, Macleod expressed dissatisfaction with the government's efforts to furnish foodstuffs for the destitute Indians. He commented, "They appear still to think that the poor creatures can gain their livelihood by hunting as if everyone didn't know that there is nothing for them to hunt." A break appeared almost inevitable.

At the end of September 1880 Macleod resigned as commissioner of the NWMP and began to devote all his time to his judicial duties. The family moved to a small ranch at Pincher Creek (Alta) where they attempted, without much success, to raise horses for sale to the NWMP. As one of the three, later four, magistrates in the NWT, Macleod was primarily responsible for the Bow River Judicial District. The holding of court in the larger towns twice yearly meant a constant round of travel for the magistrates.

Macleod's career as a jurist was not marked by any outstanding trials. Not a brilliant lawyer, he appears none the less to have fulfilled his responsibilities both competently and conscientiously. His decisions were not overturned on appeal more than those of his fellow magistrates, and he did not get into the kind of trouble, stemming from irregularities in conduct and abuse of authority, that led to the dismissal of his contemporaries Matthew Ryan in 1881 and Jeremiah Travis\* in 1886. In September 1885 Macleod was sent to British Columbia to resolve a dispute over jurisdiction between federal and provincial authorities.

both of whom claimed the right to police the construction camps of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Through the exercise of his considerable diplomatic skills, Macleod was able to persuade federal and provincial magistrates to cooperate in enforcing the law.

On 18 Feb. 1887 Macleod was appointed to the first Supreme Court of the North-West Territories as puisne judge for the Judicial District of Southern Alberta. He continued as a member of the NWT council until the Legislative Assembly was created to replace it in 1888. He was then appointed one of the three legal advisers who sat as non-voting members of the new assembly. In the 1890s the citizens of the growing city of Calgary agitated for the removal of Macleod's judicial seat from Fort Macleod to Calgary. In May 1894 he was appointed judge for both the northern and southern judicial districts with his residence in Calgary and he moved there with his family. Already seriously ill with Bright's disease, he took up his duties for only a short time before his health deteriorated rapidly and he died on 5 September.

James Farquharson Macleod exercised a decisive influence on the early development of western Canada. More than any other single individual, he was responsible for establishing the policies followed by the NWMP in their dealings with the Indians and for setting the tone of Canadian Indian policy in the NWT. His vision of the region was of a place where newcomers and the native population might live together in peace and where disputes could be settled by reason.

#### R. C. MACLEOD

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#### General Bibliography

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## Image Gallery



### Document History

Published 1990

### Related Biographies

BRISEBOIS, ÉPHEM-A (VOL. 11)

FRENCH, SIR GEORGE ARTHUR (VOL. 15)

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.

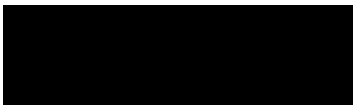
Unfortunately due to a business trip, I am unable to be there in person today to tell you how much this means to our community.

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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Postal Code</b>	<b>Signed On</b>	<b>Comment</b>
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



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

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	Richmond 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 sense
Yulia Davidan	Richmond Hill	L4E 4Y8	2/17/2016	I'm signing because it makes sense
Ashleigh Dixon	Richmond Hill	L4e0b6	2/22/2016	This addition just makes sense and will make our community better and safer!

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

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

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

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

### Letter Supporting the The MacLeod Estate Trail Linkage Project

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**Dear Chair and Members of the Authority,**

We are writing to express our strong support for the Macleod Estate Trail Linkage Project. The potential to "complete the Macleod Trail" by connecting the trail to the existing Oak Ridges Trail, creating a seamless trail connection to the entire Macleod's Landing community is an exciting one for not only for the surrounding community but for the residents of Richmond Hill as well. We proudly reside in the Macleod Estate and pride ourselves with giving the community the opportunity to experience this heritage landmark and its surrounding beauty. The positive externalities benefitting the community of enjoying the estate and providing safer access to the existing Oak Ridges Trail by far outweigh the negative externalities of having the trail run adjacent to our property. **NIMBY**, an acronym for "Not In My Backyard," describes the phenomenon in which residents of a neighbourhood designate a new development (such as the Macleod trail linkage) as inappropriate or unwanted for their local area. Having the proposed trail run the entire length of our property, may put many people in the position of being a NIMBY. We however, will not allow the disease to afflict us. The trail linkage achieved widespread community acceptance whose benefits far exceed any negative concerns that may exist. Extending the Macleod trail will allow the community to experience the assets of our town while improving our quality of life through the enjoyment of nature.

We pledge our total support, cooperation and energy towards the implementation of the Macleod Trail Linkage project. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can do anything to enhance or advance this remarkable opportunity.

Yours truly,

Tiziano and Lisa Fantin