

From: George Counter
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 11:19 AM
To: Kaitlyn Graham <kaitlyn.graham@richmondhill.ca>
Subject: Yonge and 16th

<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/9972412-what-s-going-on-here-38-and-43-storey-towers-proposed-at-yonge-and-16th-in-richmond-hill/>

Dear Ms Graham;

I write to you today to express my views regarding the above proposal for development. I am a life long resident of Richmond Hill and have witnessed major change in the area. I am also an ardent environmentalist, so don't be surprised that most (but not all) proposed developments draw my ire.

With respect to the proposed towers to which you have attached your name and reputation, I take a somewhat different stance. I can appreciate that "development"* is somewhat inevitable. In cases like this, my hope is that the densification you are proposing can be offset by designating and preserving dwindling green space within our town, especially forest and tree covered ecosystems. Ontario forest experts propose that forests need to cover 30% of our land usage to maintain biodiversity of flora and fauna. We are presently around 15% across Ontario. To me this means that every project proposed should have 30+% designated natural ecosystem. Does this project you propose have 30%? If not, has there been alternative space designated? If you can accept and advocate for this important trade off, than I can support your project.

My charge to you is this: don't forget both side of the coin. The development which is presently suffocating the ecologically crucial Oak Ridges Moraine no doubt pads the town coffers, and fills the pockets of the developer class. But do not forget the hidden costs which we will all pay down the line. As a responsible public servant, you must balance this. It is too easy to pave with impunity and reap the profit. Much more difficult to successfully have people take their medicine and do what is good for themselves and the environment. This is the mark of good planning and leadership.

Thank you

Dr. George Counter

*I use the quotations to draw attention to that term. What are we developing towards?