

From: Andrew Trimble

Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 10:48 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: Letter for Council regarding Major Mackenzie Dr./Arnold Crescent development

Hello,

Please find attached a letter regarding the proposed development at Major Mackenzie Drive and Arnold Crescent. Kindly add this to the March 24 agenda package for Council's consideration and provide with confirmation it has been included. Many thanks.

Andrew Trimble
3 Guinevere Court

The end of “old” Richmond Hill?

That’s what’s at stake depending on the outcome of the proposed development at Arnold Crescent and Major Mackenzie Drive. An affirmative answer to this proposal will permanently alter the makeup of the last historic part of town. The cobble stone sidewalks will be gone, the charm of quiet, tree-lined streets will be gone. Neighbours who know, look out for and support one another will be gone. Perhaps most important, the community – or brand – of Richmond Hill will be altered forever. Gone will be the “feel” of the hometown where millworkers, nurserymen and carpenters once called home. Also gone will be the cache and uniqueness of a town that people took pride in, boasted about and encouraged others to join them.

Rare is it that a place can be so lucky to have such a history to tether itself to. Think of downtown Unionville, Old Thornhill and Markham. The people who live and who want to live there are drawn by the history, the charm, the brand that still exists in these towns. There’s a recognition that no price can be placed on the enduring value in these places due to the decision to not only maintain but capitalize on the “town-feel”.

But this decision isn’t just about loss. In addition to losing “old” Richmond Hill, there’s an opportunity cost. The lands along Arnold subject to development would be an ideal location for green space. A seasonal creek, mature trees, unique geographic features and its proximity to Mill Pond make it ideal to create a space that builds on the Richmond Hill brand. Imagine a place where people could walk, children could play and come together on a warm, July night to look at the stars. That’s community, that’s memories, that’s what makes people tell others Richmond Hill is a great place to live, work and raise families.

All of which brings us back to the original question before you: Do you want to bring an end to “old” Richmond Hill?

Andrew Trimble
3 Guinevere Court