

April 12, 2021

To clerks@richmondhill.ca

RE: Review of Farming and Agriculture in Richmond Hill

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to support Councilor Muench's motion to evaluate the current farming situation in the Northeast area of Richmond Hill, namely the Gormley and Leslie corridor.

As a long-time land owner, I can attest, from first hand experience working with the farmers that operate these lands, for a multitude of reasons as outlined below, that traditional farming is no longer sustainable in the area.

- The yields have been unpromising due to the high water table, light pollution and deteriorating soil condition.
- The returns diminished, even with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the 2001 Greenbelt legislation in place.
- The shrinking farming supply chains and the declining ecosystem make production costs exponentially higher which result in farming being unviable from a financial standpoint.
- The farmland is sandwiched by urbanization with the expansion of the GO Transit Gormley Station, and the widening along Leslie St. The land left to farm is very much restricted.
- Safety is a real concern. The increased traffic along Leslie, makes it inconvenient and unsafe for farmers to operate large machineries.

While I fully support the green concept and the countryside designation, the reasons above all together make the lands inefficient, inconvenient, unsustainable and to some degree, unsafe to farm.

It is a logical, responsible and necessary approach at this point to call for evaluation of the current farming situation through the MCR process by studying the re-designation of Oak Ridges Moraine Countryside lands around the area for the better of the lands, as well as the community behind it.

Yours truly,