

**From:** Glenn Steplock

**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 4:52 PM

**To:** Castro Liu <castro.liu@richmondhill.ca>; Terrence Au <terrence.au@richmondhill.ca>; Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

**Cc:** David West <david.west@richmondhill.ca>; Tom Muench <tom.muench@richmondhill.ca>

**Subject:** Heron Nesting Colony - LESLIE Between Elgin Mills & 19th Ave.

Hi Castro et al

Glenn Steplock #93 Sapphire Drive, Richmond Hill Ontario, L4S 2E6

It has come to my attention this past weekend that there might be a meeting Wednesday of this week regarding the development of the Leslie lands 11225 Block behind the 'York Hills Center for Children, Youth & Families". I understand, and have seen the footage of the City Council meeting of June 17,2020, an apparent amendment and discussions to alter/add housing not in the original plan as I understand it. That meeting was exactly 1 year ago, and ended with Beros & Perilli making a mess of things, not sure what point they were trying to make - and won't state the obvious based on their track record.

I looked at the agenda for this week July 7, 2021, and am not sure I see any items with respect to these properties. As I state here, it appears whatever was discussed back in June 2020 may have already been applied based on new development I see in progress. What I can't seem to locate is the next phase behind the School, North of the WoodLot and East of the Wood Lot and how that might affect the Colony.

I had been following the rookery- Heron Colony nesting behind the school for the better part of 20 years and had been posting photos long before the sale signs went up. Once I caught wind of development I made comments on many forums and had reached out to, at the time, the Town of Richmond Hill, for comment and assurance that the colony was to be protected. See email exchanges below - it was all documented in a natural habitat report, including encompassing more trees in scope of protection and a nest count; as I recall some 52 active nests.

My understanding, again, was that the June 17 2020 meeting May introduce amendments to the original plan and encroach on the woodlot beyond the recommended greenspace allotment. However, I did not hear the natural habitat or rookery Heron Colony raised in the June 17, 2020 meeting. In addition, I have photos of what appeared to be a natural habitat with ponds buffering parallel with the south side of the woodlot and the nearest homes (see photos from 2018 attached) - these ponds have been paved over, a new street covers the ponds and homes are going up. I was hoping any amendments would explain and present environmental studies indicating this is the right thing to do in the presence of the active Heron colony. There are other birds nesting in the woodlot too along with other animals holding up, but not much longer if all fields are paved surrounding the woodlot.

I have copied the City Clerk to ensure these notes are added to any further discussions at City Hall regarding this topic & these lands.....feel free to reach out to me and let me know if there are any Council Meetings scheduled to discuss this topic

