

A word from our future Stewards

On October 24th the students from St. Agatha Catholic School visited the Doris McCarthy for a self guided tour created by the Cliffcrest Scarborough SW Residents Association.

Following is an introduction letter from their teacher about the school trip and introducing a collection of stories written by our future Stewards.



*"The road to the City of Emeralds is paved with bright yellow brick," said the Good Witch of the North.
"So, you cannot miss it, and when you get to Oz, please do not be afraid, but tell Oz your story child, and ask Oz to help you."*

L. Frank Baum

St. Agatha Grade 6 Class School Trip

Dear Toronto,

On October 24th the students from St. Agatha Catholic School visited the Doris McCarthy for a self guided tour created by the Cliffcrest Scarborough SW Residents Association. We had the pleasure of walking down to the trail and begin to recognize the importance of the Scarborough Bluffs.

We live in an incredible part of Toronto boasting the Scarborough Bluffs, which is a significant geological feature of sedimentary deposits from over 12,000 years ago. This best kept secret has been a haven for a wide variety of life, where local residents, naturalists, bird watchers come to observe nature at its best. It is the migratory path for monarch butterflies and birds for hundreds of years. Our Bluffs have only become well known for about five years, and often now streets are lined with cars, police monitor the flow of traffic to allow the rest of Toronto to come and take in this incredible feature of Scarborough.

Our students were given time to observe and collect samples of vegetation and understand first hand the balance of life in this area. It is not only for people but for many deer, coyote, fox, mink, beaver and in the air and water.

In very close proximity to the top of the trail was a large sign indicating a proposed condo development. The students stopped to observe the trees and impact the development could have for this small corner of the world.

They were asked to submit their experiences which I share with you following my letter. Our Bluffs need our support, as over the years, parts of the Bluffs have eroded, changing the dynamics of life for both people and animals.

Sincerely, Ms. M

Teacher St Agatha Grade 6 class of 2022/2023

Student Stories:

The Doris McCarthy Trail runs along the side of the Bellamy Ravine Creek, and gives visitors a beautiful view of the Scarborough Bluffs. The Trail gives people the chance to escape the city and enjoy all the beauty of nature without driving out of the city. It gives visitors the chance to catch a glimpse of some truly beautiful animals at home in their environment.

The Doris McCarthy Trail is home to many different types of trees. Many of the trees that can be seen on the trail have been planted in honor or memory of people who loved to visit the trail. There are Maple trees that produce sap that is used to make maple syrup. Oak trees that produce acorns which help feed squirrels. There are also different types of willow trees. All of the different types of trees in the ravine help each other survive. The trees grow closely together and help protect each other from the wind, and soil erosion. Trees help the environment by creating clean air and clean drinking water and they also help the wildlife by creating the animal's habitat.

White tails deer; beavers, coyotes, foxes, squirrels and chipmunks all live or pass through the ravine and use the trees for food, shelter or protection, and the creek as drinking water. Many native birds make their home in the trees of the ravine. There are many different species of birds and butterflies that migrate through the ravine, using the ravine for protection and food and they pass through.

The ravine helps to keep our environment clean and protected. The Bellamy Ravine Creek helps to move a lot of overland water that flows to the creek's edge. Once it reaches the creek it then flows into Lake Ontario. The trees help to remove Carbon Dioxide from the air. The trees also help by absorbing heavy rainfalls by capturing stormwater with their leaves, branches, and trunks.

Building condos beside the Doris McCarthy Trail will have an immediate effect on the environment. The construction will have a negative impact on the Bluffs, the creek, the trees, the animals and the ravines ecosystem. New condos in this area will take away the space and freedom that the animals thrive in. Construction may create more erosion to the bluffs and pollute the creek. Construction could destroy the homes of many animals and take away the migration opportunity for the birds and butterflies. Building condos beside the trail will take away from the natural beauty that the ravine has to offer.

by L.R. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

First off, it is not right to cut down trees and disturb the wildlife, remember animals were here 12,000 years ago, probably longer than the oldest human ever! People are hurting animal habitats, they are cutting down trees, polluting lakes/oceans/waters, and much more harmful stuff to hurt the wildlife.

by P.T. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

A few weeks ago, we walked down the Doris McCarthy trail. We saw the wildlife and habitat of different animals. I understand that this area is at risk of becoming developed. I know that people need to live somewhere and that the Scarborough Bluffs would be a very nice place for people to live, but I think it is important to preserve this land.

I think that this land should be safe from buildings because there are not very many places in the world that are as unique as the Bluffs. Did you know that the Bluffs are home to many animals such as foxes, minks, coyotes, and deer? There have already been a lot of wolf sightings in this area and even some attacks on dogs and people! If we keep taking their habitat away, this will happen more, which is dangerous to humans and pets.

Another reason I do not think it is a good idea to build near the Scarborough Bluffs is because destruction of the habitat of wildlife will end up killing animals because they will have no place to live. I don't think it is right to do this, and I think some natural habitats must be safe from development so that animals can live freely.

Also, I don't think they should build here because it would ruin the beauty of the area. I don't think it would look as nice to have so many high rise buildings near in this area. It's a really nice place for people to walk with their kids or pets and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Lastly, I think that it could be dangerous to build on the rocky bluffs because of erosion that takes place. If high rises are built close to the edge of the bluffs, and the rock erodes, the whole building could be at risk of becoming damaged. I know the view would be very beautiful for a while, but for this reason it could be a risk to live there. These high rises would be very expensive as well, and rich people do not need housing right now, people without very much money do. For this reason, I don't see the need for building on this undeveloped land.

by E.A. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Doris McCarthy Trail is a place that the first nations had harvested for us. By building you're not only destroying our beautiful wildlife but you're also destroying the place that people come to be happy and to live their lives to the fullest. There used to be many different animals, and they came out more often. Since condominiums and houses have been built, they don't come out as often. That isn't the only reason that we shouldn't build near the Doris McCarthy Trail.

The trees in the Doris McCarthy Trail play a very important role in global warming because trees inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen. When you kill trees, it affects climate change. It takes years for a tree to fully develop into its true form. The roots of the plants and trees are the only thing that is keeping the bluffs up. When you build there, you will slowly kill all the trees. Then once those are gone the bluffs are going to start to fall. The next thing you know there is no trail, animals and their habitats, trees, flowers, hills or mountains so please take all these things into consideration because when you build here, you're taking away something that is irreplaceable and someone's happy place.

by J.G. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Doris McCarthy trail offers a wide range of breathtaking vistas and blossoming wildlife. The reason I am writing this article is that some buildings are planned to be built off of Kingston Road overlooking the Scarborough Bluffs. This would destroy the plants and animal's lifestyles and habitat, and would corrupt the peaceful environment surrounding those stunning waters. The Doris McCarthy trail overlooks the Scarborough Bluffs, which has been a significant natural wonder of the city of Toronto. It is one of our proudest and unique features with resources from thousands of years ago.

The landscape of the Bluffs has eroded, leaving the cliffs vulnerable to heavy weight on it. Erosion is the process in which earthen materials are weathered away and transported by natural forces such as wind or water. If you walk down the trail, you can see that trees are left on the edge of these cliffs, vulnerable to falling down the steep rocky landscape. It is our duty to protect and support these Bluffs, and placing buildings right next to it would not help at all.

Let me tell you all the extraordinary things that would be taken away if there is construction on the trail. The wild animals could be explained in a 10 page essay, as they are one of the greatest reasons we go there. If you take the ten kilometer hike down and stretching across the Scarborough Bluffs, it is not uncommon to spot all kinds of forest animals, ranging from the smallest mink, to the biggest coyote. Though the birds are our proudest animals to present. As you are walking down the trail, you will surely hear the zip of a beautiful bird streaking past you, or the sound of one tweeting and melodies from their throats. There are over 80 species of birds there! Just to name a few, there is the Ring-Billed Gull, Tree Swallow, Black Crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Cliff Swallow, Bank Swallow, Green-Winged Teal, Eastern Meadowlark, Peregrine Falcon, and much more. There is a spot where I saw almost fifty gulls!

Another thing to mention is the trees alone. You can see them far from the distance, emerald green, towering up on you. So many trees could potentially get cut down in the construction of these buildings. I can tell you from experience that there's nothing like walking through with the fresh smell of pine next to you. It is clear that we don't want the smell of smoke and dust replacing that. There are a variety of trees, big and small, skinny and large, from oak and birch to pine and fir. Even seeing one of these trees go would be a disaster.

The shore of the trail is not covered in sand, it is covered in rocks! It is a unique experience, because not many beaches are covered in rocks. There are several huge stones stuck together to form some kind of unfinished bridge, jutting out from the shore. The reason for this is to direct the water flow somewhere else, therefore, preventing erosion slightly. If you walk along the trail a little more, you can see that people made Inukshuks made of rocks. To the left, there are kilometers of winding, peaceful paths where you will feel like you are in a whole other country and not Toronto at all. Marshes reveal wetlands, which means different kinds of wildlife!

These are some of the amazing things about our most proud landmark here in Scarborough. I hope this will change your mind about building those apartments, because the wildlife of Doris McCarthy depends on it.

Thank you, K.K. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

Stop #4: The first paragraph on the 4th stop as you walk through the tail, it will say that "there is an abundance of wildlife moving through the area." Now, if there was a building next to the trail, there would be cars. The car's gas would pollute the air in the animal's habitat, and they would run away from their own homes.

Stop #6: When people are stressed, some people will calm down by listening to soothing sounds, that's why some people go on the trail, they go on the trail to listen to nature. On the 6th sign while you go on the trail, it will ask you to take a moment to "take a moment to pause and listen quietly to the sounds of nature that surround you". There are sounds they tell you to listen to such as majestic trees, the soothing sound of water flowing gently down the stream and happy songs of the birds that are nestled throughout the ravine." If there were cars honking and people screaming "get out of the way", it would be pointless to go on the trail. Doris McCarthy is such a beautiful trail to have fun, play, explore, hike, learn etc.

On **stop #7** it says that trees can fight climate change which not a lot of people know. Going on the trail feels like a real-life documentary because you explore the trail and learn off the signs. A new building right beside the trail will just ruin the fun of the trail and there will be no point in walking on this beautiful trail.

The Doris McCarthy Trail is a trail that is down by the bluffs in Scarborough which is a very beautiful trail that people like to walk and bike down. People will be cutting down many trees which is where a lot of people and animals live to build a condominium.

The Doris McCarthy trail is a very nice and open trail that people are starting to ruin, like making condos and throwing trash everywhere. Since the trail leads to the lake, the trash will pollute the lake. It is also a very nice place to go sightseeing and see nature because when I went there, I never wanted to leave.

People are trying to build a condo and block the trail so I suggest you go before the condos start coming.

by D.O. and C.C. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

Why You Shouldn't Build the Building by the bluffs. There is so much beautiful nature here at the bluffs in Scarborough like birds, deer, frogs, butterflies, insects, and plants. We have already covered over a river to build Kingston Road which is bad because it could cause sinkholes.

If you build the building by the bluffs, the people in the neighborhood beside will just be looking at a big wall when they look through their window and they will not like it either, but it mostly affects the wildlife.

It would affect the wildlife like if you cut down those trees in the area. The birds, the insects, the butterflies like monarchs, frog's deer and plants who were there first would have to find a new home you could also kill them because it's not like they heard their homes will be taken away so when the construction starts they will get hurt.

My class also went to enjoy nature on the Doris McCarthy trail, and we learned about the different plants and trees. Something I learned is that if you count the rings on a tree, it tells you how old it is. We also learned about and saw a few birds like chickadees. We enjoyed it because there was a lot of nature to see.

If all that got destroyed, we won't get to enjoy it anymore and other people who like to enjoy nature like bird watchers, bikers and just people who like to see nature again.

That's why we should not build the big building, so it won't kill the nature.

by A.Z. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

On Monday, October 24, 2022 my class and I went to the Doris McCarthy trail. The Doris McCarthy trail is not only super fun but also a very educational way to learn about nature and wildlife with your family and friends. You also have stops on the way to stop and read about either nature or wildlife.

The Doris McCarthy trail follows the Bellamy Ravine Creek that flows into Lake Ontario. When you get to the base/main area of the trail you have an amazing lower view of the Scarborough Bluffs that are formed by sand and clay.

When my class and I were walking on the trail we all were so amazed about of the beautiful animals and trees that were there until we heard that a condo was going to be built that blocked the wonderful view from top to bottom and when you think there knocking down a house, trees and the people that live in front of were the condo will possibly be built will have a big building in front of them everyday and they will miss looking out there window and seeing beautiful fall trees or winter snow.

by J.M. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

I am in sixth grade. In this article I will talk about how the condos that will be built near Doris McCarthy Trail will affect the wildlife and habitats of animals because I think that it is important to keep our animals, trees and earth safe and well for the next generations including mine. God has given us these beautiful plants and animals not to destroy but to love and nourish and I think that putting that condo will pollute the area by a lot of gas cars coming in and out and because there will be more people littering all over the place.

Reason number two is that all the noise will scare away the great and beautiful wildlife such as birds, coyotes, deer and more. Reason number three is that the view will be ruined by the condo.

Doris McCarthy Trail has trees that are supposed to last 7 Generations and Canada's most favorite tree the Maple Leaf tree imagine having to take that away just for a condo?

Some solutions are building a condo in a place where it does not a lot of wildlife or trees or a run down place like an old parking lot that no one uses or old community center or a small apartment that you can add more floors to and renovate to make it a nice condo.

Part of Doris McCarthy Trail is actually land acknowledgement and taking land acknowledgement is like taking some of Canada's history and I think a lot of people would not like that at all.

It is also a sedimentary deposit from over 12,000 years ago and I would like for it to be a sedimentary deposit for much longer.

by E.H. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Scarborough Bluffs are home to many great animals both on land and in the water. Animals such as deer, foxes, coyotes, geese and birds. We need to protect these animals and their habitats for the future. In order to do this, we need to stop the plans to build a lot of high rise buildings in this area. Building a bunch more buildings would mean destroying land and animal habitats in order to make room for the buildings. It would also mean a lot more people living in the area creating traffic and pollution which is also dangerous to animal life.

Adding more high rise buildings would also remove access and pathways for both people and animals to the bluffs. Large high rises would also prevent people from seeing the beautiful views of the bluffs and the animals that live there.

Adding a lot more buildings could also cause more erosion to the bluffs and we could potentially lose some of the beautiful bluffs. We have already seen this happen over the years and we are slowly losing our bluffs. More buildings will speed this up and we will lose them faster.

More buildings also mean more pollution which is dangerous for animals. High rises create more noise and light pollution which is dangerous to birds in particular. More traffic is dangerous to the land animals like deer, foxes and coyotes.

Also building more high rises is removing single family homes so people are being displaced and animals have less grass and trees around as lawns get replaced with buildings and roads.

by C.P. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

I am in the sixth grade. I'm writing to you today about the apartments being built beside Doris McCarthy Trail. These apartments might collect revenue, but just think of all the aspects with it. First of all, these apartments are being built right beside Kingston Road on the busiest streets. These apartments will just create more traffic for the community.

Did you know that each year Toronto's mature trees provide 8% of our annual Carbon sequestration? In simpler words our Mature trees clean a lot of our air. You might think that cutting down a bit of trees won't hurt anybody, but that's where you're wrong, it could impact a lot of our air. Trees are our life. Without them we can't survive, so you reconsider these buildings.

Would you like the residents just across the street to wake up to a big wall? I hope not these apartments aren't just affecting humans, they are affecting animals. You never know what type of wildlife could be living there. Maybe a squirrel comes by to eat the fruit in somebody's garden.

This land is the animals' homes. It wouldn't be right to just take their land. The point is that you shouldn't build these apartments.

In conclusion You must reconsider. You should think of the resident's, the animals, and the whole community. When I and my class went on to the Doris McCarthy Trail, I saw lots of animals. These animals would just like to be left alone. These apartments might not impact your life, but it would impact my whole community.

by M.D. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

Scarborough is a hidden gem with many tourist attractions, one of them being the Doris McCarthy trail. The Doris McCarthy trail is a beautiful trail which includes many stops showcasing exotic trees, a beautiful sculpture at the bottom and many, many different species of birds, plants and trees.

At the bottom of the trail there are big cliffs named the Scarborough Bluffs. These bluffs are made up of sand, dirt and mud. These cliffs have been eroding for the past few years because we have been cutting down trees. The tree roots hold the many layers of sand and mud together preventing the cliff from falling or collapsing. If more cliffs fall, houses could potentially be knocked into Lake Ontario. That is problem number one.

The second problem is that the city wants to build a massive condo very close to the Doris McCarthy trail that would obstruct the view of many houses, wreck the habit for all the animals, potentially cause sinkholes and they would have to cut down a couple hundred trees in the process.

We need to try to preserve the animals that we have left and building this condo would certainly not help with protecting the animals. if they build this condo, it could create sinkholes. Sinkholes are caused when land sinks into an underwater river or a cavity in the earth. Sinkholes are dangerous because they are big holes in the ground and that could potentially be dangerous to our community and any surrounding buildings.

Cutting down a lot of trees would not be good for Scarborough's fresh and clean air. Trees store all the carbon dioxide they take out of the environment in their roots so if we dig up trees it would release lots of carbon dioxide into the air and prevent those trees from taking out more carbon dioxide in the air.

by C.H. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

On Monday, October 24 2022, my class, and I went on the Doris McCarthy trail. During the hike we saw many wonderful things including birds, many types of trees like the red oak and black walnut tree. As we neared the water, we saw the bluffs. They were beautiful and peaceful like giant paintings. With a calm and serene landscape almost as if painted to look as beautiful as they truly are.

We have been told there is construction happening for a condo to be built. I believe that this is bad because the condo is going to be built off of Kingston Road. That area is already busy enough and we do not need more people and groups coming and crowding the area. That makes it even harder to drive through and just all out annoying.

One of the most important reasons why this condo should not be built is the animals. Those animals do not need people crowding the area to see the bluffs and hiking down the trail. I know it is beautiful. I've seen it myself but all those hikers will destroy the habitat and disturb the peace. Scaring animals and maybe even hurting the plants. Some hikers don't care about the trail and throw garbage in the creek and lake. Which pollutes the area and can cause animals who drink from the water to become sick and even die.

Now I Know the trail is incredible, beautiful and peaceful but it will not be as soon as those condos are built that peace will crumble and fall. Leaving that beautiful landscape, a barren, and a destroyed place. When all the people leave because of this there is not that large of a chance it will recover.

Okay now I have said all the reason's it is bad for the environment and the land. But I have not said why I am fighting this. Well because I believe when I went on the trail, I saw how incredible it truly is and I realized how important it is to protect this beautiful place. I know those are sentimental but those are my reasons.

That is my article and I believe it matters. So, what are you going to do about the condos? Hopefully you are going to help protect this beautiful environment.

by I.Q. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Doris McCarthy Trail is a trail that is down by the bluffs in Scarborough which is a very beautiful trail that people like to walk and bike down.

People will be cutting down many trees which is where a lot of people and animals live to build a condominium.

The Doris McCarthy trail is a very nice and open trail that people are starting to ruin, like making condos and throwing trash everywhere. Since the trail leads to the lake, the trash will pollute the lake. It is also a very nice place to go sightseeing and see nature because when I went there, I never wanted to leave.

People are trying to build a condo and block the trail so I suggest you go before the condos start coming.

by E.St. A from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

I am writing this article to tell you not to put the building next to the trail, our Bluffs need support and it changed the aspects for animals and human beings, over the years the Bluffs has been trashed on and as people keep littering the Bluffs are being even more trashed.

There are a bunch of dead trees on the trail, the beginning of the trail is trashed on with plastic wrappers and garbage, there is a lack of green space on the trail as well, we need to stop trashing our Bluffs, they need high support.

We seriously need to stop trashing everywhere we go, we are polluting the Bluffs by littering our trash, if we want our planet to be environmentally friendly, we can first stop the use of littering our planet and polluting the earth, animal life seems like its gone in the Bluffs.

by L.P. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

I am writing this because I think you should not be adding condos to such a nice neighborhood, because you're breaking down such beautiful houses and people are going to be losing their houses.

It is going to be bad for the animals because there are so many people that will have their plus cars and gas. The animals will be scared to come out also when there are cars that make popping sounds or speed. The houses in front of the condo will not be seeing nature because there will be concrete, a big condo in front of their house. The amount of cars that's going to be there is not going to be good for the environment. The more condos you make the more trees you are cutting down. The cars are spread over one place and if they need more parking space, they have to use the roads where we would like to walk during the night time. It is not the best idea to be making a condo and then you still have to break the houses and trees. It is also going to be rough for the house owners because they have to find a house before you break it down.

by C.G. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

On Monday October 24 2022, my class and I went to the trail and we saw old trees that have been there for a long period of time and some beautiful flowers and nature. For me it was very educational and fun to learn about new nature.

There were also some stops so you can learn more about the trail. At the end of the trail, you see Lake Ontario which is so nice and calming to see. We even saw ducks when we were there.

You should not build because there is so much wildlife there and it destroys habitats and possibly trees. There are so many other places you can put a condo but you should not put it in the Doris McCarthy Trail. Some people even walk there every day and if you put a condo there, they won't be able to.

There are homes there that would have to be destroyed as well and those are people's homes that they could have had for a long time or memories and where would they live if you destroy their home. Not to mention that people on the other side will have to wake up and see a big building.

by H.B. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Doris McCarthy Trail is a trail down by the bluffs in Scarborough. The reason I am writing about the trail is so that people don't cut down trees and ruin animal's homes such as squirrels, birds, coyotes, foxes and much more.

If they destroy the Doris McCarthy Trail and put up more apartment buildings, it will change the environment entirely. When they build the buildings, they are only going to brick walls instead of beautiful nature.

One of the good things about the Doris McCarthy Trail is that when you're going down the trail you see history.

by A.St.A. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

Doris McCarthy Trail is a trail down by the bluff in Scarborough. The reason why I am writing about this trail is because the people of Scarborough want to build a condo down by the trail. The reason why this is bad is because they will be taking down trees and other animals' habitats and doing that could displace the animals. I care a lot about animals and when I heard about this it made me very annoyed. I do care about this trail and the life that lives in it and I don't think that it is ok at all.

by R.H. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

I think that they should not build the new buildings by the Doris McCarthy Trail because think about all the animals and plants there are. They would be taking up habitat of those animals and also causing the little insect there to die. You would be taking away space from a trail that had been there for years and years and people have made many good memories there. So, constructing in that area would not only be making the space smaller but it would be destroying the habitat of all the wildlife that live there.

by A.L. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

I am writing this because I do not think that there should be apartment buildings being built all across Kingston Road. As you know The Toronto Bluffs is very known for having different species of animals everywhere and animals living in odd areas like backyards, schools and parks. If we build these schools and condos, we would be these animal's habitats. Think about all the animals we would be putting in danger, and all the historic trees we would be destroying.

On Monday Oct 24 2022, me and my class went down the Doris McCarthy Trail, as we walked down, we saw many historic trees that were very old, we saw and heard numerous of birds, squirrels and Butterflies running around and flying. As you may see some of the trees were cut down and just lefts there, that could put the animals in a lot of Danger.

by I.J. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

Doris McCarthy Trail is a great place to visit, but buildings are destroying, and traffic flow is destroying our place, such as apartments, and homes. These apartments are destroying animal habitats and it's not good, you see, building more apartments can be very bad since it takes away the places where animals live, and we also shouldn't even be building over underground rivers.

O, other ways we can protect Doris McCarthy is by telling the people making the apartments suggestions to build it somewhere else, or to not build, but you will need a good reason since they won't just stop building because it's bad. If you want to protect the habitats of animals in Doris McCarthy, there are many more ways to do that. You should also not litter since it's bad for the environment and the animals. The trail is not being treated how it should be right now, many years ago, there was a large amount of water, now it's all gone, and people are even cutting trees, when I went to Doris McCarthy. I can imagine so much trash around it, balloons, bags, cups, food, tissues, and much more that's probably worse.

If I were to do this and MAKE MY WISHES COME TRUE, I would set up a team to not encourage cutting down the trees, as you should know, trees give oxygen. If you didn't know that, now you do, and just cutting it down for no reason is useless, so if you're goanna go do something, have a good reason.

Now let's talk about my experience there, my experience there was great, I saw a lot of birds and bird nests, I also said that there used to be a large amount of water, now I see puddles and not much, also when you go to the end of the trail, you will also see a great

view, also seeing cool statue or item placed there, there are also stops that tell you stories and history about this place.

Now let's talk more about protecting Doris McCarthy and why, we should protect Doris McCarthy since animals still live here. You don't know what you're doing to the animals, you can probably be killing them and you can also be destroying our home. I don't like the buildings causing problems for everyone, such as the building over underground rivers and more. Rich people also don't need to be adding more apartments when there is already plenty, mostly since it takes up more space. It just ruins the environment. Just adding more of these apartments is just destroying this magnificent place that was beautiful. Show how much you love this planet, right now you could be helping this world that God made and appreciate what he did. He didn't want us to just add buildings for money, these apartments won't solve any problems. The only thing it's doing is causing problems, that's why you shouldn't build more apartments.

by G.V. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

We are writing to you about the luxury apartments being built by the Doris McCarthy trail.

Why you shouldn't build luxury apartments by the Doris McCarthy trail is because there's trees that are thousands of years old that old together with the bluffs. There are so many animals that live there like deer, foxes, Cormorant, Mallard, Canada Goose, Red winged Blackbird, Swan and Loons and all the cars coming in and out will make all the animals leave. It will also cause pollution to the trees and the trees might also fall down because of pollution.

Why you shouldn't build luxury apartments there is because think off all the people that live there, they will just be seeing a large building and their neighborhood is quiet so you will be disturbing everyone and you will cause more pollution with all that smoke and you will kill all the animals with the cars probably, that's why you shouldn't build luxury apartments.

by I.B. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

I am writing today to inform you about the apartment that will be built right next to Doris McCarthy Trail. I think that if you build a building very close to the Doris McCarthy trail. It will ruin many environments and will take a lot of space. It took numerous years to build the trees and plants in the trail and the building will ruin it. There are many homes of animals and plants that will be destroyed in the making of this building and will prevent any more growing of the trees. The people living close to the trail will have to look at a wall and won't be able to see the colorful trees that have been grown over the years. The trail has a beautiful sight and we don't want anything to wreck that.

Doris McCarthy Trail is a beautiful trail that leads to Scarborough Bluffs and Lake Ontario. The trail is about 900 meters long and while you walk, it gets steeper. You can have a picnic, swim, hike, bike and much more. As you make it to the end, there is a spectacular view and it looks like it has no end.

by A.A.V. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The samples of vegetation of this area are trees, plants, shrubs and grass. The balance of life in this area is not just for people, but for a lot of deer's, coyotes, foxes, minks, beavers, cormorants, mallards, Canadian geese, red-winged blackbirds, swans, loons, the air and the water.

We might contribute to sustaining this incredible gift in our own backyard of Scarborough with new higher buildings filling all of the parts in our area, changing what is our responsibility to protect, and seeing the implications to wildlife.

We must preserve this area because of high rises and more invasion to animal life because animals live there and we don't want to hurt animals. For example, if we chop a tree down, we could hurt any animals that live in a tree.

If buildings change the landscape, we change the land that makes our area unique. For example, if you build a structure, it changes the land that makes our area unique.

Can you imagine what the world would be like without the Doris McCarthy Trail?

by C.J. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

My class and I went on a field trip to the Doris McCarthy Trail. I believe that there shouldn't be construction b the Doris McCarthy Trail because it would be destroying so many animals and killing trees.

We already have too few trees, we should be adding more trees and not taking them away. I really don't want construction to happen because walking on a trail makes me feel better and relaxed.

If there is construction it will make the trail less appealing and future kids will not want to go and will never get to see how beautiful it is. Animals, trees and families will thank you for keeping the trail the way it is.

Nature is very important to the world. I care very much about nature and it makes me sad that everything that is nice gets destroyed. The Doris McCarthy Trail is beautiful and we shouldn't ruin that. Kids should be able to go out in nature, explore, see the world from a different perspective.

Trails like the Doris McCarthy Trail give people an excuse to go outside and kids can go on field trips like my class did. It makes people happy. Families can make happy memories there and during covid that was all people could do. Doris McCarthy Trail should stay the beautiful place it is.

by V.D.R. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

This makes me feel very sad because I really like the Doris McCarthy Trail. There's a lot of living animals there that are destroying their habitats to live in. It's also kinda good because they're building more buildings maybe so that the homeless can go to or live in. We don't want to destroy animal habitats because they are amazing animals, and they don't hurt anyone except for bears.

Another reason why I don't want them to build it there is because I used to do my Rouge Valley Camp and we used to learn about animals there too. It's a really nice walk where you can see different plants that are really beautiful. There are very nice rivers there and sometimes if you look closely, you can find a secret river there. That goes somewhere cool but my favorite part about the Doris McCarthy Trail is that my favorite animals live. They are called snakes.

by Z.L. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The reason I am writing this letter is to show you, my perspective. Destroying the trail will have a huge impact on the community. There will not be enough parking and traffic will go insane. Destroying the trail will also destroy wildlife and the balance of the ecosystem. As Disciples of God, it is a job to protect the earth. A 9 story high building is not appropriate for this community. The Roots hold the clip and there are houses if you make large building that will make it unstable and a safety hazard. We need all the riches of the planet to keep us healthy and safe.

by A.D. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Doris McCarthy trail is a trail in Scarborough. People want to cut down some trees, but it is really bad to cut down trees in the forest and replace them with buildings because....

We are hurting all of the animals and it is not good for the environment. You are cutting down their home. Once you cut down the trees, the other animals living in the forest will be forced to leave their home and when they are forced to leave their home a lot of bad things can happen.

When the animals leave their home, they have to find a new one but what if they can't find one and they die from hunger or they freeze to death it will all be because of the new buildings the community decided to put there.

Besides, buildings are not even worth it to waste all of the money for just a building and it would not look good either. The people that live near the trail or in the neighborhood would be upset as well and you would not have a happy community and maybe even have protesting so it is a very bad idea to CUT DOWN TREES.

by S.H. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Doris McCarthy Trail is a wonderful place in Scarborough. My class and I went on a field trip to the trail. It's a wonderful place with trees, lots of trees and at the end of it there is a lake and lots of rocks. When my class went, I found a tree that was taking something lumpy and liquid out of its system, it looks like applesauce. Let's get to the point where a lot of houses and unnatural things are being built like big apartments, like we don't have enough houses and apartments. The trip was fun and a great experience.

Ps. Me and my dog, which unfortunately passed, used to go there every two days of the week.

by D.T. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

The Doris McCarthy trail is a beautiful place. The reason why is because it leads down to the Scarborough Bluffs which are filled with wildlife and clay and sand as mountains and loads of beautiful rocks, and the main thing about the bluffs is the are looking at one if the Great Lakes of Canada.

You might be thinking that if it is so beautiful, what's the problem with it? Well, I will start with the lake. It will end up with too much pollution because people are so quick to throw their garbage and toxic stuff in the lake. It's not the cleanest water but...

The other big thing in the bluffs is the cliffs. You might ask why it's because of climate change. Climate change is going to make the clay/sand cliffs fall over. The problem is that it is already happening.

The final thing that is endangering wildlife. For example: there is so much wildlife and there is a road which goes down to the bluffs.

You might be thinking they should build fences so animals don't go through but they don't so when they go down and go across, they run the risk of getting run over.

The government is thinking of placing more apartment buildings but there are too many and the bluffs are only one place. The animals are endangered because if they break their homes and replace them with buildings they will have nowhere to move, so let's stop them and save the animals.

by L.S. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

Doris McCarthy Trail has lots of nature and animals. It's very nice, it's very peaceful and quiet. It also has a small waterfall. We had a small trip with our class. There are more animals than we can see. There are mink, deer, swans, foxes, coyotes, cormorants and loons. There are buildings that are being built and it can affect the animals.

At the end of the trial there is a very beautiful place. It's calming and a wonderful place. I have only been to Doris McCarthy once. If the buildings start going into the forest it can destroy the neighbourhood. Doris McCarthy is a beautiful place, and I would hate for it to go and many other people will be sad and the animals will have nowhere to go.

And lastly the more buildings, the more concrete, then more traffic, the anger and less earth.

by J.A.S. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023

Can you imagine Scarborough without the Doris McCarthy Trial because I can't? My class had a trip to the Doris McCarthy Trial and we had the time of our life. It felt like it was just me and nature. The last time I went to the Doris McCarthy Trial I saw a deer. I was 10 feet from a live deer!!

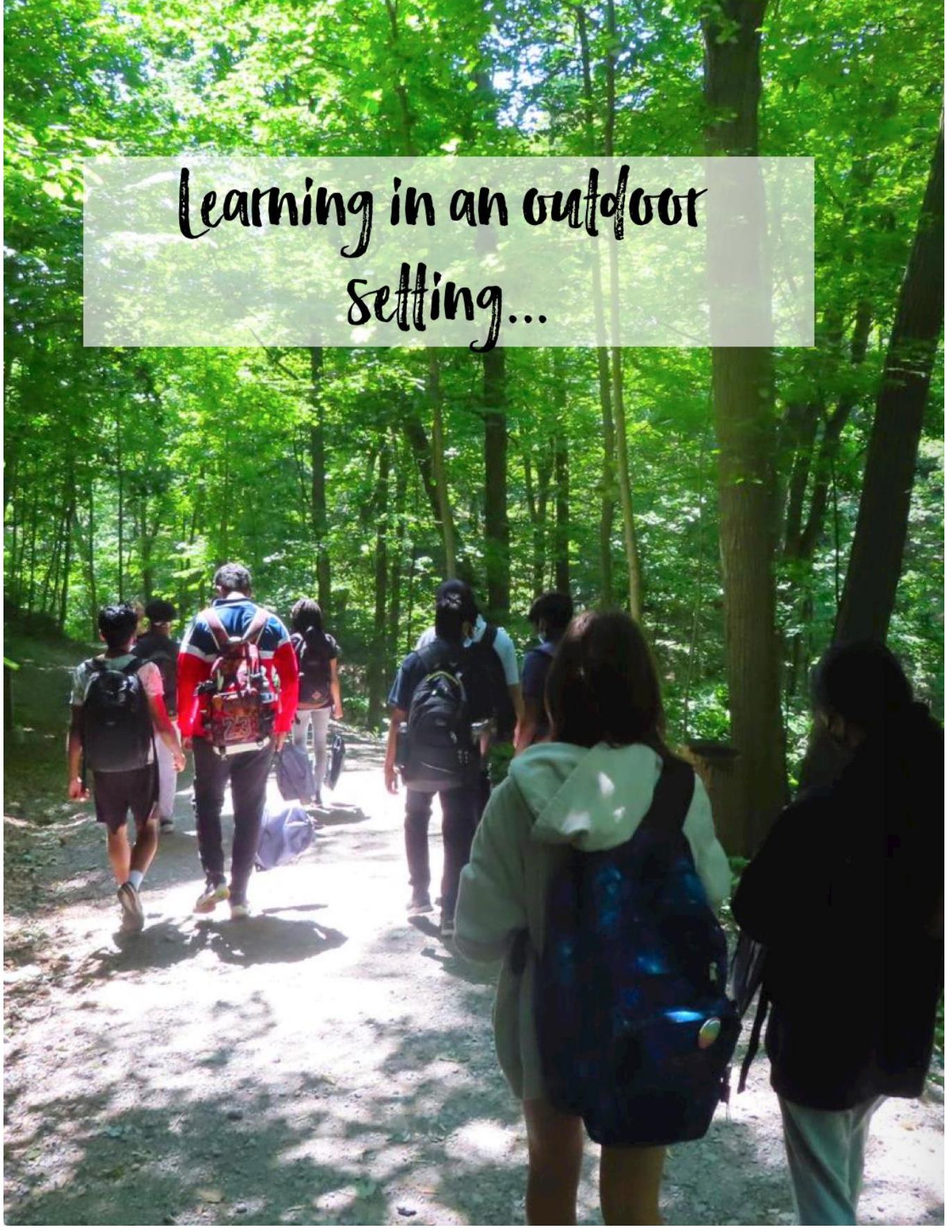
Before it gets messed up with the construction of a massive luxury condominium, I recommend you go to the Doris McCarthy Trial.

The construction that is happening is a big apartment building. "As if we don't already have enough apartment buildings." This building is going to disturb all of the wildlife and it will no longer be the same for me. The other more important issue is that the Bluffs as we know it will be carved away and no longer be anything close to what it is meant to be.

We need your help, so write a letter to the city and we will all try to get the apartment building built somewhere else.

by L.V. from Grade 6 Class of 2022/2023





A group of approximately ten people, mostly young adults, are walking along a dirt path in a dense forest. They are all wearing backpacks. The path is shaded by tall trees with green leaves. The scene is captured from behind, showing the group moving away from the camera.

Learning in an outdoor
setting...

R.H. King Academy

Grade 9 Class School Trip

Dear Toronto,

On June 21st, 2022, a group of grade 9 science students from RH King Academy took part in a guided walking tour of the Doris McCarthy Trail. After a difficult two years of restrictions, the tour, and its (re)connection to nature was well received.

What struck us was learning about the importance of trees from not just a clean air' perspective, but also their cooling and temperature buffering properties. Interestingly, communities with a greater tree canopy also tend to have lower rates of crime and social distress! Erosion control was a topic we had been somewhat aware of as a class but perhaps did not appreciate in its entirety until witnessing the mighty root systems holding the soil and cliff sides together. Areas that had recently eroded showed a vast root system that still played a key part in keeping the rest of the bluff intact. We were impressed to learn the lifecycle of trees, as well as their positive economic impact but were saddened to hear about their current lack of protections and many loopholes in removing them. Yes, we know and understand that some trees may need to be removed, but the lack of an attempt at planning future structures with trees stunned us, especially when it can take 30+ years to reach a size that many would say was small.

Many thanks to the tour and trail organizers, the community involved and our guest speakers, Wendy, Janet and Marina!

Mr. V's Grade 9 science class of 2022

Tree Ribbon Campaign Part 2 Kick Off Event

After many months of preparation for Part 2 of the Tree Ribbon Campaign, we were ready to launch the first tour down the Doris McCarthy Trail on June 21st, 2022.

Special guests included the students of R.H. King Academy and teacher Mr. Vijakla, Councillor Gary Crawford, and Trustee Parthi Kandavel. June 21st was also National Indigenous Peoples Day! We started the event off by having Councillor Crawford read the Land Acknowledgment.



While sitting under the canopy of some mature trees in the neighbourhood the students were given a lesson about the importance of our mature tree canopy. Learnings were shared by Wendy Hooker, Christopher Burtch and Marina Tadenc. Councillor Crawford and Trustee Kandavel also spoke to the students about the importance of trees and climate change. The group then took a short walk to explore some large majestic nearby trees in the neighbourhood. Included was a large Hemlock tree where students were then given saplings of the Hemlock to take home to plant.

We then proceeded with the first tour down the trail that ended looking up at the spectacular Scarborough Bluffs and enjoying lunch with Lake Ontario as a backdrop.

There are 3 OPTIONS for the self-guided tour, each starts at the top of the Doris McCarthy Trail:

- 1. Follow the signpost down the trail and scan the QR code at each stop.**
- 2. Follow the route using this link to an interactive treasure map.**

<https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/current-events-projects/tree-ribbon-campaign-map/>

- 3. View YouTube recording of complete tour with audio at home virtually or listen to the recording on site pausing at the end of each stop <https://youtu.be/nGBIQUumbDI>**

Download the Tree Identifier Guide and have some fun identifying trees along the way!

<https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/data/documents/Tree-Identifier-Guide.pdf>

This was a 2 day event, Janet May from the Residents Association visited the students at R.H. King Academy for an in class lesson on advocacy and why it's important to know how to have your voice heard on issues that are important to you.

The tour was then open to anyone visiting the trail!

Signs were in place Summer and Fall of 2022.

See Memory Book created to capture this initiative:

<https://www.bluffsmonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/flipbook/122/book.html>



To learn more about
Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association
Visit: www.cliffcrestscarboroughvillage.ca/about-us

You can contact us info@csvsw.ca

To stay informed about what is happening in our neighborhoods
and to receive our monthly newsletter
become a member, Associate Membership is free.

Our mission statement,
"Together we preserve the unique nature of our neighbourhoods"



Following is a memory book created to capture the events and learnings of this tour,

<https://onedrive.live.com/edit.aspx?resid=C6710391933AD3FE!106&ithint=file%20cpptx&authkey=!AEg4lv1jBIM1GqY>

