



May 28, 2023

**Subject: Scarborough Yellow Brick Road (ATTENTION NEEDED)**

**To John MacKenzie & TRCA Team,**

I am pleased to hand deliver a printed copy of "**Scarborough's Yellow Brick Road**", a Memory Book which is the culmination of work by the Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association (CSVSWRA), association members, community members and local students to **raise awareness about climate change & the importance of the urban tree canopy in Toronto**. This project, Tree Ribbon Campaign II, is a self-guided tour that starts at the entryway of the Doris McCarthy Trail, which follows the Bellamy Ravine.

**The link to the Memory Book in soft copy is also available:**

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

Highlights of the Tree Ribbon Campaign II include:

- First Tree Ribbon tour Kick Off event and lesson in an outdoor setting with RH King Secondary School
- Signposts with 14 stops that provide education about the rich diversity of animals and vegetation of this natural heritage site
- The role of trees in combating climate change impacts
- The historical significance of Gates Gully/Bellamy Ravine to indigenous peoples and early settlers;
- The vulnerability of the fragile Scarborough Bluffs to development pressures

Students from R.H. King Academy participated in the kickoff event and first tour. St Agatha Elementary School also engaged in the self-guided tour and each participant provided their perspective of local sustainability.

These future stewards of Scarborough, to whom Scarborough's Yellow Brick Road is dedicated, are concerned about the impacts aggressive developments will have on the Doris McCarthy Trail, a magnificent natural area treasured by the residents of Cliffcrest, Scarborough Village and Guildwood. Letters of concern are included in the book as well as concerns captured in the prologue.

**We need your help to ensure the appropriate studies are completed to identify potential impacts to the surrounding water table, tree canopy, Doris McCarthy Trail, Scarborough Bluffs and lakeshore so informed decisions are made.**

In 2020 CSVSWRA created "BIG Picture Map" to understand what was coming to our neighbourhoods. Analyses indicate in the BIG PICTURE – 5,709 units, with 11,171 to 15,204 new residents in our catchment. See link to map: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1-V1dBgxR4GSIZBxOeVusDmb34ufJZlcP&ll=43.7350905540572%2C79.223535&z=14>

**Currently there are only 4 public access points to the Waterfront shoreline.** There are a series of cascading problems to be considered at these 4 locations from the proposed developments shown on our BIG Picture map not only during construction but also for the future. 1. Bluffers Park (already grossly overly congested). 2. Guild Park (often congested by the spots allocated by the Guild Inn Estate( Private Guests for Private events) 3. East Point Park 4. The Doris McCarthy Trail with only street parking available.

The overflow of parking will increase naturally as more and more visitors look to access the waterfront trail, the additional impact from developments to traffic, parking and safety issues would exacerbate the already present challenges for access to the TRCA lands and the waterfront. **Provisions should be thoroughly considered as the need for parking will only increase as the TRCA moves forward with the future waterfront trail project.**

The Scarborough Bluffs is designated a Natural Heritage System, an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) and an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). In January 2020, Toronto City Council unanimously approved the Toronto Ravine Strategy, which provides key actions to protect, preserve and invest in our ravine systems.

We have been witnessing frequent and intense storms and excessive amounts of rain falling on our city. Groundwater and localized surface runoff will generally be directed towards the lake, Ravines and Bluffers Park. **There has been no evidence presented to support that many massive developments with 2 story deep parking lots adjacent to this important Natural Heritage System will not negatively impact the system and worsen the erosion of the Scarborough Bluffs.** Consideration and foresight needs to be given to the potential serious irrevocable consequences to the environment and costs to the project, residents and communities that could be affected by the proposed builds.

**We ask that you let us know if the TRCA will be engaging with other City Teams to ensure concerns and all impacts are explored.**

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

**Marina Tadenc**

**VP, Director, Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association**

Email [info@csvsw.ca](mailto:info@csvsw.ca) or call 647-245-3277

<https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/about-us/>

**Some additional information to share:**

Some of the Trees selected on the tour had TRCA Tree tags and Ralph Toningier from your TRCA Team helped confirm that our tree ID to TRCA Tree Tag numbers matched. Hope you enjoy looking through the pages of the book!

Following is a link to our most recent newsletter:

[https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/data/documents/24\\_NEWLETTER\\_March\\_April2023.pdf](https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/data/documents/24_NEWLETTER_March_April2023.pdf)

I have also included our May 2021 newsletter that echoes concerns in a story about FLOODING CONCERNS FROM LARGE BUILDS: [https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/data/documents/9\\_Newsletter\\_May\\_2021.pdf](https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/data/documents/9_Newsletter_May_2021.pdf)



In 1903, A.P Coleman, Head of the Geology Department at University of Toronto, reported on the geological importance of the Bluffs and cautioned against development to mitigate erosion on the unstable cliffs. Large scale development went forward despite the risk and in recent years houses and backyards started to fall over the edge. **Attention needs to be given to protection & conservation.**

