



January 15, 2024

To: Hon. Bill Blair, Bill.Blair.C1@parl.gc.ca

CC: Lucas Keys , Communications and Outreach, lucas.keys.498@parl.gc.ca

RE: Preservation of the Scarborough Bluffs

Mr. Blair,

As a long time, MP representing the people of Scarborough Southwest, and as a longtime resident, we hope you would agree that the preservation of the Scarborough Bluffs should be a priority and considered in any future development along Kingston Road. **Will you meet with us to better understand our concerns?**

We were disappointed with the attached response received by Minister Steven Guilbeault.

We did explore the suggestion to initiate a designation request for federal impact assessments to the Impact Assessment Agency, however, we would like more guidance on taking this approach.

To summarize, the Scarborough Waterfront Project from 2014 to 2018 involved reviewing every inch of the 11 km trail, consulting with TRCA experts, reviewing TRCA studies, public consultation meetings, consultation with Indigenous groups, consideration of residents' concerns, and the preparation of the final EA which was submitted to the province in 2018.

Significant development proposals currently under review by City Planning have been submitted since the time the Scarborough Waterfront Project was undertaken, and so were not considered in the Environmental Assessment. Neither developers nor the City have done their due diligence to ensure that these projects will not contribute to the erosion of the Doris McCarthy Trail and the Bluffs. This could result in an environmental catastrophe and potential considerable damage to residential properties south of Kingston Road.

A formal Notice of Commencement for the Scarborough Bluffs **West** Revitalization Study (SBW), issued by TRCA and the City of Toronto. The purpose of the EA will be to evaluate a range of potential opportunities to enhance the landscape and provide safe access to the waterfront while protecting sensitive shoreline and natural areas.

Since the existing TRCA EA of the East Portion of the waterfront/Bluffs completed prior to the proposed developments, and that they are now proceeding with an EA west of Bluffers Park, this is the ideal opportunity to have included the areas at risk as part of the newly launched review.

Will you help with asking for request/support of TRCA involvement in the review of these developments so that their potential impact on erosion can be understood?

We want to emphasize that the CSVSWRA is not opposed to development and wants to work towards a general common goal of appropriate development at the appropriate pace. In view of the housing crisis, CSVSWRA is concerned that the City of Toronto is too focused on meeting numbers mandated by the province rather than providing housing that those earning minimum wage can afford. In addition, the City of Toronto approves projects on a site-by-site basis rather than evaluating the cumulative impacts of multiple large-scale projects in a neighbourhood. The climate crisis means that everyone, including the City of Toronto Planning Department, must include sustainability in evaluating the impacts of development. This includes mitigating the destruction of mature trees and the impacts of development on fragile environmentally sensitive areas such as the Scarborough Bluffs. We are advocating for studies to be completed so full impact is known and informed decisions are made.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further and provide you with more information.

Sincerely,
Marina Tadenc
on behalf of Board of Directors & Team
Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association

Email: Info@csvsw.ca

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

Join our Facebook site, www.facebook.com/groups/csvsw

Read our most recent newsletter

https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/data/documents/27_NEWSLETTER_November_2023.pdf

Catch up on past newsletters

<https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/news/>

Ministre de l'Environnement et
du Changement climatique



Minister of Environment
and Climate Change

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

JAN 23 2023

Ms. Donna McParland
Planning and Development Committee
Cliffcrest Scarborough Village South
West Residents Association
dmcparland@sympatico.ca

Dear Ms. McParland:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 16 and December 7, 2022, inviting me to meet with you to discuss your environmental concerns regarding several condominium development projects in Toronto. I regret the delay in responding.

Unfortunately, as a result of scheduling constraints, I am unable to accept your invitation. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Guilbeault".

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)

c.c.: The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., M.P.

Additional information:

See previous related correspondence asking to be included in discussions,
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/cc/comm/communicationfile-150388.pdf>

Many more follow ups to Councillor, City Planning, TRCA can be shared.

What could be lost:

I am pleased to provide a link to “Scarborough Yellow Brick Road”, a Memory Book which is the culmination of work by the Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association, 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:

<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 settler; • The vulnerability of the fragile Scarborough Bluffs to development pressures

Correspondence:

From: Blair, Bill - Assistant 1 [mailto:Bill.Blair.A1@parl.gc.ca]

Sent: December-12-22 12:37 PM

To: dmcparland@sympatico.ca

Subject: RE: Ontario Land Tribunal Hearing - OLT 22-004294 - November 30, 2022 - 3291 Kingston Road, #2 and #4 Windy Ridge Drive

Dear Donna,

Thank you for contacting MP Bill Blair’s office regarding the proposed development at 3291 Kingston Road and #2 and #4 Windy Ridge Drive, as well as the other condominium projects proposed on Kingston Road. I sincerely apologize for the delay in my response.

The public may make designation requests for federal impact assessments to the Impact Assessment Agency. Our government conducts impact assessments using fair and predictable processes that are grounded in science and Indigenous traditional knowledge.

The Impact Assessment Act, provides a discretionary authority that enables the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to designate a proposed project for a federal impact assessment. This can be done if the carrying out of the project may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects, or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation.

Here is the link to the webpage that walks through the Impact Assessment Agency Designation Process for Designating a project not on the Project List: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

A request to designate a project must be sent to the Minister at ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca, with a copy also provided to the Agency at information@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Thank you again for contacting our office about this important issue.

Sincerely,

Office of MP Bill Blair

Member of Parliament for Scarborough Southwest

From: Donna McParland <dmcparland@sympatico.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 5:59 PM

To: Blair, Bill - M.P. <Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca>; Guilbeault, Steven - Député <Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca>

Subject: Ontario Land Tribunal Hearing - OLT 22-004294 - November 30, 2022 - 3291 Kingston Road, #2 and #4 Windy Ridge Drive

Mr. Blair and Mr. Guilbeault:

My name is Donna McParland, I am a resident of Cliffcrest, I am on The Scarborough Southwest Environment Committee and on the Planning and Development Committee for the Cliffcrest Scarborough Village South West Residents Association. I was also a member of the Stakeholder's Committee for the Scarborough Waterfront Project from 2014 to 2018.

Our resident's association has brought our concerns regarding the proposed development at 3291 Kingston Road and #2 and #4 Windy Ridge Drive, as well as the other condominium projects proposed on Kingston Road to our Councillor Gary Crawford and our MPP Dolly Begum. We have recently received notice from the Ontario Land Tribunal that there will be a Case Management Conference (CMC) on November 30, 2022.

The City of Toronto did not make a decision on this project within the 6 month time frame and therefore it becomes an appealable issue to the Ontario Land Tribunal. We have come to understand that The City of Toronto does not have the staff or resources to make decisions on these large developments within the allotted time frame. Therefore, the system is designed to remove planning decision making from the City and the decisions are made at the provincial level. We feel this treads on our democratic rights, and will only get worse with Bill 23.

Our Residents Association has been involved in opposing this project since day one. We have had various meetings at the City level which included Planning, Water, the TRCA, and Councillor Crawford expressing our concerns. We have a further meeting scheduled with Mr. Crawford on November 21, 2022.

My personal concern is from an environmental perspective. My involvement with the Stakeholders Committee for 3.5 years involved reviewing every inch of the 11 km trail, consulting with TRCA experts, reviewing TRCA studies, public consultation meetings, consultation with Indigenous groups, consideration of residents concerns, and the preparation of the final EA which was submitted to the Province in 2018.

Our focus was the protection and preservation of the Scarborough Bluffs, Doris McCarthy Trail, and the animals and plants that live there. The Bluffs are a geological, historical, archaeological, and environmental treasure and every effort should be made to preserve them and slow down erosion. The proposed condo developments were not brought forth until after the EA assessment was sent to the Province for approval so were not part of the TRCA studies. As well, the Doris McCarthy trail was closed in 2014/2015 due to erosion from storm water and extensive work was done by the City and TRCA to shore up the trail.

We strongly feel that the TRCA should be involved in a review of this project. The proposed site is approximately 60 metres from the Bellamy Ravine which runs under Kingston Road. The SWP Final Environmental Assessment as well as previous TRCA studies of the Scarborough Waterfront and Bluffs should be considered. The Final Environment Assessment is detailed and includes; a Geotechnical Report, Coastal Technical Report, Natural Environment Technical Report, and Stage 1 Terrestrial Archaeology Report.

As previously noted the proposed condominium developments were not proposed at the time the SWP was under review, and were not considered in the Environmental Assessment. The Developer and the City have not done their due diligence to ensure that this project will not contribute to the erosion of the Doris McCarthy Trail and the Bluffs. This could result in an environmental catastrophe and considerable damage to residential properties south of the development. This is a condo development which will no doubt be marketed as being at the start of the Doris McCarthy trail and asking prices will be high. It is not an affordable housing project and in fact destroys existing affordable rental units as well as approximately 80 mature trees.

Here are the links to the studies:

SWP Final Environmental Assessment

<https://trca.ca/conservation/green-infrastructure/scarborough-waterfront-project/final-environmental-assessment/>

TRCA February 2012 Scarborough Shoreline Terrestrial and Biological Inventory and Assessment

<https://trcaca.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/app/uploads/2016/02/17183420/ScarboroughShorelineFebruary2012.pdf>

This 2017 TRCA report on Water and Erosion at the Scarborough Bluffs

<https://trca.ca/news/three-ways-water-shaped-scarborough-bluffs/>

The December 5, 2020 Scarborough Bluffs Glacial Sedimentology and the Impact of Urbanization Joanna Hodge Phd P. Geo(adapted from Eyles et al 1985)

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0945fa57552147cab48acf9568427d2a>

Mr. Blair as a long time MP representing the people of Scarborough Southwest, and as a long time resident, I assume you would agree that the preservation of the Scarborough Bluffs should be a priority and considered in any future development along Kingston Road. The Bluffs are of such environmental, historical and geological significance they should be considered for Unesco World Heritage Site designation and not a way for developers to make more money. As well, climate change and environmental concerns should be the first consideration for any development in 2022.

We are requesting that you bring our concerns to the Minister of the Environment and Climate change for consideration of a Federal Impact Assessment. As you can see from the February 2012 Scarborough Shoreline Terrestrial and Biological Inventory and Assessment, the Scarborough Shoreline and Bluffs are home to more varied species of flora and fauna than any other location in Ontario even rural areas, and several of these species are at risk due to human disturbance associated with development. (pages 16 – 21)

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further and provide you with the information we have compiled thus far.

Thank you

Donna McParland

Planning and Development Committee CSVSWRA

(647) 456-5032