

Our family here in King, and other areas of the Region, was flabbergasted to realize that York Region would even consider opening the Greenbelt to development. We thought that this prospect had been put to rest and that our representatives on Regional Council wished it so. It has been made apparent that there are enough development lands available without touching our precious Greenbelt that needs to remain a preserve for future generations.

What also seems to be of more relevance than ever is the danger that development of the Greenbelt will cause to our precious water reserves. Many of us live without sewers the prospect of which is not conceivable because of enormous expense and the fact that water supplies are limited. The prospect of development on the Greenbelt and what would be ensuing likely demand for sewers connected to Lake Ontario is horrific. No thought seems to be given to the importance of the huge recharge area proven to be significant in the areas of the Greenbelt. Problems already exist such as salt and phosphorus in our water and recharge areas. Now is a time for further review and expansion of protective legislation to help conserve water for the future.

Further, the reopening of the discussion of a 413 highway is ridiculous. Many feel it would also become another toll road that few would use. Studies have proven it is not necessary, will have less than minutes of efficiency from what exists now, and worse it will destroy the Greenbelt. U.S. and U.K. studies have indicated that the suggestion that construction of infrastructure such as highways to revitalize economies after periods of decline, such as COVID 19 are of little value. Has anyone even entertained the idea of building rail transit parallel to the 403? This would be efficient. To propose a highway crisscrossing rivers and streams over 80 times for about 50 KM on our Greenbelt is an abomination.

In the interest of what is just for now, and the future with evidence of declining freshwater reserves it incumbent upon Members of Council to remove Item H 2 from the report.

Good planning would encourage denser communities with increased and more efficient transit. We cannot put our water and farmland at risk for present day expediency.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments,

Yours truly,
Judith Tenenbaum