

From: Esther R
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:17 PM
To: Clerks Public
Subject: Written Submission - Deputation THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW BAHÁ'Í NATIONAL CENTRE

Importance: High

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Following is my written deputation for February 25th at 1:00 pm.

Thank you, Esther Ravka

My name is Esther Ravka and I live at Thornhill. I am on the board of directors for the Thornhill Horticultural Society. It saddens me to see what is planned on being built in this meadow. There is no infrastructure for this type of development. Just like at 2900 Steeles, it's the same problems for John and Leslie.

The congestion is very bad already and this will only make it worse. I have lived here for over 20 years. The stress it will cause for me, my husband who works near here, and my family who also live in the area will be tremendous.

Building on the German Mills meadow land can have serious consequences for wildlife and the local ecosystem. Here are some key reasons why development should be reconsidered:

1. Habitat Destruction

- Many animals rely on forests, wetlands, and meadows for shelter, food, and breeding grounds. Construction can displace or even wipe out local populations.
- Once a habitat is destroyed, it's difficult—if not impossible—for some species to relocate or adapt to new environments.

2. Loss of Biodiversity

- Development often reduces plant and animal diversity, sometimes pushing species to the brink of extinction.
- Native plants that support pollinators like bees and butterflies can be wiped out, disrupting entire food chains.

3. Disruption of Migration Patterns

- Many species, such as birds, deer, and amphibians, rely on specific routes for seasonal migration.
- Roads and buildings can act as barriers, leading to roadkill incidents or forcing animals into less suitable habitats.

4. Water Pollution and Disruption

- Wetlands, streams, and ponds provide essential water sources for wildlife. Construction can lead to contamination and drying up of these crucial habitats.
- Soil erosion from development can increase sediment in nearby water bodies, harming fish and aquatic ecosystems.

5. Noise and Light Pollution

- Artificial light at night confuses nocturnal species like bats and owls, disrupting their hunting and mating behaviors.
- Noise from construction and increased human activity can stress and scare wildlife, forcing them to abandon their habitats.

6. Climate Impact

- Green spaces absorb carbon dioxide and provide cooling effects, which help combat climate change.
- Removing trees and vegetation leads to increased heat, making the area hotter and less hospitable for both wildlife and humans.

Protecting natural land is crucial not just for wildlife but also for maintaining healthy ecosystems that benefit everyone.

It will change the economic balance of the neighbourhood. I moved here 20 years ago to a nice quiet safe neighbourhood; this development will surely ruin that. Words cannot express the enormity of the impact of this development. It is totally unacceptable and should not happen.

Thank you, Esther Ravka