



December 24, 2009

Dear Resident,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Town of Newmarket Council to provide you with an update on the status of the Risk Assessment being conducted on the woodlot and trail areas in and around your subdivision.

As you may recall, in December 2008, we sent a letter to residents in the Bathurst Street and Mulock Drive vicinity to provide information on a soils issue in that area. Testing revealed that all topsoil in residential areas met ministry standards and that further remedial work was not necessary.

Some elevated levels of arsenic and lead were detected in the woodlot and trail areas due to pesticide use when the lands were used as orchards. The Town enlisted a team of independent environmental specialists, including experts in toxicology and a geoscientist from Intrinsic, a company that specializes in risk assessments. The Ministry of the Environment and York Region's Medical Officer of Health also helped by providing valuable input on this matter.

In January, a public meeting was held to provide further information on the situation and to outline the details of the Risk Assessment. At this meeting we learned that this Risk Assessment would take up to 18 months to complete.

Background material and reports are available online at:

<http://www.newmarket.ca/en/townhall/summerhillwoodsdevelopmentarea.asp>

To bring you up to date, a Pre-Submission Form for the Risk Assessment was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment in April. The Risk Assessment Report is being conducted in accordance with Ministry of the Environment regulations and is near completion. This process includes a series of submissions to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) for their review and comments. The Region's Medical Officer of Health has also been providing important feedback as well.

In a memo to The Town of Newmarket, Intrinsic provided the following comments on the preliminary results with respect to the open space lands as a walking trail, natural woodlot and parkland area:

"Potential unacceptable risks are predicted for the parkland user in some areas. Under the parkland scenario, the areas of the Site that contain lead and arsenic soil concentrations that result in the prediction of unacceptable risks are relatively small. These results are indicative of the need for a limited amount of targeted removal of impacted soil as part of an overall risk management plan. Preliminary results indicate



that the extent of soil removal would be small enough to ensure that the woodlots remain undisturbed.”

Following the completion of the Risk Assessment, details of the risk management plan and the areas requiring limited soil removal will be determined. The exact location of any soil removal activities cannot be determined at this time, however, it is anticipated that it will not significantly impact the mature forest.

We are pleased with the preliminary results and we will continue to provide updates on the Risk Assessment process. Please see the attached for a chronology of work conducted to date.

If you have any questions, please call the Town of Newmarket at 905-895-5193. For more information on the Ministry of the Environment process and standards, please visit www.ene.gov.on.ca or visit the Town of Newmarket's website at www.newmarket.ca.

The Town of Newmarket Council and Staff are committed to taking every precaution to ensure we have a safe and healthy community. We appreciate your patience during this process.

Sincerely,

Tony Van Bynen
Mayor

Dennis Ramsarran
Ward 6 Councillor



A chronology of work conducted to date is as follows:

- January 2009 – Public Meeting outlines the Risk Assessment process with an estimated timeline 12 to 18 months
- February through April 2009 – Preparation of the Pre-Submission Form and site characterization support documents
- April 20, 2009 – Submission of the Pre-Submission Form to the Ministry of the Environment copying York Region Community and Health Services
- May 19, 2009 – Comments regarding the Pre-Submission Form received from York Region's Community and Health Services department
- June 1, 2009 – Ministry of the Environment response to Pre-Submission Form
- July 15, 2009 – Recommendations made for additional site characterization studies to address Ministry of the Environment and York Region's Community and Health Services department's comments
- August 2009 – Bioaccessibility study started
- September and October 2009 – Field program for additional site characterization undertaken. Bioaccessibility study completed.

The current timeline for completion of the Risk Assessment is as follows:

- completion of the site characterization program – late November 2009
- completion and submission of the Risk Assessment to Ministry of the Environment copying York Region's Community and Health Services department – early December 2009
- Ministry of the Environment review period – 16 to 22 weeks (approximately March to May 2010)
- submission of the final Risk Assessment to the Ministry of the Environment – approximately 3 weeks after receipt of Ministry of the Environment comments – April to June 2010
- final Ministry of the Environment review and acceptance – early summer 2010.

Further updates will be provided as the Risk Assessment process proceeds.