



Attachment 2

CONCORD WEST SENIORS CLUB

7575 Keele Street, Unit #5, Concord, ON, L4K 4X3
Telephone No.: 905-669-2012

May 15, 2010

To all Members of Concord West Streetscape Committee

Attention: Chair

On behalf of seniors in Concord West, we would like to express our urgent concerns regarding walking access to the green space from our Community to the Bartley Smith Greenway along Upper Don River.

Our community is completely surrounded by roads (Keele Street, Highway #7, Highway #407 and railway) and only accessed by motor vehicles. There is no feasible safe exit for pedestrians or bikers to the 15 km greenway which, however, stands less than 5 minutes away by walking distance. This beautiful environmental area with abundant wildlife and birds has recreational trails in all seasons and scenic natural open space, but we have no safe access to it. We are separated and isolated from continued and safe access to this green area that is contiguous with the Bartley Smith Greenway.

The VAUGHAN VISION (2020) Strategic Plan, Service Excellence states: **"Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness."**

The Final Report of PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE Master Plan Study (February 2010), City of Vaughan states in following Sections:

- 1.3 "The Vision of this Master Plan is to develop network of off-road multi-use pathways, improve overall livability by finding creative ways to overcome barriers."
- 4.1 "Creating a pedestrian and cycling network that must reflect and respond to resident's needs and desires."
- 4.5.1 "Accessible Pedestrian and Bicycle routes should be easily accessible from all neighbourhoods within Vaughan. The network should provide a diverse and off road walking and cycling experience."
- 5.2.5 Improved pedestrian connectivity and accessibility."
- 5.3 "The creation of an attractive and safe pedestrian environment is a crucial component of the Vaughan Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan."

The above is exactly what we are asking for. Moreover, the above Plan was designed to improve the health and quality of life of ALL residents of Vaughan and establish the City as an

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environmentally conscious place to live. We have been denied these benefits for over 15 years now.

THE CONCORD WEST URBAN DESIGN STREETScape MASTER PLAN STUDY states that "will create **new open spaces and recreational connections**" (attachment 2, p. 2, goal 3). The Upper Don River will be integrated into the **Study indicating access from Highway #7 to Bartley Smith Greenway**. But we (seniors and including the physically and mentally challenged in the two group homes in our community) cannot walk or bike along the traffic laden Highway #7, south side, in order to reach the Bartley Smith Greenway. Only safe passage way is located at the end of Rockview Gardens.

All these studies are relevant to **our problem** – pedestrian connections, gateways, open space access, safety, residents needs, health and wellness of people in the community. Yet the currently proposed solutions are not intent on providing the Concord West community with direct access to the Bartley Smith Greenway.

Background of the problem

Since 1954 the residents have had a right of easement for purpose of pedestrian access to what is now know as the Bartley Smith Greenway / Langstaff Ecopark, as well as to the what is now known the Glen Shields Community. Residents could walk all the way to Finch Avenue via Glen Shields Park and Lord Ross Park along Don River.

With the construction of Highway #407 (15 years ago) this access was effectively denied to the residents of Concord West, leaving them boxed in between roads and railway. Despite previous and repeated efforts (letters to the City of Vaughan 1992, 1999 and 2002 – copies available by request) nothing was solved. This put an unacceptable burden on the quality of life of the residents of Concord West Community, especially on seniors that are unable to walk and enjoy green space areas and nature trails traditionally available to them.

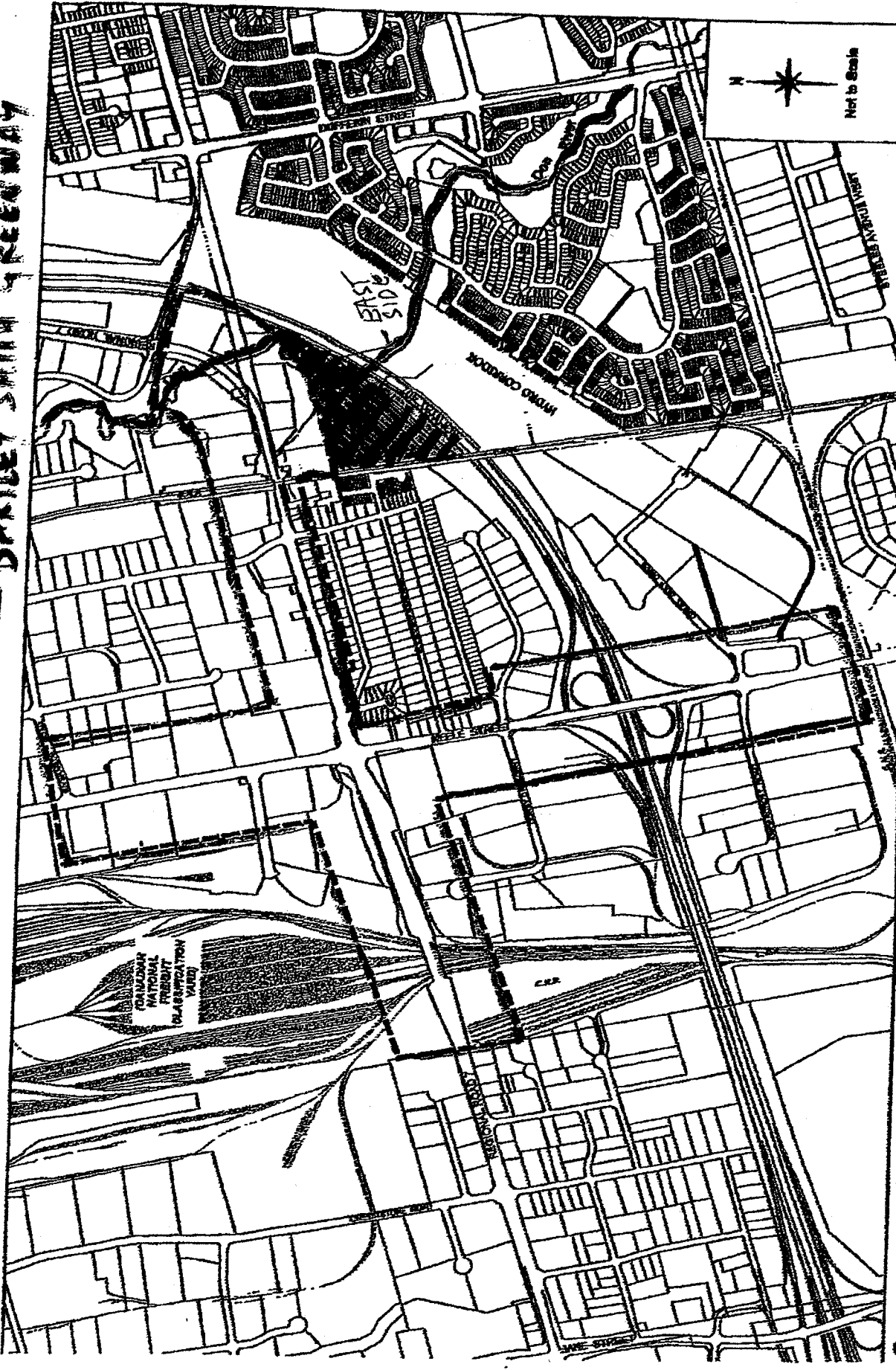
The only area that can provide our community with safe and direct access to the green space is the land that lies to the east of Concord West, between the latter and Highway #407. This area serves as ecological community to a variety of threatened wildlife – deer (see attached photos), migratory birds, beavers, mallards, hawks, etc. The proposed location of a GO Station parking lot on this land will threaten this ecological niche and our health and quality of life. In this day and age, this is totally unacceptable. The area in question is a plot of land presently owned by the Ontario Realty Corporation. We are requesting the Ontario Minister of Energy and Infrastructure to donate this land to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for purposes of (1) annexing it to the adjoining Bartley Smith Greenway and (2) provide our community with direct access to the green spaces of the Bartley Smith Greenway /Langstaff Ecopark.

We are formally asking by means of this letter and through our Concord West Seniors Club, for assurance that our valid concerns will receive genuine consideration.

We would appreciate your help and support in this effort.

Concord West Seniors Club
Executives

BARTLEY SMITH GREENWAY



Concord West
Urban Design Guidelines

Applicant: City of Vaughan
 Location: Part of Lots 2-8, Concession 5 3 & 4
 Prepared/Revised: [illegible]

Vaughan
 The City Above Toronto

Development Planning Department

VIA ORC LANE Attachment

POSSIBLE ACCESSIBLE PEDESTRIAN ROUTE FOR CONCORD WEST

File: 14.05
 Date: March 3, 2010

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