

**From:** [Warren Park](#)  
**To:** [Toronto East York Community Council](#); [Councillor Perks](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] April 12th - TEYCC Item 2023TE4.38 St. Mark's Hill Road Safety Review - Files  
**Date:** April 11, 2023 11:02:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [drive-download-20230412T025135Z-001.zip](#)

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Hello Justin and Councillor Perks,

Attached is a zip file containing 8 letters of support for safety improvements from the following organizations highlighting how the road conditions on St. Mark's Road between Humbercrest Blvd. and Varsity road negatively impact their businesses/organizations.

Included:

EcoSchools Canada, Co-Executive Director  
Humbercrest JPS, Parent Council  
Mountview Alternative JPS, Parent Council  
Ontario Active School Travel - Green Communities Canada, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator  
Urban Minds, Co-founder  
Watermark Plumbing, Local Business Owner  
Elza Photography, Local Business Owner  
Lisa Costa Music: Masterpiece Music School, Local Business Owner

Please add these 8 letters to the files for this item.

Thank you,

Erika Fraser  
Interim Chair, Warren Park Ratepayers Association  
[info@warrenpark.ca](mailto:info@warrenpark.ca)  
[www.warrenpark.ca](http://www.warrenpark.ca)

Dear Warren Park Community and City of Toronto,

EcoSchools Canada works towards nurturing student leaders, reducing the environmental impact of schools, and building sustainable school communities. We support the efforts of the Warren Park Community as they work to improve the accessibility and safety of foot traffic and walkability in their school community.

We support their efforts towards short term temporary barriers to protect pedestrians this winter season, as well as a long term plan to integrate pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle safety in the Warren Park community.

As an organization that cares about the long term environmental sustainability in our urban setting, reducing vehicular traffic and increasing the connection and accessibility in local communities offers many benefits to our cities and the wellbeing of communities.

It's our hope that the Warren Park Community sees these pedestrian safety measures implemented shortly. We will continue to support this issue for our organization and the broader community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Dymant', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ryan Dymant  
Co-Executive Director  
EcoSchools Canada  
720 Bathurst Street, Unit 303, Toronto, ON



ELZA PHOTOGRAPHIE  
ELZAPHOTOGRAPHIE.COM  
INFO@ELZAPHOTOGRAPHIE.COM  
647.217.5977

January 20, 2023

My business, Elza Photographie, is serving clients in that little community. Photographing families and children, it is important to me and my business knowing that my clients from the surrounding community have a safe walkable route. I also have to take that road often when I am working in the area. St. Mark's Road between Humbercrest Blvd. and Varsity road offers sub-standard walking conditions and safety risks to all of us.

Short term temporary barriers and a long term plan to integrate pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle safety would improve my connection with the Warren Park community, with positive long-term effects on my business.

As a business that cares about the long term environmental sustainability in our urban setting, reducing vehicular traffic and increasing the connection and accessibility between my business and the parks available from within the Warren Park community further offers opportunities for me to improve my city and the wellbeing of my clients.

It's my hope that we will see pedestrian safety measures implemented shortly. I will continue to support this issue for my business and my community.

Sincerely,

**Elza Miquel-Blain**

**Business owner and Photographer**

**Elza Photographie**

**507-142 Widdicombe Hill Blvd, Etobicoke, M9R0A9**

**elzaphotographie.com**

**647-217-5977**

**info@elzaphotographie.com**

Dear Warren Park Community and City of Toronto,

Our school, Humbercrest Public School, is working towards TDSB's goals, including Goal 5 "Build strong relationships and partnerships within school communities to support student learning and well-being."

Humbercrest PS students use St. Mark's Road and hill daily to get to and from school. Humbercrest PS receives students from grades JK-8 and all Warren Park JPS for grades 7 & 8. In addition, students accessing Warren Park Outdoor Centre and general curriculum-linked nature programming accessing Etienne Brule Park also must use the hill to get to and from these educational opportunities.

Safe pedestrian access between the local community and Humbercrest Public School is an important part of ensuring the well-being of all our students. St. Mark's Road between Humbercrest Blvd. and Varsity Road offers sub-standard walking conditions presenting risks to our community of students and negatively impacting our students safety and wellbeing, particularly in the winter months. We are concerned about the prevalence of cars losing control and sliding onto the sidewalk and the lack of visibility for students crossing at the bottom of the hill.

Humbercrest PS students and their families are advocating for change, through their participation in a community walk on the hill with their city councillor, participating in a Winter Safety Fest event on January 27, 2023 and making posters and participating in Winter Walk to School Day on February 1, 2023.

Short term temporary barriers to protect pedestrians would have an immediate positive impact on Humbercrest PS students this winter season. A long term plan to integrate pedestrian safety would improve our connection with the Warren Park community, with positive long-term effects on our school.

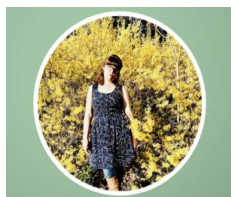
As a TDSB school that cares about safe active pedestrian routes to school and accessibility in our unique urban setting, we support the Warren Park Community Group in advocating for a short and long-term action plan.

It's our hope that we will see pedestrian safety measures implemented shortly. We will continue to support this issue for our school and our community.

Sincerely,

Kristen Juschkevitch & Heather Sinclair

Humbercrest PS Parent Advisory Committee Co-Chairs



## Lisa Costa Music / Masterpiece Music School

2203 - 255 Glenlake Ave.

Toronto, ON M6P1G2

416.768.7088

[lisacostamusic@gmail.com](mailto:lisacostamusic@gmail.com) / [masterpiecemusictoronto@gmail.com](mailto:masterpiecemusictoronto@gmail.com)



Dear Warren Park Community and City of Toronto,

My business, Lisa Costa Music - including the subsidiary Masterpiece Music School - is located at 255 Glenlake Avenue in Toronto. I frequently travel to and from clients' homes in the St. Mark's neighbourhood by bike and by foot, using St. Mark's Road and the St. Mark's Hill. This route is an important element in the success of my business. St. Mark's Road between Humbercrest Blvd. and Varsity presents significant risks to my safety and that of my patrons, reducing my ability to walk and bike that route on certain days, and therefore affecting my business revenue, particularly in the winter months.

Short term temporary barriers to protect pedestrians would have an immediate positive impact on my patrons and my business now. A long term plan to integrate pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle safety would improve my connection with the Warren Park community, with positive long-term effects on my business.

As a business that cares about the long term safety and environmental sustainability of my neighbourhood and Toronto at large, increasing the connection and accessibility of my clients' homes with my own (and for my patrons - between their homes and other important locations for their families) would improve my wellbeing and that of my patrons.

Thank you for reading this letter of support and call to action for improved safety measures for St. Mark's Road and Warren Park and beyond. I hope for pedestrian safety measures to be implemented shortly. I will continue to support this issue for my community and my business.

Sincerely,

Lisa Costa

Folk Pop Artist & Songwriter, Founder & Lead Guide - Masterpiece Music School

2203 - 255 Glenlake Ave.

Toronto, ON M6P1G2

[www.lisacostamusic.ca](http://www.lisacostamusic.ca)

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Mountview Alternative Public School  
569 Jane Street  
Toronto, ON M6S 4A3  
<https://www.mountviewalternativecouncil.com>

Dear Warren Park Community and City of Toronto,

As a TDSB school, student safety and wellness play an important role in offerings to our school community.

A sizeable portion of our student population and a number of staff members live in the Warren Park neighbourhood. In order to travel to and from our school daily on foot the only reasonable route requires walking along St. Mark's Rd from Varsity Rd. to Humbercrest Blvd, otherwise known as St. Mark's Hill, a route that our staff, parent council, and families have identified as a safety risk and impediment to walking.

As an EcoSchools Canada participant, we're actively working on increased environmental awareness school-wide, including low-carbon commuting. Safety concerns on St. Mark's Road reduce the number of families and staff that are willing to travel to school by walking, therefore increasing the environmental impact our school community has locally and globally.

Our school has a limited capacity to handle vehicular traffic at student drop-off and pick-up times, and increased vehicles on site also pose an increased risk to students. These conditions further motivate us to pursue walking as a preferred means of travel for our students over driving.

We are looking forward to improvements to St. Mark's Hill that will increase our school's walkability improving student wellness, safety, environmental awareness and climate action.

Sincerely,

Kelly Taggart

SAC Chair

mountviewco.chairs@gmail.com

Mountview Alternative Public School

416 393 9037

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/mountviewalternative>

Dear Warren Park Community and City of Toronto,

My organization, Green Communities Canada, works towards supporting grassroots-led climate action through leadership, training, connection, and funding. Foot traffic and walkability from local communities is an important part of our organization's goals of fostering leadership and connection. St. Mark's Road between Humbercrest Blvd. and Varsity Road offers sub-standard walking conditions and safety risks for the Warren Park community, reducing pedestrians' willingness to walk that route, and therefore affecting our goals of leadership and connectivity, particularly in the winter months.

Short term temporary barriers to protect pedestrians would have an immediate positive impact on the Warren Park area this winter season. A long-term plan to integrate pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle safety would improve our connection with the Warren Park community, with positive long-term effects on our organization.

As an organization that cares about the long-term environmental sustainability in our urban setting, reducing vehicular traffic and increasing the connection and accessibility between Warren Park and the neighbourhood services (parks, schools, stores) available from within the community further offers opportunities for us to improve the city and the wellbeing of our organization's community.

It's our hope that we will see pedestrian safety measures implemented shortly. We will continue to support this issue for our organization and our community.

Sincerely,

Xuedan Xu

Sustainable Transportation Coordinator

Green Communities Canada

1545 Monaghan Road  
Peterborough, ON K9J 5N3

<https://greencommunitiescanada.org/>

Tel: (705) 745.7479

[info@greencommunitiescanada.org](mailto:info@greencommunitiescanada.org)





421-25 Greenview Avenue  
Toronto, ON, Canada, M2M 0A5

urbanminds.co  
hello@urbanminds.co  
@urbanmindsTO

January 25, 2023

**Letter of Support: WINTER(safety)FEST**

Dear Warren Park Community and City of Toronto,

Urban Minds is a non-profit organization with a mission to create meaningful ways for youth to shape equitable and sustainable cities. We help municipalities and civic organizations better connect with youth and design youth-friendly spaces, programs, and services.

We know that pedestrian-friendly urban design that prioritizes safety contributes to healthy and well-connected communities. It has come to our attention that members of the Warren Park community and local schools have identified St. Mark's Hill (St. Mark's Road between Humbercrest Boulevard and Varsity Road) as a significant safety risk with substandard walking conditions, especially in the winter months. We understand that this roadway is frequented by students during their commute to and from school, making them particularly vulnerable to these unsafe conditions.

We support the community's interest in implementing pedestrian safety improvements along St. Mark's Hill. Short-term temporary barriers to protect pedestrians would have an immediate positive impact on community safety during this winter's season. A long-term plan to prioritize pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular safety would improve connections between the Warren Park community and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

As an organization that aims to change the perception of youth as lesser, passive participants to that of youth as capable, active co-creators, we are excited to be a supporter of Warren Park's WINTER(safety)FEST and youth urban design challenge.

We are looking forward to improvements to St. Mark's Hill that prioritize walkability, pedestrian safety, and youth-friendly design.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lo  
Co-Founder  
Urban Minds Planning and Design Studio  
(416) 836-1373



We at Watermark Plumbing are writing to express our support for the efforts to improve road safety and create an Urban Planning Design challenge for students of local schools and colleges/universities to help re-design St. Marks Hill.

As a residential service business that is often working in this community, we understand the importance of safe and efficient roadways for both residents and businesses. We believe that involving students in the design process will not only improve the roadway but also provide valuable learning opportunities for the next generation of urban planners.

We are excited to see the creative solutions and ideas that the students will bring to the table and we look forward to seeing the positive changes that will be made to St. Marks Hill. We are committed to working with the community and local government to make this initiative a success. Thank you for your dedication to improving our community.

Sincerely,

Geoff Burke

Owner

Watermark Plumbing Services Inc.