

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

---

**REPORT NO. 3  
OF THE REGIONAL  
COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

---

**For Consideration by  
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York  
on November 22, 2001**

---

**1  
2001 RAP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRI - REGIONAL STRATEGY  
FOR THE OAK RIDGES MORAINE**

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

**2. PURPOSE**

This report is intended to notify Regional Council that the Tri-Regional Partnership's work on *The Oak Ridges Moraine: Proposal for the Protection and Management of a Unique Landscape* has received a 2001 RAP (Remedial Action Plan) Award of Excellence from the Waterfront Regeneration Trust. The award was presented at the Clean Waters for Toronto's Waterfront – Clean Water Summit on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony was held in the Radisson Hotel (Queen's Quay) in Toronto.

**3. BACKGROUND**

*The Oak Ridges Moraine: Proposals for the Protection and Management of a Unique Landscape: May 2001* and the subsequent *Proposals for the Protection and Management of a Unique Landscape: August 2001* was a joint project prepared by a Tri-Regional Partnership of the Regions of Durham, Peel and York. It was done with the assistance and input of the Coalition of (9) Conservation Authorities and other municipal and provincial agency partners.

In 1998, Durham, Peel and York Regional Councils directed their respective staffs to coordinate a joint long-term strategy for the Oak Ridges Moraine. The resulting September 1999 discussion paper, *The Oak Ridges Moraine: Towards a Long Term Strategy*, described in detail the background, history and importance of the Oak ridges Moraine, and discussed in detail the current policy context, the state of the natural heritage and hydrogeological data, and land securement programs.

Together, the partnership developed a long-term strategy for the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Partnership's final report was submitted to the Province in response to the Provincial Oak Ridges Moraine process this past fall.

#### **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

Building on the Regional Official Plan Policies already in place, the reports identified strategic directions to better protect and manage the features and functions of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Some of the RAP goals to which the Tri-Regions proposal contributed included:

- Ecosystem Health - The vision of the Moraine forms part of a larger natural system linked to the Niagara Escarpment, north-south river valleys and to Lakes Ontario and Simcoe.
- A groundwater strategy for the Oak Ridges Moraine containing model groundwater management policies, a focus on priority watershed, protection of recharge and discharge areas, performance standards and a monitoring program.
- Cost effective - Directing growth to designated rural settlement and urban areas and ensuring that growth proceeds using environment first principals.
- Public Access Improved and Increased - Proposals recommended the establishment for a securement fund to provide dollars for on-going acquisition and other securement activities including stewardship and management.

The Tri-Regions' proposal was taken a step further with the recent Provincial announcement on the Oak Ridges Moraine. This provides a context for ecological sustainability on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Bill 122 (the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001) provides for the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Municipal planning and development applications, as well as public works, must conform to this Plan. The Province also announced the establishment of an Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation that would have the mandate to fund activities such as land securement, research, monitoring, public education and a continuous Oak Ridges Trail.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report is for information only and therefore there are no direct financial implications at this time.

**6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

Local municipalities are important partners in the protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine so, although these awards have no direct local municipal impact, anything that heightens the profiles of the Oak Ridges Moraine may further support the municipalities' efforts.

**7. CONCLUSION**

The recognition of the merits of this initiative by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust is further support to the Regions' commitment to protect and enhance the natural environment both on and off the Moraine.

This report has been reviewed by the Senior Management Group.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**November 20, 2001  
Newmarket, Ontario**

**Bryan Tuckey  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Development Services**

***(Report No. 3 of the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services was adopted, without amendment, by Regional Council at its meeting on November 22, 2001.)***