

**FUNDING OF LAND ACQUISITION
SETTLERS PARK, MARKHAM**

(Regional Council at its meeting on September 23, 2004 received this Clause and the following be adopted:

WHEREAS the conditions for the acquisition of the Jessamyn Holdings property, German Mills Settlers Park in the Town of Markham have been met;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Region of York forward its \$100,000 financial contribution to the Town of Markham.)

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council provide direction regarding the request from the Town of Markham for a financial contribution of \$100,000 for property purchased for German Mills Settlers Park.

2. PURPOSE

This report updates Council on actions regarding the acquisition of land in the Town of Markham for the German Mills Settlers Park and seeks direction from Council for the Region's financial participation.

3. BACKGROUND

In early 2002, the Town of Markham Council initiated expropriation proceedings for lands owned by Jessamyn Holdings Limited for park and conservation purposes, and to create additional frontage and exposure onto and from German Mills Road for German Mills Settlers Park.

The Town solicited funding assistance from various partners, including York Region. At its meeting of April 18, 2002, Regional Council received various communications from residents and groups and, after consideration of the matter, passed the following resolution:

“It was moved by Mayor Taylor, seconded by Mayor Cousens, that the Region express its commitment to participate financially in the acquisition of land adjacent to Settlers Park in Markham conditional on the support and involvement of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and other funding partners.”

On June 2, 2003, the Town of Markham purchased the property from Jessamyn Holdings Limited. The Town has requested that the Region provide a contribution of \$100,000 towards this purchase.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) were supportive of the acquisition but reported that they did not have sufficient unreserved funds available for the property purchase. The Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) was unable to make a direct cash contribution, but conveyed for nominal consideration to the Town four acres of land (with a value of \$2.0 million) at Kennedy Road in Markham, on the condition that Markham expropriate the Jessmyn lands.

The Town also has the support of The Evergreen Foundation, a national not-for-profit environmental organization, who has embarked upon a Community Stewardship Work Program that includes a fundraising component, targeted at raising \$500,000 over the next five years.

In view of the support received from these organizations, the Town of Markham is requesting that York Region provide its financial contribution in the amount of \$100,000, as per the Council resolution passed in April, 2002. Given that Council's resolution stipulated funding from the TRCA, staff are now requesting direction respecting the disbursement of funds for this purchase.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This property does not meet the regional evaluation criteria established for the land to be purchased for greenlands securement. However, funds for this contribution would be paid from the Greenlands Securement Property Reserve.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Town of Markham has purchased the property to create additional frontage and exposure onto and from German Mills Road for German Mills Settlers Park.

7. CONCLUSION

In April 2002, Regional Council expressed its commitment to participate financially in the acquisition of land adjacent to Settlers Park in Markham, conditional on the support and involvement of the TRCA and other funding partners. Since the TRCA has been unable to provide funds for this purchase, staff seek direction regarding the Region's contribution.