
From: Parish, William
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2009 1:54 PM
To: Regional Clerk
Cc: 'futoryork@york.ca'; 'jim.robb@rogers.com'
Subject: Stop the sprawl

Dear Chairman Fisch & York Regional Councillors,

As a resident of Markham, a parent, and a concerned advocate for the protection of our disappearing green spaces and irreplaceable Class 1 farmland I encourage you to strongly consider the recommendations below.

It was abundantly clear from the turnout last night (Dec. 1 Markham Council meeting) that public concern surrounding the protection of our "whitebelt" lands outside of the greenbelt is widespread. All of the presenters at last night's meeting made it clear that the preservation of these lands speaks to the quality of life in our community as well as the protection of a way of life (farming) that represents Markham's history and heritage.

At last night's meeting it was also made clear that council has the ability to say NO to further expansion into the whitebelt. As Mr. Robb pointed out it will not be easy, but leaders with vision and the ability to look forward beyond a 20 year window are rare. The "vision" of many developers seems limited to "tear it up and pave it" and people will come. While no one can dispute that unfortunate reality, it was emphasized by many last night that that approach to planning is backwards and puts "the cart before the horse".

These decisions begin with the current council, and truly is an opportunity to create a legacy for the Town of Markham as a leader in sustainable development and the preservation of our forests, fields and streams for all to enjoy and appreciate.

To protect Markham's quality of life, foodlands, communities , environment and property values, I (or our Ratepayers Association, group, etc) strongly urge Markham Council to:

- 1. Ask York Region to refrain from passing the Regional Official Plan until further public consultation has occurred;**
- 2. Work with other levels of government to limit Markham's population growth to less than 25% over the next 22 years;**
- 3. Place a moratorium on Urban Expansions to protect Markham's rural heritage, foodland and greenspace;**
- 4. Expand the Greenbelt to protect Markham's "whitebelt" lands as a permanent Foodbelt and Natural Heritage System;**
- 5. Better protect residential communities from over-intensification by enacting height restrictions (e.g. 6 storeys) near existing residential communities.**

Thank You,

Bill Parish