

RFRA

Rouge Fairways Residents' Association

a non-profit organization serving the residents at Markham Rd. and 14th Ave.

December 1, 2009

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Council Members
Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard,
Markham, Ontario, Canada, L3R 9W3

RE: York Region's Growth Plan for Markham

Dear Major Scarpitti and Council Members

Upon careful consideration, the Executives & Directors of the Rouge Fairways Residents' Association (an area bordered by 14th Avenue to the North, the Rouge River to the East and the CN Rail line to the South-West) are, by way of this letter, expressing our concern for York Region's unsustainable growth plan for the Town of Markham.

We believe York Region's plan to increase Markham's population by 50% and develop 7.3 million square metres of Markham's prime farmland by 2031 will have long lasting negative consequences including:

- increased traffic, crowding of schools and hospitals;
- permanent loss of the finest foodland in Canada;
- increased pollution, flooding and property damage from upstream development;
- damage to community values and property values;
- over-intensification near existing communities.

To protect Markham's quality of life, foodlands, communities, environment and property values, the Rouge Fairways Residents' Association 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

On Behalf of the Executives and Directors of the RFRA,

Gina Daya

Gina Daya
Vice President, RFRA

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