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Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 8:48 AM

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Subject: Markham Village Conservancy - Submission for December 1, 2009 Council Meeting

Dear Elected Representatives,

The Markham Village Conservancy has worked tirelessly since 1996 to strengthen the sense of community in Markham Village, Ontario, Canada; to preserve the quality of life in the Village; and to conserve the heritage and natural elements of the Village.

We have grave concerns regarding the Official Plan for York Region and the ensuing negative impact of a growth rate set at a minimum of 40% intensification for the Region based on the Ontario government's Places to Grow legislation.

Our concerns are exacerbated when Town Staff, in an effort to "lead the way", have looked at targets of 52 to 60 percent for Markham.

As citizens and community volunteers, it is difficult for us to imagine this level of intensification based on the infrastructure issues that exist today in traffic, water supply, community facilities, loss of prime farmland and green space, and ultimately, an irreplaceable loss of the heritage character of our community and our deeply valued quality of life.

We are encouraged that Council has asked for further public input in early 2010 (Markham Economist & Sun, November 18, 2009) and we are requesting that no decisions be made until all citizens are fully aware of the ramifications of York Region's Official Plan and the Town of Markham's response to it.

We are urging 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 10 year 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.

We will be in attendance at the December 1, 2009 Markham Council Meeting and hope that Council will support the above recommendations.

Respectfully,

Dianne More

Dianne More
President, Markham Village Conservancy


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