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Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 5:02 PM
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Subject: Markham's Future
Importance: High

Ladies and gentlemen,

With regards to the November 9 meeting at which York Region's draft Official Plan was presented.

I understand that key elements of the Plan include:

- a proposed 50% increase in Markham's population by 2031 (another 151,000 people);
- a proposed 7.3 square kilometre (7.3 million square metre) increase in sprawl onto Markham's irreplaceable farmland and greenspace.

I've lived and worked in Markham for 20 years. I care about what happens to our community in the future and this is not the future I care to see.

If this York Region Growth Plan is approved, Markham residents will suffer many, many more years of:

- traffic congestion, over-development and loss of quality of life;
- increased pollution, flooding, property taxes and damage to community values and character;
- permanent loss of some of the finest foodland and greenspace in Canada.

To protect Markham's quality of life, environment, foodlands, communities and property values, I 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 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.

Both myself and some other concerned citizens will be at the next Markham Council Meeting on this subject, December 1, to press for these alternatives. Will we have your support?

Respectfully yours,

Bob Youngberg, Markham Resident