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From: Gloria Boxen

Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 4:57 PM

To:

Subject: Save Markham's agriculture with the creation of a Markham Foodbelt

Dear Mayor Scarpitti, Council and Political Leaders:

Markham staff reports have shown that "Urban expansion" onto farmland will increase traffic and taxes more than the "No Urban Expansion" option.

I urge Markham Council to support the "No Urban Expansion" option and the creation of a "Markham Foodbelt" to permanently protect Markham's remaining farmland and countryside within the provincial Greenbelt.

There will come a time when there is no more foodland to protect and we will be at the mercy of outside producers in terms of quality, safety, quantity and price. The whitebelt is important for agriculture and the environmental services it provides.

Plan our urban areas properly as mixed-use walkable communities and we will find our personal and our government finances enhanced. Examine these areas when making planning decisions through the eyes of our most vulnerable, our young and our seniors, the disabled and the disadvantaged and we will enhance the quality of life and health for everyone.

When we do the right thing for society and the environment there is always many beneficial, often unforeseen consequences.

Sincerely

Gloria Boxen

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