



June 19, 2012



The Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, On K1A 0A6

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. - *p42*

**RE: MILNE DAM CONSERVATION AREA
AS PART OF ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK (5.7)**

Dear Mr. Harper:

This will confirm that at a meeting held on June 12, 2012, Council of the Town of Markham adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas the Milne Dam Conservation Area is located within the Rouge River Watershed, is publicly owned and operated, and has been identified as part of the Rouge Park North lands since 2001 with the approval of the Rouge North Management Plan; and,

Whereas the Milne Dam Conservation Area was expanded by the Province of Ontario in 2004, in the context of Rouge Park North announcements; and,

Whereas the Milne Dam Conservation Area, owned by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and operated by the Town of Markham, forms the largest publicly managed Conservation Area within the municipality, and is centrally located within Markham; and,

Whereas the Milne Dam Conservation Area has tremendous potential to form part of the Rouge National Urban Park, and to implement the vision and key themes of the Rouge Park, and in particular the goals of "connecting people to nature and history" and "conserving natural heritage"; and,

Whereas the Milne Park Conservation Association has requested that the Milne Dam Conservation Area be included in the Rouge National Urban Park; and,

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Whereas Markham Council on May 31, 2011, reaffirmed that the Milne Dam Conservation Area is included in the Rouge Park North Management Plan, and resolved that Council will give consideration to recommending the inclusion of the Milne Dam Conservation Area as part of any future deliberations on the boundaries of a Rouge Valley National Urban Park; and,

Whereas Parks Canada has recently released the Rouge National Urban Park, Proposed Concept, May 2012, which includes a Study Area Map and a draft park concept; and,

Whereas Parks Canada is seeking public and stakeholder consultation on the Park Concept and proposed Park boundaries:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved As Follows:

- 1) That the Town of Markham officially request the Federal Government include the Milne Dam Conservation Area as part of the Study Area currently under consideration by Parks Canada; and,
- 2) That the Rouge Valley from Milne Dam Conservation Area to Steeles Avenue along the Rouge River, also be included in the Federal Rouge National Urban Park; and that the existing recreational uses including the golf courses be preserved, and that any proposals for future uses be subject to public consultation; and,
- 3) That the Federal Government be further requested to include the Milne Dam Conservation Area in Parks Canada's Rouge National Urban Park Proposed Concept, and subsequent strategic implementation documents and funding for the Park, with a focus on the key themes of "connecting people to nature and history" and "conserving natural heritage"; and further,
- 4) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Federal Minister of Environment, local MPs and MPPs, the Regional Municipality of York, the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)."

Yours sincerely,



Kimberley Kitteringham
Town Clerk

Copy to: The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of Environment
Mr. Paul Calandra, MP, Oak Ridges - Markham
The Honourable John McCallum, MP, Markham-Unionville
Mr. Peter Shurman, MPP, Thornhill
Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP, Oak Ridges - Markham
The Honourable Michael Chan, MPP, Markham-Unionville
Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Ms. Ulli Watkiss, City Clerk, Toronto
Mr. Brian Denney, CAO, TRCA