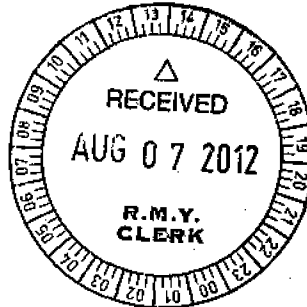


July, 26th, 2012

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of the Province of Ontario
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1



REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - *FO7*

Dear Mr. McGuinty,

RE: Markham's request to add Milne Dam Conservation Area to Rouge National Urban Park Study Area

Thank you for your well wishes on July 1st as we celebrated Canada Day and Markham's transition from a Town to a City. It was a great day in Markham.

We are very pleased to collaborate with the Federal government and other land holders to realize Canada's first urban park that Markham and Greater Toronto Area residents and businesses will benefit from.

I'm writing you to support the Council of the City of Markham's official request (attachment # 1) that Parks Canada include the Milne Dam Conservation Area and connecting Rouge River valley lands running north from Steeles Avenue in the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) study area. For your convenience we have also attached a map illustrating the lands additional lands we propose, attachment # 2.

Since 2001, Milne Dam Conservation Area has been included in Rouge North Management Plans and was expanded by the Province of Ontario in 2004. Markham and its residents consider Milne to be part of the Rouge River system.

We manage Milne Park, our largest and centrally located conservation area, in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) as a very popular group picnic area; therefore it presents an excellent opportunity to further RNUP's goals of "connecting people to nature and history" and "conserving natural heritage".

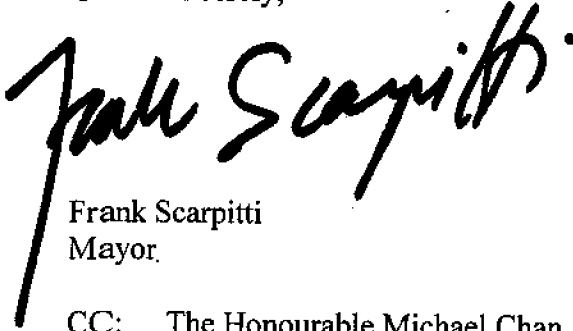
We do respectfully request that the existing recreational uses including golf courses be preserved, and that any proposals for future uses be subject to public consultation.

July 26, 2012

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I await your positive reply and look forward to working with the excellent staff from Parks Canada to facilitate the land transfer and strategic planning process for the Rouge National Urban Park.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank Scarpitti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Frank" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Scarpitti" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

CC: The Honourable Michael Chan, MPP, Markham Unionville
Mr. Peter Shurman, MPP, Thornhill
Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP, Oak Ridges- Markham
Brian Denney, Chief Administrative Officer, TRCA
Mr. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Ms. Ulli Watkiss, City Clerk, Toronto



RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL MEETING NO. 12 DATED JUNE 12, 2012

MOTIONS

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

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,

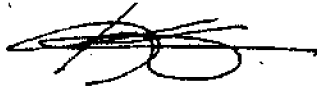
Whereas Markham Council on May 31, 2011, reaffirmed that the Milne Dam Conservation Area is included in the Rouge Park North Management Plan, and resolved that Council will give consideration to recommending the inclusion of the Milne Dam Conservation Area as part of any future deliberations on the boundaries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



Kimberley Kitteringham
Town Clerk

Copy to:

- The Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper
- 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 Walkiss, City Clerk, Toronto
- Mr. Brian Denney, CAO, TRCA

