
Subject: FW: Regional OPA and Growth Plans

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From: Jim Robb

Sent: November 11, 2009 3:02 PM

To: Scarpitti, Frank; Heath, Jack; Jones, Jim; Virgilio, Joseph; Burke, Valerie; Shapero, Erin; Moretti, Carolina; Webster, John; Horchik, Dan; Kanapathi, Logan; Chiu, Alex; Regionalclerk@york.ca; futureyork@york.ca; mchan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; hjaczek.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; peter.shurmanco@pc.ola.org;

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Subject: RE: Regional OPA and Growth Plans

Importance: High

Dear York Region Chair and Regional Councillors:

Please accept this Email as my request to make a PowerPoint presentation to York Region Council on Thursday November 19, 2009, regarding York Region's Official Plan Amendment(s) and associated growth proposals.

At a recent meeting of Markham Ratepayer groups, residents were unanimously opposed to York Region's draft Official Plan and associated proposals for a 50% increase in Markham's population by 2031 (151,000 more people) and a 7.3 square kilometre (7.3 million square metre) increase in sprawl onto Markham's irreplaceable farmland and greenspace.

To protect Markham's quality of life, environment, foodlands, communities and property values , I strongly urge York Region Council to:

- 1. Refrain from passing the amended Regional Official Plan and associated growth plans until further public consultation has occurred to better protect Markham's residents and future;**
- 2. Work with other levels of government to limit Markham's population growth to less than 25% over the next 22 years and avoid exceeding environmental, social, administrative and infrastructure carrying capacities;**
- 3. Support a 10 year moratorium on Urban Expansions to protect Markham's rural heritage, foodland and greenspace;**
- 4. Expand the Greenbelt to protect 75% of Markham's "whitebelt" lands as a permanent Foodbelt and Natural Heritage System;**
- 5. Fully support the creation of a 40,000 acre Rouge National Park;**
- 6. Protect residential communities from over-intensification by enacting height restrictions (e.g. 6 storeys) near existing residential communities and by directing intense development to transit, transportation, employment and mixed-use nodes.**

I look forward to addressing York Region Council on November 19, 2009.

There could be considerable voter push-back and growing public opposition to York Region's OPA and growth plans, if the above public concerns and recommendations are ignored.

Sincerely,

Jim Robb,
for the Rouge Duffins Greenspace Coalition