



DON WATERSHED REGENERATION COUNCIL

January 22, 2009

Mr. Learie Miller
Senior Planner Environmental Policy
Planning & Urban Design Department
Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

Dear Mr. Miller,

**RE: Utilization of Don Watershed Regeneration Council grant to fund the
installation of watercourse identification signs in the Rouge Watershed**

I am writing to confirm that the Don Watershed Regeneration Council (DWRC)* supports a portion of the funding provided by the Town of Markham to the DWRC to go towards assisting in the identification of the Rouge River and its tributaries through the installation of water crossing signs along major roadways within the Town of Markham, outside of Rouge Park boundaries. The funding to be provided through the DWRC grant will cover the cost to produce the signs and purchase the hardware. The Town will be responsible for installation.

Although exact locations for the signs in the Rouge watershed have not been finalized, we expect that there may be close to 100 locations that will require signage. Based on this preliminary estimate, we are anticipating the hardware and production of signs to cost approximately \$27,000 (\$15,000 for the production of the signs + \$12,000 to purchase the hardware). As suitable locations are firmed up, the total amount the DWRC grant will cover will be finalized.

We feel that this important project will heighten people's recognition of the river within the community and encourage greater public awareness and stewardship of local water resources. As a long-standing target of the DWRC for the Don watershed, we are pleased that Markham has recently taken the steps that will soon make this a reality for both the Don and the Rouge watersheds.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Goodwin', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Phil Goodwin
Chair, Don Watershed Regeneration Council

Cc. Lilli Duoba, Town of Markham
Adele Freeman, Director, Watershed Management, TRCA

...over

**** Don Watershed Regeneration Council***

The Don Watershed Regeneration Council (DWRC) is a volunteer, watershed-wide advisory committee established by Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) in 1994 to help restore the Don River watershed to a healthy, sustainable natural environment. The DWRC is a sub-committee of the TRCA's Watershed Management Advisory Board. The Council is composed of community members, elected officials and representatives from agencies, businesses, environmental non-governmental organizations and academic institutions located within or concerned with the future of the watershed.

A comprehensive strategy – Forty Steps to a New Don – was completed in 1994 and, through the efforts of thousands of volunteers and in partnership with municipalities and environmental groups, we are achieving progress towards the goals of the strategy. Three major principles guide us:

- 1. protect what is healthy,*
- 2. regenerate what is degraded; and*
- 3. take responsibility for the Don.*

A new, updated Don Watershed Plan is in preparation which will reflect broader watershed issues of sustainability including water and energy efficiency and emerging challenges such as climate change.

As well as advising TRCA, the DWRC provides comments to other government agencies (federal, provincial and municipal) on matters pertaining to the interests and activities of the environmental nongovernmental organizations which are members of the Council. The comments provided are the views of the DWRC and are not necessarily the views of TRCA.

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