

General Letter

April 3, 2007

Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Blvd.
Markham, ON
L3R 9W3

Attention: Mayor Scarpitti and Town Councillors

Dear Mayor Scarpitti and Town Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the York Downs Golf & Country Club located at 4134 16th Avenue in Unionville. The majority of our 1,200 members are residents of the Town of Markham.

The York Downs Golf & Country Club is concerned with the Town of Markham's decision to move ahead with a by-law to restrict the use of pesticides. While we understand the Town's desire to reduce pesticide use, we cannot provide the playing conditions that our membership requires without the use of some pesticides. Should Markham eliminate the use of pesticides on golf courses, this would greatly disadvantage our ability to attract and keep members. Golfers will move to golf courses outside the Town of Markham where they can find the level of conditioning they desire.

The management of our club includes a qualified golf course superintendent who is licensed by the province of Ontario to apply pesticides and is educated in the principles of integrated pest management (IPM). We are in the process of becoming IPM Accredited through the IPM/PHC Council of Canada.

We feel confident that our management practices meet the best in the industry. Unfortunately, we are not able to completely eliminate pesticide use at this time. We are hopeful that research and new products will allow us to find alternatives in time. Until then, IPM is the best solution and we are willing to prove that we are practicing IPM by becoming Accredited.

Yours sincerely,

Leonardo De La Fuente
General Manager