



Mount Pleasant Group
of Cemeteries

June 25, 2007

Mayor Frank Scarpetti
Mayor
Environmental Leadership
Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Blvd,
Markham, ON
L3R 9W3

Dear Mayor Scarpetti:

RE: Pesticide By-Law Regulating the Non- Essential Use of Pesticides on
Public and Private Property

I am writing to you in regards to the above noted proposed by-law. While Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries supports the overall direction and spirit of the new by-law, we object strenuously to the treatment and non-categorization of cemeteries. Cemeteries have a special place and purpose in the communities they serve. They are a special and unique land use and should be treated as such.

Although cemeteries are dedicated to the dead they are also a place for the living. Cemeteries are a very unique, special land use with enormous emotional, religious and cultural needs. To classify them the same as front lawns and general parkettes is disrespectful to the families they serve and undermines the important role they play in defining the very fibre and essence of the community. This is particularly disconcerting since; by contrast, your proposed by-law acknowledges and recommends that special consideration be given to the elite private and public recreational uses of golf courses and lawn bowling greens. The great cities and societies of the world have always placed a high importance on the places of the dead – cemeteries. Unfortunately the treatment afforded cemeteries in your proposed by-law is very disrespectful and insensitive. We object to this inequitable treatment of cemeteries and feel as a minimum they should receive the same treatment as the above noted recreational uses.

This is not solely an issue about cemeteries. It is about the sensitive treatment and respect for families who have lost a loved one and are going through the tremendously emotional grieving process. There are thousands of people buried in Markham, most of whom have living relatives/descendants who visit their graves. To be able to stroll the grounds and receive comfort from being able to visit a loved one is necessary to their well being and the completion of the grieving cycle. An abundance of weeds within the cemetery grounds is totally unacceptable to families and only causes to increase the emotional distress they are already going through.

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65 Overlea Boulevard
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Mount Pleasant Cemetery
Crematorium and
Mausoleum

Prospect Cemetery
Crematorium and
Mausoleum

York Cemetery
*Visitation, Chapel and
Reception Centre*

Toronto Necropolis
and Crematorium

Meadowvale Cemetery
Crematorium and
Mausoleum

Beechwood Cemetery
and Mausoleum

Pine Hills Cemetery
*Visitation, Chapel and
Reception Centre*

Elgin Mills Cemetery
*Visitation, Chapel and
Reception Centre*

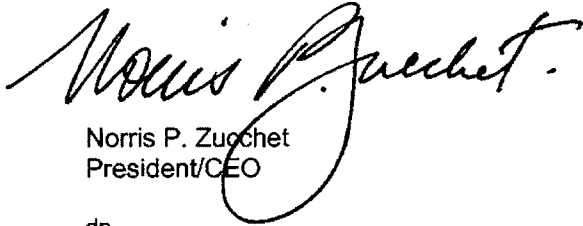
Thornton Cemetery
Crematorium and
Mausoleum

Duffin Meadows Cemetery

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We would urge you and City Council to reconsider its position and to reclassify cemeteries as a special category/use and amend the by-law to permit cemeteries to use pesticides provided they implement IPM programs and adhere to the conditions stated in the proposed by-law.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Norris P. Zuchet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Norris P. Zuchet
President/CEO

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C Members of Council, Town of Markham
Ron Hendrix, Manager Real Estate Services, Catholic Cemeteries – Archdiocese of Toronto