



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED
with Confidential Attachment**

**Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection Program –
Updated Property Acquisition List for the Oak Ridges
Moraine Land Trust**

Date:	May 31, 2010
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	General Manager, Toronto Water
Wards:	All
Reason for Confidential Information:	This report lists proposed or pending land acquisitions by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust where funding is provided by the City of Toronto.
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster B\TW\pw10015

SUMMARY

This report is seeking approval to add properties to the previously approved Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust - Property Acquisition List, funded with a \$200,000.00 grant from Toronto Water's Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection Account.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Toronto Water recommends that:

1. City Council approve the updated list of properties identified in the confidential list dated May 21, 2010, included as Attachment 1;
2. City Council authorize the public release of the confidential information contained in Attachment 1 after the acquisition of the properties by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has been completed; and

3. City Council direct the General Manager, Toronto Water, to report on the land secured by the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust upon the completion of the grant agreement.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact from this report.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

A \$200,000.00 grant to the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust for land securement, for nine specific properties, under the City's Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection Program, was approved by City Council at its meeting of November 30, December 1, 2, 4 and 7, 2009. A copy of the Council Decision Document can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/decisions/2009-12-08-cc44-dd.htm>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The protection of Lake Ontario as the source of potable water for the City of Toronto is a high priority of the City. It is recognized that protecting and improving the water quality of the various river systems and watersheds that flow into Lake Ontario through the City of Toronto is an important objective in source water protection. Currently, Toronto Water is implementing the Council approved Wet Weather Flow Mater Plan (WWFMP) to help meet this objective.

Another important tool to help meet this objective is the protection of the river systems and watersheds through the acquisition of key parcels of land as they become available, and to maintain them in a natural state.

In 2009, City Council approved a \$200,000.00 grant to Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust from Toronto Water's Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection Program to secure properties under the Federal Eco-Gift Program.

COMMENTS

The grant agreement between the City and Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) was entered into on March 31, 2010.

Negotiations are underway at various stages on four of the nine properties on the original list approved by Council. Two of the properties have received Eco-sensitivity approval. ORMLT is working with Environment Canada on the final steps to complete the process

under the Eco-Gift Program to secure a conservation easement on 26 acres of headwater and valley corridor in the Humber River watershed and almost 35 acres of headwater area in the Rouge River watershed. ORMLT is actively working on two other properties and will soon ascertain which of the remaining owners are agreeable to conservation easement on their properties.

The original list of properties approved by Council for acquisition was compiled in March 2009. Subsequently, ORMLT has identified three additional properties that meet the City's Source Water Protection criteria set out in Executive Committee Report 14.1, adopted by City Council at its meeting of November 19 and 20, 2007 and are seeking Council authority to include these in their approved list of locations to be secured under their current grant. These additional properties have been reviewed by Toronto Water staff and are considered eligible for securement under the Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection Program funded by the current grant issued to ORMLT. No additional funding is being requested.

The details of the current approved and new properties are included in Attachment 1. By approving the amended list of properties, Council will enable ORMLT, working with city officials, to achieve land securement in a timely and accountable manner.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager
Toronto Water

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Land Acquisition List – May 31, 2010
(Confidential).