

June 4, 2010

Mayor Miller and Members of Council  
City of Toronto  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

**Re: Toronto City Council consideration of a recommendation to allocate funding for the completion of the Scarborough Waterfront Trail**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) would like to thank the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee for its support of the Scarborough Waterfront Trail project. We strongly encourage Council to approve the resolution from the Committee.

At Authority Meeting #11/09, held on January 29, 2010, an item regarding the Scarborough Waterfront Access Plan was brought forward requesting direction from the Authority. In part, the item dealt with using a route along the base of the Scarborough Bluffs that could be utilized to remove biosolids from the Highland Creek Treatment Plant. After much discussion it was agreed that while the establishment of a continuous waterfront trail through Scarborough was "an important initiative, that for environmental reasons (TRCA) cannot support the use of a waterfront trail for moving waste management trucks to and/or from the Highland Creek plant, even on an emergency basis".

The issue of funding for the establishment of the Scarborough Waterfront Trail and the critical protection of bluffs from erosion has since been recognized as a critical green infrastructure project by the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee at its most recent meeting, I understand, passed unanimously a motion that included the following resolution:

*City Council approve the completion of the Scarborough Waterfront Trail [Option C in the report (March 31, 2010) from the General Manager, Toronto Water] with an additional \$2 million for fisheries habitat improvements and authorize the General Manager, Toronto Water, to make the necessary provisions in the 2011 Capital Budget to expedite the implementation of the Scarborough Waterfront Trail, funded at a rate of \$7 million/year.*

This resolution will go to City Council next week. As Chair of TRCA, I request that you strongly consider voting in favour of this recommendation. The provision of special funding for this initiative will result in more than nine kilometres of continuous, publicly accessible waterfront trail, and the completion of more than 2.5 kilometers of erosion protection for priority hazard areas along the Scarborough Bluffs.

More than thirty years ago the Scarborough sector was identified as possessing some of the most spectacular landforms on the entire waterfront. The preservation of natural features, facilitation of public access and the management of shoreline features continue to be key considerations in this sector today. And while funding from the City of Toronto has provided TRCA with the ability to address erosion hazards on a sector-by-sector basis along the waterfront for more than thirty years, which has provided limited public access and aquatic habitat enhancements as ancillary benefits of the work; until now there has been no opportunity for TRCA to connect these fragmented sectors and provide large-scale public access and aquatic habitat restoration along the Scarborough waterfront through the creation of a continuous waterfront trail.

It is estimated that this additional funding would allow all planning design, approval and implementation of works between Bluffer's Park and East Point Park to be completed by about 2017. This includes the completion of shoreline protection works for the remaining Meadowcliffe Drive, Guild Inn and Grey Abbey sectors, allowing TRCA to fulfill its mandate of providing protection to life and property from the risk of flood and erosion in a timely manner (Conservation Ontario Act, 1954).

Further to the priority erosion control projects along the shoreline, Resolution #A75/10 in regard to the Meadowcliffe Drive Erosion Control Project was approved as follows at Authority Meeting #4/10, held on May 21, 2010:

*THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff be directed to initiate construction of the Meadowcliffe Drive Erosion Control Project;*

*THAT TRCA request and encourage the City of Toronto to complete the Meadowcliffe Drive Erosion Control Project as soon as possible;*

*AND FURTHER THAT the City of Toronto be so advised.*

Without this additional funding, completion of the priority areas for shoreline protection are anticipated to take upwards of 20 years to complete at the current level of funding, as valuable tableland along the bluffs continue to be lost, aquatic habitat opportunities continue to go unrealized, and access to and enjoyment of the waterfront continue to be provided in limited amounts.

In closing, I urge you to vote in favour of this resolution for the residents of the Scarborough Bluffs who need protective works to save their properties, to protect municipal infrastructure and for enjoyment of all residents of the City of Toronto who look forward to spending their days along Scarborough's Waterfront Trail.

Sincerely,



Gerri Lynn O'Connor  
Chair