



**EX27.8.8**

**GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

Saturday, September 23, 2017

Dear Mayor Tory and Executive Committee members,

**Re: Support of Toronto Ravine Strategy**

On behalf of the Ratepayers Association and the entire Governor's Bridge community, I would like to congratulate you and City Council on this landmark report in support of Toronto's incredible Ravine System. As a supporter of Evergreen and their work, our Board is thrilled to see the report recommend a coordinated, holistic approach to the management of Toronto's ravine system. We know that Toronto's Ravine System is one of our greatest assets. Toronto's massive ravine system touches nearly every neighbourhood in Toronto, is essential for flood control and wildlife sustainability, and provides opportunities for recreation, learning and relaxation for millions of residents.

The adoption of the Ravine Strategy is a crucial step in protecting the natural ecosystem of the Ravines, and plays an important role in mitigating impacts and risks from climate change. The Ravine strategy offers the City of Toronto the opportunity to take bold steps in investing in specific ravine enhancement projects, such as improved access, new public spaces and parks, natural feature enhancements and conservations efforts.

We understand that the maintenance and improvements to our ravines and the physical infrastructure located within them is crucial, and that in a city with competing financial priorities, sustainable financing can be challenging.

The recommendation to convene a table of "Ravine Leaders" is an opportunity to partner with, and leverage private philanthropic support to catalyze third party investments in the system, as well as support actions to celebrate this unique and precious asset.

There are precedents within the ravines of this kind of shared governance structure that have met with tremendous success. As evidenced by the Evergreen leadership of Don River Valley Park Art Program, and Evergreen's Partnership with the City of Toronto for last weekend's Ravine Days, we have seen firsthand the success of a shared working model when community leaders (municipality, not for profit, and others) come together around a section of the ravine to make it better.

Retaining a healthy ravine system is of critical importance to the Governor's Bridge Community. Our ravines are vital public spaces that must be protected and enhanced for the enjoyment of current and future generations. The Board is committed to working with the city to ensure that the ravine system remains a precious asset.

I urge you and the Executive Committee to support the recommendations outlined in item EX27.8m, and reconfirm your support for a thriving Toronto Ravine System.

Yours truly,

**Governors Bridge Ratepayers Association**

*Chris Fraser*

Chris Fraser  
President