

April 30, 2010

10-020

**TRCA SUPPORTS MAYOR'S BID TO DESIGNATE
CLAIREVILLE AS AN URBAN FOREST**

BRAMPTON, ON: The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Board of Directors today voted unanimously in favour of a motion presented by Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell requesting that Claireville Conservation Area (CCA) be formally identified as an Urban Forest, banning further development.

With 2,040 of its approximately 2,100 acres located in Brampton, Claireville Conservation Area Urban Forest is a mosaic of natural creeks, woodlands, wetlands and meadows, and supports the ecological health, diversity and sustainability of the local and regional ecosystem.

The resolution adopted today sets in motion the creation of a Strategic Vision by the TRCA, in partnership with the City of Brampton and other interested municipalities, to formalize a "Nature First" philosophy when considering the future of the CCA. This Strategic Vision will help to inform the TRCA's comprehensive 10-year Management Plan currently underway for Claireville.

"The environmentally sound principles in my motion will ensure that the new Management Plan will protect this pristine, natural urban forest and wilderness area in our city for future generations," said Mayor Susan Fennell. "Our strong partnership with the TRCA and the Friends of Claireville will ensure that the CCA continues to leave a legacy of environmental stewardship for generations to come."

The Friends of Claireville, whose goal is that the CCA remain a naturalized area unencumbered for future generations, supported Mayor Fennell's motion that CCA be identified as an Urban Forest and protected from development.

"I believe this represents a real turning point in the restoration and protection of Claireville," said John Willetts, President of the Friends of Claireville. "The Mayor's motion highlights that the highest environmental standards and science must be used to ensure that no further development or environmental degradation occurs within the CCA. The Friends of Claireville have always believed in a nature first philosophy for the CCA."

The Claireville Conservation Area is an 848 hectare (2100 acre) property owned by the TRCA within the West Humber River Subwatershed, in the southeast corner of Brampton. A small portion (27 hectares) of the CCA is in the City of Toronto.

TRCA acquired numerous agricultural lands that constitute the CCA in 1957 and constructed the Claireville Dam and Reservoir in 1964 to control flooding in the Lower Humber River. In addition to its water management functions, the reservoir provides recreation and aquatic resources, and the remainder of the CCA contains significant natural and cultural heritage features.

About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple 'A' credit rating by Standard & Poor's, reflecting its successful economy and debt-free position. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak more than 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being known as the Flower City of Canada. Brampton has been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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