



RFRA Members Update

York Region's Growth Plans for Markham

In our last update we mentioned that Jim Robb of the Friends of the Rouge Watershed is concerned with York Region's growth plans for Markham and is asking for Markham residents to help convey this concern to our Mayor and councillors. York Region's plans include a 50% increase in Markham's population by 2031 (151,000 people) and sprawling the growth into our farmland and greenspace (7.3 square kilometer).

In today's Economist and Sun you can find a published article on the front page, as well, in Thursday's paper on page 13. Detailed information can be found on their website at:

<http://protectmarkham.wordpress.com/>

On Tuesday December 1st there will be a council meeting where Mr. Robb will be presenting his arguments and he has asked for your support to attend the council meeting and/or to write to our Mayor echoing the same concerns. (All information can be found on their website including addresses, phone numbers and emails).

If this unsustainable York Region growth plan is approved, Markham residents will suffer:

1. increased traffic congestion, crowding of schools and public facilities and loss of quality of life;
2. permanent loss of some of the finest foodland in Canada;
3. increased pollution, flooding, erosion and property damage from upstream development;
4. damage to community values, character and property values

RFRA has helped this group deliver a limited number of flyers in the neighbourhood, however not every home in our community received one today and an on-line copy is available at:

<http://protectmarkham.files.wordpress.com/2009/11/markham-foodbelt-info-flyer-nov-20-091.pdf>

Jim Robb's presentation to Council:

<http://www.markham.ca/markham/ccbs/indexfile/Agendas/2009/Council/cl091201/Jim%20Robb%20Presentation.pdf>

This is a very important issue and RFRA has lent our support to this cause. Please if you plan to be a long term resident of Markham, have your say before it's too late. The meeting will be held at the Town on Dec 1st, at 7:00 pm. Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd. (Hwy 7 & Warden)

Visit www.rfra.ca— comments and emails can be sent to: info@rfra.ca

