

Mayor Barrow and Members of Council  
Town of Richmond Hill  
225 East Beaver Creek Road  
Richmond Hill, ON, L4B 3P4

VIA EMAIL

December 3, 2019

**Re: Parks and Trails in City of Richmond Hill (Committee of the Whole Meeting CW#15-19 on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, Item 11.1.1: Parks and Trails – Memorandum from staff dated September 11, 2019 regarding options for parks and trails within the City of Richmond Hill)**

Dear Mayor Barrow and Members of Council,

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has had a longstanding collaborative working relationship with the City of Richmond Hill. For the past several decades, we have been pleased to cooperate on many initiatives of mutual interest including greenspace management, restoration, trails, growth initiatives, and community education and engagement.

TRCA is particularly interested in working closely with the City of Richmond Hill to move forward our mutual goals related to trail development. Currently, TRCA is working with the City on several trail projects. This includes a restoration and park master plan for the David Dunlop Observatory property that involves a trail component, as well as trail development on the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve from the Macleod's Landing neighbourhood.

This existing and planned work complements the TRCA Trail Strategy for the Greater Toronto Region ("TRCA Trail Strategy"), which was recently finalized and approved by the TRCA Board of Directors. The TRCA Trail Strategy provides a framework to guide the planning, development and management of an inter-connected regional trail network, including laying out a plan to collaborate with municipal partners. Relevant priorities in Richmond Hill outlined in the TRCA Trail Strategy include the Oak Ridges Moraine Corridor Park Trail, the Lake to Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail, the Pipeline Trail and the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Trail. TRCA will be organizing municipality-specific working groups to implement the Trail Strategy in a collaborative manner and will be reaching out to City staff shortly to arrange an initial meeting.

As the City of Richmond Hill will be conducting its 2020 Parks Plan Review in the coming year, TRCA would be happy to work with relevant City staff to ensure that the outcomes of the 2020 Parks Plan Review are complemented by the ongoing implementation of the TRCA Trail Strategy. This cooperation between our respective organizations will help enable a regional integrated trail system, as well as support the growing population of Richmond Hill by maximizing the parks planning efforts of City staff.

This cooperation and alignment will be critical as TRCA works with the City of Richmond Hill in the coming months to establish a Memorandum of Understanding for various TRCA services, in accordance with recent amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This agreement will lay out a more transparent process for service delivery between our organizations and will help TRCA ensure that our partnership with the City of Richmond Hill meets the municipality's current and emerging needs.

We look forward to meeting with you and your colleagues to discuss opportunities that align with our shared objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. MacKenzie', with a stylized, overlapping loop and a horizontal line extending to the right.

John MacKenzie, M.Sc. (PI) MCIP, RPP  
Chief Executive Officer