



 **Toronto**
Councillor Paul Ainslie

Toronto City Councillor
Scarborough East, Ward 43

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March 10, 2010

Councillor Mike Del Grande
Chair, Scarborough Community Council
& Scarborough Community Council Members
150 Borough Drive
Scarborough, ON M1P 4N7

Dear Scarborough Community Council Chair and Scarborough Council Members,

This motion requests that we as Scarborough Councillors, who were elected to represent the people of Scarborough, and protect their interests, do so by asking Toronto City Council to request that the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario not be permitted to industrialize any Federal/Provincial Crown Lands and/or adjacent waterways along the Scarborough Bluffs, waterfront or escarpment.

The Scarborough waterfront sits on the shores of Lake Ontario providing some of the most spectacular views in Southern Ontario. Along the escarpment sits a natural habitat which is home to many species and wildlife including birds, deer, fish and many plants. Parts of the area boasts a Carolinian forest which has become a haven for bird watchers; a list of the wildlife and plant species present in the forest can be found at http://www.carolinian.org/SpeciesHabitats_RepSpecies.htm.

Realizing its majestic beauty all three levels of government in 2001 dedicated \$1.5-billion to the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Project to create a 46-kilometre path so residents could walk from Etobicoke to Scarborough along the waters edge. The City has been working with citizen groups to enhance the waterfront. Citizen volunteers have dedicated their time to ensure the waterfront is beautified; the federal government's assurance to them not to industrialize the crown lands would enhance their hard work.

By 2011 the investment of \$29 million will have been spent to complete the Port Union Waterfront Park for 3.6 kilometres of trails, shoreline and wetlands from the Rouge River to Highland Creek on Lake Ontario.

In 2010 City Council adopted a motion to initiate an environmental study for the removal of the Gardiner Expressway for the 2.4 kilometre stretch from Lower Jarvis Street to east of the Don Valley Parkway at Logan Avenue, for a boulevard style highway; in an effort to beautify our waterfront while making it more accessible. The estimated cost sits at \$300-million.

On the City of Toronto's website John Campbell, Waterfront Toronto chief executive states, "Toronto's waterfront is our front porch to the world. With the right kind of investment, the waterfront will become a necklace of green, with pearls of activity; people living, working and enjoying it with pride and passion. The new Toronto waterfront will offer the quiet joy of strolling along miles of wetlands, parks, boardwalks, promenades and heritage foot trails. It will offer the excitement of arts festivals, bike and boat races and activity-filled public squares."

This is the track which I believe we should remain steady on. In order to do so, I am suggesting we ensure our investment remains true to its goals which would include protecting the Crown Lands which abut our waterfront.

Without this protection we as the City of Toronto do not truly have control of our waterfront revitalization goals.

I look forward to your support so that we, as Scarborough Councillors, may protect the interests of our residents while protecting the City of Toronto's investment towards the Scarborough waterfront.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Scarborough East Ward 43

c. Yvonne Davies, Committee Administrator, City Clerks Department