

# **THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT**

## **Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek**

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Mayor David Miller

Taylor Massey Councillors Norm Kelly, Michael Thompson, Adrian Heaps, Janet Davis

February 21, 2007

Re: An Update from the Taylor Massey Project

Dear Mayor Miller and Councillors Kelly, Thompson, Heaps, and Davis

As the days start to lengthen and we head toward spring, the Taylor Massey Project, a not-for-profit community-based organization that engages local residents in celebrating and protecting Taylor Massey Creek, is pleased to provide this brief update on both our efforts in 2006 and the Board's strategic initiatives for watershed health in 2007.

### Update on 2006

During 2006, the TMP continued to enjoy significant community support. Our linkages with 23 community organizations allowed us collectively to:

- Stage 11 events involving 831 participants;
- Plant 374 trees and shrubs, as well as mulch stock planted in previous years; and,
- Pick up over 135 bags of litter, as well as about 40 tires, a dozen shopping carts, and mounds of other debris.

We also made submissions to the City on natural heritage protection, cycling paths, and the imperative for a watershed management approach for the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan. The Warden Woods Ecological Inventory, initiated in late 2005, was advanced and will be completed shortly.

We express our deep appreciation to the City for its support of our on-the-ground efforts. In particular, Councillors Kelly, Thompson, and Altobello/Barron supported and/or participated in and plantings, clean-ups, and other public events; the City provided all the trees and shrubs we planted last year, as well as supplying materials for clean-ups, and; staff in Forestry initiated, pursuant to a motion of the Transportation and Planning Committee following a presentation from the TMP, an Environmental Baseline Study of Warden Woods Park, to which we provided some of our initial field observations.

We thank all the elected and staff members of the City for their support in 2006, and extend our special appreciation to Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, both for their efforts in Warden Woods and for increasing our annual allocation of trees and shrubs to 1,000 for 2007.

### Strategic Initiatives for 2007

For 2007, the TMP will coordinate a slightly-reduced event schedule than in previous years in order to increase our efforts on three strategic goals, as described below.

1. Protecting Warden Woods

The TMP will soon complete our Warden Woods Ecological Inventory. Our report will take into account and benefits greatly from the Environmental Baseline Study of Warden Woods Park recently completed for the City. Copies of our report and recommendations will be forwarded shortly.

2. Securing the Warden Hydro Corridor as Greenspace

The TMP will continue our efforts to have the City secure the Warden Hydro Corridor (WHC) and manage it as greenspace. We believe the WHC has enough space to contain both pedestrian and dedicated cycling paths, that cycling paths located in the WHC will be much safer and more highly used than the proposed cycling lanes along Pharmacy Avenue, and that the corridor could harbour 200,000-250,000 trees and shrubs.

A regenerated WHC would add to the green infrastructure of the City, offer increased opportunities for recreation and commuter cycling, assist Toronto in its goal of expanding its urban canopy, and help off-set heat island impacts in local neighbourhoods. Copies of a major submission on the WHC will be forwarded as soon as it is complete.

3. Shifting the City of Toronto toward Watershed Management

For several years, the TMP has been suggesting the City adopt a watershed management approach to our local watercourses, especially vis-à-vis the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan. Our efforts in this regard, as well as those of others, have resulted in some progress, such as the Outfall Water Quality Testing Program. On this program, we express our appreciation to Toronto Water for completing the outfall testing in Taylor Massey Creek and sharing their findings with us at a community meeting last October and we commit to monitoring the on-going progress of this program and its recommendations for action.

On a broader scale, however, we remain concerned about the lack of integration of land use planning, land acquisition, parks and forest management, and on-going actions within Works and Toronto Water within the watershed, and we are not alone in the desire to see improved watershed management in the City.

Last year, for example, the Don Watershed Regeneration Council wrote the Wet Weather Flow Implementation Advisory Committee and recommended that Taylor Massey Creek become a "pilot project to demonstrate the value of an integrated, ecosystem approach to stormwater management and a comprehensive package of improvements on a subwatershed basis". A submission of our own, meanwhile, made the over-arching recommendation that the best way this could be implemented would be for the City to appoint a Taylor Massey Creek Watershed Management Coordinator.

In 2007, the TMP will augment previous submissions with concrete recommendations on the ecological, economic, and social benefits of adopting a watershed management approach to Wet Weather Flow in Taylor Massey Creek, and indeed establishing watershed management as a cornerstone of sound environment program administration within the City.

We look forward to another enjoyable year in Taylor Massey Creek, thank you for your past support, extend our on-going cooperation to the City, and wish you all the best for the year.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Penny*

Chair

cc Additional Councillors and Selected staff  
Members and Staff, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
Don Watershed Regeneration Council  
Taskforce to Bring Back the Don  
Sister organizations

### *About The Taylor Massey Project*

Established in 2003, the TMP focuses on:

- Engaging local residents through community-based social marketing focused on clean-ups, plantings, and educational activities.
- Connecting the communities of the Creek with new trails, bridges, and street & railway crossings; and,
- Developing a comprehensive watershed management approach to protect and restore the Creek, including both aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

Our extensive website, at [www.TheTMP.org](http://www.TheTMP.org), includes background information about the project, detailed "Reach Fact Sheets" on each section of the watercourse and the Warden Hydro Corridor, 69 aerial photographs covering every meter of the creek and the corridor, and copies of all our submissions to local agencies.