

Adding Value to the new Don Watershed Plan
a presentation to the TRCA, July 25, 2008



THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT

Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek

The Taylor Massey Watershed



Image courtesy of First Base Solutions and the TRCA

- Most polluted tributary to the Don, Ontario's most polluted river
- High flows due to:
 - an absence of wetlands;
 - no storm-water ponds; &
 - many hardened sections
- Some nice natural areas in the southern half, but very little in the north
- Fragmented trail system
- The “Lost Reach”, from just south of Ellesmere to Lawrence

The Taylor Massey Project

The TMP seeks to engage local residents in the enjoyment, protection, and restoration of Taylor Massey Creek and its watershed.



Image courtesy of First Base Solutions and the TRCA

Our Objectives

- **To increase community awareness of the watercourse;**
- **To restore the natural heritage of Creek valley-lands and to improve the water quality and aquatic habitats of the Creek; and,**
- **To ensure the creation of the Taylor Massey Trail along the whole of the Creek as well as within the Warden Hydro Corridor.**

Working from the Ground Up

- **We pursue our objectives through community-based social marketing, establishing “Reach Stewardship Groups” and working with about 20 local partners.**
- **Over the last 5½ years we have collectively:**
 - **Staged 65 events with 3,414 participants;**
 - **Planted 3,500 trees and shrubs;**
 - **Picked up more than 1,310 bags of litter;&**
 - **Made over 20 submissions to local agencies.**

Our Ground Up experience suggests that the new Don Watershed Plan should:

- **Be based on sub-watershed current conditions reports (CCRs);**
- **Identify sets of sub-watershed goals;**
- **Have articulated, practical, and measureable goals for each reach of the Creek, including an estimated total cost and source of funds; &**
- **Include monitoring and enforcement.**

Working from the Ground Up presents a three-phase process that would:

- 1. Reclaim each Reach to practical, targeted goals, with extensive community engagement.**

This would in turn:

- 2. Restore each sub-watershed; and,**
- 3. Result in a regenerated Don Watershed.**

Current Goal of the TRCA Plan, as we understand it:

- Three to five “major” concept sites to capture the public imagination for a regenerated Don watershed.
- A possible series of “secondary” concept sites.



Image courtesy of First Base
Solutions and the TRCA

**The Don Council's perspective
and the TMP's perspective are
not mutually exclusive.**

**However, we think the Council's
Top Down approach will not
regenerate the Don as quickly,
nor as effectively, nor will it
engage the public as much as a
Ground Up, reach-by-reach
approach to regenerating the Don.**

Our Next Step

To work with staff and the Don Council to augment the “major” concept site approach with a commitment to develop a reach-by-reach regeneration plan for the Don, using Taylor Massey Creek as a model.



Image courtesy of First Base Solutions and the TRCA

Our Request to the TRCA

That the TRCA signal to the Don Council that the Authority will seek funding for reach-by-reach plans to regenerate the Don, with senior government partners as needed.



Image courtesy of First Base Solutions and the TRCA

We think that regenerating the Don is as important as seeking partners and funding for the Living City Centre at Kortright or the Pearson Eco-Industrial Project.

We urge you to accept your historic responsibility for the current state of Taylor Massey Creek and the Don River as you seek to plant new seeds for a more sustainable future.

THANK YOU



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