

THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT

Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek

September 4, 2006

Councillors Janet Davis and Glenn DeBearemaeker, Co-chairs, and
Members, City of Toronto Wet Weather Flow Implementation Advisory Committee
PDF via e-mail

Dear Co-chairs and Members of the Committee,

In its letter to you dated May 31, 2006, the Don Watershed Regeneration Council writes:
“We suggest that the Taylor Massey subwatershed be used as 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.”

We are extremely pleased that the Don Council has supported this vision, a vision we
developed and launched in 2003 and for which we continue to advocate extensively, both
to the City and within the Don Council.

As a result of our experiences in dealing with numerous City departments and staff, as
well as with other agencies, we offer one over-arching suggestion about how to
effectively implement the comment from the Don Council, and to achieve the vision of
both a restored watershed and engaged communities:

We believe that the best way that a comprehensive watershed management
approach for Taylor Massey Creek can be developed and implemented is if the
City appoints a Taylor Massey Creek Watershed Management Co-ordinator. We
believe that only a City co-ordinator, reporting directly to senior management, can
ensure that all internal departments and external agencies co-operate fully to
restore the watershed, be accessible to Toronto’s residents, and be accountable to
the City for maintaining and enhancing ecological integrity, engaging the
community, adhering to budgets, and meeting time-lines.

Naturally, we remain dedicated to helping the City and our community partners in
developing a comprehensive watershed management approach, and would be pleased to
chat with you on this matter at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Nancy Penny
Chair

cc Mayor David Miller
Councillors Norm Kelly, Harvey Barron, and Michael Thompson
Councillor Adam Giambrone, Vice Chair, Works Committee
Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager, Toronto Water
Task Force to Bring Back the Don
The TRCA and its Don Watershed Regeneration Council

Background Material on The Taylor Massey Project

The TMP was developed with over 300 hours of volunteer time during the winter of 2002, launched as a project within Friends of the Don East in the spring of 2003, and became an independent organization in November, 2004.

Our extensive website, at www.TheTMP.org, includes detailed fact sheets on every reach in the watercourse, each of which also highlights the TMP's comments on Wet Weather Flow priorities for that reach, and copies of all our submissions to local agencies.

Currently, the TMP focuses on developing a comprehensive watershed management approach to restore the Creek, which includes reduced pollution and stormwater run-off, restored aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and trail construction, as well engaging local residents through community-based social marketing.

Recent TMP initiatives include:

- Comments to the City of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Master Plan public consultation process on the need to ensure that WWF budgetary expenditures for "green infrastructure" are not diminished as a result of possible cost over-runs for pipes and concrete;
- Extensive submissions to the City and other agencies on stormwater pollution, spills, encroachment, riparian restoration, and watershed management, including the identification to the City of over 30 outfalls of concern under the City's Storm Outfall Monitoring Program in 2005 and comments on the replacement of a watermain in Taylor Creek Park, 2006;
- On-going efforts to ask the City to acquire stewardship over the Warden Hydro Corridor and to ensure that it include trails and massive plantings to add to the urban forest, as part of the development of proposed The Taylor Massey Trail, a contiguous trail to connect the watershed, including an August 2006 submission on future cycling trails in the northern third of the watershed;
- The launch of the Warden Woods Ecosystem Inventory, due to be published in September, 2006, and for which we have already shared some base mapping with the City; and,
- The development of a community engagement program with 22 partners that involved over 1,000 individuals in clean-ups, plantings, and educational activities in 2005, and over 650 so far in 2006.