

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - MARCH 22, 2004

REQUEST FOR STAFF TO REPORT ON PARTNERING WITH EARTH RANGERS

RECOMMENDATION

Councillor Peter Meffe recommends:

That staff be directed to report on the feasibility of partnering with the Earth Rangers/Kortright Centre to provide educational and environmental programs to be made available to students in the City of Vaughan.

Purpose

The purpose of this recommendation is to provide Council with information in order to further explore the possibility of providing a new Community Program with the Earth Rangers/Kortright Centre.

Background - Analysis and Options

Each year thousands of wild animals are injured, displaced or orphaned as a result of human activity. Contaminants such as oil spills, pollution, and human encroachment all contribute to the destruction of their habitat. The responsibility in helping these animals is twofold, not only because we caused the problem, but we are both dependent on the same ecosystems.

Earth Rangers is providing immediate aid through their professional wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and research programs. While these programs are important, educating the public and behaviour modification will address the long-term issues. Aiming the program through their Youth Education Programs connect children with animals and nature and teach them that their actions can make a difference, which in turn will inspire them to make a lifelong commitment to improve the environment.

Please see the attached brochure for further information.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

It is my feeling that partnering with the Earth Rangers and providing this service to the students in the City of Vaughan will encourage and promote education and would effect a positive change in our environment improving everyone's quality of life.

Attachments

Earth Rangers Program Update

Report prepared by:

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Meffe,
Councillor, Ward 1



Earth Rangers Programs Update

Prepared for: Peter Meffe, Ward 1 Councillor – City of Vaughan
February 13, 2004

Education Programs

Assembly Program

- Testing completed with OISE (University of Toronto)
- Partnership established with the York Region District School Board
- Over 25,000 kids have been inspired by our assembly program

Action Program

- Over 30 action projects completed to date
- 50 projects underway for 2004

Outdoor Experiences Program

- Partnerships with Outward Bound Canada and Toronto and Region Conservation
- Over 1,000 children sent to outdoor centres and summer camps to date

Wildlife Centre

- Scheduled move-in date March 1, 2004

Fundraising

New partners include:

- Ernst & Young Canada - \$25,000
- Hewlett Packard (Canada) Co. - \$100,000
- Honda Canada - TBD
- IBM - \$50,000
- Magna International - \$50,000
- Microsoft - \$170,000

General

- Earth Rangers website launched in January 2004 – www.earthrangers.ca

N. Dean - 2/13/2004

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