

RELIEF OF CITY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES – EARTH RANGERS

Recommendation

The Director of Reserves and Investments in consultation with the Commissioner of Finance and Corporate Services and the Director of Legal Services recommends:

That the following report be received for information purposes.

Purpose

The Earth Rangers are requesting relief of City of Vaughan development charges for their Wildlife Centre at the Kortright Centre.

Background - Analysis and Options

The "Earth Rangers" is a charitable program developed by the Schad Foundation, is constructing a 5,831 sq metre wildlife veterinary and rehabilitation centre at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. The Earth Rangers applied for and were issued a foundation permit on July 31, 2002. All development charges were paid in full. Representatives from the Earth Rangers made a presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 21, 2002, requesting relief from City development charges. The Committee of the Whole received the deputation and referred the request to staff for a report.

The primary function of the wildlife centre is to rehabilitate sick, injured, orphaned or displaced wildlife. The centre will admit approximately 5,000 animals per year and will include the following facilities:

- a wildlife veterinarian facility
- indoor rehabilitation rooms
- outdoor rehabilitation
- a small apartment for veterinarian interns
- offices for the administration of the program
- a small education area

The centre will operate 365 days a year and will not be open to the public with the exception of the animal drop off and small education areas. The centre will provide educational outreach programs to the public through a wildlife hotline and website, school assembly programs as well as other community support efforts.

The City of Vaughan Development Charges By-law 299-99 does not provide for an exemption of development charges for charitable organizations on the basis that all forms of growth increase demand for services. Based on our current City of Vaughan development charge by-law, the Earth Rangers wildlife veterinary and rehabilitation centre is subject to the City's development charges at the prevailing non-residential rate.

Conclusion

There are no provisions in the By-law to provide an exemption.

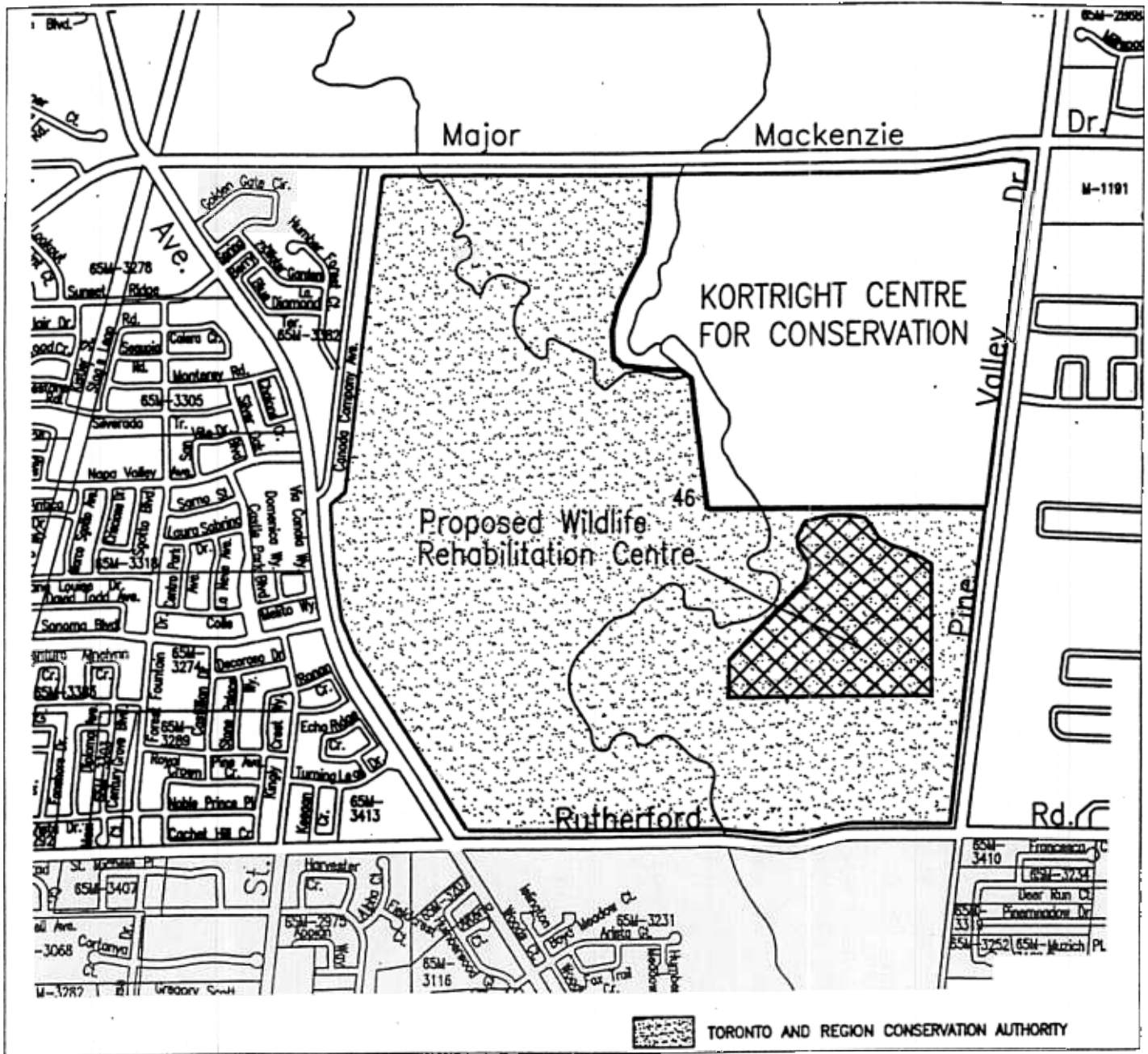
Attachments

1. Location Map

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferruccio Castellarin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ferruccio Castellarin
Director of Reserves and Investments



ATTACHMENT

Location Map

Earth Rangers
Part Lot 17,18 Conc. 7

City of Vaughan

April 11/2002