

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) SEPTEMBER 28, 2004**

**TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
TERRESTRIAL NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM STRATEGY  
GENERAL FILE 22.8.8**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Planning recommends:

1. THAT this report BE RECEIVED for information purposes;
2. THAT the presentation by TRCA staff on the Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy BE RECEIVED; and
3. THAT staff report back to a future Committee of the Whole on the Strategy.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with background information on the TRCA's Draft Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy and for TRCA staff to make a presentation on the strategy to Committee.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has prepared a new strategy addressing terrestrial natural heritage protection and management called the "Toronto and Region Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy" (TNHSS). The TNHSS is a strategy which protects and enhances the terrestrial natural heritage system by increasing the amount and quality of forest and wetland habitats within the TRCA's jurisdiction. It uses ecological criteria to identify an expanded and targeted land base for inclusion into a natural heritage system.

The TRCA has targeted 30% natural cover for the Toronto Region, whereas currently, the existing natural cover for the Toronto Region is 17%. The strategy identifies a target Terrestrial Natural Heritage System which is comprised of existing natural cover, and potential natural cover. The strategy also identifies how and where a land base for potential natural cover can be secured to achieve the goal of 30% natural cover.

Achieving the target terrestrial natural heritage system would involve protection of all existing natural cover and providing the adequate land for an expanded system beyond the natural cover, as identified in the TNHSS which would either be targeted for restoration and enhancement or allowed to restore naturally.

The TNHSS provides for the implementation of the strategy through the municipal planning process, where Official Plans would be amended to reflect this strategy in addition to land acquisition and securement; public land management and restoration; private land stewardship, education and restoration.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved. This initiative is consistent with the priorities established in Section 4.6.2 in encouraging the preservation of significant natural areas, and in Section 5.3 in strengthening Vaughan's relationship with other government authorities and agencies.

## **Conclusion**

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has prepared a new strategy on Terrestrial Natural Heritage, based on ecological criteria which identifies an expanded and targeted land base for the inclusion in a terrestrial natural heritage system. TRCA staff will be making a presentation to Working Session on the strategy, and staff will be preparing a detailed report on the strategy to a future Committee of the Whole.

## **Attachments**

n/a

## **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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