

**MEMBER'S RESOLUTION  
CITY OF VAUGHAN WATERCOURSE IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE-  
DON AND HUMBER WATERSHED**

The Finance and Administration Committee, at its meeting of February 13, 2012 (Item 7, Report No. 2) recommended the following:

**The Finance and Administration Committee recommends :**

- 1) **That the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Regional Councillor Di Biase, dated February 13, 2012, be approved; and**
- 2) **That \$5,120 be added to the 2012 budget and that this resolution be forwarded to the February 13, 2012 Special Council meeting for consideration.**

Resolution of Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase, dated February 13, 2012.

**Member's Resolution**

Submitted by Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase

***Whereas**, there has been a request to the City of Vaughan by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to participate in the Watercourse Identification Signage program that would see watercourse identification signs installed on City and Regional roadways within the Don and Humber Watersheds; and,*

***Whereas**, Region of York Council and Town of Markham Council have approved their own respective participation in the Watercourse Identification Signage program and approved funding to install watercourse signage on all Region of York right of ways and Town of Markham right of way signage; and,*

***Whereas**, the costs of the Don Watershed identification signage has been paid for by TRCA through its fundraising activities; and,*

***Whereas**, the installation costs for the Don Watershed signage is estimated to be \$5,120; and,*

***Whereas**, signing watercourses is good stewardship, heightens awareness of this natural resource and reinforces the interconnectedness of our natural environment within local communities;*

***It Is therefore recommended** that the City of Vaughan participate in the Watercourse Identification Signage program including confirming and developing the names of watercourses for the Don and Humber Watershed located within its municipal boundary; and,*

*That the City install the Don Watershed signage located within the City's right of ways in 2012; and*

*That costs to produce and install the 164 Humber Watershed signage be brought forward in the 2013 Budget deliberations; and,*

*That the Region of York be requested to produce, install and fund the Humber Watershed signage located within its regional right of ways.*

**Attachments**

1. Watercourse Signage Mapping & TRCA Briefing Notes on Program

## **WATERCOURSE IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE**

City of Vaughan and Town of Richmond Hill Briefing Note for Discussion

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### **RATIONALE:**

A long-standing target of the Don Watershed Regeneration Council (DWRC) has been to identify the Don River and its tributaries through the installation of river crossing signs along regional and local roads as it flows through each municipality (Step 28 in *Forty Steps to a New Don, 1994*). This is an important undertaking which heightens people's recognition of the river within the community and encourages greater public awareness and stewardship of local water resources. Members of the Humber Watershed Alliance have also voiced their support for this initiative in their watershed. Neighbouring Conservation Authorities have expressed interest in pursuing this project in their watersheds as well.

### **BACKGROUND:**

As early as 2001, members of the DWRC began advocating for watercourse identification signs in the Don watershed. At the same time, the Town of Richmond Hill Council directed their staff to investigate the idea of posting signs to identify watercourses as they cross under roads throughout the Town. To the delight of the DWRC, in 2003 the Town of Richmond Hill approved the installation of these signs. Ninety-two signs were installed along local and Regional roads across the Town identifying the Rouge, Don and Humber rivers at a total cost of \$13,500 including installation. Thirty-nine of these signs were installed in the Don watershed. This was a unique initiative and the first of its kind in the Greater Toronto Area.

Shortly thereafter, the Rouge Park Alliance embarked on a similar campaign. Rouge Park commissioned a design firm to develop an agreed-upon sign. Rouge Park municipalities, including the Town of Markham and City of Toronto, cooperated in determining the design elements (font, corporate look, colour, etc.). A final design which met each of the municipalities' design protocols was approved in December 2004 and through an initial pilot project the signs were installed across the Rouge Park in the City of Toronto in late 2007 and early 2008.

The agreed upon 'wave' design harmonized a number of features that each municipality sought to be included on a watercourse crossing sign: tributary name, watershed logo and municipality logo. It was also an innovative design with a unique shape, like the meander of a stream, making it different and distinct from other information and directional signage. The Alliance agreed that the shape and design could be used in other watersheds and become the basis for common stream crossing signage across the GTA's watersheds. Given the extensive work undertaken in the Rouge to reach this common goal, with the consent of the Rouge Park Alliance, the DWRC adopted the design for use in the Don watershed shortly after it was approved by the Alliance.

Most recently, watercourse identification signs have been installed in both Toronto and the Town of Markham as follows:

- Spring 2009 - 128 signs at 64 locations were installed in the Don Watershed in the City of Toronto.

- Summer 2011 - 99 signs at 52 locations were installed at crossings in the Don and Rouge Watersheds in the Town of Markham (Specifically, 81 signs and 42 crossings in the Rouge watershed and 18 signs at 10 crossings in the Don watershed).

All signs thus far have been produced through the City of Toronto's Parks Forestry and Recreation Division's in-house sign shop and have been installed by the Transportation Divisions in the City of Toronto, York Region and the Town of Markham depending on road right-of-way jurisdiction.

**LOCATIONS:**

Suitable locations for the watercourse signs have been identified by TRCA staff for the Don and Humber watersheds within the City of Vaughan; and the Don, Humber and Rouge watersheds within the Town of Richmond Hill. An initial desktop survey has been undertaken and includes all Regional Roads and local collector roads that cross visible tributaries. In addition, a few well-travelled local roads have been included in this initial count. Smaller local roads may be signed at a later date or as desired.

Estimates based on the initial desktop survey are as follows:

<b>City of Vaughan Total:</b>	<b>399 signs at 199 locations</b>
Humber watershed:	276 signs at 130 locations
Don watershed:	123 signs at 69 locations
<b>Town of Richmond Hill Total:</b>	<b>151 signs at 85 locations</b>
Humber watershed:	24 signs at 12 locations
Don watershed:	59 signs at 36 locations
Rouge watershed:	68 signs at 37 locations

**SIGN COMPONENTS:**

**River Names:**

As a number of watercourses have more than one recognized name, TRCA suggests that only tributaries that have been officially named by the municipality through the Ontario Geographical Names Board (OGNB) be used. Alternatively, where appropriate, the main river branch name (i.e. East Don River) could be used in place of a local tributary name.

**Logos:**

Regional, local and watershed logos will be placed on the sign according to the sign specifications document. In addition, for the Humber watershed, TRCA has requested the Canadian Heritage River System logo is included on signs at some of the more prominent watercourse crossings.

**Size:**

Municipal transportation protocols will guide the final size of the signs, however, as a general guideline, signs located along Regional road right-of-ways will be larger to allow for improved visibility as roads are often wider and vehicles travel at greater speeds.

**NEXT STEPS:**

TRCA staff will work with appropriate municipal staff at the local and Regional level to finalize locations, sign size and river names to be used.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

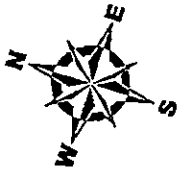
Attachment A – Vaughan & Richmond Hill Location Maps

Attachment B – Art Work for Signs

Attachment C – Photos






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Ext. 5283

**Date:** January 17, 2012





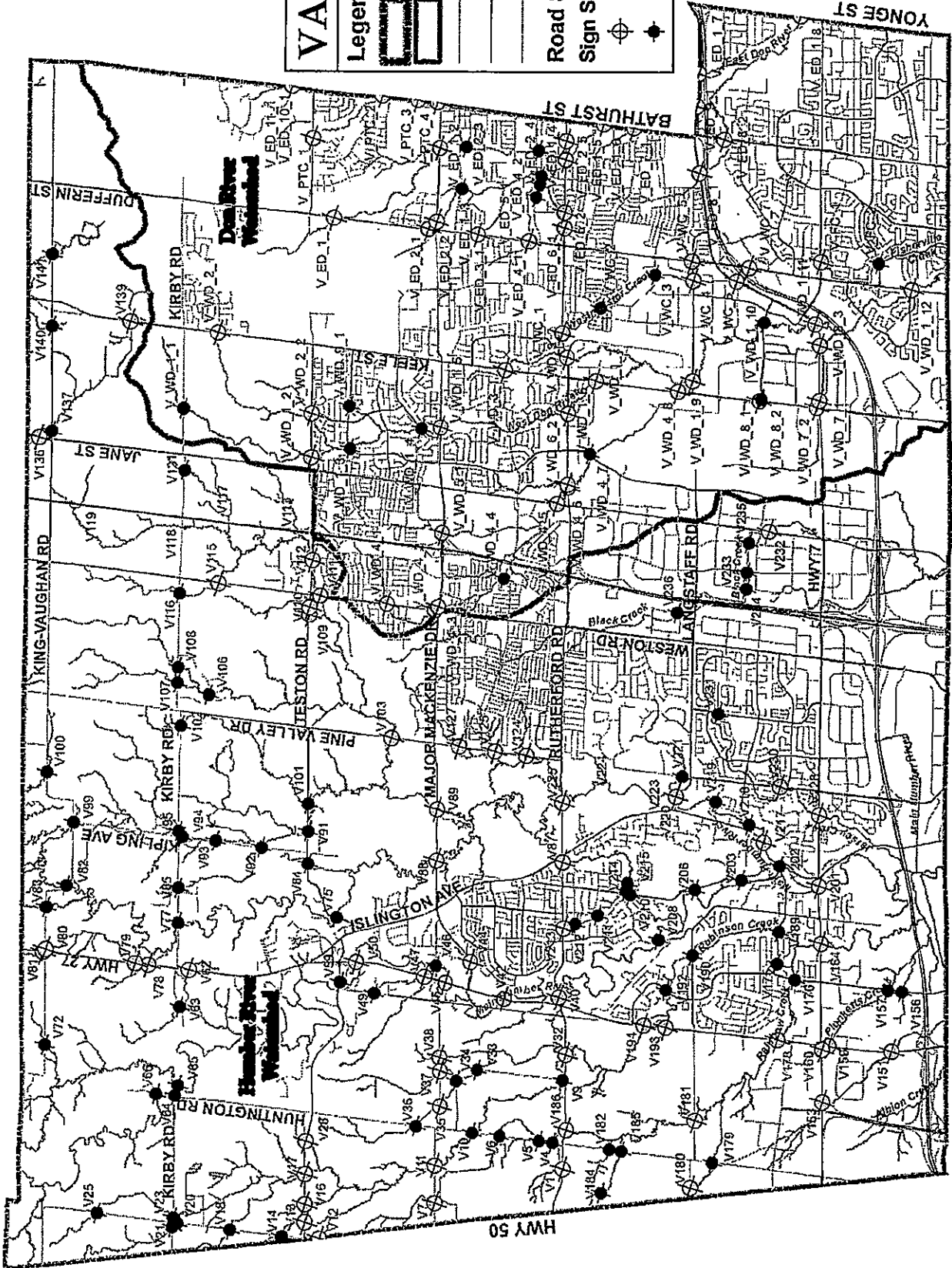
# VAUGHAN

## Legend

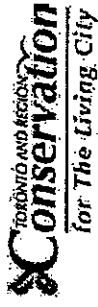
-  Municipal Boundary
-  TRCA Watersheds
-  Watercourse
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road

## Road Sign Locations

- Sign Size**
-  Large
-  Standard



STEELES AVE



Disclaimer:  
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 Date: January 26, 2012



# City of Vaughan Watercourse Identification Signs

26-Jan-12

The following figures are based on an initial desktop survey of locations and costs associated with undertaking this project in 2012. Ground-truthing will be required to finalize the list of locations and refine estimated costs.

Data Analysis	Humber	Don	Vaughan Total
<b># Signs by Road Right-of-way Ownership</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>399</b>
City of Vaughan (Standard Signs)	164	32	196
York Region (Large Signs)	112	91	203
<b># Locations by Road Right-of-way Ownership</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>199</b>
City of Vaughan (Standard Signs)	73	17	90
York Region (Large Signs)	57	52	109

Estimated Budget	Humber	Don	Vaughan Total
# of Standard Signs*	164	32	196
Standard Sign Cost	\$70	\$70	
# of Large Signs**	112	91	203
Large Sign Cost	\$85	\$85	
<b>Sign Production Total</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>\$9,975</b>	<b>\$30,975</b>
Hardware cost per sign***	\$60	\$60	
<b>Hardware Total</b>	<b>\$16,560</b>	<b>\$7,380</b>	<b>\$23,940</b>
<b>Sign Production + Hardware Total***</b>	<b>\$37,560</b>	<b>\$17,355</b>	<b>\$54,915</b>

**Assumptions to be confirmed:**

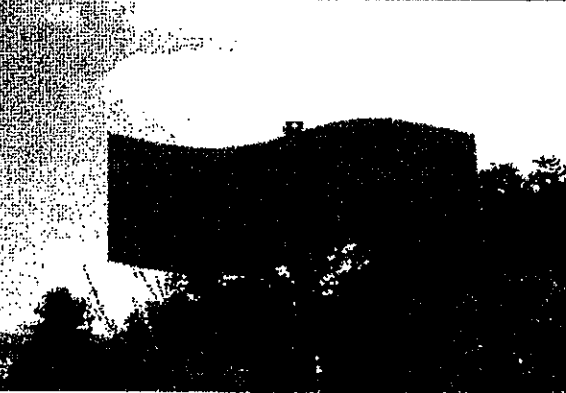
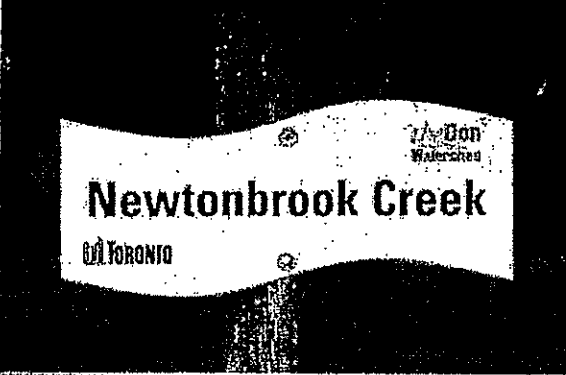
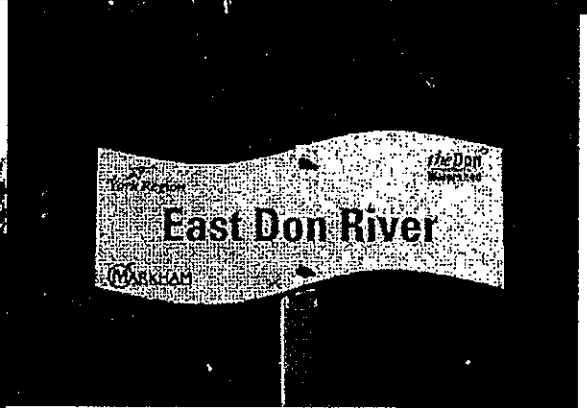
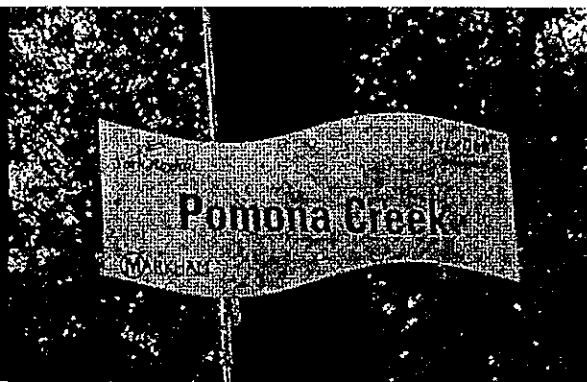
\* All standard signs will be installed on local roads and are the responsibility of the City of Vaughan

\*\*All large signs will be installed on regional roads and are the responsibility of York Region

\*\*\* The following hardware is required for each sign and has been included in the estimated cost:

- 1 Unistrut pole
- 1 Unistrut anchor
- 1 bolt, 4 washers, 2 fasteners

This does not include the costs incurred for undertaking locates and labour to install the signs.



## City of Vaughan Costs –Don and Humber Watershed Signage

Watershed	Number of Signs in Vaughan Road Right of Ways	Cost of Sign Production	Cost of Sign Installation	Total Costs
Don Watershed Signage	32 signs	None. Sign costs raised through TRCA fundraising activities.	\$5120 \$60 for pole/hardware + \$100 labour cost for installation * Costs may increase should locates be required	<b>\$5,120</b>
Humber Watershed Signage	164 signs	\$11480 \$70 per sign @164	\$26,240 \$60 for pole/hardware + \$100 labour cost for installation * Costs may increase should locates be required	<b>\$37,720</b>