



C/O Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation

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August 28, 2007

The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of Tourism
Minister Responsible for the Greenbelt and
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundations
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Re: Request for Intensified Provincial Commitment to Protect the Oak Ridges Moraine

Dear Minister:

As the Planning Committee for the Moraine for Life Symposium held earlier this year, and as a group of individuals integrally involved in the protection, preservation and restoration of the Oak Ridges Moraine, we urge the Province of Ontario to intensify its commitment to protect this strategic, ecologically sensitive terrain.

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, please find enclosed two documents supporting this request.

One, entitled **Protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine : A Call to Action**, presents specific actions the province should take to further protect the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The other, longer document is the **Moraine for Life Symposium Stakeholders' Report**.

The report compiles the input of 250 delegates at the symposium, held in February at the Raddison Hotel in Markham. As well, the report documents the symposium process; reviews achievements and challenges in protecting the moraine; and highlights stakeholder recommendations relating to land, water and community well-being.

As a keynote speaker at the Moraine for Life Symposium, Mr. Bradley, you graciously pledged your personal support to help sustain the momentum in protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine. We are now formally asking your government to intensify its commitment to the moraine and explaining what actions this should involve.

Broadly speaking, our recommendations call for **enhanced co-ordination and collaboration in protecting the moraine; support for additional education, outreach and research; and a renewed emphasis on community well-being and public recreational opportunities.**

Specific recommendations include, among others: **1) the establishment of a provincially governed coordinating body to oversee regulatory aspects of protecting the moraine, and 2) a renewed financial investment by the province in the work of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation.**

The province's investment in the foundation to date has proven to be highly cost effective, yielding significant financial dividends. So far, **\$9.7 million** of foundation funding has leveraged **\$22.1 million** in partner funding, resulting in a total **\$31.8 million worth of investment** in the moraine. Although the results and benefits of stakeholder projects are only now starting to be realized, and although much work remains to be done, the province's initial investment has increasingly built momentum on the moraine during the past four years.



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Collaboration in stewardship and securement initiatives are expanding and efforts to coordinate education and outreach activities are well underway. Restoration efforts on the moraine are helping to meet the government's broader climate change strategy, and the securement of conservation areas and the Oak Ridges Trail are contributing to a healthier society.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a key and integral part of Ontario's Greenbelt; the lessons learned, best practices developed and successful stewardship and collaborative partnerships formed on the moraine are a testimony to this government's long-term vision of a healthy and vibrant Greenbelt.

In summary, grassroots support for protecting the moraine remains strong. Stakeholders including landowners and conservation organizations are committed to addressing the challenges that lie ahead and will continue to translate that commitment into action.

Once again, as a community of stakeholders dedicated to the moraine, **we now ask the province to intensify its support and involvement.** In particular, further financial investment in the moraine and bolstered leadership in relation to regulatory issues will allow us to build on progress to date and move forward together in the important cause of protecting the "**Moraine for Life.**"

Sincerely,

Moraine for Life Symposium Planning Committee

Ian Attridge, Kawartha Heritage Conservancy
Heather Brooks, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
David Burnett, Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition
Deb Crandall, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine
Sonia Dong, Citizens Environment Watch
Jackie Fraser, AgCare
Kim Gavine, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
Steve Holysh, Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition
Dan McCarthy, University of Waterloo
Laura McDowell, York Region
Kate Potter, Caring for the Moraine
Judith Reda, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
Deb Schulte, Save Boyd Park
Michael Scott, Trees Ontario Foundation (formerly ORMF)
Harold Sellers, Oak Ridges Trail Association
Graham Whitelaw, University of Waterloo