

Proposed motion on Terry Fox Drive - FCA - June 10/ 2010

Whereas:

-The construction of the Terry Fox Road Extension is now slicing through the heart of the South March Highlands, a pristine wilderness area of old growth forest and wetlands, with the highest ecological value and biodiversity of any land in the City of Ottawa -

-The location and construction activity for the road also affects the Carp River floodplain in a way that puts several communities in Kanata, Stittsville, and Carp at risk of flooding.

-Urbandale has announced that they plan to begin clear-cutting the forest north of the Beaver Pond in Kanata on July 17th.

This land was identified decades ago as an area to be conserved, and was identified as an ANSI (area of natural and scientific interest) in 1971. Nevertheless, development pressure, piecemeal planning decisions by the City, and unfortunate Ontario Municipal Board decisions have all worked against the wishes of residents and environmental experts, who have consistently demanded that this area must be preserved. This land - referred to locally as KNL land - forms a significant part of the South March Highlands, the only occurrence of the more than one-billion-year-old Canadian Shield uplands, a national icon, in the City of Ottawa.

There is a host of endangered and threatened animal and plant species, as identified in the provincial *Species at Risk Act*, in this area. The developer also plans to realign Shirley's Brook, which is a known fish habitat.

Motion that:

1. The FCA should prepare a letter to Council and the Minister of the Environment (John Gerretson) expressing **utmost** concern re the construction of the Terry Fox Road Extension and the **process whereby**

development applications for residential development within the arc of the new roadway **have been approved.**

2. The City should immediately halt all road and residential construction and place a moratorium on residential development applications until an in-depth ecological analysis is undertaken, and a Part 2 EA assessment is completed of the entire South March Highlands area, in order to develop a comprehensive plan for environmental and wildlife habitat protection of this fragile ecosystem. (Note - Council received comprehensive recommendations on this issue following the OFGA Committee meeting on April 26, 2010.)

3. The City should approach the NCC to discuss **the** purchase of lands scheduled for residential development, in order to ensure eco-connectivity of the protected lands, and thus ensure the forest and wilderness areas will be conserved for future generations of Ottawa residents. The South March Highlands would form a shepherd's hook, through the Shirley's Bay/ Constance Lake wetlands, connecting with the Greenbelt. Failing this, the City should use funds from its own Natural Areas Acquisition fund and/or explore Land Trust partnerships to buy key ecological linkage components, as suggested in the 2004 report of "Natural Environment Area Boundary in SMH Special Study Area" by Dan Brunton."

Coalition to Protect the South March Highlands

Website: www.southmarch.wordpress.com

