

MEDIA ADVISORY

Ottawa, 11 April 2006

Kanata West Development in the Carp River Floodplain Continues to Concern Citizens' Group

The Ontario Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources and Transportation are currently reviewing the Environmental Assessments for proposed development in Kanata West.

Part of the development would be located in the floodplain of the Carp River. While the floodplain is currently as wide as 500 metres, parts of it would be filled in and developed, leaving as little as 100 metres of floodplain in places.

A citizens' group, the Carp River Coalition, has sent a letter to the provincial Ministries, detailing the outstanding issues they feel need to be addressed before this development should go ahead.

The Coalition members, who are drawn from various local environmental organizations, aim to ensure that development in Kanata West along the Carp River furthers the long-term health of the river and the various species it supports and also does not pose risks of flooding to upstream and downstream communities.

Highlights of Coalition concerns about the environmental assessments include:

- The adequacy of the models used to predict the impact of development on flooding upstream and downstream.
- Exclusion from the flood analysis of recently-declared urban lands that drain into the Carp River.
- The application of the Province's Hazardous Lands policy and the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* in assessing this development to ensure that natural flow conditions of the river are maintained.
- Conformity of the development with the legal requirements of the *Drainage Act*, given that the Carp River was established as a municipal drain back in 1909.
- Impacts of higher flood levels on Highway 417 and other road and bridge structures crossing the Carp River.
- Impacts on fish habitat and Species at Risk.
- Impact of "interim" stormwater facilities before any work is done to restore the Carp River.
- Impacts on downstream restoration work along the Carp River, including 50 thousand trees that were recently planted near the Village of Carp.

(The complete letter to the provincial ministries is attached.)

Given the history of flooding in this area over the last ten years, the Coalition seeks a satisfactory resolution of these concerns and concrete solutions to ensure against sedimentation of the river and deterioration of the riparian natural habitat.

The Carp River Coalition includes members of the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital, the Ottawa Group of the Sierra Club of Canada, Friends of the Carp River and Ottawa Riverkeeper.

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