

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Date:** February 17<sup>th</sup> 2011

## **“ONE OF THE LARGEST COMMUNITY SHOW OF FORCE, ARE EXPECTED TO TELL PICKERING COUNCIL TO SAY NO TO SPRAWL IN NORTH EAST PICKERING”**

Pickering Ontario: “In what is expected to be one the largest show of Community force with, residents from Ajax and Pickering have joined forces to Say “NO” to Sprawl in North East Pickering” and to demand that Pickering Council reverse its position” says Community Advocate Maurice Brenner who has been working to mobilize the community. “The lands are outside the Urban Boundary and the position of the City of Pickering and Durham Region is contrary to the Ontario Government’s Place’s to Grow Policy and is nothing more than leap frog development which will cost the taxpayers” adds Pickering Regional Councillor Bill McLean who along with Pickering Regional Councillor Jennifer O’Connell and supported by Regional Councillor Peter Rodrigues have moved a motion to reverse the Pickering position and instruct Durham Region to abandon what will be a costly application to the Ontario Municipal Board.

“It is insane, to spend taxpayers money to fight to destroy this beautiful area that includes the headwaters to Carruthers Creek along with some of Ontario’s richest farm lands” said Councillor O’Connell. “Once it’s gone, it’s gone forever” adds O’Connell The North East Pickering lands consist of some 1200 hectares near the Hamlet of Greenwood and developers have already purchased lands in anticipation that Council will support them. If allowed to develop it could see an estimated population of 30,000.

“Aside from all the environmental concerns, the cost of infrastructure and its operations would have to be covered by Pickering Taxpayers since growth just doesn’t pay for growth” says McLean.

“To date we have run a 3 week campaign to inform, engage and mobilize our community and the support has been overwhelming, with a consistent message that these lands need to be protected for future generations” said Brenner

This David and Goliath story will unfold, Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the City of Pickering Council Chamber, One the Esplanade, Pickering Ontario.

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