



Department of the City Clerk

City Hall, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 2N2

Roy V. Henderson / City Clerk

Barbara Caplan / Deputy City Clerk

Ms. Belinda Bains 392-7039

May 17, 1989

NOTICE OF HEARING

NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMITTEE

The Neighbourhoods Committee, which meets in Committee Room No. 4, City Hall, will consider the undermentioned subject on:

DATE: Thursday, May 25, 1989
TIME: 12.00 noon (or as soon thereafter as possible)
ITEM: K.
SUBJECT: St. Lawrence Square Neighbourhood -
Clean up of Don River

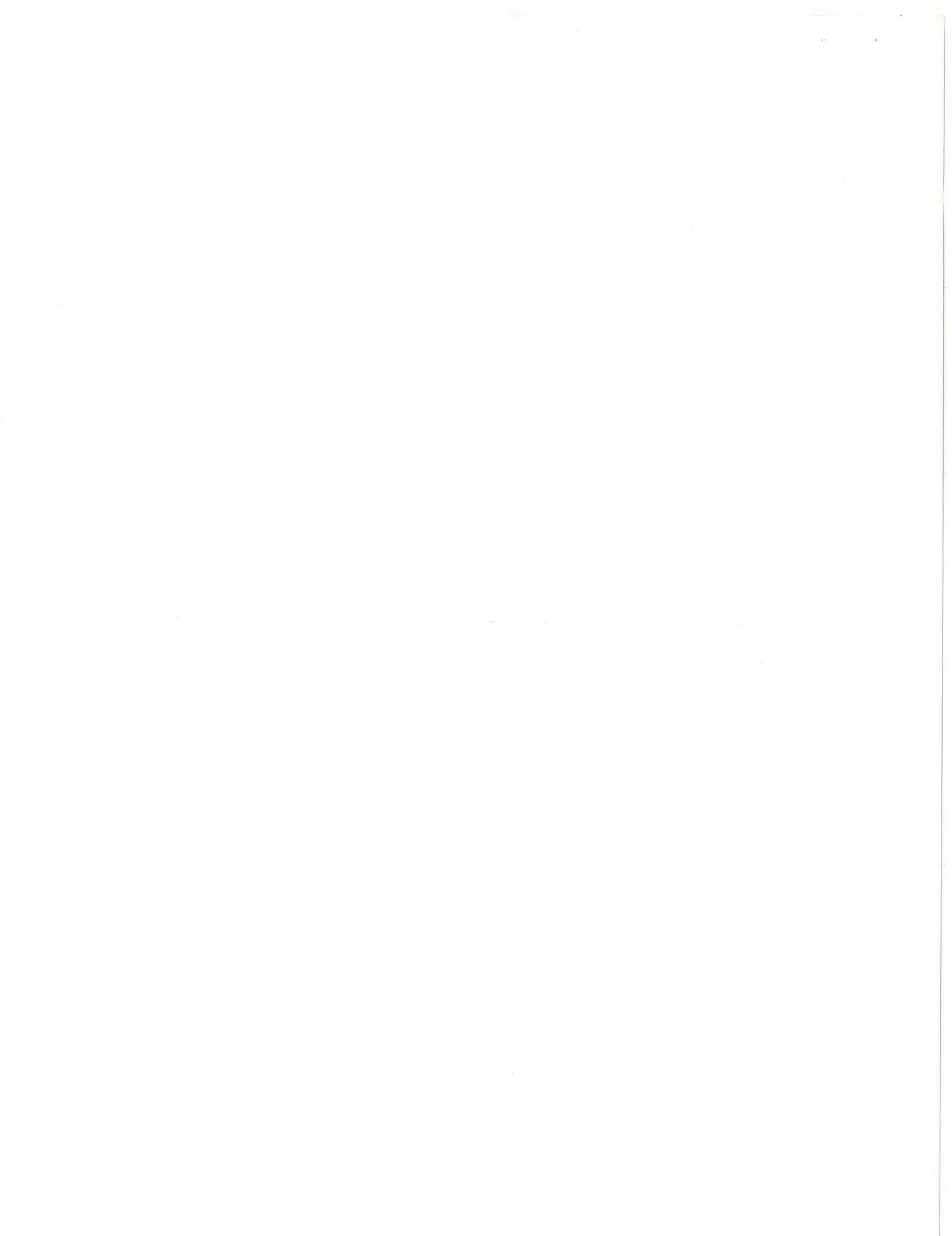
Should you wish to address the Committee regarding this matter, please notify the Neighbourhoods Committee at 392-7039.

Yours truly,

B. Bains

Acting Administrator,
Neighbourhoods Committee

ppcm



k.

CITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF THE
CITY CLERK

CLAUSE EMBODIED IN REPORT NO. 4 OF THE
NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMITTEE WHICH WAS AMENDED AND
ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 1989

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16

**ST. LAWRENCE SQUARE NEIGHBOURHOOD -
CLEAN-UP OF DON RIVER**

The Committee recommends the adoption of the report (January 26, 1989) from Councillor Hall, Chairman of the St. Lawrence Square Neighbourhood Advisory Council:

Origin: N.A.C. Meeting, January 17th, 1989 (c38nhc89005:419)

Comments: On January 14th, the Neighbourhood Advisory Council toured the site of the proposed St. Lawrence Square development. This visit included a walk along the bicycle path beside the Don from a point opposite the intersection of Eastern Avenue and the Bayview extension to a point well south of the rail bridge. The group was generally impressed with the potential of the area for recreational uses, if indeed it can be cleaned-up to make it fit for use. It also recognized that the burden of clean-up cannot be carried by the proposed development and that, in the fullness of time, when 12,000 residents are in place in the new community, the pressure for the clean-up will increase.

As a result, the group passed the following resolution at its January 17th meeting:

The St. Lawrence Square Neighbourhood Advisory Council wishes to put on record the following principle, and seeks the support and commitment of all other affected or interested parties:

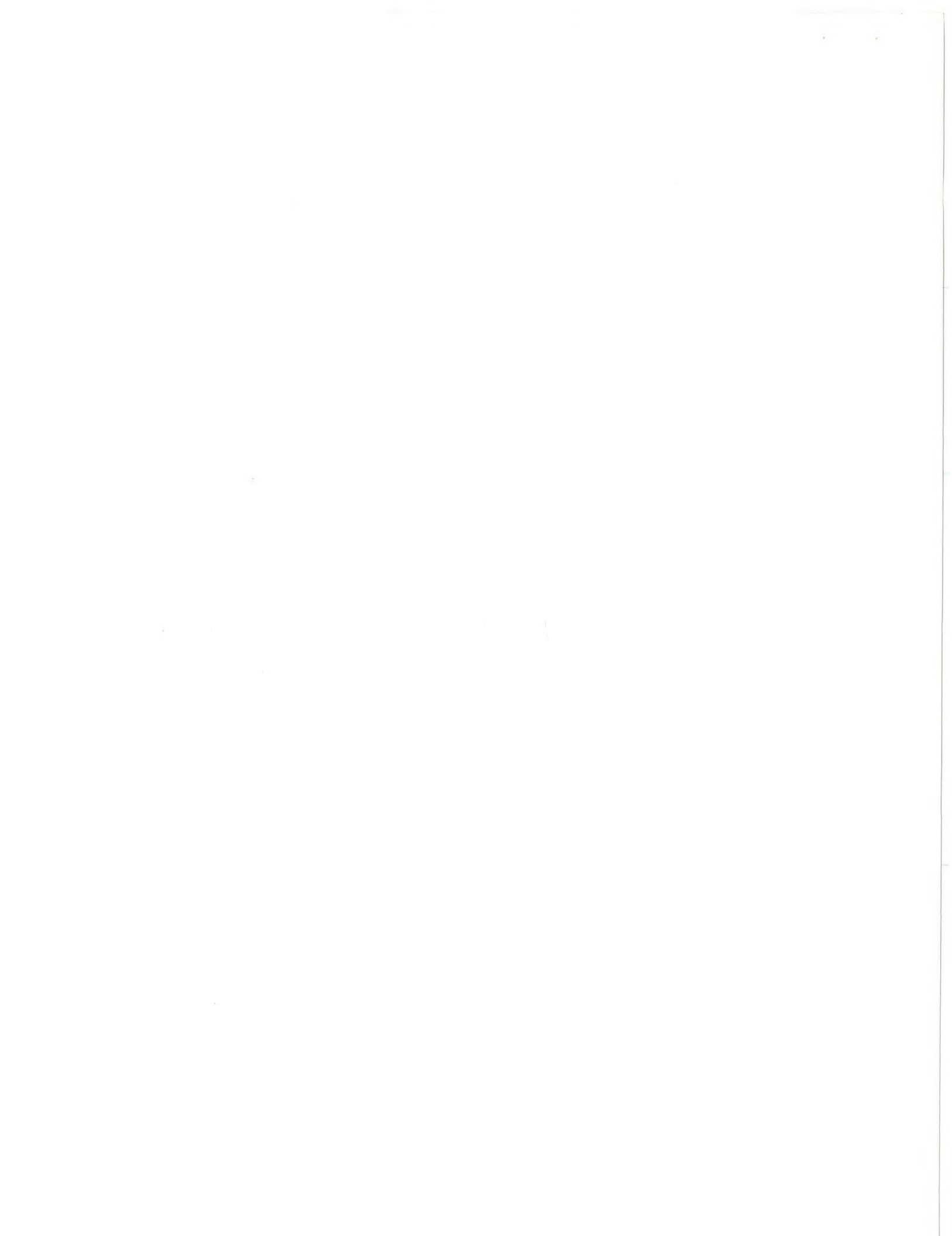
"That the Don River and its related recreation and wildlife areas be made fully useable, accessible and safe for the people of Toronto no later than the year 2001"

Recommendation: That Council endorse the principle set out above and that the City Clerk convey it to other relevant agencies, municipalities and levels of government.

(Council Action - February 23, 1989)

Council amended this Clause by adding at the end thereof the following:

"It is also recommended that the Neighbourhoods Committee be requested to consider establishing a Don River Clean-up Task Force, which could be comprised of local residents and City Councillors, to pursue the clean-up of the Don River by the year 2001."



K.I.



Barbara Hall/City Councillor/Ward 7

Council Members' Offices, City Hall, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2 Tel: 392-7916

To: Ms Belinda Bains
Secretary
Neighbourhoods Committee

From: Councillor Barbara Hall


Date: April 4th 1989

Subject: ST. LAWRENCE SQUARE TASK FORCE - DON RIVER CLEANUP

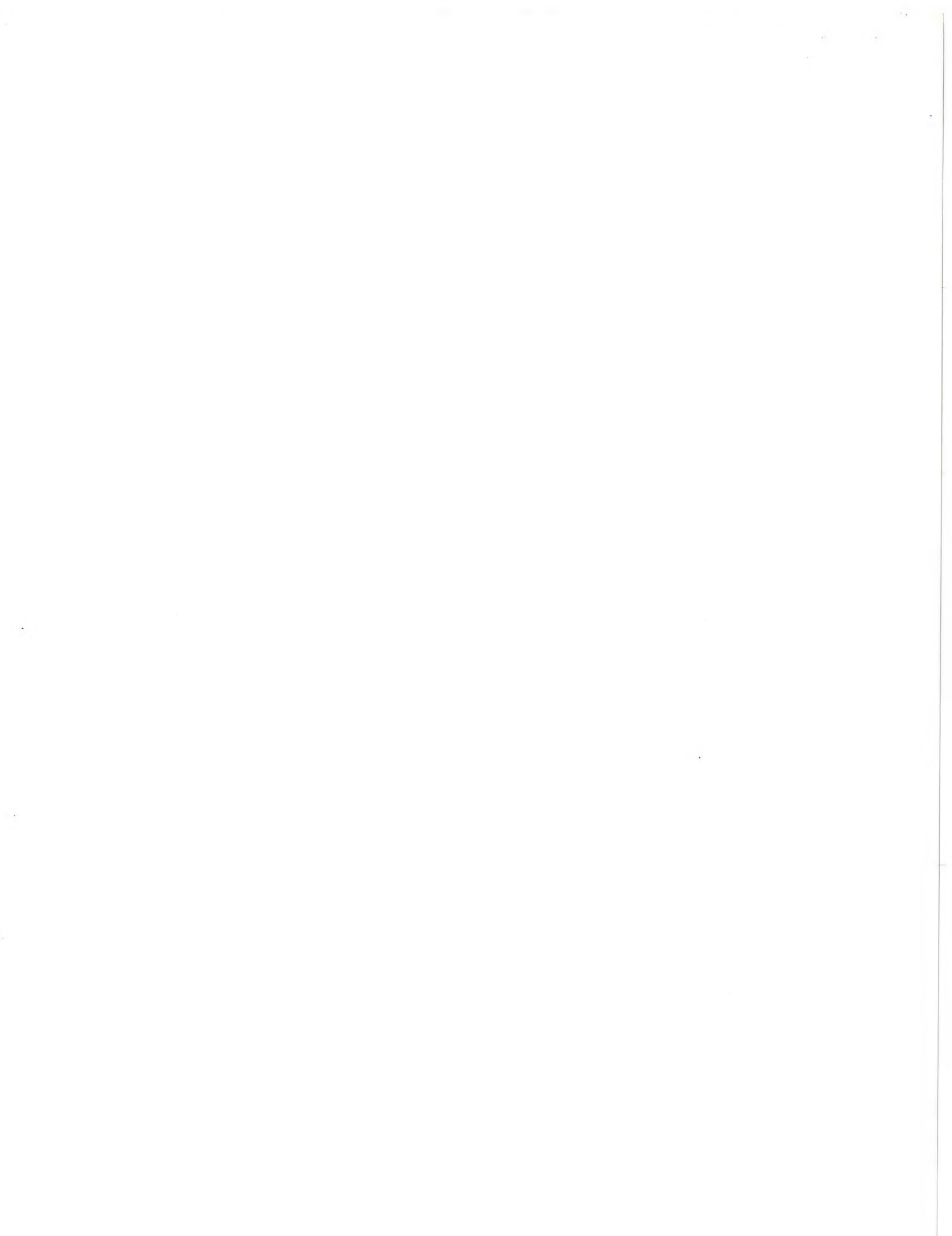
I regret that I was unable to attend the last Neighbourhoods Committee meeting due to a Budget Review meeting and therefore was unable to speak to this matter. A number of residents and environmental groups have been exploring this issue, together with Councillors Layton, Churley and I, and they wish to complete some preliminary work before bringing their proposal to this Committee.

Accordingly, I would ask that this matter be deferred to the last meeting in May as a deputation item in order that they and other interested parties may have an opportunity to fully prepare their deputations to the Committee.

Once again, I apologize for not being present at the last meeting to speak to this matter at that time.


Barbara Hall
Councillor, Ward 7

BH:mwm





K.2.

Department of the City Clerk

City Hall, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 2N2

Roy V. Henderson / City Clerk

Barbara Caplan / Deputy City Clerk

Ms. Belinda Bains - 392-7039

April 4, 1989

At its meeting held on March 30, 1989, the Neighbourhoods Committee had before it Clause 16 of Report No. 4 of the Neighbourhoods Committee entitled "St. Lawrence Square Neighbourhood - Clean-Up of Don River," which was amended and adopted by City Council at its meeting held on February 23, 1989.

Council requested the Neighbourhoods Committee to consider establishing a Don River Clean-Up Task Force, which could be comprised of local residents and City Councillors, to pursue the clean-up of the Don River by the year 2001.

The Committee deferred consideration of the matter to its meeting to be held on April 13, 1989, for deputations and requested the Councillors for the Wards to report on the structure, and terms of reference.

Yours truly,

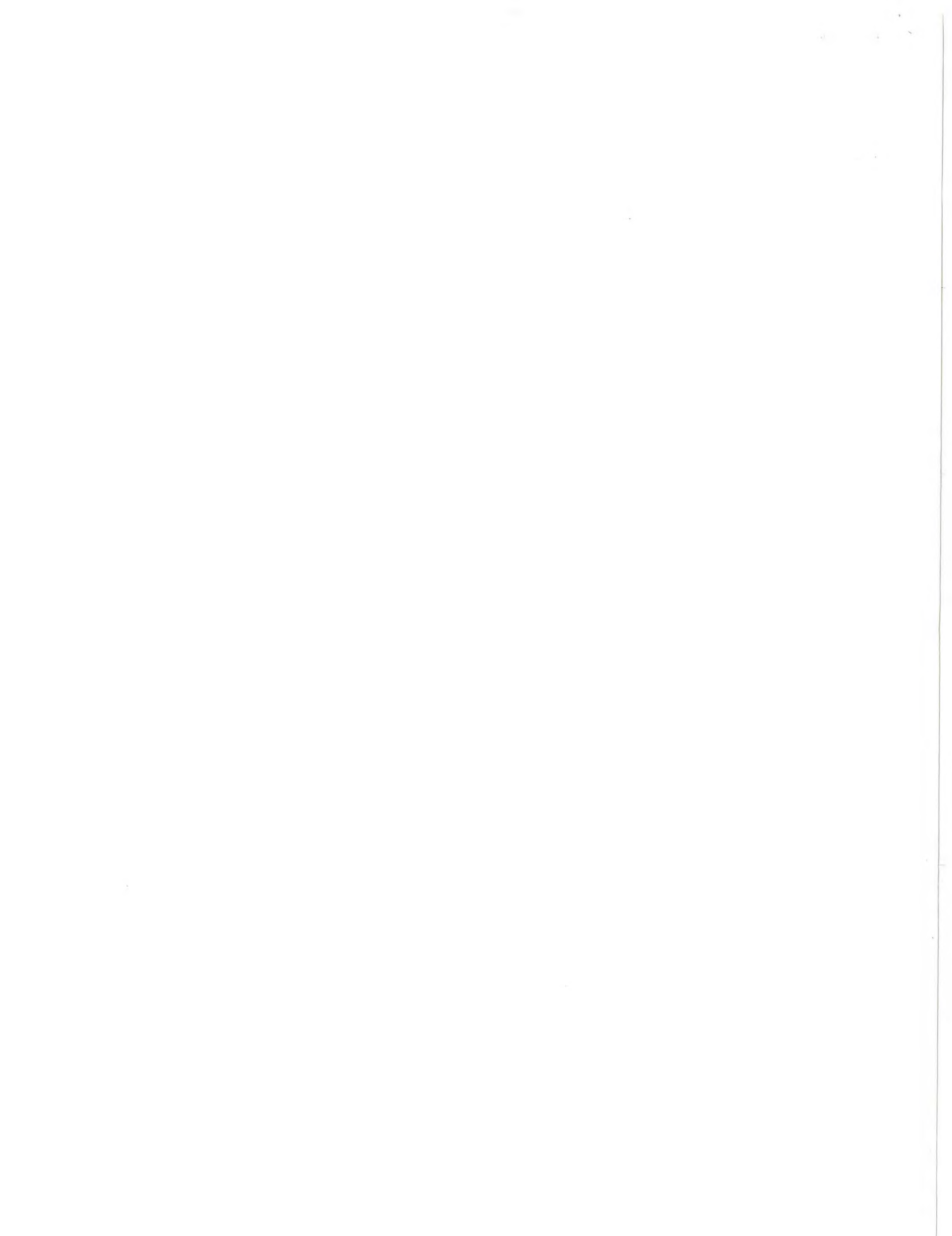
B. Bains

Acting Administrator,
Neighbourhoods Committee

BB/cev

Encl.

To: Councillor Hall
Councillor Layton
Councillor Churley



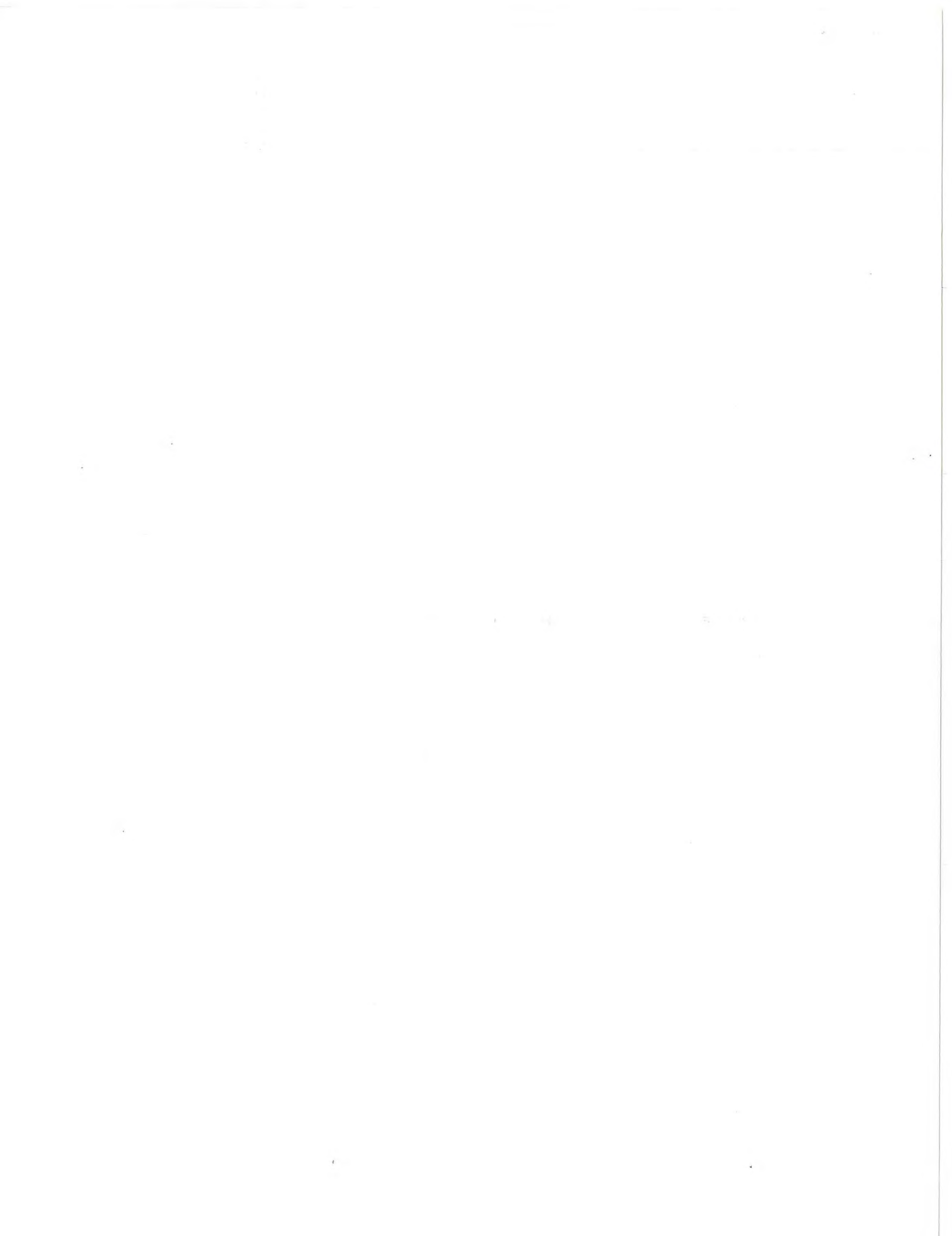
K.3.

PROPOSAL FOR A PUBLIC TASK FORCE ON THE DON RIVER VALLEY

Presented by:

Dalton Shipway	Don Houston	Ross Badame
Michael Hough	Mark Conway	Mark Wilson
Chris McGuckin	David Estrin	Marie Day
Bruce Pope	Ian Patterson	Doug Wilkins
Julliette Del Junco	Peggle Sampson	Liz Stirling
Terry Brackett	Michael White	Pat Ohlendorf-Moffat
Mark Johnson	Amanda Griesbach	Jean-Paul Lebert

for the Don River Working Group, a 75 member public work group dedicated to rehabilitating the Don River and the Valley that surrounds it.



PROPOSAL FOR A PUBLIC TASK FORCE ON THE DON RIVER VALLEY

May 1989

Toronto has a river flowing through the middle of the city: the Don. It had a glorious past of beautiful white pines, summer swims, fishing and relaxing strolls. But it has taken on an ignominious present - polluted, inaccessible, neglected, abandoned.

It is time to let the river heal itself and heal the city in the process. The restored river will benefit Toronto's wildlife and defend the rich natural heritage of our City.

We now have the knowledge, the political will, the public determination. We can find the resources to stop the pollution, create appropriate access and let the river become a soothing part of our lives again.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of February 23, 1989, City Council adopted the principle that the Don River and the valley around it be unpolluted and accessible by the year 2001.

Council also asked the Neighbourhoods Committee to establish a Don River Clean-up Task Force, which could include local residents and City Councillors, to pursue the clean-up of the Don River by the year 2001. We heartily endorse that suggestion and recommend the immediate establishment of a community controlled Task Force that emphasises community decision making, outreach programs and public involvement in the planning and a hands on restoration of the River Valley.

This all fits in with City Council's "Healthy Toronto 2000" plan. The restoration of the Don river and its valley represents a significant symbol in the City's efforts to provide for the mental and physical health of City residents and workers. It's also an important step in establishing an approach to development that is sustainable and beneficial to the environment.

The first step in cleaning up the Don is a community participation process to establish a community wide plan of action for the next 15-20 years of activity.

GOAL

Our overall goal is to restore the river and valley to a healthy state so that it may again be an enjoyable and life supporting part of the City.

The Lower Don within the City of Toronto is especially degraded. However, with the construction of the bicycle path here, completion of water quality studies for the Don watershed and growing public civic and corporate concerns for the lands and water course, it is possible to restore the river.

OUR VISION

A group of citizens has been meeting over the last few months to try and work out how we might be able to restore the river and its valley and discuss just what we mean by this. The following is the vision we've thus far come up with which we'd like to share with the community as a whole.

Aspects of the vision shared by all:

1. We want the Don to belong to the Public.
Restoring the Don will require the investment of public money and energy. This investment should serve all of the residents of our City, not just a few. The Don can and should host wilderness areas, marshes, ecology parks, traditional parks, public sporting fields, natural history facilities and other uses as diverse and eclectic as our City's population. But the Don should never host environmentally unsustainable development.
2. The river must become accessible: at present there are significant physical and psychological barriers to enjoying or even getting near the river. Some of these barriers include: no walking trails, two sets of railway tracks with fences, a lot of noise and pollution, the Don Valley Parkway and Bayview extension. There's no easy way of getting over or across them. We want to see equal access to the river. However we also want access to be both environmentally appropriate or sensitive. For example, the bike path is terrific but motorcycles would not be appropriate.
3. We must let the river return to a natural state.
This means natural regeneration as well as restoration, rehabilitation, reforestation: over time letting fish, wildlife and natural growth return. Hopefully, this might also include a natural wetlands at the mouth of the river. We must work to prevent future degradation of the Don's wetlands, forests, meadows and waters.
4. We want clean water, air and land. We must stop the existing pollution; aim for zero discharge - and we must clean up what we've done.
5. We would like the river to be seen, in the minds of Torontonians, in its broader context. The Don has a rich natural history and an important role in the history of our City. It has a sweeping, soothing form that can do much for the sense of continuity and history that the city needs to nurture a sense of belonging to our City and to our land.

In general, we want to return the river to a state of health; so that it will act as a healthy resource for the people of Toronto; a psychological, physical, educational and natural resource.

6. We want the Don to be seen in its geographic context.
The Lower Don is part of a vast river valley system that stretches up to Maple and Richmond Hill. To restore the Lower Don fully we must address the degradation of the whole valley by working with other communities and governments throughout Metro and York Region.

RECOMMENDATION FOR PUBLIC TASK FORCE ON THE DON RIVER VALLEY

Based on the principles outlined above, the following recommendations are presented to the Neighbourhoods Committee

- 1) That the Neighbourhoods Committee establish a publicly controlled Task Force to develop a plan for the future of the Don River Valley based on community consultation, with a mandate as outlined in appendix A. The composition of the Task Force being:
 - a) a core membership of stakeholders selected by Council
 - b) additional membership of interested citizens that is open
 - c) a supplementary implementation advisory group composed of representatives of relevant City departments
- 2) That the Commissioners of Planning, Parks and Public Works and the Medical Officer of Health report to the Neighbourhoods Committee regarding the appropriate membership for the implementation advisory group
- 3) That the Commissioner of Planning and Development, in consultation with the Don River Working Group, report to the Neighbourhoods Committee regarding the appropriate composition of the core membership of the Task Force.
- 4) That the Task Force be provided with a budget, for the first year, of 196,000 as outlined in appendix B.
- 5) That the Task Force be asked to report to Council within 1 year with a preliminary plan for the Don Rehabilitation Program, including future outreach activities, public consultation strategies and direct environmental remediation measures.
- 6) That the Task Force be directed to include in its considerations the items listed in appendix C.

Appendix A

MANDATE FOR THE PUBLIC TASK FORCE ON THE DON RIVER VALLEY

The mandate of the Task-Force should stress public participation including:

- * Increasing public awareness of the problems in the valley,
- * Involving a broad cross-section of the community in the discussions and public activities relating to the Don River Valley restoration and
- * promoting hands on activities that allow the general public to play a direct role in restoring and reclaiming the valley.

The Task-Force would be expected to initiate activities that may include:

- * the establishment of a neighbourhood site office;
- * the development of a library on the Don including an inventory on pollution, clean up and rehabilitation studies, the historical lore of the river, nature guide books etc.;
- * sponsoring public clean up days which would include time for discussing and planning the future of the river and its table lands;
- * developing means of encouraging community groups to become active for themselves, including funding to assist with paying for flyers, buying trees for planting, etc.
- * a regular newsletter or information flyer on the clean up and what citizens can do.

We would expect that the clean up would take many years, but the Task Force should present an outline of its major plan within one year.

The Task Force, with the assistance of the relevant City departments, should also facilitate and co-ordinate interaction between the Task-Force and other interested parties

including:

- i) similar groups in other municipalities outside the City
 - ii) Metro and other Area and Regional Municipalities
 - iii) the MTRCA
 - iv) other levels of government
 - v) NGO's concerned about the Don
 - vi) interested parties from the private sector
- with the aim of establishing an on-going Don River planning and management body across the watershed to clean up the Don and prevent future degradation.

Appendix B

FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC TASK FORCE ON THE DON RIVER VALLEY

Staffing:	95,000
1 Support Staff:	25,000
1 Research Staff:	35,000
1 Planner:	seconded from P&D
1 Environmental Staff:	seconded from Public Health
1 Community Development:	35,000
Office Costs:	53,000
Supplies	4,000
Computer & Copier rental	3,000
Mailing	6,000
Office Rental/Phones	40,000
Research Budget	17,000
Research Materials	7,000
Travel (to review programs in similar projects elsewhere)	10,000
Public Consultation	10,000
Advertising	3,000
Halls Rental	2,000
Stipends	5,000
Misc./Contingency	6,000
Assistance to Community Groups:	15,000
TOTAL	196,000

Appendix C

The following items should be placed before the Task Force for consideration.

- 1) That the City of Toronto work to free existing bicycle and foot trails of obstructions and to open new trails.
- 2) Review ways of mitigating the impact of transit corridors on the Don Valley, this review to include the following possibilities: erecting natural or artificial sound and visual barriers, burying the Don Valley Parkway and/or Bayview in whole or in part, removing either or both transportation corridor(s).
- 3) Examine other ways to eliminate physical and psychological barriers to the Don River Valley and to construct pedestrian access points to the Valley.
- 4) That the Department of Parks and Recreation immediately end the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers in the area draining into the Don River Valley.
- 5) Review the recently completed but not yet released Provincial Inventory of water quality in the Don, present pollution sources and proposals for abatement. Also the Task Force should pull together an inventory of natural areas and wildlife in the Lower Don Valley.
- 6.) Initiate more stringent enforcement of the regulations against dumping in the valley, and an increase in staffing to monitor the problem.
- 7) Investigate the use of environmentally friendly alternatives to the use of salt for de-icing roads in winter. In the interim, establish an immediate moratorium on the storage of salt in the Don River Valley.
- 8) Establish more stringent regulations regarding the contamination of storm sewer discharges as well as abatement programs where contamination levels are above acceptable standards.
- 9) Change the zoning in the valley and in the tributary valleys to exclude environmentally unsustainable development.