

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole Report

DATE: Tuesday, November 30, 2021

**TITLE: RECOGNITION OF VAUGHAN COMMITTEE OF ASSOCIATIONS
TO RESTORE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY (CARES) AT NORTH
MAPLE REGIONAL PARK**

FROM:

Deputy Mayor, Local and Regional Councillor Mario F. Ferri
Councillor Marilyn Iafrate

Whereas, Vaughan Committee of Associations to Restore Environmental Safety (CARES) was established in 1988 and registered in 1989 as an umbrella association of ratepayers, environmental groups, community activists and concerned residents to spearhead initiatives to close the Keele Valley Landfill and protect the environment, the head waters of the Don River and the health of Vaughan residents; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES, in collaboration with the City of Vaughan, successfully argued and prevented Metro Toronto from extracting clay in hundreds of acres of land immediately around the Keele Valley Landfill owned by Metro Toronto; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES in its 30 plus years of existence promoted the establishment of new policies eliminating landfilling as the main waste management strategy, diverting waste from landfills, organized and implemented the four (4) R's and advanced arguments for producers responsibility legislation and new packaging policies; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES organized and participated in numerous deputations, delegations and demonstrations at Queen's Park, the City of Toronto, the landfill sites and other locations simultaneously opposing the expansion of the Keele Valley Landfill, the proposed second landfill in Vaughan consisting of 60 million tonnes and the proposal by Superior – Crawford Sand & Gravel's use of their abandoned pit; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES between 1990 and 1995 secured intervening funding from the Ministry of the Environment to hire legal and other consultants to successfully and actively advance arguments against the second proposed mega landfill in Vaughan; and

Whereas, from 1996 to 2000 Vaughan CARES continued with its deputations, delegations, and public demonstrations to close the Keele Valley Landfill, establish new environmental policies and advocate for new sustainable waste management strategies; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES in 2002 with support from the City of Vaughan organized an historic closure event of the Keele Valley Landfill engaging thousands of happy and satisfied residents; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES in 2003 and beyond continued its advocacy for the rehabilitation of the Keele Valley Landfill, the integration of surrounding lands in a Regional park, effective waste diversion programs, collection of separated organics, greater producers responsibility and more responsible packaging legislation; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES in the thirty (30) plus years of its existence has invested millions of volunteer hours to protect the environment by eliminating the siting of one mega landfill in Vaughan and closing another and thereby creating the opportunity for City building with vision and pride; and

Whereas, the results of Vaughan CARES actions provided the City of Vaughan with immeasurable financial benefits through the tax base as residential development was able to proceed in and around the former proposed landfill in the Keele St., Jane St., Kirby Rd. area; and

Whereas, Vaughan CARES' actions eliminated the suffering endured by local residents due to obnoxious odors, airborne carcinogens, vectors and thousands of trucks driving through local roads.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That Council, in appreciation and recognition of Vaughan Committee of Association to Restore Environment Safety's (CARES) long and successful campaign to close the Keele Valley landfill and stop the siting of a second mega dump in Vaughan, and advocated for new sustainable and responsible environmental policies, name a street or a trail located in the North Maple Regional Park (NMRP) as "**Vaughan CARES Way**";
2. That Council direct staff to review options and report back by Q1 2022 on a location in the NMRP to permanently place the Vaughan commemorative plaque capturing the official closure of the Keele Valley Landfill on December 31, 2002; and

3. That staff be directed to report back to Council, within a reasonable time on the funding source and the cost of designing and producing story panels which capture the various milestones and timelines achieved by Vaughan CARES throughout their campaign to protect the environment and promote the health and well being of Vaughan residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Mario Ferri, Deputy Mayor, Local and Regional Councillor
Marilyn Iafrate, Councillor

Attachment:

1. In Search of Fairness.....Our Children's Legacy.