



Town of Richmond Hill

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November 2, 2007

Dear Neighbour:

As you may know, the University of Toronto has declared the David Dunlap Observatory lands as surplus this week and will issue a public tender for sale of the lands in the near future. The Observatory land covers an approximate area of 180 acres and is bordered by Weldrick Avenue to the north, Bayview Avenue to the east, 16th Avenue to the south and CN rail tracks to the west.

While the University of Toronto makes its own decision about the disposal of the Observatory land, the Town of Richmond Hill is doing what it can to ensure future uses of the property will benefit the community as a whole.

In that regard, I had moved to direct staff to seek designation of the Observatory and the buildings on the land as heritage properties under the Ontario *Heritage Act* as recommended by the Heritage Committee at the Committee of the Whole on September 17, 2007. I am pleased to inform you that Council passed a resolution to that effect a week later. As part of the process, public notice regarding the designation was published in *The Liberal* newspaper on October 23, 2007.

In addition to working with the Mayor and Council, I have met with our Member of Parliament and the newly elected Member of Provincial Parliament to seek their support for preserving the Observatory land. As well, I have also met with community members and organizations such as Richmond Hill Naturalists to pursue viable options that reflect the interests of the local community in a thoughtful and constructive manner.

As your Councillor, I am committed to keeping you informed of the developments in the future of the Observatory land. For updated information, please visit my website at www.godwinchan.com. If you wish to contact me concerning this matter and Town's services, please feel free to call me at (905) 771-2509 or email me at gchan@richmondhill.ca.

Yours truly,

Godwin Chan
Councillor, Ward 6

