



Press Release

For immediate release
April 28, 2008

COUNCILLORS DEALING WITH CARP RIVER CONCERNS

Councillors Shad Qadri, Stittsville-Kanata West, and Marianne Wilkinson, Kanata North, whose wards encompass all of the Kanata West area affected by the Carp River Watershed drainage issues, have taken a firm stance on the issue, following the release of the City of Ottawa's Auditor General's findings of the Carp Water Study and Related Projects audit on April 23, 2008.

The audit confirmed recent findings by City staff that an error had been made in the calculations used in the water table model to determine the design of the Carp River restoration. The river was straightened as a municipal drain more than 100 years ago and is now in a highly degraded state. The restoration plan was to return the river to a more natural channel system.

An independent third party engineering firm is being retained to conduct a review of the engineering work done for the Carp River and make recommendations for any changes that would be needed in the restoration plan.

"The independent review is to ensure we are absolutely positive that any development occurring along the Carp River will have no flooding concerns," said Councillor Wilkinson. "Councillor Qadri and I support the recommendation that an independent review is necessary to ensure that the engineering information is correct."

Development that has occurred or is proposed in the Kanata West area, which has no impact on the engineering for the Carp River, will continue.

Both Councillors will ensure development along the river will not occur pending the result of the independent review and no project in those areas will move forward until they are fully satisfied that all concerns have been met. They stress no development has been planned for lands within the 100-year flood plain and none will be permitted there.

"The findings of the review will outline the direction we will take," Councillor Qadri said. "Should the study determine development along the river faces flooding concerns, such development will not occur."

The Councillors would like to take this opportunity to thank City Staff, the Auditor General, the Mayor and Council colleagues, especially Councillors Feltmate and El-Chantiry, for their ongoing support on this issue.

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