

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
101 Town Centre Blvd.
Markham ON L3R 9W3

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing you this letter as a formal request to have Railside Park renamed in memory of my mother, Beverley Gordon, who passed away suddenly March 28.

My mother was President of the Bayview Fairways Ratepayers Association during the 1980s. She was extremely active in the community, believing that children who lived in a healthy and safe neighborhood would grow up to be more environmentally aware and socially conscious adults.

During her time with the ratepayers she worked alongside then Mayor Tony Roman and Markham Counselor Bill Fisch in order to bring to fruition objectives that she considered to be important and beneficial to her community.

In addition to a number of community events she was involved in organizing, two items specifically come to mind. One being the development of Railside Park and the other a pedestrian light standard.

There is a long walkway connecting Castle Harbour with Coral Harbour. Due to its location this walkway is extremely dark at night while being used regularly by both adults and children. My mother was able to use her position in the community to have the town install a light at the midway point of this walkway. That light still remains today.

The park located in what would have been 26 Coral Harbour was created by the builder as required by the town. The original design of the park was to be nothing more than a green field with a few swings. My mother believed that trees were an integral part of any park and requested that the town plant a number of trees around the perimeter. The initial answer from the town was no, citing that the quality of the soil was too poor. She refused to believe this was a legitimate answer and convinced the town to take a chance. Today there are over a dozen healthy Maple and Evergreen trees surrounding the park.

Having lived on Coral Harbour from 1971 to 1998, I saw this park become a key component in the health and development of our community. Over the last 30 years this park has been the place where children grow up. I remember neighbors getting together there every Canada Day to set off fireworks. It has been the home to hundreds of informal baseball and soccer games, with the play only stopping so that everyone could watch the CN trains go by.

I believe that for those from Coral Harbour, Castle Harbour and Bayview Fairways this park is more than just swings and a slide. It represents a safe and welcoming place where everyone is welcome. And that's what my mother always wanted it to be.

I feel that it would be a great honor to the work and dedication my mother has shown towards her community to have the park renamed in her memory to Beverley Gordon Park.

Sincerely,

Marc Gordon