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**OPINION**

Towns should fund, maintain dog parks

Aurora Banner

Wednesday, May 29, 2013



*Re: Community group may take control of dog park, May 16.*

I believe the Canine Commons committee in Aurora is about to make a grave mistake.

Taxpayers who own dogs should not be maintaining parks or fundraising for parks.

Are taxpayers who don't own dogs expected to maintain parks or fundraise for parks?

One third of Canadian homes owns a dog and parks for these people must be included in all planning and funding.

I would strongly recommend to Helen Clarke and the Canine Commons committee that they turn 180 degrees and request 100-per-cent maintenance and funding for the current park and more parks.

If council refuses, Ms. Clarke and the committee should devote their energy to electing a new council that will recognize the needs of Aurora's dog owners.

I speak for a Richmond Hill group of 3,000 petitioners fighting to save the Tower Hill off-leash park in the Saigeon Trail ravine.

A handful of ravine residents have dedicated their lives to closing the first off-leash park in Richmond Hill and a common complaint is dog owners should be paying for their own parks.

Ms Clarke, we are already paying for our parks.



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Demand an inclusive attitude from your council and recognition that this park deserves town maintenance and funding.

**Phil Quackenbush**

*Spokesperson*

*Tower Hill Off-leash Rally*

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