



## MOTION

*TO BE RESPECTFULLY CONSIDERED AT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON  
JANUARY 18, 2010.*

Moved by: Councillor Chan  
Seconded by: Councillor Foster

To support the protection, acquisition and preservation of the  
**The David Dunlap Observatory,**  
A National Landmark in Richmond Hill, Ontario

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill has passed Bylaw No. 100-09 on September 29, 2009 to designate the David Dunlap Observatory property, 123 Hillsvieview Drive, including land and buildings, as a cultural heritage property under the *Ontario Heritage Act* to preserve the heritage attributes, associative and historical values, and contextual values of the designated property;

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill recognizes the David Dunlap Observatory as an important heritage and cultural resource not only for Richmond Hill, but also of Provincial, National and International significance, and as such, unanimously approved the Resolution on September 14, 2009 to request the Premier of Ontario and the Ontario Minister of Culture to consider designating the property as a cultural heritage property of Provincial significance as noted in the Conservation Review Board's report of May 19, 2009 that the property could also be designated by the Province of Ontario;

WHEREAS the unanimously approved Resolution of September 14, 2009 further requested the Prime Minister of Canada and the Federal Minister of Environment to take measures to preserve and protect the David Dunlap Observatory in recognition of its landmark status in Canada;

WHEREAS the year 2010 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1935 opening of the David Dunlap Observatory, a gift to the University of Toronto by Jessie Dunlap as a memorial to her husband, David Dunlap, to create a world-class astronomy facility;

WHEREAS the David Dunlap Observatory has been a centre for astronomical research with the largest telescope in Canada where accomplished astronomers, such as Dr. Clarence Chant and Dr. Helen Hogg, conducted research, and a centre of scientific significance where Dr. Thomas Bolton discovered the first Black Hole in 1972;

*(continued)*



WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill wishes to request the Federal Minister of Environment to identify and approve the David Dunlap Observatory as the site of National Historic Site so that the Parks Canada could consider the David Dunlap Observatory under the established selection criteria to be a candidate for the National Tentative List for further consideration for recommendation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for designation to honour and recognize the site for its historical role in the field of international astronomy and to protect in perpetuity the green space for all the people of Canada;

WHEREAS the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has adopted a motion to add the David Dunlap Observatory site to the TRCA's list of priority acquisition sites for the Regional Municipality of York, and directed its staff to work with the Town of Richmond Hill to develop an acquisition strategy for the property or portions thereof on November 27, 2009; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Richmond Hill wishes to support the TRCA's acquisition of the David Dunlap Observatory to protect the Don River watershed and manage water balance in German Mills Creek;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Council of the Town of Richmond Hill requests the Federal Minister of Environment to identify and declare the David Dunlap Observatory to be of national historic significance and approve the site as a National Historic Site;

The Council of the Town of Richmond Hill reiterates its request for the Provincial Minister of Culture to designate the David Dunlap Observatory to be a cultural heritage property of Provincial significance;

The Council of the Town of Richmond Hill affirms its commitment to support the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's acquisition of the site known as the David Dunlap Observatory, and seeks funding partnership among the levels of government serving the people of the Town of Richmond Hill, the Regional Municipality of York, the Province of Ontario in Canada,

The Council of the Town of Richmond Hill circulates this Resolution to all municipalities in Ontario and requests their municipal Council to support this Resolution and further forward their support to the Federal Minister of Environment and the Ontario Minister of Culture; and

The Council of Richmond Hill gives the Mayor the power to do all things necessary to implement this Resolution.