



# Richmond Hill K9 Klub

## Dog Park Candidate Survey Results

September 25, 2010

On Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Richmond Hill K9 Klub emailed the Mayor, Region and Ward Candidates the following questions:

1. Do you support the establishment of off-leash dog parks in Richmond Hill? (Yes/No)
2. If there is overwhelming public support for the Tower Hill Off-Leash pilot project submitted in the Richmond Hill staff report will you support making the project permanent? (Yes/No)
3. Will you support a second Leash Free Dog Park in Richmond Hill (Yes/No)

Candidate Contact Information obtained from the Town of Richmond Hill website's "Official" List of Candidates

Below are the results and any comments that were provided by the candidate.

Office: Mayor

| Candidate's Name   | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate  |
|--------------------|------------|-----|-----|---|
|                    | 1          | 2   | 3   |   |
| <b>Dave Barrow</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>Comment Question 2: "Provided all the reasonable concerns of the neighbours for the enjoyment of their property have been met."</p> <p>Comment Question 3: "if the location meets the criteria set out by staff in their final report on the pilot project."</p> |
| <b>Abu Alam</b>    | Yes        | Yes | Yes | "I would be happy to attend the first opening!"   |

Office: Regional & Local Councillor

| Candidate's Name      | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate   |
|-----------------------|------------|-----|-----|--|
|                       | 1          | 2   | 3   |  |
| <b>David L. Cohen</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes |  |
| <b>Vito Spatafora</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>Comment Question 1: "I supported the establishment of an off leash dog park in Richmond Hill."</p> <p>Comment Question 3: "Yes in a location that does not annoy neighboring residents with noise and traffic; and, as long as pet owners remain responsible for picking up after their pets."</p>  |
| <b>Brenda Hogg</b>    | Yes        | ?   | ?   | <p>"Thank you for the survey questions. I have never found 'yes/no' surveys valuable and so I have given a fuller response. Council doesn't just vote 'yes' or 'no' until the work is done. Council asks for studies and tries to create fair and reasonable by-laws to accommodate the public's interests and have regard for public safety. Please feel free to distribute my responses as given."</p> <p>Comment Question 1: "Richmond Hill already has an off-leash dog park which is still in the pilot project stage. I agreed to the project and want to see the completed study before I commit to a 'yes/no' answer. So, in the main, my answer would be yes."</p> <p>Comment Question 2: "There is a strong interest in off-leash park facilities. I would expect the staff report to speak to other issues beyond the numbers of interested dog owners before Council makes a 'permanent' decision. You may be very interested to know that the Town does have a by-law recognizing and defining an "Off-leash dog area" (February 2010- Chapter 942.1.7). You also need to know that under Article 3 of Chapter 942 of our Municipal Code governing Park Use, there are several prohibitions to using an off-leash dog area including: dogs which are required by law to be muzzled; female dogs in heat; un-neutered male dogs; large dogs weighing more than 5.4 kg (12 lbs) if the area is for small dogs weighing 5.4 kgs or less; dogs without up-to-date vaccinations or dogs without a valid municipal license, ... and also, No child under the age of twelve shall be permitted within an off leash dog area. By-law 97-090, 13 July, 2009. Some of the questions will be - how did the pilot project go? How will we enforce the previously noted by-laws? How can we mitigate any problems which were encountered? And, where can we assist so that the off-leash park is successful?"</p> <p>Comment Question 3: "It is too early to tell. We need to read the pilot project report, take action where needed, and ensure that our by-laws support the public interest and public safety."</p> |

Office: Councillor Ward 1

| Candidate's Name        | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate   |
|-------------------------|------------|-----|-----|--|
|                         | 1          | 2   | 3   |  |
| <b>Greg Beros</b>       | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>Comment Question 1: "Yes and I want to work with the community to be sure they are located in the best place for all."</p> <p>Comment Question 3: "Yes and likely even more."</p> |
| <b>Adam Dodwell</b>     |            |     |     | <b>NO RESPONSE – reminder sent September 23rd</b>  |
| <b>Jose Souto</b>       | Yes        | Yes | Yes | "In response to your questions I answer yes to all. I will even support one for Oak Ridges. I wish you the best of luck."  |
| <b>Adam Matanovic</b>   |            |     |     | <b>NO RESPONSE – reminder sent September 23rd</b>  |
| <b>Carrie Hoffelner</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes | "Thank you for your interest and advocacy"   |

Office: Councillor Ward 2

| Candidate's Name         | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate   |
|--------------------------|------------|-----|-----|--|
|                          | 1          | 2   | 3   |  |
| <b>Carmine Perrelli</b>  | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p><i>"Up until February of this year I had never had a dog. Now I don't know what I would do without her. The photo above is of my little girl. She has so much fun at that park; I only wish I had one in my backyard.</i></p> <p><i>Be honest now, isn't she the cutest puppy you ever saw?"</i></p>  |
| <b>Mahdieh Hajighazi</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p><i>"I am a member of The Richmond hill K9 klub and have contributed in planting trees at the dog park"</i></p>  |
| <b>Ehsan Haghi</b>       | Yes        | Yes | ?   | <p>Comment Question 1: <i>"I personally like having the park in Richmond Hill."</i></p> <p>Comment Question 2: <i>"If there is enough support, I will vote for it."</i></p> <p>Comment Question 3: <i>"There should be a survey send out to the proposed area residents and if the survey support the idea, I will do the same."</i></p>   |
| <b>Karen Gelineau</b>    |            |     |     | <b>NO RESPONSE – reminder sent September 23rd</b>  |
| <b>Brian Hatt</b>        | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p><i>"Thank you for sending this questionnaire out as information to your members is very valuable.</i></p> <p><i>I am a dog person as dogs are a big part of our family life. We have 3 Scottish Terriers; I am a member of the Canadian Kennel Club, Canadian Scottish Terrier Club, Organize a dog picnic, and help out with both the Aurora and Markham kennel clubs. We travel to confirmation dog shows in Ontario as our daughter competes in Junior Showmanship competitions.</i></p> <p><i>My daughter has taken her dog with a friend to the dog park and really enjoyed it. I am a strong believer in being a responsible dog owner and support off lead parks."</i></p> |
| <b>Marianne Yake</b>     | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>Comment Question 1: <i>"I support off leash parks. With proper education of neighbours, vegetation planted around a park, the town can offer opportunities for pet owners."</i></p> <p>Comment Question 2: <i>"if there is overwhelming support of the neighbourhood and community at large."</i></p> <p>Comment Question 3: <i>"I had proposed the establishment of a dog park in the Yonge &amp; 7 area, south of Indigo Bookstore. This area could be an ideal site, is already fenced and will of course need some more fencing."</i></p>   |

Office: Councillor Ward 3

| Candidate's Name    | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate   |
|---------------------|------------|-----|-----|--|
|                     | 1          | 2   | 3   |  |
| <b>Lidia Kafieh</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p><i>"Thank you for your questions and I appreciate your considering me for your vote.</i></p> <p><i>Not having done any specific research in what lands we have available for this specific use, I will say yes to all three questions.</i></p> <p><i>As a side note. As you must imagine, I have been door knocking for quite a while. I decided to take on a survey to take note of every home that had a dog. It's not always accurate for some dogs don't bark, however, I observed thousands of homes personally in Ward 3 only of course. I found in every fourth home they had a dog. The larger the home or the more the land, the larger the dog or they generally owned two dogs."</i></p> |
| <b>Vik Gandhi</b>   | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>Comment Question 3: <i>"It does depend where it will be located though. We must make sure that it is safe for everyone, including the dogs"</i></p>   |
| <b>Thomas Chong</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>Comment Question 3: <i>"but it needs to be in a remote area away from homes if possible."</i></p>   |

|                           |     |     |     |  |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|
| <b>Mehrdad Sabouhi</b>    |     |     |     | <b>NO RESPONSE – reminder sent September 23rd</b>  |
| <b>Justin Lee</b>         | Yes | Yes | Yes | <p><i>“Thanks for sending the e-mail to me. I was able to meet you and a few other K9 Klub members during David Cohen’s Community BBQ and I was greatly impressed by your dedication to the dog owner community.”</i></p> <p>Comment Question 1: <i>“In short, yes I do. As the first off-leash dog park is still fairly young, I would like to meet up with all parties involved and figure out what went well, what needs to be improved upon and where new off-leash parks could be located. The idea is great, but like anything, some things can always be tweaked and improved upon. Also, I would have to bring this issue to the attention of my constituents at a Ward Three meeting. I would represent their wishes, as that’s what I would be elected to do. Fair and advanced notice of meetings would be presented to all people/parties.”</i></p> <p>Comment Question 2: <i>“Yes, I would. I have to vote with what my constituents want. If they tell me they want a dog park, then I must respect my constituents wishes. As a representative of the community, I have to present the clearest facts so we can all make a decision. But the same is also true if there is overwhelming support against the initiative.”</i></p> <p>Comment Question 3: <i>“Yes, as long as any major concerns about the first park can be rectified. Since I still do not know the entire situation, I cannot address the concerns as of yet. But as long as we can figure all the lingering issues, I see no problem supporting a second leash free park, provided my constituents want one.”</i></p> <p><i>“I pride myself in encouraging and helping community groups and residents achieve their goals, and I am a strong believer that with enough hard work and communication, the majority of all concerns can be resolved. So, I would be more than happy to work with you and all parties.”</i></p> |
| <b>Sarkis Assadourian</b> | Yes | Yes | ?   | Question 3 Comment: <i>“Only if there is a great need”</i>   |
| <b>Castro Liu</b>         |     |     |     | <b>NO RESPONSE – reminder sent September 23rd</b>  |

Office: Councillor Ward 4

| Candidate’s Name      | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate   |
|-----------------------|------------|-----|-----|--|
|                       | 1          | 2   | 3   |  |
| <b>Lynn Foster</b>    | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <i>“ I am the lead Councillor on this project, and as such am proud that combined with all the hard work of the Richmond Hill K9 Klub, we have experienced a very successful year for this pilot project, and we continue to work at the site to minimize site lines and create a park that is user friendly while still a positive addition for the whole community and which we can all be proud of.”</i>  |
| <b>Angel Freedman</b> | ?          | ?   | ?   | <p><i>“On behalf of Angel Freedman, I would like to thank you for your interest in working to understand more about Ms. Freedman’s position on the dog park that is located in Ward 4.</i></p> <p><i>Now, in terms of finding answers to the below questions, I kindly ask you to have members of the K9 Klub, <b>who reside in Ward 4</b>, to contact us directly — Angel and myself would be more than willing to meet with them in person.”</i></p> <p>– Michael Aziz, Campaign Manager</p> |

Office: Councillor Ward 5

| Candidate's Name              | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate  |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|---|
|                               | 1          | 2   | 3   |   |
| <b>Nick Papa</b>              | Yes?       | ?   | ?   | "I will support it at a proper location and with a good input from its surrounding area residents"  |
| <b>Bruce Kurta</b>            | Yes        | Yes | Yes | Comment on Question 3 "...actually believe that there should be two other parks - forming a triangle in the town so that residents don't have to drive far to be able to enjoy the services. One at the bottom of the town and one in the east end."  |
| <b>Karen Cilevitz</b>         | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>"I have always been an animal lover and protector. I lost my beloved pug, Pugsley, almost a year ago to lymphoma and still miss him terribly. I also have 4 gorgeous cats.</p> <p>I support the establishment and protection of off-leash dog parks in Richmond Hill, and anywhere for that matter. There is nothing more joyous than seeing your dog bound around with others non-encumbered by a leash!</p> <p>However these parks must also be closely monitored by the owners and Town to ensure existing close or neighbouring residents are not adversely affected. This is a marvelous pilot project and I hope to see it maintained and repeated elsewhere in Richmond Hill so all dogs and their owners can enjoy being outdoors in an urban environment.</p> <p>If this ideal is handled appropriately by all parties, I believe all parties, and the dogs, will be happy and content with the outcome."</p> |
| <b>Christopher Dimopoulos</b> |            |     |     | No Email address or website provided.   |

Office: Councillor Ward 6

| Candidate's Name         | Question # |     |     | Comments provided by candidate   |
|--------------------------|------------|-----|-----|--|
|                          | 1          | 2   | 3   |  |
| <b>Godwin Chan</b>       | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>"Thanks for the opportunity to share my views with the K9 Klub and the community."</p> <p>Comment Question 1: "In fact, I vote for establishing the pilot project."</p>   |
| <b>Sheeraz Hudda</b>     |            |     |     | NO RESPONSE – reminder sent September 23rd   |
| <b>Frank Mastroianni</b> | Yes        | Yes | Yes | <p>Comment Question 1: "As a dog owner for more than 17 years, I understand the positive impact that off-leash dog parks can have on both dogs and their owners. I would support off-leash dog parks in Richmond Hill if there is demand for such parks and logistics, feasibility and sustainability aligned."</p> <p>Comment Question 2: "I would be willing to support any motion with overwhelming support from my fellow Richmond Hill residents and that applies to the Tower Hill Off-Leash pilot projects permanency"</p> <p>Comment Question 3: "If there is widespread demand and support for a second Leash Free Dog Park in Richmond Hill and as mentioned above...the logistics, feasibility and sustainability of such a park aligned, I would have no objections supporting a second Leash Free Dog Park in Richmond Hill."</p> |