



Media Advisory

Town of Newmarket's lack of due diligence costs taxpayers...again.

Newmarket, ON, November 12, 2015 – The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) has asked repeatedly over the past four months for information pertaining to the construction and remediation of the new dog park. After significant delays we have learned:

1. The total cost of the dog park was \$193,397.45. The amount budgeted for the dog park was \$135,000.
2. The Town of Newmarket claimed \$100,000 of sponsorship money was raised for the construction of this dog park. NTAG has learned that two sponsors, Global Pet Foods and SNAP Media, have each committed \$50,000 in sponsorship. Each sponsor will pay \$5,000 a year over ten years. The initial cost of this project was absorbed by taxpayers. Claims by the Town of Newmarket that sponsorship money covered construction costs is not accurate.
3. The Town of Newmarket did not complete any soil samples at this location, a former dump, resulting in costly remediation after glass and debris were located at the site.

“The Town of Newmarket failed to ensure this property was suitable for a dog park, to take soil samples or to obtain expert recommendations before spending capital funds, or taxpayer’s money” states Teena Bogner, President of the Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. “The significant remediation and cost that was incurred at the dog park is yet another example of the Town of Newmarket and their poor record on completing thorough due diligence with major capital construction projects, such as the Old Town Hall and Davis Drive. This waste of taxpayer’s money, due to lack of foresight and planning, is deplorable.”

A copy of the Freedom of Information request that provided this information can be found at www.ntag.ca.

The Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc. (NTAG) is a provincially incorporated non-for-profit ratepayers group in Newmarket, ON. NTAG is a non-political, non-partisan, advocacy organization dedicated to fair taxes, less waste and transparent and accountable government in all levels of government (town, region and school boards) in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

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