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January 7, 2013

Danny Moro
Project Manager
Restoration and Environmental Monitoring Projects
Restoration Services Division
Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Re: Grenadier Pond Electrofishing

Dear Danny:

The TRCA has been conducting electrofishing as a monitoring technique at Grenadier Pond for a number of years. We understand that the purpose of monitoring the fish is to determine that the populations of large-mouth bass and northern pike are self-sustaining, in accordance with the Grenadier Pond rehabilitation project. We also understand that electrofishing involves some degree of risk to the fish, but is considered an acceptable method of monitoring fish stock to inform ongoing restoration and management programs.

We are concerned that this invasive method is also being used by TRCA for public demonstration events, such as the Family Fishing Day, and more recently for a high school students' fishing awareness day held on October 24, 2012. Given the inherent risks to fish and the overall disturbance to wildlife, as well as to regular park users, caused by such large-scale events, we do not find them appropriate for the precious natural resource that is Grenadier Pond, which has status as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest and is already subject to a multitude of pressures given its urbanized location.

In addition, these large-scale public events are focused on promoting urban fishing, and fishing at Grenadier Pond in particular. The pond and the wildlife that live here are already suffering from excessive and irresponsible fishing. We are calling for a provisional ban on fishing at the pond until the authorities, including the City and the TRCA, can assess the situation and determine what measures and limitations can be put in place to allow for some limited fishing under controlled conditions. We understand that the City is now reviewing the situation. Under these circumstances, it is highly inappropriate for the TRCA to be using electrofishing, an invasive technique, to promote what has already been determined to be a hazardous and unsustainable activity.

We call on the TRCA to limit its electrofishing activities at Grenadier Pond to **scientific purposes only**. We also recommend a **moratorium** on such large-scale events or relocation of them to a more suitable site outside High Park, given the intense pressures already facing Grenadier Pond.

In the context of scientific study and management of an ANSI, we would appreciate any information you can provide on the following:

1. The TRCA prepares fisheries management plans for the various GTA watersheds. Is there such a plan for Grenadier Pond? Could you please provide us with a copy of it?
2. Can you please provide fish monitoring results obtained at Grenadier Pond? We have one file posted on the Fish page of our website, www.highparknature.org, that gives individual results up to 2008. Can you provide more recent years and any summary or analysis of what has been learned from these surveys? Is such information also reported regularly to the City of Toronto?

Given the TRCA's role as a key partner in the stewardship of Grenadier Pond, we thank you in advance for taking these recommendations and requests under serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Leslie Gooding & Karen Yukich
Co-Chairs, High Park Natural Environment Committee

c.c. Councillor Sarah Doucette
Richard Ubbens, Director, Parks
Jorge Ture, Park Supervisor
Jennifer Gibbs, Natural Resource Specialist, Urban Forestry