

ideally as harbourfront but nevertheless it is located close enough to the population concentration of 2.5 million, as others have already said, to make it an extremely worth-while concept for recreational purposes and for the enjoyment of future generations.

Having missed on harbourfront we do not want to miss on the Rouge River Valley. Therefore we support fully this motion today in the hope that similar momentum will be generated in the Ontario legislature so as to bring this matter to its final and happy conclusion once and for all.

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join with my colleagues today in full support of the motion which has been presented by the hon. member for Scarborough Centre. Even though I am a rural member and some 150 miles from that very wonderful area, the Rouge River Valley, I certainly support this and I am delighted to hear that from all sides of the House there is unanimous support. We hope that this message will get to the Ontario government and of course to the Premier of Ontario.

The Rouge Valley certainly is worth protecting and, as has been mentioned by previous speakers, particularly because of its unique situation so close to a great metropolitan area such as Toronto. The Rouge, where the river flows into Lake Ontario, is one of the few Toronto beaches that has managed to stay open for swimming in recent years. Of course, I think we are all aware that when the summer heat comes along, signs go up prohibiting swimming in this part of the metropolitan Toronto-Lake Ontario beach area, and I am delighted to know that this is one that is still reasonably clean.

Of course it has also been mentioned that the Rouge Valley is a naturalist's paradise. There are more different kinds of trees in the Rouge Valley, for example, than there are in South Moresby, one of Canada's most ecologically diverse areas. The Rouge Valley has been designated as one of the 36 most important remaining examples of the Carolinian Life Zone in Canada by the Wildlife Fund of Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

### *Private Members' Business*

The Rouge Valley is a treasure, made all the more valuable by the fact that it is located within or adjacent to the borders of the largest and greatest city in Canada, Toronto. Toronto is Canada's most heavily populated and definitely economically advantaged city.

Like modern cities the world over, Toronto can be a bustling, noisy place where fumes and soot from automobiles bring tears to the eye and where the hectic pace of life sometimes makes residents long for a place where they can find a little peace and quiet, a place where they can get in touch with nature and restore themselves to tranquillity. How fortunate the citizens of metro Toronto are to have access to just such a place, located right on their doorstep. The residents of Toronto, the people of Ontario and for that matter all Canadians can take advantage of this opportunity to save a magnificent pastoral park for urban dwellers if, and only if, the Rouge Valley is preserved.

Vancouver is already blessed with just such a park. The existence of Stanley Park goes a long way toward explaining why Vancouverites consider their city to be the most beautiful in Canada. New York City has Central Park, located right in the heart of Manhattan. Londoners can enjoy Hyde Park, Parisians the Bois de Boulogne.

All are vast reserves, located at the centres of vast metropolises. All are monuments to civic foresight in preserving land that could otherwise have been developed.

I would like to sit down at that this time, and trust that the House will pass this motion.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I declare the motion carried.

It being very close to two o'clock the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.