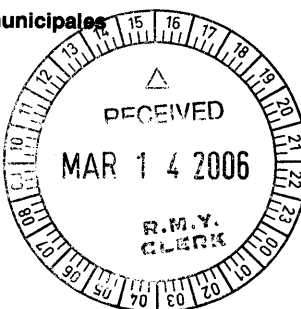


**Minister of Municipal Affairs
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FILE No. *pdb*

06-24817

March 10, 2006

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 2006, regarding the 'York Region Significant Woodlands Study Draft Final Report' and criteria for determining woodland significance in York Region.

I am pleased to advise you that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is currently working on draft technical papers to outline criteria for the identification of key natural heritage features within the Protected Countryside area of the Greenbelt. This includes significant woodlands. Ministry staff have been working with the MNR by providing input in the development of these documents.

The draft technical papers in support of the Greenbelt Plan are based on the research and consultation that was done for the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) Conservation Plan technical papers, also prepared by the MNR. The draft technical guides of the ORM Conservation Plan, prepared by the MNR, are available for use.

I note that your council's resolution refers to forwarding the draft significant woodlands report to my colleague, the Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources. I have also forwarded a copy of your letter and report to Minister Ramsay for his consideration.

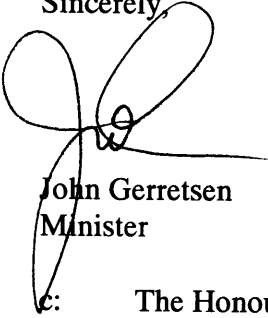
In addition, I have forwarded a copy of your letter and report to my colleague, the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, who is responsible for the government's proposed Growth Plan. This plan will guide decisions on a wide range of issues, including economic development, land use planning, urban form, housing, natural heritage and natural resource protection, and provincial infrastructure planning.

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Mr. Denis Kelly

I would like to thank York Region for continuing to work with the Province and its municipalities, stakeholders and the public to implement the Greenbelt initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Gerretsen', written over the printed name.

John Gerretsen
Minister

c: The Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources
The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal