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From: Margaretha VANDERVELDEN [<mailto:grethav@rogers.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 7:30 PM
To: Jeffrey, Barb; Waller, John
Subject: York Region OP December 2009

Dear John Waller and Barbara Jeffrey,

The Lakewatch Society and the North East Sutton Ratepayers Association support the York Region Official Plan [YROP (December 2009)]. We recognize that your planning task was considerable and appreciate your efforts to provide us with a thoughtful analysis of our formal submission. Thank you.

Specifically, we appreciate the Revised December Policy 2.2. 44 under which any exemption from Policy 2.2. 43 (no development/site alteration in significant woodlands) is strictly regulated and explicitly confined to greenfields in the "Urban Area(s)." We are hopeful that by limiting further loss of significant woodlands north of the Oak Ridges Moraine, precious larger woodlands (10 ha or more) will be saved as will essential habitat for many of the Region's wildlife species, including interior forest birds.

That said, and in order to preclude argument in future land-use conversions, we suggest that separate descriptive entries under DEFINITIONS for "Urban Area" and for "Towns and Villages" are included to supplement the identification of these two areas (pink and yellow, respectively) as per the MAPS included in the YROP. As indicated by our Comment 2 ("Plan fails to Address the Problem of an Inherently Biased Environmental Analysis Process"), unless policies are explicit, Towards a Sustainable Region will remain hollow, to be tested again and again by short-term interests.

With thanks and best regards,

Margaretha Vandervelden, North East Sutton Ratepayers Association Inc.
Peter Sibbald Brown, Lakewatch Society (Canada)