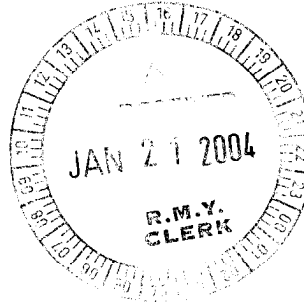


Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Region of York
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket, Ont L3Y 6Z1



January 21, 2004

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. -

PO3

Re: Yonge Street South Urban Expansion Area

Official Plan Amendment No. 34, Town of Aurora

Please include a copy of this correspondence to all members of the Regional Council and include this letter for discussion on the agenda of the January 22, 2004 Regional Council meeting .

R.A.Y.S. has spent the past four years actively participating in the development of the Town of Aurora's Official Plan #34 and we encouraged all residents to take the time to become involved in the Town and Regional planning process. This history of cooperation with our Town and Regional planning staff has allowed for greater public input and active communication between the public and staff. We have requested many staff reports, participated in many delegations, acquired party status at O.M.B. hearings and attended numerous planning meetings in respect to OP#34.

But unfortunately this process does not always work. Although our interest in the approval process of OP#34 was known, neither the Town of Aurora staff or the membership of R.A.Y.S., received notification of the approval of OP#34. I understand that as a courtesy, Regional planning staff would contact the local municipal planning staff prior to the final submission of their planning report to the Regional Planning Committee. This step allows for any additional information from the local planners to be obtained and could possibly impact the proposed recommendation from Regional staff.

In this case of OP#34, the Town of Aurora Council determined on October 22, 2003 that the development of these lands should meet the requirements of the ORMCP. Accordingly, the Town Council passed the OPA #48 inclusive of OP#34 and submitted to the Province as part of the ORMCP conformity exercise. When approved by the Province, as submitted, the development of these lands will be required to meet the applicable policies of the ORMCP.

The Regional staff planning report does not mention the Town's OPA #48 and how it applies to these lands. Therefore R.A.Y.S. requested delegation status to appear before the Regional Planning Committee on Jan 7, 2004 but due to the length of the agenda was unable to present our delegation. Subsequently, we recommended to the Town of Aurora Council on January 13, 2004 that the Regional planning resolution be amended as follows:

"It is noted that the lands subject to this Official Plan Amendment are also governed by Official Plan Amendment #48, regarding the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan in accordance with the provisions of Sections 15 and 17 of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act."

We therefore request that the Regional Planning recommendation also include this wording.

In future, we also request that municipal planning staff and residents on notification lists are contacted within an appropriate timeframe prior to planning meetings, to provide any additional comments or to properly prepare for delegations. Perhaps with adequate input, the numerous hours spent by residents, staff and Council to amend this Official Plan would not have been necessary.

Sincerely,



Susan Walmer, Chairperson, RAYS

Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge South
76 Elderberry Trail
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6X2

cc. Neil Garbe, Director of Community Planning
Members of Council, Town of Aurora
Sue Siebert, Director of Planning, Town of Aurora