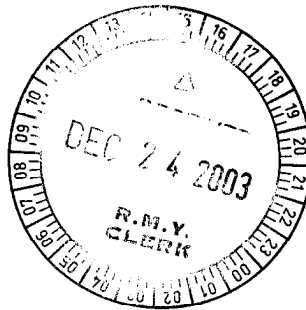


December 23, 2003

Ms. Elma Stevenson
Committee Co-ordinator
Office of the Regional Clerk
York Region
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1



REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE
FILE No. - 906

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

RE: HARLEY FOOD DISTRIBUTOR (1418219 ONTARIO LTD.) APPLICATION FOR YORK REGIONAL TREE BY-LAW MINOR EXCEPTION FOR 21576 McCOWAN ROAD, PART LOTS 27-28, CONCESSION 6, TOWN OF EAST GWILLIMBURY

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has reviewed York Region's notice of this application for a minor exception under the Regional Tree By-law for the clearing of 10.37 acres (4.2 ha) of woodland. MNR offers the following comments.

The forest on the property is already identified in the York Regional Official Plan to be part of Wetlands, Significant Forested Lands and the Regional Greenlands System. It is part of a large contiguous area forming one of the largest forest blocks remaining in York Region.

A major portion of the forest on and off the subject property has been identified as the provincially significant Black River Wetland Complex #1. The Provincial Policy Statement calls for protection of such wetlands.

One could anticipate that York Region's study of significant woodlands, when completed, could confirm the significance of this forest. MNR recommends denial of this application and retention of this forest.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned at 905-713-7714.

Yours truly,



Bohdan I. Kowalyk, R.P.F.
Aurora District Forester