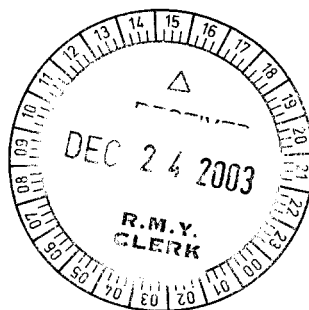


December 23, 2003

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. - *f06*

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

RE: HUISMAN APPLICATION FOR YORK REGIONAL TREE BY-LAW MINOR
EXCEPTION FOR LAND ALONG HOLLAND MARSH DRAINAGE CANAL
LOT 16, CONCESSION 2, KING TOWNSHIP

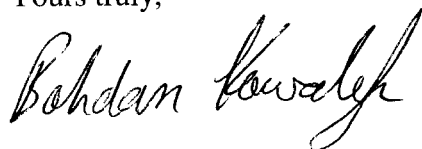
The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has reviewed York Region's notice of the Huisman application for a minor exception under the Regional Tree By-law for the clearing of 7 acres (3 ha) of woodland. MNR offers the following comments.

The area is outside the central Holland Marsh agricultural area. The remaining forest, approximately 70 years old, forms a connecting block between other more disturbed woodlands in this vicinity. It contains red ash, white birch, soft maple and white-cedar among other species. The soil is naturally poorly drained and the area has wetland characteristics although a wetland evaluation has not been applied.

In flat agricultural landscapes, forests along watercourses are often optimally located for retention of protective cover and habitat functions. York Region has initiated a study of significant woodlands with MNR as a participant. MNR recommends denial of this application and retention of this forest at least until the results of the study are available.

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