

**Stakeholder Written Submissions
received to**

May 29, 2006

Email from Nancy Hopkinson, attaching her comments from the Vaughan meeting

Presentation at York Region's Sustainability Open House April 4, 2006

I listened carefully to the presentation at the Open House, listening to what might be said about Sustainability. I did not hear a definition of Sustainability. I do not think that you talked about Sustainability at all. I think that it is just a buzz word that you are using.

Water Sustainability.

I live in Nobleton and did not have enough information to do a water balance model for Nobleton, but found that there was lots of information available about King City. I could find from consultants' reports how much precipitation came down on King City and what happened to it. How much of it went to run-off, how much to evapotranspiration, how much to the groundwater and how much to the lower aquifer. All this information was available from consultants' reports. I could see how much well water was used from the York Region website. Also from consultants' reports, I could see how much water leaked into the sewer pipes from the groundwater. It is a substantial amount, 227L/capita/day. I wanted to see if everything was in balance. The MOE does not look at the whole picture. I hope that York Region will start to look at the whole picture *of the water balance when dealing with sewer and water servicing proposals*. No wonder the groundwater level is going down. We protested to the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and he wrote in his 2004-2005 Annual Report Supplement "MOE has taken the position that issuance of Cs of A for Sewage Works and PTTWs" (Permit to Take Water) "are unrelated processes. However, in 2004, the Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) disagreed. The ERT ruled that MOE's decision to issue a C of A for quarry dewatering was unreasonable and premature since a valid PTTW wasn't in place and granted the leave to appeal. MOE has since filed a notice of an application for a judicial review of the ERT's decision contending that the ERT exceeded its authority when it made the ruling that MOE should not have issued the C of A without considering whether or not a PTTW would be issued."

If we are to consider water sustainability, we have to look at the big picture. I am a retired Chemistry teacher, but we teach the water cycle in grade 9. This is not rocket science.

Growth. There are problems with too much growth.

Storm Management Ponds need to have maintenance. The valves have to be checked to make sure that they will work in an emergency. Beside Hwy 400 in Vaughan, there are houses that take up most of the lot. There is very little land for the water to percolate into the ground.

We have had a sinkhole at Jane and Hwy 7. What caused this? Reading on the internet, it seems that if the groundwater level goes down, then the water that would normally push back when cars go along the road is not there, and a sinkhole can appear.

There was that problem on Finch Ave., east of Jane where a section of Finch Ave. was washed away. Do we know the consequences of the types of building that we are doing that may be causing massive flooding downstream.

Intensification itself can cause problems. I used to live at Jane and Finch before it became quite so intensified. It is not surprising that if you put too many people too close together with nothing to do that teenagers will get into trouble.

I remember a quote from Greg Sorbara who said that we are in a global competition for immigrants. Our economy is dependent on immigration. With more immigrants we have more homes needed (so the developers do well), we need more appliances (so appliance manufacturers do well), we need more furniture (so furniture manufacturers do well). This is a House of Cards. Where do we end? We cannot keep growing. This is not sustainable.

On the slide that you presented, you listed 427 and 404. You ignored 400. 400 should have been there.

Finally I live in Nobleton and it is quite isolated. There should be cycling lanes along the King Rd., so that we can cycle to King City. There should be a walking path along the King Rd., with trees planted so that the path is shaded.

Nancy Hopkinson, Nobleton
Following the Vaughan meeting

March 24, 2006

Mr. Bill Fisch, Regional Chair and CEO
and Council
York Regional Council
17250 Yonge Street,
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Re: Towards a Sustainable Region

Chair Fisch, Mayors and Regional Councillors:

Local food production, processing and agriculture are an essential part of a sustainable community. I attended the meeting in Richmond Hill on March 21 and discovered that this whole topic had not been addressed in the Region's preparation for discussion. I would like to raise it to Council for consideration.

The way to protect our irreplaceable, God-given, natural resource, farmland, is to keep "Sprawl" off it. Do not use our prime agricultural land for more suburbs. Increase the rate of intensification and infill housing well beyond the 40%, 81,000 unit projection.

No, this does not mean building canyons of apartment and condominium towers. This means planning and requiring the implementation of all the principles that Jane Jacobs outlined in her classic *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Those principles are most similar to the patterns of European cities. Short blocks/walkability. Diversity of styles, sizes and activities/mixed use. Neighbourhoods with sidewalks. Safety of "eyes on the street" and the contact with neighbours.. It means that we convert the space that is wasted by one- and two-storey strip malls, "Big Box" stores and rambling commercial-industrial areas into interesting streets that have human scale, four and five storey buildings with combinations of stores, professional offices, businesses and apartments and flats interspersed with public squares and public spaces These are some of the qualities that make a city environment interesting and desirable to live in. It is about how people enjoy life. Ask a Parisian or Londoner. Who seeks Scarboro?

Markets in Europe are for the distribution of local foods from dependable producers - your local grower/farmer - but they are also centres of human contact and communication. One of the Globe and Mail articles described how isolated and lonely women/mothers/homemakers were because the present suburban developments in Markham prevent easy social contact.

Agriculture is very definitely part of a Sustainable Region. Food is a renewable resource. Soil, properly cared for, renews itself. Local food provides security for the citizens of the Region as well as providing jobs and taxes. The jobs are not only in food production but also in supporting industries, food processing and retailing. Agriculture IS employment land.

Local food contributes to the health of the citizens. The fresher the food is, the more subtle nutrients are available. Not only that but it tastes better. Also, far less fossil fuel is used to transport it.

Farms contribute to the well-being of the environment -clean air, clean water, shelter and food for wildlife.

Farms attract tourism - Agro-tourism - farm vacations, bed-and-breakfast, value-added processing, pick-your-own, corn mazes, to name but a few activities. There is also the attraction provided by chefs and restaurants using the local produce.

Farms present a diversion and restful landscape for the urban neighbours. A rural countryside is a definite asset to the "Quality of Life" factor that *Planning for Tomorrow* addresses. Farms are the basis for that rural community.

What we need in York Region is an agricultural policy. We need Council firstly, to take a stand that will return the agricultural land to productivity. The land must not produce faceless, nameless, money losing commodities that compete on the world market but it should provide fresh vegetables and herbs, meats and cheeses, fruits and other farm products that directly *Feed Cities*. Yes, *Farmers Feed Cities* but *Local Farmer s Feed their Local Cities Best*. The municipalities of Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill must preserve the remaining agricultural land NOT as a mere land bank for greenfield development but for honest agricultural production. Houses cost more tax dollars than they pay for; farms use less municipal resources than they pay taxes for.

Saving the productive land **IS** the first step. Equally important is to preserve the **FARMER**. Land without a farmer is like a body without a head. Farmers keeps farming when they can earn a living wage doing so. New farmers take up the profession when they too can expect a living wage.

Therefore, the Region will keep farmers, as well as attracting new ones, by setting policies, projects and procedures that make it easier for farmers to produce and market their products. We have to *Put a Face on Food*; our citizens must notice and identify our local producers "Did you get any of Jim's beans last week. They were fantastic!" We can provide time, space and promotion for Farmers' Markets, local retail stores and restaurants that feature local foods.

The third policy item is to advertise York's productivity and attractiveness. The regions of Durham and Waterloo and the areas of Prince Edward County and Caledon already have strong promotional programmes and materials that make themselves tourist destinations. These other locales are wooing OUR citizens to spend money to improve THEIR economies.

The fourth section of the policy that has to be developed is for the facilitation and promotion of urban agriculture. Here we will promote not only home gardens but also community gardens, allotment gardens, rooftop gardens, greenhouses and their place in supporting health through community, exercise and the provision of food.

In closing, I encourage Council to expand its view of the Sustainable Region to include these old but necessary concepts.

Sincerely,

John O'Gorman

cc. Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, Region of York

D. J. Lyons, Chair, GTA Agricultural Action Committee

Bryan Tuckey, Commissioner of Planning and Development Services

March 28, 2006

Mr John Waller
Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning
Region of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear John,

It was good to see you at Mrkham. I got my dates mixed up and thought I could get to Vaughan March 27th - I was wrong, the meeting is April 4th after you return. I am booked elsewhere. I am enclosing the draft notes I would have used.

John, I am plain disappointed. I did not think a planning exercise could be so deficient.

Regards,



Terry Goodwin

YORK REGION GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Draft Notes March 27, 06

Region to be congratulated on these open house discussions

Regional planning should not be just our desk top -we are all tied together with our neighbours

After the meeting of March 23 06 I asked one of the junior staff why the exhibit being removed did not cover the GO Rail operations. I was told "They did not belong to the Region" and therefor they were not included. I understand this is a Planning presentation; there can be some strong inferences if these routes and possible extensions are not specifically included.

Question this overall intensification of 40%. What does it mean a shifting on house choices? WHY do this? Many of the residents who are your constituents will lose their homes - WHY WILLFULLY HURT THEM?

We have GRIDLOCK now. Few Region initiatives are helping. Viva only makes more traffic jams. GO Rail is certainly helping but the Region has just hijacked its bus routes.

If one believes that bicycles will really help then bikeways should be shown on all new arterial roads and collectors - no parking allowed to block a bikeway.

TG Mar 06

GRIDLOCK

Everyone knows about Gridlock and does not like it. In most cases the concerns of Health, Education, and the Hydro problems come first .

THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE and get one's mind OUT OF THE BOX.

There must be an Authority for the GTA (which could be a pattern for other areas in the Province). There should likely be three commissioners or board members - full time- without a political (municipal) requirement. The Ministers of Transportation as well as Urban and Housing - or their deputies- should be members but not necessarily full time. Said Authority should be regulatory - not operating. It should have the power to BONUS operators - municipalities.

IT IS HARD TO GET PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR CARS. A good transit system should be

- Convenient and seamless
- Show a large savings in TIME
- Fare for distance

The greatest opportunity is for GO Rail multiple unit cars with overhead electric which provide fast acceleration and put power back in the supply when braking. The Hawker-Siddley design for the shells of the present cars supported overhead electric.

Fare for distance - can be as low as 25 or 50 cents for a local trip and then graded up for longer rides. It avoids high combinations across borders and can be divided between carriers.

An operator -municipality - should be BONUSED for each passenger kilometre carried to make the system show a PROFIT.

The operating funds should come from a transportation levy. AREA WIDE lot levies would be required for capital projects. The resulting funds can be augmented by the Province and the Federals.

Roads and highways should be surveyed once every - say- three years for which the municipality should be reimbursed particularly for formally numbered highways. Funds for their improvement could also come from these funds

Pre 04 Update Feb 28 05 TG

March 20, 2006.

To Whom It May Concern:

I received "Planning for Tomorrow" in York Region. I don't like it. I still don't. Too big, Too soon, Too Fast. Not normal and Not Need it. But a lot of Money for the Wealthy Developers, and for the "Rich Business People". They took away our "Rights", even our "Freedom" in Canada. Hear me out, and check it out.

The Jesuit Priests have their building, and the Developers want to built right beside it. Now, they also want to build beside the Catholic and Protestant Cemetary. This is not the only one. There is a Passionist Missionaries where they want to "demolish" the buildings and build the huge Apartment building. This is a "Disgrace", in every way. Not acceptable!

I live in Woodbridge for 20 years. The last 10 years is terrible. It came a drastic change, which we didn't know about it. They knew the Plan about 27 years ago, otherwise we wouldn't be here. I live in Weston Downs Community, the lovely one, but they "Destroyed Our Quality Lifestyle". My house is the second one from the Weston Rd. "Super Highway", Non Stop "Traffic from Hell". 24 hrs. daily, 7 days of the week, with 125km/h, Not 70km/h as according to the signs. This is a Mockery. We are handshake from the Hwy. Road. In this terrible conditions and knowing the Plan, they should never built houses beside this WESTON Rd. Or if so, built it 1000' from the Road. How this happen to us Canadians, and like me too, who pay So Much Realty Taxes. And the Traffic is 365 days of the year. As I Stated, Non Stop.

Woodbridge is Way "Overgrowth". The Highway and Business City. Our side Roads, all been Widen to Highways, people living beside it. All those people with their "positions", Praising this Big Vaughan, but they are Not Living with this "Hellish Conditions". Also, perhaps they want to keep their positions and overlook our "Complaints". But we do know the TRUTH Now! If we can hear this terrible traffic noise behind doors and windows, no how can we enjoy our beautiful gardens. Make it worst, we have SPEEDING everywhere, even in our side streets. And you want to Develop more. "Unjust" make me angry. And this is a "good anger", because it will Destroy Good People with your more Planning. When you going to Stop. Can you see what is happening. We know the good Growth, and the Bad one.

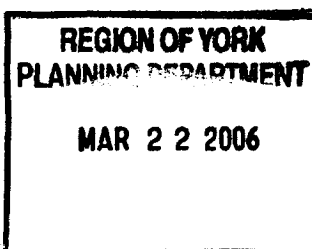
"One Day, We All Have To Stand For What We had Done In Our Lives".

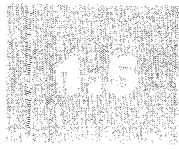
Sincerely,

Mrs. Terezia A. Rotundo



Mrs Terezia Rotundo





March 22/06

To whom it concerns,

I believe to plan a piece of Mother Earth seriously, properly, and from a healthy environmental point of view, you must first state and allocate to that land only the number of people that land will hold, to do the job well.

T OO MANY ACRES OF Arrable, fertile land are being gobbled up by the thousands to be killed under the jaws of machinery, never to be reclaimed again for growing land. The machines take the fertile growing land away.

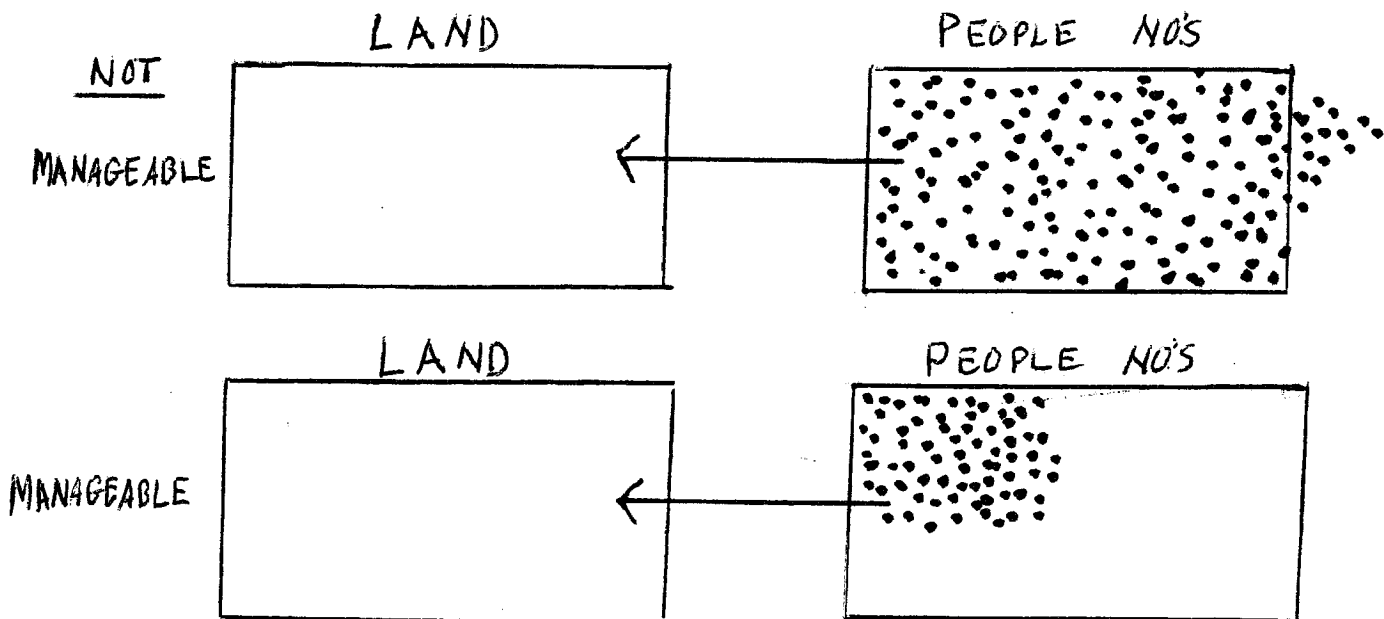
Our fresh water source is being threatened due to overdevelopment in the wrong places. The warning bells have been going off for years to not pave over our precious growing lands in Southern Ontario, around the Great Lakes. When will our federal government step in and intervene declaring an emergency to allocate populations to settle in other locations where our land is not fertile but rocky, and our water is not at risk?

A solution must be found and the answer is not cramming millions more onto lands which feed and water us. It will soon reach a life and death situation.

Humans can only live so many days without pure drinkable water. If our imported foods are cut off for some reason, where is our own fertile soil to provide for thousands?

Let scientific experts such as David Suzuki and others advise the federal government as to the necessary steps which must be taken to make for a healthy, sustainable earth.

Sincerely, *Penny Parmenter*
(a concerned citizen)





Scherer, Karen

From: Bruce & Penny Lindsay
Sent: April 13, 2006 6:34 PM
To: Waller, John
Cc: Jan Ravens; Tuckey, Bryan
Subject: Towards A Sustainable Region

Hi John,

I was at your Towards A Sustainable Region PIC last night and meant to ask you on the deadline for responses to this presentation.

The Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee meets monthly and was only made aware of this input opportunity last week. For us to have a committee response we would need until at least our next meeting date which is May 3rd. Also, the seven municipal EACs in York Region may want to submit a collective response (or individual ones) and will be discussing this at an upcoming meeting in May.

I sense from your presentation that your department is extremely interested in hearing from the public and hope that you can accommodate this request. As citizen members on municipal committees I think we have another perspective that you might like to consider.

I look forward to your response and please don't hesitate to give me a call if you require additional information.

Thank you,
Bruce Lindsay
Chair, Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee



From: shirley ormsby
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 3:12 PM
To: FutureYork
Subject: Apologies

We have been going to the PACES program (YRPD) at the safety village on Wednesdays - the last meeting on the Tuesday was also unattended for an appointment we could not ignore. Sorry about tonight - I do hope all your efforts are not in vain, we've read a lot of the progress being made in York Region - it is truly a great place in which to live. And we're getting our sewers here in King! Last night was a financial meeting.

Keep up the good work, and THANK YOU

Shirley & Chuck Ormsby



From: craig mather
Sent: April 18, 2006 10:26 AM
To: Waller, John
Cc: David Bell; Seetaram, Dawn
Subject: Growth Mgmt Forum at York Region

John

Just a note to say that you did a great job in presenting the issues and fielding the various questions, comments and rants from the gathered crowd at the session in Newmarket. I am not sure how this session compared to the others in terms of numbers and issues raised, but I doubt that you were surprised by the comments you got. The issues of growth, density, transportation issues and transit issues were all there along with a couple of personal agendas.

The gentleman that spoke from the Suzuki Foundation had some interesting ideas. What I thought however was really interesting in his comment, and perhaps you did not catch it, was as he was describing why he chose Markham for the transit, for the density, transit and pedestrian friendly community offered by (I forget the name of the development) and how this was the future. However he said "he chose the single family property across the street because he wanted a back yard with the big trees on it" (or words to that effect). I thought this was a very telling statement that even he, wants to have a choice of housing which includes a single family option with a back yard!

Talk to you soon.

From: Asha Ruparelia
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2006 1:14 AM
To: FutureYork
Subject: Planning for tomorrow- Sustainability Sympaosium- March 3 2006

Hello,

My name is Asha (Aditi) Ruparelia. I am the Regional Representative of the Ontario Crafts Council and a Board member of Artslink York Region as well as of South Asian Community Support Network York Region. I attended the 'Sustainability Symposium' on March 3, 2006; and also attended the York Region's Growth management Open House meeting in Richmond Hill. I would like to send you some of my comments regarding the above.

"Creating a sustainable Region". Sustainability definitely involves a careful integration of environment, economic, social and cultural interests to 'create' a better quality of life – a desirable place to live, work and play. Agreeably, "Culture and Heritage" is considered to be the 4th pillar in the foundation planning activity of York Region set the direction for adopting and promoting York Region's Culture Plan Indicators.

Relating to 'Toronto – the creative City' work print report, which identifies the following major cultural challenges and questions arising from them are forth considering to make York Region's growth plan to be a 'Creative Region'

York Region's cultural development can give it a competitive advantage in the Global marketplace. In York Region, opportunities are great, but the challenges, and the questions arising from them have to be dealt with keeping the 'Creative aspect' in mind.

The Public Art or art that is the public realm, is a crucial aspect of the creative region - through the compelling design or redesign of public squares, amenities, landmark structures, we can revitalize the way we interact and change the way the World sees us.

Pockets of York Region contain important collection of Public Art, Great Art in collection of public places is a strong statement from the region to its citizens and the World that it values and celebrates creativity. The question is 'How can York Region use its capital initiatives to provide leadership for the public art partnerships?

'On the edge – cost of cutting' – the cutbacks by all Governments over the last decades have left cultural organizations close to the edge. Our City – Toronto's major competitor cities invest much more for capita in culture; realizing this Toronto is working towards celebrating creativity through culture and heritage. Toronto emerges as a city-region with the top North American rank in the 'Super Creative' category and 2nd to Vancouver, yet an excellent overall creative ranking of scores compared to the other Canadian cities. The 'Super Creative Core' are the core creative types who generate a new product as an output of their work. Relating this to York Region, the question is 'How can the Region bridge the gap when funding is tight for all services?

“Preserving the past: supporting the future” – the more we intellectually preserve what we came from, the greater the sense of our local identity and particularity. Creative use of the structures of the past will set the framework for the whole Creative Region. The Creative Region finds inspiration by preserving and understanding its past and by nurturing those things that make it truly unique. How can the Region find the right mix of initiatives so that heritage preservation makes economic sense?

‘Telling the York Region Story; new ethno cultural communities are determined to be included in the Region’s presentation of its own history. We need to create a forum where the York Region story is told. York Region needs to tell its diverse and complex story in a compelling way. The museums tell the story of the region in the nineteenth century, but the twentieth century represents York Region’s true coming age. We have to make great things happen first, and that means our creative community needs more and better resources. As the ‘New York Times’ said, ‘People expect to be wowed,’ No amount of marketing can attract audiences to productions or venue that are not worth visiting. For York Region: ‘Creating a unique sense of place’.

Much obliged to have been given a chance to express my views,

Asha (Aditi) Ruparelia

Email:



From: Glenn.Robillard@lafarge-na.com
Sent: April 5, 2006 2:57 PM
To: Pomeroy, Diane; future@york.ca
Cc: Chris.McGuckin@lafarge-na.com; Pam Seran Rode;
Mark.Geens@lafarge-na.com
Subject: As discussed - Aggregate Industry presentations

Diane:

Further to our discussion yesterday ... here are some general presentations that can add concrete examples to what we were discussing yesterday.

As a representative of Lafarge working out of one of the largest and most prominent Sand & Gravel Properties within the Region of York we would be glad to sit down and speak with you further on any aspect about the relationship / partnership between Aggregates and the Region of York. As we discussed yesterday, the Region of York's growth and sustainability is directly linked to a sustainable aggregate resource close to the areas of consumption.

Attached you will find the following:

Implications of Restricting Aggregate Supply in the GTA - Clayton Research

Financial Impact Study - Clayton Research

Media Roundtable Presentation - Aggregate Producer's Association
(This was a presentation to Waterloo, Wellington & Brant; however, the fundamental principles and concepts hold true when looking at the Region of York)

Looking towards the Future:

I look forward to hearing from you in the coming weeks on the challenges that we both face as partners in developing a strong and vibrant York Region. If you would like to discuss anything further with representatives of Lafarge, please contact myself or Chris McGuckin and we would be glad to meet with you to discuss opportunities for both parties. If you require more information from our Association please contact myself or Pam Seran Rode and we will assist you in any way we can.

Thanks,

Glenn Robillard
Lafarge Canada Inc.
Territory Manager, North GTA
(905)-640-5883 ext. 112



From: Richard Johnson (TOR)
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 2:03 PM
To: FutureYork
Cc: Sue Fusco
Subject: Revisions for Markham March 23rd meeting minutes

As requested, I am pleased to provide clarifications in order to ensure that the minutes below better reflect my statement at the Markham Public meeting. I have noted in red the changes required.

Please also note that you should be sure to call Sue Fusco at 905-887-2173 in order to capture her statement at the above noted meeting. For some reason Sue's comments were omitted all together.

Thank you and regards.

Richard Johnson

416-496-6893

Please incorporate the following changes....

I represent "STOP" which is a grass roots community group which has been extensively involved in power supply discussions in York Region over the past two years. I want to commend the Region on their current consultation process as well as the Sustainable Development Symposium. While we appear to be moving in the right direction, I have some recommendations:

The discussions ... XXXX

All Levels... XXXX

- The environmental assessment process recently conducted by Hydro One appeared to be a sham and we should learn from our experience. Hydro One appeared to apply the D.A.D. principle of public consultation, which stands for Decide, Announce and Defend and I doubt their sincerity in listening to and applying public input appropriately - environmental considerations are not currently factored in at the beginning of the planning process, which focuses primarily on technical and financial considerations.

- Environmental considerations... XXX



- The Town of Markham formed a Task Force to address power supply issues and we met in this very room every two to four weeks for over 18 months. The Ontario Power Authority also held extensive full day meetings throughout the summer with regards to the power supply issue. Given that this was just one aspect of "smart growth" planning, I would hope that York Region holds more extensive meetings in order to obtain public input, going forward, given the vast amount of issues that are impacted by "smart growth" planning. This current consultation forum is valid and appreciated, however it does not allow for extensive and necessary dialog.

Unfortunately, through our experience it is clear that some community groups (such as STOP) have been treated like the enemy by some Regional and Municipal representatives for voicing concerns, defending our community and suggesting what kind of community we want to see.

Recommend a more... XXXX

Regarding the energy issue, the same issues are happening across the country - communities are fighting and trying to address rampant growth. There are two similar cases to ours in York Region currently before the BC Utilities commission that we should learn from.

We should consider best practices from other jurisdictions with regards to power planning and planning practices in general (like Connecticut , California, New Jersey, Germany, Sweden and others who have passed legislation regarding transmission lines, local generation projects and conservation programs).

Through the experience of STOP, the Markham Aurora Hydro Task Force and the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) working group meetings planning and Environmental Assessment gaps have been identified as a result of our recent power planning process. Municipalities have been permitted to approve development without the necessary infrastructure in place and our current power supply crisis is not only self inflicted but it is 100% avoidable with proper foresight, planning and vision.

XXXX

Can we limit growth, manage or direct it ? What role does the Places to Grow Act Play in forcing us to grow in a manner that could be too rapid ?

From: Sue Fusco
Sent: April 26, 2006 2:00 PM
To: Richard Johnson; Caroline Grech; FutureYork
Subject: Fw: Revisions for Markham March 23rd meeting minutes

Hello,

Below please find Richard Johnson's revisions to the minutes of the York Region Open House submitted on April 12 to better reflect what his comments consisted of as stated on the evening of March 23rd.

I did also await your reply regarding the omission of my comments as referred to you by Richard's original correspondence. I have provide them again here for the record.

My comments were related to integration in planning projects through co-build opportunities. It is suggested that planners adopt smart growth planning principles which could address multiple or related infrastructure needs with sustainable long term solutions. York Region residents have very much taken a position of their value and concerns in minimizing environmental impacts and the need to address them effectively. Public consultation is integral to successful mitigation. We need to do more in balancing environmental protection with the pressures of growth.

My question to the speakers were how do residents learn more and become influential with what the Provincial and Federal investment considerations for York Region are? The answer was that York Region had a wish list that requested or guided this and that budgets would consider those investments. Therefore, I feel the public comments to Regional Government officials and planners should be incorporated so that policy decisions reflect the community's input.

In addition, in regards to the plans for Intensification the York Region presentation did not provide any information on how additional power was to be supplied to sustain the forecasted growth. I have issues and concerns with inviting the public in to hydro corridor lands for secondary uses such as bike/walking paths or other pedestrain or recreational uses. The Regional Official Plan refers to these as linkages to the intensified core areas. This poses additional health risks to users due to exposures of Electromagnetic fields (EMF). An public awareness campaign has been recommended to York Region to minimize these risks for the public and provide better communication to the public by the S.T.O.P. Committee members in other consultations. This is consistent with YR policy of prudent avoidance of risk.

Thanks,

Mrs. Sue Fusco

1.17

FyI re
Sustain. Dev. Sym

Scherer, Karen

From: Frank Shaw
Sent: March 13, 2006 4:37 PM
To: Jeffrey, Barb; Waller, John; Tuckey, Bryan; Garrett, Michael
Cc: Don Prince; Andre Flys - W; Carol Seglins; Jenifer Robertson - ESA; Joanne Smith; Tom Atkins; Bill McMartin - W; Jim Gosnell - ORMLT
Subject: York Sustainable Region Symposium - ORMLT Input to Workshop #2
Attachments: Sustainable York Region Symposium and ORMLT- Mar.03.2006.doc; Overview ORMLT Dec.31.2005.Rev.doc; ORM partners in protection & securement.doc; ORM options for securement & stewardship.doc

Barb, John, Bryan and Michael

On behalf of the ORMLT, I enjoyed the invitation and opportunity to participate in your timely and excellent symposium last week. The presentations and discussion were quite informative and insightful from a land trust, rural landowner, local community and individual citizen perspective.

Enclosed as promised is a copy of my notes on ORMLT input and our specific comments made at workshop #2 on the environment. In addition I have attached 3 other documents that provide more background on ORMLT partnerships in protection, securement and stewardship. I hope that this material is helpful in your further deliberations and any presentations to Regional Council.

I sense that a follow up session should be considered no later than the fall of 2006 and perhaps a series of local municipality-based seminars or workshops this year to broaden the awareness and discussion. You could allow additional time for stakeholder dialogue at the next symposium.

With best regards, Frank

Frank G. Shaw
Secretary
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

13990 Dufferin Street North
King City, Ontario L7R 1B3

office tel: 905-833-3171
office eml: landtrust@bellnet.ca

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13/03/2006



Sustainable York Region Symposium –March 3/06

Notes on ORMLT Input to Workshop #2 – Environment

Comments on Three Priorities for York Region

A. Case for Sustainability

Definitions in the conference agenda and more particularly in the excellent paper delivered by Bob Willard (The Triple Bottom Line) are most compelling and now based on real truths in “smart business” for corporations and communities facing urban growth and pressures on natural resources.

A sustainable region must subscribe to values and functions for a sustainable balance of Economy (profits - financial capital), Environment (planet - natural capital) and Equity (people - social capital). Smart businesses and communities are coming to understand that it is the right thing to do (all three E's are in play) AND more and more it is really the only thing to do.

We are all part of a global environment (everything is connected) so a single community or even a region is never totally sustainable but we should be as sustainable as possible at each level – local, regional, provincial, national, hemisphere and global with sustainable 3E interactions.

A sustainable community/region is therefore one in which its people can live, work and play (not so many commuters, equal time for all 3 E's, more can be volunteers) and where the economy, environment and equity are fundamental, integrated and synergistic. This value system and best practices must become the centerpiece of all York Region strategic management.

York Region sustainability and natural resource stewardship are all about asset management and community legacy. The definitions and principles should say more about the values of sustainable environments and smart communities (this is more to the point) and less about smart growth and sustainable development (as this can be more than a little bit misleading to all).

B. Motivation for Change

Much of this is either stated above or captured in the speakers' presentations but in particular the case for support as noted in the paper from Bob Willard. Other speakers from York Region, Private Sector, Conservation Agencies, United Way and audience comments echoed these values in their remarks. The growing awareness of these renewed community values is logarithmic.

When our motivation is based solely on personal values and economics then we may or may not change e.g. quitting cigarettes and losing excess weight. When

we understand the new sustainable equation there is more opportunity for success with promoting sustainability as a legacy.

When our motivation is based on society's standards for acceptable behaviour and economics then change is more possible e.g. quitting cigarettes or getting into fitness. When values and standards become the norm then we have more success with change e.g. saving a healthy ORM ecosystem is contributing to a healthy and sustainable community/region/world.

C. Priorities for Environment

York Region and its environmental partners e.g. conservation authorities, business sector, local municipalities, other governments, ENGO's such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) and other community groups are working together to achieve common goals. In cooperation, we have developed the York Greening Strategy, watershed plans, recycling programs, reforestation plans, natural area securement programs and private land stewardship actions that will contribute to York Region as a sustainable community.

In the GTA more can and should be done in preparing and implementing land and water securement and stewardship plans and actions. The Region can utilize the capacity of both public and private sector including ENGO's such as ORMLT in the three key areas of regional environmental priority.

1. **Protection of natural resources** (values and functions) in official plans, bylaws, regulations and site plans as well as implementing York Region Greening Strategy, watershed plans and public awareness of community values for significant areas such as the ORM and its valuable ecological contribution (e.g. rain barrel). These are ongoing and must continue to pay attention to significant natural areas, wetlands, forest cover, landscapes, wildlife habitat, stream valleys, aquifers, and kettle lakes.
2. **Securement of natural resources** through donations or purchase of the most significant properties through fee simple acquisition (public lands) or through conservation easement agreements (private lands). These key securement measures are protection beyond and consistent with policy to save and secure these land and water values and functions on land title forever. For example, within the ORM these priorities include natural core and linkage designations, high priority water resources and the Oak Ridges Trail corridor. The ORMLT is working in partnership with York Region to secure properties that meet these ORM goals.
3. **Stewardship of natural resources** (values and functions) is probably the most important of the three priorities upon which to make more immediate progress. This is partly because priorities #1 and #2 are already in place with policies for protection and programs for securement ongoing. It is also a strong priority because over 95% of the region and the moraine will continue in private ownership and it is imperative for the ecological health

of the region and the ORM that stewardship of forests, natural areas and wetlands be in accord with best practice. It is important that all private landowners become more aware of ecological values.

At the very least, landowners should be aware of important resource values and functions on their property and the current land use controls and regulations (tree cutting bylaws) to avoid degradation by accident or ignorance. The Region, conservation organizations (e.g. TRCA, ORMLT, NCC, YES), local municipalities and other levels of government can and should do more to promote private lands stewardship. Excellence in private land stewardship is a key path to regional sustainability. Private land stewardship policies, conservation land tax incentives, land/water conservation easements, private land assistance programs, native plant stocks and other conservation tools should be promoted, used and where possible improved. Budgets and resources for all parties (Region, CA's, ENGO's and Local) are stretched yet private land stewardship offers the most benefit for the least investment of resources.

Ownership and management of nature reserves and significant wetlands is expensive and not required unless public access, restoration needs and recreation opportunity are essential to the strategic green space equation. Private lands assistance, incentives and agreements can substantially serve environmental objectives for 95% of the regional landscape. And when these can be secured by donation through non-profit charities and grass roots volunteers the results are overwhelming.

Realizing the healthy future of York Region as a sustainable community requires the commitment, joint effort and cooperation of many stakeholders. While the ORMLT is focused on its mission to protect the moraine through strategic land securement and related property stewardship, we do strongly believe that our actions on the ORM will have wider social, environmental and economic benefits for York Region, the GTA and ORM downstream communities.

Protection, securement and stewardship of headwaters, forest cover, wildlife habitat and wetlands on the Oak Ridges Moraine and elsewhere in York Region are fundamental to your goals for environmental sustainability.

Respectfully submitted

Frank G. Shaw

Chair of Strategic Planning and Partnerships

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

ORMLT/fgs/Mar03/06



The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) – Overview

What is the Moraine?

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a continuous glacial landform that extends 165 km. from the Niagara Escarpment to the Trent River. The Moraine is a signature landscape in Southern Ontario defined by significant natural habitats, forests, wetlands and unique landscape character. It is the rain barrel for south-central Ontario and the key source of headwaters for over 65 watercourses flowing south into Lake Ontario and north into Lake Simcoe. It is also in the immediate pathway of urban sprawl and the continuous pressure for land development from the rapidly growing Greater Toronto Area.

What is the Trust?

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) was organized in 1999 by concerned citizens to help protect the Moraine ecosystem through strategic securement of natural areas. The Trust was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in April 2000, approved as a registered charity by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, and designated a recipient agency under Environment Canada's Ecological Gifts Program. The Trust is constituted under federal letters patent setting out the objects and by-laws and it is governed by a Board of Directors of up to 17 members. The Trust is supported in its work by many volunteers, donors, partners and wide spread public interest.

Trust Mission

ORMLT vision for the Oak Ridges Moraine is a vibrant, healthy, sustainable ecosystem within which the Trust and partners including landowners, organizations, government and others are actively cooperating in conservation and protection of the moraine. The mission of the Trust focuses on its land securement role in contributing to moraine protection and achieving its vision. The ORMLT mission is to ensure that significant moraine properties, including lands for the Oak Ridges Trail, are protected in perpetuity (forever) through strategic land securement and related long term stewardship.

Land Securement

Under its Land Securement Strategy, the Trust has raised funding, received donations of land and secured conservation easements for 2,316 acres of land valued at \$6.2 million as of December 2005 and is presently working on another 10 or more moraine properties, representing an additional 1,000 acres. Much of this work is done by dedicated volunteers with help from experienced professionals. All securement initiatives are guided by Trust vision and mission and more particularly by program strategies and priority actions outlined in its comprehensive Program Strategy approved in October 2003.

Program Strategy

The ORMLT program framework is built on five strategic directions: land securement, stewardship, fundraising, outreach and organization capacity. All program strategies are focused on support for land securement as Job #1. Partnership and co-operation with others is the common, essential theme throughout all Trust priorities and actions. Conservation easements are registered on the land title to protect natural values in perpetuity and the Trust assists the owner in land stewardship and restoration.

Partnership

The Trust has developed many partnerships (including agreements and formal memoranda) for land securement projects, working closely with municipalities, conservation authorities, Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA), foundations, stewardship councils, individual donors and landowners. In addition the Trust is working with Environment Canada and many other government departments to help save the Moraine and implement the land use policies of the provincial Conservation Plan.

Fundraising

Funds to support land securement and office operations have been obtained from foundations e.g. Trillium, Schad, ORMF, EJLB, Metcalf, McLean and other contributors e.g. conservation authorities, municipalities, FON, corporate sponsors and individuals. The Trillium Foundation has supported Trust operating costs through two grants for office support now renewed to 2006. The City of Toronto has invested in many projects of benefit to downstream watershed health and water quality.

Plan Contribution

Trust land securement contributes to implementation of land use policies in the provincial Conservation Plan established in November 2001 and to securement priorities of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF). Securement priorities of the ORMF place a strong emphasis on natural core and linkage lands, significant habitat, moraine wetlands, ecological functions and the Oak Ridges Trail corridor in co-operation with conservation partners and other funding sources. Land securement offers increased protection and continued stewardship for strategic components of the Moraine ecosystem e.g. core natural areas, kettle lakes, aquifer recharge areas and stream valleys.

Friends of the Trust

The ORMLT is a member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA) and affiliated with other conservation organizations e.g. Ontario Nature (FON) and Ontario Forestry Association (OFA). The Trust has joined with its partners e.g. Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto and ORTA on specific fund raising events – Annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner and Walk for the Moraine. Landowners are by far the major contributors with their specific land donation for conservation easements and for their individual commitment to moraine conservation and protection through their ongoing investment in environmentally responsible land stewardship.

Outlook for the Trust

Realizing a healthy future for the Oak Ridges Moraine ecosystem involves the active participation of many stakeholders. Governments at all levels, conservation agencies, foundations and individuals have an important role to play. The ORMLT will continue to focus on strategic land securement and related land stewardship as its contribution to conserving and protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Oak Ridges Moraine – Partners in Protection - Securement, Funding, Stewardship

Government Agency	Contribution
Province –Municipal Affairs	Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP), planning legislation, advisory services
Province – Natural Resources	Natural area mapping, provincial parks on ORM, technical expertise, stewardship funds
Municipalities - Region	Official Plan, regional forests, funding for projects
Municipalities - Local	Official Plan, municipal parks, funds for projects
Conservation Authorities	Watershed programs, acquire conservation areas for public use, stewardship and funding assistance
Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF created by the Ontario government)	Endowment from Province to help fund ORM securement, stewardship, education and research to achieve ORMCP – grants for eligible projects
Environment Canada	Ecological Gifts program allows ORMLT as the recipient agency to qualify landowner donations of significant lands for 100% charitable tax receipt

Non-Government (NGO)	Contribution
Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT)	Incorporated and registered volunteer charity with focus on the whole ORM, protects significant natural areas through the securement of land donations and conservation easements registered on private land title (protection forever by land covenant) – 2,316 acres secured since 2001 at very minimal cost thru landowner donations, volunteers, fundraising and partnership with many others (as per this sample table of ORM protection partners)
Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA)	Builds and manages OR Trail – partner in trail securement with both ORMLT and ORMF
Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA)	Standards for land trusts, communications with government on policy and incentive funding
Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)	Partner with ORMLT in larger natural area projects – combine expertise and fundraising
Private Foundations	Matching funding for ORMLT securement and stewardship projects for ORM natural areas
Conservation Organizations	Stewardship councils, STORM & naturalists clubs have volunteers and funds for stewardship projects
Community Groups	Service clubs and ratepayers provide volunteers and fundraising for ORMLT securement projects
Landowners	Land donations to ORMLT and ongoing private stewardship of registered conservation easements
Individuals	Volunteers, donations and fundraising for projects

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

“A Range of Options for Protection, Securement and Stewardship”

1. <u>Environmental Policy</u> - conservation policies for the ORM are set out in federal and provincial legislation and regulations and in provincial and municipal land use plans and bylaws as well as CA watershed plans, valley land regulations and NGO green space strategies to guide any decisions on land use.
2. <u>Public Education</u> – information brochures, awareness seminars, moraine workshops and technical advice for land stewardship are offered to the general public by the federal and provincial governments, regional and local municipalities, ORMLT and its partners to encourage wise stewardship.
3. <u>Landowner Contact</u> – individual meetings are set up with landowners to discuss moraine stewardship interests, the specific natural values on their property and possible assistance (technical advice, planning, funding, physical work) to carry out their volunteer stewardship in accord with specific property goals.
4. <u>Stewardship Agreements</u> –by hand shake or written agreement the landowner agrees to work with Trust and its partners on a specific program or projects (eg. OR trail access, demonstration project with ORMLT and Stewardship Council, managed natural area eligible for tax rebate, tree planting, invasive species identification, fence wetland etc.) However this agreement may be terminated by subsequent landowners and any Trust investment is with some risk.
5. <u>Conservation Easements</u> –by registration on title, the Trust and landowner agree on protective covenants and ecological monitoring that run with land title from owner to owner. In addition to 100% income tax receipts the donating landowner retains ownership and stewardship responsibility with support from the Trust forever and help with stewardship planning to maintain and sustain the moraine ecosystem. This option for private open space (no public access except Trust or by permission) ensures both Trust public interest in the moraine and private landowner interest are secured and monitored forever at very low cost.
6. <u>Public Ownership</u> –by acquisition of full property ownership (donation or purchase) a government body –provincial or municipal or CA or a NGO – land trust, foundation, registered charity may wish to secure a conservation area or park as public open space when there is sufficient interest in significant natural values, public access and recreation needs to justify public ownership and management. While important to consider under the right circumstances, this stewardship option is not only 15 to 20 times as costly to secure from a willing vendor it also requires far more investment for ongoing public management and maintenance from either the public tax base, on site revenue generation or more NGO fundraising.

Footnote: As a general rule, the level of conservation and protection increases from option 1 to option 6 and the option selected is dependent on the interest in a specific property and its natural area values and functions as well as the need for public open space and access for conservation and recreation purposes together with the land securement capacity of the ORMLT and landowner interests and willingness to participate in one or more options beyond the basic requirements of law.

Oak Ridges Moraine – Partners in Protection - Securement, Funding, Stewardship

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OPINION

Serving Richmond Hill and Thornhill

THE LIBER

A Metroland community newspaper
1550 16th Ave. Box 390 Richmond Hill

PUBLISHER Ian Prosser

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Region grown too much

Re: Here we grow in York; express your views, March 26.

I am appalled at the growth in York Region and cannot stand to travel main roads such as Dufferin, Bathurst or Yonge streets because those roads have some of the most atrocious subdivisions on the planet.

Whoever came up with the idea of razing hundreds of acres of beautiful trees, replacing them with row upon row of houses and advertising the whole mess "as a return to nature" must have gone to the George Orwell school of propaganda.

I cannot fathom how the region, with its clogged roads, terrible transit and lack of green space, can sustain yet more growth.

I believe York Region fails on four criteria of livability:

- Communities easily accessible by transit: Buses on clogged roads further clog those arteries;
- Communities surrounded by green space: I've yet to see any in the truly awful new developments. Perhaps they are hidden under bulldozers and destroyed trees will magically re-appear;
- Communities are pedestrian-friendly: Is it possible to walk anywhere in York region? and;

- Communities have a vibrant central core: No comment.

An ideal situation for York Region would be satellite villages with vibrant downtowns, surrounded by real and significant amounts of green space.

I have visited some of the towns north of New York City (White Plains, Irvington, etc.) that are accessible to the city via high-speed, reliable trains, surrounded by the Hudson River and miles of conservation lands.

Why can't we follow this example?

My goal and the goal of many of my neighbours is to leave York Region while it's possible and the house prices have not crashed under excessive supply.

Perhaps this is the only solution. I hope not.

LINDA SMITH
RICHMOND HILL



Comments to 'Planning for Tomorrow' York Region Growth Management

Dear Sir/Madam,

After attending the York Region Growth Management Open House I would like to make following comments for your consideration.

- The ecology of the Region should be the guiding principle for any growth strategy. Planning should start with the environment and land carrying capacity and work backwards to establish acceptable growth numbers. There are many tools available such as; Natural Heritage mapping, ("The Bigger Picture" by MNR), ORM, Green Belt, YPDT Ground water study (Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition), Farm land mapping and rating, transportation and employment data.....etc.
The growth management initiatives described in the 'Planning for Tomorrow' pamphlet are good but fall far short of addressing the projected population numbers as there is no known solution to accommodate them.

The built environment does not support human existence. Balance between the man-made and natural has to be maintained if the target is a 'SUSTAINABLE REGION'.

York Region should show leadership in addressing the issue with the provincial/federal government(s) and advocate on behalf of the *current* York residents

- Protection of the farm land should be among the *ESSENTIAL* items with emphasis on soil quality. This relates specifically to the unprotected farm land areas between the Green Belt and development zones to the south. The farmland issue has to do with *soil quality* and not area or location. *The GTA Agricultural Action Plan* has been adopted by the Region yet not reflected in the growth strategy.
- Employment statistics and projections should be based on *non-growth related (sustainable)* jobs.
- Any land planning decisions should be supplemented by regional/municipal policies providing protection and incentives for *sustainable way of life*. (Pollution By-laws, energy efficiency incentives, tax benefits and farm land protection measures/incentives).

Thank you
Jan H. Ravens, York Region resident

EAC - MAY 8, 2006

AGENDA ITEM # 5

Environmental Advisory Committees of York Region

Comments to 'Growing York'

DATE: April 10, 2006

FROM: Jan Ravens, KEAC

DISTRIBUTION: Bruce Lindsay, NEAC
Bruce Craig, King EAC
Vince Brewerton, Whitchurch-Stouffville EAC
Teresa Klein, Georgina EAC
Brent Mersey, Markham EAC
Wendy Gaertner, Aurora EAC
Sue Walmer, Aurora EAC

Hello All,

After attending the York Region Growth Management Open House (there is still one to come in Newmarket this coming Wednesday, April 12) and discussing some of the issues with Bruce Lindsay, I would like to ask for your input on how to respond to the above. Bruce and I thought that perhaps all York EACs should team up and respond as a group. Following are some of the issues we talked about.

Provincial population projection numbers should be challenged. (There is no known solution to accommodate them at this point).

The ecology of the Region should be the guiding principle for any growth strategy.

Planning should start with the environment and land bearing capacity and work backwards to establish acceptable growth numbers. All necessary tools are available; Natural Heritage mapping, ("The Bigger Picture" by MNR), ORM, Green Belt, hydrogeological mapping (available from Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition) Farm land mapping and rating, transportation and employment data.....etc.

The built environment does not support human existence. Balance between the man-made and natural has to be maintained if the target is a SUSTAINABLE region.

York Region to show leadership in addressing the issue with the provincial government and advocate on behalf of the current York population. There is a wide spread discontent among York residents. The very reason why they moved up here is being defeated by the excessive growth.

FAX



Sue Walmer



905-895-3482

-24-



DATE: MAY 10/06



EAC - MAY 8, 2006

1.18

The growth management initiatives described in the 'Planning for Tomorrow' pamphlet are good but fall short of providing a solution for the projected population numbers.

Protection of the farm land should be among the ESSENTIAL items with emphasis on soil quality. This relates specifically to the unprotected farm land areas between the Green Belt and development zones to the south. (Please check out my e-mail regarding Development versus food production, April 3, 2006).

Employment statistics and projections should be based on *non-growth related (sustainable) jobs*.

Any land planning decisions should be supplemented by regional/municipal policies providing protection and incentives for sustainable way of life. (Pollution By-laws, energy efficiency incentives, tax benefitsetc).

Please add your own to the above. Thank you for your help. We do not know how much time we have to respond, so please try to be prompt and copy everybody when you e-mail back.

TNX

January 3, 2006

The Regional Municipality of York
Planning and Development Services Department
17250 Yong Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

COPY

Attention: Mr. Bryan Tuckey
Commissioner Planning and Development Services

Re: The Regional Municipality of York
Official Plan Review

Dear Sir:

It has come to my attention that The Regional Municipality of York will be undertaking a review of their Official Plan in the New Year. I respectfully request the following:

1. The planned schedule for this undertaking along with an indication of the milestone dates.
2. An outline of the "public participation" procedures that are planned.
3. That my name be placed on the Regional mailing list for any newsletters, notification of public meetings and any other information relevant to the review of the Official Plan.

I look forward to the receipt of the information in Items 1 and 2 in the near future.

Yours truly,

Franklin Moskoff

From: Ribbit
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 12:40 PM
To: FutureYork
Cc: Jeffrey, Barb; nancy hopkinson Carrie Hoffelner; nhelferty; myluvden
Subject: Thursday May 25 focus groups

Hi there:

After review of the meeting on Thursday May 25, 2006 with respect to the Future of York Region, I think perhaps the biggest message, and coincidentally the largest disappointment, is the apparent admission of some of the staff of the Region that what has occurred has not necessarily been done well, but, the also perceived admission that York Region intends to change little / nothing. We're still building roads willy-nilly and after the fact, we're still going to use questionable waste management practices, we're still going to develop greenfields at an alarming rate, we're still going to intentionally undermine the viability of the agricultural and farming base of York Region, and we're still going to implement short term responses to long term challenges.

One of my statements at the Focus meeting was along the lines of dealing with current problems (which are numerous and growing), before moving forward and further compounding the mistakes of the past. Essentially one might reasonably suggest that York Region needs to take a hiatus after an unparalleled 20 year growth spurt; if for no other reason than to see how things shake out.

Unfortunately, it appears that, as the saying goes, "there's no rest for the wicked".

Thank you for hosting the meeting, though one suspects it was more a matter of form than a realistic search for meaningful change, answers, and directions.

Sincerely

Jeff Laidlaw