



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Minister

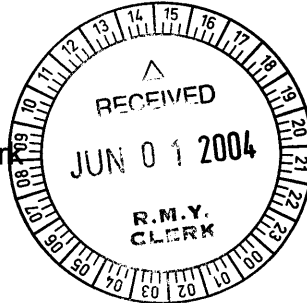
Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles

Ministre

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MAY 27 2004

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1



MNR1205MC-2004-1139

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - 906

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Asian long-horned beetle and the accompanying report from your Transportation and Works Committee.

I want to commend the Regional Municipality of York for its leadership and contribution to the program to eradicate Asian long-horned beetle from Vaughan and Toronto. Your commitment is clearly evident in the high quality and thoroughness of the report provided by the Transportation and Works Committee. Your staff have made significant contributions to the tree removal and disposal program. I understand that Mr. Ian Buchanan, in particular, has provided considerable leadership in the design and implementation of the eradication program.

I was pleased to see in your report that the Regional Municipality of York will be providing \$50,000 in preliminary funding for tree planting on public and private property in areas affected by the Asian long-horned beetle. As the report stated, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has also committed up to \$1 million for tree planting for areas affected by Asian long-horned beetle and emerald ash borer. By working together to eradicate Asian long-horned beetle, and to restore and re-green the affected areas, we can prevent this beetle from spreading to new areas, as well as reduce the impacts of the tree removal program.

Mr. Tracy Smith, MNR District Manager in Aurora, has been in contact with York Region to discuss the design and implementation of the tree planting to return natural cover to the affected areas. If you require further information, please contact Mr. Smith at (905) 713-7372.

Again, thank you for writing and I would like to express my appreciation for York Region's efforts. The eradication of this beetle will not only protect the rest of York Region and Toronto, but also the rest of Ontario and Canada.

Sincerely,

Hon. David Ramsay
Minister

c: Tracy Smith, District Manager, Aurora District