

**Region of York
Finance and Administration Committee
Thursday, June 7, 2004**

Mister Chair, Members of Council,

My name is Ed Sikkema and I appreciate this opportunity to speak on behalf of the residents of Ansnorveldt, a small rural hamlet on Dufferin Street, north of Highway 9 in the Holland Marsh, in the Township of King.

As you may know, the community has maintained its own community well and water distribution system since the early 1960's. In recent years, the Province ordered the Region and the Township to take over the system. As a result, the system must now be replaced to adhere to new Ministry of Environment standards.

There are about 54 properties affected in the community. The cost is significant, more than \$13,600 per property. The residents recognize that these costs will place an unreasonable burden and hardship on many homeowners. The average market value assessment within the Region of York is more than \$330,000, compared to the average market value assessment of the affected homes of less than \$160,000.

Most of the homes range in size from about 700 square feet to 1300 square feet and have less than three bedrooms. The residents range from young families and single income households trying to maintain their first home to senior citizens on fixed incomes. Many residents purchased these homes due to their affordability.

We appreciate the Region's efforts to enhance the quality of life for all residents, including investments in the Region's Housing Supply Strategy, the Community Rental Housing Program, Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region, and other affordable housing initiatives.

We hope that Regional Council will recognize the undue burden and hardship that these costs will place on the homeowners. We humbly request that Regional Council assist the community through a financial contribution to the new water system allowing us to maintain our basic quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.