

Price, Karin

From: Vaughan Watch [info@vaughanwatch.ca]
Sent: April 27, 2004 6:19 PM
To: Price, Karin
Subject: May 5, 2004 Economic & Planning Committee

Dear Karin,

I am returning your phone call via e-mail regarding the May 5, 2004 Economic & Planning Committee.

Thank you so much for your notification.

I will be attending the May 5th meeting, to make a deputation, on the topic of "Vaughan's Request to York Region Regarding Oak Ridges Moraine Applications." The Commissioner suggested that it would be discussed on the May 5 agenda, and so this topic I just stated may not reflect exactly the topic the Commissioner may have submitted. If the issue does not appear at all, then I would like to make a deputation nevertheless.

Please e-mail if you have any questions.

Please find attached a document which I would like you to include as part of the agenda, as part of my deputation.

Thank you.

Paul De Buono,
Vaughan Watch

*** York Region's Mail Server has scanned this email for viruses and malicious content ***

*** IMPORTANT: Use caution when opening any email attachments especially from unrecognized senders ***

28/04/2004

VAUGHAN WATCH

P.O. Box 5126, Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1R6

Tel.: 416-648-2981

Fax: 905-832-9751

E-mail: info@vaughanwatch.ca

Web: www.vaughanwatch.ca

April 23, 2004

(By Facsimile: 416-585-6470 - 2 pages)

John Gerretsen, Minister
Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2E5

RE: Vaughan Council's March 8, 2004 Vote Affecting the Oak Ridges Moraine

Dear Minister Gerretsen:

I have previously in writing made you aware of the City of Vaughan Council's controversial March 8, 2004 vote affecting one of the most sensitive areas of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Without public notice, and through closed session, Vaughan Council introduced a motion to consider "open" planning applications dated from 1989. The City, through correspondence, had confirmed that the planning applications were "closed" well before the 2001 cut-off date of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act* [hereinafter "Moraine Act"]. The effect of Council's March 8, 2004 vote seemed to have the intention of declaring "open" what had been "closed", to meet the transitional provisions of the *Moraine Act*.

I raised the issue publicly at Vaughan Council's April 19, 2004 Committee of the Whole meeting. I asked members of Council and staff whether the effect of Council's March 8 vote gave the landowners involved in the planning applications rights that they would otherwise not have had pursuant to the *Moraine Act* and its regulations. Such rights may increase the value of the properties in question. I received no response to that specific question.

What I did hear, however, was alarming. A member of Council admitted that his support of the March 8 motion was premised on the anticipation that the Province of Ontario would be involved in a land-swap arrangement with the particular landowners. He seemed to indicate that the anticipation of a land-swap arrangement was included in the closed-door Council discussion which led to the controversial March 8 vote. The land-swap arrangement was described in terms similar to the previous Government's arrangement where it traded public property in Pickering with landowners who had the right to develop on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

"Transparency at City Hall, Human Rights throughout Vaughan"

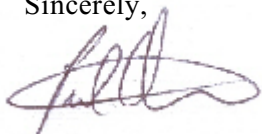
Another member of Council at the April 19 Committee meeting stated her distaste at the appearance that the City of Vaughan is acting as a “broker”, to use her word, for the Province. I have diligently reviewed your Government’s proposed *Greenbelt Protection Act* and related public documents. I am not aware of any specific land being considered for purchase or trade by your Government with respect to the Oak Ridges Moraine as it intersects the City of Vaughan.

I have sought, through a municipal freedom of information request, the details of the closed-door March 8 Council deliberations, believing that they principally should not have been behind closed doors in the first place. You will be informed of the contents of those deliberations, or whether the City refuses to make such information public.

I do not wish to speculate on your Government’s intentions, but what if the Province chooses not to be involved in a land-swap arrangement in this situation? Will the landowners thereafter have rights to develop on the Moraine that they may otherwise not have had, but for the controversial March 8 vote of Vaughan Council? I have already mentioned the lands in question are considered on one of the most sensitive areas within the already sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine, which your Government pledged to protect.

I do believe that your Government’s immediate attention is necessary. I therefore turn to you as Minister of Municipal Affairs for your intervention to review Vaughan Council’s actions. Vaughan residents deserve good municipal government.

Sincerely,



Paul De Buono,
Vaughan Watch

- c. Michael D. Prue, Critic (NDP), Municipal Affairs and Housing **(416-325-1367)**
Julia Munro, Critic (PC Party of Ontario), Municipal Affairs and Housing **(416-325-3466)**