



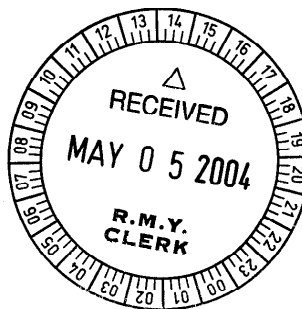
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May 5, 2004

Ms. Elma Stevenson
Clerks Office
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1



REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

FILE No. - 906

File No.: Tree By-Law, Ahmed
IMS No.: NFSX5C1

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

**Re: Request for Comments for Minor Exception
Under the Regional Tree By-Law for Clearing
6 hectares (14.94 acres) of Forest
Mr. Altaf Ahmed
17391 Woodbine Ave,
Part Lot 35, Concession 4
Township of Stouffville
Region of York**

We have reviewed the above noted file and based upon the issues below, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) would encourage the Region not to approve this request for a minor exception to the York Region Tree By-law:

1. It is the Region's goal to achieve 25% forest cover region wide, from approximately 19% cover currently. This proposal will result in a reduction of 6 hectares of valuable mixed age forest.
2. The tributary on the subject property is considered as warm water. It is Authority policy to maintain an undisturbed 15m vegetative buffer strip running along both sides of warm water watercourses. Furthermore, the Region has a target of 100% buffering of all watercourses. This proposal will result in a loss of approximately 200m of stream buffer along this tributary.
3. While the subject property is not within the York Region Greenlands System, it is situated in close proximity to the Greenlands System and provides a very good mix of successional and mature forest, as well as wetland habitat.

Leaders In

Watershed

Health



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4. The *State of the Watershed Report: The Black River Subwatershed* (LSRCA, 2003) identifies several issues of concern within the catchment of the subject property:
- lack of stream cover
 - streambank erosion resulting from reduced stream cover
 - agricultural inputs from fertilizers, pesticides and livestock access to watercourses
 - drains, pipes and stormwater outfall may contain pollutants and may have thermal impacts
 - ponds draining to the river leads to thermal increases in the watercourse, leading to declines in sensitive cool and cold water fish species
 - obstruction to fish passage include barriers such as perched culverts, dams and weirs

This proposal will result in a loss of 6 hectares of forest, including approximately 200m of stream cover. This loss will have negative impacts on water quality on this tributary and its downstream reaches, as well as the potential for impacts on wildlife habitat and corridors.

5. Note that portions of the property are regulated by the LSRCA.

If the committee decides to approve the application, we request that a 15 metre undisturbed vegetative buffer along both sides of the watercourse be required.

I trust this meets your information requirements. Please advise us of your decision on this matter. Please reference the above file numbers in future correspondence.

Yours truly,

K.C. Kennedy, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Planning

KCK/ph

- c. I. Buchanan, Regional Municipality of York, 905-895-3482 - Fax
K. Baker, Natural Heritage Biologist, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority