



June 19, 2008

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. - *p04*

Ms. Debbie Zimmerman
Chair
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
1305 Pickering Parkway
Pickering, ON L1V 3P2

The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Clerk's Department

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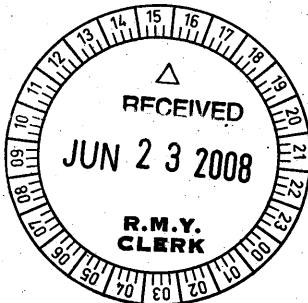
Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMMI
Regional Clerk

**RE: DAAC RESOLUTION – FARMLAND ASSESSMENT AND TAX
RECOMMENDATION, OUR FILE: C00**

Ms. Zimmerman, the Planning Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on June 18, 2008 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"THAT, on behalf of the agricultural industry, the Region of Durham requests that MPAC, along with the Provincial Ministries of Finance, Energy, Environment and Municipal Affairs and Housing examine the current assessment policy approaches for agricultural uses to ensure that no negative economic impacts are incurred within the agricultural industry and specifically, that MPAC and the Province be requested to:

- a) Review and provide clarification with respect to property classifications between agricultural and agricultural related land uses and commercial uses. Below are examples of specific areas that should be reviewed:
 - i) While the commitment of the Province to a balanced and sustainable property assessment system for the renewable energy sector is supported and acknowledged, a special focus on farm power generation and the production of crops for on-farm power generation be considered;
 - ii) On or off farm facilities for storage, processing, packing and handling of farm products; farm co-ops; facilities used to handle grains and fruit; and other facilities such as evaporators for maple syrup, be reviewed; and
 - iii) On farm markets which sell produce that is primarily grown on the farm be re-examined and receive special consideration;
- b) THAT the Province and MPAC review its current legislation and practices to ensure that agricultural assessment methodology and property classifications are applied consistently across the province (e.g. bunkhouses); and



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- c) THAT DAAC supports the recent Provincial Budget announcement and the Province's commitment to ensure a fair appeal process at the Assessment Review Board by placing the onus of proof on MPAC to prove accuracy of an assessment;
- d) THAT MPAC be requested to continue and expand its efforts to improve its customer service processes and capabilities to ensure that agricultural inquiries and requests for information disclosure are processed in a timely and complete manner;
- e) THAT, as previously requested by the Region of Durham, the Provincial Education Tax (PET) on agricultural property be set at the same multiple as the municipal tax ratio on agricultural property within a specific municipality;
- f) THAT the Province of Ontario agrees to financially compensate municipalities for any negative financial impacts which may result from these changes. At the same time, the Province agrees to financially compensate the municipal sector for the negative financial impacts that resulted from the downloading of the Provincial Farm Property Tax Rebate Program in 1998; and
- g) THAT this resolution be forwarded to the GTA Regional Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Municipal Finance Officers' Association (MFOA), the GTA Federations of Agriculture, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), and the GTA Agricultural Action Committee (GTA-AAC) for endorsement."

Please find enclosed a copy of Report #2008-P-54 of A.L. Georgieff, Commissioner of Planning and By-laws 27-2008 and 28-2008, for your information.



P.M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/tf

Enclosure

c: Please see attached list

- c: The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Gerry Phillips, Minister of Energy
The Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment
The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and
Housing
C. Isenburg, President and Chief Administrative Officer, Municipal
Property Assessment Corporation
P. Vanini, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of
Ontario
D. Cowin, Executive Director, Municipal Finance Officers
Association of Ontario
M. Wallenfels, Clerk, Regional Municipality of Halton
C. Gravley, Clerk, Regional Municipality of Peel
D. Kelly, Clerk, Regional Municipality of York
N. Currie, General Manager, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
K. Yellowlees, Secretary, Durham Region Federation of
Agriculture
E. van Donkersgoed, Executive Director, GTA Agricultural Action
Committee
A.L. Georgieff, Commissioner of Planning
N. Rutherford, Senior Planner