

**Ministry of Natural
Resources**

Office of the Minister

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**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

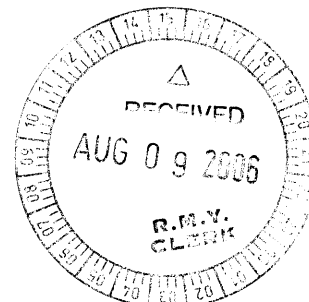
FILE No. - *107*



MNR1205MC-2006-1984

August 3, 2006

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



Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for sharing with me council's support for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's (LSRCA) resolution regarding a proposed policy and procedural directive.

The proposal states that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will no longer issue approvals for certain works in and around water under the *Lakes & Rivers Improvement Act*, where Conservation Authority (CA) Regulations are in effect. The primary concern raised by the LSRCA is that these proposed changes have been made without additional funding from the province to cover CA costs for additional enforcement and prosecution.

This proposal is for the exemption of approval for specific works under the LRIA and is not a delegation of additional responsibility to CAs. This exemption of approval would eliminate overlap and duplication that currently exists between approvals required for certain types of proposed works in and around water from the ministry under the LRIA and from CAs under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Historically, the MNR has not enforced the provisions of CA Regulations made under the CA Act and we are not considering a change in this relationship at this time. Accordingly, CAs should continue to administer their Regulations under the CA Act and conduct enforcement and compliance as part of their legislated mandate.

The MNR has recently received endorsement for this proposal from Conservation Ontario, the umbrella organization representing the interests of all 36 CAs across the province. Conservation Ontario has commended MNR on this initiative and has noted that the proposed directives will be a benefit to watershed residents because the changes will be less onerous on the landowner, will not make additional work for CA staff, and will not reduce the protection of the environment with regards to alterations to watercourses.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Ramsay".

Hon. David Ramsay
Minister