



June 7, 2012

Mayor and Council
Town of Georgina
E: Tammi Roberts troberts@georgina.ca

Dear Mayor and Council

RE: METRUS DEVELOPMENT/NORTH GWILLIMBURY FOREST

The North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance (NGFA) has outlined a number of concerns with regard to the Metrus property at the north end of Keswick and abutting the Deer Park/Duglas Matthews Nature Reserve with which the York Region Environmental Alliance agrees.

Their first concern - that of the secretive deal between York Region and Metrus is one which should cause great consternation in your municipality. Simply, the municipal authority and public input in the matter has been overlooked/sidewiped and seems of no consequence. We are appalled at the undemocratic principles which support any such practice.

The NGFA has also suggested that Metrus is using approval of a 25 year old plan for non-serviced trailer lots as justification for over 1,000 serviced residential units. It is my recollection that two pieces of legislation; the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, and amendments to the Planning Act of Ontario would put this justification in serious question.

Firstly, the amendment to the Planning Act states that applications (even with prior approvals) when brought forward must conform with CURRENT legislation. This means that even if the trailer plan met with the then standing environmental regulations this does NOT grandfather a lack of requirement for environmental approvals under current environmental standards. The current application must conform with current legislation.

Secondly, the Lake Simcoe Protection Act recognizes Lake Simcoe as a vital body of water to the Province of Ontario and recognizes the need to protect and enhance that body of water. Disturbing, destroying or interrupting linkages to a significant forest abutting that body of water will affect both drainage and recharge and will seriously hamper any efforts to protect or enhance the water quality of Lake Simcoe. One must also ask where the water supply for the proposed development will be drawn from, where the treated effluent discharge will go and what the effect of that change in dynamic will have to Lake Simcoe.

We suggest that you have an obligation to –

- Address the concerns of your municipal constituents.
- Assist in the protection of one of the valuable assets of your municipality
- Protect the assets of the Region of York and the ancillary assets affected by any change in water dynamics of Lake Simcoe (both up and downstream).
- Protect the forested lands and forests of York Region and your municipality.

With that in mind, York Region Environmental Alliance respectfully requests that you work with the NGFA, and other interested parties to assure that all concerns are properly dealt with and/or responded to, and that the Township of Georgina support the request to the OMB by NGFA to defer any hearing until such time as the details of the Metrus/York Region deal can be studied and understood.

Sincerely,
Jeffery Laidlaw, Chairman
York Region Environmental Alliance