



# North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

January 31, 2017

The Honourable Bill Mauro  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Mauro:

**Re: Protection of Maple Lake Estates' provincially significant wetland**

I am writing on behalf of the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance to respond to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's (LSRCA) January 20, 2017 letter to you re: the protection of the provincially significant wetland (PSW) on the Maple Lake Estates (MLE) property.

According to the Chair of LSRCA, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe of Aurora, you should allow the DG Group to build a 1,073 unit subdivision on prime farmlands in the Greenbelt Protected Countryside between Deer Park and Boyer's Roads, to ensure that it doesn't proceed with its MLE mobile home park development on the Paradise Beach-Island Grove PSW.

This is a truly bizarre request for the LSRCA to make to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, since it is the LSRCA that is legally obliged, pursuant to the Conservation Authorities Act, to protect this PSW by denying the DG Group the Section 28 permit that it would need to proceed with the MLE mobile home park. As Section 8.3 of the LSRCA's *Guidelines for the Implementation of Ontario Regulation 179/06* (April 24, 2015) states: Section 28 permits will not be granted for residential developments to be built on PSWs.

Furthermore, according to a written statement to our organization by Julia Munro MPP, if the LSRCA were to give the DG Group a Section 28 permit for the MLE property, you should issue a Zoning Order to prevent this development from proceeding.

Instead of lobbying you to sacrifice Greenbelt farmland—in essence, to overrule your wise and very popular prior decision not to remove from the Protected Countryside the Deer Park-Boyer's lands—in exchange for the DG Group not developing land that it cannot legally develop anyway, the LSRCA should be promoting a solution that is in the best overall interests of the Lake Simcoe Watershed and the people of Georgina and Ontario.

Specifically, the LSRCA should ask the DG Group to donate its MLE lands to the public in return for permission to build additional high-quality homes on the lands it owns in south Keswick—lands that

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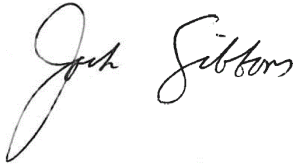
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have already been zoned for urban development, and on which Provincial and York Region policies encourage further intensification.

This would be a win-win for the people of Georgina and the DG Group for two reasons. First, it would provide Georgina residents with access to beautiful walking trails in a large wetland and woodland property in the heart of the North Gwillimbury Forest. Second, it would allow the DG Group to build additional homes for new residents in the best possible location—within Georgina's largest urban community, near the Highway 404 exit and the soon-to-be-built state-of-the-art recreational complex.

In conclusion, Minister Mauro, the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance strongly supports your decision to deny the DG Group permission to build a 1,073 unit subdivision on Georgina's prime farmlands in the Greenbelt Protected Countryside. It is not in the public interest to sacrifice our prime farmlands in exchange for the DG Group not developing lands that cannot be legally developed under Ontario's current land use rules.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Gibbons  
Chair

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