



SNAKE ISLAND COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

Ontario Corporation Number 442265

May 24, 2012

Mayor Robert Grossi & Members of Council
Georgina Civic Centre
26557 Civic Centre Road
Keswick, Ontario
L4P 3G1

Dear Mayor Grossi & Members of Council:

Re: Saving the North Gwillimbury Forest

Metrus Developments is planning to seek your approval to build a 1,073 home sub-division in the North Gwillimbury Forest (NGF).

Metrus' proposal is not in the public interest for at least three important reasons.

First, the proposed sub-division would be located on the Paradise Beach-Island Grove provincially significant wetland. In fact, at least 80% of the proposed development site was designated as a provincially significant wetland by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 2004. According to the Provincial Policy Statement, development and site alteration shall not be permitted in provincially significant wetlands in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1. The NGF is in Ecoregion 6E.

Second, the proposed sub-division would drive a stake through the heart of the NGF and split it in two.

Third, proposed sub-division is inconsistent with four of the goals of the Government of Ontario's *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*. Specifically, according to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, we must: a) protect wetlands, b) maintain natural biodiversity; c) raise the proportion of the Lake Simcoe watershed that consists of wetlands, meadows and forests from 35% to a minimum of 40%; and d) increase the proportion of these natural areas that are in *large, high-quality patches* like the North Gwillimbury Forest.

Therefore the Snake Island Cottagers Association (SICA) respectfully requests the Town of Georgina to deny Metrus permission to build a sub-division in the North Gwillimbury Forest.

Yours truly,

Jake Morrison
President
Snake Island Cottagers Association