

January 16, 2012

Ms. Karen Wolfe  
Editor, Pefferlaw Post

Dear Ms. Wolfe:

According to Harold Lenters, Director of Planning for the Town of Georgina, there is nothing stopping Metrus from moving forward with its 1984 approved plan for a 1,073 trailer park (double wide mobile home) development in the North Gwillimbury Forest (“Environmentalists opposed to development in North Gwillimbury forest area” – January 10<sup>th</sup>). Fortunately, Mr. Lenters is wrong.

While Metrus has inherited *Planning Act* approvals for the mobile home development, it still does **not** have the Section 28 permits, pursuant to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, which it needs in order to proceed with this project. Furthermore, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority can refuse to grant Metrus these permits since the proposed site for its Maple Leaf Estates development has been designated as a provincially significant wetland by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It should also be made clear that Metrus does **not** want to proceed with the low-profit mobile home development that the Town approved 28 years ago. But Metrus cannot simply push through its significantly revised 2012 plan without new approvals from the Town of Georgina, the Region of York and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

The Town, the Region and the Conservation Authority should work together to stop the proposed new Maple Leaf Estates development and save the North Gwillimbury Forest - one of the ten largest forests in the Lake Simcoe watershed. Our local political leaders must respect the Province of Ontario’s *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan* which calls for protecting wetlands and increasing – not decreasing – forest cover in the watershed when dealing with this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Gibbons

Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

[www.SaveNGForest.org](http://www.SaveNGForest.org)

416-260-2080 ext. 2

