

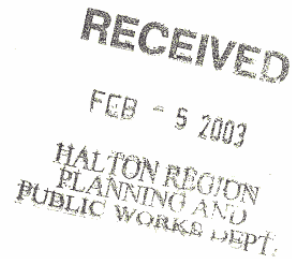
Ministry of
Natural Resources
Aurora District
50 Bloomington Road West
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 3G8

Ministère des
Richesses naturelles



January 30, 2003

Ms. Carolyn Hart
Senior Planner - Ecology
Region of Halton
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1



Dear Ms. Hart:

Re: Significant Woodlands in the Regional Municipality of Halton

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is very supportive of the Region's efforts to identify significant woodlands. Under the Provincial Policy Statement, municipalities have the ability to identify and protect significant woodlands. The Region is to be commended for the leadership it has demonstrated in carrying out this study.

Inclusion of significant woodlands in a protective category of the Official Plan, as proposed in Halton's Directions Report of August 2002, would appear to be an appropriate course of action from the perspective of MNR.

MNR believes the alternative approach suggested January 23, 2003, that would limit the identification of significant woodlands to urban designated areas only, is too limiting in application. Such an approach presupposes that the need for protection in rural areas is far less than that required for urban areas. Inclusion of significant woodlands in the Greenlands B designation provides sufficient recognition of different land use considerations. For example, the Greenlands B designation allows accessory buildings and facilities to be constructed.

With respect to a revised Regional woodland tree by-law, MNR recognizes the need to provide for the removal of trees in support of agricultural operations. However, care must be exercised in by-law design and application to ensure that any tree removal is not viewed as the removal of a constraint to future development. Where trees in significant woodlands are illegally removed, MNR would suggest that the woodland boundaries not change for land use planning purposes.

If further technical information or discussion is desired, please contact me at 905-713-7714.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bohdan Kowalyk".

Bohdan I. Kowalyk, R.P.F.
Aurora District Forester