

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs**

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JAN 12 2017

16-71741

Mr. Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and CEO
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Chairman Emmerson:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the York Region Council resolution about the Maple Lake Estates lands.

As you identified in your correspondence, the Maple Lake Estates lands would remain designated Urban Residential Area in the Town of Georgina's new Official Plan as approved, and would be further identified as 'Towns and Villages' as part of the Town's municipal structure. The Georgina Official Plan would also identify provincially significant wetlands, including the Paradise Beach-Island Grove wetland, within the municipality and contains policies for the protection of the wetlands. I understand that an appeal has been filed from the Region's decision to approve the Georgina Official Plan, including the policies related to the Maple Lake Estate Lands.

As you are aware, the government established the Greenbelt Plan in 2005, creating the world's largest permanently protected Greenbelt. The government respects the integrity of the land use planning process and has proposed updates to four provincial plans: the Greenbelt Plan; the Growth Plan; the Niagara Escarpment Plan; and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The draft plans, along with proposed Greenbelt Area boundary changes, were posted for comment in May 2016, with the comment period ending on October 31, 2016. The ministry has also been reviewing site specific requests to remove land from, or change land use designations within, the Greenbelt.

My ministry completed its review of site specific requests for removal from or designation changes within the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Plan Area that have been received since the creation of the Greenbelt Plan. In undertaking this review, the government was guided by a number of overarching considerations, including:

- avoiding boundary changes that would fragment farmland, including prime agricultural lands;
- maintaining a robust Natural Heritage System that can be supported despite urbanization occurring in proximity and downstream to the Greenbelt;
- respecting the functional connections in the Natural Heritage System;
- valuing the overall objectives of the Greenbelt as a landscape
- avoiding a minimalist approach to defining the Natural Heritage System; and
- being responsive to landowner requests to evaluate site-specific situations.

The ministry is now proposing a few minor boundary changes to the Greenbelt Area (see EBR Registry Number: 012-9241 and EBR Registry Number: 012-9247).

The ministry received submissions both in support of and against the request to transfer the Town and Village designation from the Maple Lakes Estates lands to lands to the south owned by the developer. These submissions were carefully reviewed, and no changes to the Greenbelt Plan designations related to the Maple Lake Estates lands are proposed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mauro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Mauro
Minister