



Percy Hatfield

MPP Windsor–Tecumseh



March 26, 2018

Hon Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Hon Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Hon Peter Z. Milczyn, Minister of Housing
Hon Nathalie Des Rosiers, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

Good day, Ministers.

I am writing in an attempt to have you interject in a planning issue in North Gwillimbury. There's a piece of property there known as the Maple Lake Estates. Part of it contains the Paradise Beach-Island Grove provincially significant wetland.

Georgina Council unanimously passed a motion calling on the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority not to allow an application from the DG Group that would destroy the wetland. However, the board at the Conservation Authority accepted a staff report, approving the project – because the developers had promised to hand over lands in the Greenbelt Protected Countryside that are already protected from development.

Once again, we see the interests of a developer being given more priority by a Conservation Authority than the interests of local residents or the very environment CA's are supposed to be protecting.

The wetland is to be sacrificed for a giant subdivision.

Provincially Significant Wetlands are among the most robust and diverse habitats on our planet. Our fens, bogs, marshes and swamps are integral to our natural habitat. Allowing parts of them to be destroyed for development is short-sighted, and in no way follows our strategy to encourage more sustainable wetlands.

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There is nothing innovative about it – it certainly doesn't demonstrate good stewardship – and there is nothing here that demonstrates restoration.

I say "shame" on the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Ministers, I call on you to do whatever you can to reverse this decision. Issue a zoning order or take any action you deem fit to stop this giant subdivision in its tracks.

Send a message that our precious environment of today will still be here for our children and grandchildren, and not sacrificed on the altar of poor planning.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Percy', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Percy Hatfield, MPP
NDP Critic for Municipal Affairs and Housing

c.c. Georgina Town Council
c.c. Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
c.c. North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance