#  COUNTY OF SIMCOE

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| **To:** | **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  |
| **Section:** | Corporate Services - Forestry / By-law |
| **Item Number:** | CCW 15-009 |
| **Meeting Date:** | January 13, 2015 |
| **Subject:** | Request for Special Permit to Forest Conservation By-law No. 5635 |

**Recommendation:**

THAT the request for a Special Permit to Forest Conservation By-law No. 5635 to clear approximately 35 acres (14.2 ha) of woodlands be granted to Maria Rizzardo (Tecumseth Estates Inc.), as outlined in Item CCW 15-009.

**Executive Summary:**

This Item recommends that Council grant permission to Maria Rizzardo (Tecumseth Estates Inc.) to remove approximately 35 acres of woodlands to expand an existing agricultural area.

**Background/Analysis/Options:**

The subject property is located at 6386 and 6416 9th Line, concession 9 part lots 8, 9 and 10 in New Tecumseth. It is 241 acres in area; approximately 60 acres is currently woodland with the remaining 181 acres in agricultural use. Agricultural land class is 1-3 and 4, and the woodland is predominantly comprised of mature, mixed hardwood species.

By-law staff first attended the site in January 2012 and issued a ‘stop work order’ as tree clearing was occurring without a permit. As the apparent tree clearing had included butternut, a protected species under the Endangered Species Act, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) was also contacted.

The owner subsequently retained a forestry consultant and a plan to address impacts to the endangered species was prepared and approved by the MNR, and a Special Permit application was submitted to the County to remove certain woodlands on the property. Due to potential impacts to water features, an Environmental Impact Study was required by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), the completion of which led to further refinements to the original application to ensure adequate protection of stream corridors and steep slopes.

The Town of New Tecumseth, County Planning Department, and NVCA have no objection to the application in its current form.

**Financial and Resource Implications:**

There are no financial implications associated with this Item.

**Relationship to Corporate Strategies:**

No relationship to corporate strategies.

**Reference Documents:**

* Forest Conservation By-law No. 5635

**Attachments:**

Schedule 1 – Property Location Map



**Prepared By:**  Larry Barrette, By-law Enforcement Officer

**Approvals: Date**

Graeme Davis, County Forester December 9, 2014

Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Engineering, Planning & Environment December 17, 2014

Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance December 29, 2014

Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer December 30, 2014