

Ministry of Infrastructure

Ministère de l'Infrastructure

Ministry of
Transportation

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Transports

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement

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DEC 04 2012

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Her Worship Linda Collins
Mayor
Township of Springwater
Lower East Ring
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing ON L0L 1Y2

Mr. Cal Patterson
Warden
County of Simcoe
Administration Centre
1110 Hwy 26
Midhurst ON L0L 1X0



Dear Mayor Collins and Warden Patterson:

As you know, the Provincial Development Facilitator, Paula Dill, has been working diligently with the County of Simcoe, Township of Springwater, stakeholders and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to move forward with the Midhurst Secondary Plan (OPA 38). Ms Dill's involvement was the result of County Warden Patterson's letter dated May 3, 2012, which requested "that the Provincial Development Facilitator... be engaged... to assist in moving forward," specifically on resolving the OPA 38 appeal, an "immediate matter for attention."

The "made in Simcoe" amendment to the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006*, came into effect on January 19, 2012. The development and implementation of Amendment No. 1 has and continues to be a shared effort among those who are interested in and concerned with the future of the region. This is part of the Ontario government's plan to protect the natural environment while creating jobs, attracting new investment and strengthening the economy in the Simcoe area.

With input from the affected municipalities, stakeholders and the work of the Provincial Development Facilitator, we have reached an agreement regarding some of the lands and policies in OPA 38 and developed a shared vision for achieving sustainable growth in Simcoe County.

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At the request of the County and the Township, the Province has withdrawn a portion of its appeal of OPA 38. The Province relied on the affirmation of the County and the Township that 300 hectares of the proposal addresses the Growth Plan's policies and transition rules. Together, these policies and transition rules would provide additional flexibility for the designation of urban lands within existing settlement areas. The 456 hectares and related policies of OPA 38 not subject to the withdrawal remain under appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board.

The agreement is in keeping with the principles of the Growth Plan to build compact, vibrant and complete communities; to plan and manage growth to support a strong and competitive economy; to optimize the use of existing and new infrastructure to support growth in a compact, efficient form; to provide for different approaches to managing growth that recognize the diversity of communities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe; and to provide greater flexibility to Simcoe municipalities in managing development on land within existing settlement areas.

I want to thank the County of Simcoe and the Township of Springwater for your efforts in working with the Provincial Development Facilitator, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to find common ground and achieve agreement on these issues. The Ontario government is confident that municipalities in Simcoe County now have all the tools necessary to ensure that growth and development occurs in keeping with the "made in Simcoe" policies of the Growth Plan.

Sincerely,



Bob Chiarelli
Minister

- c: Paula Dill, Office of the Provincial Development Facilitator
Drew Fagan, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure
William Forward, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Robert Brindley, CAO, Township of Springwater
Mark Aitken, CAO, County of Simcoe