

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

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**Ministère des  
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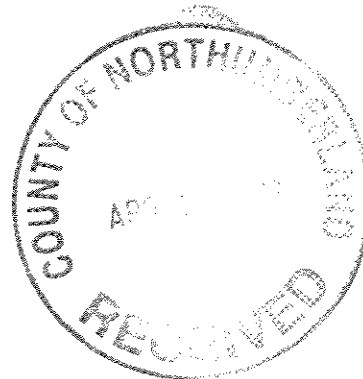
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08-39831

April 15, 2008

Ms. Christine Herrington  
Warden  
County of Northumberland  
555 Courthouse Road  
Cobourg ON K9A 5J6



Dear Warden Herrington:

Thank you for your letter dated March 4, 2008, seeking clarity from the Province regarding sections 6 and 37 of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Specifically, you are asking how the Province views the use of motorized recreational vehicles (MRVs) within the Natural Core Areas designated in the ORMCP.

Through the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is committed to protecting key natural heritage features such as the Northumberland County Forest. We are also committed to strengthening local autonomy by encouraging municipalities to be responsible for planning the future of their communities and for making land-use planning decisions based on local values and goals. In making these decisions, municipalities are responsible for ensuring that relevant provincial legislation is implemented and applied as required.

I commend the County of Northumberland for its efforts to date toward the preparation of a Master Plan for the long-term planning and management of the forest. I am aware that staff from my Eastern Municipal Services Office in Kingston have been in contact with the county and continue to provide support on the preparation of the Master Plan. This will help us to achieve our collective goal of protecting the Northumberland County Forest. Part of this assistance has been advice to seek legal direction and to speak with neighbouring jurisdictions, such as Durham Region, to evaluate possible approaches to addressing MRV use within the forest.

As the questions you raised in your letter involve matters of legal interpretation, it would not be appropriate for me to intervene or comment further beyond the advice that you have received from your solicitor.

Once again, thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the provincial government.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson'.

Jim Watson, MPP  
Minister

c: Mr. Lou Rinaldi, MPP, Northumberland–Quinte West