

June 14, 2017

**County of Simcoe Administration Centre
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON
L9N 1X6**

Re: Part Lot 2, Concession 1
2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Township of Springwater
Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
County File: SC-OPA-1602

I am in receipt of the notice of a Statutory Public Meeting for the above noted County Official Plan Amendment.

I am opposed to the proposed amendment for the following reasons:

1. The County's expressed desire to locate the facility, if possible, on lands already owned by the County resulted in the inclusion of County-owned forests in the candidate waste disposal facility sites;
2. Given that the vast majority of County landholdings are County Forests, this resulted in 50% of the candidate sites for a waste disposal facility being within woodlands;
3. If you consider just the County-owned sites that were under consideration, 82% of the sites were woodland areas. This is an overwhelming proportion of candidate sites within areas that most residents of the County would consider to be protected from development;
4. County Forests should not be considered as a viable option for the construction of infrastructure and should have been excluded from the site selection process based on both natural heritage as well as social and cultural impacts to the broader community; and,
5. The decision-making matrix that was used during the Part 1 – 3 process was not consistent with the requirements of the Provincial Policy Statement. In addition, the Environmental Impact Study has not demonstrated that there will be no negative impact to areas of provincial interest, such as woodlands, wetlands and wildlife habitat, as required by the *Planning Act*.

Based on the above, I would ask that the County not approve the Official Plan Amendment.

I would like to be notified of the adoption or refusal of the proposed Official Plan Amendment.

Yours truly,

**(Mrs.) Marion Davies
64 Paddy Dunn's Circle
Springwater, ON L9X 0T2**

26 June 2017

Planning & Development Department
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8

and

County of Simcoe Administration Centre
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON
L9N 1X6

Re: Part Lot 2, Concession 1
2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Township of Springwater
Environmental Resource Recovery Centre
County File: SC-OPA-1602
Township Files: OP-2016-005 and ZB-2016-021

Good evening:

My family and I attended the June 19th meeting at the Township of Springwater offices, and we were heartened by the support received from residents concerning the proposed amendment to the Township Official Plan and amendment to the Zoning By-Law with respect to the above-mentioned property. We were also alarmed by the number of concerns raised by many Springwater citizens regarding such serious issues as odour, potential fire hazard, and uncertainty of the size, technology, and future expansion of the facilities being proposed. These are only scratching the surface, but are the main focus of this letter. I will raise some of my own concerns, and follow up with questions that would require some form of response from anyone able to provide it.

Odour:

To begin, I cite an article (please visit this link: [here](#)) from the CBC titled "Hamilton wants out of environmental regulations around smelly compost facility" and dated May 23rd 2017. This article describes the serious odour problems that have been plaguing the Hamilton Central Composting Facility since the provincial government introduced a new rule in 2016 that "compost must be 40 per cent moisture or greater when cured." This has caused odours to not only become completely unmanageable, but so too has it prompted the city of Hamilton to seek various options to alleviate the problem.

One such solution that Sam Merulla, a Hamilton city councillor, has proffered, is to encourage the city to "stop following" the rule "until it figures out a way to handle the stench." To refuse to comply with the province standard, Gary Wheeler (MOE spokesperson) explains, would require Hamilton to "treat the materials as waste" rather than organics. This facility "handles compost

generated by Hamilton, Halton and Simcoe County” and, since the new rule, has received 21 formal complaints, up from three in the previous year.

According to the article, this facility is located 780 metres from the nearest residential area, which is farther from homes than the proposed ERRC location here in Springwater. I therefore have a few questions relating to odours:

- How would the County of Simcoe deal with such odour issues with its own OMF?
- Would the County opt out of provincial regulations in order to alleviate odour problems, or would it allow the odour to persist because of the relatively small number of residents who live within the area?

Fire Hazard:

Along with organics and waste management comes the risk of fire, as brought up by a few residents at the meeting. I cite another article by the CBC (please visit this link: [here](#)) titled “Massive fire at Toronto recycling plant finally under control” and dated May 25th, 2017. This article describes the devastating aftermath of a six-alarm fire at a solid waste transfer plant run by the ironically named Green For Life Environmental Inc. Luckily, no one was injured; however, the fire took about ten hours to get under control, and caused the roof of the facility to collapse. As Fire Chief Pegg stated, it would take days to completely extinguish the flames because of the materials that were involved. Residents even remarked that smoke was “widespread across the city” and “the smell was thick and inescapable for hours.” Moreover, most of the water used to extinguish the fire came from a Lake Ontario fireboat. I needn’t also mention the fire that had broken out at the BFI plant on Bertram Industrial Parkway on May 17th 2013, which would have devastated the forest had it occurred in the Freele Tract. Would this incident not serve as a wake-up call that such a facility has no place in a forest?

The County’s proposed ERRC is slated for a natural corridor, fully surrounded by dense woodlands and nearby homes. An emergency access road from the facility is intended to enter from one of Springwater’s many dead-end roads, Rainbow Valley Road East. Rainbow Valley Road and Baseline Road are narrow dirt and gravel roads that lead to a dead end, and that are in poor condition most of the year. In case of emergency, this is the only way for our families to reach our homes and it’s the only way for our families to leave the area from our homes. In addition, our families must travel past the proposed ERRC site and its entrance onto Rainbow Valley Road if ever it became necessary to evacuate the area.

The facility footprint is slated to be in closer proximity to Rainbow Valley Road than to Horseshoe Valley Road. A fire would only have to travel a very short distance north or northeast to reach Rainbow Valley Road. Should this road become unpassable due to fire, emergency vehicles, poor road conditions, or other related impediments, our families will become trapped in this dense forested area.

To date, we have been unable to locate any type of Emergency Response Plan that addresses evacuation routes for residents on neighbouring dead-end roads. Nor have we been able to locate anywhere in the County’s plans any intentions to upgrade roads for better access to the neighbouring properties at risk. I therefore have a few questions related to the fire hazard, especially when considering the provincial rules respecting moisture rates for organics:

- Are Simcoe County and Springwater Township able to properly address the fire risks involved in the use of OPF and MMF plants? If so, what strategies does it have in place to do so?
- Are Simcoe County and Springwater Township equipped to act swiftly and effectively should a fire break out in the Freele tract? If so, how?
- Are Simcoe County and Springwater Township prepared to deal with the massive mess that would result from a forest fire that would originate from the ERRC? If so, how?
- Are Simcoe County and Springwater Township prepared to take full responsibility should a fire spread to neighbouring residents?

Size, Technology, and Possible Expansion of the ERRC

While odours and fire hazards are real concerns, the elephant in the room is really the lack of transparency that characterizes this so-called “plan.” Thus far, Simcoe County is asking Springwater Council to approve an amendment to the zoning by-law for a facility that has yet to be actually identified, chosen, and specified. I apologize for the lack of tact, but this feels like the proverbial “box of chocolates” since it is unclear what we are getting. However, what is clear is that whatever “chocolate” is gotten will taste, and likely smell, like vomit to the businesses located near the sensitive Freele tract, be it the owners of Nicholyn Farm, Bridle Tree Farm, or the Krajcir’s Olympic-realm horse farm, all of which are located within 500 metres of this facility. This is not to mention the residents who will also be subjected to possible odours, as mentioned above, depending on the technology used, which is still sketchy and ostensibly unknown.

I cannot help but feel alarm, skepticism, and distrust in the face of the County’s seemingly unflinching approach to this facility, despite public outcry and countless valid, sensible, and well-researched arguments brought forward by competent residents who are well-versed and who possess a solid understanding of the issues that are at hand, as seen at the June 19th meeting. Springwater residents who were in attendance were floored and gravely disappointed in the County’s inability to be transparent about its plans for the site. A massive combined OPF, MMF, MRF plant is already shocking, especially as it stands to be located within a forest. It appears that this so-called “Environmental” Resource Recovery Centre, a clear euphemistic portrayal of a massive future dump site being located in the middle of a large forest will serve as smoke and mirrors to push the illusion of “greenwashing”: put a dump in the forest and call it environmentally sound. I therefore have a few questions that relate to the plan’s size, technology, and possible expansion:

- Will Springwater Township require Simcoe County to disclose all plans, including technology, size and exact plans for the next 30 years that relate to the ERRC?
- How will Springwater Township restrict the use of the Freele Tract as a location for the ERRC?
- How will Springwater Township limit future expansion related to the ERRC?
- How will Springwater Township protect the interests, quality of life, and enjoyment of its residents who live within the affected area?

As I am sure, most residents of Springwater Township and of Simcoe County do, I support the Township's request that the County provide a Business Case in support of the proposed use, as outlined in the Township's March 2, 2016 resolution. However, the underlying site selection process and site-specific environmental investigations are not, in my opinion, consistent with the requirements of the Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement, the Simcoe County Official Plan or the Township of Springwater Official Plan.

Based on the above, I would ask that the Township not approve the Official Plan or Zoning By-Law Amendments.

I would like to be notified of the adoption or refusal of the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendments.

Yours truly,

Céline Laurin, Réjean Guérin, and Miguel Guérin

1205 Baseline Rd.

Phelpston ON L0L 2K0

From: jhermann jhermann [<mailto:jhermann@sympatico.ca>]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Daly, John <John.Daly@simcoe.ca>
Subject: ERRC - On-Site Fire Protection Water Supply

Some food for thought on the matter of fire protection and your Tuesday meeting.

I live at 10 Pine Hill Drive across HVR from the site. My back ground is in civil engineering as an AutoCAD designer for more than 30 years.

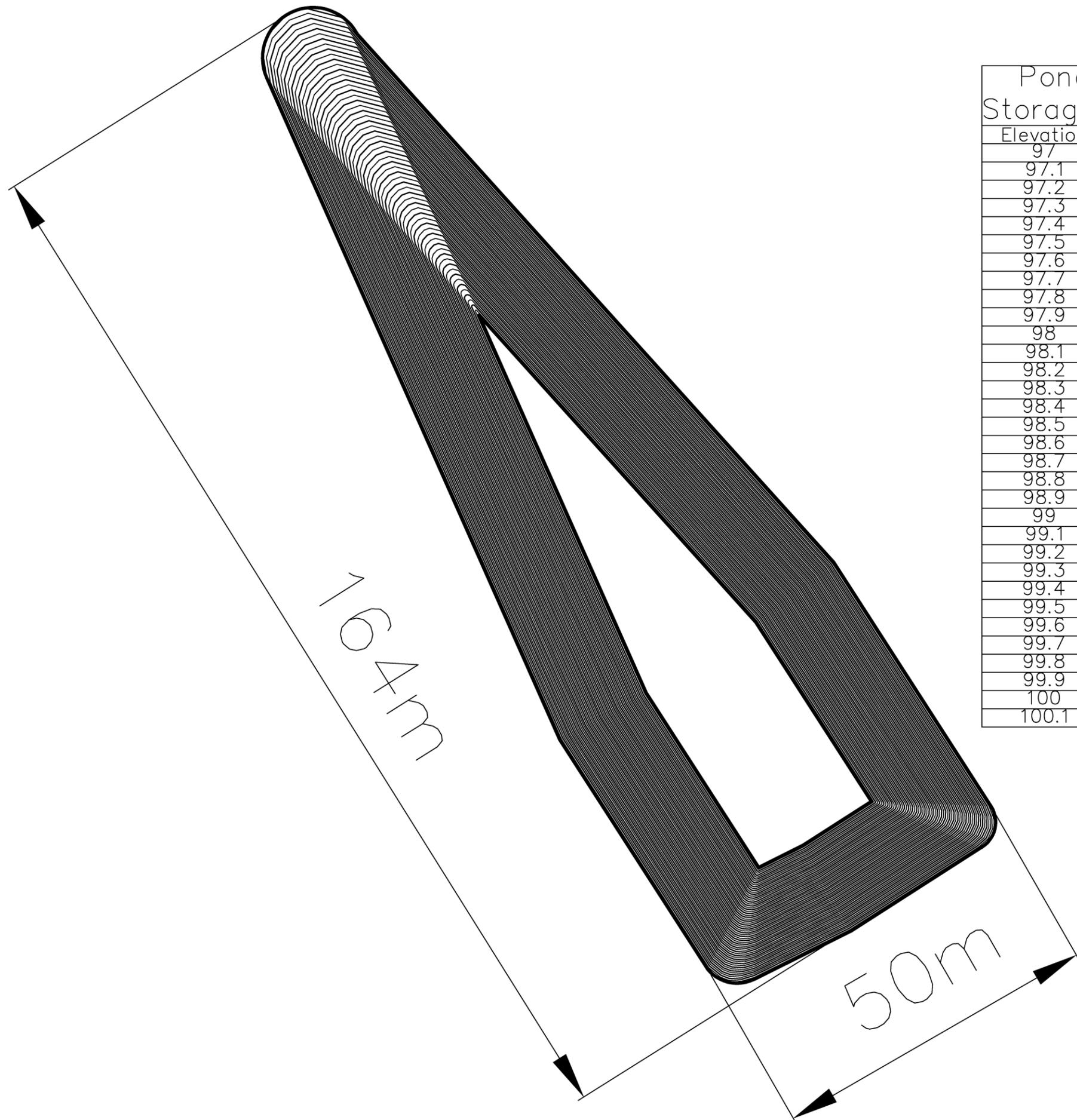
I have taken the site plan that GHD has provided and calculated some storm water management pond volumes. Some assumptions had to be made. The NVCA normally requires pond to have a combination of 5:1 and 7:1 slopes but I have calculated the volume at 5:1 throughout (maximizing the volume) as the water in the pond would be used for fire suppression. I have assumed the pond depth to be 1.5m deep at the permanent pool and have not accounted for the forebay berm in the pond with my calculations. The permanent pool elevation of the water would provide 3292 cubic metres of water stored in the pond in my model. (See attached pdf) However, in winter conditions where there is 3' of ice or in drought conditions, the pond may only be able to provide 775 cubic meters of water. This could have serious affects for fire suppression. The use of huge underground storage tanks could be used at a large increase in cost.

I have also attached the Office of the Fire Marshall Fire protection water supply guideline. In that is give the formulas to calculate the On-Site Fire Protection Water Supply. (Section 6.3) Again I had to make a few assumptions. The formulas involve building volumes, and only having the footprint of the proposed buildings and do not have any elevations of the buildings, I have assumed the building height to be 6 metres to allow front end loaders to load materials into a transport. The building volume should also include volume below ground and I am unsure if part of the operating areas will be below grade. (I recall some information that suggested there was).

Given that the guideline formula is $Q=K \times V \times S$, the volume of water required to protect the site would be 2690 cubic metres. There is an obvious shortfall of water for fire protection available.

In my calculations above, the water requirements are for building protection and are not for forest protection in the event of a fire. Putting a facility in this forest only increases the likelihood of a major forest fire. Furthermore, in the event of neighboring residents needing to evacuate due to a forest fire, many of us only have one way out. My subdivision (Pine Hill Estates) can only exit from Fox Farm Road and given the proximity to the site could only exit while fire conditions were good. If conditions were bad, then what?? What about the existing residents on Rainbow Valley road!!

Joseph Hermann
10 Pine Hill Drive
705-721-5840



Pond Stage Storage Analysis	
Elevation	Volume
97	0
97.1	132.52
97.2	275.95
97.3	430.62
97.4	596.89
97.5	775.12
97.6	965.65
97.7	1168.85
97.8	1385.06
97.9	1614.64
98	1857.94
98.1	2115.32
98.2	2387.12
98.3	2673.7
98.4	2975.42
98.5	3292.62
98.6	3625.66
98.7	3974.89
98.8	4340.67
98.9	4723.34
99	5123.27
99.1	5540.8
99.2	5976.29
99.3	6430.09
99.4	6902.55
99.5	7394.03
99.6	7904.88
99.7	8435.45
99.8	8986.09
99.9	9557.17
100	10149.03
100.1	10149.03



From: spek.family@gmail.com

Sent: 2017/06/07 1:01:12 PM

To: info@simcoe.ca

Subject: Update? Alternate sites

Despite where the County is in the process I think its not to late to rethink the crazy idea of putting the facility on County Forest lands, beside a key agri-tourism market place, on an important tourism destination route and for fire fighting a poorly accessible site re a major fire like the one at the City of Toronto portlands. We don't have full time fire fighters or the use of harbour fire boat pumps.

Please look at sites located on the 400 corridor where road access for materials from Barrie and Orillia can be delivered.

A bad location is a bad location. Do not justify a mistake rather be progressive and open the process to a relocation even at this late date.

Sincerely,

Mrs. C. Spek
705-721-8190

2928 Horseshoe Valley Road West
Phelpston, Ontario
L0L 2K0
June 26, 2017



G. Marshall
Warden
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario
L0L 1X0

Sir:

Re: Proposed Garbage Depot
2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West

I understand that your Mr. McCullough intends to hold discussions (or has already held them) with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), regarding the relocation of their trail through the Freele Forest. This is as a result of the proposed construction of a 60-ft wide, 1.7 km long road through the heart of that forest, which is presently a seasonal trail used in the winter by the OFSC.

The following questions arise:

- 1) Given that any relocation of the existing trail would push it closer to surrounding homes, were the 26 "near neighbours" informed of this?
- 2) Is it true that McCullough declined a request from C. Mercer (a neighbouring homeowner) to participate in those discussions? The following is an excerpt from McCullough's letter to C. Mercer dated January 20: "With respect to the relocation of the existing OFSC snowmobile trail on the property, there are no plans to relocate the trail this winter. Consideration regarding the details of the trail relocation will be considered in the future as the Sitr Plan for the ERRC is refined with the Township of Springwater, in consultation with the OFSC and the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority". What is the basis for McCullough's refusal to have "meaningful" consultation with the near neighbours in this matter?
- 3) I know from personal experience that it takes approximately 5 minutes to traverse that trail by snowmobile, meaning that any snowmobiler would be on that trail for 10 minutes during any given outing (i.e. 5 minutes outward bound, and 5 minutes return). Yet, the surrounding homeowners are resident 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Do you not see a negative impact on their quality of life, with snowmobiles (and a steady stream of off-season dirt bikes and ATV's which use that trail illegally on a daily basis) roaring past their homes? Why the apparent regard for the OFSC and illegal users, and lack of regard for the local homeowners?
- 4) Why would the OFSC trail need to be relocated, rather than simply running it alongside the proposed new road? The existing OFSC trail network runs alongside of existing roads in numerous areas. Assuming that the relocated trail is 20 feet wide (sufficient to accommodate the trail groomer), that equates to approximately 2.0 additional acres of woodland that will need to be clearcut. Has this fact been included in your representations to the Rainforest Alliance?
- 5) Why has the County avoided disclosure of this at any time during its so-called "meaningful consultations" with the public?
- 6) What is the proposed location of the relocated trail, and its distance from nearby residences?


R.W. Wagner (Mr)

c.c. All County Councilors
c.c. All Township Councilors