



Augusta National Inc. 178 Main Street, Unionville, Ontario L3R 2G9

Tel: (905) 944-9709

Fax: (905) 944-9710

Cell: (416) 464-0145

Email: everard@rogers.com

www.augustanational-inc.ca

Monday, March 21, 2016.

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath,
The Corporation of the City of Markham.

Dear Mr. Heath:

Re: **Report D.2.5 'Cemetery Needs Analysis'**
Thursday, March 10, 2016, Committee of the Whole

Further to our attendance at the above-noted, please be advised, that we participated in the stakeholder consultation identifying factors influencing York Region's Needs Analysis and Policy Framework Report ('Report').

Following Regional Council's receipt of the 'Report' on March 24, 2016, the Regional Clerk will circulate same to Provincial Agencies and Local Municipalities. Pursuant to the Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review and Official Plan Update, all comments from Stakeholders, LEES + Associates ('Lees'), Provincial Agencies and Local Municipalities will be considered with Staff recommending to Regional Council, a revised Official Plan Policy regarding cemetery planning and development.

'Lees' submission to York Region dated March 7, 2014, states "the only way to meet the long term cemetery needs of York Region is through the use of prime agriculture land". The Greater Toronto Countryside Mayors Alliance, with a membership of fourteen (14) municipalities representing over 1.25 million population, passed a resolution dated May 18, 2011, attached herewith supporting this statement. Pursuant to Provincial Policy Statement 2014, Policy 2.3.6, it is our respectful submission that the qualifying test to facilitate removal of land from prime agriculture areas for non-agriculture uses i.e. cemetery, is complete because alternate cemetery locations are excluded as noted below.

Cemetery development of Rural lands is not feasible for the following reasons:

- These lands, characterized by fractured ownership, discourages assembly of the requisite 75 acres or more required for the economies of scale in cemetery development;
- These lands are characterized by one or more of the following, including but not limited to, extreme topography, high water table, rock outcrops, provincially significant wetlands, forests and cold water tributaries. To this end, a 75-100 gross acre parcel may yield 50 net developable acres;

- Rural lands are typically located at distances too far removed from York Region's southern urban areas to effectively service these larger population centres;
- In view of the above-noted criteria and pursuant to our recent due diligence of all 'for sale' MLS Rural properties in York Region, there are no listings that qualify for cemetery development.

Cemetery development of Urban lands is not feasible for the following reasons:

- These lands are typically owned by Investors/Developers pending future urban development. To this end, the purchase of such property is cost prohibitive precluding cemetery development and the sale of an affordable inground burial plot;
- Since cemeteries are exempt from municipal tax assessment and surrounded by expensive infrastructure including collector and arterial roads, trunk sewers and watermains, municipalities are loath to approve this land use within their urban boundaries. Accordingly, elected officials prefer cemeteries not take up development lands that could otherwise be used for tax generating purposes.

Cemetery development on the Oak Ridges Moraine is not feasible for the following reasons:

- The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan restricts only "small scale" cemeteries on Rural lands within this geographic feature.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Everard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M" and "E".

Mike Everard, M.Sc., RPP.,
Principal.



TOWN OF CALEDON

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MAROLYN MORRISON

TOWN HALL
6311 Old Church Road
Caledon, ON L7C 1J6

www.caledon.ca

905.584.2272 x.4155 | 1.888.CALEDON
FAX 905.584.4325

marolyn.morrison@caledon.ca

**Greater Toronto
Countryside Mayors
Alliance**

Town of Aurora

Township of Brock

Town of Caledon

Municipality of Clarington

Town of East Gwillimbury

Town of Halton Hills

Town of Georgina

Township of King

Town of Milton

Town of Newmarket

City of Pickering

Township of Scugog

Town of Whitchurch-
Stouffville

Township of Uxbridge

May 18, 2011

The Honourable Rick Bartolucci
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay St. 17th Flr
Toronto ON M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Bartolucci,

At its meeting of April 15, 2011, the members of the Greater Toronto Countryside Mayors Alliance passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS municipalities require cemeteries and municipal public service facilities to support their residential and business constituents;

AND WHEREAS cemeteries and municipal public service facilities must be provided in proximity to the residents and businesses they are designed to serve;

AND WHEREAS cemeteries and municipal public service facilities may not be compatible with or cannot be reasonably established in existing "settlement areas" within the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the ability to expand settlement areas is constrained by Provincial Plans such as the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Places to Grow Plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Toronto Countryside Mayor's Alliance request that, within the five year review of the Provincial Policy Statement, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing revise Section 2.3.5 "Removal of Land From Prime Agricultural Areas" to allow for the provision of cemeteries and municipal public service facilities on prime agricultural areas outside settlement areas.

At the direction of the Mayors of the GTCMA, I am forwarding this resolution to you for your consideration and response.

Sincerely,

Marolyn Morrison
Mayor

Chair, Greater Toronto Countryside Mayors Alliance