



January 24th, 2012

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: North Gwillimbury Forest Project

As you know, the Alliance for a Better Georgina's mission is to be **a proactive citizens group dedicated to making Georgina a great place to live and work and, it seeks to bring people together, increase public awareness, and encourage greater citizen involvement.** Because of our organization's mission, we do not get involved in campaigns for or against projects that affect the community. We see our role as one of building bridges.

However, people are asking us what our position is on the Campaign to Save the North Gwillimbury Forest, and we thought we would share with you what we are saying.

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan has called for increased forest cover in the watershed to help the lake; the Province has identified the Maple Lakes Estates lands as provincially significant wetlands; and the proposed Maple Lakes development lands are also part of one of the 10th largest forests in the watershed --a forest that could well be one of Georgina's great assets. Therefore, we do not believe that this development should proceed.

We also believe that Georgina is very fortunate to have Jack Gibbons here who for the good of the community has formed a new organization that is gathering significant support for saving this forest and wetland area. Our organization--the ABG -- will not be directly involved but we are happy to play a role as required that is in keeping with our mandate.

Yours sincerely

Robert.O.Matthews
Chair

cc – Jack Gibbons