April 5, 2006

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Room 281, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable Sir:

Re: Greenbelt Plan and Provincial Policy Statement
Retirement Lots for Farmers

Please be advised that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby, at its meeting on April 3, 2006, adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas it is a goal of the Greenbelt Plan to provide permanent agricultural protection together with a vibrant and evolving agricultural and rural economy; and

Whereas it is a goal of the Greenbelt Plan to support the Niagara Peninsula Specialty crop area as a destination and centre of agriculture, focused on the agri-food sector and agri-tourism industries related to grape and tender fruit production; and

Whereas a goal of the Greenbelt Plan is to provide the appropriate flexibility to allow for agriculture, agriculture-related and secondary uses, normal farm practices and an evolving agricultural/rural economy; and

Whereas it is a goal of the Greenbelt Plan to increase certainty for the agricultural sector to foster long-term investment in, improvement to, and management of the land; and

Whereas providing a positive climate for farmers is a critical aspect in sustaining the viability of the farming; and

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan (Section 4.6 Lot Creation) and the Provincial Policy Statement do not permit retiring farmers to create lots on land to which they have had a life-long financial and emotional tie; and
Whereas the Greenbelt Plan fails to recognize the rights of farmers to retire with the financial and social stability provided by the traditional retirement lot; and

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan fails to acknowledge the important life-long service provided by farmers to the people of Ontario; and

Whereas the farmers of Ontario face numerous natural and economic hardships throughout their careers, without the additional interference of provincial legislation; and

Whereas the current Greenbelt Plan acts as a deterrent for existing farmers wishing to continue a career in agriculture; and

Whereas the current Greenbelt Plan acts as a disincentive for future farmers hoping to begin careers as farmers.

*Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Grimsby implores the government of the Province of Ontario to amend the Greenbelt Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement to permit the creation of retirement lots for a farmer of retirement age who is retiring from active working life, and has owned and operated the farm operation for a substantial number of years;*

and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable John Gerretson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Jennifer Mosspop, M.P.P. Stoney Creek Riding; the Regional Municipality of Niagara, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for circulation to all municipalities in the Greenbelt for their support."

We look forward to hearing from you with respect to this matter.

Yours truly,

Kathryn J. Vout
Town Clerk

c.c. The Honourable John Gerretson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mrs. Jennifer Mosspop, M.P.P. for Stoney Creek Riding
Regional Municipality of Niagara
Municipalities within the Greenbelt