March 4, 2009

All Ontario Municipalities:

Re: Resolution Regarding Department of Fisheries and Oceans Requirements pertaining to Drainage Works and Bridge Reconstruction

The following Resolution #2009/017 was passed by the Council of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre on February 4, 2009:

WHEREAS the Department of Fisheries and Oceans review and approval of such matters as drain maintenance and construction and bridge reconstruction projects has proven to be a lengthy process resulting in unreasonable delays in the completion of Municipal Projects;

AND WHEREAS the cost of implementing the conditions for approving drain maintenance and construction or bridge reconstruction is an added cost passed on to those assessed for the drainage works and to Municipalities, respectively;

AND WHEREAS errors and inconsistencies in the drainage mapping, used for drain and waterway classifications, which includes man made open ditches, by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans could result in delays and increased additional costs;

AND WHEREAS given the relatively short and inflexible construction/maintenance season and the reluctance of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to reduce in turn around time of approvals places an undue burden on the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Municipality of Middlesex Centre petitions the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to review and shorten the time frame required for approval of drainage maintenance and construction and bridge reconstruction requests to allow for a more flexible and reasonable construction/maintenance season, especially where weather conditions warrant an extended season; and

FURTHER THAT the Municipality of Middlesex Centre petitions the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to delegate their authority for such matters to the local Conservation Authorities given their existing in-depth knowledge of these issues and mandate to protect the environment;

FURTHER THAT IT BE RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Minister of Natural Resources, local Conservation Authorities, local MPs and MPPs, Western Ontario Wardens Caucus.

Yours truly,

Cathy Saunders, AMCT, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

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