

September 22, 2017



Mr. John Daly, County Clerk  
County of Simcoe Administration Centre  
1110 Highway 26  
Midhurst, ON  
L9N 1X6

Re: Planning approvals process for proposed ERRC Horseshoe Valley Road W. Springwater

We write to you today to express our deepest concerns for the path in which the County of Simcoe is taking in regards to pursuing planning approvals to build a major Waste Management Facility (known as the ERRC) in a Natural Heritage feature, the Freele County Forest Tract in Springwater Township.

We are the proud owners of a 100 acre forest in Springwater Township. Our forest is part of a natural corridor which is made up of private forests and includes the County owned Freele Tract. In pursuit of family severance on our property, we hired a team of professionals to assist. Our approach was environmentally driven and offered to subject 97% of our property to Environmental Protection Zoning *plus* a conservation easement under the Conservation Land Act. We faced heavy opposition from The County of Simcoe and the Township of Springwater at the Ontario Municipal Board. Despite the OMB's sympathetic comments towards our efforts and those of the NVCA in attempting to devise an environmental dimension to the project, our case was dismissed because it did not meet the Township Official Plan. The County of Simcoe's proposed ERRC in the Freele forest does not meet the Township Official Plan nor does it meet the County's *own* Official Plan.

We struggle to understand how the same County that successfully fought and dismissed the proposal put forth on behalf of our family can in good conscience pursue planning approvals to build major infrastructure in the very forest next door, inviting heavy truck traffic and industrial business operations into the heart of a sensitive forest interior.

It is our understanding that planning changes have occurred within the County of Simcoe since the implementation of the Growth Plan 2017 on July 1, 2017. This new plan appears to demand increased protection of our agriculture and natural heritage as well as direct future development to settlement areas with existing services such as water and sewer. It has also come to our attention that The County of Simcoe may now be acting more like a Regional Authority when it comes to planning approvals within the County. In the case of the ERRC, we have serious concerns about the example being set by the County. Development in a natural heritage feature such as the Freele Tract that has been identified as a "Significant Woodlot" with "Significant Wildlife" appears to place very little value on our greenspace which seems to stray from the new Provincial legislation.

We request clarification from County staff on how the ERRC project proposed for the Freele Tract corresponds with the Growth Plan 2017 and how this project at the "preferred location" demonstrates responsible land use planning within the Greater Golden Horseshoe area.

We look forward to your response.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Dunlop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerry and Sandra Dunlop  
1601 Rainbow Valley Road E  
Phelpston, On. L0L 2K0

Cc: Township of Springwater  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

## Thompson, Tiffany

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**From:** Jesse Johnson <jesse.johnson@hotmail.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:31 PM  
**To:** ERRC; Customer Service  
**Subject:** Friends of Simcoe Forest

Hello,

Just curious as to why you would want to destroy beautiful forests and replace them with a garbage facility? You shouldn't only think of the money and contracts involved.

Let's start using our brains.

Thanks,

Jesse Johnson  
jesse.johnson@hotmail.ca

**From:** info@simcoe.ca [mailto:info@simcoe.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 8:39 AM  
**To:** Mack, Stephanie <Stephanie.Mack@simcoe.ca>  
**Cc:** Fairchild, Jillian <Jillian.Fairchild@simcoe.ca>  
**Subject:** Incident# 2202403 - OPF/MMF Comments/Feedback

## Comments, Feedback or Concerns on OPF/MMF

**Incident #** 2202403

Summary: SAVE the FREELE FOREST

Notes:

Department: Solid Waste Management

Customer Service Agent: Email Listener

Location: NONE

Customer Name: DENEAULT DONNA

Customer Phone:

Customer Email: [ddeneault88@gmail.com](mailto:ddeneault88@gmail.com)

Category: Organics Processing Facility

Subcategory: Environmental Impact

## Description

Dear Sir/Madam

We are awaiting tests that could prove this habitat is extremely significant to wildlife.

Our Natural Heritage needs to be protected, not developed to manage garbage; especially when there are already existing industrially-zoned sites, which would be far more suitable and cost effective. This is evidenced by the County's recent offer of multiple 100 acre + site options to Amazon.

The project will make our roads less safe, as hundreds of trucks will be coming and going on a steep and hilly stretch of road.

This forest is critical habitat to species like the brown bat and salamanders.

Please select an already existing industrially-zoned site.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna Deneault

## Thompson, Tiffany

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**From:** Lisa Ficher-Jenssen <ploughpennypottery@bellnet.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 7:10 PM  
**To:** ERRC  
**Subject:** Please protect our county forests..

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**OK you people at County of Simcoe it's time for you to step up and protect our lands and Our Natural Heritage needs to be protected.. and that they not be developed to manage garbage. There are existing industrially-zoned sites which would be far more suitable and cost effective.. The employees of our townships have a tax paid duty to protect our lands and our future for a healthy Simcoe county.. You must have some kind of common sense... We can't have this happen to our small amounts of Green spaces we have left. It is not just a protection of a Simcoe forest but of our Ontario and our Canada..**

**Thank you for your time and hopefully your good wisdom...**

**Lisa Bostlund  
1476 Rainbow vy Rd W.  
Phelpston. LOL2LO**

## Thompson, Tiffany

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**From:** freemoth <freemoth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 8:27 AM  
**To:** ERRC  
**Subject:** Opposition to Materials Handling and Organic Processing Facility

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

We are writing to oppose the building and operation of a waste transfer and industrial scale composting facility in the Freele Tract of Simcoe County Forests. Converting a valuable forestry ecosystems into an industrial processing plant is an extremely poor and frankly irresponsible idea.

The Freele Tract is recognized as an important habitat for wildlife and contains a wetland area that provides breeding grounds for amphibians and many other animals. Wetlands are also vital groundwater filters purifying and creating drinking water and therefore extremely important for all of us. Ecosystems like these should be protected at all costs.

Dropping a recycling plant into the middle of a forest, in an area that completely lacks the necessary industrial infrastructure not only poses an environmental risk it sets a dangerous precedent for the industrial development of other forest properties in Simcoe County.

This is also particularly disturbing because there are already industrially zoned areas, with the necessary infrastructure, that would be much better suited near Hwy 93 and Hwy 11. Situating a processing plant in a spot capable of handling the constant truck traffic that comes with this type of facility makes much more sense.

As others have noted there is an ongoing risk for fire in recycling plants and we agree that placing a fire hazard in the middle of a forest is very risky. However, we are more concerned about potential damage this facility will bring to the environment, area farms, and our aquifer.

As Anten Mills residents we are close to Horseshoe Valley Road (Hwy 22) which is already an increasingly busy roadway. The added truck traffic that this site will bring to the area is very disturbing from both a noise and a safety perspective.

Originally from Toronto we moved to Anten Mills to get away from the constant hustle and bustle. To quote a friend of mine: "There are reasons people move up here." We don't think recycling plants is one of them.

We urge you to locate industrial sites like these in areas that have the necessary infrastructure and are already zoned as industrial or for commercial purposes. Our forests should not be used for industrial activities. Forests are valuable environmental assets sustaining life and contributing to the well-being of all of us. They should be protected not developed.

Sincerely,

Tim and Judy Knight

52 Lawrence Ave.

Anten Mills, Ontario

## Thompson, Tiffany

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**From:** hibooteboot hibooteboot <hibooteboot@bell.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 5:09 PM  
**To:** ERRC  
**Cc:** Cindy & Randy Mercer  
**Subject:** Freeze Tract

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Another winter storm, another problem on Horseshoe Valley Road! Cars in ditches, large trucks unable to make it up the hill; long line-ups of cars waiting in line! Another reason why the chosen site for the materials management facility is so unsuitable.

Recently, an endangered species was found at the site by a very well qualified naturalist. The little brown bat requires no trees be cut in the habitat it frequents. Just another reason why the Friends of Simcoe Forest have proved to be correct in their opposition to this site.

I realize the efforts of Simcoe County to be a leader in the field of recycling are well intentioned. It is unfortunate that they have not been well served by those who selected the final list. I urge you to step back and re-examine this decision. There are too many cons that far outweigh the pros as it regards this site. Do the right thing! Let not pride nor prejudice cloud your judgement!  
Find a more suitable site!

Sincerely

Karen L. Smith



**Thompson, Tiffany**

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**From:** Erik & Connie Spek <spek.family@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 2:37 PM  
**To:** ERRC  
**Subject:** Little brown bats in Freele Tract

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

The finding of this endangered bat is reason enough for Simcoe County to put a hold on rezoning.

The County is home to many special and endangered species, please obtain the data from Mr. Bob BOWLES, a highly respected field naturalist.

Sincerely,

Mrs. C. Spek

47 Doran, MIDHURST, L9X 0L5

## Thompson, Tiffany

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**From:** The Mercers <mercercr@rogers.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 9:59 AM  
**To:** Clerks; ERRC; Customer Service; Renee Chaperon; French, Bill; Allen, Don  
**Cc:** Ingraldi Aldo (MMA/MHO)  
**Subject:** ERRC proposed site Horseshoe Valley Road Springwater

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

*Good morning,  
Below is a letter to the editor shared and posted through multiple media sources. My opinion letter pertains to the proposed location to build the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC). I request that it be included and addressed as part of the public planning process.*

### *Letter to the editor*

I was very interested and intrigued to read that the County of Simcoe submitted a bid to invite Amazon to build their new facility in Simcoe County. The County website states “Simcoe County meets all of the key requirements to satisfy the needs of Amazon HQ2.”

Included in the list provided by the County are the following:

- ▶ Greenfield options of at least 100 acres
- ▶ Proximity to major highways and arterial routes

The website goes on to say that Simcoe County presents Amazon with “*good shovel-ready options*”. My understanding is that 3 sizable potential locations were put forth by the County in the bid to Amazon.

This directly contradicts with my understanding of this county’s availability of sizable acreage suitable for development purposes.

I believe we are all well aware of the extensive opposition received from the public over the County of Simcoe’s decision to select from and choose one of our precious county forest tracts to build a new major waste management facility, referred to as the ERRC. County staff are still working diligently to obtain planning approvals to allow this industrial operation into the interior of a sensitive forest tract. I believe county staff continue to suggest that more suitable land for operations such as industrial use are not readily available in Simcoe County.

County of Simcoe staff appear to paint a bleak picture of available land for development in the County of Simcoe, in particular sizable parcels similar to what Amazon would require.

At a May 9, 2017 mandatory County Council meeting regarding the proposed Environmental Resource Recovery Centre, Debbie Korolnek, the County’s general manager of engineering, planning and environment, indicated existing industrial areas were considered. “It has to be a certain size and a suitable site did not come up through that process,” she said. “It has to be a certain size...”

It appears as though The Economic Development Office at the County of Simcoe was able to offer Amazon what they consider to be 3 top choices of “*good shovel-ready options*” over 100 acres in size.

The proposed Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC) requires far less land than Amazon's HQ2 yet the County of Simcoe is planning to deface a county forest tract to build the ERRC.

Why would the County of Simcoe build infrastructure, invite heavy truck traffic and industrial operations into a forest when their proposal to Amazon indicates that there is no shortage of land in this county suitable for development?

It's very encouraging to learn that this county has the means to offer a giant like Amazon a sizable location to build their facility. Why is this county **not** doing everything within their power to keep our forest tracts off the chopping block for development?

Cindy Mercer

Springwater, Ontario