

597 Kildare Road
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January 16, 2012

Chair and Members
Planning and Environment Committee
City of London

Re: File No. O – 7958
Reclassification of Environmentally Significant Areas

I have a long-standing interest in protection of Environmentally Significant Areas in the City of London. My volunteer efforts for the protection of natural areas in the City of London started more than forty years ago. In 1970, there was no recognition of natural areas in the Official Plan, and City Council had few tools available when important areas were identified.

In the intervening years, I have been involved in a number of efforts to protect natural areas in London. I have observed the improvements in policies over that time. I have also noted changes in the approaches taken elsewhere in Ontario. It is clear that today, in 2012, we have a much improved understanding of the importance of natural areas, and the types of actions required in order to protect them.

I have reviewed the amendment regarding the classification of Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) that is on the agenda for today's meeting. I support the amendment. It is very important for the city to have policies that will clearly identify ESAs as natural heritage areas, and that will distinguish them from "parks" which have a different purpose.

Yours truly,

David Wake