

Ministry of Natural
Resources

Office of the Minister

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His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North
Suite 230
Hamilton ON L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Community Beach Ponds. I am encouraged to see that the City of Hamilton is taking such an interest in protecting natural heritage features within the city.

I understand that Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) staff in the Niagara area office sent your office a letter dated November 27, 2007, advising that the Environmental Impact Study for the area indicated a recorded presence and evidence of possible breeding and nesting of the provincially significant Black Crown Night Heron and Caspian Tern. As such, we recommended that an independent wetland evaluation be carried out by a qualified wetland evaluator to determine if the wetland is a Provincially Significant Wetland. Once complete, the evaluation needs to be approved by MNR in order for the feature to be classed as Provincially Significant.

Municipalities have a responsibility to confirm whether the feature constitutes a Provincially Significant Wetland before making a decision on any development proposal that would affect it.

MNR strives to assist municipalities and other development proponents in the identification of natural heritage features of provincial interest, including provincially significant wetlands. I understand you are requesting the MNR to carry out this evaluation. I have been informed that my Niagara area office has requested funding for wetland evaluations through the Canada-Ontario Agreement funding envelope for this upcoming season. If this funding is secured, we will carry out the evaluation. However, should resources not be available, it is normal for the proponent of any development proposal to carry out a wetland evaluation and MNR will review the completed evaluation.

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I trust this is satisfactory. I would ask that you work through the Niagara area office to determine if this work can be completed sometime in 2008. If you have further questions, please contact Joad Durst, Niagara Area Supervisor, at 905-562-1175.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Cansfield".

Donna Cansfield
Minister of Natural Resources

c: Joad Durst, Niagara Area Supervisor, Niagara Area Office