

To the Editor
The Perth Courier

Sir,

It is disappointing to learn that Perth Council voted 6 to 1 not to support a resolution rejecting MPP Randy Hillier's proposal to curb the powers of Conservation Authorities. In the Conservation Authorities Act, Item 3, "Memorandum of Understanding with Municipalities", is the only mandated activity available to a municipality (read local taxpayer). By requesting its repeal, Mr. Hillier is effectively promoting a reduction in the local taxpayers' involvement in our area's watershed management.

It is beyond belief that Mayor Fenik should try to walk a diplomatic line on this. There isn't one. Municipalities, through the Conservation Authorities Act, have authority *to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds*. Mr. Hillier is attempting to reduce that authority.

By encouraging Mr Hillier in his program, our council is opening up our Tay Watershed, our source of potable water, our prime environmental asset, to developers, who, in the words of Councillor Cameron "...can go in and overrun everything. We have to protect nature".

Our thanks to the sole councillor who voted not to support Hillier's changes.

Sincerely,

Judy Buehler and Frank Roy
613 264 8856
froy@myhighspeed.ca