

Hon. John Garretsen  
Minister of Environment  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

January 9, 2008

**Re: Increasing the Eramosa Karst Protected Area**

Dear Mr. Garretsen,

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club urges the Province of Ontario to ensure that 36 hectares of land east of the Eramosa Karst in upper Stoney Creek and owned by Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) is protected from development and used as parkland.

In 2006 the Province gave 73 hectares of land to the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority so that this treasure can be protected and preserved for this and future generations. This was a praiseworthy and far sighted decision. Now the Ontario Realty Corporation must decide what happens to the adjacent land.

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club joins with many residents of the area and other local environmental groups, including Friends of the Eramosa Karst, in asking that these lands also be preserved as parkland. It is essential that the building of houses or any other type of development not be allowed in this area so that the feeder streams that flow into the Karst and thus the Karst itself can be better protected.

Local Karst experts Marcus Buck and Dr. Derek Ford as well as biologist Joe Minor have identified a number of threats which development would cause for the Karst. These include road salt, oil, garden fertilizer and pesticide pollution of streams, alteration of stream flow and water chemistry, alterations of flow patterns by excavations into bed rock, flow diversion by litter entering the sinking streams and illegal dumping into the Conservation Area. These experts believe that the 36 hectare feeder area must remain undeveloped and be added to the Conservation Area. We support this view.

As early proponents of the original decision by the province, we strongly believe that saving the adjacent lands from development is in the long-term public interest and is essential to preserving this splendid example of karst topography.

Yours truly,

Jim Stollard  
President, Hamilton Naturalists' Club  
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