

# Green Door Alliance



Planning and Development Department  
City of Pickering, One The Esplanade  
Pickering ON L1V 6K7

Oct. 21, 2004

Re: OPA 04-002/P

The Green Door Alliance (GDA) remains firmly opposed to the “Growth Management Study” recommendations. We will not repeat our objections – these have already been outlined in considerable detail in many past submissions to the Growth Management Study Team and to Council. Our concerns and recommendations can be viewed on our web site:  
[www.greendooralliance.ca](http://www.greendooralliance.ca)

We strongly support the Province's position that the Agriculture Preserve should remain in agriculture and, hence, not be developed in the manner suggested in the “Growth Management Study” and as reflected in the “Official Plan Amendment.”

Council has tried to cast this issue as one in which the Province has autocratically and unfairly used the *Ontario Planning and Development Act* to usurp Pickering's role in planning its own affairs. We believe this characterization is a distortion of reality. The Province was forced, reluctantly, to intervene ONLY because the City refused to accept a prior set of commitments to protect the Agriculture Preserve. The prior commitment to preservation was reflected in the agreement entered into between the Province, the Region, the City and the GDA in 1999. Based on this agreement, the Province proceeded to privatize the Agriculture Preserve lands **at agricultural values**.

We urge Pickering Council to abandon their Agriculture Preserve urbanization strategy. If this action were taken Pickering would then be in a position to begin to reassume its planning responsibilities and work co-operatively with the Province and all stakeholders in the creation of a model community in Seaton and an adjacent countryside focused on near urban agriculture and natural area protection.

The City's early and active involvement in pursuing this objective will add greatly to the quality of life in Pickering and the GTA, and to the credibility of Council by demonstrating that it honours its commitments.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Paul Thompson, President