



A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "General Lott".

1 Municipal Drive  
Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1  
www.e-aurora.ca

**File C03/06-24**

September 18, 2006

Ms Sheila Birrell, Clerk  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Blvd.,  
Markham, ON  
L3R 9W3

Dear Ms Birrell:

**Re: Citizen Initiative to Conserve Energy and Control Escalating Energy Costs**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 12, 2006. In this regard, Council adopted the following resolution and requests your comments and endorsement:

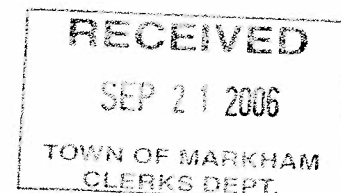
WHEREAS in a democracy people must be permitted to make free economic choices to manage their energy costs and take such reasonable steps as consumers as they believe will protect their quality of life through conservation and protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS natural gas and electricity prices are soaring and creating economic hardship for some Aurora citizens and a growing number of Canadians; and

WHEREAS many experts and individuals believe that unnecessary energy use is a factor in the deterioration of the quality of Earth's environment with a consequent threat to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS our local electrical utility, POWERSTREAM, and HYDRO ONE have repeatedly stated the pressing need for electricity supply and conservation in order to address the rising demand for energy created by the growth of our community; and

WHEREAS Mr. Peter Love – Ontario's Chief Energy Conservation Officer is warning that in Ontario we can no longer take our energy supply for granted and further is also urging all Ontarians to save energy, and to that end, has issued a personal and friendly challenge to all Ontarians to reduce their electricity use by 10% by the year 2007 and is asking all Ontarians to think about how they use energy everyday, and find new ways to conserve it; and



WHEREAS the Town of Aurora's Strategic Plan (Goal B) promoting a sustainable community lists as an objective in B1, "Plan for the future to continue controlled and well-planned growth by continuing to ensure that policies and by-laws for developments are sensitive to the environment"; and

WHEREAS Goal C of the Town of Aurora's Strategic Plan, also promotes a healthy environment that fosters social and physical well-being by developing strategies to encourage stewardship of Aurora's air, water, and physical well-being by expanding education and awareness programs relating to energy conservation practices on public and private properties, and continuing to research, develop and promote electricity innovation measures; and

WHEREAS , during an EAC meeting devoted to identifying things citizens could do to protect the environment in a sustainable way, a local citizen, Mr. Robert Cook, who is a member of Aurora's EAC, Environmental Advisory Committee, initiated the idea of outdoor laundry drying being allowed, as an appropriate conservation and energy cost saving measure; and

WHEREAS the Town of Aurora also finds that it is deemed economically and environmentally prudent to find ways to reduce energy consumption not only in Aurora but across the Province; and

WHEREAS there are numerous restrictive land use covenants being entered into between developers and home purchasers that may counter the Town's and the Province's energy efficiency and cost savings initiatives for individual homeowners; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board's website advises consumers how to cut their energy cost including a tip that they, "Consider using a clothesline to dry laundry"; and

WHEREAS the Conservation Council of Ontario is actively promoting the use of clotheslines via their "Lighten Up" Campaign and advising that air drying laundry, even a couple of loads a week, can save up to 50 kwh a month; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Energy's website recommends consumers to "Get some fresh air! Consider using a clothesline to dry your laundry"; and

WHEREAS according to the Ontario Energy Board, the use of tumble dryers account for approximately 6% of hydro usage; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) website states that "The Ministry has been protecting Ontario's environment for over 30 years through the use of stringent regulations, targeted enforcement and a variety of innovative programs and initiatives"; and

WHEREAS the MOE website also states that "the Ministry has shown that they are taking steps to address environmental issues that have local, regional and/or global effects"; and

WHEREAS changes in public appreciation of the aesthetic, economic and environmental advantages of drying laundry outdoors, creates a risk, that could lead to potentially thousands of civil actions being brought, in the legal system by home owners seeking to clear restrictive covenants from titles involving existing and defunct builders and land development companies, at considerable expense to all involved, including taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, to address today's economic and energy challenges, the Province of Ontario has already introduced Legislation entitled "The Energy Conservation Leadership Act, 2006" ; and

WHEREAS The Energy Conservation Leadership Act, 2006 received Royal Assent on March 28, 2006; and

WHEREAS The Energy Conservation Leadership Act, 2006 (the Act) empowers the Province to remove barriers to conservation, or to promote opportunities for conservation, by enabling or mandating specific conservation technologies; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that the Act, 2006 has not at this time, come into full force and effect as it still requires Proclamation by the Lieutenant Governor; and

WHEREAS the Province states in the Act that "In order to assist in the removal of barriers and to promote opportunities for energy conservation, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, designate goods, services and technologies. 2006, c. 3, Schedule A, s. 3 (1)"; and

WHEREAS in order to assist and expedite the removal of barriers and to promote opportunities for energy conservation, for the citizens of Aurora and Ontario:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Town of Aurora petition and urge, The Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Dalton McGuinty and the Province of Ontario to take the necessary steps to expeditiously proclaim the Energy Conservation Leadership Act, 2006;

AND FURTHER THAT The Province of Ontario be petitioned and urged to expeditiously designate clotheslines, by Regulation, as a goods, service and / or technology, under section 3.1 of the said Act, in order to permit the use of clotheslines in such circumstances as may be prescribed, despite any restriction imposed at law that would otherwise prevent or restrict their use;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Aurora petition the government of Ontario to begin the process to review restrictive land-use covenants for the purposes of identifying and making null those that are unreasonably contrary to its energy saving objectives and specifically contrary to the intent of the Energy Conservation Leadership ACT, 2006;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated, with a request for comment and endorsement, to:

The Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Dalton McGuinty  
The Minister of Energy  
The Minister of Environment  
The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Community Housing  
AMO  
FCM  
Region of York area Municipalities  
POWERSTREAM  
Greater Toronto Homebuilders Association  
Hydro One Networks  
York Region Environmental Alliance  
Mr. Robert Cook, Citizen Member of Town of Aurora, EAC  
Conservation Council of Ontario  
Chief Energy Conservation Officer, Province of Ontario,  
Manager Climate Change Campaign Program - WWF of Canada  
Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development  
Executive Director, Project Laundry List

AND FURTHER THAT the Town Clerk/Director of Administration, be directed to monitor and circulate the replies to Council Members and report back as they occur, at least up to and including the meeting of Council scheduled, for October 17, 2006.

The above is sent for your information and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Panizza', written over a circular stamp or seal.

B. Panizza  
Director of Corporate Services/Town Clerk

BP/cc