

September 10, 2004  
Chatham, ON  
Mr Keith Hipkins  
Secretary, R.O.C.K.

Dear Mr. Hipkins:

Thank you for dropping by my office today on the "Red Casket Relay." I do wish I were not otherwise scheduled, or I could have met with you in person.

At the present time, regardless of our views in favour or against amalgamation, there are no provincial funds available for de-amalgamation. The government's priority is to set Ontario's financial house in order, such as improved health care and education. We must ensure that municipalities here and elsewhere in the province are viable, financially sustainable and capable of delivering services the public deserve. certainly, the decision to change municipal structures is an extremely complex and important undertaking.

As you know as well, Kawartha lakes Council, for example has indicated that they do not intend to pursue de-amalgamation further, but will instead focus on municipal business.

The government welcomes ideas on how to improve local governance and service delivery systems. I appreciate being kept informed about the views of my constituents. Please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Sincerely yours,  
Pat Hoy, M.P.P.  
Chatham-Kent Essex.