

January 27, 2005

The Honourable John Gerretsen
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Gerretsen:

I am writing today on a matter in the riding of Haliburton-Victoria-Brock. In 1999 I began the groundwork for de-amalgamating Haldimand-Norfolk and on January 1, 2001, the Region split into two separate counties – Haldimand County and Norfolk County.

For over 25 years, people of both areas pleaded for the return of their county because they felt the Region was too large and ineffective. Today, residents of both counties have their own identity once again with their own smaller and more effective government.

As I travel the province, I have had the opportunity to meet with many folks in rural Ontario who point to my riding as an example of de-amalgamation. From what I understand, residents of the Kawartha area participated in a referendum whereby the majority of voters voted in favour of de-amalgamation. I also understand that the City of Kawartha Lakes has forwarded to you information regarding the referendum, the result and their support of such a move.

Further, members of your caucus allegedly told constituents in the riding that they would support a referendum vote. I am asking today that you honour the result of the referendum and allow de-amalgamation to occur.

I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Toby Barrett, MPP
Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant

TBB/bad
Cc: Key Stakeholders