# Myler Ecological Consulting

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Mountainview Building Group
3340 Schmon Pkwy Unit 1, Thorold ON L2V 4Y6

Attn: Jill Richards, Planner, Project Manager

**RE: Alliston Woods Subdivision Phase 2 – Species at Risk Screening**

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Myler Ecological Consulting (Myler) was retained by Mountainview Building Group to undertake a Species at Risk (SAR) screening in support of the Alliston Woods Subdivision Phase 2 residential development. The need for the SAR screening was identified by Niagara Region staff at the Pre-Consultation held on 26 October 2023. Region staff noted that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) online mapping and database "depicts the presence of Spotted Wintergreen, Eastern Flowering Dogwood, Loggerhead Shrike, Eastern Meadowlark and a Restricted Species within 1km of the Study Area".

Myler reviewed the NHIC SAR element occurrences (EOs) and contacted NHIC staff to enquire on the identity of the Restricted Species. Myler also conducted a site visit on 02 July 2024 to observe conditions within the approved subdivision and the EP-zoned woodland that is avoided, retained and protected by the subdivision plan.

Spotted Wintergreen, a Threatened plant species, is likewise a broadly applied EO based on historical rather than current records. Additionally, Myler's observations confirmed that its required dry sandy mixed woodland habitat is absent from the Alliston Woods site.

Myler traversed the protected woodland block, including edges and interior, to search for Eastern Flowering Dogwood, an Endangered tree species. No specimens of Eastern Flowering Dogwood were observed.

Loggerhead Shrike, an endangered bird species, no longer occurs in Niagara Region. The EO is historical. Loggerhead Shrike is currently found in Ontario only in the vicinity of Lindsay and Napanee. Further, the open habitat that is required by Loggerhead Shrike is absent from the Alliston Woods site.

Eastern Meadowlark, a Threatened bird species, requires open prairie, meadow or hayfield habitat. Myler observed no such habitat at the Alliston Woods site.

The Restricted Species is Small White Lady's-slipper, an endangered orchid species whose EO in the Fort Erie area was triggered by an historical record of very low geographical accuracy and that has not been observed or confirmed subsequently. In other words, the Restricted Species EO does not represent evidence of the occurrence of that species at or near the Alliston Woods subdivision. Further, the Alliston Woods subdivision lacks the characteristic moist prairie, savannah and fen habitats within which it grows.

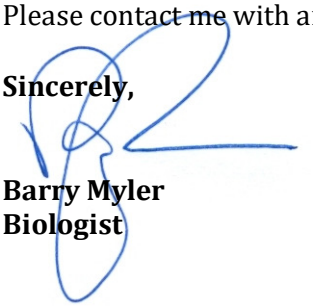
Myler's observations of the protected woodland area suggested that additional SAR could occur within the woodland, including endangered bat species and special concern wildlife species such as Eastern Wood

Pewee. The subdivision plan avoids, protects and preserves the woodland such that the occurrence of such unconfirmed SAR is likewise avoided and protected from potential impacts, thereby complying with the provincial Endangered Species Act.

In conclusion, Myler's review of the SAR EO's and Myler's observations at the Alliston Woods subdivision site confirmed the absence of SAR and the absence of potential impact to unconfirmed SAR that may occur in association with the protected woodland block.

Please contact me with any questions.

**Sincerely,**



**Barry Myler**
**Biologist**