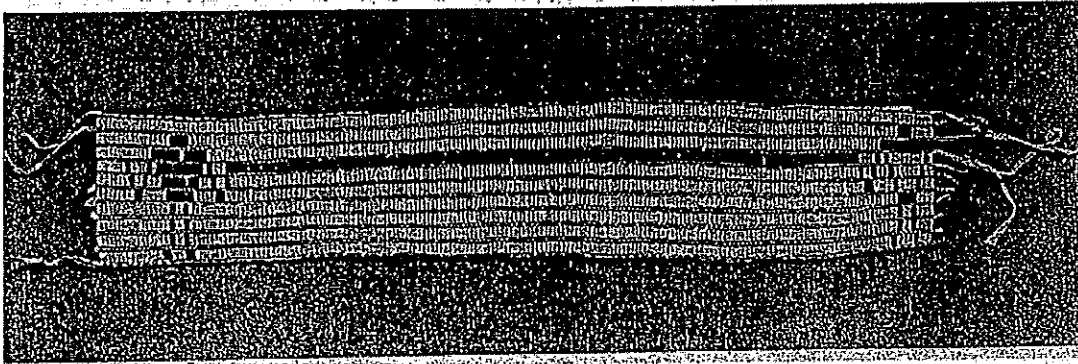


**Protocol Between  
The Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority and  
The Hamilton Conservation Authority**

The Haudenosaunee and the Crown have maintained a treaty relationship, symbolized by the Silver Covenant Chain, for over three centuries. In a context of peace, the principles governing that relationship are respect, trust and friendship.



This protocol is not a treaty, but it is made in the spirit of those principles. In this protocol, "we" means the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority and the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority carries stewardship of a number of conservation areas.

In 1701, the Haudenosaunee and the Crown made a treaty at Albany that provided that the Crown would respect Haudenosaunee rights in the Beaver Hunting Ground, which includes the lands now held by the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Our mutual objectives in this protocol are intended to be consistent with the principles expressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Haudenosaunee and the Hamilton Conservation Authority share basic values and objectives that enable and encourage them to enter into this protocol. We agree that, as human beings, we have a responsibility to protect, maintain and restore the natural world, not only for our own future generations, but for its own sake. We share a responsibility to protect our home ecosystems from invasive plants and animals. We recognize that people are responsible to obey the laws of their nations. Our attitude toward creation is one of gratitude and humility.

Haudenosaunee rights to gather, harvest and use parts of the natural world are recognized by treaties that are recognized and affirmed by the Constitution of Canada. This protocol reflects our commitment to the implementation of those rights in a way that respects conservation, protects public safety, and fosters our mutual respect, trust and friendship. We recognize that with rights come responsibilities.

In early September of each year this protocol is in effect, we will meet to discuss the state of the ecosystems in the conservation areas. Our discussion will include evaluation of the deer populations of each area and, where those exceed the capacity of the area's ecosystem to maintain its balance, or will permit a sustainable harvest, the discussion will include consideration of a joint approach to reducing the deer population. We may agree to conduct a count or evaluation of the state and numbers of a deer population together. We will also discuss steps to ensure that endangered or threatened species and cultural or historic features are not injured. As a matter of policy, our decisions will be governed by respect for ecosystems rather than by human desires.

Specific agreements shall provide more detailed provisions in respect of each conservation area involved. These agreements may include descriptions of areas affected; identification of hunting methods; harvesting dates; objectives for harvesting; monitoring for diseases; and reporting and evaluation.

Traditionally, the Haudenosaunee take deer each year during a period determined by natural occurrences. The season begins when the strawberry leaves turn brown; when the sumac leaves change colour; or with the first killing frost. The season ends with the Midwinter ceremonies, when the Seven Dancers, the Pleiades, are directly overhead.

Within sixty days after the end of Midwinter ceremonies, we will meet again to discuss how our collaboration is working.

Deer taken under the aegis of this protocol will be used by the Haudenosaunee for midwinter ceremonies; for food for elders; and for food for families. Other parts of the deer, including the skin, hooves and antlers, may be used for traditional crafts, which may be sold.

The Haudenosaunee avoid wasting any parts of animals. Deer taken under the aegis of this protocol will be removed without undue delay. Deer gut piles will be buried in shallow pits where raccoons, foxes and other predators will have an opportunity to find and eat them.

Where a conservation area borders on privately held land, the Haudenosaunee will conduct their activities pursuant to this protocol more than 150 metres away from the border of the conservation area, unless they have agreed otherwise with the landholder. Firearms will not be used where it is unsafe to do so. Specific agreements will address hunting methods.

Within conservation areas, Haudenosaunee will take deer only with bows and shotguns, using tree stands and blinds wherever possible. Best efforts will be made to take deer humanely, to avoid inflicting prolonged suffering. Where a deer is wounded, the hunter's responsibility is to track the deer and kill it humanely.

The Haudenosaunee will not take deer at night. However, they may set up their stands and blinds before sunrise, and may track wounded animals after sunset.

When a deer is taken under this protocol, the person taking the deer will inspect the deer for ticks, and if ticks are found, will take samples of them and submit the samples to a member of the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority. The Haudenosaunee, either on their own or in conjunction with the Conservation Authority, may send deer heads for testing for Chronic Wasting Disease and other diseases. We will share information gathered in this way.

Public safety is an important value that we share. Where a conservation area is subject to intensive public use, any deer removal pursuant to this protocol will be conducted at times when such areas, or designated parts of them, are closed to the public by the Conservation Authority. Where conservation areas are not intensively used, we will take steps to warn the public, and where possible, to exclude the public, during specific times Haudenosaunee will take deer.

In some cases, for reasons of conservation or safety, it may be inappropriate or inadvisable to remove deer from a conservation area, and in such cases, we may jointly seek to discourage Haudenosaunee hunters from taking deer in those areas.

As a result of our evaluations of deer populations, and our discussions in September, we will seek to identify sustainable harvests of deer with respect to each conservation area. Where that number of deer has been reached in any conservation area, the Haudenosaunee will seek to discontinue the taking of deer there.

We will work together to ensure that police and other law enforcement agencies are informed of this protocol and of activities pursuant to it. We will collaborate with them to address safety concerns in specific agreements.

Haudenosaunee individuals entering conservation areas under this protocol will carry identification which will show their Haudenosaunee nationality, and will show this identification to Conservation Authority staff or police on request.

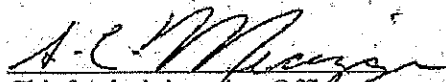
Where the Conservation Authority becomes aware of incidents in which it is alleged that Haudenosaunee individuals have engaged in activities that violate this protocol, it will report those incidents to the Haudenosaunee, who will look into the matters and will take steps to address them. The Haudenosaunee, in implementing this protocol, will make their best efforts to ensure that these matters are fully addressed and dealt with appropriately.

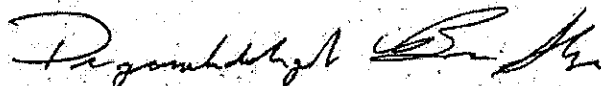
Haudenosaunee gathering, harvesting and use of fish and plants in areas under the stewardship of the Conservation Authority may become the subject of future specific agreements.


If a matter arises that is of concern to either of us, we will meet as soon as possible to seek to resolve the matter. In some difficult situations, we may want to seek the help of an independent mediator.


We are human beings, and we have done our best to make an agreement that will work well for ourselves, our people and the ecosystems we are responsible to respect, protect, restore and maintain. We recognize that, as humans, we are likely to make mistakes, and where we can improve this protocol and remedy those mistakes, we are committed to working together to that end.

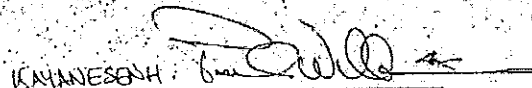
Signed at Hamilton and at the Six Nations Grand River Territory this <sup>9<sup>TH</sup></sup> day of November, 2011.

  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Hamilton Conservation Authority

  
Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat  
Authority

  
Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat  
Authority



  
Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat  
Authority