



Webster Falls



Tew Falls



Dundas Peak

Spencer Gorge/Webster Falls Conservation Area: Land Expropriation Proposal 31 Fallsview Road, Dundas

For decades, until recently, visitors have enjoyed viewing the Webster Falls, Tew Falls and Dundas Peak via one seamless trail. However, a portion of the trail linking these destinations crosses private land and has been closed since September 2016.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) has been discussing options with the owners of this private land for over a year to ensure safety and enjoyment. However, given the topography of the area, HCA's proposed route is the only reasonable option.

Therefore, HCA served a *Notice of Application for Approval to Expropriate Land* at 31 Fallsview Road for the small parcel of land that crosses the path. This parcel is only 36 metres² (387 ft²) at the bottom southeast corner of the private lot (the size of two and a half parking spaces). If the expropriation is approved, the owners will receive fair compensation.

Expropriation of private lands is always a last resort. However, in this case, to maintain the safety, conservation and full enjoyment of the area, it has become necessary, as visitors now need to take a 2 km detour by walking or driving on roads with no sidewalks to reach the three destinations.

Over the years, HCA has worked hard to make the trail and area safe by implementing many measures from fencing, signage, visitor ambassadors and public education. HCA has also worked to protect the privacy of the owners. However, given the growing number of visitors, balancing both has become a challenge.

HCA wants all visitors to fully and safely enjoy the beauty of our natural environments, while protecting them now and in the future. The idea of a continuous trail at the Spencer Gorge/Webster Falls Conservation Area has been part of master plans for the area since the 1960s. It makes sense and ensures the trail is safe for everyone.

For more information about Spencer Gorge/Webster Falls Conservation Area, visit www.conservationhamilton.ca.

