



Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program

A Program of:



INTRODUCING THE HAMILTON WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Background

The Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HHRAP) recommends that citizens in urban and rural areas of the Hamilton Harbour and its watershed take responsibility for restoring and maintaining the quality of the environment in which they live. This is the foundation upon which the Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC) initiated this program together with the Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton in 1994.

Purpose

The purpose of the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program (HWSP) is to protect, enhance and restore environmentally significant natural areas and watercourses in the watersheds of Hamilton Conservation Authority through developing an educated, empowered group of private landowners. The program proactively contacts landowners of natural areas and watercourses encouraging them to be good stewards of their land and works with them to undertake projects to improve habitat and water quality. The HWSP also responds to requests from landowners for one-on-one on-site consultations and recommends to landowners best management practices to lessen their impact on the natural environment.



M. Funk

Landowners Committing to Protection and Action!

The HWSP has contacted thousands of urban and rural landowners of natural areas and watercourses, in Hamilton Conservation Authority's watershed, and shared with them information about their individual roles in the protection and enhancement of floodplains, wetlands, forests, prairies and meadows, streamside areas and streams.

Over 180 landowners in Hamilton Conservation Authority's watershed have made voluntary agreements to consider the effects of their land management practices on the health of the watershed. These landowners have been recognized individually and received the Watershed Steward Award which is a sign they proudly display on their properties. The Watershed Steward Award represents voluntary agreements that protect over 7,000 acres of land of which over 4,000 acres are in a natural state.



M. Funk

Stewardship is the act of caring for the land to the best of one's ability, to maintain it in a healthy state for today and for future generations.

We hope that you find this factsheet to be informative and useful. Remember that your comments, suggestions and questions are always appreciated.

Landowners Committing to Protection and Action! continued...

These agreements also protect over 80 kilometers of stream, representing the protection of over 160 kilometres of streamside habitat. Some of these hectares cover areas where species at risk have been documented in the Hamilton and Halton Natural Areas Inventories known as Nature Counts.

Over 120 landowners with properties of all different sizes have undertaken habitat and/or water quality improvement projects. Examples of projects include planting and/or naturalization to enhance or establish streamside buffers, floodplain or wetland or upland habitat, fencing livestock from watercourses, constructing livestock manure storage facilities, removing barriers to fish passage in streams, as well as controlling invasive plant species. Landowners may apply for technical, financial, and in some cases, volunteer assistance, to implement these projects.



Funders

The Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program acknowledges the generous financial support of:



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Interested in learning more about natural features on your property? Call to arrange a free on-site consultation!

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