

# CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019**

## **Vision**

**A healthy watershed for everyone.**

## **Mission**

**To lead in the conservation of our watershed and connect people to nature.**



**Snowy Owl  
Fifty Point Conservation Area**





# **Notice of Meeting**

## **Conservation Advisory Board**

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**4:30 p.m.**

**at Woodend**

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS** – Topalovic
- 2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 4. DELEGATIONS**
- 5. MEMBER BRIEFING**
  - 5.1. CAPSS Year End Review – Hall
- 6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIONS** – Topalovic
  - 6.1. CA1903 2019 Shuttle Bus – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area
  - 6.2. CA1904 HCA Conservation Area Vehicle Parking Review
  - 6.3. CA1905 HCA 10 Year Masterplan Update Strategy
  - 6.4. CA1906 2018 Westfield Heritage Village Artifact Donation
  - 6.5. CA1907 Seed Mixes Suitable for HCA Watershed
- 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
  - 7.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (February 14, 2019) – Topalovic
- 8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
  - 8.1. Tracking List (for your information only)
- 9. STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS**
  - 9.1. Land Securement Strategy Update – Peck

- 9.2. Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan and Management Plan Updates – Smith
- 9.3. Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project – Peck
  - Wetland Design (Verbal update)
- 9.4. Location-based Game Applications at Conservation Areas – Brown
- 9.5. Upcoming Events – Costie

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- 10.1. Recognition of Outgoing CAB Members – Kristen Brittain, Donna Kydd, and Frank Cucullo
- 10.2. Recognition of Dedicated Service – Jim Howlett, past CAB and Board Member

**11. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Conservation Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**

**February 14, 2019**

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at HCA’s Woodend Administration Building commencing at 4:00 p.m.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Maria Topalovic, Chair</b> <b>John Barkovic</b> <b>Brad Gautreau</b> <b>Cheryl Larocque</b> <b>Duke O’Sullivan</b> <b>John Shaw</b>	<b>Frank Cucullo</b> <b>Donna Kydd</b> <b>Santina Moccio</b> <b>Morgan Pirie</b> <b>Wayne Terryberry</b>
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<b>REGRETS:</b>	<b>Kristen Brittain, Lydia Cartlidge, Joanne Di Maio, Susan Fielding, Chris Michels</b>
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<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	<b>Rondalyn Brown, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Summer Graham, Matt Hall, Cari Hobbs, Peter Lloyd, Judy Love, Lesley McDonell, Neil McDougall, Scott Peck, Kathy Smith, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts – HCA Staff</b>
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<b>OTHERS:</b>	<b>Richard Leitner - Media</b>
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**1. CHAIR’S REMARKS**

Maria Topalovic welcomed everyone and indicated the regrets received for the meeting.

Maria Topalovic made a presentation and remarks as member Morgan Pirie has reached his maximum 12 year term. She wished to recognize Morgan for his tremendous record of citizen involvement and commitment with HCA.





A successful shuttle operation will require ongoing Bylaw Enforcement of “No Parking/Stopping” within the Greenville community to deter all unauthorized parking as well to shut down unauthorized “pop up” parking lots.

A new outreach was also undertaken in 2018 with ParkBus to address visitors from the Toronto area looking for the Hamilton waterfall experience. The organization operates bus services to National and Provincial Parks from major cities across Canada and removes cars from the roads.

Staff are recommending Christie Lake Conservation Area as the Spencer Gorge shuttle hub location and include it as part of regular operations for the park. Staff will continue to undertake marketing and communication efforts to ensure visitors have awareness of the shuttle operations.

Ongoing partnership and collaboration with City of Hamilton and Ward Councillor will be continued for waterfall safety, and in order to discuss and address municipal parking enforcement and traffic safety.

**CA1903**                      **MOVED BY:            Wayne Terryberry**  
 **SECONDED BY:      Morgan Pirie**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT the shuttle bus service for the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area be continued in 2019 and become part of ongoing operations at Christie Lake Conservation Area on an annual basis; and**

**THAT the shuttle bus service operates on Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holiday Mondays and Canada Day between May and October weather pending; and further**

**THAT the Easter weekend be considered by staff for potential shuttle operations based on weather conditions or other factors as determined.**

## **CARRIED**

### 9.2 HCA Conservation Area Vehicle Parking Review

Scott Peck presented the report and answered member’s questions. HCA staff have been working to address parking and visitation issues by undertaking the following initiatives:

- implementing the shuttle service at the Spencer Gorge

- shuttles have also been utilized for special events (Telling Tales) at Westfield Heritage Village
- having staff on site to meet with visitors to provide trail etiquette
- trail signage and brochures highlighting the need to stay on the trail for visitor safety and conservation of the associated natural areas
- working through HCA website and social media regarding authorized access points
- working with City of Hamilton regarding municipal no parking and no stopping signage
- installation of automated access gates at conservation areas

All of the above initiatives are considered to be part of an overall visitor management strategy for the HCA as noted in the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023. One aspect that needs to be considered as part of an overall visitor management system is an assessment and analysis of available parking.

Staff are recommending to the Conservation Advisory Board and the Board of Directors that staff undertake a detailed analysis and assessment of parking and associated access to our conservation areas. This detailed report will provide potential recommendations for parking strategies that support HCA areas. This project will be done in house and will be completed by the fall of 2019.

**CA1904**

**MOVED BY: Donna Kydd**  
**SECONDED BY: Duke O’Sullivan**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT HCA staff be directed to undertake the parking inventory as detailed in the report titled “HCA Conservation Area Vehicle Parking Review”, dated February 1, 2019.**

**CARRIED**

### 9.3 HCA 10 Year Masterplan Update Strategy

Matt Hall presented the report and answered member’s questions. Masterplans provide a long-term vision for our conservation and managed areas as well as direction for guiding the management of the property.

HCA staff began an internal process to review the status of all existing Master and Management Plan files in order to establish a strategy to review and update these plans for all HCA owned lands over the next ten years.

Staff have developed the following approach for completion of the plans as follows:

- Masterplans
  - are prepared for active conservation areas
  - they provide a detailed property evaluation for land and resource management, development decisions and include a public consultation process
- Management Plans
  - are prepared for lands where resource management is a priority and are generally less detailed than Masterplans
  - these plans set goals and objective for property management
  - will include a public consultation process when not being developed within the overall scope of a Masterplan
- Study Areas
  - are prepared for specific geographic areas within our watershed

This strategy highlights a comprehensive plan for HCA staff to work toward over the next ten years. All HCA owned property should have a current, modern, and working plan in order to effectively direct HCA staffing and resources to manage, restore and improve areas in an appropriate way.

**CA1905**

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry**  
**SECONDED BY: Cheryl Larocque**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT the HCA Ten Year Masterplan Update Strategy be approved.**

**CARRIED**

#### 9.4 2018 Westfield Heritage Village Artifact Donation Acquisition Report

Peter Lloyd provided a presentation and answered member's questions. Peter indicated that Westfield Heritage Village has a comprehensive Collections Management Policy.

Westfield maintains an artifact and archival collection consisting of more than 25,000 objects reflecting the social, cultural and material history of the area. This policy affirms the museum's commitment to managing this collection according to current professional standards for preservation, documentation, research and use of the collection.



A Request for Proposal for the Stoney Creek & Battlefield Creek Flood Plain Mapping Study was developed and a call for proposals issued. Nine proposals were submitted prior to the deadline of February 1, 2019.

At the February 7 Board of Directors meeting, the board approved the proposal submitted by Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team for the cost of \$59,990.00 plus HST.

#### 9.6 HCA Climate Change Strategy Update and HCA Involvement with Bay Area Climate Change Consortium

Scott Peck presented the memorandum and answered member's questions. In March 2012, the Board of Directors approved the HCA Climate Change Strategy. Over the past 7 years, implementation efforts relating to the HCA Climate Change Strategy have included completing vulnerability analysis and modelling with the City of Hamilton, working with partners to provide data available through our monitoring program, providing education information to the public.

As part of our work to implement the HCA Climate Change Strategy, HCA staff have joined the Bay Area Climate Change Council. HCA involvement with the Bay Area Climate Change Council will enable continued engagement with business, government, community and individual stakeholders to improve our understanding of local climate change issues and priorities. Further, the Council's work will help inform HCA programs as it relates to the HCA Climate Change Strategy and community priorities, work plans and implementation and the effectiveness of programs and achieving targets.

#### 9.7 Seed Mixes Suitable for HCA Watershed

Lesley McDonell presented the report and answered member's questions. Lesley indicated that HCA frequently provides recommendations for species to be included in plantings for residential, commercial and industrial developments, stormwater management facilities and other infrastructure projects, buffer zones and naturalization projects.

When making recommendations for species to be planted, staff consider site and surrounding conditions, including soils, vegetation community type(s), significant or sensitive natural features, ecological functions, native status and local occurrence of species present.

Staff have developed a document of the seed mixes that are appropriate for use within our watershed. The document is intended for use by HCA staff, and to also be distributed to external parties and proponents of development as necessary.

The development of a guideline document will promote consistency in species planted as part of projects undertaken when staff review planting plans associated with development/infrastructure and restoration projects carried out by external and private landowners.

**CA1907**                      **MOVED BY:**              **Wayne Terryberry**  
**SECONDED BY:**      **Frank Cucullo**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT the Seed Mix Guidelines for the HCA Watershed be approved.**

## **CARRIED**

### 9.8    Upcoming Events

Gord Costie provided an update of the upcoming events that was provided in the agenda package.

Gord indicated that the deer harvest with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority took place on weekdays excluding Fridays between November 12 and December 6, 2018. It was a successful harvest and recognized treaty rights of the Haudenosaunee. Staff did a daily inspection and there were no issues. Staff have not received the total count but have indicated that it was a light harvest.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### 10.1   Ancaster Well

John Shaw asked for an update on the Ancaster Well following the October CAB meeting where discussion took place regarding the approvals as he is concerned the water is being consumed. Maria Topalovic indicated that there was no staff direction for a follow up report, and asked Scott Peck to review the Board motion that was passed.

Scott indicated that the Board of Directors approved the motion and all requirements were met, and specifically those of the Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Services for the inspection and approval of the change in operation. Scott also noted that users need to obtain an access pass which requires signing a waiver form on an annual basis which informs that the water is not provided for drinking water purposes.

Maria indicated that at the Board of Directors meeting in December 2018, the new board did not raise any issues when the topic of the Ancaster Wells was reviewed as part of year-end presentation.

#### 10.2 Start Time for CAB Meetings

John Shaw indicated he would like to review the new 4 p.m. start time for CAB meetings. Scott Peck noted that the staff will review the new terms of reference for CAB in this regard.

### 11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

### 12. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.



**To:** Members of the Conservation Advisory Board

**From:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**Recommended by:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP - Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Planning & Engineering

**Prepared by:** Jaime Tellier, Watershed Officer

**Date:** April 1, 2019

**Re:** Tracking of Projects to Return to CAB

Meeting Date	Formal Recommendation	Idea/Comment	Board Approval	Action/Status
February 14, 2019	HCA Conservation Area Vehicle Parking Review - THAT the HCA staff recommends to the Conservation Advisory Board: THAT HCA staff be directed to undertake the parking inventory as detailed in the report titled "HCA Conservation Area Vehicle Parking Review", dated February 1, 2019.		March 7, 2019	The committee has met. Preliminary data gathering as outlined in the report is underway.
June 14, 2018	Fifty Point Conservation Area Pond – Fisheries Management THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors: THAT staff be directed to undertake a project feasibility study for the work required to transition the Fifty Point pond to a self-sustaining fishery; and further, THAT, subject to the findings of the feasibility study, staff be directed to complete the design and implement the transition of the pond to a self-sustaining fishery.	CAB members requested review of the feasibility study and to be able to provide comment on the design prior to the implementation of the work.	July 5, 2018	Staff are currently planning for fisheries investigative assessments.

<p>March 8, 2018</p>	<p>Flood and Erosion Control Project for Upper Battlefield Creek and Stoney Creek – Saltfleet Conservation Area  That the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:  That the Flood and Erosion Control Project for Upper Battlefield Creek and Stoney Creek, Community of Stoney Creek, City of Hamilton Environmental Study Report be filed for public review and for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>April 5, 2018</p>	<p>The EA was filed with a comment deadline of May 28, 2018. Staff have provided responses to all comments received and are in the process of finalizing the document.</p>
<p>April, 2014</p>	<p>HCA Planning &amp; Regulation Policies and Guidelines - Policy Review and Update – received as information.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Consultation on draft update planned for Fall 2019; Completion anticipated for year-end.</p>



# Report

**TO:** Conservation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED & PREPARED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Planning & Engineering

**DATE:** March 28, 2019

**RE:** Hamilton Conservation Authority's 2020 Land Securement Strategy

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**THAT HCA staff recommends to the Conservation Advisory Board:**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT the report entitled "Hamilton Conservation Authority's 2020 Land Securement Strategy", dated March 28, 2019 be received: and,**

**THAT the framework outlined in the above noted report for the review and update of the Hamilton Conservation Authority's Land Securement Strategy be endorsed.**

## BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) engaged the services of Orland Conservation, a consulting firm that with experience in conservation issues and land acquisition. Orland Conservation was engaged to assist the Hamilton Conservation Authority in the development of a Land Securement Strategy which was completed in April 2010 and approved by the HCA Board of Directors.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority Land Securement Strategy, 2010 is a detailed document that highlights the background of the HCA's land securement program and provides direction regarding:

- Land securement tools

- Alternatives to land securement
- Methods of Land Securement
- Land securement partners
- Land securement criteria and priorities
- Landowner contact methodology
- Property evaluation procedures
- Land securement program funding
- Land securement and disposition policy

A key aspect of the Land Securement Strategy is the identification and mapping of specific properties of interest for acquisition.

The HCA's Land Securement Strategy, 2010 has been approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry as an approved project under Section 24 of the Conservation Authorities Act. This approval allows HCA staff to utilize a section of the Planning Act that permits partial takings of lands acquired by Conservation Authorities without the need of a severance. This has proved to be a very effective tool when acquiring lands.

The above noted Ministerial approval expires at the end of 2019 and at that time, the Land Securement Strategy, 2010 will be 9 years old. A review and update of the Land Securement Strategy is required to ensure the HCA's land securement priorities are current and to facilitate Ministerial approval under Section 24 of the Conservation Authorities Act for the new plan.

### **STAFF COMMENT**

The intent of staff is to review and update the current plan to provide a new Land Securement Strategy that will provide direction for the next 10 years. In this regard, staff are looking to streamline the document such that its focus is on land securement criteria and priorities. The following plan outline is proposed:

1. HCA Land Acquisition Program Background
2. Land Securement Criteria
3. Land Securement Priorities
4. Land Acquisition Mapping
5. Land Securement Funding Reserve

These sections will build on the direction of the Land Securement Strategy, 2010 by increasing the focus on HCA's land acquisition priorities and removing the information that is general in nature and applicable to all land acquisition strategies.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
  - Initiatives – Invest in land acquisition on priorities identified within the land Securement Strategy
- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
  - Initiatives – Communicate both internally and externally about what the HCA does and why

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

N/A

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This report outlines the background associated with the HCA's Land Securement Strategy, 2010 and details the proposed plan outline for the review and update for a new Land Securement Strategy 2020. HCA staff will report back to the Board of Directors and Conservation Advisory Board with final approval of the plan anticipated for December 2019.





# Memorandum

**TO:** Conservation Advisory Board Members

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED & PREPARED BY:** Matthew Hall, Director; Capital Projects & Strategic Services  
Kathy Smith, Design Projects Coordinator; Capital Projects & Strategic Services

**DATE:** March 29, 2019

**RE:** Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan and Management Plan Updates

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## BACKGROUND

An HCA 10 Year Masterplan Update Strategy was approved by CAB on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and by the Board of Directors on March 7, 2019 for properties that HCA owns and manages. As per this strategy document, the scheduled properties for review in 2019 are Valens Lake Conservation Area, Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve, Upper Watershed Beverly Swamp Conservation Lands, and the Lafarge 2000 Trail.

### Valens Lake Conservation Area

HCA acquired the original Valens land parcels in the 1960's and Valens Lake Conservation Area opened to the public in 1968 as a day-use facility. The primary purpose of creating the Valens Reservoir was to augment summer flow through the Spencer Creek system during dry periods and provide limited flood control, as well as providing an opportunity for public outdoor recreation. Construction of the dam was completed in 1966. The first Master Plan for the property was prepared by HCA staff in 1970, and subsequently updated in 1979. These plans provide good background information on the land acquisition and early planning and development of the conservation area. In 1988 a new Master Plan was completed by Dillon Consultants responding to increased visitation. The 1990's saw an uptake in camping and day use,

and by the end of the decade the property began to generate a profit. By 2000 a revised Master Plan was once again prepared by HCA staff. This is the current Master Plan for the conservation area under review and update. Management plans will be prepared by HCA staff for Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve, the upper watershed portion of the Beverly Swamp, and the Lafarge 2000 Trail.

### Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve

The Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve lands were largely acquired by HCA between 1977 and 1987 with funding assistance from the Hamilton Naturalist Club. These environmentally sensitive lands, which include an abandoned limestone quarry, are at the headwaters of the Spencer Creek Watershed. The site has a long history of recreational activities and in 1999, after public consultation, the HCA approved a Master Plan for the conservation area to prohibit swimming, close access points, and develop trails for passive recreational use. Subsequent studies of the lands in 2002 by Harrington and Hoyle consultants resulted in the site rehabilitation and development seen today.

### Upper Watershed Beverly Swamp Conservation Lands

The Beverly Swamp complex owned by HCA spans three watersheds – Fairchild, Spencer, and Bronte Creeks, and offers one of the best and largest lowland swamp forest representations in south central Ontario. The wetland is the source area for Spencer, Grindstone and Fairchild Creeks and features a rich diversity of plant and animal life, including some that are rare to the Hamilton region. The area functions as a natural sponge, maintaining hydrological balance over a large area and draining into both Lake Ontario and Erie. This management plan will bring together information on file, as well as report on current conditions and recommended best management practices.

### Lafarge 2000 Trail

Formerly called the Middletown Road trail, the Lafarge 2000 Trail is under a grandfathered management agreement between the Town of Flamborough and HCA. Currently, the City of Hamilton owns the property and HCA maintains the off-road trail. This 22 Km trail consists of both on-road and off-road sections and links to the Beverly Swamp, Christie Lake Conservation Area, and the Dundas Valley CA. The trail follows Middletown Road from Regional Road 99 north to Highway 6 east of Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve. In 2000 the HCA Board approved the Middletown Road Trail Master Development and Management Plan. This is the current plan that will be updated.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

The new Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan will provide HCA with a detailed property evaluation for land and resource management, development decisions and include a public consultation process. This plan is intended to provide direction and guidance for the operation of Valens over the next ten years. Appendix 1.0 illustrates the content that will be reviewed and updated.

Over the next ten years, increased visitation is anticipated for Valens, with heavy demand on the camping, recreation, and day use facilities. Significant items to be explored in this master plan will include:

- a comprehensive review of the natural resources,
- capital infrastructure,
- day use area,
- campground areas,
- the introduction of camping cabins,
- the recreational trail network, and
- events and programs.

The new management plans for Fletcher Creek, Beverly Swamp, and the Lafarge Trail will provide HCA with updated resource management information and recommend best management practices for these lands. Significant items to be explored in these plans include a review of the natural resources, evaluation of the current recreational uses, and condition of the capital infrastructure. Appendix 2.0 illustrates the content that will be reviewed and updated.

Public consultation for the Valens Master Plan is anticipated as follows:

- May to August receiving public comments through visitor surveys collected online and at the conservation area.
- May issue a public notice on HCA social media of this study and post contact information and email to receive public comments.
- May (Victoria) long weekend public information booth at the campground.
- August (Civic) long weekend public information booth at the day use area.

During the public consultation, HCA will be working with appropriate stakeholders and other agencies to receive information and comments.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**

- Initiatives – Identify opportunities to engage the community, adjacent landowners, and Indigenous Peoples.
- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
  - Initiatives – Identify restoration projects in master plans.
  - Initiatives – Identify details of the approved Invasive Species Strategy and natural heritage plans in HCA master plans.
- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**
  - Initiatives – Update and develop master and management plans, and implement priorities to further enhance conservation areas for current and future generations.

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

The plan reviews include lands in the watersheds of the Grand River Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton, the City of Hamilton and the Township of Puslinch. These agencies will be circulated for comment during the draft plan review process.

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

HCA in-house staffing expertise and resources will be utilized in order to develop these plans. Third party consultation would only be sought should public concerns on specific components of these plans warrant further public consultation and facilitation beyond the expertise of HCA staff. Any expenses associated with the preparation of these plans will be funded through the annual approved HCA Capital Project budget allocation.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

These plans will support the goals as outlined in HCA's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan as well as the Ten Year Masterplan Update Strategy. Work in progress on the plans will be brought to CAB for review and comment in June and October, with anticipated Board of Directors review and approval by the end of 2019.

## Valens Lake Conservation Area Masterplan Table of Contents

1. Approval Statement
2. Preface
3. Executive Summary
  - 3.1. Introduction
  - 3.2. Goals
  - 3.3. Objectives
  - 3.4. Key Items
  - 3.5. Policy and By-Law Framework
  - 3.6. Master Plan Zones
  - 3.7. Development Priorities
4. Background
  - 4.1. Study Area
  - 4.2. Property History
  - 4.3. Planning and Development Controls
  - 4.4. Buildings
  - 4.5. Physical Features
  - 4.6. Cultural Heritage Features
  - 4.7. Natural Areas
5. Natural Areas Inventory
  - 5.1. Physiography and Topography
  - 5.2. Soil Composition
  - 5.3. Hydrology and Surface Drainage
  - 5.4. Biophysical Inventory Methodology
  - 5.5. Ecological Land Classification
  - 5.6. Flora / Botanical Inventory
  - 5.7. Wildlife Inventory
  - 5.8. Breeding Bird Survey
  - 5.9. Vegetation Communities Inventory
  - 5.10. Flora Inventory
  - 5.11. Fauna Inventory
    - 5.11.1 Birds
    - 5.11.2 Incidental Observations (Mammals and Lepidoptera)
    - 5.11.3 Herpetofauna
  - 5.12. Aquatic Inventory
  - 5.13. Significant Ecological Features
    - 5.12.1 Natural Heritage Designations

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- 5.14. Biophysical Inventory – Analysis
  - 5.13.1 Natural Heritage Information Centre Records
  - 5.13.2 Species at Risk and Locally Rare Species
  - 5.13.3 Significant Wildlife Habitat
  - 5.13.4 Invasive Species at Valens
  
- 6. Overall Site Concept
  - 6.1 Site Concept / Philosophy
  - 6.2 Day Use Activity Areas
  - 6.3 Campground
  - 6.4 Conservation Area Development
  - 6.5 Marketing
  
- 7. Conservation Area Management
  - 7.1 Land and Water Management
  - 7.2 Vegetation Management
  - 7.3 Fish and Wildlife Management
  - 7.4 Cultural Heritage Management
  - 7.5 Conservation Area Operations
  - 7.6 Education
  - 7.7 Research
  - 7.8 Recreation
  - 7.9 Partnerships
  - 7.10 Volunteers
  - 7.11 Paid Staff
  
- 8. Financial
  - 8.1. Attendance and Revenue Forecasts
  - 8.2. Capital Projects
  - 8.3. Funding Sources
  - 8.4. Business Model
  
- 9. Campground Management
  - 9.1 Campsites
  - 9.2 Cabins
  
- 10. Programming
  - 10.1 Education and Interpretation Programs
  - 10.2 Recreation
  - 10.3 Special Events and Programming

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11. Facility Rentals

12. Summary

Appendix Contents

1. Mapping
2. Capital Development Priorities
3. Operating Revenue and Expenses
4. Visitor Attendance
5. Market Data
6. Tourism Data
7. Managed Forest Plan
8. Natural Inventory – Species Lists



**Management Plans for Fletcher Creek, Beverly Swamp, Lafarge 2000 Trail  
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  - 2.2 Key Items
  - 2.3 Goals and Objectives
3. Background
  - 3.1 Study Area
  - 3.2 Property History
  - 3.3 Planning and Development Controls
  - 3.4 Management Plan Zones
4. Natural Area Inventory
  - 4.1 Natural Features
  - 4.2 Ecological Land Classification
  - 4.3 Terrestrial Inventory
  - 4.4 Aquatic Inventory
5. Conservation Area Management
  - 5.1 Land
  - 5.2 Water
  - 5.3 Wildlife
  - 5.4 Cultural Heritage
  - 5.5 Agricultural
  - 5.6 Managed Forest
  - 5.7 Conservation Area Operations
6. Management Practices
  - 6.1 Natural Heritage Conservation
  - 6.2 Water Management
  - 6.3 Conservation Area Experience
  - 6.4 Education and Environmental Awareness
7. Summary
  - 7.1 Implementation Priorities

Appendix Contents

1. Mapping
2. Capital Development Priorities
3. Trail and Vehicle Counter Data
4. Consultation
5. Managed Forest Plan
6. Natural Inventory





# Report

**TO:** Conservation Advisory Board Members

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED BY:** Gord Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

**PREPARED BY:** Rondalyn Brown, Manager of Westfield Heritage Village

**DATE:** April 11, 2019

**RE:** Location-based Game Applications at Conservation Areas

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**THAT HCA staff recommends to the Conservation Advisory Board:**

**THAT the Conservation Advisory Board recommends to the Board of Directors:**

**THAT staff partner with Hamilton Christian High School to undertake development of location-based game applications for HCA's Conservation Areas, as detailed in the report entitled "Location-based Game Applications at Conservation Areas", dated April 11, 2019.**

## BACKGROUND

In April 2018, Westfield received an email from a teacher at Hamilton Christian High School asking if there was any interest in working with a Grade 12 Computer Science and Integrated Technologies class. They were looking to partner with an organization to create a location-based game in the local community.

Location-based games are played on mobile devices (tablets and cell phones). The game can be downloaded at home or on location and then only uses the devices GPS capabilities. Pokemon Go is one of the most popular location-based games.

Westfield staff met with the teacher and students to discuss the opportunities and the logistics. The game app could be a virtual tour, adventure game, virtual scavenger hunt or other amazing ideas.

A Business Case was presented and approved by HCA Executive Team and the partners began collaboration. A game app was developed for Westfield that includes a virtual tour of many of the historical buildings. Photographs of interiors, sound effects and audio sound are included. Embedded in the tour is also a game where the player is “planning on settling in a new area and starting a farm”. They can collect up to 20 virtual items such as a cast iron pot, pair of boots and lanterns. If they collect all twenty items they can receive an actual packet of bean seeds from the Westfield Admissions to help them get their ‘new farm started’ as a reward for completing the game and to grow seeds at home.

Westfield youth volunteers, Jerra and Jordan Lindsay, were enlisted to assist with the development of the game, including providing the full list of twenty collectible items.

Hamilton Christian High School invited Westfield to attend their school Open House in June to help present this project to students, teachers and parents.

In February 2019, the teacher requested to have the class produce another game for Westfield and to work with Dundas Valley Conservation Area and Christie Lake Conservation Area on new applications. DVCA and CLCA staff embraced the opportunity with great interest and excitement and are looking forward to working with the class.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

Partnering with students from Hamilton Christian High School to expand the applications to other HCA areas is a wonderful opportunity. It provides an educational and entertaining tool that is maintenance free and completely non-invasive to the natural environment and experience. It will engage and entertain current and new markets in the community and uses technology in a practical and fun way. It can provide access to persons of all abilities by including visual for the hearing impaired; audio for the visually impaired; and virtually access (photos and video) for the physically impaired. There is the potential for providing information in different languages. There is an opportunity to present the areas in different seasons and from unique angles. It is a great way to promote our areas and the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**

- Initiatives – Identify and support a more diverse and accessible range of programs for our conservation area users
- Initiatives - Identify and act upon revenue generation/cost reduction and investment in visitor services opportunities in our conservation areas
- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
  - Initiatives – Communicate both internally and externally about what HCA does and why
  - Initiatives – Identify opportunities to engage the community, adjacent landowner and Indigenous Peoples
- **Strategic Priority Area – Education and Environmental Awareness**
  - Initiatives – Develop enhanced and consistent interpretive signage and information for conservation areas
  - Initiatives – Enhance and adapt outdoor environmental and cultural education programs with new technology, curriculum and trends
  - Initiatives - Identify and create input and engagement opportunities for conservation area visitors on site
  - Initiatives – Promote the connection between environmental health and human wellness

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

N/A

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This initiative would require a limited amount of staff time. Conservation Area staff time would be required to meet with the students to help develop the nature of the game app; to provide site specific information; to confirm the accuracy and effectiveness of the application; and to promote it to users. Marketing staff time would be required to launch and promote the games to users.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Working with a community partner and developing unique and relevant opportunities to engage our visitors should be encouraged and supported.





## Upcoming 2019 HCA & Partner Events

### **Good Friday**

**April 19, 12:30 – 4:00 pm**

**Westfield Heritage Village**

**1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0**

Enjoy traditional spring-themed games, crafts, activities and demonstrations. Visit the many historical buildings with volunteers in period clothing and enjoy a hike on the trails. The General Store and the Gift Shop have sweet treats and unique gifts. For more information visit [www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)

### **Easter Weekend Camping**

**April 19 - 22**

**Valens Lake Conservation Area**

**1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7**

Reserve your campsite to avoid missing out on this busy weekend. For more information, please call Valens Lake at 905-525-2183 or email [valens@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:valens@conservationhamilton.ca)

### **Paris to Ancaster Bike Race**

**April 28**

**Dundas Valley Conservation Area**

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race has taken place for the past twenty-four years over the roughest farm lanes, trails and gravel roads. Combined with unpredictable spring weather and the largest field of riders assembled in Canada, it has become a classic race experience from average riders to Canadian Olympians. Join us on April 28th to become part of the history of this unique race – [www.parisancaster.com](http://www.parisancaster.com). Note: sections west of Martin's Road in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area will experience high volume of bike traffic. All hiking trails will remain open to park users.

### **Doors Open**

**May 5, 12:30 – 4:00 pm**

**Westfield Heritage Village**

**1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0**

If you have never been to Westfield Heritage Village here is your chance to check it out and see what all the excitement is about. Free admission today as part of the City of Hamilton's Doors Open. For more information visit [www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)

**Victoria Day Camping**

**May 17 - 20**

**Valens Lake Conservation Area**

**1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7**

Reserve your campsite to avoid missing out on this busy weekend. For more information, please call Valens Lake at 905-525-2183 or email [valens@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:valens@conservationhamilton.ca)

**Victoria Day**

**May 20, 12:30 – 4:00 pm**

**Westfield Heritage Village**

**1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0**

Explore the village and discover what life was like in Victorian Canada. Visit the many historical buildings with volunteers in period clothing and enjoy a hike on the trails. The General Store and the Gift Shop have sweet treats and unique gifts. For more information visit [www.westfieldheritage.ca](http://www.westfieldheritage.ca)