



## Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program

A program of:

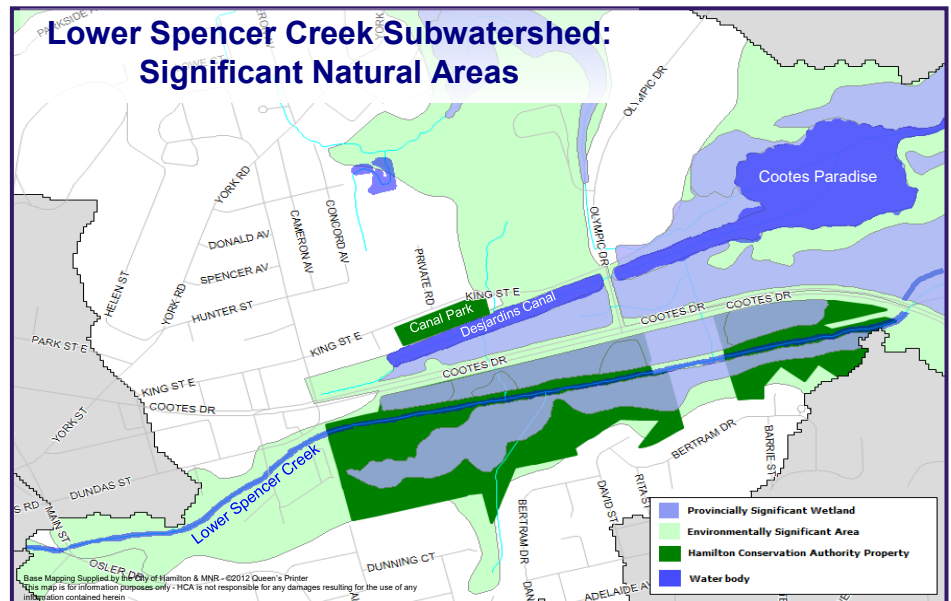


**Did you know?** Spencer Creek begins in Puslinch travelling through Valens Reservoir, Beverly Swamp, Christie Reservoir, and over Webster's Falls. Below the escarpment, Sydenham, Spring and Ancaster Creek are a few of the creeks that join Spencer Creek before it finally flows into Hamilton Harbour through Cootes Paradise.



The species of **benthic invertebrates** (insect larvae and other aquatic organisms) in creeks can indicate the health of the system as certain species are sensitive to pollutants, temperature and oxygen levels. Hamilton Conservation Authority **monitors** the composition of benthic invertebrates in Spencer Creek and creeks across the watershed.

# LOWER SPENCER CREEK FUN FACTS!



**Natural areas** are important to **protect water resources** and control flooding. Hamilton Conservation Authority works to protect and enhance the natural areas on their property along Lower Spencer Creek.

Unlike cement, soil provides a **permeable surface** that soaks up rainwater and runoff.

Trees and vegetation along streambanks **stabilize the soil** which reduces erosion of the banks and excess sediment in the stream.

**Wetlands are nature's water filters**; water flow slows in wetlands allowing plants to trap sediment and absorb pollutants

## The History of Dundas

At the turn of the nineteenth century, mills were developed along Spencer Creek and starting in 1837, the Desjardins Canal provided a water transportation route to the bay. This allowed Dundas to be a thriving manufacturing and shipping hub.

***'had it not been for the creek it is doubtful Dundas would have developed as a town.'*<sup>1</sup>**

In 1845, Dundas had twenty manufacturing establishments to Hamilton's nine.<sup>1</sup> Hamilton slowly surpassed Dundas in industries and population size with the completion of the Great Western Railway in 1853.

**Did you know?** Ancient bison and elk horns were discovered when the Desjardins Canal was excavated to create the channel in the 1830's.

## Lower Spencer Creek Natural Areas Quiz (Answers at the bottom of the page)

1. Which turtle species is not found in the Lower Spencer Creek subwatershed; Snapping, Spotted, Blanding's or Painted turtle?

2. What was the previous land use of Canal Park which is located north of the Desjardins Canal?

3. What is the name of the salmon species that spawns in Spencer Creek?

**Bonus:** What is the salmon species that originally spawned in the creek before becoming extirpated (loss of a species in a certain area) from Lower Spencer Creek?

## Did you know? Snapping turtles...

.. reach maturity when they are 15-20 years old and have been known to live for 100 years.

..will travel up to 500 meters over land to a nesting site.

.. sometimes cross Olympic and Cootes Drive in Dundas to reach nesting sites.

..eggs develop as male or female depending on the outside temperature during incubation.



Snapping Turtle

In 2016, a wildlife directional fence was installed on Hamilton Conservation Authority property along Cootes Drive. The goal of this project is to reduce road mortality of wildlife. The fence directs turtles and other small wildlife to a culvert or Lower Spencer Creek to safely cross under the roadway.



Wildlife Directional Fence along Cootes Drive

The Lower Spencer Creek lies within the **Dundas Valley 50 Year Vision and Strategy Area** and the **Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark Study Area**. The Dundas Valley 50 Year Vision is a comprehensive community oriented strategy focused on preserving and enhancing the unique culture, character and charm of the Dundas Valley community.

## The Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program acknowledges:



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

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Changement climatique Canada



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