

Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy | 2008-2058

A community oriented strategy with a focus on preserving and enhancing the unique, culture, charm, and environment of the Dundas Valley area.

Protect and Enhance Dundas Valley Lands

Goal: Protect and enhance the Valley's ecology and natural areas



Strategic Direction

- Preserve the Escarpment and rural countryside; including selected vistas

This strategic direction focuses on The Niagara Escarpment's viewpoints, vistas, and the pressures it faces whether it is environmental, geological, or through human processes of intensification and urbanization.



Summary

The Niagara Escarpment is a geologically unique and important feature in Southern Ontario. Within the Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy the escarpment encompasses a rich mosaic of forests, farms, recreational areas, scenic views, cliffs, streams, wetlands, rolling hills, waterfalls, mineral resources, wildlife habitats, historic sites, villages, towns, and cities.



The Niagara Escarpment, Dundas Valley

The escarpment is protected by the Niagara Escarpment Commission's (NEC) Niagara Escarpment Plan, and the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act (NEPDA), however, further protection should be considered to protect areas outside these jurisdictions as developmental pressures increase. The Niagara Escarpment is an major component of the Dundas Valley's unique culture, charm and its protection, preservation and promotion are essential to the preservation and enhancement of the Dundas Valley area.



View from Dundas Peak

Actions

- **Conduct a “Viewsheds” study for Dundas Valley, that includes developing criteria for identifying areas of Visual Significance for viewsheds in areas excluded from Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) development controls (i.e. urban areas).**
- **Check out OHF Component B funding for study early 90’s to identify lookouts and interpretation sites on Hamilton escarpment (was done for Bob Chrystian)**
- **Identify existing protection measures (eg. within and outside of NEC jurisdiction)**
- **Identify protection policy for inclusion in City of Hamilton’s zoning by-law review in 2013 (eg. height control by-laws) (City of Hamilton to develop protection principles within its 2009 zoning by-law)**
- **Develop community groups to support work to preserve areas**
- **Investigate climate change impacts on the Niagara Escarpment in the Dundas Valley area**

For the Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy to be realized and its actions fulfilled, the community needs to take on a leadership role. On the back page are a few links, of established resources and organizations currently working on, or with the potential to work on, the fulfilment of these actions, and the realization of the Dundas Valley 50 Year Vision and Strategy’s strategic direction of promoting and preserving the Niagara Escarpment.

Notes

Resources



Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC); www.escarpment.org

The federally mandated organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the Niagara Escarpment. This protection is directly linked to the preservation of Dundas Valley's portion of the Niagara Escarpment.

Giants Rib Discovery Centre; www.giantsrib.ca

Dedicated to the community level promotion of the Dundas Valley's Escarpment and beyond. Promoting through community lectures, volunteer initiatives, as well as educational opportunity.

Bay Area Restoration Council (BARC); www.hamiltonharbour.ca

Dedicated to the revitalizing of the Hamilton Harbour and its watershed. This includes the promotion of the Harbour and the watershed, which culminated in a collaborative project recognizing, inventorying, and promoting views and vistas throughout the area.

McMaster University School of Geography and Environmental Studies; www.mcmaster.ca

A local post-secondary academic institution, heavily involved in the community which includes the coordination of a viewshed inventory and promotion project collaborated between the Hamilton Conservation Authority, BARC, and the community at large.

Greenbelt Plan/Friends of the Greenbelt; www.greenbelt.ca

The Greenbelt Plan and associated protectionary legislation is aimed at promoting and promoting the rural land and lifestyle that encompasses the cultural amenity of the Niagara Escarpment.

City of Hamilton; www.hamilton.ca

Guides and enforces legislation relative to the built communities of Dundas, Ancaster, and Greensville. The City Official Plan and associated community projects have the ability to represent community interests in protecting the Niagara Escarpment, physically and as an attraction.

The Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy 2008-2058 has been supported and funded by:



Possibility grows here.