

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Vision

HCA works to ensure healthy streams and healthy communities in which human needs are met in balance with the needs of the natural environment, now and in the future.

Mission

To lead in the conservation and sustainable management of our watershed's natural environment.



**Hamilton
Conservation Authority**

Healthy Streams...Healthy Communities!

**Winter Stream
Dundas Valley**

NOTICE OF MEETING CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, March 8, 2018

7:00 p.m.

at Woodend

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS** ~ Topalovic
- 2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 4. DELEGATIONS**
 - 4.1 40 Day Hike of the Bruce Trail ~ Tim Keane
- 5. MEMBER BRIEFING**
- 6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIONS** ~ Topalovic
 - CA1804 Merrick Cider Shack Pavilion Conversion
 - CA1805 2017 Artifact Donation Acquisitions Report
 - CA1807 2018 Shuttle Bus Service – Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area
- 7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
 - 7.1 Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (February 8, 2018) ~ Topalovic
- 8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
- 9. STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS**
 - 9.1 Trail Bridge Inspection Program ~ Hall
 - 9.2 Project Technical Advisory Committee ~ O'Neal
 - 9.3 HWWA Deer Harvest Results (verbal update) ~ Costie
 - 9.4 Flood and Erosion Control Project for Upper Battlefield Creek and Stoney Creek – Saltfleet Conservation Area ~ Peck
 - 9.5 Upcoming Events ~ Costie
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
- 11. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**
- 12. ADJOURNMENT**

HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Advisory Board

MINUTES

February 8, 2018

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at HCA's Woodend Administration Building commencing at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Morgan Pirie, Chair

John Barkovic

Lydia Cartlidge

Susan Fielding

Donna Kydd

Duke O'Sullivan

John Shaw

Kristen Brittain

Doug Conley

Brad Gautreau

Cheryl Larocque

Robert Pasuta

Wayne Terryberry

REGRETS:

Frank Cucullo, Joanne Di Maio, Chris Michels, Marie Robbins, Maria Topalovic

STAFF PRESENT:

Carissa Bishop, Nick Burgess, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Bruce Harschnitz, Peter Lloyd, Judy Love, Scott Peck, and Nancy Watts – HCA Staff

OTHERS:

Richard Leitner - Media

1. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Morgan Pirie welcomed everyone and indicated the regrets received for the meeting. Morgan indicated that Councillor Doug Conley was appointed the Chair of the Board of Directors, Councillor Susan Fielding was appointed the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, and Maria Topalovic was appointed the Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board.

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts of interest. There was none.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Scott Peck called for nominations for Vice Chair. Duke O'Sullivan nominated Morgan Pirie for the position of Vice Chair. As there were no other nominations put forward, Morgan Pirie was acclaimed the Vice Chair.

CA1801 MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

**THAT Morgan Pirie be confirmed as Vice Chair of the
Conservation Advisory Board for 2018.**

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

CA1802 MOVED BY: Donna Kydd
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

There was none.

6. MEMBER BRIEFING

There was none.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ACTIONS

Morgan reported that there were no recommendations to be approved by the Board of Directors.

8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**8.1 Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (December 14, 2017)****CA1803****MOVED BY: John Shaw
SECONDED BY: Doug Conley****THAT the minutes of the December 14, 2017
Conservation Areas Advisory Board meeting be
approved.****CARRIED****9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****9.1 Tracking Report**

Morgan asked members if there were any questions on the Tracking Report.

10. STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS**10.1 Merrick Cider Shack Pavilion Conversion**

Carissa Bishop provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered member's questions. Staff are recommending the Merrick Cider Shack be converted into a pavilion. Dundas Valley Conservation Area currently only has two covered picnic areas. There is a need for shelter on the trails during thunder and lightning storms for visitors and staff.

Recommendations for the refurbished pavilion and surrounding area include:

- open air with covered roof
- gravel base for minimal maintenance
- picnic tables for visitors
- cider press and sliding track doors to remain on site to preserve building heritage features
- horse tie up located beside pavilion for equestrians
- interpretive signage to explain cultural and ecological significance to the area

A newly converted pavilion would be used by Outdoor Environmental Education classes as a staging area for programs that take place in the orchard, a rest area during guided school hikes, and a resource for summer camp programs.

The pavilion could be utilized by hiking groups, as the former orchard is now home to a thriving meadow which is an ideal location for bird watching.

Initial plan estimates show that it will take approximately \$50,000 to convert the shack into a pavilion and make improvements to the area. The entire cost is expected to be funded through donations to the Hamilton Conservation Foundation.

CA1804

MOVED BY: Doug Conley
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

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

THAT the Merrick Cider Shack be approved for a new use and be converted into a pavilion.

CARRIED

10.2 2017 Artifact Donation Acquisitions 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.

Objects acquired for the collection will be consistent with the mandate, goals, and priorities of the site. Objects collected will normally represent the types of material goods that would have been locally manufactured, routinely available or the product of local activity in Southern Ontario from the period 1790 – 1925.

Westfield staff are diligent about adhering to the very important collections management policies and museum standards to ensure the Hamilton Conservation Authority is managing the artifact collection in a professional manner. The artifact donation list needs to be approved each year. Adding the artifacts on this list to the Westfield Heritage Village collection will preserve important pieces of local history and enhance the experience for visitors.

CA1805

MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

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

THAT the Westfield 2017 Artifact Acquisitions List be approved and the artifacts added to the Westfield Heritage Village and Hamilton Region Conservation Authority collection.

CARRIED

10.3 Attendance Figures for 2017

Gord Costie provided a PowerPoint presentation on the attendance figures for 2017. Gord indicated that staff are starting to track and gather more data on attendance figures. We have trail counters in some areas.

Confederation Beach Park is a free entry park with the highest attendance figure of 510,000.

Following is the attendance figures for the Conservation Areas:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| • Christie Lake | 140,000 |
| • Dundas Valley | 150,000 |
| • Fifty Point | 100,000 |
| • Spencer Gorge | 95,000 |
| • Valens Lake | 105,000 |
| • Westfield Heritage Village | 45,000 |
| • Wild Waterworks | 100,477 |

Gord answered member's questions.

CA1806 MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Brad Gautreau

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

THAT the attendance figures for 2017 be received.

CARRIED

10.4 2018 Shuttle Bus Service – Spencer Gorge Wilderness Area

Gord Costie provided a presentation and indicated that the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area has traditionally been a very popular conservation area. Over

the past number of years, attendance has increased in excess of 100,000 visitors.

In February 2016, the Board of Directors approved a pilot Shuttle Bus Services as a direct response to decrease street parking, reduce traffic congestion, and improve safety. A local Greenville organization (Think Greenville) operated the shuttle bus.

In 2017, the shuttle bus service operated from May 13 to October 29, 2017, on weekends and public holidays removing over 16,000 vehicles from the area roads and safely transporting close to 48,000 visitors.

Through the operation and completion of 2017 pilot shuttle bus operations, staff have had an opportunity to experience all aspects of the service and evaluate what worked appropriately as well as gain perspectives on components that needed to be revisited.

One significant aspect of the shuttle service identified as needing refinement involves its base location. Staff are recommending that the shuttle bus service base be relocated to Christie Lake Conservation Area.

Following are some of the key issues that staff struggled with by using a private parking lot in 2017:

- wayfinding to private parking lot
- no turning lanes both east and west bound on Hwy 5
- site lines identifying parking areas
- short single lane entry to gatehouse
- shared parking area with private operator customers
- small parking lot with no overflow
- lack of washrooms and picnic areas
- neighbourhood disruption to Mazza Road residents
- bylaw zoning noncompliance

Following are key attributes for the shuttle bus service base to be relocated at Christie Lake in 2018:

- superior wayfinding with Christie Lake recognition and current signage
- turning lanes both east and west bound on Hwy 5
- dual entry lane of 250 meters to gatehouse
- dual gatehouse entry terminals
- dual POS systems, electronic and encrypted transactions
- largest parking areas – designed gravel and overflow area
- picnic areas, washrooms, waterfront, rentals

The shuttle bus operations will potentially impact Christie Lake operations during peak season with special events such as the Christie Antique Show and third party bookings. One option includes having a dedicated bus exit/entry system to mitigate traffic issues using the Middletown Road gateway when required.

A successful shuttle operation will require ongoing Bylaw Enforcement of no parking/stopping within the Greensville vicinity to deter all unauthorized parking and to shut down unauthorized “pop up” parking lots is critical to keep traffic out and away from the hamlet area.

City of Hamilton staff have been advised of this proposal to use Christie Lake Conservation Area and have confirmed zoning bylaw compliance.

Bruce Harschnitz provided a PowerPoint presentation with a virtual tour of the Christie Lake explaining the flow of traffic and the parking lot area.

Staff answered member’s questions.

CA1807

**MOVED BY: Doug Conley
SECONDED BY: Brad Gautreau**

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 2018; and

THAT the shuttle bus service operate on weekends and public holidays beginning Saturday, May 12 and running until Sunday, October 28, 2018 weather pending; and further

THAT the shuttle bus service base be relocated to Christie Lake Conservation Area.

CARRIED

10.5 Upcoming Events

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Memorandum

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

PREPARED BY: Matt Hall, C.E.T., Director, Capital Projects & Strategic Services

DATE: February 20, 2018

RE: HCA Trail Bridge Inspection Program

BACKGROUND

The HCA provides approximately 140 kilometres of recreational trails in our owned and managed areas and often trails will encounter a waterway or other barrier which requires crossing. In simple terms, a trail bridge is a structure erected over a depression or obstruction, such as water, that provides a continuous pathway and has a deck for carrying traffic or other loads. The HCA is currently responsible for maintaining over 70 trail bridges.

Because they are mostly made of wood, they deteriorate over time and require regular inspection and maintenance to ensure that they are safe for the public to use. Capital Projects & Strategic Services division has developed a program to provide for an annual review of these and outlines the roles and responsibilities of HCA employees for inspecting each bridge.

An HCA Trail Bridge Inspection Manual has been developed to aid staff on how to properly inspect a bridge and what to document. Included in this manual is a list of terms needed for inspection, along with their definitions. It also includes bridge figures, location maps, bridge inspection procedures, sample inspection forms and an overview of visual inspections with images of typical bridge degradation levels for various elements found on standard HCA trail bridges.

STAFF COMMENT

The policy and manual have been created in order to clarify and define:

- staff roles and responsibilities for inspections

- what to review during an inspection
- how to perform the inspections
- how often the inspections are required
- what to document and how to do it

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2014-2018:

- **Strategic Goal #3 – Conservation Area Experience**
 - Strategic Objective – maintain and enhance conservation area infrastructure and natural heritage features within the context of approved master plans.
- **Strategic Goal #5 – Organizational Excellence**
 - Strategic Objective – maintain and provide a safe working environment for both employees and visitors.

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is important that HCA trail bridges are inspected for safety and the program helps define a reasonable level of due diligence.

CONCLUSIONS

The HCA trail bridge inspection program was created and implemented over 2017 with good success. As annual trail bridge inspections are performed and completed it helps determine where capital resources can be most effectively utilized with a priority placed on the bridges which need the most attention.



Report

TO: 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: Sheila O'Neal, Watershed Stewardship Manager, Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program

DATE: March 8, 2018

RE: Project Technical Advisory Committee

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT to meet annual insurance coverage requirements, the responsibilities of the Project Technical Advisory Committee for the Hamilton and Halton Watershed Stewardship Programs be approved as identified in this staff report of March 8, 2018; and further

THAT the members on the Committee be appointed for the period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

BACKGROUND

Since 1994 the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program (HHWSP), operated by Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities, have worked jointly and collaboratively administering stewardship programs within their watersheds. The shared program has been highly successful over the years and has resulted in the contact of over 4,000 landowners with at least half of these being in the Hamilton Conservation Authority's watershed. As of December 2017, 148 landowners in Hamilton

Conservation Authority's watershed have undertaken projects on private properties to improve habitat and/or water quality.

While both the Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities contributed funding to the program for staffing and landowner contact, funds for the capital projects involving projects on private lands have typically been raised through different sources, including the HCA capital program and application to various granting programs.

The Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) was formally established by the Advisory Boards and the full Boards of Directors of the two conservation authorities in 2009. PTAC acts as a review and approval committee for funding applications under the HHWSP's Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program. Attached is the terms of reference that has been established for this committee and a list of the individuals who have volunteered to sit on the committee for the next term.

STAFF COMMENT

Staff of the HHWSP appreciates the commitment that Project Technical Advisory Committee members have made to date to assist in the delivery of this program to watershed landowners. This report and resolution serves to formally recognize their work and provides for the annual insurance coverage requirement. The term of appointment would run from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, which coincides with the typical fiscal year of the majority of the granting organizations.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2014-2018:

- **Strategic Goal #1 – Water Management**
 - Strategic Objective – Minimize the impacts of erosion and sedimentation on watershed streams, creek, rivers and receiving water bodies.
 - Strategic Objective – Maintain and enhance surface and ground water quality from the headwater source to Hamilton Harbour and Lake Ontario.
- **Strategic Goal #2 – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Strategic Objective - Minimize the impacts of urban and rural land uses on natural heritage features.
- **Strategic Goal #4 – Education and Environmental Awareness**
 - Strategic Objective – Collaborate with agencies and organizations to promote the importance and value of the watershed environment.

AGENCY COMMENTS

Funding agencies such as Environment Canada's Great Lakes Sustainability Fund require these types of committees to review and approve projects.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The members on the committee are not paid for their services but they are undertaking work on behalf of Hamilton Conservation Authority. By formally recognizing the committee, the volunteer committee members can be provided with insurance for their decisions through the Conservation Authority's insurer. Adding the members as volunteers to our insurance does not affect the Hamilton Conservation Authority's premiums.

CONCLUSIONS

The Hamilton and Halton Watershed Stewardship Programs have been successfully utilizing this volunteer committee for the review of projects that are undertaken on private lands. Annual endorsement of PTAC members is required for insurance purposes.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOAL

To assist the Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton in the implementation of their Water Quality/Habitat Improvement Programs (WQHIP) which serve to provide landowners with the technical and grant assistance necessary to improve water quality and habitat in the watersheds of Hamilton and Halton Conservation Authorities.

MANDATE

The Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) is a voluntary advisory committee that approves grants for water quality and habitat improvement projects. PTAC has been established by the conservation authorities in accordance with these adopted Terms of Reference. PTAC members are bound by these Terms of Reference and are ultimately responsible to the Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton.

PURPOSE

The purpose of PTAC is to:

1. Sit as the grant approvals committee when it may:
 - a) recommend eligible items under the WQHIP including grant rates and grant ceilings;
 - b) ensure that the WQHIP is administered on a priority basis;
 - c) review landowners' grant applications submitted to the conservation authorities;
 - d) approve eligible grant applications under the WQHIP; and
 - e) review WQHIP effectiveness as required.
2. Provide a forum for the exchange of information on agricultural, rural and urban issues and initiatives and to advise on potential concerns; and
- 3) Encourage public awareness and education of agricultural, rural and urban issues.

MEMBERSHIP

PTAC consists of the following volunteer members which are appointed for a term of three years with an option for a second term.

- Agricultural Organizations
- City of Hamilton
- Conservation Halton
- Halton Region
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Individual Landowners
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Royal Botanical Gardens

PTAC members represent a variety of natural resources management, agricultural organizations and landowners. The representatives of organizations or agencies should have special urban, rural and agricultural qualifications, water quality and habitat interests and abilities, as well as the ability and willingness to devote the necessary time to PTAC.

MEETINGS

PTAC meets, annually, or as required. Agendas for meetings will be made available to PTAC one week in advance of meeting. Flexibility will allow meetings to be held in various locations throughout the communities that are most convenient for PTAC members. Meetings will be used to review Water Quality and/or Habitat Improvement Funding Application and Agreement forms, WQHIP program success, WQHIP Terms of Reference, and other determined topics.

SUPPORT STAFF

Conservation authority staff will be assigned to provide secretariat and research support to PTAC.

PTAC meeting minutes will be provided to PTAC members following each meeting.

PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Agricultural Organization

Henry Swierenga, Member Service Representative,
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

City of Hamilton

Kara Bunn, Manager, Parks and Cemeteries, Environmental Services,
Public Works

Conservation Halton

Larry Halyk, Aquatic Monitoring Ecologist
Jennifer Roberts, Forestry Technician

Halton Region

Jason Elliott, Planner, Ecologist

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Lesley McDonell, Terrestrial Ecologist

Landowners

Vic Cairns
Philip Krakar
John Shaw
Paul Smith
Nancy Tilt

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Lorraine Moir, Partnership Specialist

Royal Botanical Gardens

Andrea Court, Ecologist

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: February 22, 2018

RE: Flood and Erosion Control Project for Upper Battlefield
Creek and Stoney Creek – Saltfleet Conservation Area

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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.

BACKGROUND

As outlined in previous reports and presentations to the Conservation Advisory Board and as detailed in the “East Escarpment Conservation Area (now Saltfleet Conservation Area) Watershed Restoration Program Overview, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) has undertaken a project to “create a new conservation area in the east end of the City of Hamilton, specifically the Upper Stoney Creek and Upper Battlefield Creek watersheds above the Niagara Escarpment to provide natural hazard attenuation, natural heritage enhancements and recreation opportunities”. As part of that program, the HCA has also secured funding from the Heritage Green Community Trust, the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Conservation Foundation and the HCA for land acquisition purposes to further this program. To date through this funding, the HCA has secured 99.15 hectares (245 acres) of land for the new conservation area and this program.

As part of this program and through funding from the Green Municipal Fund, the HCA engaged the consulting firm Amec Foster Wheeler (now WOOD PLC) to undertake an

environmental assessment to “conduct a technical assessment of the effectiveness of various potential storage locations, sizes and combinations above the escarpment to address flood and erosion risk in the lower reaches of Stoney and Battlefield Creeks” for the purposes of natural hazard attenuation. This is a Class EA, as per the “Conservation Ontario, Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Projects”, January 2002 (amended 2013) process.

As part of this environmental assessment, the following has been completed:

- Notice of Intent and Public Information Centre (PIC) Number 1 was advertised and the PIC was held March 28, 2017.
- Assessment of existing conditions and potential alternatives.
- Assessment of Alternatives and association evaluation
- Notice of PIC Number 2 was advertised and the PIC was held November 28, 2017.
- Documentation of Preliminary Preferred Solutions
- Completion of the Flood and Erosion Control Project for Upper Battlefield Creek and Stoney Creek, Community of Stoney Creek, City of Hamilton Environmental Study Report.

The next step in this process is the filing of the environmental study report, notifying by letter all parties that have expressed an interest in the project and publishing a Notice of Completion in the local newspaper.

STAFF COMMENT

The Flood and Erosion Control Project for Upper Battlefield Creek and Stoney Creek, Community of Stoney Creek, City of Hamilton Environmental Study Report is a lengthy document and it is not attached to this report. The document is available for viewing at the HCA offices and the report information and preferred alternative will be presented at the March 8, 2018 Conservation Advisory Board Meeting.

To summarize the report, a number of wetland storage facilities and scenarios were examined to determine the effect of each wetland storage facility and the cumulative effect of these facilities on downstream flooding and erosion. Further, aquatic and terrestrial assessments were done for each area. From this long list of alternatives and assessment, a short list of alternatives were then further assessed with a final preferred alternative being recommended. The study recommends 4 storage facilities be implemented to best address the purposes of the study being to reduce the risk of downstream flooding and erosion.

HCA staff have been involved throughout this program and have worked with the consultants and taken part in all of the Public Information Centres as the project has moved forward. HCA staff are in agreement with the recommended preferred alternative and support the implementation of this program.

With the completion of the environmental study report and the Notice of Completion, it is noted that a stakeholder can raise issues within 30 days of the posting of the Notice of Completion. These issues are usually addressed through consultation and discussion. If they cannot be addressed, the stakeholder can request the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to require the HCA to complete an individual Environmental Assessment in accordance with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act. The program has been well received by the public and staff do not anticipate any issues in this regard.

Lastly, HCA staff have always noted that this is a 5 to 10 year program. In this regard, it is noted that further work will be required to implement the 4 preferred storage facilities. Detailed design, sequencing/staging, land ownership and approvals will need to be addressed. The preferred 4 storage facilities are located both on existing HCA landholdings in the study area and on lands that are currently privately owned. The acquisition of any privately held lands is subject to further landowner contact and would only be undertaken on a willing buyer-willing seller basis.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2014-2018:

- **Strategic Goal #1 – Water Management**
 - Strategic Objective – Maintain and enhance our flood control and infrastructure to minimize flooding and augment low flow conditions
 - Strategic Objective – Minimize the impacts of erosion and sedimentation on watershed streams, creeks, rivers and receiving water bodies.
 - Strategic Objective – Monitor and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and the implications to our watershed.
- **Strategic Goal #2 – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Strategic Objective – Maintain an active land acquisition program focused on natural heritage properties
 - Strategic Objective – Maintain and enhance the natural heritage features of HCA lands and manage these lands on an environmentally sustainable basis
- **Strategic Goal #3 – Organizational Excellence**
 - Strategic Objective – Promote the role and mandate of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, and the services we provide, to the public and our partner organizations.

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The environmental study report provides estimated construction costs for the 4 storage facilities in the preferred alternative. The estimated costs are in the 15 million dollar range. This cost is not unexpected and would be contingent on final design. The program will be implemented over time and as funding permits. In this regard, the HCA will work with our partners, specifically, the Hamilton Conservation Foundation to secure funding. This project provides many benefits from the perspective of green infrastructure and climate change with funding opportunities for such programs.

CONCLUSIONS

The program has been completed per the "Conservation Ontario, Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Projects", January 2002 (amended 2013) process. HCA staff are supportive of the findings and recommendations of the environmental study report. HCA staff are excited about this program and look forward to the next stage and implementing the program on the ground.



UPCOMING HCA AND PARTNER EVENTS

Maple Syrup Festival

March 4, 11, 18, & 25

Good Friday March 30

Wednesday, March 14, Thursday, March 15 of March Break

10:00 – 4:00 pm

Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0

Discover one of Canada's most time-honoured and tasty traditions. Explore historical and modern methods of making of maple syrup from the tree to the table. Families can purchase and enjoy a delicious, reasonably-priced pancake breakfast. For more information visit www.westfieldheritage.ca

Spring Sundays

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29/May 6, 13, 20, 21, 27/June 3, 10, 24, 12:30 – 4:00 pm

Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0

Enjoy the arrival of spring in the Village. Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the beautiful, picturesque setting of Westfield. Purchase sweet treats and cool drinks from the General Store.

Easter Weekend Camping

March 30th to April 2nd 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

Golden Horseshoe Orienteering Club

April 25, 8:00am - 5:00pm

Christie Lake Conservation Area

1000 Highway 5 West, Dundas, Ontario, L9H 5E2

Mountain Equipment Co-op Race #1

April 28

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Join us for MEC Burlington Race ONE: Trail Race. This trail run will bring you through the beautiful Dundas Valley and will be starting from the Dundas Valley Trail Center. Run a distance between 3.75k, 9.25k & 11.5k. Challenge yourself and hit the trails. As the distances get longer the trails become more hilly and technical. Visit <http://events.mec.ca> for more information and registration.

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race

April 29

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

Paris to Ancaster Bike Race has taken place for the past twenty-three 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 29th to become part of the history of this unique race – 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.

Spring Fling Disc Golf Tournament

May 5 - 6, 8:00am - 5:00pm

Christie Lake Conservation Area

1000 Highway 5 West, Dundas, Ontario, L9H 5E2

Christie Lake Disc Golf Club Presents The 2018 Spring Fling, sponsored by Dynamic Discs! A GDG \$5K/\$10K event! PDGA "A" Tier Tournament, ODSA Ontario Cup event.