



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 6, 2019



Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

HCA Main Office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario

NOTE: This is the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors. Jo-Anne Rzađki of Conservation Ontario will serve as Acting Chair for the purpose of Election of Officers.

- 1. Welcome** – Jo-Anne Rzađki
- 2. Election of Officers** – Jo-Anne Rzađki
 - 2.1. Appoint Scrutineers
 - 2.2. Election of 2019 Chair
 - 2.3. Election of 2019 Vice-Chair
 - 2.4. Election of 3 members to Budget & Administration Committee
 - 2.5. Election of Chair to Conservation Advisory Board
 - 2.6. Board Representatives to Conservation Advisory Board
- 3. Call to Order for Normal Course of Business** – New Chair
- 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- 5. Approval of Agenda**
- 6. Delegations**
- 7. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes, and Correspondence**
 - 7.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
 - 7.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – May 2, 2019

7.3.HCA and Conservation Ontario comment letters regarding ERO #013-4992 and #013-5018

7.4.Press Release – Safety Near Escarpment Areas

8. Member Briefing

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

10.Other Correspondence

11.Reports from Budget & Administration Committee, Conservation Advisory Board, and the Foundation

11.1. Foundation Chairman's Report – Correia

12.Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

12.1.	Voting Representatives to Conservation Ontario	– Burnside
12.2.	Consent Agenda	– Burnside
12.3.	Appointment of the Auditor	– Burnside
12.4.	Board meeting schedule for 2019	– Burnside
12.5.	Request for Proposal	
	Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project	– Peck
12.6.	Current Watershed Conditions as of March 23, 2019	– Peck
12.7.	Upcoming HCA and Partner Events	– Costie

13.New Business

14.In-Camera Items for Matters of Law, Personnel and Property

15.Next Meeting – Thursday, July 4, 2019

16.Adjournment

Election of Officers

The following are excerpts from the HCA Administrative Bylaws:

- Voting shall be by secret ballot and no Directors may vote by proxy;
- Only current Directors of the Authority who are present may vote;
- The Acting Chair shall ask for nominations to each position;
- Nominations shall be called three (3) times and will only require a mover;
- The closing of nominations shall require both a mover and a seconder;
- Each Director nominated shall be asked to accept the nomination. The Director must be present to accept the nomination unless the Director has advised the Secretary-Treasurer in writing or by email in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination.

If one Nominee:

- If only one nominee the individual shall be declared into the position by acclamation.

If More than One Nominee:

- In the event of an election, each nominee shall be permitted not more than five minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing by surnames.
- Upon the acceptance by nominees to stand for election to the position of office, ballots shall be distributed to the Directors by the scrutineers for the purpose of election and the Acting Chair shall ask the Directors to write the name of one individual only on the ballot.
- The scrutineers shall collect the ballots, leave the meeting to count the ballots, return and advise the Acting Chair who was elected with more than 50% of the vote.

Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer

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

PREPARED BY: Darren Kenny, Watershed Officer

DATE: May 17, 2019

RE: Summary Enforcement Report – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
Regulation 161/06 Applications for June 6, 2019

HCA Regulation applications approved by staff between the dates of April 19, 2019 and May 17, 2019 are summarized in the following Summary Enforcement Report (SER-5/19).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Summary Enforcement Report SER-5/19 as information.

HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
 DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS
 May 17, 2019

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, June 06, 2019
 The proposed works are subject to Ontario Regulation 161/06, and in particular Section 2, Subsection (1).

SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 5/19

File Number	Date Received	Date Permit Issued	Review Days	Applicant Name	Location	Application Description	Recommendation / Conditions
SC/C/19/08	08-Feb-19	24-Apr-19	19		66 Lake Ave N Lot 25, Concession 2 Stoney Creek	Construction of a front deck/porch and a rear yard detached accessory building in a regulated area of Battlefield Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions
F/F/19/16	14-Mar-19	24-Apr-19	33		250 4th Con Rd W Lot 21, Concession 3 Flamborough	Placement and grading of fill for access road creation in a regulated area of the Logie's Creek-Parkside Drive Provincially Significant Wetland Complex.	Approved subject to standard conditions
A/C/19/18	22-Mar-19	29-Apr-19	41		509 Lions Club Rd Lot 45, Concession 1 Ancaster	Repair of an existing building foundation and construction of a deck addition in a regulated area of Sulphur Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions
H/F,C/19/19	25-Mar-19	06-May-19	41		106 Chedoke Ave Lot 19, Concession 2 Hamilton	Installation of an in-ground swimming pool and construction of a surrounding patio in a regulated area of Chedoke Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions

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SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 5/19

SC/F,C,A/19/17	14-Mar-19	08-May-19	33		99 Highland Rd W, 665 Pritchard Rd and 1603 Rymal Rd E Lot 34, Concession 8 Stoney Creek	Construction of the final stormwater management pond for the Multi-Area Employment Lands (25T-2014-02) in a regulated area of Hannon Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions
H/F,C/19/10	05-Feb-19	08-May-19	25		77 Oak Knoll Dr Lot 57, Concession 1 Hamilton	Construction of a patio and associated fill placement, grading and landscaping in a regulated area of Lower Spencer Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions
F/F,C/19/12	25-Feb-19	13-May-19	51		1071 Westover Rd Lot 30, Concession 5 Flamborough	Completion of fill removal/grading works and construction of a new swimming pool, patio and cabana in a regulated area of Westover Creek and the Sheffield-Rockton Provincially Significant Wetland Complex.	Approved subject to standard conditions
H/F,A/19/20	27-Mar-19	13-May-19	35		300 Van Wagners Beach Rd and 680 Van Wagners Beach Rd Lot , Concession Hamilton	Completion of shoreline erosion protection works in a regulated area of the Lake Ontario shoreline.	Approved subject to standard conditions

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SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 5/19

D/C/19/27	30-Apr-19	16-May-19	15		22 Creekwood Pl Lot 11, Concession 1 Dundas	Replacement of an existing wooden deck in a regulated area of Middle Spencer Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. The Chair indicated there were two items to add to the agenda; one under item 7.1, a staff summary of a

Conservation Area Tour with City of Hamilton Councillor John-Paul Danko and the second under 13.2. A property matter to be discussed in camera.

BD12,2630

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. HEARING

The Chair indicated that shortly before the meeting the applicant chose to withdraw their request for a hearing, instead opting to continue to work with staff to develop a design that will better satisfy HCA policy requirements.

5. DELEGATIONS

There were none.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR APPLICATIONS, MINUTES, AND CORRESPONDENCE

The following consent items were adopted:

- 6.1 Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 6.2 Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – April 4, 2019
- 6.3 Approved October 18, 2018 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes and Approved February 14, 2019 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only

7. MEMBER BRIEFING

7.1 Conservation Area Tour

Lisa Burnside provided members with a summary of a Conservation Area Tour staff hosted for Councillor John-Paul Danko. The group visited HCA's popular destinations and discussed challenges including high numbers of visitors and limited parking at sundry areas. The tour also included a visit to Christie Lake Conservation Area to highlight the solutions that are being implemented, including the shuttle service, signage and fencing.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

8.1 HCA Climate Change Strategy Review

At the April Board meeting, Ian Graham delivered a delegation presentation entitled “Presentation to Hamilton Conservation Authority regarding Climate Emergency”. Mr. Graham presented his position on climate change and provided a specific resolution for the HCA to address climate change by implementing direction from the Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision. It was agreed that staff consider the resolution and report back to the Board with recommendations, including a review of the existing HCA Climate Change Strategy to ensure it remains current and that the review not be limited to the Dundas Valley, rather include the entire HCA watershed.

In response to this direction, Scott Peck presented a report that included a summary of HCA’s current Climate Change Strategy and the following issues to be considered in the update.

1. Introduction – update to include information on the implementation of the strategy since adoption and consultation undertaken that guided updated strategy
2. Background – provide updated science information relating to projected impacts and urgency of addressing climate change
3. Principles – review to ensure current
4. Overall Goal – review to ensure current
5. Strategies for Addressing Climate Change – this will be the focus of the review to highlight what we are currently doing and what further action is required. The focus will be less on science and modelling undertakings and more on education and awareness, maintenance and restoration of natural areas, wetland creation and restoration as well as site specific storm water management efforts such as rain gardens, swales and permeable driveways.

The goal is to have the updated strategy completed by the end of this year.

BD12,2631

**MOVED BY: Brad Gautreau
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

THAT the HCA staff recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT staff be directed to undertake a review and update the HCA’s Climate Change Strategy as detailed in the report titled “HCA Climate Change Strategy Review”, dated April 15, 2019.

CARRIED

9. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

10. REPORTS FROM BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD, AND THE FOUNDATION

10.1 Conservation Advisory Board

Resolution Number from Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – CA1911 – Land
Securement Strategy Update

BD12,2632 **MOVED BY:** **Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: **Dan Bowman**

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.

CARRIED

Resolution Number from Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – CA1914 Location-based Game Application at Conservation Areas

BD12,2633 **MOVED BY:** **Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: **Chad Collins**

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.

CARRIED

Resolution Number from Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – CA1916 – Project Technical Advisory Committee

BD12,2634 **MOVED BY:** **Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: **Dan Bowman**

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 April 11, 2019; and further

THAT the members on the Committee be appointed for the period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

CARRIED

Resolution Number from Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – CA1917 – Gypsy Moth Surveys and Aerial Spray Program

BD12,2635 **MOVED BY:** **Maria Topalovic**
SECONDED BY: **Brad Clark**

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

THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the gypsy moth spray program as outlined in the staff report dated April 11, 2019

CARRIED

10.2 Budget & Administration Committee

Resolution Number from Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – BA1904 – 2018 – 12 Month Audited Financial Statements and response to City of Hamilton Reserves Inquiry

BD12,2636 **MOVED BY:** **Dan Bowman**
SECONDED BY: **Brad Gautreau**

THAT the Board of Directors approve, as recommended by the Budget and Administration Committee, the 2018 Twelve Month Audited Financial Statements.

and

THAT the response to the City of Hamilton Reserves Inquiry, as provided herein, be approved.

CARRIED

Resolution Number from Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – BA1909 – 2020 Casual Wage Rates

BD12,2637

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the revised 2020 Casual/Seasonal wage grids for Hamilton Conservation Authority and Confederation Beach Park/Wild Waterworks as outlined in the April 5, 2019 report be approved.

CARRIED

Resolution Number from Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – BA1910 – Records Management Policy and Draft Records Retention Schedule

BD12,2638

MOVED BY: Brad Clark

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the Budget & Administration Committee recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT the Records Management Policy and Draft Records Retention Schedule as outlined in the April 5, 2019 report be approved.

CARRIED

10.3 Foundation Chairman's Report

Ine Wauben presented the report. The Foundation received a total of \$15,935 in donations in April. They break down as follows:

- \$6,715 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund
- \$5,050 for Outdoor Environmental Education
- \$2,500 for Tribute Benches in HCA Conservation Areas
- \$500 for the Dundas Valley CA Fund

- The remaining \$1,170 came in donations for Land Securement, Westfield Heritage Village and Trail Development.

This brings the total for the current fiscal year (Dec 2018 to Apr 2019) to \$147,341.

Ine advised that the Foundation Board met recently to work on a strategic plan for the next 5 years and are now finalizing the details and should have a completed plan sometime in the summer.

The Foundation will also be holding its Donor Appreciation Evening on Monday, May 13, 2019 at the Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club beginning at 6:30pm. HCA Board members were invited by mail and it is hoped you will be able to join us.

Ine reported that after 4 years taking leave of absence from the Foundation Board due to new job responsibilities in her current position at McMaster University.

Chair thanked her for wonderful news and noted the upward trend in donations. It was requested that a reminder email for donor appreciation be sent to board members. The Chair also congratulated her on her new responsibilities and thanked her for all of her work as the Chair of the foundation.

BD12,2639

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the Foundation Chairman's Report be received as information.

CARRIED

11. OTHER STAFF REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS

11.1 ERO Posting 013-5018 and ERO Posting 013-4992

Scott Peck advised the members of two postings made by the Provincial government to the Environmental Registry Office, the first outlining proposed changes to modernize conservation authority operations and the second to focus conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property.

Conservation Ontario is preparing comments for both postings. Staff will also separately submit HCA comments regarding the postings and HCA core mandate and responsibilities. One of the main identified objectives is clarifying Conservation Authority mandates and what is considered core vs. non-core programming. Staff comments included that natural hazards and land management programs and services are core, but from a watershed management perspective so are natural heritage related programs and services, as all are intertwined. Scott further commented that HCA has a good relationship with the City of Hamilton who has funded many additional programs. However, it was acknowledged the City may also

face funding pressures for non-CA related programs as a result of Provincial funding changes.

Scott answered member questions.

Lisa Burnside noted to the board that the 50% cut to our Section 39 grant does put us into a deficit position for 2019 as our budget is already set and approved and will have to deal with it by year end

While we have not identified any specific service or program changes at this time, she affirmed that the HCA remains committed to its flood management program and priority of protecting life and minimizing property damage related to flooding and erosion and that staff will juggle program priorities and use reserve monies this year to make up the gap. Lisa noted that staff anticipate there will be some greater clarity from the province as some policies and regulations are made, which will then help the us assess impact and in our decision-making.

Brad Clarke requested the final report to ERO be shared with the Board.

BD12,2640

MOVED BY: Chad Collins

SECONDED BY: Brad Gautreau

THAT staff be directed to develop and submit a Hamilton Conservation Authority specific submission to the ERO Postings 013-5018 and 013-4992 based on staff review and in consultation with Conservation Ontario.

CARRIED

11.2 Proposal for Permanent October 1 Commencement of Rothsay's Annual Discharge Season

Scott Peck presented a report indicating Rothsay has requested the early allowable discharge date be changed to October 1 for their annual discharge season, beginning this October 1, 2019, on a permanent basis and subject to certain criteria being met, including meeting conditions of their Environmental Compliance Approval, continued water quality monitoring with HCA staff and a report on the results of the early commencement to HCA and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks staff.

Scott answered the members' questions.

BD12,2641

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman

SECONDED BY: Chad Collins

THAT, provided the wastewater to be discharged to Christie Reservoir complies with all standards identified in Rothsay's Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)

for wastewater works issued by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Hamilton Conservation Authority approve a change to the earliest allowable discharge date to October 1 for the Rothsay Annual Discharge Season, commencing October 1, 2019; and,

THAT all regular testing of wastewater, and associated reporting of results, continue by Rothsay; and,

THAT HCA staff work with Rothsay regarding a monitoring program (by HCA) as it relates to the continued review of downstream water quality, with costs covered by Rothsay as required; and further,

THAT Rothsay report on the results of the early commencement of the normal fall discharge period to the HCA and MECP staff.

CARRIED

11.3 Current Watershed Conditions as of April 23, 2019

Scott Peck indicated we have seen significant amounts of rain in April but came through the period without any reports of flooding associated with the watercourses or Lake Ontario. The creeks continue to run at elevated level. Lake Ontario is about 35 cm above average water levels for this time of year. Lake Ontario levels are currently being controlled to assist with flooding of the Ottawa River and in Montreal. Staff expect the level will decrease once the flooding has receded. Staff continue to monitor creek and levels.

BD12,2642

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Brad Gautreau**

THAT the memorandum titled Current Watershed Conditions as of April 23, 2019 be received.

CARRIED

11.4 Upcoming HCA and Partner Events

Gord indicated all Conservation Areas are ready for the May long weekend. He also highlighted the success of the early opening of the Shuttle Hub for the Easter long weekend, estimating that 1200 people and 400 cars were redirected from the Greensville community. He thanked the City of Hamilton for their support in piloting the special enforcement area, early indications are positive.

BD12,2643

**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

THAT the memorandum titled Upcoming HCA and Partner Events be received.

CARRIED

12. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

13. IN-CAMERA ITEMS FOR MATTERS OF LAW, PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY

BD12,2644

**MOVED BY: Brad Gautreau
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT the Board of Directors moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.

CARRIED

13.1 Confidential Report – BD/Apr 02-2019

Scott Peck presented the report and answered member's questions.

BD12,2645

**MOVED BY: Brad Clark
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT Report BD/Apr 02-2019 be approved and remain in camera.

CARRIED

13.2 Confidential Verbal Update– BD/Apr 03-2019

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update regarding property matter and answered the member's questions.

BD12,2646

**MOVED BY: Chad Collins
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.

CARRIED

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the HCA Main Office, Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario. The meeting will be the Annual General Meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

May 14, 2019

Carolyn O'Neill
Great Lakes Office
Great Lakes and Inland Waters Branch
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
40 St Clair Avenue West, Floor 10
Toronto, ON
M4V1M2

Dear Ms. O'Neill:

Re: Environmental Registry Posting – 013-5018
Modernizing conservation authority operations - Conservation Authorities Act

At the May 2, 2019 Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (HCA) Board of Directors meeting, the following motion was passed.

“THAT staff be directed to develop and submit a Hamilton Conservation Authority specific submission to the ERO Posting 013-5018 based on staff review and in consultation with Conservation Ontario”

In this regard, HCA staff offer the following comments for consideration.

As a starting point, it is important to highlight that conservation authorities were originally created to address concerns from the farming community, naturalists, hunters, and fishers regarding the poor state of the natural environment and the need to establish programs based on watershed boundaries for natural resource management. Conservation authorities were formed resulting from local concerns and initiatives and in partnership with municipalities. Key principles in establishing a Conservation Authority included cost sharing between the province and the municipalities, and that conservation authority jurisdiction was based on watershed boundaries.

As it relates to the HCA, in addition to our natural hazard protection and management program, conservation and management of conservation authority lands and drinking water source protection (as prescribed under the Clean Water Act), we have many watershed management programs that provide services to our watershed stakeholders and residents that enhance the environment in our watershed. Programs such as water quality monitoring, terrestrial and aquatic ecological monitoring, landowner stewardship and outdoor environmental education all fall within the context of watershed management and providing a healthy, liveable community for watershed stakeholders and residents. The original

partnership approach is working and the broader context for watershed management should be maintained within the changes proposed to the Conservation Authorities Act.

Core Programs

EOR 013-5018 outlines changes to the Conservation Authorities Act that will "Clearly define the core mandatory programs and services provided by conservation authorities to be, natural hazard protection and management, conservation and management of conservation authority lands, drinking water source protection (as prescribed under the *Clean Water Act*), and protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed (as prescribed under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*)". This direction is included in Section 21.1 of the proposed Bill 108, More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 which states:

"Mandatory programs and services:

21.1 (1) If a program or service that meets any of the following descriptions has been prescribed by the regulations, an authority shall provide the program or service within its area of jurisdiction:

1. Programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards.
2. Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title.
3. Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the Clean Water Act, 2006.
4. Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities under an Act prescribed by the regulations."

While the HCA is supportive of the Province's objectives to clearly define core programs and services, it is unclear within the identified areas what that would specifically include as Section 21.1 of Bill 108 notes that the program or service needs to be "prescribed by the regulations". It would be beneficial for the province to provide a clear definition of these core mandatory programs and services and for the conservation authorities to be included in these discussions.

HCA believes that programs relating to water and groundwater monitoring, aquatic and terrestrial ecological monitoring, landowner stewardship, environmental education and natural heritage restoration, as examples, are also fundamental to the core mandate of a watershed management agency. These programs all work toward supporting a healthy watershed and our ability to support climate change adaptation with integrated watershed efforts. HCA's new strategic plan identifies interconnected strategic priority areas in consideration of watershed conditions and challenges. These strategic areas of focus, which define HCA's core program areas, include water management, natural heritage conservation, education and environmental awareness, conservation area experience, with organizational excellence at the centre. These program areas are all key in the face of urban growth and population pressures.

Increase Transparency

It is proposed to "increase transparency in how conservation authorities levy municipalities for mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services." The proposal is to "Update the *Conservation Authorities Act*, an Act introduced in 1946, to conform with modern transparency standards by ensuring that municipalities and conservation authorities review levies for non-core programs after a certain period of time (e.g., 4 to 8 years)."

HCA supports increasing transparency and clarity in how conservation authorities levy for mandatory and non-mandatory programs which will have municipalities and authorities working together in a joint and cooperative fashion. The HCA is in a unique situation in this regard as, having 99% of its watershed in the City of Hamilton, the oversight provided by the Board is heavily directed by City representatives, and consequently, the existing programs at present are broadly supported by the municipality. Notwithstanding, it remains important for the province to provide adequate funding for core programs.

A clear understanding of what a core mandatory program versus a non-mandatory program will be needed however to meet this standard and provide consistency across the province. While Bill 108 provides some direction in this regard and speaks to "prescribed regulations", it would be beneficial to have an understanding of what the regulations will propose.

In regard to the time period to review levies for non-mandatory programs, a period beyond 4 years is supported (that is, 5 to 8 years) to incorporate the municipal election cycle and provide the required time to have new Board members in place to become familiar with the HCA programs and services.

Additional changes

The following three (3) changes are also proposed:

- establish a transition period (e.g. 18 to 24 months) and process for conservation authorities and municipalities to enter into agreements for the delivery of non-mandatory programs and services and meet these transparency standards;
- enable the Minister to appoint an investigator to investigate or undertake an audit and report on a conservation authority; and
- clarify that the duty of conservation authority board members is to act in the best interest of the conservation authority, similar to not-for profit organizations.

The HCA supports the proposed transition period and we support the intention to enable the Minister to appoint an investigator to investigate or undertake an audit and report on a conservation authority. However, we would suggest that if the province is appointing the investigator, the costs should be covered by the province. Lastly, as with all other not-for profit organizations, we agree that the duty of conservation authority board members is to act in the best interest of the conservation authority,

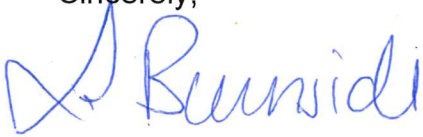
The province also is proposing to proclaim un-proclaimed provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act. *While further information and details are required to describe more specifically how these provisions are to be implemented*, the HCA is supportive of these initiatives in principle as it should help to promote consistency and clarity to our watershed stakeholders and residents.

In summary, we note the following issues:

- The original partnership approach and broader context for watershed management should be maintained in the changes proposed to the Conservation Authorities Act;
- The definition of core mandate should include the full range of unique programs and services that Conservation Authorities provide to help conserve the environment, and to promote healthy, liveable and resilient communities;
- Clarification is required regarding entering into agreements for non-mandatory programs;
- Clarification on definitions for capital costs versus operating and maintenance costs should be provided; and
- Further opportunities for consultation and input on the implementation of the noted prescribed regulations should be provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Registry posting. Should you have questions, please contact the undersigned at (905)525-2181, ext. 126 or by email at Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca.

Sincerely,



Lisa Burnside,
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

LB/TSP



Key Recommendations for Modernization of Conservation Authority Operations and Schedule 2 of Bill 108

(ERO 013-5018)

Submitted May 10, 2019

*The following are recommendations submitted by Conservation Ontario to Environmental Registry Posting 013-5018, **Modernization of Conservation Authority Operations** and to **Schedule 2 Bill 108**.*

Recommendation #1: THAT Schedule 2 Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) of Bill 108 be deferred from enactment to provide CAs with an adequate opportunity to consult with their member municipalities

The ERO 45 day comment period and the introduction of amendments to the CAA as part of the Housing Supply Action Plan is not conducive to the conservation authorities' (CAs) abilities to explain or seek comment back from Boards of Directors or adequately communicate with member municipalities in a meaningful way. Especially not during operational pressures of the flood season and with the additional pressure of an in-year provincial funding cut of 50% to the flood management program. The conservation authorities are still trying to adapt to the loss of funding (and the ripple effects of other reductions such as the 50 million tree program) and how that will impact the member municipalities. Additionally, CAs have not had the opportunity to discuss the posting and proposed legislation as a collective (i.e. Conservation Ontario Council).

Recommendation #2: THAT the mandatory programs and services [proposed Section 21.1 (1)], to be prescribed in regulation, be supported and include the addition of: Conserving natural resources

Conservation authorities are concerned about defining and limiting a CA's core mandatory program to the items listed in the ERO and Bill 108 (i.e. natural hazards, conservation-owned lands, source water protection, Lake Simcoe watershed). While these are supported as core mandatory programs and services, they fail to recognize the critical role that CAs play as a watershed and natural resource management agencies. As outlined in the *Conservation Authorities Act (CAA)*, the objects of an authority are to "provide, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs and services designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources..." (Sec. 20(1)). Further, for the purposes of accomplishing its objects, an authority has the power to "study and investigate the watershed and to determine programs and services whereby the natural resources of the watershed may be conserved, restored, developed and managed" (Sec. 21(1)(a)). Watershed management has been the foundation for all CA programs and services since the inception of conservation authorities.

Residents of all watersheds rely on clean and sustainable drinking water, breathable air, green spaces and healthy rivers and streams for recreation, healthy soils, forests and wetlands that provide habitat for wildlife, as well as public health and many other benefits. Being in nature restores people and helps

them to stay active and healthy. The *Conservation Authorities Act* established in 1946 was predicated on responding to local issues on a watershed basis.

Including “conserving natural resources” as a mandatory program and eligible for municipal levy would recognize the important role that CAs play in protecting the function and resilience of natural resources at the watershed level. This would be consistent with the “Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan”, which states that conserving natural resources is part of a CA’s core mandate. CAs can assist the Province and local municipalities in addressing climate change and natural resource related issues at the watershed scale which is most cost efficient.

This role of CAs in undertaking programs on a watershed scale would be covered by mandatory programs and services under “conserving natural resources”. It would basically include the key elements of watershed management such as water quality and water quantity and vegetative cover monitoring and modelling on a watershed basis to support multiple objectives that are relevant to the watershed jurisdiction, including improvements to Great Lakes water quality, watershed resilience to climate change (e.g. flooding, biodiversity) and land use change (e.g. urbanization, agricultural intensification). In addition to education programs and community engagement, and land acquisition considerations, it would also include other watershed scale programs such as rural and urban stewardship with local landowners and agencies that improves and protects water quality and quantity and watershed biodiversity through restoration, rehabilitation and green infrastructure.

NOTE: In the absence of implementing the above mandatory program and service then it is imperative that the watershed management activities that advise or reinforce the ability to deliver on the mandatory programs (i.e. natural hazards, source water protection (including Great Lakes) and management of CA conservation areas/lands), be included in the prescribed regulations. These are further described in Recommendation #3 re: Standards and Requirements. In effect, as currently proposed, this would mean that watershed management programs and services related to biodiversity (e.g. management of fish and wildlife habitat, studies and advice on natural heritage, invasive species and endangered species management) and associated education programming would not be eligible for watershed-wide municipal levy support without the agreement of each individual municipality.

Recommendation #3: THAT the scope of standards and requirements to be prescribed in regulations capture all key elements of the mandatory program and service area, as well as, foundational watershed management and climate change adaptation activities required to support a CA’s ability to deliver on the mandatory program and service while respecting the fact that all eligible activities may not be relevant for every watershed

AND THAT these be developed in consultation with conservation authorities, municipalities, and other stakeholders.

Of critical importance will be the development of standards and requirements for each of the core mandatory program areas and what constitutes eligible activities within each of the mandated areas.

The core mandatory programs and services are supported and should include the following key elements:

1. Natural hazards (management) - Natural Hazard Information and Management Actions; Flood Forecast and Warning; Ice Management; Section 28 Regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act*; Plan Review and EA Review for Natural Hazards; Low Water Response; and, Flood and Erosion Control and Low Flow Augmentation Infrastructure
2. Conservation and management of conservation authority lands - Conservation Land Information and Management Plans; Section 29 Regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act*; and, Recreation Water Control Infrastructure
3. Drinking water source protection - Administering Source Protection Committees (SPCs); Assisting the SPC in the latter's powers and duties to be carried out under the *Clean Water Act*; Assisting partner SP Authorities in the source protection region (SPR); Updating Source Protection Plans; Delivering annual progress reports; and, Policy implementation and integration
4. Protection of the Lake Simcoe watershed - that which is identified by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

The standards and requirements need to be framed to allow the specifics of each CA's jurisdiction to dictate the relevance/applicability of each. For example, each CA has different natural hazards with different levels of risk based upon the specific geography of their jurisdiction and, as a further example, some CAs do not have flood and erosion control infrastructure (e.g. dams) to maintain or operate.

If "conserving natural resources" (see Recommendation 2) is not identified as a core program area to reflect the strong watershed management perspective of CAs, then foundational watershed management activities should be identified in the implementation regulations as key components required to carry out the proposed core program areas. As well, the activities described in regulation for each of these core mandatory programs and services should enable our ability to support climate change adaptation as per Ontario's Environment Plan. It is critical that the Ministry consult with conservation authorities, municipalities, and other stakeholders on the development of the regulations outlining the requirements for all mandatory program areas (listed above).

The following paragraphs summarize the relevance of the foundational watershed management activities to the proposed mandatory programs and services:

Watershed management provides the necessary understanding and knowledge of watershed natural resources to effectively make informed decisions and carry out natural hazard protection and management, conservation and management of conservation authority lands and source water protection. Watershed management involves examining the environment and human activities within a watershed area and assesses the relationships between these activities to determine how the natural hazards, conservation areas and water resources of the watershed should be managed to ensure the health and safety of people and the protection of property, that conservation lands retain and enhance their ecological integrity and source water is protected.

Natural Hazards - By applying a holistic approach to watershed management, a range of factors are taken into consideration such as water quality/quantity, significant water features, precipitation, climate water balance, water budgets and the hydraulic cycle. This work provides the foundation upon which natural hazards (e.g. flood and erosion) can be evaluated. Watershed management provides the necessary understanding of the overall system and subsequently guides management actions needed to reduce the risks of natural hazards.

Conservation and management of conservation authority lands - Conservation authority lands often include a watershed's most ecologically sensitive and robust areas. These areas support flood resiliency, filter air and water contaminants, and protect drinking water resources. Watershed management provides the necessary understanding of the overall health of the watershed and subsequently guides conservation and management actions needed to ensure the health of conservation areas.

Source Water Protection - The scientific work, modelling and data collection that is conducted through watershed management supports the science of source water protection. The water budgets, continued monitoring of water quality and water quantity as well as the modelling of surface water, groundwater and climate factors all provide the data and detail necessary to identify threats, risks and opportunities with respect to our drinking water resources. This information, consolidated with land use information, climate modelling and watershed stressors can identify potential future risks and threats to our drinking water resources and guides management actions needed to reduce the risks.

Recommendation 4: THAT the government remove the requirements for individual Municipal Council budget agreement for watershed-based programs called "other programs and services"/ non-mandatory

AND THAT updates to the municipal levy regulation and training be developed in collaboration with conservation authorities and municipalities

The ERO posting and Bill 108 propose to fundamentally change the CA/municipal funding relationship. As a general comment, it is agreed that CAs should be transparent in how they levy municipalities for both mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services. It is further agreed that CA budgets should be presented to their municipalities on an annual basis and distinguish levy funded programs from those that are not. Modern transparency standards for levy review and service agreements/memorandum of understandings for programs and services that the CA is undertaking on behalf of an individual municipality are supported.

The creation of conservation authorities recognized that water does not stop flowing at political boundaries and that there are economies of scale through cost sharing. Members of the Board of Directors are appointed by all involved municipalities, and this watershed management governance provides an essential multi-municipality perspective on which program investments will most benefit a watershed and should be supported by a municipal levy. The provincial proposal limits use of municipal levy to "mandatory programs and services" (standards and requirements to be prescribed in regulation) related to Natural Hazards, Conservation-owned Lands, Drinking Water Protection, and to Lake Simcoe

watershed protection. “Other programs and services”/non-mandatory identified by a CA Board for their watershed would need individual Municipal Council agreement on budget for them (21.1.2(2)) and accounting with each municipality that participates in order for a municipal levy to be applied. The proposal will consume resources and may unintentionally lead to financial inefficiencies and poor management of watershed resources. In effect it undermines the mandate, premise and value of the multi-municipality/watershed governance of conservation authorities.

The provision of a transition period and the ability to request an extension that has been provided in the proposed legislation is appreciated; however, this new administrative instrument appears cumbersome at best and prone to definitional challenges. It transfers components of budget decision making to municipal councils rather than with the Board of Directors. Instead we encourage a review of current training for CA Boards and municipalities with an emphasis on member roles, powers and responsibilities, as a reminder that program and budget control is already fully within their power. The existing governance structure was designed for this level of control; it seems more efficient to maximize the effectiveness of the existing governance structure through training than to create a new administrative tool that will greatly complicate the process, as well as create an additional administrative burden. It is unclear why a government that wants to reduce red tape and improve efficiencies is creating such a complicated and time consuming process for watershed management programs and services CA Boards deem necessary to provide.

NOTE: If Recommendation 2 is adopted then the administrative burden is reduced and this section could be retained to capture the rare circumstances when municipal levy is proposed to be used for “other programs and services”.

Recommendation 5: THAT the Province continue to invest in the core mandatory programs and services to be delivered by conservation authorities and support CA eligibility for other provincial funding programs

There are currently provincial transfer payments to all CAs for natural hazards (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) and source water protection (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks). The Province’s ‘Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan’ recognizes how issues such as climate change can impact and threaten Ontario’s economic prosperity and the well-being of its people; and states that addressing these challenges is a shared responsibility. However, the 2019 Ontario budget cut 50% of the natural hazards program funding to conservation authorities. This seems to be a contradiction to the Environment Plan commitments and is a concerning signal that the Province is on a path to reducing the remainder of its natural hazards financial support responsibilities to municipalities who, themselves, have also seen a reduction in their own provincial transfer payments as well as cuts to public health and other shared cross sector programs. This is unfair and the province is encouraged to continue its investment in these core mandatory programs and services.

Additionally, individual CAs are important on-the-ground delivery agents for numerous provincial programs through special contracts for example and it should be ensured that the eligibility of CAs for

these other provincial funding opportunities is not negatively affected and in fact, is improved. This would include provincial funding programs such as the Trillium Fund and the Canada-Ontario Agreement for Great Lakes Water Quality.

Recommendation 6: THAT core mandatory programs may be applied to municipal levy or could utilize other sources of revenue.

Given the instability of provincial transfer payments and additional pressures on municipal budgets from provincial cuts, the CA/municipal budget relationship should retain the CA Board's ability to charge and use fee revenues. It is our request that these core mandatory programs may be applied to municipal levy or could utilize other sources of revenue. For example, CAs want the option of using self-generated revenue to support conservation (owned) land management, in addition to, or rather than, municipal levy.

Other Proposals – Appointment of an Investigator (proposed Section 23.1 (4 – 8)); Duty of Members (proposed Section 14.1)

These proposals are supported. With regard to investigations, it is assumed that given the costs of an investigation are to be borne by the Authority that some measures would be established to determine the reasons why an investigation may be initiated and whether or not concerns can be first addressed through a Board process.

Any questions regarding this submission can be directed to Bonnie Fox (Manager of Policy and Planning) at bfox@conservationontario.ca or 905-895-0716 ext 223.



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

May 14, 2019

Alex McLeod
Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON
K9J 8M5

Dear Mr. McLeod:

Re: Environmental Registry Posting – 013-4992
Focusing conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property

At the May 2, 2019 Hamilton Region Conservation Authority (HCA) Board of Directors meeting, the following motion was passed.

“THAT staff be directed to develop and submit a Hamilton Conservation Authority specific submission to the ERO Posting 013-4992 based on staff review and in consultation with Conservation Ontario”

In this regard, HCA staff offer the following comments for consideration.

HCA understands the purpose of the proposed regulation is to streamline the conservation authority permitting process. The proposed regulation would consolidate and harmonize the existing individual conservation authority regulations into a single Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry approved regulation. The proposed regulation is intended to ensure consistency in requirements across conservation authorities, and to support faster, more predictable and less costly approvals.

HCA supports the government's interest in finding ways to improve the efficiency of the development approvals process. While some streamlining of the conservation authorities regulations may be helpful in this regard, in HCA's experience there can be many causes of delay in the land use planning and development approvals process. In our experience, where conservation authorities are appropriately engaged in the planning process from the outset, and there is a cooperative approach between development proponents and review and approval agencies, there are no significant issues or delays in conservation authority permitting once municipal approvals are granted.

In looking to achieve efficiencies it is suggested other mechanisms also be considered, including for example requirements for development proponents to pre-consult with approval and review agencies, to establish mechanisms that would allow for the setting of minimum standards for development application submissions, and maintaining current restrictions on when development proponents can appeal a municipal planning decision.

The conservation authorities play an important role in the land use planning system and development application review process. Our regulatory review function helps to achieve government objectives as they relate to providing healthy, safe and resilient communities, and conserving the environment. The critical role of conservation authorities should be maintained as part of any changes to the regulations.

Updating Definitions and Terms

The province proposes to "Update definitions for key regulatory terms to better align with other provincial policy, including: "wetland", "watercourse" and "pollution"". The HCA is supportive of the update of these definitions as it will provide clarity and consistency across the province and will assist HCA staff in the implementation of our regulatory program.

It is also proposed to "define undefined terms including: "interference" and "conservation of land" as consistent with the natural hazard management intent of the regulation". The HCA is supportive of defining these terms as it will provide clarity and consistency across the province and will assist HCA staff in the implementation of our regulatory program.

Reducing Regulatory Restrictions for Wetlands

Reducing regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed is also proposed. The HCA is generally supportive of this approach provided that the hydrologic function of the wetland or public safety is not impacted. It is requested that conservation authorities be consulted in an effort to have a dialogue to determine what form the regulatory reductions would take and to what type of development this would apply to from an implementation perspective. Further, it is unclear what "hydrological connection" means in this regard and this should be reviewed as well to define this term.

Conservation authorities play an important role in the provincial land use planning system, and in helping to meet the government's objectives as they relate to the provision of healthy, resilient communities and conserving the natural environment. In defining key terms and considering regulatory reductions, HCA suggests that sufficient scope should be provided to allow conservation authorities to consider the conservation of important natural heritage features and functions and the protection of the environment as part of their reviews. This is in recognition of the fact that conservation authority regulatory review and permitting is in many cases the only level of review

required for a proposed development, providing the only opportunity to consider impacts and the protection of the environment. This critical review function should be maintained.

Exemption of Low-risk Activities

It is also proposed to exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit including certain alterations and repairs to existing municipal drains subject to the *Drainage Act* provided they are undertaken in accordance with the *Drainage Act* and *Conservation Authorities Act* Protocol. Within the HCA watershed, there are few municipal drains subject to the Drainage Act and in this regard, we rarely deal with permit applications for work relating to municipal drains. With that said, we are supportive of this proposal to exempt low-risk activities. We understand that this exemption would reduce time and costs for this type of work. Our concern with the proposal relates to what type of activity would be deemed low-risk and not subject to requiring a permit. It is requested that conservation authorities be consulted in an effort to have a dialogue to determine what would be defined as low-risk activities. Further, it is noted that the HCA is also supportive of including the low risk activities outlined in the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act protocol. Since this protocol was developed in 2008 and approved by the province 6 years ago, a review of the protocol may be warranted.

HCA staff are generally supportive of the proposal to "allow conservation authorities to further exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit provided in accordance with conservation authority policies. These low risk activities should be identified and limited to parts of natural hazard areas where there is current technical information and mapping. As noted above, our concern with the proposal relates to what type of activity would be deemed low-risk and not subject to requiring a permit. It is requested that conservation authorities be consulted in an effort to have a dialogue to determine what would be defined as low-risk activities and to help promote consistency across conservation authorities in terms of what types of activities could potentially be exempted.

As it relates to the proposed exemption for low-risk activities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should consider the requirements that will need to be in place for the implementation of this provision such as regulation maps that are current and a regular maintenance process is in place. Provincial funding is required in updating components of the natural hazard maps may be necessary e.g. floodplain and wetland mapping. Current and reliable maps are a key part of the successful implementation of this option so the public can use the conservation authority regulation maps to identify where an exemption may or may not be applicable and avoid enforcement issues. HCA policies would need to be updated and approved by the Board of Directors in order to be clear on the type of activities and what type of an exemption may apply. Lastly it is noted that the HCA has invested significant resources over many years to develop regulation mapping that is available to the public. The following link connects you to HCA regulation mapping: <http://conservationhamilton.ca/regulated-areas-map-tool/>.

Internal Policies that Guide Permit Decisions

The HCA fully supports the proposal to require conservation authorities to develop, consult on, make publicly available and periodically review internal policies that guide permitting decisions. The HCA currently has a Board of Directors approved document that guides planning and regulation application titled "Planning & Regulation Policies and Guidelines", dated October 2011. This document is a public document and is posted on the HCA website at

<https://conservationhamilton.ca/images/PDFs/Planning/PlanRegPolicyGuidewAppendices.pdf>.

Changes to Mapped Regulated Areas

The HCA supports the proposal to require conservation authorities to notify the public of changes to mapped regulated areas such as floodplains or wetland boundaries. This would be undertaken for conservation authority lead projects. Projects lead by municipalities or other agencies would follow their own processes. Guidance on acceptable public notification processes would be helpful to outline options available to conservation authorities. The guidelines should consider factors such as the scale and scope of changes, alternative public notification opportunities to avoid duplication as well as the size of the watershed for comprehensive update.

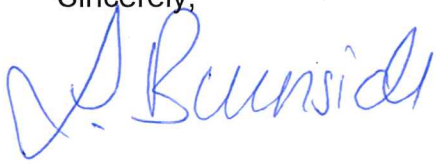
Service Delivery Standards

The proposal to require conservation authorities to establish, monitor and report on service delivery standards including requirements and timelines for determination of complete applications and timelines for permit decisions is supported by the HCA. We monitor our timing for responses on a monthly basis. On average, the HCA processes 87 permit applications per year. For major permit applications, 95% of the applications are processed within the 90 day standard whereas for minor applications, 87% of the applications are processed within the 30 day standard. We continue to work on internal processes and with our stakeholders on pre-consultation efforts and complete applications to build on our success regarding processing times. It is noted technical guidelines and checklists are used as part of the review process. HCA would support an update to the 2002 Provincial Natural Hazard Guideline including new information to address climate change.

The conservation authorities play an important role in the land use planning system and development application review process. Our regulatory review function helps to achieve government objectives as they relate to providing healthy, safe and resilient communities, and conserving the environment. The critical role of conservation authorities should be maintained as part of any changes to the regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Environmental Registry posting. Should you have questions, please contact the undersigned at (905)525-2181, ext. 126 or by email at Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Burnside". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "B".

Lisa Burnside,
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

TSP/tsp



May 21, 2019

Alex McLeod
Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on "Focusing conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property" (ERO# 013-4992)

Dear Mr. McLeod:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on "Focusing conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property". Conservation Ontario (CO) is the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit in any way comments submitted by conservation authorities on this proposal.

Conservation Ontario is pleased that the Government is moving forward with the proposal to update the Section 28 (S.28) regulation made under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. As conservation authorities are the organizations solely responsible for implementing this regulation, it is imperative that CAs be involved as the Government moves forward with drafting of the regulation. This involvement in the drafting of the regulation will ensure administrative efficiency, particularly as it relates to clarity, ease of use and consistency amongst conservation authorities. It is noted that the current proposal lacks sufficient detail to adequately consult with all interested parties, therefore, Conservation Ontario's positioning may change as additional information about the proposal becomes available.

Recommendation #1: THAT CAs be directly consulted with by MNRF on the legislative drafting of the S. 28 Regulation.

This letter includes general comments and a detailed Attachment 1 which provides specific comments on all aspects of the proposal, based on Conservation Ontario's current understanding.

General Comments

Provincial Support Required

This proposal contains a number of "transparency measures" such as requiring CAs to develop, consult on, make publicly available and periodically review internal policies that guide permitting decisions; notify the public of changes to mapped regulated areas such as floodplains or wetlands boundaries; and establish, monitor and report on service delivery standards including requirements and timelines for determination of complete applications and timelines for permit decisions. Conservation Ontario is strongly supportive of these transparency measures, and note that most CAs already employ these best practices. Many early CA policies were developed, in part, based on province-wide policies that were

developed collaboratively between Conservation Ontario and individual conservation authorities, utilizing the CO Section 28 Regulations Committee. If the Ministry wishes to prescribe such matters as the development, consultation requirements, and review period of internal policies, it is recommended that they prepare model guidance for use by CAs in collaboration with Conservation Ontario and other affected stakeholders. To promote consistency amongst the CAs, these model policies should be adopted by reference within the S. 28 regulation and serve as the basis for CA internal policies. Conservation Ontario is prepared to assist with the development of these policies.

Recommendation #2: THAT MNRF in collaboration with CO and other stakeholders, develop model guidance for CA internal policies and that this model guidance be adopted by reference within the S. 28 regulation.

It is further noted that this proposal does not contain a timeframe for enactment of a new S. 28 regulation. Given that proposed legislated amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* were included in Bill 108, *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019* it is assumed that an update to the S. 28 regulation will occur in the near future. As the CAs are not aware of what will exactly be contained within the updated S. 28 (preventing them from commencing new policy development) and no provincial implementation support material has been prepared, it is recommended that the regulation include a two year transition period to update CA policies to be consistent with the Provincial implementation support materials. This is especially pertinent given (potential) additional consultation requirements, coupled with the additional pressure of an in-year provincial funding cut of 50% to the flood management program.

Recommendation #3: THAT the regulation include a two year transition period to update CA policies to be consistent with the Provincial implementation support materials.

Conservation Ontario strongly supports the sub-action item found within A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan to update technical guidance to protect people and property from flooding and water-related hazards. This provincial technical guidance has not been updated since 2002 and does not reflect current science, land use patterns and the changing climate. In this regard, conservation authorities have staff expertise and experience to actively assist from both policy and technical perspectives and request that they be party to the update. For greater efficiency and certainty for proponents, in addition to supporting land use planning decisions under the Provincial Policy Statement, the updated technical guidance should also serve as technical guidance for permit decisions made under S.28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Recommendation #4: THAT the Province work with CAs to update technical guidance to protect people and property from flooding and water-related hazards to support land use planning decisions under the Provincial Policy Statement and permit decisions under S. 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

To promote consistency, transparency and accountability, MNRF should also coordinate mandatory training on the new S.28 regulation and its implementation policy. This training should also be recorded for future use of new CA staff. This training should take place prior to promulgation of the new S. 28 regulation.

Recommendation #5: THAT MNRF should coordinate mandatory training on the new S.28 regulation and its Provincial implementation support materials.

Wetlands

Conservation Ontario is cautiously supportive of the proposal to reduce regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed. It is understood that “where a hydrological connection has been severed” refers to areas where the potential hydrologic function has already been assessed, e.g. areas included in recent plans of subdivision.

Extreme weather events, such as flooding, have the potential to threaten our homes, businesses and infrastructure. Wetlands play an important role to help reduce flows and store floodwaters, which reduces risk and allows people greater response time to flooding emergencies. In addition, impacts to a wetland’s hydrology can result in local flooding. It is recognized that the potential impacts to the hydrologic function of a wetland is based on the scope and scale of the proposed development. Therefore, many CAs already reduce the regulatory requirements for permit applications between 30 m and 120 m, based on their Board approved policies and on the specific details of the development proposal (i.e. low risk activities that are outside of other hazards and would not impact the hydrologic function of the wetland or public safety).

It may be reasonable to reduce the regulatory restrictions between 30 m and 120 m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed, but only in a manner that maintains the protection of hydrology and that is administratively efficient and effective. It is recommended that, the MNRF in conjunction with Conservation Ontario, evaluate the types of development taking place beyond 30 m from a wetland that can interfere with the hydrologic function of a wetland and continue to regulate those activities. A potential list of these large-scale, high risk activities are included in Attachment 1.

Instructions on how to reduce regulatory restrictions between 30 m and 120 m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed should be provided through Provincial implementation support materials. Technical guidelines for assessing potential impacts to wetlands should be incorporated into the updated natural hazard guidelines.

Recommendation #6: THAT the Province, through the S. 28 Regulation, continue to regulate high risk activities taking place between 30 m and 120 m of a wetland that could interfere with its hydrologic function.

Flood Event Standards

Ontario has recently experienced a number of extreme weather events that have threatened people and property, including homes, businesses and infrastructure as a result of flooding. As we adapt to changing weather events, including concentrated periods of heavy precipitation within isolated storm cells and an increase in impervious surfaces, it may be time to re-evaluate the current flood event standards found within the individual S. 28 regulations. It is therefore recommended that the Province undertake a review of the current flood event standards and update them based on the best available science, including observed flooding. This update to the standards should include provisions to consider climate change from a regulatory perspective.

Recommendation #7: THAT the Province update, as necessary, the Flood Event Standards found within the existing S. 28 regulations based on the best available science and including a factor of safety for climate change.

More detailed comments on individual portions of the proposal are found within Attachment 1. Conservation Ontario looks forward to working closely with the Province on this update to the S. 28 regulation, made under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Conservation Ontario is also prepared to assist with the implementation support materials and updates to technical guidelines which will be necessary to focus conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property. Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at extension 226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Rich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leslie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rich".

Leslie Rich, RPP
Policy and Planning Liaison

1 Attachment

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs
Carolyn O'Neill, MECP

ATTACHMENT 1

Focusing conservation authority development permits on the protection of people and property (ERO#013-4992)

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
Consolidating and harmonizing the existing 36 individual conservation authority-approved regulations into 1 Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry approved regulation	Conservation Ontario is supportive of the proposal to consolidate and harmonize the existing 36 individual conservation authority regulations into one Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry approved regulation.	The updated regulation should include schedules which outline the appropriate flood event standards for all 36 watersheds and the ability to incorporate shoreline management plans where they have been established. These flood event standards should be updated based on the best available science.
Update definitions for key regulatory terms to better align with other provincial policy, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "Wetland"2. "Watercourse"3. "Pollution"	<p>Conservation Ontario supports the proposal to update definitions for wetlands, watercourse and pollution.</p> <p>In order to achieve a consistent interpretation of these terms and to assist in future legal matters, the MNRF should also provide implementation support materials, including updating the natural hazard technical guidelines to include wetlands, as part of this regulatory update.</p>	<p>Wetland: Conservation Ontario Council previously endorsed a request to have the definition of "wetland" align with that found in the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014.</p> <p>Watercourse: Conservation Ontario recommends that the existing definition of watercourse be maintained. It is recommended that the Province, with input from Conservation Ontario and other stakeholders, including the agricultural and development community, could develop</p>

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
		<p>criteria/technical guidelines to help determine when a feature is a watercourse that should be regulated and where the feature is simply a local drainage feature. This document could be incorporated by reference into the regulation. Criteria could include that the maintenance of the watercourse feature on the landscape contributes to watershed resilience, by preventing or reducing flooding and erosion, and therefore should be regulated to ensure that there are no impacts to natural hazards or public health or safety.</p> <p>As appropriate, exemptions within CA policy documents could be used to further clarify any other exceptions, such as storm water management ponds or farm swales outside of other hazard areas. These exemptions should be developed in consultation with the affected stakeholders.</p> <p>Pollution: Conservation Ontario recommends that the existing definition of pollution be maintained.</p> <p>Through provincial implementation support material, it should be</p>

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
		<p>clarified that this definition is intended to control erosion and sedimentation (i.e. hydro geomorphology) resulting from development activities and directing uses associated with hazardous substances outside of hazard areas. This implementation support material should clarify the role that CAs have in controlling pollution related to a proposed development activity and avoid duplication with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Park's legislated responsibility under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>.</p>
	<p>It is noted that the legislation currently empowers MNRF to create definitions for “development activity” and “hazardous land”. It is recommended that the Province take the opportunity to update those definitions as well.</p>	<p>Development activity: Conservation Ontario recommends that the existing definition of “development” found within the CAA be incorporated as the new definition for “development activity”</p> <p>Hazardous Land: Conservation Ontario recommends that the existing definition of hazardous land be maintained however the regulatory limit around hazardous lands should include an allowance to be consistent with the rest of the S.28 regulation and to reflect a factor of safety associated with the</p>

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
		mapping of hazardous land (e.g. leda clay, karst, etc).
Defining undefined terms including: “interference” and “conservation of land” as consistent with the natural hazard management intent of the regulation	<p>Conservation Ontario supports the proposal to define “interference” and “conservation of land” as consistent with the natural hazard management intent of the regulation. The proposal summary notes the important role that CAs play strengthening Ontario’s resiliency to extreme weather events and therefore, these terms should be defined to support this role. For example, the definition of conservation of land should be tied to climate change considerations (e.g. maintaining vegetative cover to assist with reducing erosion and slowing flood water due to the increase in run-off during rain storms). To reduce risks associated with natural hazards, there is a general need to protect wetlands, valleylands and watercourses from hydrologic impairment from development activities, alteration or interference at a site-specific scale, as well as at a subwatershed and watershed scale.</p> <p>In order to achieve a consistent interpretation of these terms and to assist in future legal matters, the MNRF should also provide implementation support materials as part of this regulatory update.</p>	<p>Interference: Any anthropogenic act or instance which hinders, disrupts, degrades or impedes in any way the hydrologic function of a wetland or watercourse.</p> <p>Conservation of Land: the protection, management, or restoration of lands within the watershed for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing the vegetative cover and hydrologic functions within the watershed for natural hazard management.</p>
	The province has indicated that it is proposing to proclaim sections of the CAA following the approval of the proposed regulation. This includes: “S28.1 (1) An authority may issue a permit to a person to engage in an activity specified in the permit that would otherwise be prohibited by section 28, if, in the opinion of the authority, ... (b) the activity is not likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.”	<p>Health or safety of persons should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ health and safety of all persons, including emergency responders entering natural hazard areas ○ damage to structures on or off the site ○ future costs to protect property or manage risk to people and property due to existing natural hazards, and including

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
	<p>Conservation Ontario requests that the province also provide guidance on the interpretation and implementation of this clause to assist in the review of permit applications where this test may apply. This guidance should be complimentary to the CA provincially-delegated responsibility for representing the provincial interest for S. 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement.</p>	<p>new standards related to climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ safe ingress and egress of people and vehicles during a flood event ○ risks associated with flooding of well water and septic systems ○ directing new development outside of natural hazards
<p>Reduce regulatory restrictions between 30m and 120m of a wetland and where a hydrological connection has been severed</p>	<p>Conservation Ontario is supportive in principle of the reduction of regulatory restrictions between 30 m and 120 m from wetlands <i>for low risk activities outside of other hazards that would not impact the hydrologic function of the wetland or public safety</i>. It is understood that “where a hydrological connection has been severed” refers to areas where the potential hydrologic function has already been assessed, e.g. areas included in recent plans of subdivision.</p> <p>There are certain large-scale, high risk activities taking place beyond 30 m from a wetland that have the capacity to impact the hydrology of that wetland. These activities must continue to be regulated by conservation authorities to control flooding. These activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ site grading, involving areas cumulatively equal to or greater than 1 hectare; ○ the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere, involving areas cumulatively equal to or greater than 1 hectare; ○ municipal servicing; ○ utility corridors; ○ public roads; ○ infrastructure associated with Permits to Take Water; and 	<p>Inclusion of a clause that allows a reduction of the extent of the regulated area around a wetland where the potential hydrologic impact to a wetland has been assessed and it has been demonstrated that hydrological connection has been severed.</p>

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development, such as greenhouses, cumulatively ½ hectare or greater in size. 	
Exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit including certain alterations and repairs to existing municipal drains subject to the <i>Drainage Act</i> provided they are undertaken in accordance with the <i>Drainage Act</i> and <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> Protocol	<p>Conservation Ontario is supportive in principle of the proposal to exempt some low-risk development activities from requiring a permit, including certain alterations and repairs to municipal drains subject to the <i>Drainage Act</i> provided they are undertaken in accordance with the <i>Drainage Act</i> and <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> (DART) Protocol. It is recognized that this proposed exemption would require an update to the DART protocol and it is recommended that the DART Committee be re-convened for this purpose. When considering exemptions for the DART protocol, the Province should contemplate the full range of tools embedded in the new S. 28 regulation including opportunities for permit-by-rule, adopting a document by reference and registration. For example, as drainage works have the potential to impact flood control (especially where they involve wetlands), it is essential that CAs be notified of the proposed work in advance such that the CA could assist the Municipality in ensuring the works do not increase the risks associated with flooding or other hazards.</p> <p>Conservation Ontario requests involvement in any additional conversations related to potential exemptions for low-risk activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to differentiate between Standard Compliance Requirements within regulated wetlands limits and Standard Compliance Requirements outside of regulated wetland limits ○ Require notification of the CA prior to undertaking works consistent with the DART protocol
Allow conservation authorities to further exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit provided in accordance with conservation authority policies	Conservation Ontario is supportive of the proposal to allow conservation authorities to further exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit provided in accordance with conservation authority policies. Many CAs already exempt low-risk development activities consistent with their Board-approved policies and are supportive of working with the Province to identify more streamlining opportunities.	Include a section in the regulation that would allow CAs to further exempt low-risk development activities from requiring a permit provided in accordance with CA policies.

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
	<p>This proposal would allow a conservation authority to develop possible exemption policies based on the hazards and development pressures found within their watershed where there is current technical information and mapping. A CA permit is a technical review/assessment and the regulation covers a range of natural hazards. The natural hazards in a CA's jurisdiction and the extent of the activities (i.e. scale and scope) contribute to the assessment of risk and the ability to be flexible.</p> <p>The MNRF should consider the requirements that will need to be in place for the implementation of this provision such as regulation maps that are current and regularly maintained. Provincial investment in updating components of the natural hazard maps may be necessary e.g. floodplain and wetland mapping. Current and reliable maps are a key part of the successful implementation of this option so that municipalities, other agency partners and the public can use the conservation authority regulation maps to identify where an exemption may or may not be applicable and avoid enforcement issues.</p> <p>It is recommended that the MNRF should also provide implementation support materials to provide the policy framework for exempting low-risk development activities</p>	
Require conservation authorities to develop, consult on, make publicly available and periodically review internal policies that	<p>Conservation Ontario strongly supports this requirement as it contributes to the overall transparency and accountability of the S. 28 regulatory program.</p> <p>To ensure greater consistency across the province, it is recommended that the MNRF</p>	MNRF should provide a template policy to guide permitting decisions. This document should be incorporated by reference into the S. 28 regulation.

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
guide permitting decisions	should update the natural hazard technical guidelines (including wetlands) and should develop model implementation support guidance for CAs to base their internal policies upon. Conservation Ontario is prepared to assist in both endeavours.	Include a two year transition period to update CA policies to be consistent with the Provincial implementation support materials.
Require conservation authorities to notify the public of changes to mapped regulated areas such as floodplains or wetland boundaries	<p>Conservation Ontario supports this recommendation. In April, 2018 Conservation Ontario Council endorsed the “Procedure for Updating Section 28 Mapping: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations” which could form the basis for these notification requirements. The April, 2018 document includes notification requirements which expand beyond solely public notification.</p> <p>Currently the regulations are what is referred to as a “text based” regulation and not a “mapped based” regulation. While it is acknowledged and supported that CAs should notify the public of changes to mapped regulated areas it should be equally acknowledged that the text of the regulation prevails. Maintaining text based regulations is critical for the protection of people and property from natural hazards and reflects the dynamic nature of these hazards.</p> <p>Furthermore, the requirement for public notification should differentiate between notifying the public of changes already made (e.g. MNRF has updated the provincially significant wetland boundary) and of proposed changes (e.g. the CA is undertaking a flood plain mapping project). The requirement for public notification should also relate the scale and scope of changes, alternative public notification opportunities to avoid duplication as well as the size of the watershed for comprehensive update.</p>	Recommend that the requirements are consistent with the CO “Procedure for Updating Section 28 Mapping: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations”.

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
	<p>Finally, it is recommended that the Province develop a consistent public notification process for updates to provincial wetland mapping.</p>	
<p>Require conservation authorities to establish, monitor and report on service delivery standards including requirements and timelines for determination of complete applications and timelines for permit decisions</p>	<p>Conservation Ontario is supportive of this proposed requirement for CAs to establish, monitor and report on service delivery. When developing the parameters of this requirement, it is recommended that the MNRF consider the proposed Conservation Ontario “Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review” that is currently under review.</p> <p>Although most CAs are currently able to achieve success in meeting the provincial timelines, as described in the “Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities” there are opportunities to improve the complete application process and improve the quality of technical submissions to achieve faster approvals. Technical guidelines and checklists are important for this purpose and are outlined as a best practice in CO’s Client Service and Streamlining Initiative.</p> <p>To further streamline application requirements, Conservation Ontario strongly supports the Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan commitment to “update technical guidance to protect people and property from flooding and water-related hazards” and recommends that these updates include new provincial direction on how to incorporate climate change. Conservation Ontario is prepared to assist with this update. Finally, it is recommended that the Province consider targeted investment to support the completion of comprehensive natural hazard studies.</p>	<p>Recommend that the requirements are consistent with the CO Client Service and Streamlining Initiative.</p>

General Comments

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
Will also provide the business sector with a clear and consistent regulatory environment in which to operate and will help to make approval processes faster, more predictable and less costly.	<p>Conservation Ontario recognizes the need to provide the business (and other) sectors with a clear and consistent regulatory environment in which to operate and the need to make approval processes faster, more predictable and less costly. Further to this, Conservation Ontario Council recently endorsed the Client Service and Streamlining Initiative with the goals of 1) improving client service and accountability; 2) increasing the speed of approvals and 3) reducing red tape and regulatory burden, while not jeopardizing public health and safety or the environment in the process. Many of the activities associated with this initiative are well under-way.</p> <p>It is recommended that approval processes can be made faster, more predictable and less costly through adequate policy support from the Province, more efficient review processes, and better quality submissions by the applicants. Conservation Ontario is currently working on this on a variety of fronts, including looking at opportunities to improve pre-consultation, establishing template CA-municipal MOUs, and undertaking a multi-stakeholder process flow review workshop to identify opportunities to gain further efficiencies in the planning and permitting process. As previously mentioned, Conservation Ontario strongly supports the Province's commitment to update technical guidance as an important first step.</p>	The consolidated regulation should include schedules which outline the appropriate flood event standards for all 36 watersheds and the ability to incorporate shoreline management plans.

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
<p>As more extreme weather events occur that threaten our homes, businesses and infrastructure, it's important to ensure conservation authorities deliver on their core mandate for protecting people and property from flooding and other natural hazards. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of these regulations is critical component of this government's strategy for strengthening Ontario's resiliency to extreme weather events.</p>	<p>Conservation Ontario strongly supports utilizing S. 28 as one tool to address adapting to a changing climate. As part of the update to the S. 28 regulation, it is recommended that the Province include specific elements to address extreme weather events, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updating the technical guidelines to provide provincial direction on how to include climate change considerations. These guidelines should support CA decision-making for both planning and permitting functions; ○ Standards and requirements to mitigate the impacts of climate change and provide for adaptation to a changing climate, including through increasing resiliency; ○ Ensuring that the definition of "conservation of land" ties to the CA role in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts. ○ Updating, as appropriate, the flood event standards for a watershed <p>While it is acknowledged that the Section 28 regulation can be utilized as an effective tool to adapt to a changing climate for new development proposals this regulation does not address the protection of existing development within floodplains that has occurred historically. Further to this, the Province is encouraged to continue its funding for the maintenance of existing flood (dams, dykes and channels) and erosion control structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include standards and requirements to mitigate the impacts of climate change and provide for adaptation to a changing climate, including through increasing resiliency; ○ Update definition of "conservation of land" to be complementary to mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts ○ Updating, as appropriate, the flood event standards for a watershed and Great Lakes/large inland lake shorelines

Proposed Changes	Response	Potential Details for the Regulation
<p>Once established, the Province is also proposing to bring into force un-proclaimed sections of the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> associated with conservation authority permitting decisions and regulatory enforcement.</p>	<p>Conservation Ontario strongly supports the proposed enactment of “Part VII – Enforcement and Offences” section of the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>.</p> <p>While the proclamation of the section associated with regulatory enforcement is welcomed, it must also be acknowledged that enforcement of the regulation through the court system is a costly endeavour and typically, there is no Provincial funding to assist. The Province should consider assisting CAs in their enforcement of this provincial regulation in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with Conservation Ontario to develop and deliver a timely and effective communications strategy for the public, development community, municipal and other agency partners to ensure transparency and awareness regarding the new standards; ○ Providing access to Crown Prosecutors for high risk offences; ○ Consider joint training opportunities for CA and Ministry employees; ○ Provide enforcement policy implementation support; and ○ Expedite Conservation Ontario Council’s June, 2016 request for short-form wording for more minor S.28 offences. 	

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Safety near escarpment areas

On the late evening of Friday, May 24, 2019, a male slipped and fell from Dundas Peak. The rope rescue units of the Hamilton Fire Department responded, but the man had no vital signs. On February 21, 2019, three hikers were also rescued from the side of the escarpment at Tew Falls by the rope rescue unit. None of the hikers were injured, but they became stuck on a ledge after sliding down the side of the escarpment, after going off-trail.

In light of this recent tragic incident at Dundas Peak, the Hamilton Conservation Authority would like to remind all visitors of some safety rules and information for exploring conservation areas, especially those with escarpment features.

All visitors to conservation areas are to stay on trails and not climb or otherwise bypass fencing, for their own safety and the environmental health of the areas. Some natural areas may not be fenced. Keep well back from the edge of gorges and escarpment areas, at least a body length. Visitors are also reminded that conservation areas close at sundown and should not be accessed when closed. Adults should keep children and pets well away from these areas. If a user falls in an escarpment area, the only way to assist them out of the area is through a rope rescue by the Hamilton Fire Department, who are trained to carry out these rescues safely.

Visitors should keep to marked trails at all times, not only for their own safety, but for the preservation of the many rare and sensitive plants and small animals that could be easily damaged or hurt if you leave the trails.

The Spencer Gorge area provides safe vantage points and platforms to see Webster Falls, Tew Falls and the Dundas Peak and it is important for people to stay behind the fences and barriers at these vantage points for safety.

Please stay safe while enjoying your local conservation areas. For more information on Hamilton Conservation Areas, please visit www.conservationhamilton.ca.

Media contact:

Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer
Hamilton Conservation Authority
Phone: 905-525-2181, extension 126
Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca

This media release has been formatted to be an accessible document. Should you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the HCA at 905-525-2181 and we will be happy to assist you.



Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

DATE: May 8, 2019

RE: Appointment of Voting Representatives to Conservation Ontario

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the following members be appointed to Conservation Ontario for 2019:

Designate: Chair
Alternate: Vice Chair
Second Alternate: Chief Administrative Officer
Third Alternate: Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; and further

THAT Conservation Ontario be advised of these appointments.

BACKGROUND

Conservation Ontario is a non-profit association that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.

Conservation Ontario is directed by a Council comprised of appointed and elected municipal/citizen officials from the 36 Conservation Authorities Boards of Directors and Conservation Authorities staff. Conservation Ontario's vision and mission outline the basis for its functions:

VISION

Conservation Ontario will engage Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and to shape effective policy relating to Conservation Authorities.

MISSION

To promote and continually strengthen a watershed-based conservation coalition in Ontario.

As noted in the HCA Administrative By-Law in Section 11C, Meeting Procedures, the Authority at the Annual General Meeting shall include in its course of business the appointment of the voting delegates to Conservation Ontario.

STAFF COMMENT

The HCA has traditionally designated the Chair as the voting representative to Conservation Ontario with alternates. Conservation Ontario holds quarterly meetings in the Toronto area, at a central location for the 36 conservation authorities. For 2019 the meeting dates have been set for:

- Monday April 1, 2019
- Monday June 24, 2019
- Monday September 30, 2019
- Monday December 9, 2019

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

All Conservation Authorities designate voting delegates to Conservation Ontario. It is recommended that HCA continue with its designation of the Chair with noted alternates.

Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

DATE: May 8, 2019

RE: Consent Agenda

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the current consent agenda items for applications, approval of minutes and correspondence be continued until the next AGM in 2020.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the HCA Administrative By-Laws in Section C, Meeting Procedures, (4) and (11) the Authority at the Annual General Meeting shall include in its course of business the consideration to adopt a consent agenda.

STAFF COMMENT

The HCA adopted consent agenda items with its renewed Administrative Bylaws that were passed in September 2018 to improve meeting efficiency. A consent agenda was comprised of three specific items, those being applications, approval of the minutes and correspondence. These were noted to be used by the Board of Directors if approved, on an annual basis.

As documented in the Administrative bylaws, if the consent agenda is adopted by the Board, Directors may move a consent agenda item to regular discussion in the agenda when the Chair asks for approval of the agenda.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

CONCLUSIONS

It is recommended that HCA continue with the noted consent agenda items if Directors feel that they continue to improve meeting efficiency.

Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED AND
PREPARED BY:** Neil McDougall, Secretary-Treasurer

DATE: May 8, 2019

RE: Appointment of Auditors

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the audit firm of Grant Thornton is appointed as the auditors Hamilton Conservation Authority for the year 2019.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the HCA Administrative By-Law in Section B, Governance, (7), Appointment of Auditor, the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting shall include in its course of business the appointment of the auditor for the upcoming year.

STAFF COMMENT

Grant Thornton has provided audit services for HCA for over fifteen years. They also carry out the audit of the Hamilton Conservation Foundation and the Hamilton Conservation Employee Pension Plan.

As part of their service, a senior representative of the firm attends the Budget & Administration Committee and/or Board of Directors meeting when the respective year Audited Financial Statement are presented. All services provided last year and in previous years were considered to have been undertaken in a very competent and professional manner.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Total fees paid to Grant Thornton in 2018 were \$42,900. There are two years remaining on the existing contract, at the same fee, after which we will conduct an open tender for audit services for 2021 through 2025.

CONCLUSIONS

Grant Thornton has provided excellence service to HCA and are recommended to provide continuing service in 2019.

Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

DATE: May 23, 2019

RE: 2019 Schedule of Board of Directors Meetings

BACKGROUND

The Hamilton Conservation Authority Administrative By-Law under Section C (2) Meeting Procedures – Notice of Meeting, indicates the Board of Directors shall approve a schedule for regular meetings in advance. The Board of Directors historically have met on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

STAFF COMMENT

Below is the meeting schedule for the 2019 Board of Directors meetings that was approved for 2019 at the December 6, 2018 Board meeting.

2019 Board of Directors Meeting Dates with 7pm start time:

Thursday February 7	Thursday July 4
Thursday March 7	Thursday Sept 5
Thursday April 4	Thursday October 3
Thursday May 2	Thursday November 7
Thursday June 6	Thursday December 5

Additionally, under Section C (11) Meeting Procedures – Annual Meeting, each year the Board shall designate one of the meetings as the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where the election of officers takes place. The AGM has traditionally taken place at the first meeting of each year (February), however, with the renewal of the Board after the Municipal Election, and the time the City of Hamilton required to confirm the five citizen appointments, the AGM is taking place in June 2019 this year, which is the same delayed timing that was experienced four years ago after the previous Municipal Election.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

CONCLUSIONS

The Board of Directors meeting dates for 2019 provide for 10 meetings. The Chair may at his/her pleasure, call for additional meetings as necessary or cancel meetings due to lack of agenda items.

Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

DATE: May 23, 2019

RE: Request for Proposal – Wetland Design - Saltfleet
Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the HCA staff recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT the report entitled Request for Proposals for Wetland Design - Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project be received for information; and further

THAT the associated Request for Proposals submitted for the project be provided for approval at the June 6, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Program is being undertaken by the Hamilton Conservation Authority to create wetland areas above the Niagara Escarpment in the Stoney Creek and Battlefield Creek watershed. The following are the goal and objectives of this project.

Goal

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.

Objectives

- To utilize the floodplain areas of Upper Battlefield and Upper Stoney Creeks to retain water to provide flood attenuation both above and below the Niagara Escarpment within these watershed areas.
- To enhance and enlarge existing wetland areas and to create new wetland areas to provide enhanced wetland hydrologic function to reduce the impacts of high water events and provide water to area watercourses during low flow periods.
- To restore the natural features and functions of the watercourses in the area.
- To restore, enhance and enlarge the natural heritage features associated with the floodplains, wetlands and watercourses of the area.
- To provide linkages within and between conservation area lands by utilizing the Dofasco Trail.
- To enhance and create passive recreational opportunities along the Dofasco Trail.

Land Acquisition

To date, approximately 245 acres of land has been acquired as part of this project, with these new lands comprising the Saltfleet Conservation Area. An additional parcel of land is in the process of being acquired and this parcel is the subject of this report. A report on the acquisition of this parcel was presented to the HCA Board of Directors as an “in camera” report on May 2, 2019. The acquisition is scheduled to close on June 14, 2019 and with this acquisition, the land comprising the Saltfleet Conservation Area would total 267 acres. HCA staff are continuing to work on additional acquisition of lands to meet the ongoing land area needs of this project.

RFP for Design of Wetlands

Amec Foster Wheeler (Wood PLC) was contracted by the HCA to complete the “Flood and Erosion Project for the Upper Battlefield Creek and Upper Stoney Creek Report” pursuant to the- “Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Projects, Conservation Ontario, January 2002 (amended 2013). This report was completed in February 2018 and provides specific direction for the location of the required wetlands to address flooding and erosion downstream and outlines next steps regarding the specific design requirements of the wetlands.

Flowing from the completed environmental assessment and the previous Request for Proposal approved for the HCA lands located at First Road East, HCA staff have prepared and circulated a Request for Proposals for engineering, natural heritage and archeological consulting services to complete additional studies and prepare the detailed design for the second wetland to be constructed on the newly acquired parcel that will come into HCA ownership of June 14, 2019. The detailed design will be used to prepare tender documents for the construction of the wetland.

STAFF COMMENT

A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been sent out requesting consultant services to complete this detailed design program by March 31, 2020. The closing date for this RFP is May 31, 2019 at 4pm.

Given the deadline for the RFP and timing associated with mailing the June 6, 2019 Board of Directors meeting agenda package, this background report on the project has been prepared to be included in the Board of Directors Agenda package and a brief summary report on the RFP's submitted for the project will be provided at the meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Initiatives – Implement the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Program and have the first wetland designed and constructed by 2021.

AGENCY COMMENTS

N/A

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of the project will be detailed in the tender summary report on June 6, 2019. Funds are available to do this work and are within the 2019 approved budget. Specifically, funding has been obtained through the National Disaster Mitigation Fund with a deadline for project completion of March 31, 2020.

CONCLUSIONS

The detailed design work and associated studies is the last step in the process to move toward the construction of the wetland and seeing this project come to fruition on the ground. HCA staff anticipate completion of the design phase for this wetland to be completed by March 31, 2020 with construction of the wetland commencing as funding permits. The recommended firm to complete this design program will be presented at the June 6, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.



Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

PREPARED BY: Jonathan Bastien, Water Resources Engineering

DATE: May 23, 2019

RE: Current Watershed Conditions as of May 23, 2019

CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – May 23, 2019

Current Water Levels in Major Area Watercourses

Water levels and flows are currently near baseflows to slightly elevated at all streamflow gauges (Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street, Redhill Creek at Barton Street, Stoney Creek at Queenston Road, Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, and Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street).

There are no concerns regarding watercourse flooding or significant public safety.

Current Lake Ontario Water Levels

Currently, the Lake Ontario mean daily water level is approximately 75.80 m IGLD85. This is about 75 cm above average for this time of year, and about 8 cm below the highest level recorded (May 25, 2017 (75.88m)).

Although there are no observations, reports, or expectations of significant shoreline flooding or erosion at this time, localized flooding has been reported of low-lying sections of the Desjardin Recreation Trail and Cootes Paradise. In addition, localized flooding of low-lying sections and/or localized shoreline erosion has been reported along waterfront trails in the Confederation Park and Beach Blvd areas.

Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

Based on current reservoir levels at Christie Lake Dam (approximately 765.9 ft), the reservoir is presently within the typical winter operating level range (765 to 766 ft), and is at about 20 percent of its preferred maximum (summer) storage capacity (corresponding to a water level of 773 ft).

Based on current reservoir levels at Valens Dam (275.45 m), the reservoir is presently slightly above the typical summer operating level (275.30 m), and is just below its preferred maximum (summer) storage capacity (corresponding to a water level of 275.5 m).

Reservoir levels are elevated as a result of storage of runoff from recent storm events, however reservoir levels are expected to continue to decline (in general) over the coming days.

Current Soil Conditions

Soil moisture in the surface and root-zone soils are expected to be moist and fully thawed.

RECENT STORM EVENTS

During the period of mid-April to now, there were no occurrences of significant watercourse flooding or significant Lake Ontario Shoreline erosion / flooding. However, two storm events warranted close monitoring of conditions. Also, Lake Ontario water levels have recently, and continue to be, significantly above normal, due to record inflows from Lake Erie and continuing flooding in the St. Lawrence River. This has warranted close monitoring of conditions.

Lake Ontario Shoreline Erosion / Flooding

April 29th – Currently

Lake Ontario water levels continue to be significantly above normal. Although there have been no observations, reports, or expectations of significant shoreline flooding or erosion, localized flooding / erosion has been reported (as detailed in the Current Lake Ontario Water Levels section above).

Due to the significantly above normal water levels in Lake Ontario and the potential for significant shoreline flooding / erosion hazards if substantial storm surge and wave action occurs, HCA engineering staff have closely monitored conditions and issued the following messages to the City and public:

- Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Shoreline on April 29th
- Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Shoreline on May 3rd
- Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Shoreline on May 17th

April 18th – April 23rd

Forecasts expected strong sustained winds from the north-east of up to 29 km/hr, with maximum wind gusts of up to 49 km/hr, and resulting wave heights of up to 0.9 m.

At the time, the Lake Ontario mean water level was approximately 75.2 m IGLD85, which was about 35 cm above average for that time of year.

However, there were no reports or observations of significant shoreline flooding or erosion.

In the lead up to, and during, this potential wave uprush event, HCA engineering staff closely monitored conditions, and issued the following messages to the City and public in order to communicate the potential for shoreline flooding or erosion:

- Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Shoreline on April 18th

April 12th – April 16th

Forecasts expected strong sustained winds from the north-east of up to 40 km/hr, with maximum wind gusts of up to 70 km/hr, and resulting wave heights of up to 1.7 m.

At the time, the Lake Ontario mean water level was approximately 75.2 m IGLD85, which was about 35 cm above average for that time of year.

However, there were no reports or observations of significant shoreline flooding or erosion.

In the lead up to, and during, this potential wave uprush event, HCA engineering staff closely monitored conditions, and issued the following messages to the City and public in order to communicate the potential for shoreline flooding or erosion:

- Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Shoreline on April 12th

Watercourse Flooding

May 1st – May 17th

Approximately 15 – 20 mm of rain was received across the watershed on May 1st, with an additional 10 – 20 mm of rain occurring May 3rd. A further 30 – 45 mm of rain was received May 7th to May 13th.

This resulted in public safety concerns due to the elevated water levels, faster moving water, and slippery banks, with the maximum water levels occurring on May 3rd and May 4th. In addition, localized flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels was expected to have occurred (particularly in Upper Spencer Creek and Upper Stoney Creek).

However, there were no reports or expectations of significant watercourse flooding.

Prior, during, and after this storm event, HCA engineering staff closely monitored conditions, and issued the following messages to the City and public in order to communicate the public safety concerns, as well as the potential for significant watercourse flooding:

- Watershed Conditions Statement (Water Safety) on May 3rd
- Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) on May 6th
- Flood Watch on May 8th
- Watershed Conditions Statement (Water Safety) on May 13th

April 12th – April 29th

A total of approximately 20 – 35 mm of rain was received across the watershed on April 14th, with an additional 20 – 35 mm of rain occurring April 15th to 20th, and 10 – 26 mm of rain on April 26th.

This resulted in public safety concerns due to the elevated water levels, faster moving water, and slippery banks, with the maximum water levels occurring on April 20th and 21st. In addition, localized flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels was expected to have occurred (particularly in Upper Spencer Creek and Upper Stoney Creek).

However, there were no reports or expectations of significant watercourse flooding.

Prior, during, and after this storm event, HCA engineering staff closely monitored conditions, and issued the following messages to the City and public in order to communicate the public safety concerns:

- Watershed Conditions Statement (Water Safety) on April 12th
- Updated Watershed Conditions Statement (Water Safety) on April 16th
- Updated Watershed Conditions Statement (Water Safety) on April 18th
- Updated Watershed Conditions Statement (Water Safety) on April 23th

RECENT PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

The total precipitation amounts received in the HCA watershed over the last few months are considered average, and do not indicate drought conditions.

FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS

Lake Ontario Shoreline Erosion / Flooding

According to International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board information, Lake Ontario water levels are expected to peak over the next couple of weeks, at levels similar to the May 2017 record level of 75.88 m (assuming average rainfall for this time of year).

In of itself, the forecasted peak lake levels are not expected to cause significant shoreline flooding hazards. However, significant shoreline flooding / erosion hazards are possible if substantial storm surge and wave action occurs in the coming weeks.

Lake Ontario water levels are expected to remain above normal through the summer and fall.

Watercourse Flooding

There are currently no significant rainfall events (+20 mm in a day) anticipated for the watershed over the next 2 weeks.

SYNOPSIS

As of May 23rd, 2019, HCA engineering staff continue to closely monitor Lake Ontario water levels and wind forecasts as it relates to potential shoreline hazards, and there is an active Watershed Conditions Statement (Flood Outlook) – Lake Ontario Shoreline message. No additional responses are required at this time concerning significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding / erosion, watercourse flooding, or watershed drought.



Upcoming 2019 HCA & Partner Events

Opening Weekend

June 8 & 9, 11:00am to 8:00pm

Wild Waterworks

680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

What better way than to start your summer than a day at Wild Waterworks?! Splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Make sure to visit for your chance to win 1 of 2 Family Season Passes for 2019! Bring a canned good and receive \$3.00 off regular admission. Not valid with sundown admission or other discounts. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com, phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca

Bring a Picnic for Father's Day

June 16 12:30 – 4:00 pm

Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0

Treat Dad to a day in the country. Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the beautiful, picturesque setting of Westfield. Purchase sweet treats and cool drinks from the General Store. For more information visit www.westfieldheritage.ca

Father's Day

June 16, 11:00am to 8:00pm

Wild Waterworks

680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

Cool off and celebrate a day with dad and the whole family at Wild Waterworks! Lots of contests and giveaways! Dad gets in free with 2 day admission purchases, not applicable for sundown rates. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com, phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca

Family Swims

June 17-21, June 24-26 4:00-8:00pm

Wild Waterworks

680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

Cool off after your hard day of work with the whole family at Wild Waterworks! Sundown admission rates apply, no other discounts apply. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.

Summer Kick off Beach Festival

June 29, 11:00am - 8:00pm

Wild Waterworks

680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8

Splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Enjoy all that Wild Waterworks has to offer! Save \$3.00 off regular admission when you wear your Hawaiian shirt! Not applicable with sundown rates or other discounts. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.

Yoga in the Park

June– September

Dundas Valley Conservation Area

650 Governors Road, Dundas, ON L9H 5E3

Moksha Yoga Hamilton is back and will meet every Tuesday at 6pm throughout the summer months in the Dundas Valley to offer a free* outdoor yoga class! The class will take place in the flat clearing of grass just off the Rail Trail, close to the Trail Centre building, behind the train and near the start of the Main Loop. You can't miss them! For more information, visit Moksha Yoga Hamilton's website at <https://hamilton.mokshayoga.ca/>. Parking fee applies, free to HCA Membership Pass holders

Canada Day Weekend Camping

June 28 – July 1

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

Canada Day at Westfield

July 1, 12:30 – 4:00 pm

Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton, ON L0R 1X0

Visit Westfield's historic buildings, gardens and forests or take a hike on the trails. This is a great opportunity for new Canadians to experience the history of 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

Canada Day Celebration**July 1, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Celebrate Canada Day at Wild Waterworks! Service persons receive free entry and those wearing red and white will receive \$3.00 off admission at the gate not applicable with sundown rates, or other discounts. Join in the fun with Canada themed games and contests! For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.

60's Music Day**July 5, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

60's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear a tie die shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.

70's Music Day**July 12, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Groovy!! 70's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear your favourite decade band shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.

John Burns Memorial Fishing Derby**July 6****Valens Lake Conservation Area****1691 Regional Road 97 (R.R.#6), Flamborough, Ontario N1R 5S7**

Catch the Big One and win great prizes for children and adults. Prizes for the largest northern pike, largemouth bass and, for children, panfish. Bait and boat rentals are available. Runs from sunrise to 2 p.m. For more information call 905-525-2183 or email valens@conservationhamilton.ca

80's Music Day**July 19, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

Gnarly man!! 80's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear your favourite decade band shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.

90's Music Day**July 26, 11:00am to 8:00pm****Wild Waterworks****680 Van Wagners Beach Road, Hamilton, ON L8E 3L8**

So fly!! 90's music day at Wild Waterworks will have you enjoying the best songs of the decade as you splash around and enjoy a day filled with fun in the sun! Wear your favourite decade band shirt and receive \$3 off admission at gate! Not applicable for sundown rates, or any other discount. For more information, visit www.wild-waterworks.com , phone 905-547-6141 or email wildww@conservationhamilton.ca.