



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 2, 2020



Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**This meeting will be held entirely by teleconference.
To access the meeting, please dial 1-866-219-8638.
Please then enter the conference access code: 4987945 and the # key.**

- 1. Call to Order** – Ferguson
- 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence**
 - 5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
 - 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – February 6, 2020
 - 5.3. Approved October 10, 2019 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
 - 5.4. Approved February 13, 2020 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
 - 5.5. Letters (13) from Municipalities in Support of Conservation Authorities and Rejecting Requests for and Exit Clause in the Conservation Authorities Act
 - 5.6. Letters (11) of Appreciation and Support for the Board of Directors regarding the February 6, 2020 resolution related to the Enbridge Gas Inc. easement request
 - 5.7. Email from Ontario Federation of Agriculture to Conservation Ontario regarding Conservation Authorities consultations, dated March 6, 2020
 - 5.8. Emails (2) from Jeff Laskey and Mark Osborne regarding Spencer Gorge Operations

6. Member Briefing

- 6.1. Coronavirus – Burnside

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1. Letter of Support for Conservation Authorities – Burnside

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

- 8.1. Conservation Advisory Board – February 13, 2020 – Topalovic
(Recommendations)

- 8.1.1. CA 2004 Visitor Safety at Dundas Peak
- 8.1.2. CA 2005 Westfield 2020 Accession and Deaccession List

- 8.2. Conservation Advisory Board – March 12, 2020 – Topalovic
(Recommendations)

- 8.2.1. CA 2014 Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan
- 8.2.2. CA 2015 Spencer Gorge 2020 Operations
- 8.2.3. CA 2016 Project Technical Advisory Committee

- 8.3. Foundation Chairman's Remarks – Margaret Reid

9. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

- 9.1. Release of HCA 2020 Annual Report – Burnside
- 9.2. Current Watershed Conditions as of March 23, 2020 – Peck
- 9.3. Upcoming HCA & Partner Events – None

10. New Business

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

12. Next Meeting – Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment



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: April 2, 2020

RE: Summary Enforcement Report – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
Regulation 161/06 Applications for April 2, 2020

HCA Regulation applications approved by staff between the dates of January 23, 2019 and March 23, 2020 are summarized in the following Summary Enforcement Report (SER-2/20).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Summary Enforcement Report SER-2/20 as information.

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

March 23, 2020

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, April 02, 2020

The proposed works are subject to Ontario Regulation 161/06, and in particular Section 2, Subsection (1).

SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 2/20

File Number	Date Received	Date Permit Issued	Review Days	Applicant Name	Location	Application Description	Recommendation / Conditions
F/F,C/19/99	23-Dec-19	24-Jan-20	24		437 Ofield Rd S Lot 12, Concession 2 Flamborough	construction of a minor addition and renovations to an existing industrial building and installation of a replacement septic system, at 437 Ofield Road South, Part Lot 12, Concession 2, in the City of Hamilton (former Town of Flamborough)	Approved subject to standard conditions.
SC/F,C,A/20/04	20-Jan-20	27-Jan-20	9		39 Lakegate Dr Lot 22, Concession BF Stoney Creek	construction of temporary concrete shoreline retaining wall repairs at 39 Lakegate Drive (Lawrence P. Sayers Park), Part Lot 22, Broken Front Concession, in the City of Hamilton (former City of Stoney Creek)	Approved subject to standard conditions.
H/F,C,A/20/02	16-Jan-20	31-Jan-20	17		330 Macklin St N Lot 20, Concession 1 Hamilton	placement of fill and associated grading and construction works for the raising of a section of the Desjardins Trail in a regulated area of Chedoke Creek and Cootes Paradise at 330 Macklin Street North, Part Lot 20, Concession 1, in the City of Hamilton	Approved subject to standard conditions.
F/F/20/10	30-Jan-20	06-Feb-20	8		927 Valens Rd Lot 24, Concession 5 Flamborough	placement and grading of fill for agricultural purposes in a regulated area of the Sheffield-Rockton Provincially Significant Wetland complex at 927 Valens Road, Part Lot 24, Concession 5 in the City of Hamilton (Former Town of Flamborough)	Approved subject to standard conditions.

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

March 23, 2020

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, April 02, 2020

The proposed works are subject to Ontario Regulation 161/06, and in particular Section 2, Subsection (1).

SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 2/20

F/F,C,A/19/02V	07-Jan-19	05-Mar-20	79		355 Rock Chapel Rd Lot 20, Concession 2 Flamborough	recognition of unauthorized fill placement, grading and building addition construction and to permit the construction of the proposed Phase 1 building addition only, as well as associated grading and service installation for the expansion of an existing mushroom farm operation in a regulated area of Borer's Creek	Issued to resolve an outstanding violation. Niagara Escarpment Commission approval was obtained.
SC/F,C,A/20/13	07-Feb-20	06-Mar-20	28		Victory Phase 1 - Upper Centennial Pky and Green Mountain Rd W Lot 25, Concession 5 Stoney Creek	Alteration of a watercourse consisting of bank re-grading and stabilization, drainage restoration and enhancement plantings in a regulated area of Battlefield Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
H/C,A/20/12	05-Feb-20	09-Mar-20	28		Pt Lt 2, Con 7, Dartnall Interchange to Redhill Pky Lot 2, Concession 7 Hamilton	Alteration of a watercourse consisting of the lining of an existing culvert in a regulated area of Hannon Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions

- Each nominee will be allowed to speak in support of his/her nomination with a time limit of 5 minutes;
- A vote will be held by secret ballot and no member may vote by proxy;

Neil asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, declared all offices vacant.

2. Election of Officers

2.1. Appoint Scrutineers

BD12,2734

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT, if more than one person is nominated, Scott Peck and Matt Hall be appointed scrutineers; and further

THAT all voting ballots (AGM Election Procedure) be destroyed after the meeting is concluded.

CARRIED

2.2. Election of 2020 Chair

Neil McDougall called for nominations for the 2020 Chair for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Nominated: Lloyd Ferguson

By – Mover: Tom Jackson

Neil called for nominations twice more. Having no further nominations, the office of Authority Chair for 2020 was declared closed with the following resolution.

BD12,2735

MOVED BY: Esther Pauls

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT nominations for the 2020 Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority be closed.

CARRIED

Neil asked Lloyd Ferguson if he would serve. Lloyd Ferguson indicated he would. Neil declared Lloyd Ferguson Chair of the Board of Directors by acclamation.

BD12,2736

MOVED BY:

Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen

THAT Lloyd Ferguson be confirmed as Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2020.

CARRIED

2.3. Election of 2020 Vice-Chair

Neil McDougall called for nominations for the 2020 Vice-Chair for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Nominated: Santana Moccio

By – Mover: Tom Jackson

Neil called for nominations a second and third time. Having no further nominations, Neil declared the office of Authority Vice-Chair for 2020 closed with the following resolution:

BD12,2737

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen

THAT nominations for the 2020 Vice Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority be closed.

CARRIED

Neil asked Santana Moccio if she would serve. Santana Moccio indicated she would. Neil declared Santana Moccio as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors by acclamation.

BD12,2738

MOVED BY: Esther Pauls

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT Santana Moccio be confirmed as Vice-Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2020.

CARRIED

2.4. Election of Chair to Conservation Advisory Board

Neil McDougall called for nominations for the 2020 Chair for the Conservation Advisory Board.

Nominated: Maria Topalovic

By – Mover: Santina Moccio

Neil called for nominations a second and third time. Having no further nominations, Neil declared the office of Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2020 closed with the following resolution:

BD12,2739

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT nominations for the 2020 Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board be closed.

CARRIED

Neil asked Maria Topalovic if she would accept the nomination. Maria accepted the nomination. Neil declared Maria as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board by acclamation.

BD12,2740

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT Maria Topalovic be confirmed as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board 2020.

CARRIED

2.5. Board Representatives to Budget & Administration Committee

Neil McDougall circulated sign up sheets and asked the members if they were interested in sitting on the Budget & Administration Committee and/or the Conservation Advisory Board to declare such by signing their name to the appropriate sign-up sheet.

Neil advised that the Budget & Administration Committee consists of five (5) Board of Director members; the Chair, Vice Chair, and up to three (3) additional directors may join the Chair and Vice-Chair as sitting members of B&A.

Following a review of the sign-up sheet Neil McDougall announced that in addition to the Chair of B&A, Santina Moccio, we have board members Dan Bowman, Jim

Cimba and Maria Topalovic that are interested in sitting on the Budget & Administration Committee.

BD12,2741

**MOVED BY: Tom Jackson
SECONDED BY: Brad Clark**

THAT Dan Bowman, Jim Cimba, and Maria Topalovic be confirmed as members of the Budget & Administration Committee for 2020.

CARRIED

2.6. Board Representatives to Conservation Advisory Board

Neil McDougall explained that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors are ex-officio to the Conservation Advisory Board and up to two additional directors may join the newly elected CAB Chair as sitting members of CAB.

Neil McDougall announced that in addition to the Chair of CAB, Maria Topalovic, we have board members Dan Bowman and Cynthia Janzen that are interested in sitting on the Conservation Advisory Board.

BD12,2742

**MOVED BY: Tom Jackson
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

THAT Dan Bowman and Cynthia Janzen be confirmed as members of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2020.

CARRIED

3. Call to Order for Normal Course of Business

Lloyd Ferguson thanked the members for their confidence in him in re-electing him as Chair. He also expressed his appreciation and admiration for staff. He highlighted the passage of HCA's strategic plan, key initiatives from 2019, and priorities for 2020 including parking improvements, visitor management, construction of cabins at Valens Lake Conservation Area and continued development of the Saltfleet Conservation Area and associated wetlands.

He also recalled his and senior staff's meeting with MECP staff where they reviewed HCA's programs and services and confirmed that HCA can continue to self generate revenue at its conservation areas, with municipal support. He noted that additional consultation is taking place and that final regulations and changes to the Conservation Authorities Act are anticipated to be released in 2020.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were none.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Chair advised that six additional items of correspondence regarding the proposed Enbridge Gas Inc. pipeline were received prior to the meeting and will be added as items 7.12 to 7.17 on the agenda. Each member was provided with copies of the correspondence.

Item 12.6, Tender for Lawn Mower Equipment, was removed from the agenda at the request of staff. Lisa Burnside indicated that some questions had arisen regarding the specifications in the tender and that staff would like to test different models in our conservation areas this summer before moving forward with a bulk model purchase.

BD12,2743

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

6. Delegations

6.1. Proposed Enbridge Gas Pipeline – Don McLean, Hamilton 350 Committee

Don McLean from Hamilton 350 Committee presented a summary of the proposed pipeline expansion by Enbridge Gas Inc. from the Kirkwall Valve to Hamilton Valve sites, in Flamborough. He explained that an easement to widen an existing easement will be required from landowners along the proposed pipeline, including HCA. He discussed the methodology for installing the pipeline and the potential environmental impacts of the methods. Hamilton 350 has significant concerns with the continued use of fossil fuels and building new pipelines as they relate to climate change and proposed that HCA should not support the proposed construction or easement.

Mr. McLean advised that the proposed pipeline requires an additional 16 metres of easement width to an existing easement for spacing requirements. He also calculated that 2.089 ha of additional lands would be required from HCA for a temporary construction access easement, in addition to 2.064 ha for the permanent easement. He noted that the expanded easement passes through a significant groundwater aquifer as per local source water protection reports.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) released a procedural order on January 30, 2020 regarding the application by Enbridge Gas Inc. to construct the natural gas pipeline and request for review of the Integrated Resource Plan Proposal, due to the number of requests received for intervenor status and the numerous comments from citizens and citizen groups and organizations. The OEB is requesting written submissions on a Draft Issues List for the project and whether the scope of the Leave to Construct proceeding should include: impacts related to the methods of upstream natural gas extraction (such as hydraulic fracturing) for natural gas that will be transported through the pipeline and impacts related to the ultimate downstream consumption of the natural gas transported through the pipeline.

Mr. McLean suggested that action by HCA was needed. He suggested HCA consult its members, donors and public at large for input. He also suggested HCA send a letter to the OEB by the deadline outlined in the procedural order requesting an oral hearing on the application.

Brad Clark requested further information regarding the suggestion that HCA could request an oral hearing. Mr. McLean advised that in written hearings, questions are posed back and forth in writing and the OEB bases its decision on the written submissions. Oral hearings are public processes where questions are posed back and forth. Questions are limited to those that are intervenors.

Brad Clark also sought Mr. McLean's thoughts regarding how HCA may participate in the process with its limited scope and mandate. Mr. McLean advised that HCA can write a letter of comment on the application. He also suggested HCA could say no to the easement. Mr. Clark asked if it would be prudent for HCA to require a peer review of the environmental report prepared by Enbridge. Mr. McLean advised that the environmental field studies have not yet been completed in the environmental review. He added that a peer review of the report would be reasonable.

The Chair thanked Mr. McLean for attending and his presentation.

BD12,2744

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT the presentation on the Proposed Enbridge Gas Pipeline by Don McLean of the Hamilton 350 Committee, be received as information.

CARRIED

7. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

Tom Jackson requested item 7.3 be brought out of the consent agenda for discussion, seeking clarification from staff as to the intent of the municipality's

letter to exit their local conservation authority. Lisa affirmed that yes, the municipality is requesting an exit clause be added to the Conservation Authorities Act as they feel they can offer the programs and services themselves. She added there is a movement in some eastern areas of the province toward opting out of participating in local conservation authorities, however, that there are over 400 municipalities and only a very small number are advocating for the exit clause. The majority of municipalities support their conservation authorities.

The members expressed concern about the requests and discussed writing a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks supporting conservation authorities and opposing any exit clause, particularly given the mandate of conservation authorities is to protect the public from flooding.

The Chair suggested the item be added to the March agenda once staff have had an opportunity to attend an upcoming stakeholder engagement session for the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act as new information may be available.

Tom Jackson acknowledged the letter from Brian McHattie, former City of Hamilton Councillor and Chair of HCA's Board of Directors, regarding the Enbridge Pipeline.

BD12,2745

MOVED BY: Brad Clark

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT all items 7.1 to 7.17 of the consent agenda be received and the writing of a letter of support for Conservation Authorities to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks be brought forward to the March 5, 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

8. Member Briefing

There was none.

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

9.1. Board direction to Staff October 3, 2020 regarding carbon sequestration analysis of HCA Lands

Scott Peck advised that discussions have taken place with McMaster University and Brock University regarding how to approach this issue. Moving forward as

part of the HCA's work to update our Climate Change Strategy, direction will be considered in the strategy to work with area universities to further study carbon sequestration and climate change and how it may relate to HCA lands. It was noted that university and college involvement will require interested students with a specific proposal and data and there may be challenges for such work relating to funding and lead time for students as it relates to their school year.

BD12,2746

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the verbal update be received as information.

CARRIED

9.2. Board direction to Staff October 3, 2020 regarding consultation with other Conservation Authorities on pipeline proposal review processes

Scott Peck provided an update as it relates to HCA procedures for reviewing pipelines. Similar to HCA, Grand River Conservation Authority has no specific policy for reviewing pipeline applications. These applications are reviewed through their regulatory review process. Conservation Halton indicated the same, however, added that within their policy document there is a policy to investigate/consider alternative suitable locations beyond regulated areas. HCA has noted Conservation Halton's policy direction and will consider it as part of any future policy update.

BD12,2747

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls

THAT the verbal update be received as information.

CARRIED

9.3. Board direction to Staff October 3, 2020 regarding provision of firewood to Haudenosaunee First Nation

Gord Costie advised the members that staff have made the firewood available and are waiting for a response from the Haudenosaunee to arrange for delivery.

BD12,2748

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT the verbal update be received as information.

CARRIED

10. Other Correspondence

There was none.

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

11.1. Foundation Chairman's Remarks

Margaret reported the Foundation received a total of **\$119,726** in donations in December and January. They break down as follows:

- \$32,200 for Westfield Heritage Village
- \$31,329 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund
- \$18,748 for Outdoor Environmental Education
- \$16,231 for our new Tribute Tree planting fund
- \$13,500 for the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program
- \$3,040 for the Dundas Valley Trails Fund
- \$1,600 for the Dundas Valley Fund
- \$1,060 for the Canal Park Fund
- The remaining \$2,018 came in donations for Land Securement, Species at Risk, Saltfleet CA, Valens Lake CA and Trail Development.

BD12, 2749

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

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

CARRIED

12. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

12.1. 2020 Schedule of Meetings

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the memorandum.

BD12,2750**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen****THAT the memorandum entitled 2020 Schedule of Meetings be received as information.****CARRIED****12.2. Voting Representatives to Conservation Ontario**

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report.

BD12,2751**MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba****THAT the following members be appointed to Conservation Ontario for 2020:****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.****CARRIED****12.3. Appointment of the Auditor**

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report, noting this is the final year of HCA's contract with Grant Thornton and we will be going to tender later in the year to obtain a contract for the next five years.

BD12,2752**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen****THAT the audit firm of Grant Thornton is appointed as the auditors for Hamilton Conservation Authority for the year 2020****CARRIED**

12.4. Retirement of Diane Bloomfield – Manager, Source Water Protection

Lisa advised HCA has received official notice that Diane Bloomfield will be retiring at the end of March, 2020. Diane has held the position of Manager of Source Water Protection for eleven years and has done a tremendous job. Conservation Halton is the lead agency on our joint Source Water Protection Region and will coordinate the recruitment for a replacement.

The members suggested staff send a letter of acknowledgment and appreciation for her service. Lisa advised that staff had already taken the initiative to do so.

BD12,2753

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

THAT the memorandum entitled Retirement of Diane Bloomfield, Manager of Source Water Protection be received as information.

CARRIED

12.5. Ontario's Special Advisor on Flooding Report

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report, highlighting that last year, the MNRF named Doug McNeil as the Special Advisor on Flooding and charged him with conducting an independent review of flood management and flooding events in Ontario in 2019. The review and recommendations were released at the end of November, 2019. A total of 66 recommendations were made to strengthen flood resiliency, with fifteen directly referencing conservation authorities, underscoring the importance of our work and the value of the watershed model. Conservation Ontario has submitted comments to the province on the report. The comments speak to urging the province to continue to rely on the experience and expertise of conservation authority's programs, stress no further cuts to CA transfer payments, and reinstatement of the 50% funding cut from 2019. HCA staff contributed comments to Conservation Ontario.

BD12,2754

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Ontario's Comment Letter Re.

**Ontario's Special Advisor on Flooding
Report be received as information.**

CARRIED

12.6. Tender for Lawn Mower Equipment

This report was removed from the agenda.

12.7. Current Watershed Conditions January 22, 2020

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum and answered the members questions, including a summary of the flood forecasting program at the request of the members. At the time of the report there were no expectations of significant watercourse flooding or Lake Ontario shoreline erosion or flooding. However, Lake Ontario water levels are likely to continue a seasonal rise as we head further into winter. Water levels of Lake Ontario are expected to remain near seasonal highs for at least the next several weeks.

The members inquired about the localized flooding over Middletown Road on January 13th. Jonathan explained the flooding was the result of significant rainfall and the need to balance the erosive forces and water levels in Lower Spencer Creek in Dundas with the water levels in the Christie Lake reservoir. A link between the work currently being done on the Christie Lake dam and the flooding of the road was also posed. Jonathan advised that the flooding was not linked to the work on the dam gates. When planning for refurbishing the gates, the work was designed that staff would be able to manage the flows by using the two gates alternately.

BD12,2755

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Current
Watershed Conditions as of January 22, 2020 be
received as information.**

CARRIED

12.8. Upcoming HCA and Partner Events

Gord Costie presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting winter camping and the ice fishing derby at Valens Lake Conservation Area, with there being 8 inches of ice currently and cold weather in the forecast. Gord added that he

and staff are looking forward to the Maple Syrup Festival at Westfield Heritage Village.

BD12,2756

MOVED BY: Susan Fielding

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the memorandum entitled Upcoming HCA and Partner Events be received as information.

CARRIED

13. New Business

There was none.

Esther Pauls left the meeting.

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

BD12,2757

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

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

CARRIED

14.1. Confidential Report – BD/Feb 01-2020

Scott Peck provided a summary of the report regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12,2758

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT the confidential report entitled BD/Feb 01-2020 be approved and remain in camera.

CARRIED

14.2. Confidential Report – BD/Feb 02-2020

Scott Peck provided a summary of the report regarding a property matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12,2759

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman

SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

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

CARRIED

14.3. The meeting reconvened in open session and the following resolution related to Confidential Report – BD/Feb 02-2020 was passed.

BD12,2760

MOVED BY: Brad Clark

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT the Hamilton Conservation Authority acknowledges our limited mandate as outlined in Section 20 of the Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O. 1990 in regard to gas, oil, coal and minerals;

THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to advise Enbridge Gas Inc. that the HCA opposes the easement request pending the results of an ecological study, independent peer review of the same study and the pending Ontario Energy Board's decision regarding the proposed natural gas pipeline, specifically a decision approving the project;

THAT staff be directed to advise the Ontario Energy Board that the Hamilton Conservation Authority encourages the Ontario Energy Board to take climate change considerations into account when determining if the natural gas pipeline is in the public interest as they consider Enbridge Gas Inc.'s Leave to Construct Application; and,

THAT the Hamilton Conservation Authority requests that the Ontario Energy Board conduct oral hearings.

THAT the Ontario Energy Board be advised that the Hamilton Conservation Authority supports

including within the scope of the Leave to Construct proceeding the following:

- 1. impacts related to the methods of upstream natural gas extraction (such as hydraulic fracturing) for natural gas that will be transported through the pipeline**
- 2. impacts related to the ultimate downstream consumption of the natural gas transported through the pipeline.**

CARRIED

Staff were directed to share this motion with City of Hamilton staff for their information.

15. Next Meeting – Thursday, March 5, 2020

16. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Advisory Board

MINUTES

October 10, 2019

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at HCA's Main office Administration Building commencing at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Wayne Terryberry- in the Chair
 Lydia Cartlidge, Joanne Di Maio
 Lloyd Ferguson Cynthia Janzen
 Cheryl Larocque Duke O'Sullivan

REGRETS: John Barkovic, John Shaw, Maria Topalovic

STAFF PRESENT: Rondalyn Brown, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Matt Hall,
 Bruce Harschnitz, Christina Jager, Lesley McDonell, Neil
 McDougall, Colin Oaks, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Nancy
 Watts – HCA Staff

OTHERS: Media – Richard Leitner

1. Chairman's Remarks

Wayne Terryberry welcomed everyone to the meeting, wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were none.

3. Delegations

There were none.

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes

CA1933**MOVED BY: Joanne Di Maio****SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen****THAT the agenda be approved.****CARRIED****5. Member Briefing****5.1. Ecological Monitoring Program**

Lesley McDonell and Colin Oaks provided the members with a briefing on HCA's aquatic and terrestrial ecological monitoring programs, highlighting the monitoring of fish, aquatic insects, plant biodiversity and distribution and invasive species as indicators of the health of the natural features of our watershed. They shared that monitoring also helps with evaluating past ecological restoration projects and planning for future projects.

Colin highlighted the progression of the restored Christie Ponds into watercourses and wetlands, results of Lower Spencer Creek in-stream habitat improvements, as well as planning for habitat improvements to the pond at Fifty Point Conservation Area.

Lesley presented results of forest regeneration surveys in harvested plantation areas and Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) plots, as well as deer browse surveys and deer exclosures. Results of note included that invasive species may need to be managed in some of the harvested plantation areas and a more even distribution of forest understory regeneration in the Dundas Valley and at Iroquoia Heights Conservation Area. Details of the method and results of deer population surveys for these areas, completed by helicopter in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, were also shared. Lesley commented on a correlation between the regenerating forest understory and changes in the deer population between 2015 and 2019. Lesley also reviewed the monitoring program and results of Gypsy moth surveys conducted to monitor impacts to mature trees in the Dundas Valley. A bio-pesticide spray program has been successful in mitigating impacts of gypsy moths where applied in severely infested areas.

The members inquired about the need for an additional spray program in the Spring. Lesley indicated that staff do anticipate another spraying in the Spring, but the need will be confirmed following the results of the upcoming winter monitoring.

The members also inquired about the correlation between the deer population and the annual deer harvest. Lesley advised a number of factors are likely contributing to the reduced number of deer, including less feeding of deer, particularly at Iroquoia Heights, road mortality on the 403, recent harsh winters and coyote predation.

Lesley added the decreased deer population is of benefit to the forest, as it allows for regeneration.

Lisa added that the annual agreement with the HWWA is in regard to honouring treaty rights. A very small number of deer are taken each year. Staff are not concerned about the population change.

The members inquired about monitoring in the Red Hill Creek watershed. Colin advised there are aquatic monitoring sites in Red Hill Creek. Lesley noted that there are no terrestrial monitoring sites in the Red Hill Valley, as monitoring is typically completed on HCA owned lands. It was noted that a forthcoming proposed monitoring program for the Red Hill Parkway includes assistance from HCA for ecological monitoring.

Wayne thanked Lesley and Colin for their very informative presentation and the work undertaken.

6. Chairman's Report on Board of Directors Actions

The Chair reported that the recommendation to approve the Cootes to Escarpment Update and Management Plan Report was approved by the Board of Directors at the September 5, 2019 meeting.

7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

7.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (August 8, 2019)

**CA1934 MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan
 SECONDED BY: Cheryl Larocque**

**THAT the minutes of the August 8, 2019 Conservation Areas
Advisory Board meeting be approved.**

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1. Westfield Admission Tickets for Major Special Events

Rondalyn and Christina presented a summary of the revised report, highlighting challenges with safety and visitor experience related to crowd size and parking. The initial proposal has been revised to indicate the initial implementation of the system would be a pilot, only applying to the 2020 Christmas program. The revised proposal

also includes, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the pilot to the Conservation Advisory Board, for a discussion regarding continuation or expansion of the system.

Rondalyn noted that optimization of the main parking lot has added 20 spots which has assisted with alleviating some of the parking issues. It was noted that planned additional improvements for volunteer parking will also help.

The members inquired about the Christmas 2020 date. Staff advised that the one-year lead time allows for the marketing and communications tools to be as effective as possible. The year also provides sufficient time to purchase and deploy the on-line ticketing system.

There was discussion regarding attempted front gate ticket purchases when sold out and potential customer disappointment. Staff advised that there are currently many people are turning away. Staff also shared having received some requests for reservations or advance tickets to ensure admission.

Lisa added that the 2020 implementation date allows for communication of the changes to customers at the upcoming 2019 Christmas events to try to minimize the potential for customers being turned away in the future.

The members also discussed an observed trend in the industry toward reservation-based ticket systems.

Wayne thanked all staff for coming back with additional management options. He is hopeful the pilot will be a success.

**CA1935 MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
 SECONDED BY: Lydia Cartlidge**

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

**THAT Westfield initiate a pilot program for date specific ticket
sales for the 2020 Christmas evening program and further,**

**THAT staff evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot and report
back to CAB regarding its ongoing potential.**

CARRIED

9. Staff Reports/Memorandums

9.1. Visitor Management & Vehicle Parking Review

Gord Costie and Matt Hall presented a summary of the report. Matt discussed planning for proposed capital projects to assist with implementing the recommendations in the report. Implementation of the recommendations will include possible parking lot expansions and optimization of several existing parking lots. Enhancements to parking facilities at Westfield Heritage Village are currently underway per the recently completed master plan. Gord and Matt highlighted that the marketing strategy will be instrumental in achieving the desired results of the initiative.

Lloyd Ferguson congratulated staff on efforts to address issues arising from the popularity of our Conservation Areas. He suggested inquiring about recycled milled asphalt from the Hamilton International Airport for the Tiffany Falls Conservation Areas parking improvements. He also suggested staff meet with City staff to discuss a lane closure on Wilson Street to accommodate Tiffany Falls parking.

NEC approvals required for implementing parking lot improvements were discussed. There was also discussion regarding HSR access and challenges to HCA areas. It was suggested that details for accessing HCA lands using HSR, be posted on the website.

There was also a suggestion to consider operating a guided waterfall tour bus for potential revenue generation beyond Spencer Gorge. Staff responded that full-size bus access is problematic at other areas and that other entrepreneurs are already delivering such services. Parkbus service is one example of a third-party tour that is operating.

The members indicated appreciation for staff efforts to address these issues, particularly to mitigate safety concerns.

CA1936

**MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan
SECONDED BY: Lydia Cartlidge**

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

THAT Staff be directed to implement the following directions outlined in the report titled "HCA Conservation Area - Visitor Management & Vehicle Parking Review";

Recommendation #1 – HCA staff implement immediate parking enhancement opportunities at Artaban Road, Tiffany Falls, Devil's Punchbowl, Tew Falls and Westfield Heritage Village to optimize number of parking spaces, traffic flow and signage;

Recommendation #2- HCA staff undertake steps to consider expansion of the Artaban road parking lot through a Niagara Escarpment development permit;

Recommendation #3 – HCA staff undertake steps to establish an interim parking lot and trail connection to the Dofasco Trail for the Devil’s Punchbowl at the Saltfleet Conservation Area;

Recommendation #4 – HCA staff further examine and explore additional options for safe visitor access to Tiffany Falls;

Recommendation #5 – HCA staff work with various agencies and partners such as City of Hamilton, Tourism Hamilton, Hamilton/Burlington Trails Council etc. to encourage transportation alternatives;

Recommendation #6 – HCA develop a marketing campaign and website enhancements to increase turnover and shorter term stays at areas with limited parking and encourage visitation to less frequented areas and when there is capacity;

Recommendation #7 – HCA staff ensure that the approved 10-year Masterplan Strategy incorporates detailed review of parking at all areas through the Master planning process.

CARRIED

9.2. Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Design – Verbal Update

Scott presented an update of the wetland design project progress for the Sargold and Napev properties. He noted that 30% of the design and background work has been completed. An initial concept was submitted. However, with the guiding principle for this project being that the design must look like a natural wetland, staff provided comments requesting revisions in this regard. A revised concept has been returned showing two cells of wetlands and preserving an existing woodland area. The preliminary design will be circulated to planning, ecology and CAPSS staff for their review and comment.

Scott presented a second preliminary plan for the second wetland on the Felix property.

CA1937

**MOVED BY: Joanne Di Maio
SECONDED BY: Cheryl Larocque**

THAT the verbal update on the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Design be received as information.

CARRIED

9.3. Upcoming HCA & Partner Events

Bruce Harschnitz presented a summary of the report. He highlighted the successful events of September, including the Christie Antique and Vintage Show, Bright Run, Telling Tales and Autumn Stroll. He added that reservations for camping at Valens Lake Conservation Area are full through Thanksgiving weekend. There are many Halloween themed events in the coming weeks, as well as Migratory Bird Hikes, the Spencer Creek Salmon Stroll and the Road2Hope Marathon.

10. New Business

There was none.

11. Next Meeting – Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 4:00 p.m., at the HCA Main Office.

12. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.

HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Advisory Board

MINUTES

February 13, 2020

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at HCA's Main office Administration Building commencing at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Maria Topalovic - in the Chair
 Lydia Cartlidge Cynthia Janzen
 Cheryl Larocque John Shaw
 Duke O'Sullivan

REGRETS: Dan Bowman, Joanne Di Maio, Wayne Terryberry

STAFF PRESENT: Rondalyn Brown, Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Jack Elderman, Christina Jager, Matt Hall, Bruce Harschnitz, Peter Lloyd, Neil McDougall, Scott Peck, Kathy Smith, Jaime Tellier

OTHERS: Media – Richard Leitner

1. Chairman's Remarks

Maria Topalovic welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year. She advised that she had again been elected as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board at the Board of Directors Annual General Meeting on February 6th. She added that Cynthia Janzen and Dan Bowman are the other Board representatives on CAB for the year. Maria conveyed regrets from Dan Bowman and Joanne Di Maio for the meeting. Maria also shared that John Barkovic resigned from CAB as he is no longer a resident of HCA's watershed and therefore, according to HCA's administrative by-law, is no longer eligible to serve on the advisory board. Staff have sent a letter expressing appreciation for his ten years of service, as well as an HCA membership pass so that he may continue to enjoy our Conservation Areas.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were none.

3. Delegations

There were none.

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

**CA2001 MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
 SECONDED BY: Lydia Cartlidge**

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

5. Member Briefing

There were none.

6. Chairman's Report on Board of Directors Actions

The Chair reported that the recommendations to approve the Westfield Christmas 2020 Ticket Purchase Pilot and Visitor Management & Vehicle Parking Review were approved by the Board of Directors at the November 7, 2019 meeting.

7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

7.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (October 10, 2019)

**CA2002 MOVED BY: Cheryl Larocque
 SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan**

THAT the minutes of the October 10, 2019 Conservation Areas Advisory Board meeting be approved.

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

9. Staff Reports/Memorandums

9.1. Visitor Safety at Dundas Peak

Matt Hall presented a summary of the report and answered the members questions. Staff advised that the fencing is of a similar style to that which has been used at the Tew and Webster Falls lookouts within the conservation area and that it has proven to be effective in guiding visitors to appropriate locations. The height of the fencing and potential for visitors to try to climb the fence were also discussed. Matt noted that staff were cognizant of aesthetics and viewing needs when considering the fence height. He indicated that various heights of fencing could be used where appropriate, however, that the staff recommendation is a 4 ft. fence that is approximately six inches off the ground, for an approximate overall height of 4.5 ft. He also advised that the fence would be installed as close to the edge as possible with very little room on the other side to discourage climbing and that the style of the fence is also meant to hinder climbing.

Lisa Burnside added that fencing is another measure to manage visitor activity in an evolution of measures that have been put in place at Spencer Gorge over the past few years, including eliminating barbequing, naturalizing the near-shore areas of Middle Spencer Creek, closing and removing the staircase and fencing lookout areas. Staff have been observing visitor behaviours and believe the addition of fencing at the Peak will assist with maintaining visitor safety.

**CA2003 MOVED BY: Duke O’Sullivan
 SECONDED BY: Cheryl Larocque**

THAT the recommendation be revised to add that the fencing be installed as soon as practical.

CARRIED

**CA2004 MOVED BY: Duke O’Sullivan
 SECONDED BY: John Shaw**

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

THAT “Visitor Safety Management Option #1 – Fencing” be endorsed for implementation at the Dundas Peak, and be installed as soon as practical.

CARRIED

9.2. Westfield Heritage Village 2020 Accession and Deaccession List

Peter Lloyd presented a summary of the report, sharing with the members recent acquisitions from the Summit Train Station of the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo (TH&B) Railway. A long-time volunteer of Westfield Heritage Village worked as a key master at the train station. Maria thanked Peter for the great story of the history of the train station and those that worked there.

CA2005 **MOVED BY: Lydia Cartlidge**
SECONDED BY: John Shaw

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

THAT the Westfield Heritage Village 2020 Artifact Acquisitions and Deaccession List be accepted as the artifacts added to, or removed from, the Westfield Heritage Village and the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority collection.

CARRIED

9.3. Valens Cabins – Verbal Update

Matt Hall provided the members with an update on the construction progress for the cabins at Valens Lake Conservation Area. Construction on the smaller cabins began in December, including pouring the foundations and framing. Site servicing has also been roughed in. The existing pavilion is being converted into two larger units. Matt acknowledged construction crew staff that have contributed to the progress to date. Lisa Burnside thanked the members for their comments earlier in the process. The cabins will add to our suite of camping options, providing a new revenue generating opportunity. HCA is the first conservation authority to offer roofed camping facilities.

CA2006 **MOVED BY: Cheryl Larocque**
SECONDED BY: Duke O’Sullivan

THAT the verbal update on the Valens Cabins be received as information.

CARRIED

9.4. Conservation Area Attendance – Verbal Update

Bruce Harschnitz provided the members with an update on attendance at our conservation areas in 2019. Bruce noted that attendance numbers are primarily estimates based on the number of passes sold and vehicles entered, coupled with an average number of visitors per vehicle. Staff have been working to standardize the

methods for estimating visitors to improve accuracy and allow for comparisons between years. The ongoing expansion of the autogate system will also assist with estimating visitors based on vehicle counts. Confederation Beach Park is the most visited conservation area, with over 600,000 people annually.

Maria thanked Bruce for the updated information.

**CA2007 MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
 SECONDED BY: John Shaw**

THAT the verbal update on Conservation Area Attendance be received as information.

CARRIED

9.5. Upcoming HCA & Partner Events

Gord Costie presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting the upcoming ice fishing derby at Valens Lake Conservation Area and start of the Maple Syrup Festival at Westfield Heritage Village.

In light of the previous staff report on parking and visitor capacity issues for Christmas programming at Westfield, the members inquired about observations at the 2019 Christmas events. Gord advised that similar issues were observed, however that planning has begun for the 2020 ticketed event system pilot project and communications products were deployed to provide visitors with advance notice of the planned changes.

**CA2008 MOVED BY: Duke O'Sullivan
 SECONDED BY: Cheryl Larocque**

THAT the verbal update on upcoming HCA and partner events be received as information.

10. New Business

There was none.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, April 9th at 4:00 p.m., at the HCA Main Office. An election for the Vice-Chair of CAB will be held at this meeting.

12. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.



The Corporation Of The Township Of Stone Mills

4504 County Road 4, Centreville, Ontario K0K 1N0
Tel. (613) 378-2475 Fax. (613) 378-0033
Website: www.stonemills.com.

December 27, 2019

Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Flr, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto On M7A 1A1

premier@ontario.ca

Re: Support Resolution of Conservation Authorities – Township of Stone Mills

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Yurek,

At the December 9, 2019 Stone Mills Township Council meeting, Council passed a resolution in support of the continuation of program support for Conservation Authorities in the Province of Ontario.

A copy of the resolution is attached for your consideration. We kindly request your support and endorsement for the continuance of Conservation Authority Support.

Sincerely,

Bryan Brooks
C.A.O./Clerk
Township of Stone Mills

Cc: MPP Daryl Kramp
MP Derek Sloan
Association of Municipalities on Ontario
Quinte Conservation

All Ontario Municipalities
Cataraqui Conservation Authority



The Corporation Of The Township Of Stone Mills

4504 County Road 4, Centreville, Ontario K0K 1N0
Tel. (613) 378-2475 Fax. (613) 378-0033
Website: www.stonemills.com.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

WHEREAS the Township of Stone Mills is committed to planning for and protecting the future sustainability of its resources and environment,

AND WHEREAS the Township of Stone Mills is within the Quinte and Cataraqui Conservation Authority areas,

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is currently reviewing the mandate and operation of conservation authorities and;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities provide essential services to municipalities in their watersheds and

AND WHEREAS smaller municipalities do not have capacity or the financial resource to employ staff with the technical expertise that conservation authorities provide and

WHEREAS development near watercourses can have significant effects both upstream and downstream

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of Stone Mills encourages the province to continue to support the principle of planning on a watershed basis in the on-going review and prioritize the allocation of adequate funding to support the core mandate of conservation authorities.

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Daryl Kramp, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Cataraqui and Quinte Conservation Authorities and all Ontario Municipalities.

.....
Township of Stone Mills - 4504 County Road 4, Centreville ON K0K 1N0
Attention: C.A.O./Clerk, 613-378-2475 Ext. 225, bbrooks@stonemills.com



OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

City of Belleville

169 FRONT STREET
BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO
K8V 2Y8

February 3, 2020

RECEIVED

FEB - 6 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**RE: Request Provincial Government Improve Funding of Conservation Authorities to Provide a More Stable Funding Base Preventing Downloading of Costs to Municipalities
Council Information Matters
8.c.1, Belleville City Council Meeting, January 27, 2020**

This is to advise you that at the Council Meeting of January 27, 2020, the following resolution was approved.

"THAT Belleville City Council supports the following resolution of The City of Quinte West:

'WHEREAS the City of Quinte West has been well served by both the Lower Trent Conservation Authority and the Quinte Conservation Authority; and,

WHEREAS we have working service agreements with both Authorities; and,

WHEREAS we value the efforts of the Conservation Authorities to monitor floods, to manage source water protection and to ensure the integrity of the watersheds within our municipality and conserve our natural environment; and

..12

WHEREAS the current Provincial government is reviewing the mandate and potential funding to Conservation Authorities;

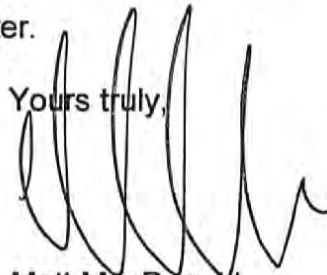
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Quinte West requests that the Provincial Government improve their funding of Conservation Authorities to provide a more stable funding base that would prevent any downloading of costs to municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Provincial Government will maintain and not diminish the core mandate of Conservation Authorities;

AND FURTHER THAT we forward this motion to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Premier, the Leaders of all opposition parties, all of our local municipal partners, and AMO to seek their support and concurrence.”

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



Matt MacDonald
Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk

MMacD/nh

Pc: AMO

Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks
Ministry of Natural Resources
Quinte Conservation
Lower Trent Conservation Authority
Conservation Ontario
Todd Smith, MPP Prince Edward-Hastings
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings – Lennox & Addington
Mayor Harrison, City of Quinte West



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FRONTENAC

4432 George St, Box 100
 Sydenham ON, K0H 2T0
 613-376-3027 Ext 2222 or 1-800-559-5862
amaddocks@southfrontenac.net



February 6, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford
 Premier of Ontario
 Legislative Building
 Queen's Park
 Toronto ON
 M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

Re: Support for Conservation Authorities

Please be advised that the Council of the Township of South Frontenac passed the following resolution at their meeting February 4, 2020:

"Whereas the Township of South Frontenac has been well served by Quinte Conservation, Cataraqui Conservation and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities,

And whereas we value the efforts of the Conservation Authorities to monitor floods, to manage Source Water protection and to ensure the integrity of the watersheds within our Township and conserve our natural environment,

And whereas the province of Ontario is currently reviewing the mandate and operations of conservation authorities,

And whereas Conservation Authorities provide essential services to municipalities in their watersheds,

And whereas smaller municipalities do not have the capacity or the financial resources to employ staff with the technical expertise that conservation authorities provide,

Therefore be it resolved that the Township of South Frontenac encourages the province to continue to support the principle of planning on a watershed basis in the ongoing review and prioritize the allocation of adequate funding to support the core mandate of conservation authorities.

And that the provincial government will maintain and not diminish the core mandate of Conservation Authorities

And that this resolution is forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Conservation Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities. (Carried)

The Township of South Frontenac wish to express their support for Conservation Authorities as they provide an essential service as it is not within our existing financial capacity to hire staff with the particular expertise provided by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Quinte Conservation Authority and Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority.

We are aware of the stakeholder engagement sessions planned this month with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and with Minister Yurek as an opportunity to express our concerns. We urge the provincial government to maintain the core mandate of local Conservation Authorities and look forward to receiving any updates on this matter.

Yours truly

Angela Maddocks

Angela Maddocks
Clerk

c.c. Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Conservation Ontario
AMO
All Other Ontario Municipalities



Come for a visit. Stay for a lifestyle.

February 6, 2020

The Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

RECEIVED

FEB 10 2020

Re: Motion of Support for Conservation Authorities

At the regular meeting of Council held on February 4, 2020, a motion of support for Conservation Authorities was discussed and the following resolution was passed:

Motion No. THC-200204-17

Whereas the Municipality of Trent Hills is committed to planning for a sustainable future for its resources and environment.

Whereas the Municipality of Trent Hills is a member of the Lower Trent Conservation Authority (LTC), Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA) and Crowe Valley Conversation Authority (CVCA) and has representation on each of the three Boards of Directors.

Whereas the Board of Directors, comprised of representatives of all member municipalities, determine the policies, priorities and budgets of LTC, ORCA and CVCA.

Whereas the Municipality of Trent Hills values the programs of our Conservation Authorities, including but not limited to, flood monitoring, managing source water protection, ensuring the integrity of the watersheds within our municipality, conserving our natural environment, providing community recreation opportunities, and educational programming.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Municipality of Trent Hills supports the continuation of the programs, both mandatory and non-mandatory, of LTC, ORCA and CVCA.

That the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks provide clear direction on which programs are deemed mandatory and non-mandatory.

.../2

Municipality of Trent Hills

P.O. Box 1030, 66 Front Street South, Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0
t: 705.653.1900 f: 705.653.5203

trenthills.ca

That the Municipality of Trent Hills requests the Provincial Government improve their funding of Conservation Authorities to provide a more stable funding base that would prevent any downloading of costs to municipalities.

That the Provincial Government will maintain and not diminish the core mandate of Conservation Authorities.

And that the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Premier of Ontario; Leaders of all opposition parties; David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South; AMO; Lower Trent Conservation Authority; Otonabee Region Conservation Authority and Crowe Valley Conservation Authority be advised of Council's decision under the Mayor's signature.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Crate

cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Andrea Horwith, Leader of the Official Opposition
John Fraser, Leader of the Liberal Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
AMO
Lower Trent Conservation Authority
Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
Crowe Valley Conservation Authority



From the Office of the Clerk
 The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
 332 Picton Main Street, Picton, ON K0K 2T0
 T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

February 10, 2020

Please be advised that during the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole on January 9, 2020 the following motion was carried;

RESOLUTION NO. CW-013 -2020

DATE: January 9, 2020

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor St-Jean

Council's support for Quinte Conservation Authority

WHEREAS the Municipality of Prince Edward County is a member of the Quinte Conservation Authority (QCA) and is represented on their Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS the QCA is a community-based environmental protection agency that serves 18 municipalities in the watersheds of the Moira, Napanee and Salmon Rivers and Prince Edward County with programs and services focused on a sustainable ecosystem where people and nature live in harmony, and

WHEREAS the QCA provides the Municipality of Prince Edward County and its residents with valuable contributions to recreation, education, water quality, reduction of vegetation loss and soil erosion, preservation of species at risk, as well as protecting life and property through a variety of measures, and


WHEREAS the QCA has a flood management program employing a watershed-based approach that forecasts flooding, issues flood warnings, monitors stream flow, regulates development activities in flood-plains, educates the public about flooding and protects natural cover that helps reduce the impacts of flooding; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Prince Edward County has experienced disastrous and unprecedented flooding in both 2017 and 2019, with indications that these inundations may constitute the new normal; and

WHEREAS the Ontario provincial government has announced a 50% cut to their \$7.4 million Natural Hazards Transfer Payment Grant (Section 39) to Ontario conservation authorities (including QCA) that includes flood and erosion control infrastructure, flood forecasting and warning, watershed planning projects and technical studies, etc., an impact that will be immediately and particularly felt in smaller and more rural areas such as the Municipality of Prince Edward County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. **THAT** the Municipality of Prince Edward County supports the continuation of the programs and services of the Quinte Conservation Authority; and
2. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Premier Doug Ford, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Todd Smith MPP, the QCA and all Ontario municipalities.



Mayor



February 11, 2020

The Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Resolution to Support Role of Conservation Authorities

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on February 10, 2020 passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and other Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years, and

Whereas municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents, and


Whereas Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address the climate change,

Therefore be it Resolved: That the Municipality of Chatham-Kent supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs.

And that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent circulate that support to municipalities, conservation authorities and the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks in Ontario.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca

Sincerely,



Judy Smith, CMO
Director Municipal Governance
Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

C Ontario Municipalities, LTVCA, SCRC



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Res: 2020.01. 23

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Moved by:

Seconded by:

THAT Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years; and

THAT Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents; and

THAT Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to all upper and lower-tier municipalities, Conservation Authorities and the Provincial Government (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks) in Ontario

<u>Recorded Vote</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>
P. Corneil	_____	_____
A. Drouillard	_____	_____
K. Loveland	_____	_____
M. Hentz	_____	_____
B. Purcell – Mayor	_____	_____

CARRIED

Mayor

DEFEATED:

Mayor



The Regional
Municipality of
Durham

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 1
P.O. Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102
Fax: 905-668-9963

durham.ca

January 30, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**RE: Request that the Provincial Government improve their
funding of Conservation Authorities, Our File: C12**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on January 29, 2020,
adopted the following recommendations:

“WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Durham has been well
served by the Central Lake Ontario, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha,
Lake Simcoe Region and Toronto & Region Conservation
Authorities;

AND WHEREAS Durham Region has working service agreements
with each Authority;

AND WHEREAS Durham Region values the efforts of the
Conservation Authorities to monitor floods, to manage source water
protection and to ensure the integrity of the watersheds within our
municipality and conserve our natural environment;

AND WHEREAS the current Provincial Government is reviewing
mandated programs and services and potential funding to
Conservation Authorities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the
Regional Municipality of Durham request that the Provincial
Government improve their funding of Conservation Authorities to
provide a more stable funding base that would prevent any
downloading of costs to municipalities;

AND FURTHER that the Provincial Government maintain and not
diminish the core mandate of Conservation Authorities;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Minister
of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural

Resources, all Durham Region MPPs, all Durham Region Conservation Authorities and Association of Municipalities of Ontario.”

Ralph Walton

Ralph Walton,
Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

RW/ks

- c: The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conversation and Parks
The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Rod Phillips, MPP (Ajax)
Lindsey Park, MPP (Durham)
Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
David Piccini, MPP (Northumberland/Peterborough South)
Jennifer French, MPP (Oshawa)
Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP (Pickering/Uxbridge)
Lorne Coe, MPP (Whitby)
C. Darling, Chief Administrative Officer, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
L. Laliberte, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
M. Majchrowski, Chief Administrative Officer, Kawartha Region Conservation Authority
M. Walters, Chief Administrative Officer, Lake Simcoe Region Conversation Authority
J. MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
B. Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Councillor R. Chapman, The Regional Municipality of Durham
Councillor T. Smith, The Regional Municipality of Durham

March 11, 2020

Jannette Amini, Dipl.M.M., M.A. CMO
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk
County of Frontenac
Sent via email to: jamini@frontenaccounty.ca

Re: Support for Conservation Authorities (57-20)

Dear Ms. Amini:

At the last regular Planning and Community Affairs Committee meeting of the Township of Scugog held March 9, 2020 your correspondence (No. 57-20) regarding the above captioned matter was discussed.

I wish to advise that the following resolution was passed:

“WHEREAS the Township of Scugog has been well served by the Kawartha, Lake Simcoe, and Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authorities; and

WHEREAS the Township of Scugog is committed to planning for a sustainable future for its resources and environment; and

WHEREAS the Township of Scugog relies on the efforts of the Conservation Authorities:

- 1) to monitor floods, manage source water protection, protect Lake Scugog, ensure the integrity of the watersheds within our municipality and to conserve our natural environment;
- 2) in the protection of our residents from natural events, the critical support for building sustainable communities and in ensuring the integrity of Lake Scugog and watersheds we depend on as a community; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is reviewing mandated programs and services and potential funding to Conservation Authorities; and

WHEREAS smaller municipalities do not have the capacity or the financial resource to employ staff with the technical expertise that conservation authorities provide; and

.../2

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities will be important partners in securing sustainable communities for future generations and adapting to changing environmental pressures and a changing climate; and

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost effective initiatives to address climate change;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Scugog request that the Provincial Government improve their funding of Conservation Authorities to provide a more stable funding base that would prevent any downloading of costs to municipalities; and

THAT the Provincial Government maintain and not diminish the core mandate of Conservation Authorities and to continue to support the principle of planning on a watershed basis in the ongoing review and prioritize the allocation of adequate funding to support the core mandate of conservation authorities; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, all Durham Region MPPs, all Township of Scugog Conservation Authorities, Durham Region municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Conservation Ontario."

Please note that all recommendations made by the Committee are subject to ratification at the next Council meeting of the Township of Scugog, scheduled to take place on March 23, 2020.

Should you require anything further in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

John Paul Newman
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Durham Region MPPs
Township of Scugog Conservation Authorities
Durham Region Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Conservation Ontario



frontenacounty.ca

CORR. # 57-20
Rcvd: 21/02/2020



Therefore Be It Resolved That the County of Frontenac encourages the province to continue to support the principle of planning on a watershed basis in the ongoing review and prioritize the allocation of adequate funding to support the core mandate of conservation authorities;

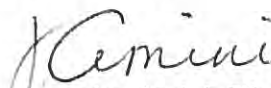
And Further That the provincial government will maintain and not diminish the core mandate of conservation authorities;

And Further That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Conservation Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

I trust you will find this in order; however should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 613-548-9400, ext. 302 or via email at jamini@frontenacounty.ca.

Yours Truly,



Jannette Amini, Dipl.M.M., M.A. CMO
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

Copy: File





Northumberland
County

Resolution

Moved By



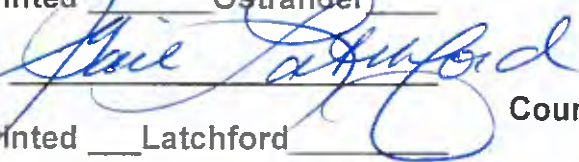
Agenda
Item 8b

Resolution No.
2020-02-19-55

Last Name Printed

Ostrander

Seconded By



Last Name Printed

Latchford

Council Date: February 19, 2020

"Whereas Northumberland County supports the important role that conservation authorities provide, including watershed management programs; and

Whereas Northumberland County believes that the Province should undertake consultations with municipalities prior to making any program or funding changes;

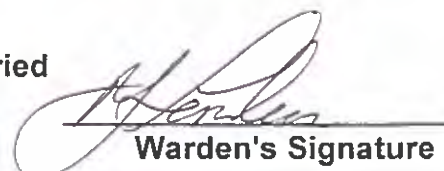
Now Therefore Be It Resolved That County Council receive the supporting resolutions from Ontario municipalities (including the Town of Orangeville, the Town of Collingwood and the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc; and

Further Be It Resolved That this resolution be forwarded to: Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP David Piccini, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ganaraska Conversation Authority, the Lower Trent Conversation Authority, the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority and the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, and all Ontario municipalities."

Recorded Vote
Requested by

Councillor's Name

Carried


Warden's Signature

Deferred

Warden's Signature

Defeated

Warden's Signature

Ellis, Maddison

From: Tracy MacDonald <tmacdonald@orangeville.ca>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 6:34 PM
Subject: Resolution - Environmental Awareness and Action

CAUTION: External E-Mail

Good afternoon,

The Town Orangeville passed the following resolution at its January 13, 2020 Council meeting:

13.1 Councillor Peters – Environmental Awareness and Action

Resolution 2020-14

Moved by Councillor Peters
Seconded by Councillor Post

That the Town of Orangeville supports continuation of the programs and services of the CVC, both mandatory and non-mandatory, and that no programs or services of the CVC or other CAs in Ontario be “wound down” at this time; and

That the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks give clear direction as to what programs and services are considered mandatory and non-mandatory and how those programs will be funded in the future; and

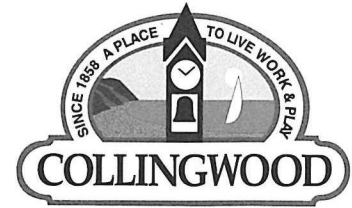
That the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks recognizes the strong and positive Provincial role Conservation Authorities (CAs) play in flood risk reduction programs and reinstates funding to the CAs of Ontario; and

That this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Sylvia Jones, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried.

Regards,

Tracy Macdonald | Assistant Clerk | Corporate Services
Town of Orangeville | 87 Broadway | Orangeville ON L9W 1K1
519-941-0440 Ext. 2256 | Toll Free 1-866-941-0440 Ext. 2256
tmacdonald@orangeville.ca | www.orangeville.ca



TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD

Becky Dahl, Deputy Clerk

97 Hurontario St. P.O. Box 157

Collingwood, ON L9Y 3Z5

Tel: (705) 445-1030 Ex. 3230

Fax: (705) 445-2448

Email: bdahl@collingwood.ca

January 21, 2020

The Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Conservation Authorities

On behalf of the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Collingwood, I write to advise you of the following recommendation approved at its meeting held on January 20, 2020 for your consideration:

WHEREAS the Town of Collingwood has recently declared a Climate Emergency;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Collingwood has committed to nine core principles of sustainability;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Collingwood is a beneficiary of the upstream environmental remediation work done by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA);

AND WHEREAS the Town of Collingwood is a member of the NVCA, with representation on its Board of Directors;

AND WHEREAS under the direction of the Board of Directors, the NVCA provides programs and services addressing local priorities to the residents of Collingwood and its other member municipalities, including inclusive outdoor education and recreation, water quality monitoring, preservation of species at risk as well as protecting life and property through a variety of measures;

AND WHEREAS the NVCA provides the Town of Collingwood with expert advice on the environmental impact of land use planning proposals and that the Municipality does not have staff with comparable expertise or experience;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks provides approximately one percent of the budget for programs and services currently delivered by the NVCA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Collingwood supports Conservation Authority regulations under Bill 108 being completed in consultation with municipalities, the NVCA and Conservation Ontario;

AND THAT the Town of Collingwood supports continuation of the critical programs and services included in the mandate of Conservation Authorities;

AND THAT during the fulsome review and consultations the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks continue to allow local municipalities' designated representatives


to determine which programs will be delivered and mandatory, along with the use of a Board-directed fair municipal levy as per current Regulation;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Jim Wilson, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario, all Ontario municipalities, and the County of Simcoe.

Should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 705-445-1030 ext. 3230 or clerk@collingwood.ca.

Yours truly,

~~TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD~~



Becky Dahl
Deputy Clerk, Clerk Services

c.c. Premier Doug Ford
Jim Wilson, MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Conservation Ontario
County of Simcoe
Ontario municipalities

Ellis, Maddison

From: Ruth Alcaininho <ralcaininho@strathroy-caradoc.ca>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 10:50 AM
To: minister.mecp@ontario.ca; admin@ltvca.ca
Subject: Strathroy-Caradoc Regular Council Meeting January 20, 2020 - Approval of Resolution LTVC - Watershed Management Programs

CAUTION: External E-Mail

Please be advised the following resolution sent to member municipalities of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, was presented for consideration by Council at their regular meeting of Monday, January 20, 2020 and approved as follows:

Moved by Councillors Brennan and Kennes:

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents, and

WHEREAS Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs; and that this resolution be circulated to Municipalities, Conservation Authorities and the Provincial Government (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks), in Ontario. **Carried.**

Kind Regards,

Ruth

Ruth Alcaininho
Deputy Clerk/Insurance Co-Ordinator
Legal & Legislative Services
Tel: 519-245-1105 Ext 237
Fax: 519-245-6353
Email: ralcaininho@strathroy-caradoc.ca



Legal & Legislative Services
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
52 Frank Street | Strathroy, ON | N7G 2R4

Visit us online at www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

CITY OF QUINTE WEST

*Office of the Mayor
Jim Harrison*



*P.O. Box 490
Trenton, Ontario, K8V 5R6*

*TEL: (613) 392-2841
FAX: (613) 392-5608*

January 15, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: Resolution – Conservation Authorities

Dear Premier Ford:

This letter will serve to advise that at a meeting of City of Quinte West Council held on January 13, 2020 Council passed the following resolution:

Moved by Cassidy
Seconded by Alyea

Whereas the City of Quinte West has been well served by both the Lower Trent Conservation Authority and the Quinte Conservation Authority and

Whereas we have working service agreements with both Authorities and

Whereas we value the efforts of the Conservation Authorities to monitor floods, to manage source water protection and to ensure the integrity of the watersheds within our municipality and conserve our natural environment and

Whereas the current Provincial government is reviewing the mandate and potential funding to Conservation Authorities

Be it resolved that the City of Quinte West requests that the Provincial Government improve their funding of Conservation Authorities to provide a more stable funding base that would prevent any downloading of costs to municipalities

And further that the Provincial Government will maintain and not diminish the core mandate of Conservation Authorities

And further that we forward this motion to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Premier, the Leaders of all opposition parties, all of our local municipal partners, and AMO to seek their support and concurrence. **Carried**

We trust that you will give favourable consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

CITY OF QUINTE WEST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jim Harrison
Mayor



MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH

420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 1X8

Phone: (807) 683-4545 Fax: (807) 683-6982

Email: shuniah@shuniah.org www.shuniah.org

January 15, 2020

Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Parks 5th Flr, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Yurek:

Re: Support Resolution of Conservation Authorities – Municipality of Shuniah

At the January 14, 2020 Municipality of Shuniah Council meeting, Council passed a resolution in support of the continuation of program support for Conservation Authorities in the Province of Ontario.

A copy of the resolution is attached for your consideration. We kindly request your support and endorsement for the continuance of Conservation Authority Support.

Sincerely,

Paul Greenwood
C.A.O./Deputy Clerk
Municipality of Shuniah

Cc: MPP Michael Gravelle
MP Patty Hajdu
MPP Daryl Kramp
MPP Judith Montith-Farrell
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

Kerry



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 8-20

Date: Jan 14, 2020

Moved By: [Signature]

Seconded By: [Signature]

WHEREAS the Municipality of Shuniah is committed to planning for and protecting the future sustainability of its resources and environment,

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Shuniah is within the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority area,

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is currently reviewing the mandate and operation of conservation authorities and;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities provide essential services to municipalities in their watersheds and

AND WHEREAS smaller municipalities do not have capacity or the financial resource to employ staff with the technical expertise that conservation authorities provide and

WHEREAS development near watercourses can have significant effects both upstream and downstream

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Shuniah encourages the province to continue to support the principle of planning on a watershed basis in the on-going review and prioritize the allocation of adequate funding to support the core mandate of conservation authorities.

AND THAT the resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Daryl Kramp, MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all other Municipalities and Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Amended

☐ Deferred

[Signature]

Signature

Municipality of Shuniah, 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 1X8



The Corporation of the

Township of Uxbridge

In The Regional Municipality of Durham

Town Hall
51 Toronto Street South
P.O. Box 190
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1
Telephone (905) 852-9181
Facsimile (905) 852-9674
Web www.uxbridge.ca

CLOCA

-02- 03 2020

RECEIVED

January 30, 2020

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
100 Whiting Avenue
Oshawa, ON
L1H 3T3

**RE: CONTINUATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES
TOWNSHIP FILE: A-00 G**

Please be advised that during the regular meeting of the Regular meeting of Council of January 27, 2020 the following motion was carried:

WHEREAS the Township of Uxbridge has been well served by Lake Simcoe Region, Central Lake Ontario, and Toronto Region Conservation Authorities;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Uxbridge and Durham Region rely on the expert advice of Conservation Authorities regarding land use planning proposals, source water protection and watershed integrity;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities provide expert information, knowledge and advice regarding flood management and water quality monitoring;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities provide programs to residents that include recreation, education, preservation and restoration projects that protect natural vegetation, species at risk and soil erosion;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government is reviewing mandated programs, core services and potential funding of Conservation Authorities;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ;

1. THAT the Township of Uxbridge supports the continuation of the programs and services provided by Conservation Authorities to municipalities and requests that the Provincial Government provide clear direction to maintain core services and provide stable funding to Conservation Authorities in order to provide these services.

2. THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Conservation & Parks; the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; Premier Ford; all Durham Region MPP's; Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority; Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority; Toronto Region Conservation Authority; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; all Durham Region and Greater Toronto Area municipalities.

I trust you will find the above to be satisfactory.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Leroux', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Debbie Leroux
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/ljr

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: Feb 6th meeting including Don McLean's presentation
Date: February 7, 2020 9:35:19 AM

Hi HCA,

I just wanted to echo Don McLean's appeal to the Board of Directors that his presentation made compelling reasons for the HCA to recommend that Enbridge NOT be given the rights to lands on territory that is under HCA jurisdiction for purposes of the Enbridge proposed pipeline. The climate emergency is simply too vital an issue to simply "sweep under the proverbial rug". Don McLean noted that the deadline for objections is Feb 10th - this coming Monday - to raise objections to the OEB. This seems too short a period to allow our Conservation Authority to oppose the plan prepared by Enbridge. My appeal is to allow HCA board members time to debate the matter, which then necessitates a time extension for submitting a response - perhaps until the next month's board meeting.

Don's presentation was very sound and based on science that requires emergency action to combat climate change. We must not allow private interests to prevent us from doing what is needed to protect life on planet Earth.

Sincerely,

Bob Korol, attendee at the Feb 6th meeting, and prof emeritus, McMaster U.

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: Enbridge Pipeline decision
Date: February 10, 2020 8:42:39 AM

From: Miriam
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 8:51 PM
To: Nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: Enbridge Pipeline decision

Friends,

As a resident of Hamilton and a citizen of the world, I want to thank and applaud you for your strong unequivocal position on the proposed Enbridge pipeline.

You have upheld your mandate as a conservation area, and given many of us hope that together we can stop harmful industries.

Miriam Sager

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: OEB comments
Date: February 10, 2020 8:42:50 AM

From: Lyn Folkes
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 9:10 PM **To:**
 Nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: OEB comments

Dear HCA,

Thank you so much for your comments concerning Enbridge's proposed fracked gas pipeline for Hamilton. It's nice to know that science still prevails in some government funded places. We have every confidence in you and appreciate your comments to the OEB so much!

I have also written letters about the irreversible damage this pipeline would cause to such pristine areas. Our family of 4 adults in Ward 8 of Hamilton is in full opposition to this project and have made that clear to the OEB and our Councillor.

Not only do we live near and enjoy these threatened natural wetlands that are home to so many very sensitive species, I also helped to rehabilitate rare habitats in this area in the 1990's with my former boss at the HRCA, Bruce Duncan. My heart and his would be broken if this pipeline were allowed.

A 30 meter swath of destruction carved through any wetland would potentially be fatal to so many plants, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. It frustrates me that such proposals have to be argued. The Copetown Bog and Beverly Swamp should be left protected and undisturbed in the name of species conservation, natural resources and the climate crisis.

Just because the most inexpensive building route is always through the remaining open natural area, it is often not the best option overall and may just be the very worst option in this case. The climate emergency dictates that these lands be left alone and that the use of fossil fuels be gradually eliminated.

If there is any way we can help you to stop this 'fracking pipeline', please advise. I know that fracked gas contributes extra greenhouse gas emissions due to escaped methane that happens as part of the fracking process too. Fracking should just be banned!

Fossil fuel use will soon be in decline and we'll have an archaic mess left behind here by Enbridge. That company is not responsible enough regarding spills either, we don't trust them and we don't want this pipeline at all!

So thank you so much!!!

Sincerely,
Lyn Folkes & family
Ward 8 Hamilton

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: THANK YOU for CHALLENGING THE ENBRIDGE FRACKED GAS PIPELINE PROPOSAL
Date: February 10, 2020 8:43:02 AM

From: Andrea Towler
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 11:57 PM
To: Nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: THANK YOU for CHALLENGING THE ENBRIDGE FRACKED GAS PIPELINE PROPOSAL

Dear Hamilton Conservation Authority,

THANK YOU for taking a strong stand in pushing the OEB to hold public oral hearings into the proposed Enbridge fracked gas pipeline that INCLUDE consideration of the climate crisis. Putting the climate crisis front and centre in ALL our decision-making is exactly what we all need to be doing at this point, and I was so very heartened to hear what came out of the Board meeting on Feb 6.

On behalf of my children,

Many thanks to all who articulated and supported the resolutions that were passed at this meeting.

PLEASE KEEP UP THIS GREAT WORK!!

Andrea Towler

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: The proposed Enbridge pipeline
Date: February 10, 2020 8:42:20 AM

From: Ruth Pickering
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 4:54 PM
To: Nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: The proposed Enbridge pipeline

Dear Members of the Board,

I was present at the meeting on Feb 6 during which this issue was discussed.

I was impressed with the important questions raised and very happy at your decision to include the three main items in a broadened scope for the OEB to address in, we hope, an oral hearing.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to the protection of the natural beauty, diversity of wetland species, and recognition of the risks of increasing CO2 emissions that are intensifying Climate Chaos.

Sincerely,

Dr Ruth Pickering, (retired)
Dundas

Sent from my iPad

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: CASE # EB - 2019-0159
Date: February 10, 2020 10:05:15 AM

i want to extend my sincerest thank you to Hamilton City Councillors - to Councillor Clark, who put the motion forward and by 8 councillors, who accepted/supported it, Councillor Collins, Councillor Danko Councillor Farr, Councillor Ferguson, Councillor Jackson, Councillor Nann, Councillor Vanderbeek and Councillor Wilson,

and to Hamilton Conservation Society for your input / decisions

From: _____
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 8:20 PM
To: boardsec@oeb.ca
Cc: Jeff.Yurek@pc.ola.org
Subject: CASE # EB - 2019-0159

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

SENT BY E MAIL

ENBRIDGE 2021 –Dawn Parkway Expansion

CLIMATE CHANGE is real, it is already destructive; we need to do our utmost that it not further escalate, and I believe by your proposal, that is expanding your existing pipeline, would further emit greenhouse gas to an already dangerous level.

We are already experiencing serious negatives, as in droughts, in wildfires, in extreme weather which cannot be ignored. We need to look at the most recent wildfire in Australia, aside from it being an economic disaster, but also where millions of animals have perished.

The world's climate scientists have warned us that we must minimize any further methods that harm our atmosphere, which includes Fracking -- How much greenhouse gases are going to be emitted during extraction of the gas or how much emissions when the gas is burned, all which affects our climate.

As to the methods of upstream natural gas extraction during fracking, , what are the impacts relating to the ultimate downstream consumption of the natural gas being transported through the pipeline.

City of Hamilton, our councillors, in 2019 declared CLIMATE EMERGENCY

To support their declaration, they request **before** any decision is made on this proposed

project that Enbridge provide complete transparency; which includes a fully public oral hearing, in which there be an ecological study, an independent peer review, and acknowledge that climate change is an issue.

Hamilton Councillors also request answers to very specific climate questions.

We know that climate change is caused by fossil fuels, so why should we increase more fossil fuels

I worry about my future, but more importantly I worry for my grandchildren's future.

Vicky Sutherland

,

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Enbridge2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project
Date: February 10, 2020 8:48:51 AM

From: Shelley Porteous
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2020 8:45 PM
To: boardsec@oeb.ca
Cc: Jeff.Yurek@pc.ola.org; Nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Proposed Enbridge2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project

February, 9, 2020

Attn: Board Members of the Ontario Energy Board

Re: Proposed Enbridge 2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project

The mandate of the Ontario Energy Board includes 'thinking about the long-term needs of the energy sector and developing regulatory policy to meet emerging challenges'. Its mission includes 'strengthening and sustaining the confidence of consumers during a period of accelerating change'. The Ontario Energy Board has the potential to take a leadership role in safeguarding the public interest and confidence in the context of Climate Change -in particular the long term interests of our children and grandchildren- by rejecting the Enbridge proposal to build a new fracked gas pipeline through Ontario, rejecting new gas infrastructure in general, and investing in alternative energy sources instead. At a minimum, the OEB should hold a fully transparent oral hearing into the Enbridge 2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project.

In the best interests of the Ontario public and indeed the global community, the time to stop fossil fuel projects is now. The science is clear – the climate crisis is upon us and we are running out of time to mitigate the extreme damage caused by global heating. Droughts, wildfires and extreme weather events are becoming common place. The Canadian North is heating faster than any other part of the world. The destruction to the natural environment is truly despairing. It is time for all sectors and government levels to embrace green technology. As it stands now, Trudeau's call for a net-zero emissions economy by 2050 is a farce. We can no longer allow the fossil fuel industry to expand and carry on as if the health of the planet is of no concern. We have recognized a climate emergency that is largely caused by fossil fuels, so it is especially outrageous to increase the extraction or transportation of more fossil fuels. Please act in the best interests of our planet and all living things.

Sincerely,

Shelley Porteous

Hamilton, ON

From: [Nature](#)
 To: [Teller, Jaime L.](#)
 Subject: FW: Oral public hearing for the Enbridge 2021 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project
 Date: February 10, 2020 8:49:10 AM

Attn: Board Members of the Ontario Energy Board

The mandate of the Ontario Energy Board includes 'thinking about the long-term needs of the energy sector and developing regulatory policy to meet emerging challenges'. Its mission includes 'strengthening and sustaining the confidence of consumers during a period of accelerating change'. The Ontario Energy Board has the potential to take a leadership role in safeguarding the public interest and confidence in the context of Climate Change -in particular the long term interests of our children and grandchildren- by rejecting the Enbridge proposal to build a new fracked gas pipeline through Ontario, rejecting new gas infrastructure in general, and investing in alternative energy sources instead. At a minimum, the OEB should hold a fully transparent oral hearing into the Enbridge 20201 Dawn Parkway Expansion Project.

Enbridge is justifying its proposal by projecting annual increases in gas consumption, ignoring and undermining national and international commitments that have already been made to REDUCE CO2 emissions in the face of climate change. Any comprehensive cost-benefit analysis that includes the reality of climate change would show that the long term damage and costs associated with climate change far outweigh any short-term benefits involved in prolonging our unsustainable dependence on cheap gas.

Given all we know, the transition to sustainable forms of energy in our province can and must happen now. In Berkeley, California, a ban on natural gas hook-ups in all new construction came into effect on Jan 1 (link below). According to Brian van Mathiesen, a researcher specialized in smart energy systems at the University of Aalborg who recently led an EU-wide study to decarbonise the heating and cooling sector throughout Europe: *"If we are still installing natural gas boilers by 2030, then we should ask ourselves whether we're really serious about the transition to low-carbon energy. You have to remember that gas boilers have a lifetime of 12-15 years so any ban would have to be set within the next few years to make a difference – and to prepare citizens for a new paradigm."* (link below). By rejecting the Enbridge proposal to build new gas infrastructure and by considering options such as thermal infrastructure instead (which is the basis for van Mathiesen's model to decarbonize heating and cooling in Europe), the Ontario Energy Board can demonstrate leadership in North America, sustain public confidence and safeguard what is truly in the public interest in the face of climate change.

I trust that you will do the right thing and see beyond whatever narrowly prescribed roles that may have guided your decision-making in the past respect, and to use your decision-making power to honour the overarching commitment to emissions vital to our own future and the future of our children.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Park

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Teller, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: thank you
Date: February 10, 2020 8:49:27 AM

Hello,

I was present last Thursday, February 6th, when you unanimously decided to oppose the Enbridge application for easement to install a new fracked gas pipeline through Conservation lands, pending an environmental assessment, and a peer-review of that assessment. In addition, you urged the OEB to hold an oral rather than written hearing, and to include both the up and downstream impacts of climate change in their deliberations on this pipeline.

I was so deeply moved and grateful that you did the right thing. This pipeline is not necessary for Ontario's energy needs, it would damage sensitive lands that have been put under your protection, and would contribute to the worsening climate crisis, both in the fracking generation of the gas, and in the ultimate burning of it. The monies the Conservation Authority would receive from this easement would not compensate for the moral cost to acceding to Enbridge's demand. There is no need for the Authority to support the aggrandizement of a corporate body, at the expense of protected lands and a fragile ecosphere.

Thank you for making this decision, and I look forward to your continued protection of the Authority's lands and all of our health and survival in future decisions.

Susan

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks for your support of Hamilton's Greenbelt!
Date: February 10, 2020 8:49:45 AM

Dear Councillors and HCA,

Thank you for your decisions this past week which provided the support needed to the green space currently threatened by the pipeline Enbridge wishes to build.

Many of the questions you asked exposed the reluctance of Enbridge to be transparent and truly open to environmental considerations as opposed to its default greenwashing.

Especially important, as you know, is the point about creating new fossil fuel infrastructure that can last almost "indefinitely" (in the words of the Enbridge representatives from Friday's GIC) in spite of the world divesting more and more from fossil fuels and the city's own commitment to net zero by 2050.

Looking forward to what can be done together as the process continues,

Sincerely,

Nicole

From: [Nature](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: Pipeline
Date: March 5, 2020 8:42:11 AM

From: Jeremy Graves
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 9:02 PM
To: Nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>; Nature <nature@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: Pipeline

Hello,

I just read a news story that enbridge want to put a pipeline through Beverly Swamp. That is not ok. That place is too important to be destroyed. I live close to Beverly Swamp and spend a fair amount of time there. I read that you are fighting this application. Let me know if there is something I can do to help. I signed a petition but that doesn't seem like enough.

Jeremy Graves

From: [Burnside, Lisa](#)
To: [Teller, Jaime L.](#)
Subject: FW: Add your voice to Ontario Conservation Authorities consultations | Nation Valley News
Date: March 10, 2020 5:46:01 PM

From: Kim Gavine <KGavine@conservationontario.ca>
Sent: March 10, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Angela Coleman (SNC) <acoleman@nation.on.ca>; Brad McNevin (Quinte) <bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca>; Brian Horner (Ausable) <bhorner@abca.ca>; Brian McDougall (SCRCA) <bmcDougall@scrca.on.ca>; Brian Tayler (NBMCA) <Brian.Tayler@nbmca.ca>; Carl Jorgensen (NDCA) <carl.jorgensen@conservationsudbury.ca>; Chandra Sharma (NPCA) <csharma@npca.ca>; Chris Darling (CLOCA) <cdarling@cloca.com>; Chris Wilkinson (CCCA) <generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca>; Corinna Barrett (SSMRCA) <cbarrett@ssmrca.ca>; Dan Marinigh (ORCA) <dmarinigh@otonabeeconservation.com>; David Vallier (MRCA) <David.Vallier@timmins.ca>; Deb Martin-Downs (CVC) <deb.martindowns@cvc.ca>; Dick Hibma (SVCA) <d.hibma@svca.on.ca>; Doug Hevenor (NVCA) <dhevenor@nvca.on.ca>; Elizabeth VanHooren (KCCA) <elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca>; Hassaan Basit (Halton) <hbasit@hrca.on.ca>; Ian Wilcox (UTRCA) <wilcoxi@thamesriver.on.ca>; John Mackenzie (TRCA) <john.mackenzie@trca.on.ca>; Judy Maxwell (LPRCA) <jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca>; Katrina Furlanetto (CRCA) <kfurlanetto@crca.ca>; Linda Laliberte (GRCA) <llaliberte@grca.on.ca>; Burnside, Lisa <Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca>; Mark Majchrowski (Kawartha) <mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com>; Mark Peacock (LTVCA) <mark.peacock@ltvca.ca>; Mike Walters (LSRCA) <m.walters@lsrca.on.ca>; Phil Beard (Maitland) <pbeard@mvca.on.ca>; Rhonda Bateman (LTC) <rhonda.bateman@lrc.on.ca>; Richard Pilon (RRCA) <richard.pilon@rrca.on.ca>; Richard Wyma (ERCA) <rwyma@erca.org>; Sally MacIntyre (MVCA) <smcintyre@mvc.on.ca>; Samantha Lawson (GRCA) <slawson@grandriver.ca>; Sommer Casgrain-Robertson (RVCA) <sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca>; Tammy Cook (Lakehead) <tammy@lakeheadca.com>; Tim Lanthier (GSCA) <t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca>; Tim Pidduck (CVCA) <tim.pidduck@crowevalley.com>
Subject: FW: Add your voice to Ontario Conservation Authorities consultations | Nation Valley News

To: CAOs
From: Kim Gavine
Re: OFA positioning re CA consultations

FYI - Please see below positioning from OFA re the Conservation Authorities consultations. Particularly nice to see their comment regarding the need for secure funding.

Add your voice to Ontario Conservation Authorities consultations

March 6, 2020



by Steve Brackenridge

Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

In principle we all want the same thing – clean water and a healthy environment. Ontario is home to one of the most diverse natural landscapes and environments in the country. We're fortunate to have an expanse of natural watercourses and wetlands that protect and sustain our ecosystems, provide wildlife habitat, manage floods and weather events, and so much more. The critical management of most of these areas falls to Ontario's 36 conservation authorities that are governed by the [Conservation Authorities Act](#).

The Ontario government is conducting multi-stakeholder consultations to better define the core mandate of conservation authorities and their programs and services. As part of the consultations, the government has launched an online survey – open until March 13 – asking for input from stakeholders like Ontario farmers.

The [Ontario Federation of Agriculture](#) (OFA) encourages all our members to participate in the survey – available online at www.ontario.ca/form/survey-ontario-conservation-authorities – and share their perspectives on what programs conservation authorities should deliver. A French version of the survey is also available at www.ontario.ca/fr/page/consultation-offices-de-protection-de-la-nature-de-lontario. There have been several initiatives to modernize conservation authorities in recent years, attempting to clearly define the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services these groups should deliver. Many of OFA's farm families live and farm in municipalities where conservation authorities exercise their mandate, including activities impacting farm businesses.

OFA recently provided in-person and written input to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as part of the multi-stakeholder consultations and review of the act. Here are highlights from OFA's submission.

Conservation authorities require secure funding. The imbalance of population between rural and urban areas often means that rural conservation authorities operate with minimal funding. The provincial government must ensure that all conservation authorities have the resources to fulfill their core mandates. We know that Ontario farmers are regularly frustrated with the inconsistencies between the 36 conservation authorities in offering stewardship programming and on the ground environmental enhancements. Much of this inconsistency stems from the imbalance of funding available to stewardship programming. Further challenges and

inconsistencies come from differing interpretation of Section 28 and the provincial policy statement, policies for activities on farms and respect for the role farmers and their land play in providing ecological goods and services that benefit all Ontarians.

Farmers are environmentalists. In addition to producing food, fibre and fuel, conservation authorities must recognize that agricultural land in Ontario provides a broad range of environmental ecological goods and services that are often overlooked. These include flood management, improved air quality, nutrient cycling, pollinator habitat, erosion control, and habitat for wildlife and species at risk.

Terms within the act need to be clarified. There's often confusion around the terms "watercourses" and "wetlands" within Section 28 of the act. OFA is asking the Ontario government to get on with the job of defining Section 28 terms, specifically "development activity", "watercourse and wetlands", "interference with a wetland" and "conservation of land". We're prepared to assist with this process ensuring the farm voice is at the table.

Conservation authorities are established on a watershed basis, and in many cases Ontario farmers regularly engage with one or multiple conservation authorities as part of their farm operations. We strongly urge conservation authorities to engage with our county federations when developing new stewardship programs or amending existing ones.

Currently, Ontario's conservation authorities operate with a core mandate to prepare against natural hazards, manage conservation authority lands and protect drinking water sources. OFA is advocating for Ontario farmers and their roles and responsibilities that fall within the act. We're asking our members to add their voice to provide input through the online survey and share their perspective on necessary changes to the roles and responsibilities of Ontario's conservation authorities to create a more positive model for collaboration going forward.

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President | ECO Strategy
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From: [Jeff Laskey](#)
To: [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)
Cc: [Costie, Gord](#)
Subject: Letter to HCA Advisory Board March 12, 2020
Date: March 11, 2020 6:01:21 PM

Dear Honourable Members of the Advisory Board, HCA.

I am writing to you with regard to an Agenda Item that will be brought before you on March 12, 2020. My comments are specific to the Spencer Gorge operations for the 2020 season.

Our family lives in the village Greenville and we are situated on a street that has, and continues, to be greatly impacted by the popularity of the Waterfalls/Spencer Gorge. Over the last 12 years of our residence in the small rural village of Greenville we have noticed a steady increase in visitors and their impact in our community. Certainly those impacts have been well documented in the media and though the mindful efforts of HCA's diligent staff.

In addition to being a local Greenville resident, I was one of the three partners that worked closely with the HCA at the highest levels in the development and implementation of the Shuttle Service during its inaugural year of operation. We started working with the HCA in 2015 and through to 2018 on the operation/consulting of the shuttle. I believe in the shuttle and feel that its impact on congestion has been excellent however much more work needs to be done.

I understand that staff, under the direction of the venerable Mr Costie, has developed a guide for 2020 operations. I would suggest the following additions/changes to the plan he puts forward.

1) Limit walks-ins to only people who are HCA pass holders. Even though there is some limited legal parking in Greenville the stock is quite low and leads to many of the issues documented time and time again in the media. My intimate knowledge of the situation and 100's of hours run-in 6th shuttle leads to believe that most people come from far enough away that will be compliant with taking the shuttle if that is the only way they can get into the park. If the only way to get into the park is through Christie Gate then that is where 95% of people will go.

2) Reservation System by Sept 1st, 2020. Time of day use tracking has never been completed by the HCA partially because it is difficult and partially because ignorance is bliss. In 2017 we tracked sales by time of day (informally). This knowledge combined with the view on the ground clearly shows that afternoon 1 - 5 tends to be exponentially busier than other times. A reservation system would force this trend to even itself out over the course of the day and ensure 100's of people are not left waiting for buses that cannot service the volumes as we have seen occur during the fall colours.

3) Hard Caps on Numbers. Building a visitor plan around hard caps is one of the most important aspects of keeping things reasonable and under control. I suggest that the HCA propose and present to its Advisory Board along with adequate input from the community and the City of Hamilton a hard ceiling on daily capacity. There is undeniable proof that Greenville bends under the pressure of swollen visitor numbers and this has created a situation that will become untenable if it is allowed to continue. A hard cap on daily visitors sets a bar for the peace of the village, the environment and well managed visitor experience.

My personal perspective is that HCA Executive staff, for whom I have a great deal of respect and appreciation, tend, to the detriment of Greenville, to not penetrate deep enough into the issues to create the level of impact that is needed. With the closing of the Greenville hill over the next two years there will be a significant and exacerbated impact on the community as far as Spencer Gorge visitors go. In effect the hill closure creates a “kettling” of visitors, and traffic trying to make their way through Greenville and around the Hwy 8 closure.

Please consider insisting on implementation by staff of above suggestions to ensure the safety and best possible experience for visitors and the residents of the village.

Thank you kindly for you time.

Jeff and Sandee Laskey

January 2, 2020

Hamilton Conservation Authority Administration Office - Woodend
838 Mineral Springs Road
Ancaster, Ontario
L9G-4X1
Att: Lisa Burnside

Dear Lisa,

As you are aware the Greensville community has endured a unprecedented influx of visitors during the spring, summer and fall of 2019. The City of Hamilton and, in particular, our Councillor Arlene Vanderbeek has put tremendous effort into trying to mitigate the impacts felt by residents as thousands arrive in Greensville especially on weekends.

Our rural settlement area is ill-equipped to cope with so many visitors. The impact of this influx has buses exceeding speed limits to deal with the volumes. Long lines of visitors wait in the dark and walk ins are still using the side of the road to access the parks which is extremely dangerous plus other parking issues on main roads we have not seen before.

The community has now reached a breaking point. We as stakeholders have an obligation to protect this beautiful area. The City of Hamilton has done as much as it can to help us.

The relationship between the HCA and the Greensville community has deteriorated for various reasons over the past few years but we need to work together despite this to resolve the problems.

The community is open to serious discussions with the HCA about how best to control the numbers of visitors before heading into the 2020 season. We need to put past differences aside as we work toward a common goal to maintain the lifestyle of residents, protect our conservation areas and still provide access to the falls for visitors. We are open to dates in early January to begin these discussions and roll out a plan before the season begins. Please provide a date and time for this meeting preferably in the evening.

Yours truly,

Mark Osborne — [REDACTED]

On Behalf of Protect Websters and Tews Community Group

cc. Arlene Vanderbeek

Preserve and Protect Webster's and Tew's Falls - Greensville

February 4th, 2002 – Meeting – Hamilton Conservation Authority

Community Expectation on Controlling Ongoing Excessive Visitors to Webster's and Tew's Falls

Re: Letter to HCA dated January 2, 2020

Action Items

- An online reservation system needs to be implemented before April 2020, this will allow fine tuning of the system over the busy months, various approaches to this can be discussed.
- Reservation system must be coupled with a cap on visitors to the area, again open for discussion on the number and how to determine the number most appropriate for our area. *(3000 people in the park per day on weekends/holiday was a 140% increase over the 80,000 outlined in the Master Plan. And The Master plan also took into consideration the environmental impact of the visitor population with its overall purpose to protect and enhance the significant natural features and ecological functions of the conservation area while providing opportunities for the public to enjoy this spectacular area).*
- These areas are part of the UNESCO Biosphere (Niagara Escarpment) and deserve to be protected.
- Staff or security must be at the gates to control entry and most importantly no walk-ins must be enforced.
- A social media expert experienced in penetrating the markets that visitors come from to inform them of the reservation system must be implemented as soon as possible.

Benefits

- Less vehicular traffic on streets once the reservation system takes hold
- Less walk-in pedestrians on side of roads with no sidewalks during daylight and night time – extremely dangerous.
- Reservations will allow the HCA to better manage the financial cost of shuttles, drivers, salaries, fuel, diesel emissions.
- Will also allow HCA to know the exact number of visitors in the parks on any particular day.
- Less garbage, noise and other unlawful activities on private residences.
- Restricting non-paying walk-ins will help increase revenue to the parks.

This was not referenced in the report 10.2 why?

Mark Osborne

From: Mark Osborne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: March 4, 2020 6:43 PM
To: 'Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca'
Cc: 'Jill Campure'; 'Michele Stuck'; 'VanderBeek, Arlene'
Subject: Follow-Up from Meeting

Tracking:

Recipient

Read

'Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca'

'Jill Campure'

'Michele Stuck'

'VanderBeek, Arlene'

Burnside, Lisa

Read: 2020-03-04 7:05 PM

Dear Lisa,

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your staff on the Greenville visitor situation. As pointed out in the letter at our last meeting, the community is now at a critical point that action must be taken before the season starts. We all need to restrict the amount visitors that come to our community to improve the quality of life for the residents and the environment. We are therefore asking that the HCA keep us in the chain of communication and discussion on the cap, reservation system, walk-ins and the issuance of this information to the general public. We request that this information be available for discussion before the next Board meeting April 2. We trust you will involve us prior to this board meeting.

Thank You

M. Osborne

On Behalf Of Preserve and Protect Websters and Tews Falls
PPWTFG

No response from Lisa Burnside

- Improved relations between the community and the HCA
- Environmental preservation

Some Case Studies

<https://gomuirwoods.com/>

http://media.metro.net/projects_studies/sustainability/images/t2p_case_studies_2018-0301.pdf

Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED AND
PREPARED BY:** Gordon R. Costie, Director of Conservation Area
Services

DATE: March 12, 2020

RE: Shuttle Bus Service 2020 - Spencer Gorge Conservation
Area

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

WHEREAS the shuttle bus service for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area continues to evolve with the ongoing operation based out of Christie Lake Conservation Area;

THEREFORE, be it resolved

THAT Staff be directed to implement the following recommendations outlined in the report titled "Shuttle Bus Service 2020 – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area";

Recommendation #1 - THAT the shuttle service be extended until mid November to align with the City of Hamilton's special enforcement parking Fall timeframe; and further

Recommendation #2 - THAT staff be directed to undertake permit applications with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario to obtain permission for the Fall colour period road side signage along Highway #5 to help direct visitors to the shuttle hub at Christie Lake Conservation Area; and further

Recommendation #3 - THAT staff initiate a pilot ticketing program consisting of an online prepaid ticket system supporting visitor management to be ready and operate for the Fall colour period; and further

Nothing referenced in this report on the communities involvement ie letters, emails etc WHY?

Mark Osborne

From: Protect Websters <protectwebsters@gmail.com>
Sent: March 11, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Burnside, Lisa
Cc: Mark Osborne; [REDACTED]; arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca
Subject: Greenville Community Update

Dear Lisa,

During our meeting February 4th members of PPWTFG and the Greenville community presented a list of expectations based on community feedback regarding the excessive visitor population at Tew's and Webster's Falls. This included an online reservation system coupled with a cap on visitors and elimination of walk-in visitors. Although we appreciate an online prepaid ticketing program pilot has been put forth as a Staff recommendation to the Conservation Advisory Board there is no mention of capacity controls, cap on ticket sales or restricting walk-in traffic. The introduction of a prepaid ticketing program without any capacity controls would be extremely detrimental to the community. We therefore request clarification on this item in advance of the Advisory Board meeting. Will there be a cap on ticket sales in 2020? If so, what is the number? How is the HCA planning to manage Walk-Ins? It is disappointing that the HCA is once again moving forward with plans without involving stakeholders from the community. Appreciate your update.

Michelle Stuck

On Behalf of Preserve and Protect Websters and Tews Falls Greenville
PPWTFG

No response to date from Lisa Burnside

Question was asked about the number of residents involved we have over 500 signatures on petitions we have asked residents to sign, again WHY is the community not a stakeholder in any discussions and decisions regarding our community?



**Hamilton
Conservation
Authority**



**Conservation
Halton**



**NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY**

March 12, 2020

VIA Email (clerk@hamilton.ca)

Andrea Holland
City Clerk
City Hall
71 Main St. W., 1st Floor
Hamilton, Ontario,
Canada L8P 4Y5

Dear Ms. Holland,

Re: Bill 108 request for letter of support for conservation authorities (CAs)

On May 2, 2019, the Province introduced Bill 108, entitled the *More Homes, More Choice Act*, as part of its Housing Supply Action Plan. Schedule 2 of this omnibus bill contained proposed revised wording for the amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Some provisions came into force when the Bill received Royal Assent, while others will come into force on a day to be proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor (through Cabinet) or by the Minister through regulation(s).

The Province has recently initiated multi-stakeholder engagement consultations related to Bill 108 Regulations and is seeking input from key stakeholders. Provincial review of conservation authority mandates and potential funding may have implications for municipalities.

Several municipal governments across the province have recently adopted council resolutions highlighting the critical role that CAs play as watershed and natural resource management agencies for their partner municipalities and communities. Municipalities are also advocating for an improved funding base for CAs from the Province to prevent further downloading.

We would like to thank the City of Hamilton for their continued support of conservation authorities and kindly request that a council resolution and a letter be sent to the Province in support of CA mandates (Hamilton, Halton, Niagara Peninsula and Grand River Conservation Authorities).

Sincerely,



Helen Jowett
Chair, Grand River Conservation
Authority



Gerry Smallegange
Chair, Halton Conservation



Lloyd Ferguson
Chair, Hamilton Conservation
Authority

Brenda Johnson
Chair, Niagara Peninsula
Conservation Authority



Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Matt Hall, Director Capital Projects & Strategic Services

PREPARED BY: Kathy Smith, Design Projects Coordinator

DATE: February 13, 2020

RE: Visitor Safety at Dundas Peak

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT “Visitor Safety Management Option #1 – Fencing” be endorsed for implementation at the Dundas Peak.

BACKGROUND

The Dundas Peak provides a panoramic view of the Spencer Gorge, the town of Dundas, and the City of Hamilton. Official HCA visitor access to the Dundas Peak is gained via a trail from the Tew Falls parking lot, which is also an official side trail of the Bruce Trail.

In 1992, HCA staff identified a need to provide a safer lookout area at the Dundas Peak. An application was submitted by the HCA to the Ontario Heritage Foundation for a Niagara Escarpment Project Grant for capital improvements at the peak. Staff submitted plans for a stone wall that would retain the character of the natural area and keep visitors a safe distance back from the cliff edge. Subsequently, funding and approvals were secured to initiate the project.

The stone wall seen on site today was installed in 1993, with some later modifications made to the wall capping. Since then the HCA has also implemented a variety of signage and additional fencing in many areas throughout the Spencer Gorge, to enhance safety. There are two viewing platforms at Tew Falls, as well as other similar

platforms along the trail leading to the Dundas Peak, to offer safe visitor lookout points. The Dundas Peak and Spencer Gorge continue to attract attention on social media and visitors from across the GTHA, as a result the HCA continues to evolve its operations and visitor management practices for the area.

STAFF COMMENT

With the growth in popularity of the Dundas Peak, staff have noted concerns with visitor behaviour in connection with their experience at Dundas Peak. Specifically, persistent graffiti on the stone wall is being experienced, degrading the visual appearance. Of greater concern is; despite the wall being a safe distance back from the cliff face, visitors bypass or climb over the wall, venturing out to the edges of the natural lookout. Staff have also noted the creation of unauthorized side trails to create new look out spots. Multiple images are appearing online of visitors at or on cliff edges and endangering themselves.

The HCA continues to promote safety around waterfalls and escarpment areas by advising visitors to remain on trails, to stay behind fences and barriers and to remain at all times back from edges. These messages are found on our website, in media releases, and on-site signage with pictograms. This is not done to detract from the natural beauty of the area, but to convey and emphasize the importance of safe behaviours while in these natural escarpment areas with steep drops.

Despite current safety initiatives, many visitors continue to venture to cliff edges of the Dundas Peak. It is not uncommon to see people sitting or standing at or on the brink of the rock outcrops, often to obtain photos or selfies. This behaviour poses a risk management challenge, as should a visitor fall from this escarpment area, a rope rescue by the Hamilton Fire Department is required, who are trained to carry out these rescues safely. Rope rescues continue to be carried out at this area, and accordingly, staff have reviewed this issue and have developed several Visitor Safety Management Options. These are detailed as follows:

Visitor Safety Management Option #1 - Fencing:

The staff preferred and recommended option is fencing the perimeter of the Peak. A conceptual drawing of this solution is attached as Appendix 1.0. The extent of the proposed fencing is shown in Appendix 2.0. This fence would match decorative metal picket fencing previously installed at the other two main features of the Spencer Gorge; Webster and Tew Falls.

Picket fencing has proven to be an effective low maintenance barrier in many other areas at Spencer Gorge and is felt that it would permit visitors safe views from the Peak. Fencing of this style would allow the HCA to maximize the safe viewing area at the Dundas Peak as it has a minimal footprint and can be installed safely, with much

more flexibility in its configuration. The natural, irregular shape, of the Dundas Peak will require this ability for customization.

The proposed option requires removing the existing stone wall and restoration of this area, prior to adding new fencing. In addition to this, staff also propose extending the fencing alongside the trail to block any unauthorized side trails leading to nearby escarpment edges. Additional site restoration is also recommended to re-vegetate and close off the unauthorized side trails, as well as adding new interpretive signage and safety messaging onsite to educate visitors on the site's history, the unstable nature of its geology and the importance of staying on official marked trails.

Visitor Safety Management Option #2 – Leave as is with Additional Signage:

This option is for the existing wall to remain in place as the safety barrier and potentially add additional on-site safety signage. This recognizes that this is a natural look out point and many similar such areas exist along the length of the Niagara Escarpment. It would also leave the Peak as the only lookout area along the trail in the Spencer Gorge that does not have a fenced safety barrier.

Visitor Safety Management Option #3 – Extend the Wall:

This option would be to extend the existing stone wall. Experience with the existing wall has shown that visitors do not remain behind the barrier, and as such, staff do not feel that the impact of extending the wall will have the desired effect of keeping visitors away from the cliff edge. It would also be a target for more graffiti.

Visitor Safety Management Option #4 – Viewing Platform:

This option would be to install a lookout platform, or platforms, with railings similar to the other lookout platforms around the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area. This option would require a variety of designs, studies and approvals, in addition to the initial capital and ongoing maintenance costs that would be required. This option would take a number of years to accomplish, which does not address risk management and safety in the short term.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Initiative – Support the capital development and major maintenance program to enhance our facilities and ensure they are safe, functional and current
- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**

- Initiative – Develop visitor and parking management strategies to support conservation areas for sustainable recreation, education and tourism.

AGENCY COMMENTS

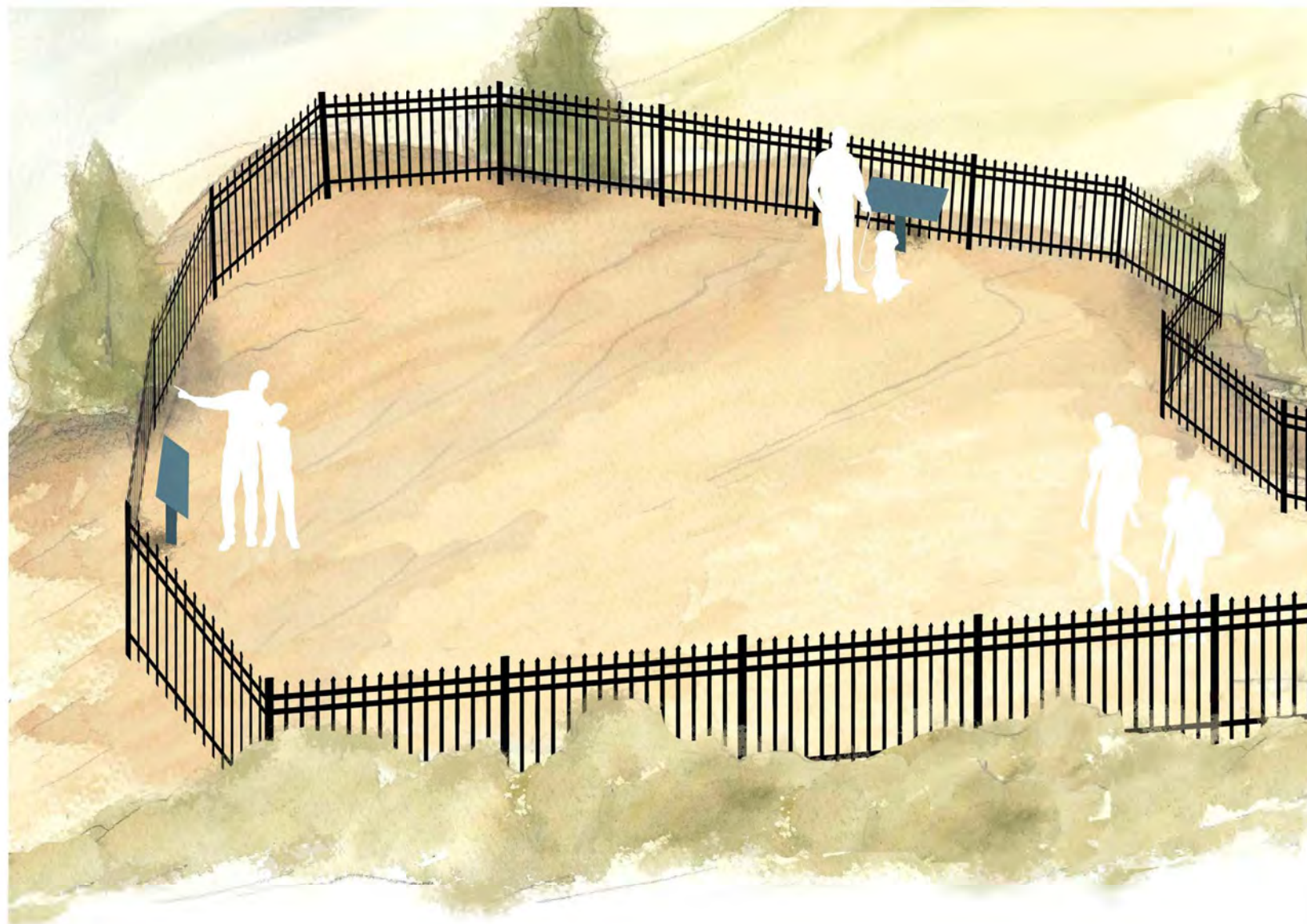
This project area is subject to development review by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Depending on the recommended solution, a development permit may be required by the NEC for site works to proceed.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All proposed works will be funded through the 2020 Capital Budget. Further site investigation and risk assessment may be required as part of this project.

CONCLUSIONS

The Dundas Peak provides a spectacular view of Dundas, Hamilton and the Spencer Gorge. The recommended visitor safety management strategy is intended to help enhance public safety at one of the HCA's most popular conservation areas in our watershed. Visitors venturing to the edge of the rock outcrops, are at risk of serious injury. The addition of fencing is a reasonable safety enhancement which is consistent throughout the conservation area



**DUNDAS PEAK FENCING CONCEPT VIEW
SPENCER GORGE C.A.**





Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Gord Costie, Director Conservation Area Services

PREPARED BY: Rondalyn Brown and Peter Lloyd, Westfield Staff

DATE: February 13, 2020

RE: Westfield Heritage Village 2020 Accession and Deaccession List

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT the Westfield Heritage Village 2019 Artifact Acquisitions and Deaccession List be accepted as the artifacts added to, or removed from, the Westfield Heritage Village and the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority collection.

BACKGROUND

Westfield Heritage Village has a comprehensive Collections Management Policy approved by the Hamilton Conservation Board of Directors.

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

Objects acquired for the collection will be consistent with the mandate, goals and priorities of the site. Objects collected will normally represent the types of material goods that would have been locally manufactured, routinely available or the product of

local activity in Southern Ontario from the period 1790-1925. They must be in a condition suitable for display or research. The decision to accession an artifact into the Westfield Collection will be made by the Collections Committee through consultation with the Collections Officer and the Westfield Manager. A list of accessioned items will be provided to the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority at year end.

Deaccessioning is the permanent removal of an object from the collection. The deaccession process will be undertaken according to the highest professional standards and ethical practices, and will be fully documented. The decision to deaccession an artifact, as well as the subsequent methods of disposal, will be made by the Collections Committee, through consultation with the Collections Officer and the Westfield Manager. A list of deaccessioned items will be provided to the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority at year end.

STAFF COMMENT

Westfield staff is diligent about adhering to the very important collections management policies and museum standards to ensure the Hamilton Conservation Authority is managing the artifact collection in a professional manner.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**
 - Initiatives – Identify and support a more diverse and accessible range of programs for our conservation area users

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not applicable.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In accepting these artifacts the Hamilton Conservation Authority assumes liability and responsibility for the care and protection of the artifacts as per the Collections Management Policy.

CONCLUSIONS

Adding the artifacts on this list to the Westfield Heritage Village collection will preserve important pieces of local history and enhance the experience for visitors.



Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board Members

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Matthew Hall, Director; Capital Projects & Strategic Services

PREPARED BY: Kathy Smith, Design Projects Coordinator; Capital Projects & Strategic Services

DATE: February 28, 2020

RE: Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT this report and accompanying master plan of March 2020 be received as information for project background and general understanding; and further;

THAT the Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan be approved.

BACKGROUND

HCA acquired the original Valens land parcels in the 1960's and Valens Lake Conservation Area opened to the public in 1968 as a day-use facility. Since that time four Master Plans have been prepared by HCA staff and others for Valens, with the last plan being completed in 2000. This new Master Plan compiles pertinent information from all previous plans, adds new data, and provides guidance for the management and development of this conservation area for the next ten years.

Work on this new plan began January 2019 and was implemented by HCA staff through a four-stage process. Throughout the process the plan was refined through various staff and public consultation efforts, and reviewed through an in-house steering committee.

Phase 1 Background was completed by April 2019 with engagement of staff and the steering committee, collection of mapping information, gathering background

information, and presentation of an information report to the HCA Conservation Advisory Board.

Phase 2 Inventory was completed by October 2019 with the collection and assembly of natural areas field surveys and mapping information, ecological reports, trail counter data, and visitor surveys. Visitor surveys were conducted over the summer months, both in the conservation area and on-line through the HCA website. Staff also operated public information booths at the campground on the Victoria long weekend, and at the day use beach on the Civic long weekend. Members of the public interested in reviewing the draft plan were invited to join the stakeholders list to provide further comments in Phase 4.

Phase 3 Concepts were completed by September 2019 and refined further from public and stakeholder input received at a public information meeting held September 11, 2019 at the Valens Community Centre. Draft concept plans were presented to the public at this meeting based on current mapping data and information gleaned from facilitated workshop sessions held with HCA staff covering visioning and site concept planning, site activities analysis and assessment, recreational trends, financial and operational reviews, and field investigations.

Phase 4 Summary included reviews of the compiled draft plan by staff, stakeholders, and board advisory members. The draft plan was posted on the HCA website for public review and comment from January 28 to February 18, 2020. Outside agencies, stakeholders, CAB, Board of Directors, staff, steering committee, and members of the public who provided us with their contact information during the draft master plan process were directly circulated with the plan January 29th and advised of the deadline for commenting. With the closing of the public commenting period, the draft plan is currently at 95% and will be completed upon endorsement by the Conservation Advisory Board, and adoption by the HCA Board of Directors.

STAFF COMMENT

During the public commenting period comments were received from HCA staff; Grand River Conservation Authority; City of Hamilton; and the Public. All comments received were reviewed with the HCA steering committee and executive team, and have been addressed in the revised draft accompanying this report.

The following is a brief overview of the key items brought forward that resulted in edits to the draft master plan.

HCA Staff

Staff comments helped verify site history information, informed the natural areas field and inventory results, resulted in refinement to the site concept maps, and associated conservation area management sections. Staff also met with representatives from the

YMCA of Oakville who operate an outdoor education and leadership program at Valens, and their comments helped refine the facility rentals section of the plan.

Grand River Conservation Authority

GRCA staff noted that a small portion of wetlands and regulated area under O. Reg 150/06 within their watershed exist on this site. The features under their jurisdiction include the Valens Lake Provincially Significant Wetland Complex and the 120 metres adjacent to these features within the boundaries of the GRCA watershed. Works and development within the regulated areas would require a permit from the GRCA prior to undertaking. No such work is highlighted within this plan.

City of Hamilton

A representative from the City's Natural Heritage department confirmed review and had no concerns about the plan. The City's Cultural Heritage department was also circulated and provided no comment to the plan.

Public

We received comments from adjacent landowners who attended the September public open house, their comments concerned the following topics:

- Area residents expressed concerns about invasive species at Valens, and for HCA to better manage and suppress invasive species so they do not spread to lands surrounding the conservation area.
- An individual followed up with additional comments on the definition of native species, and requested clarification on the management strategies for site restoration.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

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

AGENCY COMMENTS

The plan includes lands within the watershed boundary of the Grand River Conservation Authority, and within the City of Hamilton's jurisdiction. As noted previously, these agencies were circulated and their comments are addressed in this revised document.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

The new Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan supports HCA's Vision and Mission Statements in the current Strategic Plan. It also forwards the approved HCA Ten Year Masterplan Update Strategy, ensuring all HCA lands are being reviewed, updated and developed appropriately. The master plan reflects HCA's intent to sustainably conserve and protect natural areas at Valens while providing recreational opportunities for visitors to enjoy, appreciate, and learn about the natural environment.

Staff endorse the recommendation that the plan be brought to the Board of Directors for approval as the official policy document for the management and development of this conservation area, for the next ten years.



Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED AND PREPARED BY: Gordon R. Costie, Director of Conservation Area Services

DATE: March 12, 2020

RE: Shuttle Bus Service 2020 - Spencer Gorge Conservation Area

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

WHEREAS the shuttle bus service for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area continues to evolve with the ongoing operation based out of Christie Lake Conservation Area;

THEREFORE, be it resolved

THAT Staff be directed to implement the following recommendations outlined in the report titled "Shuttle Bus Service 2020 – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area";

Recommendation #1 - THAT the shuttle service be extended until mid November to align with the City of Hamilton's special enforcement parking Fall timeframe; and further

Recommendation #2 - THAT staff be directed to undertake permit applications with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario to obtain permission for the Fall colour period road side signage along Highway #5 to help direct visitors to the shuttle hub at Christie Lake Conservation Area; and further

Recommendation #3 - THAT staff initiate a pilot ticketing program consisting of an online prepaid ticket system supporting visitor management to be ready and operate for the Fall colour period; and further

Recommendation #4 - THAT staff evaluate the effectiveness of these measures and report back regarding their ongoing potential.

BACKGROUND

The Spencer Gorge shuttle service has been in operation for the past three operating seasons with the last two seasons operated directly from Christie Lake Conservation Area. To date, the shuttle service continues to be the most successful, and effective method of removing vehicles from parking within the Greensville area.

After an initial partnership with a private contractor to operate the shuttle offsite and then with HCA as a pilot project operating out of Christie Lake Conservation Area, the Board of Directors in 2019 approved the shuttle service as part of ongoing operations within Christie Lake as the permanent parking and shuttle hub location for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area.

The shuttle service operates seasonally between May and October on weekends and holidays. Last year an earlier start date for the shuttle service was approved by the Board to consider the Easter weekend in April.

Operations take place on specific days of the week which include Saturdays, Sundays, holiday Mondays, and Canada Day.

Recent shuttle service parking statistics:

2017 = 16,000 vehicles parked out of the Greensville community

2018 = 15,000 vehicles parked out of the Greensville community

2019 = 20,000 vehicles parked out of the Greensville community

STAFF COMMENT

With the certainty of the shuttle hub based out of Christie Lake, staff continue to gain experience and confidence in how the shuttle bus service integrates with our regular Conservation Area operations. Additionally, staff continue to gain experience with the service itself and how it can evolve and improve its service and the customer experience. The shuttle service did experience a sizable increase in ridership in 2019 compared to 2017 and 2018. This increase may be attributed primarily to:

- Social media promotion on sites such as Blog TO and Narcity showcasing Dundas Peak as one of the epic spots in Southern Ontario to experience the fall colours
- Spectacular weather conditions experienced on three consecutive weekends in October 2019

- City of Hamilton \$250 Special Enforcement Parking fines instituted in 2019
- Increased City by law enforcement of municipal road ways
- Improved signage for the area
- Second year of operating out of a recognized Conservation Area

Despite the undeniable reduction to traffic congestion and unauthorized parking, our evolving parking/visitor management needs to grow with the changing conditions in a reasonable and manageable approach. The 2019 experience highlighted the viewing of fall colours as becoming an unofficial event with the influence of social media sites promoting the area. A key important success factor continues to be getting the vehicles directly to the Christie Lake shuttle hub without first driving into the Greenville community. Traffic flow will be particularly important in 2020 with the highway maintenance closure of Highway 8 which will create congestion in the area causing resident and local traffic to be redirected.

With this in mind, staff have developed the following additional measures recommended for the 2020 operational season.

Additional Recommended Measures for 2020

1) Shuttle Bus Service End Date

Staff propose extending the shuttle bus service contract in recognition of the potential ongoing visitation into November. An extension to November 15 is recommended which also harmonizes with the end date of the Special Enforcement Parking area.

2) Signage on Highway 5

While HCA, historically and currently, has reserved the one Pattison billboard marketing sign (near Sydenham Road) facing westbound traffic on Highway 5 to direct visitors to the shuttle hub at Christie Lake, staff propose applying for Ministry of Transportation Ontario approval to place temporary electronic signs at key intersections along Highway 5 to help further direct visitors to the shuttle hub at Christie Lake Conservation Area. Electronic road side signs would strengthen the messaging for visitors going westbound to remain on the highway directly to Christie Lake and not to turn down Ofield Road or Brock Road. The signage is recommended for the fall colour season.

3) Online Prepaid Ticket System – Pilot for fall 2020

Staff propose initiating and securing an online advanced ticket purchase system capable of supporting visitor management strategies. Such a pilot will provide experience in regard to capacity and time of day usage as well as operational efficacies with visitors utilizing the online tickets system which reduces POS transactions on site. Staff have begun discussions with a software/hardware contractor (CAMIS) who currently provides our online camping reservation system and believe they have the experience and capabilities to design a system for HCA. A pilot is recommended for the fall colour season.

4) Operational Considerations

From an operational perspective, staff will also be reviewing staffing needs, shuttle bus requirements, and security services, potentially including Hamilton Police Service in recognition of the Fall Colour period, from the end of September to mid November. Staff will also be working with our marketing and communications department to enhance our website, and other online/social media to inform visitors of the shuttle service and, if approved, the pilot online advanced ticket initiative. Staff will continue to partner with the City of Hamilton for public service and safety reminders for visitors to waterfalls and escarpment areas. Additionally, staff will continue to work with City of Hamilton Waterfall Working group and the Area Councillor to stay abreast of circumstances and initiatives in and around the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area on HCA lands as well as municipally controlled roadways.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

Conservation Area Experience

- Initiative – Develop visitor and parking management strategies to support conservation areas for sustainable recreation, education and tourism

Organizational Excellence

- Initiative – Providing a positive and safe environment for both staff and visitors

AGENCY COMMENTS

None

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An estimate of providing a hardware/software system with the capability to provide online store parking purchases is a minimum of \$25,000 per year based on preliminary research with CAMIS.

Signage on Highway 5 will require permit fees for Ministry of Transportation as well as rental fees for electronic signage. The cost for electronic signs and permit fees is estimated at \$10,000 to \$20,000 based on the size and quantity of the sign(s) and specific rental duration.

Extension of shuttle contract service until mid November is estimated to be \$9,000 - \$12,000 based on shuttle and staff costs for the additional operating days.

These costs will form part of the expenses for Christie Lake in the 2020 operating year.

CONCLUSIONS

It is anticipated that visitation to this multi-featured and iconic area will continue in popularity, particularly to view fall colours. The impact of traffic and congestion from vehicles on the Greensville community is well documented. This area remains one of the most prominent challenges for the HCA and the City of Hamilton to manage.

The recommendations in this report represent the ongoing evolution of parking and visitor management for the area.

Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

PREPARED BY: Jeff Stock, Watershed Stewardship Technician,
Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program

Mike Stone, Manager, Watershed Planning, Stewardship
& Ecological Services

DATE: March 12th, 2020

RE: Project Technical Advisory Committee

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

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

THAT the members on the Project Technical Advisory Committee be appointed for a three-year term, from April 1st, 2020 to March 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND

Since 1994, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) and Conservation Halton (CH) have worked collaboratively to administer the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program (HHWSP). Through the HHWSP HCA and CH work strategically and cooperatively to undertake stewardship activities within the Hamilton Harbour watershed and Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, while also maintaining independent programs to deliver stewardship services within their respective watersheds. The shared program has been highly successful over the years and has

resulted in the contact of over 4,000 landowners with at least half of these being in the Hamilton Conservation Authority's watershed.

While both HCA and CH contribute funding to the program for staffing and landowner contact, funds for the capital projects involving projects on private lands have typically been raised through different sources, including the HCA capital funding program and application to various grant programs.

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

STAFF COMMENT

Staff of the HHWSP appreciates the commitment that Project Technical Advisory Committee members have made to date to assist in the delivery of the HHWSP to watershed landowners. This report serves to formally recognize their work, as well as to identify committee membership for the next three years. The term of appointment for PTAC members will extend from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2023, which coincides with the typical fiscal year of the majority of the granting organizations. This report and the identification of the PTAC membership also provides the basis for extending insurance coverage to members, as discussed further below.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Water Management**
 - Invest in programs to address the impacts of nutrient and sediment loading on watershed streams, creeks, rivers and receiving water bodies.
 - Work with the City of Hamilton, and our partners on the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan to address nutrient and sediment loading within the Hamilton Harbour Watershed.
 - Continue the HCA's Watershed Stewardship Program and work with landowners to increase environmental awareness and restoration projects.
- **Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Work with our partners on stewardship initiatives for the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program and the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System
- **Education and Environmental Awareness**

- Enhance stewardship programs for both urban and rural areas.
- Identify and support outreach opportunities within all of our program areas.
- Promote the connection between environmental health and human wellness.

AGENCY COMMENTS

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

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

CONCLUSIONS

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

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOAL

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

MANDATE

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of PTAC is to:

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

MEETINGS

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

SUPPORT STAFF

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

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



PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Agricultural Organization

Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Nadine Gill-Aarts, Member Service Representative
Member for the following terms:
First Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

City of Hamilton

Kara Bunn, Manager, Parks and Cemeteries, Environmental Services, Public Works
Member for the following term:
First Term: 2018, 2019
Second Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Sarah Matchett
Member for the following Term:
First Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

Conservation Halton

Julia Marko, Natural Heritage Ecologist
Member for the following terms:
First Term: 2018, 2019
Second Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

Halton Region

Ron Reinholt R.P.F. Regional Forester
Member for the following terms:
First Term: 2019
Second Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Lesley McDonell, Terrestrial Ecologist
Member for the following terms:
First Term: 2012, 2013, 2014
Lesley participated on the committee in 2015 and 2016.
Second Term: 2017, 2018, 2019
Third Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Lorraine Moir, Partnership Specialist

First Term: 2007, 2008, 2009

Second Term: 2010, 2011, 2012

Third Term: 2013, 2014, 2015

Diane Schwier of MNR filled in for Lorraine in 2016.

Fourth Term: 2017, 2018, 2019

Fifth Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

NOTE: [Deanna L. Lindblad](#) currently subbing in for Lorraine

Royal Botanical Gardens

Andrea Court, Ecologist

First Term: 2014, 2015, 2016

Second Term: 2017, 2018, 2019

Third Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

NOTE: Andrea is currently on maternity leave, returning tbd.

Watershed Resident Members

Philip Krakar

Member for the following terms:

First Term: 2007, 2008, 2009

Second Term: 2010, 2011, 2012

Third Term: 2013, 2014, 2015

Philip participated on the committee in 2016.

Fourth Term: 2017, 2018, 2019

Fifth Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

John Shaw

Member for the following terms:

First Term: 2007, 2008, 2009

Second Term: 2010, 2011, 2012

Third Term: 2013, 2014, 2015

John participated on the committee in 2016.

Fourth Term: 2017, 2018, 2019

Fifth Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

Paul Smith

Member for the following terms:

First Term: 2012, 2013, 2014

Paul participated on the committee in 2015 and 2016.

Second Term: 2017, 2018, 2019

Third Term: 2020, 2021, 2022



Sheila O'Neil

Member for the following terms:

First Term: 2020, 2021, 2022

Nancy Tilt

Member for the following terms:

First Term: 2017, 2018, 2019

Second Term: 2020, 2021, 2022



CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESENTING GRANT APPLICATIONS TO PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hamilton Conservation Authority Stewardship Staff

Phone: 905-525-2181; Fax: 905-6484622

Cherish Gamble, Watershed Stewardship Technician

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Jeff Stock, Watershed Stewardship Technician

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Email: Jeff.Stock@conservationhamilton.ca

Mike Stone, Manager of Watershed Planning Services

Phone: Extension 133

Email: Mike.Stone@conservationhamilton.ca

Conservation Halton Stewardship Staff

Phone: 905-336-1158; Fax: 905-336-6684

Colleen Lavender, Landowner Outreach Technician

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Phone: Extension 2304

Email: bafischer@hrca.on.ca

Amanda Draves, Restoration Project Field Technician

Email: adraves@hrca.on.ca

Kent Rundle, Coordinator – Landowner Outreach and Restoration

Phone: Extension 2319

Email: krundle@hrca.on.ca

Foundation Report for HCA Board Meeting April 2, 2020

Donations

We received a total of **\$5,304** in donations from February 1 to March 23. They break down as follows:

- \$2,000 for the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program
- \$1,392 to be used as needed
- \$1,240 for Westfield Heritage Village
- The remaining \$672 came in donations for Land Securement, Plantings, Outdoor Environmental Education, Dundas Valley Trails and General Trail Development.

This brings our **Fiscal Year-to-Date (Dec 1, 2019 to March 23, 2020) total to \$127,778.**

In light of current circumstances, we don't anticipate a lot of donation activity in the short term, but a \$50,000 commitment from the Greenbelt Foundation was recently confirmed to support wetland work in the Saltfleet Conservation Area.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Hamilton Conservation Authority



Hamilton
Conservation
Authority

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

Our **Vision** - where we want to be

A healthy watershed for everyone

Our **Mission** - what we do

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



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Message from HCA's Board Chairman and CAO

This, our 2019 annual report, not only marks our first year of progress towards our new 5-year strategic plan goals but is also a rebirth of the HCA Annual Report.


While we remain grounded to our roots to protect people and property from natural hazards, we are now more than ever, connecting people with nature and launched a new and revitalized mission, vision and logo along with the new 5-year strategic plan.

Staff and the Board of Directors have made strong progress in all five priority areas. In 2019, we provided orientation to new Board members regarding the strategic plan and toured the watershed to assist our Board in setting strategic directions and priorities. We updated policies and provided training to staff to optimize organization performance, purchased land, carried out master planning work and undertook flood forecasting and monitoring for watershed health. We also engaged residents and the community with planting and invasive species removal for the benefit of our watershed, and invested in the further development of the Saltfleet Conservation Area to offset the impacts of climate change. We met with Provincial ministry staff and revisited our founding principles from our 1958 Spencer Creek Conservation Report to share our history and origins of our programs and services, all the while balancing the needs of the one million visitors to our owned and managed conservation areas.

We have much to be proud of. Many significant projects and programs were undertaken in the past year. These accomplishments are the result of the hard work and dedication of our professional staff, whose passion and commitment for our organization and watershed is tremendous. All of this would not have been possible without the support of many volunteers and the ongoing support of our major funder and partner, the City of Hamilton. We are pleased to highlight that work in the following pages and we look forward to continued progress in 2020.



Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
HCA Board Chairman



Lisa Burnside
HCA CAO



Hamilton
Conservation
Authority

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone





- **\$14 million**
in operating revenue collected
- **66% of revenues self generated**
- **Top three** self generated funding sources are: gate admission, marina operations and camping fees
- **70,000 followers** on HCA social media channels
- **2.3 million page views** to our HCA websites



Organizational Excellence



Organizational Excellence is focused on ensuring corporate and financial viability and the HCA's relevance in the community.

2019 Highlights

- Funding relationships resulted in over half a million dollars in grants for projects such as summer student positions, Canal Park, flood plain mapping, design work for Saltfleet Conservation Area and species at risk.
- Supported a dynamic work culture, safety and professional development and effectiveness of staff through:
 - Enhancing staff communication skills with training to assess individual communication styles as well as online training to enhance and develop leadership and management skills with the focus on leading people, presentation skills, coaching and time management.
 - Improving knowledge of common invasive plant species in our watershed through in house workshops for conservation area and construction staff.
 - Undertaking an external Health & Safety Audit to identify areas of strengths and opportunities for the HCA safety program. These findings will be implemented in 2020.
- Streamlining several policies to enhance business service delivery including:
 - An updated Purchasing Policy to ensure competitive, fair and open purchasing processes that advance HCA's commitment to economic, environmental, and social responsibility.
 - An updated Land Securement Strategy to identify priority lands for the next 10 years.
 - Implemented a Client Services Standard Commitment for our planning and regulations program to provide timely reviews and approvals as well as continuous process improvements.
- Promoted our new 5-year Strategic Plan and logo on Cable 14, at the City of Hamilton, at the Township of Puslinch budget presentation, as well as at the Foundation Annual General Meeting, and shared through HCA media channels.
- Undertook key first steps to modernize the HCA records system with the creation of an in house records management committee, adoption of a records management policy and records retention schedule and completing 40% of the physical records inventory process.
- Collaborated and shared services and expertise through numerous forums and working groups with neighbouring conservation authorities and other partners, including the Latonnell Conservation Symposium and Conservation Areas Workshop. HCA staff participated, presented and assisted with the organization of the events.



- **84** permits were issued in total
- **10** Major permits were issued
- **100%** of Major permit applications were processed within the 90 day service target in our Client Service Standards
- **74** Minor permits were issued
- **91%** of Minor permit applications were processed within the 30 day service target in our Client Service Standards
- **30** flood forecasting and warning messages
- **8** sites monitored for water levels
- **10** sites monitored for precipitation
- **4** sites monitored for snow pack





Water Management is undertaken to protect the watershed for people, property, flora and fauna, and natural resources through flood and erosion control, water quality programs, low flow augmentation and adaption strategies to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

2019 Highlights

- Undertook flood plain mapping for the Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses, Battlefield Creek and Stoney Creek.
- Enhanced flood control infrastructure, including two major dam projects funded through the Provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure funding program for:
 - Paint and corrosion removal and mechanical and electrical upgrades to radial gates at Christie Lake dam; and
 - Concrete maintenance and repairs at Valens Lake dam.
- Reviewed a combined total of 176 permit applications and planning applications to provide for the protection of people and property from natural hazards.
- Monitored water quality in Spencer, Chedoke, Ancaster and Borer's Creeks. This is part of on-going work with the City of Hamilton and partners on the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HHRAP). Annual monitoring report was completed and submitted to HHRAP, the City of Hamilton and the Ministry Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- Continued to invest in monitoring programs and networks, including assessing impacts of nutrient and sediment loading through:
 - Provincial water quality and groundwater quality monitoring that was completed for six surface water sites and seven groundwater sites.
 - Annual Rothsay water quality sampling program to assess and confirm no water quality issues with regards to effluent discharges to watercourse and Christie Lake.
 - Annual City of Hamilton water monitoring projects including groundwater well inspections at 85 wells, groundwater well water quality sampling at 33 wells, and erosion site monitoring at 22 sites.
- Continued stewardship programs for restoration projects including:
 - Implementing 18 stormwater projects through the Low Impact Development grant program. This includes 13 disconnected downspouts, 3 rain barrel installations, 1 rain garden and 1 permeable pavement site, resulting in the diversion of over 600,000 litres of stormwater from the combined sewer system in urban Hamilton.
- Participated as a member of the Bay Area Climate Change Council.

- 4,597 hectares (11,360 acres) of land is owned or managed by HCA, which represents approximately 10% of our watershed area.
- 772 hazard trees were removed by HCA forestry staff from conservation areas and rental properties.
- 513 ash trees that were affected by Emerald Ash Borer were removed.
- 4 carp (only 2 adults and 2 juveniles) were observed following the 2018 carp die-off at Valens Lake.
- 1 new native fish species, Yellow Bullhead was recorded at Valens Lake Conservation Area.
- Through masterplan surveys, ecology staff identified:
 - 400 species of plants in the Beverly Swamp
 - 25% of all plant species found in the watershed are from the Beverly Swamp
 - 325 plant species in the Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve
 - 35 different plant communities
 - 65 different bird species



Natural Heritage Conservation

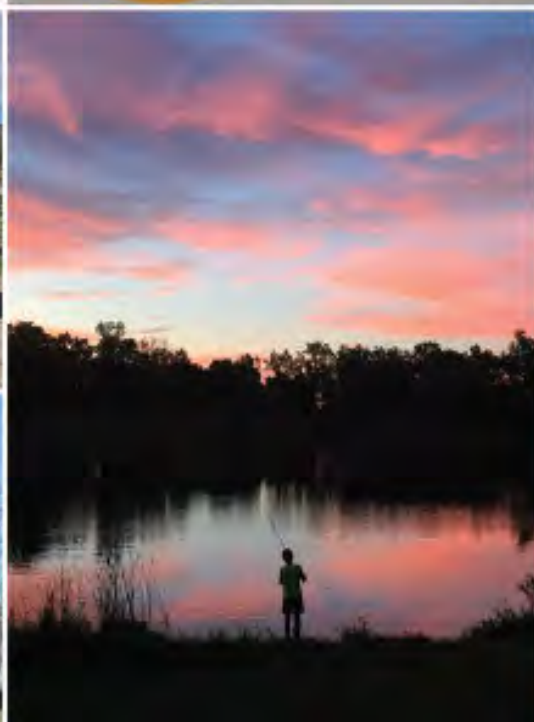


Natural Heritage Conservation is the conservation, restoration and enhancement of watershed natural areas and ecology.

2019 Highlights

- Invested in the further development of the Saltfleet Conservation Area to offset the impacts of climate change:
 - Acquired 10.18 hectares (25.16 acres) of land, bringing the total size of the conservation area to 108.7 hectares (267.12 acres).
 - Undertook background studies and a design plan for the establishment of two wetlands as a part of the Wetland Restoration Program.
- Carried out invasive species control and habitat restoration projects, including:
 - Working with volunteers to remove Common Buckthorn at Borer's Falls Conservation Area and control Dog Strangling Vine at the York Road and Lower Spencer Creek properties.
 - Protection of endangered Red Mulberry habitat through removal of thousands of Common Buckthorn plants to support Provincial recovery plan efforts for one of the largest remaining Red Mulberry populations in Canada.
 - Partnered with the City of Hamilton for gypsy moth spraying, with 3 hectares of HCA lands in the Dundas Valley being treated.
- Enhanced the natural heritage features of the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area through a buffer planting project along Rymal Road with funding from the Friends of Eramosa Karst.
- Continued and expanded aquatic and terrestrial monitoring programs for the purposes of assessing watershed health:
 - Monitored 10 Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) plots to assess tree health, ground vegetation and tree regeneration in HCA's Conservation Areas.
 - Conducted bird monitoring and deer browse surveys in the Dundas Valley and Iroquois Heights Conservation Areas to contribute to the assessment of forest health.
 - Completed an aerial deer survey to identify the number of deer wintering in the Dundas Valley and Iroquois Heights Conservation Areas.
 - Monitored watercourses throughout the watershed, including 26 sites for benthic invertebrates, 18 sites for fish, and 20 sites for temperature.
 - Conducted monitoring of completed restoration projects, including the Christie Lake Conservation Area Pond Decommissioning and Stream Restoration Project, and the Lower Spencer Creek Fish Habitat Enhancement Project.
 - Installed and monitored 200 Willow and Dogwood plantings at Fifty Point Conservation Area for the purpose of stream corridor habitat enhancement.

- **1,000,000+** people visited HCA's owned and managed conservation areas
- **100%** of HCA electrical campsites at Valens Lake and Fifty Point were reserved every weekend from June to October
- **15,000** visitors attended the Christie Antique & Vintage Shows
- **6,000+** people purchased an HCA Membership Pass
- **37** film shoots were hosted at HCA conservation areas



Conservation Area Experience



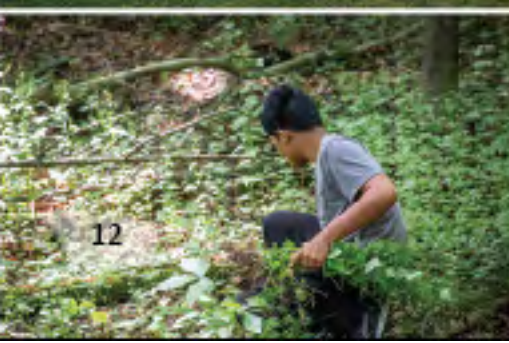
Conservation Area Experience is the provision of high quality, diverse conservation areas that promote outdoor recreation, health and well-being and strengthen public awareness of the importance of being in or near our conservation areas.

2019 Highlights

- Updated and developed the Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan and the Fletcher Creek, Beverly Swamp and Lafarge 2000 Trail Management Plans. This was done by HCA staff which included ecological surveying of 1,535 hectares of land and three public consultation sessions.
- Developed a Board approved visitor and parking management strategy document to guide and address visitation and parking issues at HCA areas.
- Incorporated the shuttle bus service pilot for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area as an ongoing part of the Christie Lake Conservation Area operations.
- Invested in projects to enhance and expand recreation experiences including:
 - Completing Canal Park viewing platform.
 - Improving over 700 metres of the Dofasco Trail boardwalk with new wood.
 - Completing the conversion of the Merrick Orchard pavilion from its previous historical use as a cider shack.
 - Replacing the trail bridge and rerouting the trail to Dundas Peak at Spencer Gorge Conservation Area.
 - Assessing 115.4 kilometres of HCA trails for accessibility using the High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP).
 - Undertaking entrance improvements at Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area, including a revitalized gatehouse, automatic gates and front parking lot with lighting. Work was also undertaken for water system upgrades and expansion.
 - Completed a design plan for protection of the Lake Ontario shoreline at Fifty Point Conservation Area.
- Worked with partners and HCA representatives on committees and councils for the Cootes to Escarpment Program and the Hamilton Burlington Trails Council.
- Identified revenue generation investments and opportunities in our conservation areas through:
 - Successfully obtaining site plan and building permits for new seasonal cabins at Valens Lake. Construction is underway with occupancy in 2020.
 - Purchasing a new marine mobile boatlift for the Fifty Point Conservation Area Marina, with larger boat handling capacity. This allows HCA to access an additional market of boat owners.
 - Adding a new pay and display machine at the Tew Falls parking lot.



- **200+** schools participated in outdoor environmental and cultural heritage programs
- **Schools from Texas and France** visited Westfield Heritage Village
- **23** volunteer events were hosted
- **824** volunteers donated their time which translates to:
- **1,778+** volunteer hours worked
- **865** native trees planted by volunteers
- **485** bags of garbage collected by volunteers
- **93** bags of invasive species removed by volunteers



Education and Environmental Awareness



Education and Environmental Awareness is the opportunity to provide outdoor learning experiences for students, teachers and the community, increasing knowledge and awareness of the value of our environment and heritage.

2019 Highlights

- Enhanced outdoor environmental programs, including a new Invasive Species Program, with a portion of the experience focused on the removal of invasive species from the Dundas Valley. This resulted in:
 - High school students removing 60 garbage bags of Garlic Mustard over three weeks. Interpretive signage was created to educate the public on the students' work and inform them of upcoming pull events and how to remove Garlic Mustard from their own properties.
 - Over 1,000 Gypsy Moth egg masses being scraped from trees by students and later destroyed.
 - Students trimming dead branches, creating rabbit habitat shelters, and removing invasive European Buckthorn to improve forest health.
- Westfield's Maple Syrup program increased its numbers by 50%. There is also a growing interest in our Indigenous program, "When Two Paths Meet", which provides students and adults the ability to participate in education and which supports awareness and Reconciliation.
- Enhanced stewardship programs for both urban and rural areas through the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program, including:
 - Continued administration of the City of Hamilton's Well Decommissioning Program.
 - Undertook 7 projects to manage invasive species, with improvements to 1.5 acres of meadow habitat and 1.6 acres of forest habitat.
 - Completed 9 planting projects, creating and improving 3 acres of forest habitat and 1.3 acres of wetland habitat.
 - Installed 3 habitat features, including Bird Safe snow treatment and Barn Swallow nesting habitat structures.
 - Carried out 2 natural channel enhancement projects, resulting in the enhancement and improvement of 1.7 km of streams.
 - Presented 3 Watershed Steward Awards to community landowners in recognition of their commitment to land stewardship and natural heritage conservation.
 - Hosted and attended 19 education and outreach events with 2,000 people in attendance. Highlights include the Salmon Stroll, the annual Watershed Stewards Appreciation Day and several stewardship-run volunteer events.
- Promoted the connection between environmental health and human wellness through the Healthy Hikes campaign to encourage residents to step into nature at our conservation areas.

Message from the Hamilton Conservation Foundation

Who we are

The Hamilton Conservation Foundation helps protect and enhance natural and cultural legacies by raising and stewarding funds for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

The Foundation raises funds in three key areas:

- Acquiring and Protecting Environmentally Sensitive Land
- Teaching Children About Nature
- Celebrating Cultural Heritage

2019 at a glance

In 2019, the Foundation contributed over \$535,000 to support Conservation Authority programs and projects, including:

- Outdoor Environmental Education – \$117,379
- Canal Park Viewing Platform construction – \$100,000
- Dofasco 2000 Boardwalk Restoration – \$100,000
- Merrick Cider Shack conversion – \$25,000



New Initiatives in 2019

- Launch of a new Tribute Tree Program, which raised over \$13,500 for plantings across the Hamilton watershed.
- A new annual “Green Carpet” fundraising and awareness event was held at the Westdale Theatre with a near sell-out crowd. Guests heard Adam Shoalts share stories and footage from the adventures that inspired his latest book, *Beyond the Trees*. The event raised funds and awareness for the Foundation.
- A concert at the new Canal Park Viewing Platform, which brought donors and community members to this Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark hub.







**Hamilton
Conservation
Authority**

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

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P.O. BOX 81067
ANCASTER, ONTARIO L9G 4X1
TEL: 905-525-2181
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WWW.CONSERVATIONHAMILTON.CA



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

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: March 24, 2020

RE: Current Watershed Conditions as of March 24, 2020

CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – March 24, 2020

Current Water Levels in Major Area Watercourses

Water levels and flows are currently slightly elevated in Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street, Redhill Creek at Barton Street, Stoney Creek at Queenston Road, Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road, and Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, due to recent rain and snowmelt events.

Water levels and flows in Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street are presently elevated.

That said, there are no observations, reports, or expectations that significant watercourse flooding or significant public safety concerns are occurring currently.

Current Lake Ontario Water Levels

Currently, the Lake Ontario mean daily water level is approximately 75.21 m IGLD85. This is about 53 cm above average for this time of year, 16 cm below the record high for this time of year, but about 71 cm below last year's historic peak level of 75.92 m (last recorded on June 15th, 2019).

There are no observations, reports, or expectations that shoreline flooding or active significant shoreline erosion are occurring currently.

Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

The Christie Lake reservoir is presently slightly below the typical winter operating levels of 765.0 to 765.5 ft. The reservoir is at about 10 percent of its preferred maximum storage capacity (corresponding to a water level of 773 ft). Dam outflows are being routinely adjusted to maintain reservoir levels slightly below typical winter levels, in order to allow for ongoing repairs to the two radial gates.

Based on current reservoir levels at Valens Dam (about 274.70 m), the reservoir is presently slightly above typical winter operating levels (274.15 to 274.30 m) and is at about 66 percent of its preferred maximum storage capacity (corresponding to a water level of 275.5 m).

Current Soil Conditions

The surface and root-zone soils are expected to be moist and mainly unfrozen.

RECENT STORM EVENTS

During the period of January 22, 2020 to now, there were no significant watercourse flooding or Lake Ontario shoreline erosion / flooding events. However, a number of storm or snowmelt events warranted the issuing of flood messages and close monitoring of conditions.

Watercourse Flooding

March 2nd to 6th

The Hamilton area received between 15 and 35 mm of rain between March 2 to 6, which was accompanied by complete melting of the snowpack that accumulated in late February.

Water levels and flows in area watercourses were significantly elevated, with localized flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels. However, there were no reports, observations, 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 communicate the potential watercourse flooding conditions to the City and public:

- Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety on March 3rd
- Termination of Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety on March 6th

January 24th to 27th

The Hamilton area received between 20 and 30 mm of rain between January 24 - 27, which was accompanied by complete melting of the small amount of remaining snowpack present at the time.

Water levels and flows in area watercourses were significantly elevated, with localized flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels.

However, there were no reports, observations, 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 communicate the potential watercourse flooding conditions to the City and public:

- Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety on January 24th
- Flood Watch on January 24th
- Termination of Statements on January 27th & 29th

Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding and Erosion

February 5th to 10th

Forecasts expected sustained shore-bound winds of up to 32 km/hr, with wind gusts of up to 60 km/hr. There was an increased risk of significant localized flooding and erosion along Hamilton's shoreline, due to the storm surge and wave action caused by these winds.

In the lead up to, and during, this potential storm event, HCA engineering staff closely monitored conditions, and issued the following messages to communicate the potential Lake Ontario Shoreline erosion / flooding to the City and public:

- Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Shoreline on February 5th
- Termination of Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Shoreline on February 10th

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

RECENT PRECIPITATION SUMMARY

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

FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS

Lake Ontario Shoreline Erosion / Flooding

There is currently no significant Lake Ontario shoreline erosion / flooding anticipated within the watershed over the next 5 days.

According to International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board information, it is likely that Lake Ontario will continue its seasonal rise as we head into spring. While there is considerably uncertainty longer-term, with continuing high inflows from Lake Erie, this

will ensure water levels of Lake Ontario remain near seasonal highs for at least the next several weeks.

Watercourse Flooding

There are currently no significant rainfall events (+20 mm) anticipated for the watershed over the next 2 weeks. HCA staff continue to monitor conditions and forecasts closely. Resultant water levels and flows from currently forecasted rain are not expected to pose significant watercourse flooding concerns.

SYNOPSIS

As of March 24th, 2020, there are no expectations of significant watercourse flooding, Lake Ontario shoreline erosion / flooding, or watershed drought.