



# Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 4, 2020



## **Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**This meeting will be held by WebEx videoconference.**

**The meeting can be viewed live on HCA's You Tube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonConservation>**

**1. Call to Order** – Ferguson

**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**4. Delegations**

- 4.1. Mark Osborne, Preserve and Protect Webster's and Tew's Falls Greenville
- 4.2. Michelle Stuck, Preserve and Protect Webster's and Tew's Falls Greenville
- 4.3. Jeff Laskey

**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 – May 7, 2020
- 5.3. Association of Ontario Municipalities letter to Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks re Conservation Authorities Act – May 19, 2020
- 5.4. Telling Tales Virtual Announcement Notice for 2020 Event
- 5.5. City of Hamilton Press Release noting HCA Escarpment and Waterfall Areas Remain Closed – May 21, 2020

**6. Member Briefing**

- 6.1 Greenbelt Foundation Business Case for Saltfleet CA Wetland Project – Peck

## **7. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- 7.1. Reservation Service 2020 - Spencer Gorge Conservation Area – Costie
- 7.2. Enbridge Gas Pipeline Easement Request – Status Update – Peck
- 7.3. COVID-19 – Verbal Update – Burnside

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

- 8.1. Foundation Chairman's Remarks – Margaret Reid

## **9. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums**

- 9.1. Current Watershed Conditions as of May 21, 2020 – Peck
- 9.2. Upcoming HCA and Partner Events – Costie

## **10. New Business**

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

## **12. Next Meeting – Thursday, July 2, 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:** June 4, 2020

**RE:** Summary Enforcement Report – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses  
Regulation 161/06 Applications for June 4, 2020

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HCA Regulation applications approved by staff between the dates of April 23, 2020 and May 20, 2020 are summarized in the following Summary Enforcement Report (SER-4/20).

## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Summary Enforcement Report SER-4/20 as information.

**HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS**

May 20, 2020

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, June 04, 2020

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

**SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 4/20**

File Number	Date Received	Date Permit Issued	Review Days	Applicant Name	Location	Application Description	Recommendation / Conditions
SC/F,C,A/20/03	16-Jan-20	24-Apr-20	32		7 Church St Lot 21, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Repair/enhancement of an existing groyne in a regulated area of the Lake Ontario shoreline.	Approved subject to standard conditions
SC/F,C,A/20/30	19-Mar-20	27-Apr-20	32		44 Shadetree Cres Lot 29, Concession 8 Stoney Creek	Completion of grading and erosion control works as well as sediment removal from the stormwater management pond associated with the Shadyglen subdivision in a regulated area of the Eramosa Karst Provincial Earth Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest.	Approved subject to standard conditions
F/F,C/20/37	15-Apr-20	01-May-20	15		Hwy 8 from Hillcrest Ave to CN Railway Bridge Lot 10,11, Concession 1 Flamborough	Completion of road reconstruction and storm sewer replacement on Highway 8, associated with Contract C15-10-19 (HS) in a regulated area of Middle Spencer Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions
A/F,C/19/61	31-Jul-19	01-May-20	59		489 Ontario St Lot 45, Concession 2 Ancaster	Construction of an attached 3-car garage and minor additions/renovations to an existing residence in a regulated area of Ancaster Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions

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

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**SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 4/20**

F/F,C,A/19/52	08-Jul-19	01-May-20	128		Pt Lts 7-11, Con 4 Lot 7-11, Concession 4 Flamborough	Installation of a new refined oil products pipeline as part of Imperial's Waterdown to Finch Project, File No. EB-2019-0007 in a regulated area of Borer's Creek and the Logie's Creek-Parkside Drive Provincially Significant Wetland complex.	Approved subject to standard conditions
B/C,A/19/60	31-Jul-19	08-May-20	42		Foot of LaSalle Park Rd, off shoreline of Pt Lts 6 and 7, BF Con Lot 6, 7, Concession BF Burlington	Installation of a new floating breakwater in a regulated area of the Hamilton Harbour at the Lasalle Park Marina.	Approved subject to standard conditions
F/F,C/20/08	29-Jan-20	08-May-20	57		680 Hwy 8 Lot 23, Concession 4 Flamborough	Construction of the Beverly Central Elementary School in a regulated area of the Sheffield-Rockton Provincially Significant Wetland Complex and West Spencer Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions. Previous permit expired.
A/F/20/27	24-Mar-20	08-May-20	32		232 Golf Links Rd Lot 44-46, Concession 3 Ancaster	Completion of minor grading including cut and fill of golf course greens and tees in a regulated area of Ancaster Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions
H/F,C,A/20/31	19-Mar-20	12-May-20	26		768 Mountain Brow Blvd Lot 1, Concession 7 Hamilton	Completion of grading and erosion control works as well as sediment removal from the Mountain Brow Boulevard SWM Facility.	Approved subject to standard conditions

**HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS**

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

**SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 4/20**

SC/F,C,A/20/14	11-Feb-20	12-May-20	56		23 Lakegate Dr Lot 22, Concession BFC Stoney Creek	Construction of a new shoreline retaining wall in a regulated area of the Lake Ontario shoreline.	Approved subject to standard conditions
SC/F,C/20/39	30-Apr-20	15-May-20	17		6 Campview Rd Lot 6, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Construction of a new single family residence, septic system and driveway in a regulated area of the Lake Ontario shoreline.	Approved subject to standard conditions. Previous permit expired.





The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. The Chair advised that an in-camera item would be added as item 11.1 to discuss a legal matter, resulting in existing in-camera items being moved down the agenda.

**BD12, 2769**

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio**

**SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

**THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.**

**CARRIED**

#### **4. Delegations**

There were none.

#### **5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence**

The following consent items were adopted:

- 5.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – April 2, 2020
- 5.3. Approved November 21, 2019 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
- 5.4. Letter from Ministry of Transportation to Boating Ontario Association regarding impact of COVID-19 on marina operations, dated April 10, 2020
- 5.5. Ontario Extends Declaration of Emergency to Continue the Fight Against COVID-19, Office of the Premier, dated April 14, 2020
- 5.6. Ontario Passes COVID-19 Support and Protection Act with Planning Amendments, Ontario Professional Planners Institute
- 5.7. Memorandum from Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to Conservation Ontario regarding Conservation Authority Questions Regarding Emergency Orders and Essential Businesses List, dated April 23, 2020
- 5.8. A Framework for Reopening our Province, Government of Ontario, dated April 27, 2020

- 5.9. Letter of Support for Conservation Authorities from 112 national, provincial and local organizations, to The Honourable Doug Ford, dated April 27, 2020

## **6. Member Briefing**

There was none.

## **7. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **7.1. COVID-19 - Verbal Update**

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of how HCA continues to operate during the closure, including continuity of programs and services while working from home, responding to the public, keeping our areas secure, and collaborative efforts as seasonal maintenance begins. She advised of increasing requests from the public to provide access to our facilities. Provincial announcements last week provided that marinas may begin preparations for the recreational boating season by servicing boats and placing boats in the water, but marinas themselves are not open to the public. Fifty Point is working on an operational plan based on this direction. The provincial emergency measures have been extended to May 19, staff do not foresee any other changes to our operations until this time and will continue monitor all announcements.

Lisa further added that organizational decisions are made to balance the competing pressures that include keeping our staff and visitors safe, the need to ensure we can provide HCA's critical services and the pressure to address the financial impacts to our organization as a result of this pandemic. At this time, HCA continues to pay all full time staff full wages utilizing the operational reserve.

Staff will continue to closely monitor our finances and revenue projections, including looking to supplement our operational reserve with the federal wage relief program which would provide assistance until early June. Staff have made application to that fund last week and are cautiously optimistic that Canada Revenue Agency will consider our organization to be eligible.

Lisa recognized staff for their continued resilience and flexibility to ensure our business continuity. She also shared staff innovations that have resulted from the unique situation we find ourselves in.

The Chair thanked staff for all of their efforts during this time.

**BD12, 2770**

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

**THAT the verbal update on HCA operations during the COVID-19 pandemic be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

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

**8.1. Conservation Advisory Board – February 13, 2020**

CA 2005      Westfield 2020 Accession and Deaccession List

Maria Topalovic presented a summary of the report.

**BD12, 2771      MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic  
SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding**

**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.**

**CARRIED**

**8.2. Budget and Administration Committee – April 23, 2020**

BA 2002      2019 – Report by the Auditors and  
2019 – 12 Month Audited Financial Statements

Santina Moccio presented a summary of the report.

**BD12, 2772      MOVED BY: Santina Moccio  
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

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

**THAT the Report by the Auditors be approved; and further**

**THAT the 2019 Twelve-Month Audited Financial Statements for Hamilton Conservation Authority and Confederation Beach Park be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**8.3. Foundation Chairman's Remarks**

Margaret Reid reported on the following:

**Donations**

We received a total of **\$3,149** in donations from April 1 to 30. They break down as follows:

- \$1,568 for the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program
- \$650 for the Dundas Valley Trails Fund
- \$400 for the Tribute Tree Fund
- \$270 for Westfield Heritage Village
- \$210 for Land Securement
- \$70 for Outdoor Environmental Education

This brings our **Fiscal Year-to-Date (Dec 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020) total to \$137,959.**

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.

Staff continue to reach out to donors and potential donors to keep them engaged and top-of-mind.

The Foundation AGM, originally planned for May 11, has been postponed until such a time as we are safely able to hold it. Our annual Appreciation event has been tentatively postponed to the fall.

The members inquired about a post-pandemic strategy for fundraising efforts. Grace Correia responded that staff are currently relationship building with key donors.

**BD12, 2773**

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

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

**CARRIED**

## 9. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

### 9.1. Provincial Policy Statement and Ontario's Flooding Strategy

Scott Peck presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions. Expected changes as a result of the flooding strategy were discussed. Scott advised that staff are working on enhanced floodplain mapping and will be reviewing the flood forecasting and warning program with the City of Hamilton.

It was noted that the staff report indicates the strategy includes a reference to securing funding for flood risk reduction. It was suggested this be explored for the development of the Saltfleet Conservation Area.

**BD12, 2774**

**MOVED BY: Brad Clark**

**SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Provincial Policy Statement and Ontario's Flooding Strategy be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

### 9.2. Current Watershed Conditions as of April 23, 2020

Scott Peck presented a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions. The Lake Ontario water levels continue to be high. Lake Erie is naturally releasing at record levels. As a result the Lake Ontario levels will be sustained. Staff continue to monitor for effects of wave action.

**BD12, 2775**

**MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

**SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls**

**THAT the memorandum entitled Current Watershed Conditions as of April 23, 2020 be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

### 9.3. HCA Conservation Area Reopening Considerations

Gord Costie presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting HCA's thoughtful approach to a phased re-opening. It was confirmed that all HCA activities will be in compliance with provincial direction. Coordination by Conservation Ontario and alignment with other Conservation Authorities were also discussed.

Variation between Conservation Authorities limits the potential for a consistent approach, however all will be observing provincial direction. HCA has an operational advantage due to its automated gates and pay and display parking facilities. Staff will provide our phasing plan to Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities as there is ongoing sharing of ideas and innovation.

**BD12, 2776**

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman**

**SECONDED BY: Tom Jackson**

**THAT the memorandum entitled HCA Conservation Area Reopening Considerations be received as information.**

**CARRIED**

## **10. New Business**

There was none.

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

**BD12, 2777**

**MOVED BY: Santina Moccio**

**SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

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

**CARRIED**

**During the *in-camera* session, one legal, one personnel, and one property matter were discussed.**

### **11.1. Confidential Memorandum – BD/May 03-2020**

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the report regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

### **11.2. Confidential Memorandum – BD/May 01-2020**

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the report regarding a personnel matter and answered the members' questions.

**BD12, 2778****MOVED BY: Esther Pauls  
SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman****THAT the confidential memorandum entitled BD/May 01-2020 be received and remain in camera.****CARRIED****11.3. Confidential Report – BD/May 02-2020**

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

**BD12, 2779****MOVED BY: Brad Clark  
SECONDED BY: Esther Pauls****THAT the Board of Directors moves out of *in camera*.****CARRIED**

**The meeting reconvened in open session and the following resolution resolutions were passed:**

**Confidential Memorandum – BD/May 03-2020****BD12, 2780****MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson  
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba****THAT HCA re-open radial trails for passive use, with no amenities as set out in the staff memorandum of May 7, 2020 in Appendix "A" with the radial trails listed being Hamilton Brantford Rail Trail, Chippewa Trail, Dofasco 2000 Trail, Lafarge 2000 Trail, Canal Park Trails and Confederation Beach Park Breezeway, effective Saturday, May 9, 2020.****CARRIED****Confidential Report – BD/May 02-2020****BD12, 2781****MOVED BY: Tom Jackson  
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

**Whereas at the April 2, 2015 Board of Directors meeting, the Board directed that staff undertake a request for proposals to determine community interest in utilizing a portion of the Mt. Albion Conservation Area known as 60 Arbour Road and that staff were directed to obtain planning approvals as part of this process;**

**And Whereas the Province of Ontario on March 5, 2020 notified the HCA that the amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan to re-designate the lands from Escarpment Protection Area to Urban Area and exclude the lands from the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System had been approved;**

**And Whereas the Niagara Escarpment Plan is implemented through municipal official plans and zoning by-laws;**

**And Whereas these lands represent an opportunity to be redeveloped for small scale uses that are complementary with the natural environment and adjacent uses;**

**Therefore it is recommended that the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors request the Council of the City of Hamilton to amend the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and Zoning By-law No. 05-200 to reflect the re-designation of 60 Arbour Road to Urban Area within the Niagara Escarpment Plan, and that the range of uses permitted on 60 Arbour Road be to permit small scale institutional and prestige industrial uses that are complimentary and compatible with the existing uses permitted in the area.**

**CARRIED**

## **12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020, by videoconference.

## **13. Next Meeting Adjournment**

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



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Neil McDougall  
Secretary-Treasurer

Sent via email to: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

May 19, 2020

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

**Re: Conservation Authorities: Next Steps**

Dear Minister Yurek:

On behalf of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, I am inquiring about the outcomes of the recent consultation regarding Conservation Authorities (CAs). While we understand that managing COVID-19 related activities comes first and foremost, we also know that prior to this outbreak, we were poised for next steps in transforming the relationship between municipal governments and Conservation Authorities. We want to ensure that these changes move forward in a way that is manageable.

To that end we first would ask for an update on the progress of analysing the feedback from the consultation that took place at the end of last year. We know that a substantial amount of input was received and that with other priorities in play, this work may not yet be completed.

Once the work is completed, we ask that the Ministry would meet with AMO Staff and Conservation Ontario staff jointly to discuss the potential directions and approaches to move forward in keeping with the changes in the legislation.

Of greatest importance is a full understanding of what types of conservation authority activities will be subject to Municipal/CA memoranda of understanding (MOUs). Given the impacts of COVID -19 on municipal workloads, we ask that ongoing joint meetings start as soon as is practical so that together we can facilitate any changes that municipal governments would have to implement. For example, the creation of MOU templates will be a helpful way to efficiently move forward on this, saving municipal staff time.

MOUs with CAs will add a layer of complexity to the municipal budgeting process, particularly in the first year. The MOU needs to be integrated into both the municipal and CA budgeting process. Furthermore, municipal budgets drafted this fall for 2021 will be focused on the aftermath of COVID-19, and economic recovery. Adding the

need to generate MOUs may not be as successful as hoped if rushed. AMO has suggested to properly prepare and execute MOUs, if templates are provided will take about a year. Given the budgeting implications of the MOUs and the fact that 2021 municipal budgets will be complex enough grappling with the aftermath of COVID -19, AMO suggests that templates be created this year and local MOUs start in the first quarter of 2021.

To keep momentum going on the changes to the *Conservation Authority Act*, AMO suggests that follow up on improvements to the use of "Section 28" would benefit both the Conservation Authority review through your ministry and reducing the potential for flood damage through the MNRF.

As well, this approach would allow municipal governments to continue their COVID-19 response into the fall with out drawing staff resources off to new activities related to coordination with the CA/ municipal budgeting processes and negotiating contracts. Furthermore, all municipal activities will need to reflect the COVID-19 related longer term new costs and ways of doing business.

We look forward to continuing to work together with you on this important matter and the AMO staff are pleased to be available to meet with your staff and move this matter forward.

Sincerely,



Jamie McGarvey  
AMO President  
Mayor of Parry Sound

cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Wayne Emmerson, Chair, Conservation Ontario



## We're Going Virtual for 2020!

Stay tuned for all the exciting details of our 2020 (virtual) Telling Tales Main Event. In the meantime, check out our 2020 Reading List that features amazing titles from Canadian Authors who will be part of the festival.

### READING LIST

Nature Tales

Celebrating Graphic Novels

Partner with Us!

## Telling Tales Main Event



Due to the current social distancing measures, we are taking our festival online for 2020. Join us for the virtual Main Event coming this fall. We will be sharing the schedule and details of this and our Telling Tales @Home presentations shortly.

Telling Tales Main Event is a fun-filled family festival that brings together the best in Canadian authors, illustrators, musicians and storytellers to inspire, engage and entertain.

Children from toddlers to teens will find something to capture their imagination and connect them to stories at the festival and beyond. The festival features presentations, performances and workshops tailored to different ages and interests. Visit our online schedule or download the PDF (coming soon) to plan your day.

In 2020 we will be a virtual festival so the book swap will not be happening but our friends at A Different Drummer Books are always a great source for your favourite titles from our [reading list](#).

Of course no literary festival is complete without books! Under normal circumstances we would host a giant book swap as well as having [A Different Drummer Books](#) on hand selling copies of featured books from the festival.





Here are some of the highlights of the 2019 festival – this year we are virtual so watch for updates on scheduling and what we will be doing online.

10 performance stages—each designed to appeal to different audiences, with music and puppet stages for the very young, storytelling, visual storytelling, tweens, teens,



Library Association's Forest of Reading program

Meet-and-greets with wandering literary and historical characters (great photo ops!)

Literacy activities

Free access to Westfield's 35 historic buildings

Different Drummer Books—this independent bookseller will be on-site with new titles by Telling Tales presenters

Giant Book Swap and Shop—Bring a book to trade. Buy a bunch for your library.

The Main Event is usually held at [Westfield Heritage Village](#), a beautiful 130-hectare site which is bordered by beautiful woodlands, meadows and trails. Due to the number of visitors expected to this event, there is no on-site parking. To make it easy for you, we offer free parking at [Rockton Fairgrounds](#) and free return shuttle service, courtesy of [Hillfield-Strathallan College](#), running between Rockton and Westfield. No car? No problem! We have courtesy bus service from four community hubs to ensure all families have a chance to enjoy the festival.

**From:** [Gauden, Sarah](#)  
**To:** [Tellier, Jaime L.](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 Update: Updates from the City of Hamilton  
**Date:** May 25, 2020 8:33:23 AM

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## Sarah Gauden

Manager, Marketing & Events  
 Hamilton Conservation Authority  
**Phone:** 905-525-2181 ext. 151

----- Original message -----

From: "Graham, Jasmine" <[Jasmine.Graham@hamilton.ca](mailto:Jasmine.Graham@hamilton.ca)>  
 Date: 2020-05-22 5:50 p.m. (GMT-05:00)  
 To:  
 Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 Update: Updates from the City of Hamilton



## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
 May 22, 2020

### COVID-19 Update: Updates from the City of Hamilton

**HAMILTON, ON** – Earlier today, Mayor Fred Eisenberger joined Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, and the City's Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Director, Paul Johnson to update media and the community on the City's response to COVID-19.

As of 9 a.m. this morning, there are 606 confirmed positive cases, 7 probable cases, and 30 deaths from COVID-19 in Hamilton. More details about cases are available on the City's website including demographics, risk factors, exposure, etc.

### "Hamilton Reopens" – NEW for May 22

#### Skate Parks

Today, the City announced the reopening of skate parks. Any users of



skate parks must continue to maintain two metres of physical distance from other users and should remember to practice good hand hygiene.

### **Tennis Courts**

As of today, municipal outdoor tennis courts in Hamilton have also reopened. [Guidelines for the safe use of tennis courts](#) have been shared on the City's website. All users must continue to maintain two metres of physical distance from other users and should remember to practice good hand hygiene.

### **Pickleball Courts**

Similarly, municipal pickleball courts have also reopened. [Guidelines for the safe use of pickleball courts](#) have been shared on the City's website. All users must continue to maintain two metres of physical distance from other users and should remember to practice good hand hygiene.

### **Summer Camps**

All residents who had previously booked space in a municipal summer camp will be refunded. The City is continuing to review how summer and drop-in recreation programming will work this year. More information on recreation programming will follow over the coming weeks.

### **Municipal Golf Courses**

Hamilton's municipal golf courses are also reopening this week. King's Forest opened Wednesday, May 20, and Chedoke opens this weekend (Beddoe on Friday and Martin on Saturday). Details regarding COVID-19 safety measures, payment, booking tee times, and all other information is available via the City's newly launched [www.hamilton.ca/golf](http://www.hamilton.ca/golf) website.

### **Regular Leaf and Yard Waste collection resumes Monday**

The City is starting regular weekly leaf and yard waste collection on Monday, May 25. There is no change to the schedule that was in place, pre-COVID-19 – leaf and yard waste will be collected on residents' regularly scheduled waste collection day.

### **Property Tax Assistance Program Update**

On May 20, 2020, City Council approved a modification to the City's monthly pre-authorized payment plan to allow taxpayers wishing to enroll in monthly pre-authorization payments the ability to do so, even if their April 30 installment has not yet been paid. Taxpayers need to enroll in monthly pre-authorized payments before June 30 to begin monthly pre-authorized withdrawals in July.

Monthly pre-authorized payments are purely optional – the modification to allow inclusion of the April 30 instalment simply provides greater flexibility and assistance during these unprecedented times. To find out more about the City's Property Tax Assistance Program visit [www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/faq-property-taxpayers](http://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/faq-property-taxpayers).

## **OTHER REMINDERS**

### **City Waterfalls Remain Closed**

Waterfall and escarpment areas remain closed to all users. These are particularly difficult to physically distance in as their natural features and limitations mean that the trail systems are narrow. Further, there are natural gathering areas such as lookouts and trail head entrances that encourage gathering.

The areas that remain closed include: Crooks Hollow, Spencer Gorge, Dundas Peak, Spencer Adventure Trail, Tew Falls, Webster Falls, Tiffany Falls, Devil's Punchbowl. Members of the public are not permitted on any of these areas or trails and those who access these properties are trespassing.

Municipal By-law Enforcement (MLE) staff will be patrolling to enforce parking restrictions and trespassers may be fined. Parking tickets in Special Enforcement Areas carry a \$250 fine. MLE continues to enforce the EMCPA for groups larger than five (5), which carries a fine of \$880. Parking violations can be reported to Municipal Bylaw by calling 905-540-6000.

### **City Facility Closures and Programming Update**

We continue to follow provincial emergency orders, currently extended to May 29, and the province's emergency declaration, currently extended to June 2. The City is working on a plan to slowly and safely reopen facilities and resume regular services and operations in accordance with public health and provincial direction, and we will share the plan with Council and the general public on May 27.

### **Parking Enforcement**

This week, the Ontario government allowed retail stores with a street entrance to provide curbside pickup and delivery. To ensure that on-street parking and parking in municipal lots is available for businesses and employees, starting this past Saturday, payment is once again required, and will be enforced, at all parking meters and lots. Monthly permits from March or April that were not renewed will be honoured in municipal lots through May, but permits for June 1 will need to be renewed.

To support local businesses and restaurants participating in curbside pickup and delivery, the first 30 minutes at parking meters will be free until further notice.

### **Public Health officials advise wearing face coverings**

Public health officials began recommending this week that the public wear face masks when going out to run errands, attend medical appointments, taking transit, etc.

HSR is strongly encouraging customers to consider wearing a face

covering when using public transit. It is not mandatory but can help protect others in spaces where physical distancing can be hard to maintain.

The City wants to remind customers that transit continues to be for essential travel only. Operators are committed to providing a safe, reliable and professional service and will do their best to limit instances of over-crowding by monitoring the boardings of 10 or 15 customers the best they can, while safely operating buses. The public is reminded to adhere to the public health measures that have been put in place.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**

The federal government announced \$305 million for a new, distinctions-based [Indigenous Community Support Fund](#) to address immediate needs in Indigenous communities. This includes \$75 million in support for Indigenous organizations that provide services to Indigenous peoples living in urban centres and off reserve.

The provincial government announced last month the \$20 million [Ontario COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund](#), to be put towards Ontario-based research projects looking into various aspects of COVID-19. An investment of \$7.2 million was announced Thursday for the first phase of projects, which involves 15 proposals including proposals submitted by St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and McMaster University.

[The province today announced it's investing in Ontario's first Virtual Action Centre, an online counselling and training portal, to support laid off and unemployed hospitality workers](#), and is helping apprentices by providing grants to purchase tools, protective equipment and clothing for their trade, along with forgiving previous loans to purchase tools. The government is also providing an Ontario Tools Grant of \$2.5 million in 2020-21 and \$7.5 million in 2021-22 and ongoing to help new eligible apprentices purchase the equipment they need to start their careers.

### **QUOTE**

“As our community and our economy gradually open up again, it is still important to maintain a physical distance from others. Remember the virus is still in our community. I ask for our community to continue to follow our public health teams’ recommendations of washing your hands often, sanitizing frequently touched surfaces and items and wearing a non-medical mask as an added layer of protection when physical distancing is difficult to maintain.”  
Mayor Fred Eisenberger

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- For regular City of Hamilton COVID-19 updates, please visit [www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus](http://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus) and [www.hamilton.ca/covidclosures](http://www.hamilton.ca/covidclosures)

- Visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca> to learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19
- Public Health Services' COVID-19 Hotline: 905-974-9848 or [phscovid19@hamilton.ca](mailto:phscovid19@hamilton.ca)
- Information about financial supports available from other levels of government to help individuals and families experiencing challenges due to COVID-19: <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/financial-support-individuals>
- Caring for our mental health during the COVID-19 emergency:
  - <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/taking-care-your-mental-health>
  - <http://ontario.cmha.ca/news/tips-to-manage-mental-health-during-covid-19/>
  - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/taking-care-mental-health.html>
  - Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 (24/7)
  - COAST: 905-972-8338

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#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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# Addendum Report Recommendations

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

**DATE:** June 4, 2020

**RE:** Reservation Service 2020 - Spencer Gorge Conservation  
Area

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS** the current COVID-19 pandemic has caused the Spencer Gorge Conservation Area to remain closed due to the difficulty in maintaining physical distancing on narrow one way trails and viewing platforms;

**WHEREAS** the shuttle bus service for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area has been part of the ongoing operation based out of Christie Lake Conservation Area for the past two years to help address visitor management;

**WHEREAS** staff believe that shuttle buses will be fundamentally changed by the COVID-19 pandemic with challenges to put in place measures to help keep customers and operators safe with sanitization measures, ensure physical distancing and diminished public confidence is getting on and off a shuttle bus multiple times

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved

**THAT Staff be directed to implement the following recommendations in place of the recommendations outlined in the report titled “Shuttle Bus Service 2020 – Spencer Gorge Conservation Area”;**

**Recommendation #1 - THAT staff initiate a pilot reservation program for Tew Falls and Webster Falls to control and monitor the number of people in the parks where visitors will be required to book a reservation time slot prior to their visit and park or walk in on site; and further**

**Recommendation #2 – THAT the reservation system operates 7 days per week for both Tew and Webster Falls from approximately September 1 to November 15, 2020; and further**

**Recommendation #3 – THAT the number of visitors permitted to reserve a visitation time slot be based on Provincial directives and public health guidelines on maximum size of gatherings permitted and taking into consideration the maximum number of parking spots on site; and further**

**Recommendation #4 - THAT staff be directed to undertake permit applications with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario to obtain permission for road side signage along Highway #5 to inform visitors of the new reservation system; and further**

**Recommendation #5 - THAT staff evaluate the effectiveness of these measures and report back regarding their ongoing potential during the regular operation system from April to mid November 2021 when the shuttle bus would have been part of operations.**

# 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

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## 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 Greensville 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.

TABLED



# Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

**DATE:** June 4, 2020

**RE:** Status Update - Easement Request – Enbridge Gas Inc. (Union Gas) Kirkwall Hamilton Project

## BACKGROUND

As a result of a request from Enbridge Gas Inc. for easements on Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) lands in the Beverly Swamp Conservation Area, the following motion was passed at the February 6, 2020 Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting.

**“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.”**

On February 7, 2020, a letter was sent to the Ontario Energy Board, Enbridge Gas Inc. and the City of Hamilton to convey to those parties the motion approved by the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the status of this project.

## **STAFF COMMENT**

These are two separate but related issues. First, the application to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for the pipeline expansion and, secondly, the specific request by Enbridge Gas Inc. to the HCA for the required easements on HCA lands to facilitate the pipeline expansion.

### OEB Application for Pipeline

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has noted that they will hold an oral hearing for this application. The procedural order states “The OEB has concluded that issues related to impacts associated with the extraction and production of natural gas to be delivered, as well as the effects of the consumption of that natural gas in the context of overall national and globally-focused environmental policies, are out of scope. As such, issues associated with those impacts will not be added to the Issues List. As set out elsewhere in this Procedural Order, the OEB has provided in this Issues List for an examination of the need for this proposed pipeline, including pipeline alternatives, an evaluation of financial risks, the specific environmental and safety effects of construction of the pipeline, and the costs proposed to be borne by Enbridge Gas’s ratepayers.” The issues list for the hearing is as follows:

1. Is the proposed Project needed? Considerations may include but are not limited to natural gas demand, reliability of service, security, flexibility and diversity of natural gas supply, and operational risk as well as the OEB’s statutory objectives.
2. What are the alternatives to the proposed Project that would also involve building a new pipeline? Are any of these alternatives preferable to the proposed Project?
3. What are the alternatives to the proposed Project that would not involve building a new pipeline? Are any of these alternatives preferable to the proposed Project?

4. Do the Project's economics meet the OEB's economic tests as outlined in the Filing Guidelines on the Economic Tests for Transmission Pipeline Applications, dated February 21, 2013?
5. Are the costs of the Project and rate impacts to customers reasonable and acceptable?
6. Does the Project's environmental assessment meet the OEB Environmental Guidelines for Hydrocarbon Pipelines?
7. Are the forms of landowner agreements filed pursuant to the application under section 97 of the OEB Act appropriate? Are there any outstanding landowner matters for the proposed Project's routing and construction? For greater clarity, landowners include parties from whom permits, crossing agreements and other approvals are required.
8. Is the proposed Project designed in accordance with current technical and safety requirements?
9. Has there been adequate consultation with affected Indigenous communities?
10. If the OEB approves the proposed Project, what conditions, if any, are appropriate?

While the issues list does not specifically address climate issues or upstream extraction or downstream use, it does specify that the hearing will "examine the need for this proposed pipeline, including pipeline alternatives" and environmental effects. It is staff's opinion that the OEB is endeavouring to address the issues raised by the HCA and other parties within the scope of the OEB's statutory allowances. As it relates to the hearing and application, it is noted that the HCA does not have standing as an intervenor. Of note, a procedural order issued by the OEB dated May 19, 2020 has adjourned this hearing for a maximum of 6 months. This is largely to address timing issues for the hearing related to the COVID 19 pandemic.

#### Easement Request on HCA Lands

The Board of Directors motion as it relates to the requested easement states "that the HCA opposes the easement request pending the results of an ecological study and independent peer review of the same study". In this regard, Enbridge Gas Inc. has approached HCA staff and have proposed the following for the completion of this work:

- The detailed ecological study will be conducted through the completion of a scoped Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The EIS to be reviewed by a third-party consultant and will be specific to HCA owned lands where Enbridge Gas Inc. is seeking easements for the Project. Any studies outside of these lands will be

reviewed as required by HCA technical staff specific to the procurement of HCA permits for the Project.

- Stantec Consulting has been retained to complete the scoped EIS for the HCA lands and will complete detailed ecological studies on the subject properties to support the EIS. The field program has been started and will continue with surveys completed during the appropriate timing windows.
- The independent peer review to be conducted by a third-party consultant will be wholly funded by Enbridge Gas Inc.
- HCA will draft the Request for Proposal for the independent peer review, with Enbridge Gas Inc. being afforded the opportunity to review and provide suggestions.
- The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Ecological Studies Workplan for the pipeline, which has been reviewed, commented on and approved by HCA's ecologist, will form the basis of the EIS, and of the review by the third-party consultant.
- The scoped EIS will be completed and submitted to HCA the week of September 14, 2020. It is proposed that the review of the scoped EIS by the independent reviewer be completed within 4 weeks of providing the document to HCA.

This approach is satisfactory to HCA staff in that it acknowledges completion of scoped EIS for the lands subject of the easement and additionally, the scoped EIS will be peer reviewed by an independent consultant at the expense of Enbridge Gas Inc. This approach meets the intent of the motion passed by the HCA Board of Directors. It is noted that if the OEB does not approve the application for the pipeline, the HCA, as per the Board of Directors motion, would not approve the easement.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE**

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
  - Initiatives – Communicate both internally and externally about what HCA does and why

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

N/A

## **LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This memorandum is provided for the information of the HCA Board of Directors. HCA staff will continue to update the Board on the status of the overall pipeline application process before the OEB and will bring a report forward in the future regarding the requested easements subject to the final decision of the OEB regarding the pipeline application and the completed scoped EIS and peer review as it relates to the easement(s) request on HCA lands.



# Memorandum

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

**PREPARED BY:** Jonathan Bastien, Water Resources Engineering

**DATE:** May 21, 2020

**RE:** Current Watershed Conditions as of May 21, 2020

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## **CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – May 21, 2020**

### Current Water Levels in Major Area Watercourses

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

There are no 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 75.35 m IGLD85. This is about 29 cm above average for this time of year, and about 57 cm below last year's historic peak level of 75.92 m (last recorded on June 15, 2019).

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

### Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

Based on current reservoir levels at Christie Lake dam (about 764.7 ft), the reservoir is presently near typical winter operating levels of 765.0 to 765.5 ft. The reservoir is at about 12 percent of its preferred maximum storage capacity (corresponding to a water level of 773 ft). The current reservoir level is required for removal of the winter gate

(scheduled for tomorrow). Starting tomorrow, reservoir levels will be raised to summer operating levels. This annual process is about 1 week behind the typical schedule due to the recent rain storms.

Based on current reservoir levels at Valens Dam (about 275.16 m), the reservoir is presently slightly below the typical summer operating levels (275.30 to 275.50 m) and is at about 82 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 to wet.

## **RECENT STORM EVENTS**

During the period of April 24, 2020 to May 21, 2020, there were no significant watercourse flooding events, or Lake Ontario shoreline erosion / flooding events. However, a number of storm events warranted the issuing of flood messages and additional monitoring of conditions.

### Watercourse Flooding

*May 16 to 20*

The Hamilton area received between 18 and 29 mm of rain on May 17 and 18. Forecasts prior to the storm were quite variable, predicting total rain amounts for the two days ranging from 30 to 125 mm.

Water levels and flows in area watercourses were slightly elevated during the storm. However, there were no reports, observations, or expectations of significant watercourse flooding nor significant public safety concerns.

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:

- Flood Watch – Watercourse Flooding on May 16
- Termination of Flood Watch – Watercourse Flooding on May 20

### Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding and Erosion

*May 16 to 20*

Forecasts expected sustained shore-bound winds of up to 40 km/hr, with wind gusts of up to 70 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.

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

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 Storm Surge on May 16
- Termination of Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge on May 20

## **RECENT PRECIPITATION SUMMARY**

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

## **FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS**

### 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 routinely. Resultant water levels and flows from currently forecasted rain are not expected to pose significant watercourse flooding or significant public safety concerns.

### 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, Lake Erie remains near record-highs, and this will prevent any rapid lowering of Lake Ontario levels. That said, Lake Ontario is expected to continue its seasonal decline in the coming weeks, but weather conditions, including temperatures and rainfall, will primarily determine the rate and magnitude of water level fluctuations throughout the Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River system through the remainder of spring.

## **SYNOPSIS**

As of May 21 2020, there are no expectations of significant watercourse flooding, Lake Ontario shoreline erosion / flooding, or watershed drought.