



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

Board of Directors Meeting

Addendum

Thursday, May 6, 2021 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>**

6. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

- 6.7 Correspondence respecting 140 Garner Road East, Ancaster, labelled 6.7 bd) to 6.7 bj).

6.7(bd)

From: [Lisa Burnside](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: Please Reject Development Proposal to Relocate a Wetland and Headwaters of Ancaster Creek
Date: May 6, 2021 4:40:58 PM

From: Joanna Sargent
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 3:32 PM
To: Lisa Burnside <Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca>
Cc: tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; chad.collins@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca
Subject: Please Reject Development Proposal to Relocate a Wetland and Headwaters of Ancaster Creek

Dear HCA Board:

I am writing to urge you to **reject the development proposal coming before you today (Thursday May 6) to relocate a wetland and part of the headwaters of Ancaster Creek to facilitate warehouse construction.**

There are many reasons to reject this proposal, including the fact that relocating wetlands is against provincial, city and Conservation Authority policy.

- Wetlands are natural features located by natural processes, not human constructs. Because they are so ecologically productive, they are the single best sink for carbon dioxide (better than trees), and provide critical habitat for many species.
- The developer's application is jumping ahead apparently to avoid a public consultation this summer on whether the HCA should have a policy that would contemplate wetland relocation as a "last resort".
- The proposal is to construct five warehouses and several acres of parking on what is currently agricultural and natural lands. This will greatly increase stormwater runoff. The developers are planning to build a stormwater pond beside their relocated wetland, so all of this runoff will end up in Ancaster Creek.
- **Therefore, I urge you to follow your staff recommendation** "THAT the Board of Directors refuse the application made by One Properties Real Estate Inc., for the relocation of a watercourse and the removal of a locally significant wetland and the creation of a new wetland feature in a regulated area associated with Ancaster Creek as the proposed development does not conform to the requirements of Section 3.1.7 of the Hamilton Conservation Authority's Planning and Regulation Policies and Guidelines (October, 2011) as they relate to the implementation of Ontario Regulation 161/06 (HCA's Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) made under the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990."

Please reject the development proposal coming before you today (Thursday May 6) to relocate a wetland and part of the headwaters of Ancaster Creek to facilitate warehouse construction.

Thank you.

Joanna Sargent

6.7(be)

From: [Lisa Burnside](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: Please Reject Development Proposal to Relocate a Wetland and Headwaters of Ancaster Creek
Date: May 6, 2021 4:40:44 PM

From: Reece Edward
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Lisa Burnside <Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca>
Cc: tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; chad.collins@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca
Subject: Please Reject Development Proposal to Relocate a Wetland and Headwaters of Ancaster Creek

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Please reject the development proposal coming before you today (Thursday May 6) to relocate a wetland and part of the headwaters of Ancaster Creek to facilitate warehouse construction.

Thank you.

Ed Reece

6.7(bf)

From: [David Moffatt](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#); [Lisa Burnside](#); [lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca](#); [brad.clark@hamilton.ca](#); [chad.collins@hamilton.ca](#); [tom.jackson@hamilton.ca](#); [esther.pauls@hamilton.ca](#)
Cc: [sshaw-qp@ndp.on.ca](#); [Tys Theysmeyer](#)
Subject: Re: Proposal to divert Ancaster Creek headwaters and relocate a headwater marsh
Date: May 6, 2021 4:09:47 PM

Dear Conservation Authority Board Members

The proposal to allow the building of a warehouse on the headwaters of Ancaster Creek that is before the Conservation Authority this week is short sighted, environmentally irresponsible and potentially disastrous. Ontario, and particularly the western end of Hamilton, face increasing incidents of severe rainfall and flooding as climate changes over the coming decades, and many of our natural drainage systems are already unable to handle the runoff from severe rain events. Almost all hydrologists agree that maintenance of wetlands, especially those near headwaters, is key to delaying excessive runoff and maximizing groundwater recharge, both of which are necessary to mitigate the effects of intense urbanization.

Ancaster Creek is a major tributary of Spencer Creek, and joins it on its lower floodplain just before it enters Cootes Paradise. Any backup of water flowing into this floodplain impedes the drainage of Spencer Creek, Spring Creek, Sulfur Springs Creek, Ann Creek, Borer Creek and Sydenham Creek in the town of Dundas, all of which are essential to managing storm water for thousands of residents in a valley town where flood risks are, by definition, high. The spring floods of 2017 illustrated how 75 mm of rain in three hours over the Spencer Creek catchment could overwhelm the capacity of this drainage system and cause major damage to property, infrastructure and natural areas. Predictions of future climate trends for our area foresee such intense rainfall events becoming much more common over the next 20 to 30 years. We need not only the maintenance and restoration of the natural hydrological functions of our headwaters and wetlands, but changes in urban design that mitigate existing damage.

The proposal to ameliorate the effects of developing this headwater wetland by replacing it with a human-engineered wetland are, frankly, laughable. As a trained ecologist, and a participant in habitat restoration projects over decades, I know all too well how weak an imitation of truly functional biological and physical systems such restored systems are. The multifaceted benefits of natural biological systems to impound, slow, absorb, transpire, and clean runoff are remarkable, and even if engineering could mimic these functions somewhat, it would take decades to replace other natural amenities such as aesthetics, ecological resilience and biodiversity.

Among the greatest threats posed by this proposal would be the downstream effects on Cootes Paradise, which is one of the natural jewels that defines the Dundas Valley. With decades of restoration by the RBG to return this highly significant wetland to reasonable functionality, an increase in runoff, urban pollution, and sediment load could cause serious harm to the estuarine Marsh. Increases in all of these outcomes are predictable if the relocation of the headwater wetland is approved. In fact, approval of this proposal would be contrary to the fundamental values on which the establishment of Conservation Authorities was based, and is unacceptable as both an action and a precedent.

Please deny this request immediately, and allow appropriate and thorough public input to this or any other proposal for the use of this land that may arise in the future. Thank you.

Sincerely

Dr. J. David Moffatt

Mrs. Carol Moffatt

Dundas, ON

6.7(bg)

From: [Lisa Burnside](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: Wetland Relocation proposal on Garner Road
Date: May 6, 2021 4:40:10 PM

From: Quinn, James S
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Lisa Burnside <Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca>; lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; Chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca
Subject: Wetland Relocation proposal on Garner Road

Dear Ms. Burnside and Councillors:

I am writing to recommend in the strongest terms that you do not agree to permit the loss of yet another wetland. As you know, wetlands provide important and valuable ecosystem services and also sequester carbon from the atmosphere. As Council members who unanimously supported the declaration of a climate emergency and agreed to serve on the Conservation Authority Board of Directors, it is incumbent on you to make careful conservation-minded decisions. Efforts to approve a warehouse in Pickering received lots of bad publicity and public opposition. A decision by a CA to approve something that the TRCA tried so hard to block will be seen as a decision in bad faith. The only reason that there has been little public reactions is the short time line.

Please do the right thing and deny this permit request. I am sure you are hearing the many reasons for doing so. I regret being too busy with grading deadlines to participate in tonight's meeting.

Sincerely,

Jim

James S. Quinn, PhD
Professor
Biology Department
McMaster University
LSB 435
Lab Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/mcmasterquinnlab/home>

6.7(bh)

From: [Lisa Burnside](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: Your mandate is to protect wetlands!
Date: May 6, 2021 5:14:51 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Rita Bailey
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Lisa Burnside <Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca>
Subject: Your mandate is to protect wetlands!

Dear Ms. Burnside,

We were appalled to hear that the Hamilton Conservation Authority is considering allowing the paving of a crucial wetland in Ancaster to allow the construction of a warehouse. There is ample vacant land in Hamilton for warehouse construction without paving wetlands that are so crucial for flood control, filtering toxins out of water contaminated by agricultural run-off, and home to endangered species. We have a membership in the Hamilton Conservation Authority and support their vital conservation work. We also expect all board members to preserve our much-needed wetlands, especially due to the increase in extreme weather caused by climate change.

Please vote against the proposal.

Sincerely,
Rita Bailey and Phil Penner

Sent from my iPad

6.7(bi)

From: [Lisa Burnside](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: [URGENT] Rejection of Wetland Relocation Proposal
Date: May 6, 2021 5:15:00 PM

From: Felicia Mikrogianakis
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:07 PM
To: Lisa Burnside <Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca>
Cc: lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; Chad.collins@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca
Subject: [URGENT] Rejection of Wetland Relocation Proposal

Dear Hamilton Conservation Authority Board,

I am writing to implore you to reject the Wetland Relocation Proposal being put forward to you later this evening.

Wetlands are a crucial ecosystem. They are among the most biodiverse ecosystems in our area, serve as highly effective carbon sinks, and protect against flooding and erosion. To date, over 80% of Southern Ontario wetlands have been lost. This is a massive number, and may have devastating long-term consequences. Although we may not be able to repair the mistakes of the past, we can ensure that they are not repeated. It is our duty to cherish and protect the land we live on.

In addition to the environmental consequences, relocating this wetland would disrupt several conservation areas and local natural features, like Tiffany Falls and Spencer Creek. These spaces are invaluable to Hamiltonians, and are a source of pride for our city.

I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to read my message, and I ask once again that you move to reject the Wetland Relocation proposal for the good of our city, its natural spaces, and our local ecosystem as a whole.

Best,

Felicia Mikrogianakis
L9H 5E1

6.7(bj)

From: [Lisa Burnside](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Relocation of Wetland in Headwaters of Ancaster Creek
Date: May 6, 2021 5:50:18 PM

From: Sue Markey
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:50 PM
To: Lisa Burnside <Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca>
Cc: lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca; brad.clark@hamilton.ca; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; esther.pauls@hamilton.ca
Subject: Proposed Relocation of Wetland in Headwaters of Ancaster Creek

To Lisa Burnside, CAO Hamilton Conservation Authority.

I am very concerned about a development application to construct five warehouses and several acres of parking on current agricultural and natural lands which will greatly increase stormwater runoff. The proposal that includes the relocation of a wetland in Ancaster Creek headwaters goes against provincial, city and Conservation Authority policy. Wetlands are natural features, highly ecologically productive, and provide vital habitat for many species. Also, they are very important carbon sinks which need to be preserved, especially given the climate crisis and the loss of over 80 per cent of wetlands in Southern Ontario. A 2008 HCA study of the Ancaster Creek watershed found that 96.4% of the subwatershed wetland cover had been lost and that future development would threaten fisheries potential due to possible downstream erosion. The report also said that "present natural systems (aquatic and terrestrial) must remain intact and preserved in order to keep the integrity of this historically coldwater system."

Given the importance of natural wetlands and the loss of so many in Southern Ontario, I urge the Hamilton Conservation Authority to reject the development proposal.

Sincerely,

Sue Markey

Hamilton ON
L8M 2V2