



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 3, 2022



Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 3, 2022 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**
- 5. Section 28 Hearing**
 - 5.1. 15 Oakwood Place, City of Hamilton – Permit Application No. H/F,C/21/97
- 6. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence**
 - 6.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
 - 6.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – February 3, 2022
 - 6.3. Approved December 9, 2021 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
 - 6.4. Approved January 20, 2021 Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – for receipt only
 - 6.5. 16 Items of correspondence respecting the 2022 Election of Officers, labelled a) to p)
 - 6.6. Email from MECP dated February 8, 2022 re: Conservation Authority Agricultural Sector Representatives
- 7. Foundation Briefing** Foundation Chair – Stebbing

8. Member Briefing

8.1.2021 HCA Annual Report – Burnside

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

10. Reports from Budget & Administration Committee and Conservation Advisory Board

10.1. Conservation Advisory Board – February 10, 2022 – Bowman
(Recommendations)

10.1.1. CA 2203	Westfield Heritage Village Accession and Deaccession Lists
10.1.2. CA 2204	2022 Annual Membership Pass Program Renewal Strategy
10.1.3. CA 2205	HCA 10 Year Masterplan Strategy Update
10.1.4. CA 2207	LDD (Gypsy) Moth Surveys & 2022 Control Program

11. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

11.1. Wild Waterworks Waterslide Refurbishment Tender Results	– Hall
11.2. Watershed Conditions Report	– Bastien
11.3. Conservation Areas Experiences Update	– Costie

12. New Business

13. In-Camera Items

14. Next Meeting – Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

15. Adjournment

Hearing Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Director, Watershed Management Services

PREPARED BY: Mike Stone, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Watershed Planning, Stewardship & Ecological Services

Elizabeth Reimer, Conservation Planner, Watershed Planning, Stewardship & Ecological Services

DATE: February 3, 2022

RE: Hearing under Section 28(12) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for an Application by Douglas Kinzie for Development in a Regulated Area of Lower Spencer Creek at 15 Oakwood Place, City of Hamilton – Permit Application No. H/F,C/21/97

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT HCA staff recommends to the Board of Directors:

THAT the Board of Directors refuse the application made by Douglas Kinzie for development of a hydropool, patio, raised deck and associated grading and landscaping accessory to an existing single residence in a regulated area of Lower Spencer Creek at 15 Oakwood Place, City of Hamilton as the development does not conform to the requirements of the Hamilton Conservation Authority's *Planning & 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*.

BACKGROUND

Site Description

The property at 15 Oakwood Place is a 0.14 ha (0.34 ac) property located on the north side of Oakwood Place, adjacent to a ravine associated with Lower Spencer Creek (Attachment A). The lot is irregularly shaped, ± 66.5 m deep at the longest point, and ± 31.0 m wide at the widest point. The lot contains an existing single storey residential dwelling, approximately 350 m² (3767 sq ft), including a single-level attached garage. The rear of the house has a basement walk-out and interlocking brick patio at the top of the slope associated with the ravine.

The property is regulated pursuant to *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* due to its proximity to Lower Spencer Creek and its associated valley system.

The Proposal

The subject application proposes to construct a proposed elevated 15' by 15' (4.5m x 4.5m) deck, with steps down to an at-grade patio (currently brick, proposed to be changed to flagstone), and 14' 6" by 7' 9" (4.4m x 2.4m) hydropool, surrounded by a new iron fence. The proposed development will require slope grading and a retaining wall. The drawings prepared by Hess Landscaping for the applicant are attached to this report (Attachment C).

Application Review to Date

On August 11, 2021, the landowner contacted HCA staff after applying for a building permit for the proposed work, and being advised that the property is affected by the HCA's regulations. Plans for the proposed work were provided on August 18, 2021. Staff reviewed the plans and reviewed existing information to determine the entire rear yard is within the erosion hazard associated with the creek valley system, and can therefore not be supported by staff under existing HCA policy.

A previous slope stability assessment at a nearby property (7 Oakwood Place) determined a stable slope inclination of 2.2(V):1(H), with a toe erosion allowance of 2m applied. The existing slope at 15 Oakwood Place is rested at 1.96(H):1(V). In the vicinity of 15 Oakwood Place, Lower Spencer Creek is at an elevation of 85m. The top of bank at the rear of the property is at approximately 98m giving the bank a height of ~13m. Applying the stable slope assessment from the nearby property, the slope hazard would extend 30.6m from the toe of the ravine slope ($2.2 \times 13 + 2$). If the results of the nearby study are not applied, and Provincial standards are applied, the slope would be assumed to be stable at an inclination of 3(H):1(V) with a toe erosion allowance of 8m (based on the presence of some erosion on the slope, and the soil type). This more conservative assessment would result in a setback of 47m from the toe of the slope. In

either case, a 6 m erosion access allowance would be applied in addition to the slope hazard. The existing house is approximately 22m from the watercourse at the nearest point, and 32m at the furthest point, and therefore the entire rear yard (and by extension, the proposed work) is within the erosion hazard limit, regardless of which analysis is applied.

On October 21, 2021, HCA staff met on site with the landowner and landscaping consultant to discuss the slope stability analysis, the proposed deck, patio and hydropool, and the limited side yard access. Staff observed that the slope displayed signs of instability, including tilting of trees, bare soil and gullying (see Attachment D).

On October 25, 2021, the applicant submitted a permit application form, along with a site plan for the proposed deck, patio and hydropool.

Staff provided information to the applicant on November 23, 2021, that the permit application submission for the proposed addition was deemed complete but could not be supported by staff given the proposal did not conform to policy. In accordance with *Conservation Authority Act Hearing Guidelines* (MNRF October 2005, Amended 2018, 2020 and 2021) and the *Hamilton Region Conservation Authority Administrative By-law* (HCA, October 7, 2021), HCA provided the Notice of Hearing to the applicant, as well as a copy of this Hearing Report, which outlines HCA staff's analysis of the application and reasons for recommending refusal, on February 4, 2022.

STAFF COMMENT

Applicable Policy

HCA has a mandate to ensure that people and property are protected from impacts associated with natural hazards. The Province has delegated the authority for representing and implementing the provincial interest in natural hazards to Conservation Authorities. In evaluating the subject application, HCA staff must ensure that Provincial and HCA policies regarding development and hazardous lands are considered and met. The following outlines the key provincial and HCA hazard policies relevant to the subject application.

Provincial Policy

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The PPS provides a policy framework for allowing appropriate development, while protecting resources of provincial interest, conserving the natural and built environment, and ensuring public health and safety.

With respect to hazards, the PPS states that development shall generally be directed to areas outside of hazardous lands, including hazardous lands adjacent to river, stream and small inland lake systems which are impacted by flooding hazards and/or erosion hazards (PPS 3.1.1). Notwithstanding these restrictions, development may be permitted

in those portions of hazardous lands where the effects and risks to public safety are minor and can be mitigated in accordance with provincial standards, and new hazards are not created or existing hazards aggravated, and no adverse environmental impacts will result (PPS 3.1.7).

HCA Policy

In accordance with *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*, no person shall undertake development in a regulated area without permission from the HCA. HCA may grant permission (issue a permit) for development in a regulated area if, in its opinion, the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land will not be affected by the development.

HCA's *Planning & Regulation Policies and Guidelines*, as approved by the HCA Board of Directors in October 2011, were developed to support the administration of HCA's Regulation (*Ontario Regulation 161/06*) and to implement provincial policy (PPS) direction, including provincial natural hazard policies. HCA applies these policies to its review of planning and regulation proposals.

HCA policies generally do not permit development within the erosion hazard limits. The erosion hazard limit is the combination of the toe erosion allowance, stable slope allowance, and an erosion access allowance. The following policies are particularly relevant to the subject application.

2. 1. 2. Erosion Hazard Limits

Generally, development should not occur on or on top of valley walls because the long-term stability of the slope, and therefore public health and safety, cannot be guaranteed. Development should be set back from the top of valley walls far enough to avoid increases in loading forces on the top of the slope, changes in drainage patterns that would compromise slope stability or exacerbate erosion of the slope face, and loss of stabilizing vegetation on the slope face.

2. 1. 2. 1. Erosion Hazard Limits for Confined Systems

Confined systems are those where the watercourse is located within a valley corridor, either with or without a flood plain, and is confined by valley walls. The watercourse may be located at the toe of the valley slope, in close proximity to the toe of the valley slope (less than 15 m), or removed from the toe of the valley slope (more than 15 m). The watercourse can contain perennial, intermittent or ephemeral flows and may range in channel configuration, from seepage and natural springs to detectable channels.

The following defines how the erosion hazard limit for confined systems was established for HCA Regulation 161/06 under Ontario Regulation 97/04:

- a. The erosion hazard limit for confined river and stream systems shall be the greater of:
 - i. The toe erosion allowance. Toe erosion allowance is only considered for watercourses located less than 15 m from the toe of slope;
 - ii. A stable slope allowance (3:1) or as determined by a valid study; and
 - iii. An erosion access allowance of 6 m, where possible, or as determined by a valid study.

OR

- i. As determined by a valid study which takes into consideration all of the above criteria.
- b. The Authority may, where it is deemed necessary, require the proponent to submit a geotechnical evaluation in order to determine the safety and potential impacts of the proposed development.

2. 1. 2. 3 Development

Any development and/or site alteration within the jurisdiction of the Authority and within the erosion hazard limit and/or in, on or adjacent to valleylands must be in accordance with the following policies and guidelines and must be to the satisfaction of the Authority.

- a. Development activities and uses on natural valley slopes will generally be prohibited. At its discretion, however, the Authority may permit the following uses:
 - i. Passive recreation and associated structures (e.g. staircases);
 - ii. Structures associated with erosion and sediment control; and
 - iii. Any other relevant or appropriate use and/or development as deemed satisfactory by the Authority.
- d. Any development proposals adjacent to valleylands must be located outside of the erosion hazard limit and incorporate a vegetation protective zone appropriate for the features associated with that valley.
- h. The Authority requires that a minimum erosion access allowance of 6 m wide be incorporated into the development proposal, where possible, and that the erosion access allowance permit access from a municipal roadway to and along the top of slope for regular maintenance purposed and/or to repair protection works. Side yard access allowances may be shared between adjacent landowners provided that the shared easement is registered on title.

Application Assessment

The property at 15 Oakwood Place is affected by erosion hazards associated with Lower Spencer Creek. Based on these calculations, the entire proposed deck, patio and hydropool is within the erosion hazard associated with Lower Spencer Creek (Attachment B). HCA policies, as outlined above, do not permit development within the erosion hazard.

HCA staff also note that side yard access is constrained for the purposes of long-term access from the roadway to the ravine slope, to allow for future maintenance and repair of the valley slope. HCA policies require a minimum 6m allowance where possible. Staff have previously indicated a reduced side yard access could be accepted in this case given the constrained lot, or that access could be provided as a shared access with a neighbor if registered as an easement on title to the properties. However, in reviewing recent aerial imagery and the site plan submitted staff note that side yard access is less 1.88m on the east side of the property.

In considering the applicable policies, it is HCA staff's opinion the conditions under which a permit can be issued under *Ontario Regulation 161/06 (HCA's Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses)* are not met.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

HCA's Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023 outlines its major strategic priority areas and related initiatives for advancing HCA's Vision to provide a healthy watershed for everyone. HCA implements a wide variety of programs to fulfill this mandate, including programs to manage water resources and protect people and property from natural hazards. Administration of HCA's regulation (*Ontario Regulation 161/06*) contributes to the achievement of these program objectives and HCA's Strategic Plan more generally.

AGENCY COMMENTS

None.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is important to note that approval of this application may create liabilities for the Hamilton Conservation Authority in that the proposal would allow construction within the erosion hazard associated with Lower Spencer Creek. The HCA Board of Directors need to be aware of the possible associated liability to the Hamilton Conservation Authority if this application is approved.

CONCLUSION

The subject application proposes development within the erosion hazard associated with Lower Spencer Creek, and the property does not provide adequate access to the ravine at the rear. Provincial and HCA policies take a preventative approach to addressing the potential risks and impacts associated with natural hazards by generally directing development to areas outside of hazardous lands. It is HCA staff's opinion the policy framework outlined in HCA's *Planning and Regulation Policies and Guidelines* (October, 2011) does not support the proposed development.

On this basis, the proposed development does not meet the conditions under which HCA may issue a permit under *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*. As such, it is the recommendation of HCA staff that the application be refused.

Attachment A – Site Location
15 Oakwood Place, City of Hamilton

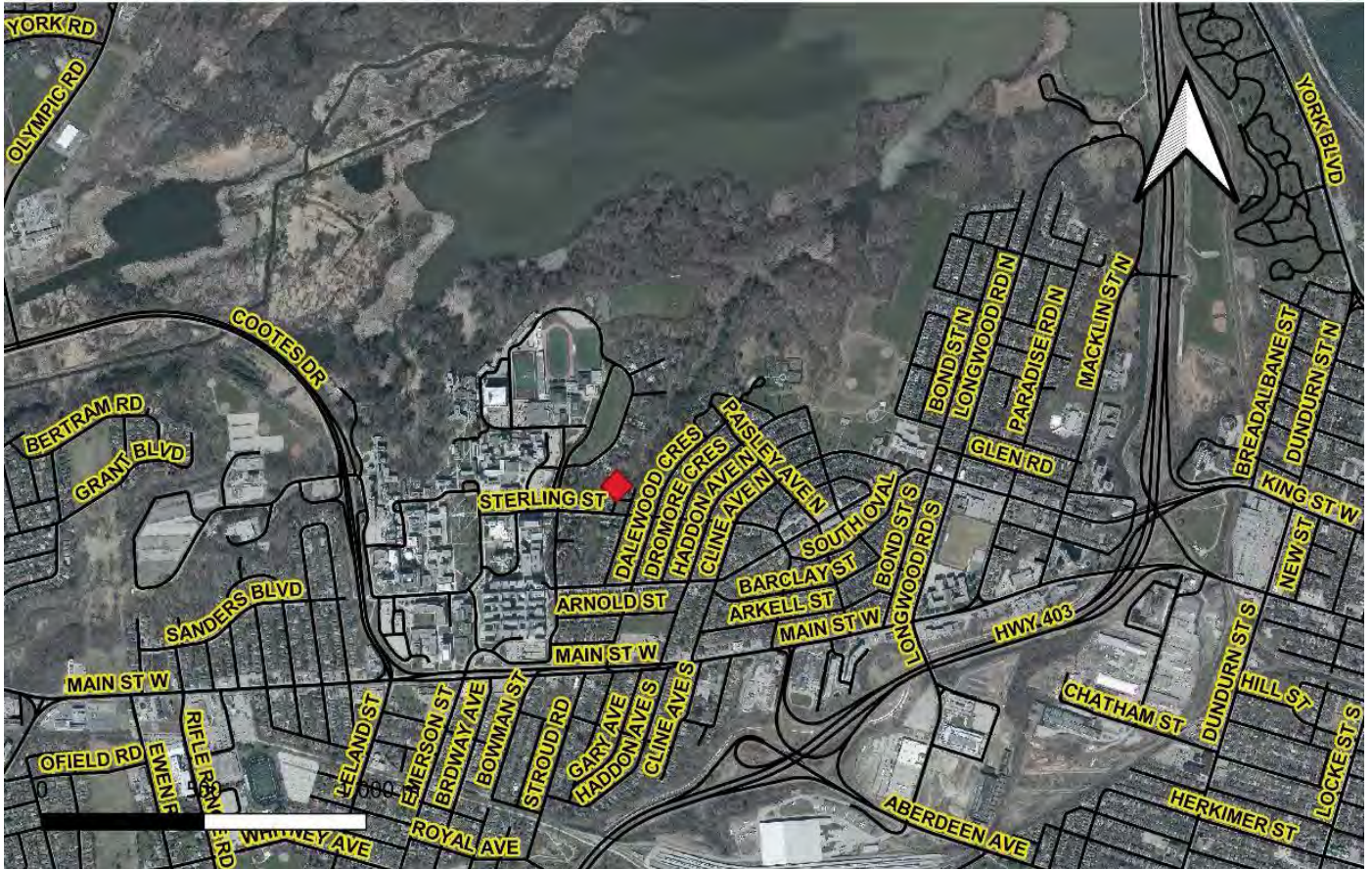
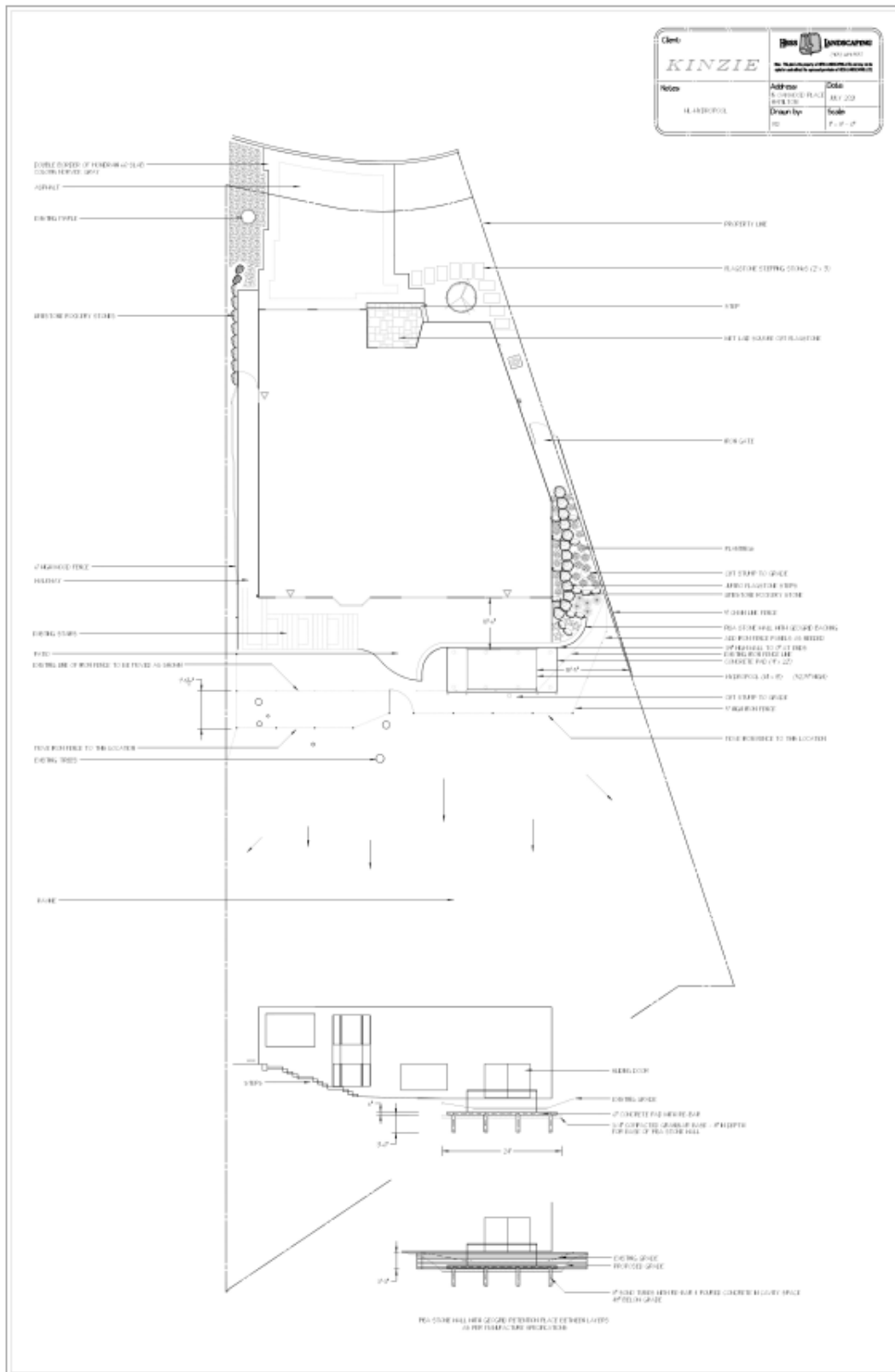


Figure 1: General location of the proposed work at 15 Oakwood Place (red diamond).

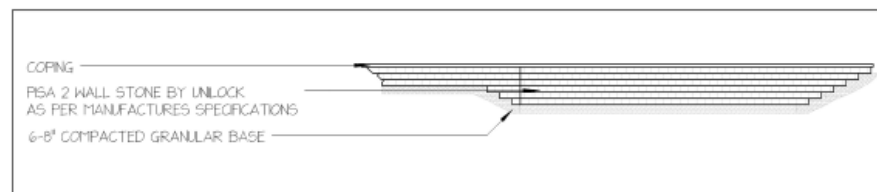
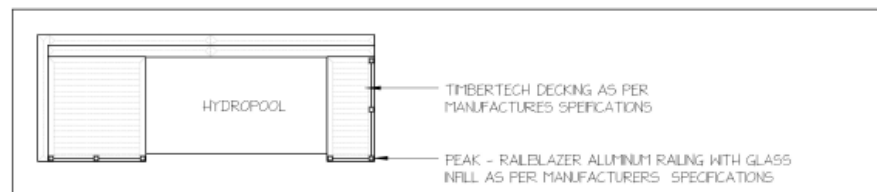
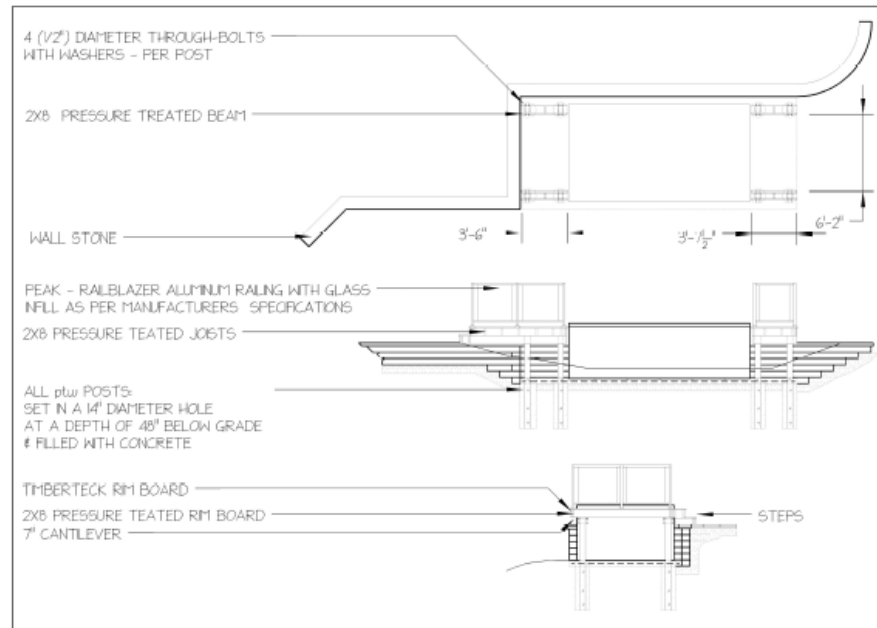
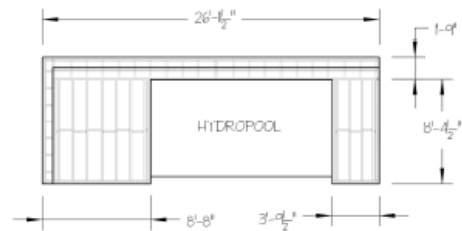
Attachment B – Erosion Hazard Delineation



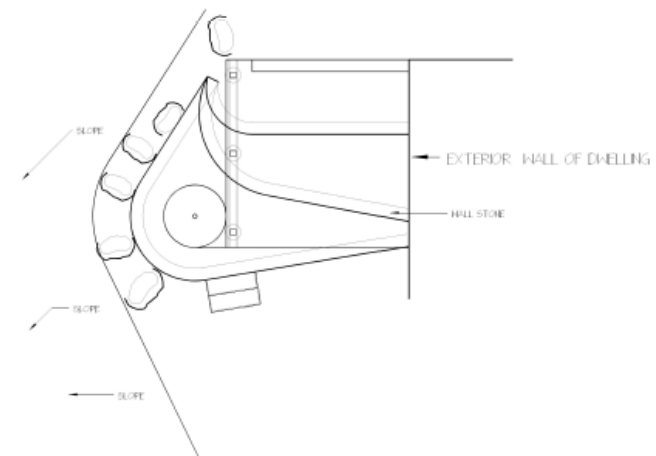
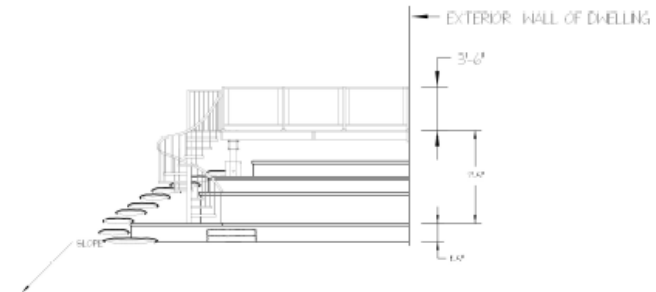
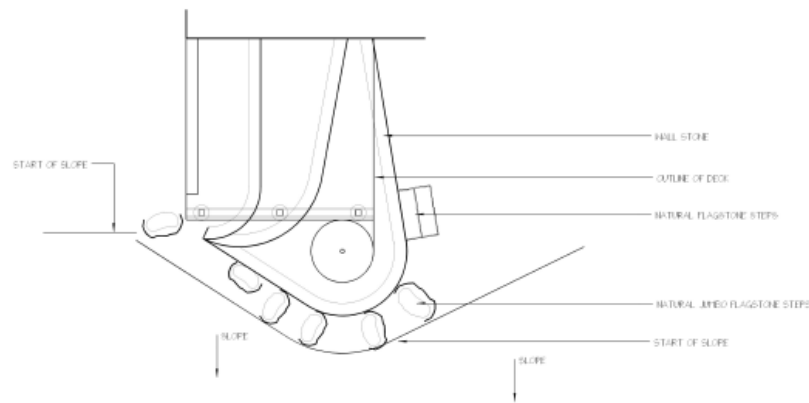
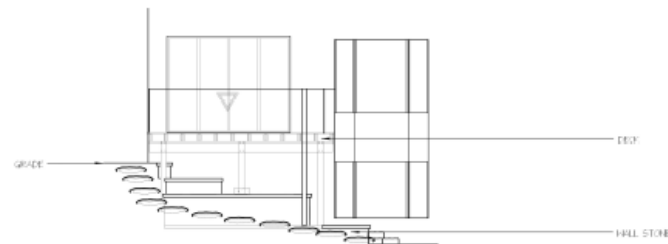
Attachment C – Proposed Rear Yard Deck, Patio, and Hydropool



Client:	 HESS LANDSCAPING (905) 689-5557	
Notes:	Note: This plan is the property of HESS LANDSCAPING LTD and may not be copied or used without the expressed permission of HESS LANDSCAPING LTD.	
Address: 15 OAKWOOD PLACE HAMILTON Drawn by: FD	Date:	JULY 2023
	Scale:	1" = 4' - 0"
	HL-2 HYDROPOOL AREA DETAIL	



Client:	Hess LANDSCAPING (905) 689-5857 <small>Note: This plan is the property of HESS LANDSCAPING LTD. and may not be copied or used without the expressed permission of HESS LANDSCAPING LTD.</small>	
Notes:	Address:	Date:
HL-4 STONE WORK DETAIL	16 OAKWOOD PLACE HAMILTON	JULY 2021
	Drawn by:	Scale:
	FD	1" = 4' - 0"



Attachment D – Site Photos









Hamilton
Conservation
Authority

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

February 4, 2022

File: H/F,C/21/97

BY EMAIL

Douglas and Sarah Kinzie
15 Oakwood Place
Hamilton, ON
L8S 4C9

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kinzie:

**RE: NOTICE OF HEARING
DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES AND WATERCOURSES REGULATION 161/06 APPLICATION
Douglas and Sarah Kinzie
15 Oakwood Place, City of Hamilton**

This letter serves to inform you that the application by Douglas and Sarah Kinzie, received October 25, 2021 for development in a regulated area of Lower Spencer Creek will be considered by the Board of Directors at the meeting scheduled for:

7:00 p.m. on March 3, 2022

Please note this Hearing will be held electronically by Webex video conference.

Details on the video meeting link will be sent separately.

This is a Hearing under Section 28, Subsection 12 of the Conservation Authorities Act. Please note that Authority staff is recommending **refusal** of the application on the basis that the development does not comply with the Hamilton Conservation Authority's (HCA) *Planning & Regulation Policies and Guidelines (October, 2011)*. A copy of the staff report outlining staff's reasons for recommending refusal is included with this notice. Also attached is a copy of the HCA's Hearing Guidelines.

You are invited to speak in support of your application and submit supporting written material for the Hearing. You will be allotted approximately 20 minutes to speak at the Hearing. You may be represented by legal Counsel or have advisors present information to the Board of Directors. If you intend to appear, or if you believe that holding the hearing electronically is likely to cause significant prejudice, please contact Mike Stone, Manager, Watershed Planning Services. Written material will be required to be submitted by February 18, 2022, to enable the Board members time to review the material along with the staff report.

This Hearing is governed by the provisions of the Statutory Powers Procedure Act. Under the Act, a witness is automatically afforded a protection that is similar to the protection of the Ontario Evidence Act. This means that the evidence that a witness gives may not be used in subsequent civil proceedings or in the prosecutions against the witness under a Provincial Statute. It does not relieve the witness of the obligation of this oath since matters of perjury are not affected by the automatic affording of the protection. The significance is that the legislation is Provincial and cannot affect Federal matters. If a witness requires protection of the Canada Evidence Act, that protection must be obtained in the usual manner.

The Ontario Statute requires the tribunal to draw this matter to the attention of the witness as this tribunal has no knowledge of the effect of any evidence that a witness may give.

If you do not attend at this Hearing, the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Conservation Authority may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of proceedings.

Please contact the undersigned at ext. 133 at this office if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Yours truly,



Mike Stone MCIP, RPP
Manager, Watershed Planning Services

Cc: Fred Dantuma, Hess Landscaping

Enclosures: Hamilton Conservation Authority Hearing Guidelines
Hamilton Conservation Authority Hearing Report

APPENDIX B

Hearing Procedures

1. Motion to sit as Hearing Board.
2. Roll Call followed by the Chairperson's opening remarks. For electronic hearings, the Chairperson shall ensure that all parties and the Hearing Board are able to clearly hear one another and any witnesses throughout the hearing.
3. Staff will introduce to the Hearing Board the applicant/owner, his/her agent and others wishing to speak.
4. Staff will indicate the nature and location of the subject application and the conclusions.
5. Staff will present the staff report included in the Authority/Executive Committee agenda.
6. The applicant and/or their agent will present their material
7. Staff and/or the conservation authority's agent may question the applicant and/or their agent if reasonably required for a full and fair disclosure of matters presented at the Hearing.¹
8. The applicant and/or their agent may question the conservation authority staff and/or their agent if reasonably required for full and fair disclosure of matters presented at the Hearing.²
9. The Hearing Board will question, if necessary, both the staff and the applicant/agent.
10. The Hearing Board will move into closed session for deliberation. For electronic meetings, the Hearing Board will separate from other participants for deliberation.
11. Members of the Hearing Board will move and second a motion.
12. A motion will be carried which will culminate in the decision.
13. The Hearing Board will move out of closed session . For electronic meetings, the Hearing Board will reconvene with other hearing participants.
14. The Chairperson or Acting Chairperson will advise the owner/applicant of the Hearing Board decision, including providing the Board's reasons for the decision for approval or refusal.
15. If decision is "to refuse" or "approve with conditions", the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson shall notify the owner/applicant of his/her right to appeal the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal within 30 days of receipt of the reasons for the decision.
16. Motion to move out of Hearing Board and sit as the Board of Directors.

^{1, 2} As per the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* a tribunal may reasonably limit further examination or cross-examination of a witness where it is satisfied that the examination or cross-examination has been sufficient to disclose fully and fairly all matters relevant to the issues in the proceeding.

February 16, 2022

Mr. Mike Stone
Hamilton Conservation Authority
838 Mineral Springs Rd
Ancaster, ON L9G 4X1

Dear Mr. Stone and members of the HCA Board of Directors:

RE: 15 Oakwood Place

We are appealing the decision to refuse a permit for 15 Oakwood Place. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this additional information in support of the application for landscape and hardscape repair, remediation, and improvements. We will attend the meeting scheduled on March 3, 2022 and look forward to speaking to the application at that time.

After consulting with Elizabeth Reimer, who has been a great help to us, we understood that the application permit would be initially rejected and why. In basic terms there are issues with how close the hardscaping area of the backyard, and indeed the house itself, are to the slope. No one is more concerned about that than we are.

We wish to appeal the decision to reject our proposal for a permit because we feel the scope of the work fundamentally supports the Hamilton Conservation Authority's slope and erosion concerns and improves the safety of our home. Firstly, the scope of the work is over existing hardscaping surfaces. We are not proposing new development. Photos illustrating this are referenced in the paragraphs below. Secondly, our plans take many steps to improve the stability of the slope. As we cannot alter the proximity of the house or current hardscaping to the slope, we are left with two choices: either do nothing and let slope and hardscaping areas continue to degrade, or actively take steps to improve conditions. Through our proposed work, for which we are seeking the permit, we hope to improve slope conditions and our safety and security.

We feel it is important to start with the fact out that our proposal does not extend the development of the hardscaped area that already exists. We intend to fix and improve existing areas. This will not decrease the buffer area of vegetation between our home and the creek. In fact, we plan to add native vegetation and protections from deer overgrazing to improve the stability of the slope and reduce the current erosion hazard. The proposed remediation of the developed areas in the backyard has three basic components.

Firstly, we need to replace the interlocking stone staircase that occupies roughly a third of the already hardscaped backyard. The staircase has experienced 40 years or so of use and wear (photo Z). There are loose pavers that present a significant risk of injury and need to be fixed. We also wish to improve the look of the pavers as the style is quite out of date. We are proposing to replace it with a 15' x 15' elevated deck and spiral stair as shown in the drawings submitted. The house is a bungalow with a walk out basement. We plan on living the rest of our days there. The elevated deck allows for one floor living in keeping with the home's layout and allows access to the backyard for

when we are elderly. The deck will weigh less than the existing pavers and reduce the overall pressure at the toe of the slope. Furthermore, the weight of the deck will be supported on posts set at 150% of the required depth. This effectively reduces the load of the deck. By shifting the load deeper, we move the load further from the toe of the slope. Beneath the deck there will be a series of interlocking stone walls similar to what is there now but supporting larger planting areas. These walls will enable us to replace paving stones with native plants. The walled garden would also represent an improvement over the existing paver stones both in terms of overall weight load and by better mitigating water run-off, which is an erosion hazard. We can safely improve conditions of the slope and improve our home through replacing the large interlocking stone stair area with the proposed deck, garden, and aluminum spiral stair.

The second area of concern for the Hamilton Conservation Authority is the patio (photo Y). The current interlocking stone patio is simply being replaced with new interlocking stone. There really is very little change here in terms of mass or hardscaped area, just an updated look. We will still take steps to improve the area and reduce the risk of slope instability. We will be adding more plants to improve the slope stability, replacing the entire path on the west side of the house with a garden which is protected from deer (photo X). In addition, we will take steps to radically decrease erosion caused by water run-off. The water from the roof is currently drained under the patio and onto the slope roughly 15 feet from the fence. We can greatly improve this by installing new run-off pipes while replacing the patio. We will extend the pipes much further down the slope and remove a major source of erosion in so doing. The new patio area will be an improvement that decreases risk and liability due to slope erosion.

The third component of the plan is the swim spa. As stated in the letter from our landscape designer, we would greatly benefit from non-load-bearing exercise due to existing medical conditions. The swim spa would improve our quality of life, overall health, and longevity. We truly believe it means much more than a simple luxury item to us. We have discussed the plan for the swim spa with a geotechnical engineer. Dr. Gabriel Sedran, P.Eng., Ph.D., of In-depth Geotechnical. We have not had a formal study done as he recommended against doing so due to exorbitant cost. Dr. Sedran did note that the key to understanding the swim spa as it relates to slope stability is where it sits. An in-ground swim spa represents much less of a threat to slope stability than an above-ground swim spa. Dr. Sedran was kind enough to explain that an inground swim spa distributes its mass further away from the toe of the slope by virtue of the fact that it sits lower into the ground. In addition, and of great relevance to our situation, an inground swim spa removes soil which is mass acting as a force on slope stability. The swim spa, despite the weight added by water, is less massive than the soil removed and therefore ultimately less of a hazard than our current state. The spa also requires void areas at both ends to access mechanical components. The void areas represent a large decrease in the overall mass. Our current plan does not call for the swim spa to be fully in-ground. We would be happy to work with this committee in adjusting the depth and if need be, location of the spa.

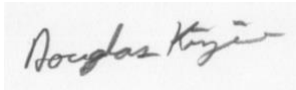
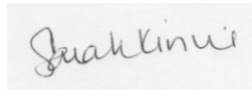
Finally, the scope of the proposed remediations is modest and very conservative in comparison to neighbouring properties visible from the backyard as illustrated in photos U, V, W.

We love our home and want it to be safe and functional. We truly believe the scope of our landscape work constitutes an overall improvement in slope stability and decrease in risk from

erosion. We would be happy to work with this committee and its recommendations. We are positive that improvements to the hardscaping will not only enhance our usability of our property, but also reduce risk, and serve to mitigate the concerns outlined in the hearing report.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas Kinzie".A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Kinzie".

Doug and Sarah Kinzie, Homeowners

Conservation Authority

To whom it may concern,

Doug and Sarah Kinzie contacted our firm to come up with a landscape design and proposal. Their reason for the landscape was three-fold: repair and replace ageing hardscaped surfaces, a natural and peaceful environment that maintains the natural area of the back yard and a spot for a swim spa that Doug needs to address health issues.

As you are aware, the sloped backyard presents a number of challenges. We understand that stability of the soil and erosion is of great concern. Our landscape plan concentrates on mitigating those factors.

In a swim spa of this size and on level ground we normally place them on a concrete base with 4' support piers. We propose to put this one on 6' piers which would be at a depth below frost level in order to add strength and stability of the soil.

Additionally, we will build a wall between the house and the spa. We propose to use the Geogrid product and gravel in between each layer of the wall. This too should mitigate any soil movement.

Finally, we propose to use native trees and shrubs on the back slope. These plants are more pest and disease resistant; they root and grow well in that environment and further stabilize the soil.

Doug and Sarah Kinzie and our firm are looking at these three upgrades in order to minimize or eliminate any adverse damage to their property. Our focus is to do as little harm to their environment as possible.

Fred Dantuma
Hess Landscaping Ltd.















Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer

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

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

DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: Summary Enforcement Report – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation 161/06 Applications for March 3/22

HCA Regulation applications approved by staff between the dates of January 22, 2022 and February 22, 2022 are summarized in the following Summary Enforcement Report (SER-1/22).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Summary Enforcement Report SER-2/22 as information.

HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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

February 22, 2022

Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Applications Report to the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, March 03, 2022

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

SUMMARY ENFORCEMENT REPORT SER 2/22

File Number	Date Received	Date Permit Issued	Review Days	Applicant Name	Location	Application Description	Recommendation / Conditions
F/F,C,A/21/101	01-Dec-21	25-Jan-22	92		139-223 Weirs Lane Lot 4, Concession 1 Flamborough	Culvert replacement and maintenance in a regulated area of Middle Spencer Creek and Spring Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
SC/F,C/22/01	04-Jan-22	25-Jan-22	24		517 Fruitland Rd Lot 15, Concession BF Stoney Creek	Renovations of an existing dwelling and construction of a second-storey addition and detached garage in a regulated area of Lake Ontario.	Approved subject to standard conditions.
H/F,C,A/22/10	19-Jan-22	14-Feb-22	16		Pt Lt 33, Con 4, W of Greenhill Ave and Red Hill Valley Pky Lot 33, Concession 4 Hamilton	Maintenance and lining of a City watermain, in a regulated area of Red Hill Creek.	Approved subject to standard conditions.

Collectively, we polled Board members, and they have indicated their desire to acclaim the current Chair. While we respect their position, we do not wish to be complicit in the acclamation of a Chair with whom our conservation allies, Foundation donors and several past HCA Board and Foundation Chairs have lost confidence. For that reason, we have personally decided to not participate in this evening's action.

With our greatest respect;

Brad Clark
Susan Fielding
Russ Powers

Lisa Burnside then introduced Jo-Anne Rzaeki, Business Development and Partnerships Manager for Conservation Ontario, as the Acting Chair for the purposes of the election of officers.

2. Election of Officers

Jo-Anne reviewed the election procedures to be as follows:

- Nominations only require a "mover";
- Nominations will be called 3 times for each office;
- Closing of nominations will require a "mover" and a "seconder";
- Each nominee will be asked if they are willing to serve;
- If more than one person is nominated and willing to serve, there will be a vote by anonymous electronic poll;
- 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 the electronic polling feature within the Webex videoconferencing application. No member may vote by proxy.

Jo-Anne asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, declared all offices vacant.

2.1. Appoint Scrutineers

BD12, 2981

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

THAT, if more than one person is nominated, Jaime Tellier be appointed scrutineer; and further

THAT all electronic polling results be closed and not saved after each polling is concluded.

CARRIED

2.2. Election of 2022 Chair

Jo-Anne Rzađki called for nominations for the 2022 Chair for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Nominated: Lloyd Ferguson

By – Mover: Dan Bowman

Jo-Anne called for nominations twice more. Having no further nominations, the office of Authority Chair for 2022 was declared closed with the following resolution.

BD12, 2982

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Santana Moccio

THAT nominations for the 2022 Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority be closed.

CARRIED

Jo-Anne asked Lloyd Ferguson if he would serve. Mr. Ferguson indicated he would. Jo-Anne declared Lloyd Ferguson as Chair of the Board of Directors for 2022 by acclimation.

BD12, 2983

MOVED BY: Esther Pauls

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT Lloyd Ferguson be confirmed as Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2022.

CARRIED

2.3. Election of 2022 Vice-Chair

Jo-Anne Rzađki called for nominations for the 2022 Vice-Chair for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Nominated: Santana Moccio

By – Mover: Tom Jackson

Jo-Anne called for nominations a second and third time. Having no further nominations, Jo-Anne declared the office of Authority Vice-Chair for 2022 closed with the following resolution:

**BD12, 2984 MOVED BY: Esther Pauls
 SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman**

**THAT nominations for the 2022 Vice Chair of the
Hamilton Conservation Authority be closed.**

CARRIED

Jo-Anne asked Santina Moccio if she would serve. Ms. Moccio indicated she would. Jo-Anne declared Santina Moccio as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for 2022 by acclamation.

**BD12, 2985 MOVED BY: Tom Jackson
 SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

**THAT Santina Moccio be confirmed as Vice-Chair of the
Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors for
2022.**

CARRIED

2.4. Election of Chair to Conservation Advisory Board

Jo-Anne Rzadki called for nominations for the 2022 Chair for the Conservation Advisory Board.

Nominated: Dan Bowman

By – Mover: Maria Topalovic

Jo-Anne called for nominations a second and third time. Having no further nominations, Jo-Anne declared the office of Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2022 closed with the following resolution:

**BD12, 2986 MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
 SECONDED BY: Lloyd Ferguson**

**THAT nominations for the 2022 Chair of the Conservation
Advisory Board be closed.**

CARRIED

Jo-Anne asked Dan Bowman if he would accept the nomination. Mr. Bowman accepted the nomination. Jo-Anne declared Dan Bowman as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board by acclamation.

BD12, 2987

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT Dan Bowman be confirmed as Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board 2022.

CARRIED

2.5. Board Representatives to Budget & Administration Committee

Jo-Anne Rzađki 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.

Jo-Anne asked for a show of hands for members interested in sitting on the Budget & Administration Committee.

Following the call for expressions of interest, Jo-Anne announced that in addition to the Chair of B&A, Santina Moccio, board members Jim Cimba, Maria Topalovic and Dan Bowman were interested in sitting on the Budget & Administration Committee.

BD12, 2988

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio

THAT Jim Cimba, Maria Topalovic and Dan Bowman be confirmed as members of the Budget & Administration Committee for 2022.

CARRIED

2.6. Board Representatives to Conservation Advisory Board

Jo-Anne Rzađki explained that up to two additional directors may join the newly elected CAB Chair as sitting members of CAB and asked for a show of hands for members interested in sitting on the Conservation Advisory Board.

Jo-Anne announced that in addition to the Chair of CAB, Dan Bowman, board member Cynthia Janzen was interested in sitting on the Conservation Advisory Board.

BD12, 2989

MOVED BY: Tom Jackson

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

THAT Cynthia Janzen be confirmed as a member of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2022.

CARRIED

3. Call to Order for Normal Course of Business

The Chair called the meeting to order and thanked Jo-Anne for her assistance with the elections.

The Chair also thanked the Board members for their acclimation, adding he takes the position very seriously. He addressed recent media articles and letters sent to the Board members regarding the Board leadership. He acknowledged environmental concerns raised with regard to the proposed development and associated wetland relocation along Garner Road and natural heritage offsetting policy, reiterating the Board's decisions to not support either. He acknowledged past statements in regard to jobs and tax revenue and noted he would not apologize for saying that we needed tax relief and jobs for Hamilton, however noted he would not compromise conservation as Chair of the HCA. He commented on the many positive achievements of HCA in the past two years, including record attendance at Conservation Areas, 177 acres of newly acquired lands, and the successful implementation of the Spencer Gorge Reservation System, among others. He expressed his sincere appreciation and admiration for staff and thanked them for their efforts.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the Board's Governance Policy. There were none.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised of 52 additional items of correspondence respecting the 2022 Election of Officers to be added as items 7.4.1 fp) through hn) on the agenda. In addition, a new item will be added under New Business as item 13.1.

BD12, 2990

**MOVED BY: Tom Jackson
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

6. Delegations

There were none.

7. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

The following consent items were adopted:

- 7.1. Applications – Development, Interference with Wetlands, Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- 7.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – December 2, 2021
- 7.3. Letter from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to Township of Puslinch respecting exception to subsection 14(1.1) of the Conservation Authorities Act, dated January 13, 2022
- 7.4. 171 Items of correspondence respecting the 2022 Election of Officers, labelled a) to fo)
 - 7.4.1. 52 Items of correspondence respecting the 2022 Election of Officers, labelled fp) to (hn)
- 7.5. Email from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding Regulatory and Policy Proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act, dated January 26, 2022

8. Foundation Briefing

Jennifer Stebbing reported on the following:

Donations

The Foundation received a total of **\$61,780** in new donations from December 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022, including:

- \$28,906 for the Area of Greatest Need Fund, and

- \$22,055 for Westfield Heritage Village
- \$2,500 for Tribute Benches
- \$2,100 for Trail Development
- \$2,025 for the Planting Fund
- \$1,960 for the Land Securement Fund
- The remaining \$2,234 includes donations to Stewardship, and the Dundas Valley Conservation Area

The Foundation is finalizing its strategic priorities for 2022, with anticipated growth in donations. The fundraising focuses for next year include continuing to fully fund the Environmental Education Program, funding future work at Saltfleet Conservation Area, and starting to build the Education Endowment to a level where it will generate sufficient income to fully fund the annual operating needs of the education program.

The Foundation is also excited to report that Heritage Green Community Trust has confirmed a \$2 million contribution through the Foundation directed to the construction of the first Saltfleet wetland. The Foundation is looking forward to finalizing the terms of the donation with the Trustees.

BD12, 2991

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic

SECONDED BY: Tom Jackson

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

CARRIED

8.1. Naming Approval at Saltfleet Conservation Area

Grace Correia provided a summary of the report recommending that in recognition of Heritage Green Community Trust's donation to the Saltfleet wetland, the main trail within the Conservation Area be name the Heritage Green Community Trust Trail.

BD12, 2992

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

THAT the Hamilton Conservation Foundation's Board of Directors recommend to the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors:

THAT in recognition of the Heritage Green Community Trust's leadership donation to the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration project, the naming of the main trail in Saltfleet Conservation Area be offered as the Heritage Green Community Trust Trail;

THAT the name recognition, once approved by the HCA Board, be incorporated into the gift agreement between Hamilton Conservation Foundation and Heritage Green Community Trust.

CARRIED

9. Member Briefing

There was none.

10. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

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

11.1. Conservation Advisory Board – December 9, 2021
(Recommendations)

11.1.1. CA 2126 Fifty Point Conservation Area & Marina Master Plan

Dan Bowman introduced the report, highlighting that Fifty Point has become an urban conservation area and has experienced a significant rise in use and attendance. He noted that strategies for improving visitor, site, and operational management to accommodate increasingly high visitation and anticipated growth in the area were discussed as well as the significant natural features of the conservation area, when the plan was presented to CAB.

Kathy Smith presented a full summary of the master plan. Kathy acknowledged Ecology staff and Conservation Area staff, as well as all other staff stakeholders for their contributions to the master plan. The members thanked Kathy and all staff for the tremendous work and resulting document.

BD12, 2993

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen

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

THAT this report and accompanying Master Plan of November 2021 be received as information for project background and general understanding; and further

THAT the Fifty Point Conservation Area Master Plan 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

11.1.2. CA 2127 Spencer Gorge Conservation Area Reservation System

Dan Bowman provided a summary of the report, sharing that the reservation system coupled with support from city parking and bylaw, were effective in keeping traffic congestion to a minimum and the reservation system has provided a vastly improved visitor experience. It was added that the 2021 experience demonstrated that HCA parking lots can handle the weekday capacity, and therefore the recommendation for 2022 is that no reservation be required on week days until the Fall colour season which allows for regular day use and membership pass access without reservation.

BD12, 2994

MOVED BY: Dan Bowman

SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic

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

WHEREAS the pilot 2020 and 2021 reservation system for Dundas Peak, Tew Falls, and Webster Falls, was highly successful at improving the Conservation Area experience by controlling and regulating the number of visitors, and for reducing vehicle traffic and congestion within the nearby community;

WHEREAS staff were directed to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot reservation system and report back on the operations in 2021;

WHEREAS staff were directed to monitor and evaluate the reservation system as a potential and continuous part of the operations in addressing parking and visitor management strategies for the area;

THEREFORE, be it resolved

THAT the reservation system be integrated as part of the ongoing operation of Spencer Gorge Conservation Area based on the following parameters:

THAT future reservation periods for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area continue to reflect the dates of May to November, with specific start and end dates to be determined by staff; and further

THAT the reservation period operates based on weekend and Public Holiday reservation requirements in 2022 until mid-September when 7 day a week reservation will be required for Fall colours; while still providing the ability of staff to undertake real time adjustments for reservation system requirements to add additional reservation days if required.

CARRIED

11.2. Budget and Administration Committee – January 20, 2022
(Recommendations)

11.2.1. BA 2202 HCA Draft Inventory of Programs and Services

Santina Moccio summarized a staff report on a draft inventory of programs and services, required to remain in compliance with changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. The inventory represents staff's best understanding of the requirements laid out by MECP and how we could best fit HCA's workplans and budget into the template provided by Conservation Ontario. The inventory reflects a status quo budget based on HCA's 2022 trial balance and works within the current levies provided by the City of Hamilton and Township of Puslinch, as well as the capital block funding received from the City of Hamilton. Staff insured that HCA is only undertaking category 2 or 3 programs that support our strategic plan and can be reliably funded. The City of Hamilton and Township of Puslinch will be provided the opportunity to offer feedback during the balance of the transition period. Upon agreement to the inventory HCA will need to enter into formal agreements for any Category 2 and 3 programs and services where municipal funding or levy is proposed to be used.

BD12, 2995

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen

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

THAT the Board of Directors approve the attached HCA Draft Inventory of Programs and Services, subject to and including any further revisions as noted during the January 20th, 2022 meeting.

CARRIED

12. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

12.1. 2022 Schedule of Meetings

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the memorandum.

BD12, 2996

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

THAT the memorandum entitled 2022 Schedule of Board of Directors Meetings be received.

CARRIED

12.2. Appointment of Voting Representatives to Conservation Ontario

Lisa Burnside provided an overview of the report.

BD12, 2997

**MOVED BY: Esther Pauls
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen**

THAT the following members be appointed to Conservation Ontario for 2022:

**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 Auditors

Lisa Burnside presented a summary of the report.

BD12, 2998

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

THAT the audit firm of Grant Thornton is appointed as the auditors Hamilton Conservation Authority for the year 2022.

CARRIED

12.4. Annual Reporting on Conservation Authority Permit Review Timelines

Mike Stone presented a summary of the memorandum on review timelines for Conservation Authority permits issued by HCA in 2021. The annual report is part of Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative to track review times for the issuance of Section 28 permits against recommended service level targets and to report the statistics to Conservation Ontario annually. HCA largely met 2010 service standards and continues to work toward fully meeting the new 2019 standards. For clarity, the differences between major and minor permits were explained.

BD12, 2999

**MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

THAT the memorandum entitled Annual Reporting on CA Permit Review Timelines – January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

12.5. Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting there have been no current or recent observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding, public safety concerns, or Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. In the next 2 weeks, no significant watercourse flooding is expected. In the next 9 days, no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is expected. Current and average January flows have been well below long-term averages. The potential for the significant snowfall to result in flooding was discussed. Jonathan noted that rapid melt of the snow pack could be problematic for flooding, however that is not forecasted. Staff monitor the water content in the snow pack in order to forecast the potential for flooding. HCA's reservoirs have available storage should the snow begin to melt.

BD12, 3000**MOVED BY: Esther Pauls
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic****THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.****CARRIED****12.6. Conservation Areas Experiences Update**

Gord Costie provided the members with a verbal update, highlighting the spectacular winter conditions in the Conservation Areas. Staff are busy with snow removal keeping the areas open and safe. He called attention to the variety of winter recreation opportunities at Valens Lake Conservation Area, including winter camping, ice fishing, pond hockey, etc., commenting it rivals many Ontario Parks. He noted that the smaller parkette Conservation Areas, including those with waterfalls, continue to be busy. Lastly, Gord advised that Devil's Punchbowl CA will reopen very shortly following installation of new fencing at the area.

BD12, 3001**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen****THAT the verbal update on the Conservation Areas Experiences be received.****CARRIED****13. New Business****13.1 Comments on Absence from HCA Board Meeting Letter from Brad Clark, Susan Fielding and Russ Powers**

In regard to the statement in the letter that Board members were polled as to their support for the position of Chair for the 2022 Board of Directors, Santina Moccio, Jim Cimba and Dan Bowman each stated they were not contacted or polled by the authors of the letter. These corrections were noted for the record.

14. In-Camera Items**BD12, 3002****MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Santina Moccio**

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

CARRIED

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

14.1. Confidential Verbal Update / Report – BA/Jan 01-2022

Santina Moccio provided a summary of the report regarding a legal/personnel matter.

BD12, 3003

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Cynthia Janzen

THAT the confidential report entitled BA/Jan 01-2022 remain in-camera and the following recommendations come out of camera:

- 1. That the HCA Mandatory Vaccination Verification and Testing Policy be amended to require proof of being fully vaccinated in the workplace for all categories of staff (full time, contract, casual, volunteers, students).**
- 2. THAT the definition of “fully vaccinated” for the purposes of this Policy be defined as having received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine, subject to change as defined by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.**
- 3. THAT any current unvaccinated staff will have until April 18, 2022 to provide proof of full vaccination or an approved human rights or medical exemption, at which time any failure to do so will result in their termination of employment with HCA.**
- 4. THAT any employees with an approved human rights or medical exemption will continue to follow the previous testing measures.**

CARRIED

14.2. Confidential Verbal Update – BA/Jan 03-2022

Scott Peck provided a verbal update regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

BD12, 3004

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Tom Jackson

THAT the confidential verbal update entitled BA/Jan 03-2022 be received and remain in camera.

CARRIED

BD12, 3005

MOVED BY: Santina Moccio

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

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

CARRIED

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Neil McDougall
Secretary-Treasurer

HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Advisory Board

MINUTES

December 9, 2021

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, December 9, 2021, commencing at 4:00 p.m., by videoconference and livestreamed via YouTube.

PRESENT: **Dan Bowman - in the Chair**
 Lydia Cartlidge
 Cynthia Janzen **Joanne Di Maio**
 Wayne Terryberry **Duke O’Sullivan**

Santina Moccio – Ex-Officio

REGRETS: **None**

STAFF PRESENT: **Lisa Burnside, Grace Correia, Gord Costie, Matt Hall,**
 Lesley McDonell, Neil McDougall, Scott Peck, Kathy
 Smith, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts

OTHERS: **None**

1. Chair’s Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Former Chair Maria Topalovic was recognized and thanked her for her many years of leadership to this committee. Dan noted he was Chair of CAB in the past and appreciated to the opportunity to resume the role.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked the members to declare any conflicts under the HCA Administrative By-law. There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

**CA 2124 MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen
 SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan**

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair advised that as it was the final meeting of the year, the election would be deferred until after the Board of Directors Annual General Meeting in February.

6. Member Briefing

6.1. Turtle Road Mortality Mitigation Efforts along Cootes Drive

Lesley McDonnell shared a video produced by the Royal Botanical Gardens on the turtle road mortality efforts along Cootes Drive. The initiative is a joint effort among public landowners and a volunteer organization to fence and redirect turtles and other wildlife away from the road. Monitoring and reporting are also key components of the project. The measures implemented have been successful in decreasing the number of turtles injured and killed along the stretch of road. Efforts to maintain and improve the measures will continue. Lesley commented that funding for the portion of fencing along HCA's property was provided by the Hamilton Conservation Foundation, HCA and the Great Lakes Protection Initiative. Breaks in HCA's fencing have been repaired and vegetation along the fence is maintained. The Chair commented on the valuable partnerships and importance of the work.

6.2. Conservation Authorities Act – Phase 1 Regulations

Lisa Burnside presented on three new provincial regulations made to the Conservation Authorities Act and answered the members' questions.

Lisa noted the mandatory programs and services regulation outlines the categories that will be considered mandatory moving forward and Conservation Authorities are pleased to see the inclusion of passive recreation. Lisa advised the new regulations do not appear to be intended to change any of our programs and services directly; the intent is to clarify who will be responsible to fund the activities, be it the Province, the Municipality or through self-generated revenue.

Conservation Authorities are required to complete and publish transition plans outlining the steps and timeframes that will be followed to comply with the new regulatory requirements.

The Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas regulation consolidates the current individual conservation authority 'Conservation Area' regulations made under Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act into one Minister's regulation. There are no significant updates to the regulation and does not change HCA's current operations.

Lisa also advised the regulations did not include the requirement to establish an advisory board, however, Conservation Authorities are permitted to establish committees.

The transition plan was approved by the Board of Directors at the November meeting. The next step will be completing the programs and services inventory.

The Chair thanked Lisa and staff for all of their efforts to meet the provincial requirements.

7. Chair's Report on Board of Directors Actions

There was none.

8. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

8.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (June 10, 2021)

**CA 2125 MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
 SECONDED BY: Joanne Di Maio**

**THAT the minutes of the June 10, 2021 Conservation Areas
Advisory Board meeting be approved.**

CARRIED

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

10. Staff Reports/Memorandums

10.1. Fifty Point Conservation Area & Marina Master Plan

Kathy Smith presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

Staff confirmed the Board-approved strategy whereby all master plans are scheduled to be updated in the next ten years.

The rise in use and attendance along with limited potential for future land acquisition to expand the conservation area was noted. Given the future development in the surrounding area, the committee discussed pressures on the marina and day-use and how the campground fits in the mix. Staff advised that the campground was discussed in detail among stakeholders, elimination was not considered, however expansion was not carried forward in this master plan. Efforts will be made to enhance the existing campground. Consideration was also given to the balance of seasonal camping vs nightly camping in the future.

The Chair commented on the importance of master plans in providing road maps for the future. He also highlighted the over 400 public comments providing input into the plans. Staff were asked to comment on the most frequent comments received. Kathy advised of common themes being pedestrian access, as well as flagging safety concerns related to lack of sidewalks and traffic issues for pedestrians. As a result, recommendations to the municipality regarding the area surrounding HCA's property and upgrading Baseline Road were added to the plan as well as exploring adding a secondary entrance on Kelson Road seasonally on the Grimsby side.

Strategies for improving visitor, site, and operational management to accommodate increasingly high visitation and anticipated growth in the area were discussed as well as the significant natural features of the conservation area.

Matt Hall shared that Kathy Smith is transitioning into retirement and thanked her for her contributions to HCA. The Chair recognized Kathy for all of her work on the master plans.

CA 2126

MOVED BY: Lydia Cartlidge

SECONDED BY: Duke O'Sullivan

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

THAT this report and accompanying Master Plan of November 2021 be received as information for project background and general understanding; and further

THAT the Fifty Point Conservation Area Master Plan 2021 be approved.

CARRIED

10.2. Spencer Gorge Conservation Area Reservation System

Gord Costie presented a summary of the report and answered the members' questions.

It was noted that visitation was lighter than 2020, however, the weather was not as good and the easing of pandemic restrictions did open up more recreation options for people to once again experience. While numbers were down, the reservation system coupled with support from city parking and bylaw, were effective in keeping traffic congestion to a minimum and the reservation system has provided a vastly improved visitor experience.

Given that the 2021 demonstrated that HCA parking lots can handle the weekday capacity, the recommendation moving forward in 2022 is that no reservation will be required week days until the Fall colour season which allows for regular day use and membership pass access without reservation. This operating approach addresses feedback from both the community and passholders to provide access when there was capacity. Should attendance and visitor volume increase beyond parking lot capacity, staff can quickly pivot and update the reservation system as needed.

The Chair noted the reservation system has been a great success story for HCA.

CA 2127

MOVED BY: Cynthia Janzen

SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

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

WHEREAS the pilot 2020 and 2021 reservation system for Dundas Peak, Tew Falls, and Webster Falls, was highly successful at improving the Conservation Area experience by

controlling and regulating the number of visitors, and for reducing vehicle traffic and congestion within the nearby community;

WHEREAS staff were directed to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot reservation system and report back on the operations in 2021;

WHEREAS staff were directed to monitor and evaluate the reservation system as a potential and continuous part of the operations in addressing parking and visitor management strategies for the area;

THEREFORE, be it resolved

THAT the reservation system be integrated as part of the ongoing operation of Spencer Gorge Conservation Area based on the following parameters:

THAT future reservation periods for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area continue to reflect the dates of May to November, with specific start and end dates to be determined by staff; and further

THAT the reservation period operates based on weekend and Public Holiday reservation requirements in 2022 until mid-September when 7 day a week reservation will be required for Fall colours; while still providing the ability of staff to undertake real time adjustments for reservation system requirements to add additional reservation days if required.

CARRIED

10.3. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Gord Costie highlighted the renewal of the Hamilton Mountain Conservation Areas (HMCA) with new dedicated full-time staff and the opening two additional areas for the HMCA, Saltfleet CA and the Chippewa Trail Parking Lot. He also commented on the greatest surge in HCA Membership Pass sales in the history of the organization, and high levels of service through record attendance again in 2021. An attendance report will be brought forward in 2022. He also advised the annual Haudenosaunee deer harvest in the Dundas Valley was undertaken and has now ended for the season.

CA 2128

MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry

SECONDED BY: Lydia Cartlidge

THAT the verbal update on the Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received as information.

CARRIED

11. New Business

There was none.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Minutes

Budget & Administration Committee

January 20, 2022

Minutes of the Budget & Administration Committee meeting held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., by videoconference and livestreamed on YouTube.

Present: Santina Moccio, in the Chair
Dan Bowman
Jim Cimba
Lloyd Ferguson
Maria Topalovic

Regrets: None

Staff Present: Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Matt Hall, Neil McDougall, Scott Peck, and Jaime Tellier, and Nancy Watts

Others Present: None

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts under the HCA Administrative By-law. There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. Lisa Burnside advised of two addendums to the agenda, item 7.1.1. a document supplementary to the staff

report for item 7.1 and a confidential staff report regarding a legal/personnel matter to be discussed in camera.

BA 2201

MOVED BY: Jim Cimba

SECONDED BY: Dan Bowman

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Consent Items

The following consent items were adopted:

- 5.1. Approval of Budget & Administration Committee Minutes – November 18, 2021

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

7. Staff Reports/Memoranda

7.1. HCA Draft Inventory of Programs and Services

7.1.1. HCA Draft Inventory of Programs and Services

Lisa Burnside provided a summary of the report. The inventory was broken into the categories created by MECP and show sources of funding based on HCA's 2022 trial budget. The inventory reflects a status quo budget based on our 2022 trial balance and works within the current levies provided by the City of Hamilton and Township of Puslinch, as well as the capital block funding received from the City of Hamilton.

MECP advised that non-mandated programs and services such as education and active recreation, that are valuable and important to local communities, can continue as an authority determines as advisable through an MOU for municipal funding or other agreement or can be self funded.

HCA already has several funding arrangements and agreement with the City of Hamilton in regard to water quality testing, management agreement for CBP, ownership for WHV and block funding for capital and major maintenance, which were captured in the inventory.

It is important to note the inventory is subject to consultation with municipalities and may be amended based on feedback and consultation from our participating municipalities.

Upon agreement to the inventory we will need to enter into formal agreements for any Category 2 and 3 programs and services where municipal funding or levy is proposed to be used. Staff insured that we are only undertaking category 2 or 3 programs that support our strategic plan and can be reliably funded.

Neil McDougall provided a detailed overview of how costs were determined, and represented in the table.

The members thanked staff for the significant amount of time and effort to taken to complete the inventory.

BA 2202

MOVED BY: Maria Topalovic

SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba

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

THAT the Board of Directors approve the attached HCA Draft Inventory of Programs and Services, subject to and including any further revisions as noted during the January 20th, 2022 meeting.

CARRIED

7.2. Records Retention Schedule Update

Jaime Tellier provided a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions.

A back up system for electronic records in the event of a catastrophic event was discussed. Jaime advised that all servers are backed up monthly to a network attached storage device in a building separate from the main office. There is an additional cloud backup system. Neil McDougall added that all servers are in Canada.

The protection of HCA's physical records was also discussed. Jaime reported that the former carpenter's workshop adjacent to HCA's main office was formally

established as a Records Room for appropriate storage and control records where records are better protected from potential damage due to flooding, mould, vermin, and various other elements. In addition, in 2019, all past Board of Directors and Advisory Committee records were digitized into PDF format, providing additional protection through the electronic copies that are stored on HCA's servers.

Fire protection for the physical records was also inquired after. Jaime advised that a fire suppression system for the records room is in the capital budget for this year.

BA 2203

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

THAT the memorandum entitled HCA Records Management Program Update be received.

CARRIED

8. New Business

There was none.

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

BA 2204

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba
SECONDED BY: Lloyd Ferguson**

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee moves *in camera* for matters of law, personnel and property.

CARRIED

During the *in camera* session, two legal matters, one personnel / legal matter, one personnel matter and were discussed.

9.1. Confidential Verbal Update – BA/Jan 01-2022

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

9.2. Confidential Verbal Update – BA/Jan 02-2022

9.2.1 Confidential Report – BA/Jan 02-2022

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

9.3. Confidential Verbal Update – BA/Jan 03-2022

Scott Peck provided a verbal update regarding a legal matter and answered the members' questions.

9.4. Confidential Verbal Update – BA/Jan 04-2022

Lisa Burnside provided a verbal update regarding a personnel matter.

BA 2205

**MOVED BY: Lloyd Ferguson
SECONDED BY: Maria Topalovic**

THAT the Budget and Administration Committee moves out of *in camera*.

CARRIED

The following motion was made out of in camera:

BA2206

**MOVED BY: Dan Bowman
SECONDED BY: Jim Cimba**

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

- 1. That the HCA Mandatory Vaccination Verification and Testing Policy be amended to require proof of being fully vaccinated in the workplace for all categories of staff (full time, contract, casual, volunteers, students).**
- 2. THAT the definition of “fully vaccinated” for the purposes of this Policy be defined as having received the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine, subject to change as defined by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.**
- 3. THAT any current unvaccinated staff will have until April 18, 2022 to provide proof of full vaccination**

or an approved human rights or medical exemption, at which time any failure to do so will result in their termination of employment with HCA.

4. **THAT any employees with an approved human rights or medical exemption will continue to follow the previous testing measures.**
5. **THAT this report remain in-camera and the recommendations come out of camera.**

CARRIED

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Budget and Administration Committee will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

11. Next Meeting Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.



Please ensure that all Members of the Board of Directors remember their mandate to conserve the lands that we have returned to them.
Bart Green, Lisa Thacker

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Critical conservation
Date: February 3, 2022 8:05:22 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Liz Koblyk** <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 6:15 PM
Subject: Critical conservation
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

- SOS Hamilton,

Dear Councillors and Board Members,

I'm a resident of the GHA and a parent, and I'm writing to express my concern that the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board Chair advocates for destruction, rather than conversation, of our local watersheds.

In order to ensure that the HCA can fulfill its mandate and preserve invaluable biodiversity and carbon sinks, I do not support the re-election of Chair Lloyd Ferguson to the position of Chair of the HCA Board at the Annual General Meeting on February 3, 2022. Instead, I hope that the next Chair will have an established history of defending our watershed and natural heritage. Members elected to the HCA Board, and most especially the Chair, can only fulfill their roles if they have a basic understanding of watersheds, wetlands, biodiversity and natural heritage.

Thank you for acting in a way that will protect biodiversity and Hamilton's carbon absorption capacity.

Sincerely,
Liz Koblyk

Liz Koblyk


Hamilton, Ontario L9H 2B5

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: HCA chair vote.
Date: February 3, 2022 8:07:21 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **bruce picken** <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 8:35 PM
Subject: HCA chair vote.
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

- SOS Hamilton,

i grew up in greensville (1958-68) and lived there again as an adult (2001-18).

lived on haines ave as a kid, bullocks corners, on harvest road six houses away from tews falls and also a two minute walk from websters at the bottom of short road.

i've also lived in dundas three different times including now.

i lived in japan on and off for 19 years. when i came back to canada with my japanese wife-

- she died 10 1/2 years ago in japan. her favourite place in the world was websters. i spent \$2500 for a memorial bench between the bridges.

the HCA has ruined the websters/tews experience.

as for lloyd ferguson. i called him in mid spring 2020 about going to websters.

we worked out something. i emailed him that night to thank him for his understanding.

i got an email from him in the morning 'confirming' if i went to websters i would be fined. i

emailed back saying '????' and got another response to 'reconfirm' i would be fined.

went back on his word.

during our conversation he asked me three times what mark osborne was like.

i sent another email after the wetlands farce and he emailed me asking if he knew me. he

needs to be removed or there'll be even more big box stores all over the place.

having lloyd ferguson as chair of the HCA is like letting a fox loose in a chicken coop.

bruce picken



Hamilton, Ontario L9H 4N5

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Stop Lloyd Ferguson
Date: February 3, 2022 8:09:43 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ward Cluff** <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 11:59 PM
Subject: Stop Lloyd Ferguson
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

- SOS Hamilton,

We need a chair who puts conversation first. Lloyd Ferguson is not fit for this important position.

Ward Cluff


Hamilton, Ontario L8M 3G3

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Remove Cllr Lloyd Ferguson as chair for his poor conduct
Date: February 3, 2022 10:24:38 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Erin Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 12:45 PM
Subject: Remove Cllr Lloyd Ferguson as chair for his poor conduct
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

- SOS Hamilton,

Hi, My name is Erin Davis,

I was part of the group to stop the unlawful sequester of Ancaster Wells. Ancaster Wells is a public water source paid for by the public 1963 (Public Utilities Commission owned by the public), 1998 HCA used public funds to purchase the land, 1999 HCA again used public funds to improve the water taking facilities, 2017- now (Public monies wasted on cost of fence and breakdowns over the years)

Oct. 5, 2017, Lloyd pulled a fast one on the Board, and the public. Lloyd rushed the Nov 2 2017 vote to Oct. 5 2017. He had the Board vote to unlawfully sequester the water source, even tho he knew full well

1 - No Health Order was ever produced.

2 - As per Law , the requirement was as simple as posting a notice

3 - There is a restrictive covenant on title that we discovered Dec 2017. Clearly stating that the Water source is to remain free access to the public in perpetuity.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY

4 - Lloyd had received direct email from the Medical officer of Health clarifying that there was NO HEALTH ORDER on this water source. Email Dated Aug. 23 2017, (uncovered Aug. 2019 by our MFIPPA request Jan 2018 request)

Susan Fielding asked for the Medical officer of Health's Directive Nov 2 2017 but unbenownst to her and other Board Members they had already voted Oct. 5 2017.

Lloyd Ferguson, blatantly disregarded law, and proper protocol and gave you all untruths.

It is important that HCA have a Chair that is for conservation.

The thirst for justice is rising , do something now before it becomes a tsunami.

Please ensure that this letter is made available to all Board Members BEFORE their vote Feb 3 2022.

Please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail and that you will undertake per my directions above.

Thank you

Erin Davis

[REDACTED]

Erin Davis

[REDACTED]

Hamilton, Ontario L9G2H1

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jaime Tellier](#); [Clark, Brad](#); [REDACTED]; tom.jackson@hamilton.ca; russ.powers@hamilton.ca; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; esther.pauis@hamilton.ca
Subject: Choose a more conservationist minded candidate for Chair like Graham Crawford, or Don McLean
Date: February 3, 2022 1:15:36 PM

Greetings Board of Directors,

It is my understanding, HCA is a provincial / municipal entity for the public.
As a public steward it is my request that you vote for a conservationist minded individual such as Graham Crawford, Don McClean, Brad Clark, Susan Fielding.
I am asking you to take a break from voting for a compromised business associated candidate
.

Mr Ferguson is compromised around ground water sources because of his affiliations with Dufferin enterprises which is an infrastructure company that deals with municipal contracts and that now includes water, as a consequence of recent acquisitions.
Dufferin deals with municipal infrastructure contracts. And now Dufferin has a position in ground water ownership .

Please ensure that this letter is made available to all Board Members BEFORE their vote Feb 3 2022.

Please acknowledge receipt of this e-mail and that you will undertake per my directions above.

Let 2022 be the year we pave a new path for real conservation unencumbered by business associations. Choose a conservationist minded candidate.

Thank you
Erin Davis

Erin L Davis

"Inspired Solutions. Principled Results. For the People"

cell: [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: saveourstreams suggested i copy you on this email i sent to lisa....we've met and walked to peak together several years ago so i could show her the mountain of garbage at the peak
Date: February 3, 2022 10:38:16 PM

Bruce Picken
Thu 2022-02-03 8:20 PM

To: Burnside, Lisa

dear lisa,

i'm in a state of shock that lloyd ferguson remains chair of the HCA.

a fox let loose in the chicken coop.

bruce

From: [Brenda Bianchi](#)
To: [nature](#)
Subject: Lloyd Ferguson
Date: February 3, 2022 8:21:57 PM

How very disappointed to hear that Mr Ferguson has been re-elected to chair of the board.
This is an extremely sad day for Hamilton and a black eye on the face of board members who supported his leadership.

Brenda and Italo Bianchi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: HCA and Garner March
Date: February 10, 2022 6:22:28 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: peter appleton <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Wed, Feb 9, 2022 at 2:59 PM
Subject: HCA and Garner March
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

Hello all

i'm a life long resident in the area and truly believe that the HCA needs a Chair that will vigorously defend the Garner marsh from developement and or degradation at the upcoming OLT.

I'd like to thank the HCA for the hard work they do.

Thank you Susan, Brad and Russ for boycotting the meeting last week.

We know the significance of wetlands for our drinking water health and that wetlands offer the most diversity of species of all biomes.

We cannot afford with climate change upon us to let this land be gobbled up or destroyed in any manner.

Please help,

Peter Appleton

peter appleton


, l9h1n2

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Hamilton Conservation Authority
Date: February 10, 2022 6:24:05 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Henry Muggah <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 2:03 AM
Subject: Hamilton Conservation Authority
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

I am a former Board member of the HCA and have followed Lloyd Ferguson's time on the HCA. It is clear from my observation that he is not conservation minded or orientated to modern conservation principles. I also fear he is untruthful in his interviews on this matter. I beleive he should resign from this position ASAP and that the remaining board members choose his replacement.

Dr Henry Muggah

 Hamilton

Henry Muggah



L8P 2X1

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Save Garner Marsh
Date: February 11, 2022 8:03:34 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rick Johnson [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Feb 10, 2022 at 4:05 PM
Subject: Save Garner Marsh
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

Hello HCA members:

My name is Rick Johnson and I live in Mount Hope. I am writing to you for the second time subsequent to the failure of the HCA Board members to remove Councillor Ferguson from his chairperson role with the HCA despite public opinion opposing his re-instatement. Although I am very supportive of the good work that the HCA has done and continues to do in preserving the environmental health of the Hamilton area, I am opposed to Councillor Ferguson being re-instated as chair for the coming year. As well, I am opposed to the acclamation process that was used by board members to re-instate Councillor Ferguson and I am opposed to any HCA chairperson whose record clearly shows that he is willing to destroy local wetlands to generate jobs and tax revenue. How could this have possibly have happened? The current members acclaiming Councillor Ferguson need to take a step back and ask themselves how they can justify this acclamation in the face of public opposition! I would like to offer my thanks to Councillor Clark, Councillor Powers and member Susan Fielding for refusing to participate in what appears to have been some sort of undemocratic scam on the part of other HCA members to put (not elect) Councillor Ferguson back into the chair role. I would be the first in line to hear from any HCA member who could explain the line of reasoning for this acclamation but I suspect that the public will never get to hear the HCA explanation. It is critical for the HCA to have a chair who is for conservation and not looking for ways to circumvent HCA environmental goals. The next "election" for HCA chairperson cannot come soon enough and we can only hope that the acclaimed chair cannot do too much damage to the local environment in the meantime; it is up to board members to make sure that the chair advocates only for good things environmentally. Can we count on board members to do this?

Sincerely,

Rick Johnson

[REDACTED]

West Lincoln, Ontario L0R 1W0

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Garner Marsh
Date: February 12, 2022 8:12:46 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ria Kleiman** <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Fri, Feb 11, 2022 at 5:39 PM
Subject: Garner Marsh
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

My name is Lyn Folkes and I have been a resident of Hamilton mountain's Ward 8, for 22 years. I used to live in Ancaster very close to this marsh so I understand its value today, especially now with our increasingly warm climate. I also do bird surveys in that area to collect data for climate scientists.

Changes to our climate and in turn, our landscape, food security, drinking water availability, mental and physical health as well as economic stability are happening faster with each passing year. We currently don't have complete solutions for all of these concerns which threaten our quality of life.

Today, there are however a number of actions that we now know are scientifically proven to help -- and one of those actions is to preserve wetlands. "In Ontario, over 72 per cent of our original wetlands have been lost" (<https://vancouver.sun.com/opinion/op-ed/opinion-wetlands-are-disappearing-fast-urgent-action-is-required>), and wetlands that remain at the west end of Lake Ontario have been "highly degraded" (Environment Canada and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2009. State of the Great Lakes 2009. 432 p.). In fact, over 64% of wetlands right across Canada have been lost and Hamilton is in the 85-100% of wetlands lost category (<https://biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net/ecosystem-status-trends-2010/wetlands>; <https://millstonenews.com/looking-back-ten-years-of-environmental-destruction-in-ontario/>). And yet, Ontario is still not doing enough to protect our remaining wetlands, so any size of wetland habitat is important to conserve today.

There are so many reasons why we NEED to preserve wetlands in the Hamilton area and do our part to provide water security to our residents. For more discussion about why we should protect wetlands, read this article by researchers at Environmental Defense: <https://environmentaldefence.ca/2020/11/11/crucial-protect-ontarios-wetlands/>. Reasons for wetland preservation include vital concerns like: soil stabilization, flood mitigation, vital wildlife habitat, water quality improvement and recreational opportunities for the public. Wetland species are often more sensitive to changes in their unique environments as well, which leads to a large number of threatened or endangered wetland species from both human and natural disturbances. In Southern Ontario, the leading cause of wetland loss

today is conversion of wetlands to human uses like sprawling urban development and agricultural land (Oct 17, 2017, Archived - Wetland conservation strategy | ontario.ca). So, we also need to stop building on Canada's best agricultural lands around Hamilton! We need our wetlands to survive because drinkable water is our most basic need -- we would all die without it.

So please, I encourage the HCA to defend its decision to deny the permit to pave the Garner Marsh at the upcoming hearing at the Ontario Land Tribunal. Anything less would be a giant loss to all Hamilton residents. These losses are perhaps felt most heavily by the oldest of us who have witnessed the massive loss of natural lands and in particular, wetlands, around the so-called 'golden horseshoe' for decades.

Save the Garner Marsh without wavering, PLEASE. Think of our children - they need us to be smarter in action, not just thought.

Sincerely and with the little hope we have left if we don't act faster!

Lyn & Rick Folkes

Hamilton residents, Ward 8

Ria Kleiman

[REDACTED]

Hamilton, Ontario L9C 1J8

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Conservation Chair
Date: February 13, 2022 1:32:16 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Theresa Cardey <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sun, Feb 13, 2022 at 12:45 PM
Subject: Conservation Chair
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

I was born and raised in Hamilton and am very concerned about protecting our area's natural environment and preparing to meet the demands of the climate crisis. I'd like to thank HCA staff for the vital work that they do and Susan Fielding, Brad Clark and Russ Powers for boycotting the meeting. The chair of the HCA must understand the importance of nature and the wetlands and Ferguson doesn't or doesn't want to. Please defend your decision to deny the paving of the Garner Marsh at the hearing at the Ont. Land Tribunal.

Theresa Cardey
[REDACTED]

Hamilton, Ontario L8P4Z4

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Save Our Streams - We don't want Industrial activities
Date: February 13, 2022 5:58:52 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tobi Ayankogbe** <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Sun, Feb 13, 2022 at 5:54 PM
Subject: Save Our Streams - We don't want Industrial activities
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

To Whom It May concern including the HCA board and the chairman

I write as a citizen of this beloved community that we don't want any part to do with the industrialization of the our communities. As a result we don't want the current chairman on the board. We want someone who's for conservation.

We don't want someone who's corrupted by money and profits but who will do what is right in care and solidarity to the people it will affect.

Tobi Ayankogbe



Hamilton, Ontario L9G 0H2

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: New Leadership Desperately Needed!
Date: February 19, 2022 8:23:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christiane De Savigny** <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Fri, Feb 18, 2022 at 1:34 PM
Subject: New Leadership Desperately Needed!
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

Hi,

My name is Christiane de Savigny, I live in Ancaster. I am expressing my disappointment in reestablishing Mr. Ferguson as chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority. Only three people had the courage to oppose and abstained from the vote, Susan Fielding, Brad Clark and Russ Powers, because they care about preserving land suitable for agriculture and its natural features, such as wetlands locate there. Thank you to them for acting!

No need to cite again Mr Ferguson's lack of support for his constituents's interest, it's on many records. Most people expressed their wish to preserve Nature for further generations. Biological diversity of plant and animal life is critical for human habitation as well. We need to be careful where we place industry. Building warehouses over fields and sensitive wetlands is no longer acceptable. Climate change has brought excess of precipitation, and paved over areas exacerbate flooding situations. Heat and drought have made many land unsuitable for farming. We are lucky to have open land and working farms around us and need to keep it that way.

We need new leadership that acts with foresight for our future at the HCA! People that don't cave to investors but foster cooperation with industry. People that can reason instead of arguing. I feel that Mr Ferguson does not fit that job description.

Public office should be staffed by persons the majority of people can trust. Is this case, the voice of so many people has not been heard. The election of chair of HCA is flawed and the result needs to be reconsidered.

Thank you.

Christiane

Christiane De Savigny



Hamilton, Ontario L9G2A5

From: [Save our Streams Hamilton](#)
To: [Jaime Tellier](#)
Subject: Fwd: Concern
Date: February 19, 2022 8:24:33 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sarah King <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Date: Fri, Feb 18, 2022 at 8:05 PM
Subject: Concern
To: <saveourstreamshamilton@gmail.com>

Hi,

My name is Sarah King. This is the 2nd email I have sent in the past month.

I would like to thank the HCA staff for the vital work that they do.

I would like to send my thanks to Susan Fielding, Brad Clark and Russ Powers for boycotting the meeting and listening to the concerns of HCA allies who sent correspondence.

I would kindly ask that you please include both of my emails in next month's Board of Director's agenda.

I would like to encourage the HCA to vigorously defend its decision to deny the permit to pave the Garner Marsh at the upcoming hearing at the Ontario Land Tribunal.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thanks
Sarah

Sarah King


Brant, Ontario N3T5L4

From: [ca.office](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca) (MECP) <ca.office@ontario.ca>

Sent: February 8, 2022 10:31 AM

To: Brian Horner <bhorner@abca.ca>; kfurlanetto@crca.ca; generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca; cdarling@cloca.com; quentin.hanchard@cvc.ca; tim.pidduck@crowevalley.com; tbyrne@erca.org; llaliberte@grca.on.ca; slawson@grandriver.ca; t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca; hbasit@hrca.on.ca; Lisa.Burnside@conservationhamilton.ca; mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com; Kettle Creek <elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca>; r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca; tammy@lakeheadca.com; jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca; mark.peacock@ltvca.ca; Rhonda.bateman@ltc.on.ca; Phil Beard <pbeard@mvca.on.ca>; David.Vallier@mattagamiregion.ca; smcintyre@mvc.on.ca; csharma@npca.ca; Carl.Jorgensen@ConservationSudbury.ca; briant@nbmca.on.ca; dhevenor@nvca.on.ca; dmarinigh@otonabeeconservation.com; bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca; richard.pilon@rrca.on.ca; sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca; j.stephens@svca.on.ca; cbarrett@ssmrca.ca; acoleman@nation.on.ca; kphillips@scrca.on.ca; jmackenzie@trca.on.ca; annettt@thamesriver.on.ca; kgavine@conservationontario.ca; bfox@conservationontario.ca; cao@northernbruce.ca

Cc: Corrigan, Kirsten (MECP) <kirsten.corrigan@ontario.ca>; CSPB Coordinator (MECP) <CSPB.Coordinator@ontario.ca>; Lavender, Wendy (MECP) <Wendy.Lavender@ontario.ca>; Scanlon, Debbie (MECP) <Debbie.Scanlon@ontario.ca>; Bozin Ilisinovic, Saira (MECP) <Saira.Bozin-Ilsinovic@ontario.ca>

Subject: Conservation Authority Agricultural Sector Representatives - Job Ads Posted

Importance: High

Dear Conservation Authority General Managers and Chief Administrative Officers,

As you are aware, changes made to the Conservation Authorities Act in 2020 (subsection 14(4)) enable the Minister to appoint a member from the agricultural sector to each conservation authority to increase agricultural sector perspectives in authority operations.

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks has now posted job advertisements on the Public Appointments Secretariat website for the agricultural sector position for each of the thirty-six conservation authority memberships. The advertisements will be posted until February 21, 2022 and can be found at [Advertised Positions - Public Appointments Secretariat \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca/advertisedpositions). We encourage you to share these postings locally and invite any individuals from your local agricultural sectors who may be interested and meet the qualifications listed in the advertisement to apply.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me directly or to the ministry at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Corrigan
Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Ministry Environment, Conservation and Parks
URL <https://conservationhamilton.ca/>
Address 838 Mineral Springs Rd, Box 81067
Ancaster
L9G4X1

Background [Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER C.27, ss 14\(4\)](#)

Function On December 8, 2020, Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020, received Royal Assent. Schedule 6 of Bill 229 made changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act to improve the governance, oversight and accountability of conservation authorities, while respecting taxpayer dollars by giving municipalities more say over the conservation authority programs and services for which they pay. New powers proclaimed under subsection 14(4) of the Conservation Authorities Act allow the Minister to appoint an agricultural sector representative to each conservation authority membership to increase agricultural sector perspectives in conservation authority operations.

Membership The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks may appoint an agricultural sector representative to each conservation authority, which is otherwise made up of municipally appointed members.

Qualifications

- resident in a participating municipality in which the CA has jurisdiction (subsection 14(3) of the CAA), and
- knowledge of and experience in/with the local agricultural sector.

Term Agricultural sector representative members are appointed by Minister's letter for a term of up to four (4) years, as may be determined by the Minister, in accordance with the CAA, and their terms are subject to renewal. The Minister's appointment/s of agricultural sector representatives to CA membership is made at the pleasure of the Minister.

Meetings Meetings will be determined by each conservation authority to which agricultural sector representatives are appointed.

Remuneration Agricultural sector appointees will be offered remuneration on a per diem basis when appointed to a CA where per diems are offered to its municipally appointed members. The appointee of this CA is to be remunerated \$150 per diem according to Schedule A, Level 1 of the Agencies and Appointments Directive as they will be appointed to a CA that does remunerate its other members. Appointees are reimbursed for mileage and other reasonable expenses incurred while performing duties of this position in accordance with the Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive.

Advertised Positions

Position	Advertisement
Member (Part-Time)	View Apply

Appointments & Vacancies

No.	Position	Member	Term	Location
1.	Member (Part-Time)			

Public Appointments Secretariat

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ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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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2021 HCA Board of Directors

Municipality

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

City of Hamilton

Township of Puslinch

Member

Councillor Lloyd Ferguson, Chair

Santina Moccio, Vice-Chair

Dan Bowman

Jim Cimba

Cynthia Janzen

Maria Topalovic

Councillor Brad Clark

Councillor Tom Jackson

Councillor Esther Pauls

Councillor Chad Collins (January – September 2021)

Councillor Russ Powers (November – December 2021)

Susan Fielding

Message from HCA's Board Chair and CAO

2021 has been another incredible year for HCA. While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult in many ways, staff at every level have continued to safely respond and adapt our operations to perform regulation and monitoring duties while welcoming more visitors than ever. We continued to progress in all five of our priority areas and are pleased to share the results of our combined efforts in this report.

We were very excited this year to officially open our newest conservation area, Saltfleet Conservation Area. Also at that site, the first wetland restoration project was tendered and awarded. This wetland project will reduce downstream flood risk and erosion to residential and commercial properties in Stoney Creek by enhancing and enlarging existing wetland areas, creating new wetland areas and restoring the natural features and functions of watercourses in the area. Once all four planned wetlands are created, the combined areas will have the ability to hold the equivalent of 236 Olympic-size swimming pools.

2021 has demonstrated that our conservation areas continue to play an important role for watershed residents and visitors from across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. A poll by the Nature Conservancy of Canada showed nine out of ten Canadians value nature now more than ever before. There is also more awareness of nature in our lives, from backyard birds to greater use of trails and camping. We saw this play out with a record number of annual membership passes sold, and over 1.2 million visitors coming to our owned and operated areas. We added 177 acres of land to our holdings, looking to and planning for the future.

The pandemic also helped us leverage technology for public engagement and communication with new and enhanced virtual communication tools. Over 2,500 people visited our new engagement platform site www.conservationtalkhca.ca. Regarding our work with invasive species management, we raised awareness by creating multiple HCA Insider videos, blogs, and Invasive Species Awareness Week social posts. Our heritage buildings at Westfield went virtual with 360 degree tours. LinkedIn and TikTok became new parts of our social media platforms to share information on our work and projects.

We are exceptionally proud of our team at HCA, both Board and staff, and their collective talents, hard work and resilience. We also welcomed new staff that have joined us during this unprecedented time of virtual meetings and hybrid work arrangements. Together, we are delighted to share this annual report and our 2021 accomplishments as we continue to pursue our mission of providing a healthy watershed for everyone.



Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
HCA Board Chair



Lisa Burnside
HCA CAO



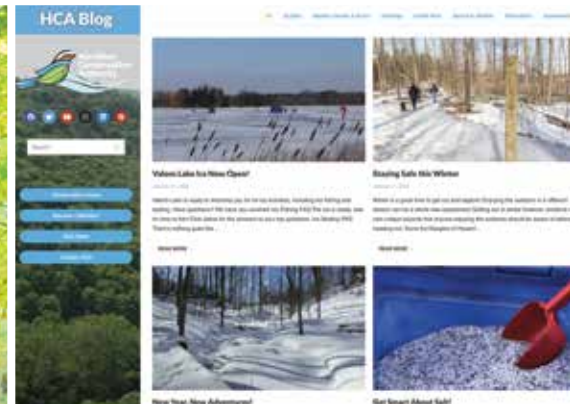
A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

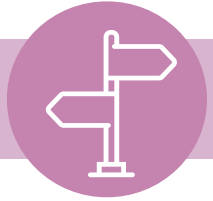


Organizational Excellence



- HCA Website reached a new milestone with **2 million page views** with mobile phones being the most popular way to access
- **Over 60% of operating revenue is self-generated.** Top 3 self-generated revenue sources continue to be day admissions, marina operations and camping fees. Two of which, being day admissions and camping, reached new heights during the ongoing pandemic
- There were **12 media releases** sent out related to our various programs
- HCA was mentioned in **203 news articles** in 2021
- HCA social media followers
 - **Facebook – 19,832**
 - **Instagram – 11,305**
 - **Twitter – 8,999**
 - **LinkedIn (new in 2021) – 1,389**
 - **TikTok (new in 2021) – 569**





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

2021 Highlights

- Funding relationships resulted in over \$2 million dollars in grants for projects such as the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland restoration project, summer student positions, and climate change strategy internship.
- Continued to successfully and safely maintain our operations during the ongoing pandemic and supported Hamilton Public Health efforts to make COVID-19 vaccinations more accessible in local communities. In this regard, the HCA hosted the mobile vaccination bus on our properties Christie Lake, Valens Lake, Confederation Beach Park and Westfield Heritage Village.
- Supported a dynamic work culture, safe working environments, professional development, and effectiveness of staff through:
 - Revising and updating 7 safe working procedures and creating 3 procedures for the safety of staff
 - Implementing a mandatory vaccination verification and testing policy to positively impact HCA's overall health and safety culture during the pandemic
 - Providing Provincial Offences Officer and First Aid training
- Completed 18 blogs, 20 photoshoots and 3 video shoots to help communicate both internally and externally what HCA does, and why. Photoshoots included electrofishing, invasive species treatments, plantings, a feature video on Saltfleet Conservation Area, hiking and Christmas at Westfield Heritage Village, a feature video for the Conservation Areas Workshop on the Valens Lake cabins, fall hiking at the Eramosa Karst and Dundas Valley and many more.
- Increased communication and engagement more effectively by using Bang the Table, an online stakeholder engagement tool for our community engagement on projects such as the Fifty Point Master Plan, the Natural Heritage Offsetting Discussion Paper and feedback on the Westfield Heritage Village 360 Tour:
 - Over 2,500 people visited the HCA Bang the Table site, www.conservationtalkhca.ca
 - 698 people completed surveys
 - 1,115 were informed, by downloading documents, utilizing site tools like key dates, or visiting multiple project pages
 - 2,189 visited at least one project page
- Streamlined policies to enhance business service delivery, including:
 - Implemented a Government Relations policy to outline HCA's approach to advocacy efforts
 - Updated our Hazard Tree policy to follow reasonable and best risk management practices



- Endorsed a Transition Plan to guide our compliance with new Conservation Authority Act regulations and successfully applied for exceptions for the rotation of our Chair and Vice Chair as well as term limits to allow our Board to operate most democratically and efficiently
- Continued our efforts to modernize HCA's records management systems by:
 - Completed inventories of all records held by HCA and utilizing the information collected to draft an updated records retention schedule. The draft retention schedule has been submitted to a coordinated legal review of retention schedules among CA's
 - Created and approved a Records Management Program Overview and Procedures document to guide the implementation of HCA's Records Management Policy
- Collaborated and shared services and expertise through numerous forums and working groups with neighbouring conservation authorities and other partners, including the virtual Latonell Conservation Symposium and Conservation Areas Workshop. HCA staff participated, presented, and assisted with the organization of the events.



Water Management



- Section 28 Conservation Authorities Act – Permit Processing
 - **99** Total Permits
 - **23** Total Major Permits
 - **91%** of Major Permit applications were processed within the required time period (Based on 2010 MNRF standard, per our Client Service Commitment)
 - **76** Total Minor Permits
 - **82%** of Minor Permit applications were processed within the required time period (Based on 2010 MNRF standard, per our Client Service Commitment)
 - **61%** of Major Permits and **47%** of Minor Permits were processed within 2019 CO recommended standards
- Number of Watershed Condition Statements / Messages
 - Water Safety: **1**
 - Flood Outlook: **0**
 - Flood Watch: **1**
 - Flood Warning: **0**
 - Flood Outlook – Lake Ontario Shoreline: **0**
 - Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Shoreline: **2**
 - Termination Messages (Return to normal watershed conditions): **3**





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.

2021 Highlights

- Continued work with a consultant to complete flood plain mapping for the numbered watercourses in Stoney Creek and Battlefield and Stoney Creek watersheds. Flood plain mapping is key in HCA's review of planning and permit applications to direct development outside of hazardous areas.
- Enhanced flood control infrastructure funded through the Provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure funding programs for:
 - Safety boom for the dam at Christie Lake Conservation Area. The new public safety boom will prevent the public from accessing the face of the dam and meet current guideline requirements. The tender was awarded in 2021 and the boom is anticipated to be installed and in operation by late spring 2022.
 - Public safety projects at Valens Lake and Christie Lake for a new monitoring well at Valens Lake and new fencing and public safety signage at Christie Lake. The tender was awarded in 2021 and work will be completed by late spring 2022
- Initiated work with a consultant to complete a Shoreline Management Plan for Lake Ontario and Hamilton Harbour within the HCA watershed. The major goals of the shoreline management plan are to:
 - Protect new development from coastal hazards and ensure that it does not impact the environmental features and functions of the shoreline
 - Increase the resilience of coastal communities
 - Minimize danger to life and property damage from flooding, erosion, and associated hazards along the shoreline.
 - Ensure that the shoreline development adequately addresses hazards through a combination of public and private management and development alternatives
 - Incorporate nature-based options to reduce coastal hazards.
- Continued our partnership with the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region with the following highlights for 2021
 - Reported on annual progress to demonstrate collaborative protection of sources of municipal drinking water
 - Completed technical assessments of contaminant transport pathways for wellhead protection areas
 - Maintained membership on the Source Protection Committee, ensuring continued direction for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan
 - Began consultation on the comprehensive updates of the source protection plan and assessment reports



- Continued to invest in monitoring programs and networks including assessing impacts of nutrient and sediment loading through:
 - Provincial water quality and groundwater quality monitoring completed for 6 surface water sites and 7 groundwater sites
 - Annual Rothsay water quality sampling program assessing and confirming no water quality issues regarding effluent discharges to the watercourse and Christie Lake.
 - Annual City of Hamilton water monitoring projects including groundwater well inspections at 86 wells, groundwater well water quality sampling at 38 wells and erosion monitoring at 21 sites.
- Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (HHRAP) sampling program is in its eighth year and continues to provide valuable data to partners in the pursuit of delisting Hamilton Harbour as an area of concern and to restoring water quality and the beneficial uses of the ecosystem.
- Continued stewardship program grants to support low impact development projects; diverting 222,820 litres of stormwater annually through the grants provided for these two projects which included:
 - Downspout disconnection, rain barrel installation and reduction in driveway impermeability
 - Infiltration trenches and rain gardens



Natural Heritage Conservation



- Forestry staff removed over **800** hazard trees and pruned an additional **130**
- Spring botanical survey at Saltfleet Conservation Area identified **16** species of spring ephemerals including Red trilliums and Sharp-lobed Hepatica

Invasive Species Management on HCA Properties

- **17** different invasive species managed
- **7** HCA Insider videos created for the public, 2 blogs, and 5 Invasive Species Awareness Week social posts
- **53** total plots of phragmites chemically treated and cut to drown
- **1,841** invasive shrub stems chemically treated and over **8,260** invasive shrub stems mechanically removed over 6 conservation areas
- **140** garbage bags of invasive herbaceous removed over 12 conservation areas and **1,407** invasive herbaceous stems chemically sprayed





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

2021 Highlights

- Implemented and invested in the further development of the Saltfleet Conservation Area wetland restoration project to offset the impacts of climate change:
 - Completed design for the first wetland at the Saltfleet Conservation Area and the project tender was posted and awarded. Construction of this first wetland is anticipated to begin in early January 2022 and complete by summer 2022
- Carried out invasive species control and removal strategies in our watershed including:
 - Hired two ecology technicians to help with invasive species and ecology surveys
 - Continued work to control, monitor, and map invasive species including phragmites control which began with cut to drown and seed head removal in late summer, with spray treatment in September. Phragmites plots were treated throughout Dundas Valley, Fletcher Creek, Valens Lake and Fifty Point, with additional spraying of Westfield and Lower Spencer's phragmites and manna grass. Two plots of Japanese Knotweed were chemically treated at Woodend and Lower Spencer
 - Removed invasive shrubs, such as buckthorn, winged euonymus, multiflora rose and barberry from Dundas Valley, Westfield, Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve, and Borer's. Additional chemical treatment for the shrubs that are too large to mechanically remove was carried out with over 500 shrubs treated
 - Created videos and blogs on topics such as 'How to Manage Phragmites by Spading and Cane Cutting', managing phragmites at HCA and Japanese Knotweed control using boat wrap
 - As LDD (*Lymantria dispar dispar*, formerly known as gypsy moth) caterpillars hatched and began defoliating the trees in the conservation areas, area staff and Ecology removed 2,432 LDD caterpillars and 178 pupas from Valens Lake and 2,079 caterpillars and 174 pupas were removed from Christie Lake, protecting significant landscape trees against this invasive species. A single LDD moth caterpillar can consume one square meter of leaves in a season
- Continued and expanded aquatic and terrestrial monitoring programs to assess watershed health:
 - Completed forest health monitoring at 10 sites across the watershed
 - Collected seven different species of tree and shrub seeds for use in restoration areas where invasive species have been removed
 - Presented a tour of the Lower Spencer Creek Restoration Project to the McMaster University Students Association of the Canadian Water Resource Association
 - Completed spring botanical surveys on the East Escarpment for the 2022 Saltfleet / Hamilton Mountain master plan. The surveys showed wide variety of spring ephemerals, plant species that re-emerge seasonally but then die back and remain dormant underground



- Carried out a successful migration monitoring at Fifty Point where 116 species of birds were recorded over 12 visits, including species at risk, such as Red headed Woodpecker, Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark
- Hosted several community plantings, at Confederation Beach Park, Valens Lake and Mount Albion Conservation Areas
- Enhanced natural heritage features with plantings across our watershed including:
 - A large planting of 1,455 plants was completed in late October with farmstead owners in Middle Spencer Creek, thanks to the hard work of many dedicated volunteers and staff. This project will help to restore over 330 metres of creek with a riparian buffer anywhere between 15 to 36 metres in width
 - Two volunteer plantings were also held in the Spring Creek sub watershed, one where hardy plants were added to a ravine slope to prevent erosion, and the second location was open woodland that had lost its canopy due to the loss of Ash trees
 - Planted 100 disease resistant American Elm trees across the watershed, where conditions best suited. These trees are all clones from an over 100-year-old elm tree at the University of Guelph that has withstood Dutch Elm disease
 - 19 Ecocise events held by our Stewardship staff, with volunteers learning about common invasive species in the watershed and how to effectively remove them, helping out watershed landowners at the same time
 - To raise awareness and provide solutions for one of the most invasive species in the watershed, an online workshop entitled “How to Identify and Manage Japanese Knotweed on Your Property” was held in September
 - Stewardship is wrapping up 2021 photo monitoring for the year, returning to completed projects in various stages. Photographs are taken post completion at 1, 5 and 10 year intervals



Conservation Area Experience



- **Membership pass sales increased to over 12,000 passes - doubling 2019 sales**, the largest number in our history
- HCA welcomed over **1.2 million visitors** to our conservation areas in 2021, another new record.
- **177 acres of land acquired**, expanding our landholdings
- HCA automated pay stations recorded **over 100,000 self-pay transactions at 21 parking lots** across the watershed.





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.

2021 Highlights

- Completed and adopted the Valens Lake Conservation Area Master Plan and updated and developed the Fifty Point Conservation Area Master Plan with the work being done in house by HCA staff.
- Implemented 6-month pilot reservation service for Spencer Gorge Conservation Area. Successfully managed visitation numbers with 14,112 reservations being made, bringing 40,506 visitors to Dundas Peak, Tew Falls and Webster Falls.
- Invested in projects to enhance and expand recreation experiences including:
 - Creation of a new conservation area business unit for the Hamilton Mountain Conservation Areas with a new full-time superintendent, Conservation Area Technician and casual staff
 - Officially opened of the Saltfleet Conservation Area parking lot and temporary trail connection to the Dofasco 2000 Trail and the Devil's Punchbowl Conservation Area
 - Opened the Chippewa Trail parking lot to service the Chippewa Trail and East Mountain Trail Loop
 - Improved over 750 ft of the Dofasco 2000 Trail boardwalk with new material
 - Westfield Heritage Village introduced a new 360° virtual tour of the village. Visitors can explore the village and see the charm of the buildings up-close and learn about the spirit of early Canadian history by electronically exploring the village, buildings and artifacts at Westfield from home or on site. This experience supplements information from volunteer interpreters and enhances self-guided walks on days when in-person interpretation is not offered. Finalized design plans for two new trail loops for Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area. These will extend the trail network west and follow the routes prescribed in the Westfield Master Plan
 - Acquired 70 acres of land from the City of Hamilton to solidify HCA land holdings in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area while allowing upgrades to the trail system and connectivity for the community's use
 - Acquired 7.2 acres of land in Flamborough to strengthen the public lands link between Fletcher Creek and Valens Lake Conservation Areas.
 - Acquired 100 acres of land to add to the Fletcher's Creek Ecological Preserve.
 - Continued construction on the Valens Lake cabins with the six smaller cabins now complete and the conversion of the former Drumlin Pavilion well underway. The cabins are expected to open to the public in 2022
 - Installed 2 new pedestal signs at the Dundas Peak to provide geological and historical interpretive information
 - Completed over 325 ft of shoreline protection work at Fifty Point Conservation Area
 - 9 Conservation Areas received upgrades to pay and display machines and/or Autogate systems, including Fletcher Creek, Chippewa, Saltfleet, Webster Falls, Middletown, Summit Bog, Tiffany Falls, Artaban and Eramosa Karst parking lots
 - Purchased 9 brand new Kubota Zero Turns, to standardize our fleet of mowing equipment and streamline maintenance and repairs

Conservation Area Experience



- With the easing of COVID restrictions, some events returned to the conservation areas this summer. For example, several trail races, school cross-country meets, and bird hikes were hosted.
- Long weekends at Valens Lake Conservation Area's 125 electrical sites were sold out by March 11, 2021, which is a new record. The 2021-2022 winter camping program at Valens Lake was sold out shortly after it opened for registration with 64 campers participating.
- Provided a self-guided maple syrup experience at Westfield Heritage Village. Visitors were still able to come for a walk on the trails and learn about the process of sap to syrup with new information panels on the trail to the sugar shack.
- Created a new experience for both Easter and maple syrup at Westfield. Visitors were encouraged to hunt for wooden eggs made by one of our volunteers and scattered in the trees on the trail system. Visitors could then go to the General Store and receive a maple treat for describing their favourite egg. During maple syrup time, kids of all ages can find any number of the 14 wooden maple leaves scattered around the village.
- Fifty Point Marina sold out its winter boat storage for the first time ever.
- Westfield participated in the virtual Doors Open event making it possible to showcase Westfield's history to a wide audience.



Education and Environmental Awareness



Stewardship:

- Hosted **9** events for public and staff
- **75** garbage bags of invasive species removed from private landowner sites

Volunteer events:

- **12** volunteer events hosted
- **174** volunteers participated for a total of **697** hours
- **\$13,940** of in-kind value for the volunteer's time contributions
- **308** garbage bags of trash collected and removed at cleanup events
- **4,734** native species planted
- **3.77** hectares of invasive species removed

Top Student Questions posed to our Outdoor Educators reflecting their curiosity and interest in the environment:

If you need soil for plants to grow, how are there plants in our oceans?

I know Coyotes howl and yip, but can they actually bark like my dog?

Are all exotic plant and animal species invasive and what invasive species have we removed in Canada?





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.

2021 Highlights

- The pandemic continued to alter the way we were able to connect with students for outdoor environmental education. To counter these challenges, we shifted to online platforms to reach students. Our education team eagerly created innovative, interactive and exciting online program opportunities to support teachers and keep students connected to nature.
 - In 2021, our suite of virtual programs expanded to 16 program sessions including What's Alive: Animals and Insects; Plants and Pollinators; Habitats & Communities; Diversity of Living Things; Soils – Worms and Conservation; What's Alive: Spring Session; What's Alive: Summer Session; What's Alive: Weather Wise; Let's Explore Winter; Interactions in the Environment – We are all connected; Tracks in the snow; Let's Talk Snowshoes; Winter Birds; Frogs and their Calls; and Spring: What Lives in the Soil
 - We booked over 100 virtual environmental education sessions in 2021 with the Hamilton public school board
 - In co-operation with Mohawk College, six HCA Conservation Clip videos for public education and the community were developed. Topics included: Winter, What's Alive; Weather Wise; Let's Explore Winter! Interactions in the Environment; Forest Nature Hike; Tracking; Wildlife Shelters; and How to prepare for a visit to HCA Parks
- Supported community participation and volunteer group coordination with three community cleanup events, two at Confederation Beach Park and one on the Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail.
- 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.
- Westfield Heritage Village developed a self-guided educational package for groups coming on site. It included laminated History at Home information and scavenger hunts which groups would use to customize their own outdoor experience.
- Westfield created over 32 short 'Westfield Moments' videos, posted to their YouTube channel. Videos include specific history of artifacts and topics from inside the historic buildings. The interview series with Rope Loft was particularly relevant and impactful to current events related to residential schools and the first National Truth and Reconciliation Day.
- Enhanced Stewardship programs for both urban and rural areas through the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program including:
 - 3 Stewardship awards presented
 - 4 wells decommissioned
 - Worked with 7 landowners for plantings, resulting in 2.8 kgs of native seeds dispersed and 8,546 trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants planted
 - Held 3 volunteer plantings, with 85 total volunteer hours and 34 volunteers participating

Message from the Hamilton Conservation Foundation

Who we are

The Hamilton Conservation Foundation protects and enhances 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



2021 at a glance

Although another challenging year for the Foundation, there are successes to celebrate. Our donors contributed just over \$285,000 for priority conservation projects, a 6% increase over 2020.

The generosity of our donors, both to the Foundation's Environmental Education Fund and its Highest Priority Fund, ensured that the Foundation once again was able to meet its commitment to fully fund HCA's Education program.

Tree plantings continue to be popular with our donors and allowed the Foundation to fund three plantings across the Hamilton watershed at Fifty Point, Valens Lake, and Mount Albion Conservation Areas.

Conservation areas and trails continue to be well used, and the Foundation was able to contribute approximately \$60,000 to trail and bridge improvements this year, primarily in Dundas Valley.

The HCA and Foundation family (staff, retirees, Board and Committee members) support the initiatives of the HCA and Foundation in many ways, including making donations to the Foundation, exceeding \$11,000 in 2021.







**Hamilton
Conservation
Authority**

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

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FAX: 905-648-4622
WWW.CONSERVATIONHAMILTON.CA



Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Gord Costie, Director Conservation Area Services

PREPARED BY: Rondalyn Brown, Manager, Westfield Heritage Village
Peter Lloyd, Collections Officer, Westfield Heritage Village

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: Westfield Artifact Accessions/Deaccessions for 2021

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT the Westfield 2021 Artifact Accessions and Deaccessions List as noted in the February 10, 2022 Accessions/Deaccessions report be accepted as the artifacts to be added to, or removed from, the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area and the Hamilton Conservation Authority collection.

BACKGROUND

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. The museum is committed to managing this collection according to current professional standards for acquisition, preservation, documentation, research, deaccession 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 current public health situation has changed the day to day focus of collection management at Westfield Heritage Village. The number of donations offered by the public has dropped a great deal and exhibit activity in the heritage buildings is static while we await opportunities to reopen. The focus of collections has turned inward and longstanding issues of storage and conservation have come to the fore.

The history of the collection itself is playing a role in this year's collection report. Westfield has been collecting antique objects for sixty years. In that time there have been many changes in collection standards and strategies. In the early years a "more is better" approach lead to a flood of items which would not pass our current collections criteria. In a few cases, the entire contents of defunct country stores or small businesses were accepted in bulk. There have been efforts in the past to assimilate or digest these objects into the collection. In about 1980 there was an attempt to introduce museums best practice by going through the collection and giving registration numbers to the objects. Items for which no original donor could be identified had the prefix "X" added to their artifact number. Again, starting in 1985, when the museum was temporarily mothballed, a push was made to get numbers on to unregistered objects. Between 1985 and 1988, thousands of objects were registered to the collection, to have them accounted for in the database, with no information on their original source or donor.

In 2021 a review of storage areas identified several large storage cartons of highly repetitive, poor condition items which have been sequestered in the storage area with an accumulation of damaged and incomplete furniture items. The vast majority of items identified in the process were of unknown origin and presented a burden on the proper management of the collection.

Deaccessioning is a methodical process in which artifacts, which are no longer an asset to the collection, are responsibly removed. Each item is assessed on criteria, such as proper identification, condition, duplication, exhibit potential, storage demands and provenance. Based on that review, a list was made of registered objects that are being recommended for removal from the permanent collection. Next steps for these items include: being offered to other institutions within the public trust, being sold to raise money to support the preservation of the collection as a whole, being responsibly gifted and finally, respectful disposal. It is important to note that all of these objects are still at Westfield and are in a segregated storage area awaiting a decision.

In 2021 Westfield purchased a new collections management software program called Past Perfect. Please find attached the Deaccession List Report from this program.

STAFF COMMENT

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

Westfield 2021 Artifact Accessions List

The following items are recommended to be accepted into the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area permanent artifact collection in 2021.

- Box of assorted type and type borders, late Victorian, 47 pieces
- Group of 2 brace and bits, 1860's
- Stanley # 80 plane
- Millwright's auger
- Circle scribing tool, brass
- Metal worker's hammer
- Large keyhole saw
- Jam cupboard circa 1900
- photo "Mount family" 1910
- Double action flax spinning wheel, 1850's
- "Eglin" spinning wheel, 1860's
- "Ideal Lever" spinning wheel, 1860's
- Wool winder, wooden gears, 1860's

Westfield 2021 Artifact Deaccessions List

Please find attached the artifacts/items recommended to be removed from the Westfield Heritage Village conservation Area permanent artifact collection in 2021.

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

HCA assumes liability and responsibility for the appropriate and professional management of the Westfield Heritage Village artifact collection.

CONCLUSIONS

These measures will help care for and manage the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area artifact collection and will preserve important pieces of local history for the community.

Westfield 2021 Artifact Deaccessions List

ACCESSNO	OBJNAME	STATUS
973.0000.0001	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
973.0764.0002	BOX, TRINKET	DEAC 2021
975.0007.0001 a	QUILT PIECE	DEAC 2021
975.0007.0001 b	QUILT PIECE	DEAC 2021
975.0007.0001 h	QUILT PIECE	DEAC 2021
975.0007.0001 k	QUILT PIECE	DEAC 2021
975.0007.0001 l	QUILT PIECE	DEAC 2021
975.0007.0001j	QUILT PIECE	DEAC 2021
976.0048.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
976.0052.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
976.0055.0001	braid, black silk	DEAC 2021
976.0067.0001	braid, black silk	DEAC 2021
976.0091.0001	braid, green-blue	DEAC 2021
976.0104.0001	braid	DEAC 2021
976.0108.0001	Braid	DEAC 2021
976.0115.0001	braid	DEAC 2021
976.0117.0001	braid	DEAC 2021
976.0122.0001	cord	DEAC 2021
976.0134.0001	braid	DEAC 2021
976.0135.0001	silk braid white	DEAC 2021
976.0136.0001	braid, white linen	DEAC 2021
976.0143.0001	braid silk, blue	DEAC 2021
976.0296.0001	TOWEL, DISH	DEAC 2021
976.0301.0001	BLANKET	DEAC 2021
976.0303.0001	PILLOWcase, heavy cotton print	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0267	BELT	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0481	MUFFLER	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0485	MUFFLER	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0813	mATERIAL	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0815	SCARF	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0817	SCARF	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0826	envelope, containing initials	DEAC 2021
977.0003.0998	lace	DEAC 2021
977.0003.1189	WRAPPER	DEAC 2021
977.0003.1190	two packages of cotton braid	DEAC 2021
977.0003.1204	cotton trim	DEAC 2021
977.0003.1206	black lace	DEAC 2021
977.0003.1210	lace	DEAC 2021
977.0003.1226	Lace, sample	DEAC 2021
977.0015.0001	SHEET	DEAC 2021
978.0076.0001	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
978.0086.0001	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
978.0115.0001	BLOUSE	DEAC 2021

978.0345.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
978.0395.0001	CAPE	DEAC 2021
979.0158.0003	NAPKIN	DEAC 2021
979.0158.0004	NAPKIN	DEAC 2021
979.0164.0001	SCARF, BUREAU	DEAC 2021
979.0193.0001	HANDKERCHIEF	DEAC 2021
979.0210.0001	APRON	DEAC 2021
979.0230.0004	SASH	DEAC 2021
979.0258.0001	APRON	DEAC 2021
979.0294.0001 d	BONNET	DEAC 2021
979.0310.0001	pANTALOONS	DEAC 2021
981.0009.0016 a	SCARF, BUREAU	DEAC 2021
982.0030.0003	CARPET SECTION	DEAC 2021
983.0001.0066	TABLE COVER	DEAC 2021
983.0007.0026 a	CUFFS	DEAC 2021
983.0007.0027	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
983.0007.0028	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
983.0007.0035	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
983.0007.0036	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
983.0007.0037	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
985.0143.0002 a	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0143.0006 a	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0143.0007 a	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0144.0001 a	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0145.0001 a	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0149.0001	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0150.0003 a	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0150.0005 a	GLOVES	DEAC 2021
985.0995.0003	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
985.0995.0006	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0014.0001	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0008	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0009	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0010	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0011	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0012	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0013	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0014	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0015	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0016	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0017	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0018	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0019	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0020	COLLAR	DEAC 2021

986.0015.0021	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0022	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0023	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0024	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0025	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0026	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0027	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0028	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0029	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0030	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0031	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0032	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0033	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0034	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0035	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0036	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0037	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0038	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0039	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0040	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0041	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0042	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0043	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0044	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0045	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0046	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0047	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0048	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0049	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0050	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0051	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.0015.0052	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
986.1062.0002	Sewing Supplies	DEAC 2021
986.1212.0001	collar box	DEAC 2021
986.1252.0001 a	STOCKING	DEAC 2021
986.1417.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
986.2415.0001	LEGGING	DEAC 2021
987.0328.0001	COMMODE	DEAC 2021
987.0501.0005	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.0586.0001	HANGING	DEAC 2021
987.0589.0001	TAPESTRY	DEAC 2021
987.0655.0001	APPLIQUE	DEAC 2021
987.0673.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
987.3184.0001	GLOVE	DEAC 2021

987.3189.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
987.3211.0001	CHAIR, OCCASIONAL	DEAC 2021
987.3248.0001	NIGHTGOWN	DEAC 2021
987.3250.0001	SKIRT	DEAC 2021
987.3252.0001	TABLE RUNNER	DEAC 2021
987.3284.0001	CAPE	DEAC 2021
987.3291.0001	TEXTILE FRAGMENT	DEAC 2021
987.3293.0001	TABLE COVER	DEAC 2021
987.3300.0001	TABLE RUNNER	DEAC 2021
987.3302.0001	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.3303.0001	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.3414.0001 d	BOX, SEWING	DEAC 2021
987.3609.0001	HANDKERCHIEF	DEAC 2021
987.3611.0001	DOILY	DEAC 2021
987.3647.0001	PURSE	DEAC 2021
987.3661.0001	PURSE	DEAC 2021
987.3751.0001	NIGHTGOWN	DEAC 2021
987.3755.0001	NIGHTGOWN	DEAC 2021
987.3799.0001	CURTAIN	DEAC 2021
987.3813.0001	APRON	DEAC 2021
987.3844.0001	NIGHTGOWN	DEAC 2021
987.3936.0001	DOILY	DEAC 2021
987.3952.0001	PILLOWCASE	DEAC 2021
987.3953.0001	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.3954.0001	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.3967.0001	SHAWL	DEAC 2021
987.3980.0001	NAPKIN	DEAC 2021
987.3981.0001	CURTAIN	DEAC 2021
987.4007.0001	TABLECLOTH	DEAC 2021
987.4011.0001	SKIRT	DEAC 2021
987.4025.0001	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.4031.0001	CLOTHING PIECE	DEAC 2021
987.4042.0001	DOILY	DEAC 2021
987.4054.0001	PILLOW	DEAC 2021
987.4229.0001	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.4229.0002	MAT, TABLE	DEAC 2021
987.4239.0001	DOILY	DEAC 2021
994.0004.0019	CHAIR	DEAC 2021
994.0004.0103	CHAIR	DEAC 2021
995.0058.0001 d	COLLAR LACE	DEAC 2021
995.0454.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0460.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0463.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0465.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021

995.0467.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0468.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0469.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0470.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0471.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0472.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
995.0473.0001	SEWING SUPPLIES	DEAC 2021
	QUILT FAN PATTERNED BLUE &	
995.0695.0002	PURPLE	DEAC 2021
	CUSHION, VICTORIAN, FLORAL	
996.0033.0001	PATTERN	DEAC 2021
x971.0619.0001	BANDBOX	DEAC 2021
x971.0620.0001	BANDBOX	DEAC 2021
x974.0107.0001	PURSE	DEAC 2021
x975.0054.0001	SCARF, NECK	DEAC 2021
x975.0058.0001	KERCHIEF	DEAC 2021
x975.0061.0001	MUFFLER	DEAC 2021
x975.0064.0001	MUFFLER	DEAC 2021
x975.0072.0001	SCARF, NECK	DEAC 2021
x975.0135.0001	TABLE COVER	DEAC 2021
x975.0156.0001	GLOVE	DEAC 2021
x975.0184.0001	COLLAR	DEAC 2021
x975.0428.0001	CAPE	DEAC 2021
x975.0445.0001	PILLOW	DEAC 2021
x975.0462.0001	JACKET	DEAC 2021
x975.0464.0001	TABLECLOTH	DEAC 2021
x983.0000.0019	QUILT	DEAC 2021
x983.0000.0051	QUILT PIECE, craZY QUILTING	DEAC 2021

Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED
AND APPROVED BY:** Neil McDougall, Secretary-Treasurer
Sarah Gauden, Marketing Manager

PREPARED BY: Lindsay Davidson, Assistant Marketing Manager

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: 2022 Annual Membership Program Renewal Strategy

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT the 2022 Annual Membership Program Renewal Strategy Report be received for information regarding our Annual Membership Pass Program; further;

THAT staff be directed to implement the six-point strategy outlined in the 2022 Annual Membership Program Renewal Strategy Report dated February 10, 2022,

BACKGROUND

The Hamilton Conservation Authority officially launched the annual membership pass, branded as the "key to the great outdoors" in 2003. Before this, there were only individual membership programs at some HCA conservation areas. With the official launch of a watershed-wide pass program, the membership pass became known as Nature Rewards. The membership pass program is designed as an annual membership pass, valid for twelve months from the date of purchase. It allows a vehicle and its passengers admission into HCA's many conservation areas.

With the launch of this program, HCA quickly realised the value a membership pass had not only to the overall effectiveness of HCA operations by weatherproofing, streamlining entry at gates, reducing the need for honour stations as swipe gates/payment was implemented in areas but also with what it offered to customers in terms of value-added items. The membership pass has come with various rewards and perks and has taken on a few different looks through the years. The rewards and perks offered have been items such as day visits to a conservation area to share with family and friends, discounts on boat rentals and early access to gate admission.

STAFF COMMENTS

At present, the pass costs \$115.00 +HST for a new member and \$95.00 +HST for a senior aged 65+. All memberships come with the following rewards:

- One day pass to share with friends and neighbours (day pass is good for a carload of up to 6 people).
- 15% discount on HCA rentals (pavilions and group picnic sites).
- Early morning access with automated gates.
- Year-round access. All areas are open 12 months a year.

Passes can be purchased in person at our main office and various conservation areas. They can also be purchased over the phone and are mailed out via Canada Post. Our most popular option in becoming a member is purchasing a membership online. Online purchases accounted for 45% of total sales in 2021 and are also mailed via Canada Post.

The membership program grew steadily but slowly for several years before the pandemic. New initiatives and partnerships were introduced to help increase the level of sales and also improve citizen awareness of the HCA. HCA has been the top membership pass selling Conservation Authority for several years and has often been a model to others. Throughout the pandemic, along with record-high attendance levels, came record high pass sales. The pandemic's restrictions on movement increased people's need for outdoor space. HCA experienced, and continues to experience high attendance levels as many new visitors come looking for outdoor activities and have placed a much higher value on nature than ever before.

Below, Figure 1 demonstrates the overall growth HCA has experienced since 2017.

Figure 1.

Year	Total Passes Sold	Percent Increase/ Decrease
2017	5,247	-
2018	6,528	24% over 2017
2019	6,035	-7% over 2018
2020	8,933	48% over 2019
2021	12,561	108% over 2019 41% over 2020

As previously mentioned, we have seen extreme growth in our online sales which is shown in Figure 2. The remainder of pass sales are made up at the various sales locations.

Figure 2.

Year	Percent of total sales
2017	20%
2018	25%
2019	29%
2020	44%
2021	45%

The breakdown of type of pass purchased in 2021, is illustrated in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3.

Type	Percentage of sales
New	55%
Renewal	30%
Senior	15%

In 2021, 98% of our members came from within an hour drive of our areas. The remaining 2% came from further out in Ontario, with a handful from three other provinces and even the United States. These were likely purchased as gifts or by snowbirds. Figure 4 outlines this breakdown.

Figure 4.

Location	Percent of sales
Hamilton	68%
GTA	11%
Burlington	8.5%
Tri Cities	7%
Brant	3.5%

Our primary target audience for memberships is young families, active seniors, and outdoor enthusiasts, including birders, hikers, runners, boaters, and campers.

As we continue to navigate this pandemic, our goals for the membership pass program will be to retain the increased number of members and new customers we gained over the past two years. As part of this retention effort, HCA held the pass price for 2022. Additionally, we have identified several initiatives and strategies to enhance renewal, as outlined in the strategy section below.

2022 Annual Membership Program Renewal Strategy

HCA already undertakes some initiatives to engage and connect with our members and encourage them to renew. This includes the following:

- Invitation to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter, where subscribers are updated on the latest news and programs HCA undertakes. Currently this e-newsletter boasts 12,000+ subscribers.
- Reduced fee for renewal with a \$10 discount for renewal (within 60 days of expiry)
- Continuing the pilot started in 2021 whereby passholders were invited to engage with our new Bang the Table platform to participate in surveys and input on Master Plan initiatives; initiatives in 2022 will again include Master Plan initiatives as well as input on new trail mapping and all other content placed on the platform

In addition to continuing the initiatives above, staff are also recommending the following six-point strategy:

- 1) Undertake postal code analysis to gain insight on the demographic attributes of our pass holders to help direct marketing and media campaigns.
- 2) Enhancing our Content Management System through our provider (CAMIS), which serves as a tool for database management of passholders. This tool allows us to better identify renewals of individual passes, enhance the delivery of electronic renewal letters, and strengthen communication connections with passholders.
- 3) Improving our webstore through our provider (CAMIS), which provides our online sales. These improvements include discount codes, shipping options, purchasing as a gift, gift card purchases and allowing HCA to better partner with local businesses on bulk purchases.
- 4) Launching campaigns with our media partners, which includes but is not limited to Bell Media, Metroland Media, Google and various other outlets, including social media campaigns, to market the membership pass to our target audiences based on locations identified by market research and on the available demographic information and consumer behaviour information made available.
- 5) Creating a membership pass training program which will include a training booklet and an accompanying training video to help the conservation areas and office staff regularly involved in the sales process of passes to promote and explain benefits of pass membership.
- 6) Identifying the Assistant Marketing Manager, as the designated membership pass champion of the program, to set annual goals and deliverables, provide dedicated staff support, and ensure all areas have the necessary sales tools and equipment needed to complete sales.

In addition to implementing a strategy for retaining passholders starting in 2022, HCA is excited to announce a new partnership with the Hamilton Public Library, Grimsby Public

Library, and Wellington County Library. HCA has provided membership passes to these library systems, allowing library patrons to visit HCA areas at no cost. This partnership helps address any financial barriers to offer complimentary free access so that everyone can enjoy our fantastic conservation areas. The partnership with the local library systems is in place until December of 2024. The evaluation of the success of this partnership will be ongoing as the libraries will report usage data and provide any other relevant statics.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Conservation Area Experience**
 - Identify and undertake approaches to increase sales of annual membership passes
 - Identify and act upon revenue generation/cost reduction and investment in visitor services opportunities in our conservation areas
 - Identify and support a more diverse and accessible range of programs for our conservation area users
- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Update our website to increase access to information and services

AGENCY COMMENTS

N/A

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONCLUSIONS

The HCA annual membership pass has a long history and has evolved over time. The pandemic has brought visitors to our conservations like never before. These lands are unique pockets of local greenspace that help our watershed thrive, connect people to nature, and provide a wide range of recreation for residents of Hamilton and beyond. There has been a phenomenal growth in pass sales, and the challenge will be to keep this higher base intact after the pandemic restrictions are in the past and our customers have full recreation options. In this regard, staff have developed a six-point membership pass renewal strategy.



Report

TO:

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

MEETING DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: HCA Ten Year Master Plan Update Strategy

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT the amended Master Plans Implementation Priority List of the HCA Ten Year Master Plan Update Strategy be approved.

BACKGROUND

Master and Management Plans are intended to provide a long-term vision for our areas, including direction for management and improvements within the properties. In early 2019, the HCA adopted a Ten Year Master Plan Update Strategy, with the overall goal of having an updated plan for all HCA owned and managed lands completed. This report is intended to outline current strategy's status, as well as to provide updated timelines to complete the remaining HCA plan reviews, which are necessary to realize the overall strategy's goal.

HCA definitions for Master and Management Plans are as follows:

Master Plans:

- Are prepared for active conservation areas. They provide a detailed property evaluation for land and resource management, development decisions and include a public consultation process.

Management Plans:

- Are prepared for lands where resource management is a priority and are generally less detailed than Master Plans. These plans set goals and objectives for property management and are supplemental to their associated Master Plan Study Area. Management Plans will include a public consultation process when not being developed within the overall scope of a broader area Master Plan.

Over the past four years, the HCA has undertaken and implemented Master and Management Plans, for the following HCA properties:

- Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area
- Valens Lake Conservation Area
- Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve
- Upper Watershed Beverly Swamp Conservation Lands
- Lafarge 2000 Trail
- Fifty Point Conservation Area

Current Master & Management Plans underway for 2022 include:

- Saltfleet Conservation Area
- Devil's Punch Bowl Conservation Area
- Vinemount Conservation Lands
- Winona Conservation Lands
- Dofasco 2000 Trail

STAFF COMMENT

In order to highlight the remaining Conservation Area lands in need of plan updates, the following appendices have been provided:

Master Plan Study Area Map (Appendix 1.0)

- This map illustrates the locations of the Master Plan Study Areas and the landholdings associated within each one. The Study Area groupings shown are based on a sub-watershed basis in order to gather relevant scientific data within each area, which will then allow HCA staff to glean much more valuable insight into the appropriate Land Zoning Classifications for the plans.
- No changes have been made to this map since it was previously adopted, it is provided for reference purposes only.

Master Plans Implementation Priority List – Rev. 1 (Appendix 2.0)

- This table highlights the updated priority sequence of the related plan reviews based on HCA staff input from multiple departments. The proposed timelines have been considered with regard to a number of considerations; including current and future use of the areas, anticipated site pressures, HCA resources

available and relevant ecological information for the areas. This priority list is used to direct where field reviews and studies will be required prior to plan initiation.

- Updates to this list include:
 - Revising the Scheduled Review Period for the East Mountain C.A. Study Area from 2026 to 2023-2024.
 - Revising the Scheduled Review Period for the Christie Lake C.A. Study Area from 2022 to 2026-2029.
 - Inclusion of completed Study Area Plans and their next anticipated Scheduled Review Periods.
- Moving the East Mountain CA Study for the next review provides for complete updated plans for the Hamilton Mountain with the new business unit that was created in 2021 and will provide greater focus and promotion of these areas that HCA is seeking to develop
- Additionally, given recent staffing changes with the phased retirement of our Design Projects Manager, new staff are developing their knowledge and expertise and would benefit from experience of completing the smaller Hamilton Mountain areas prior to tackling the complexity of our final study areas of Christie Lake and Dundas Valley

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **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

N/A

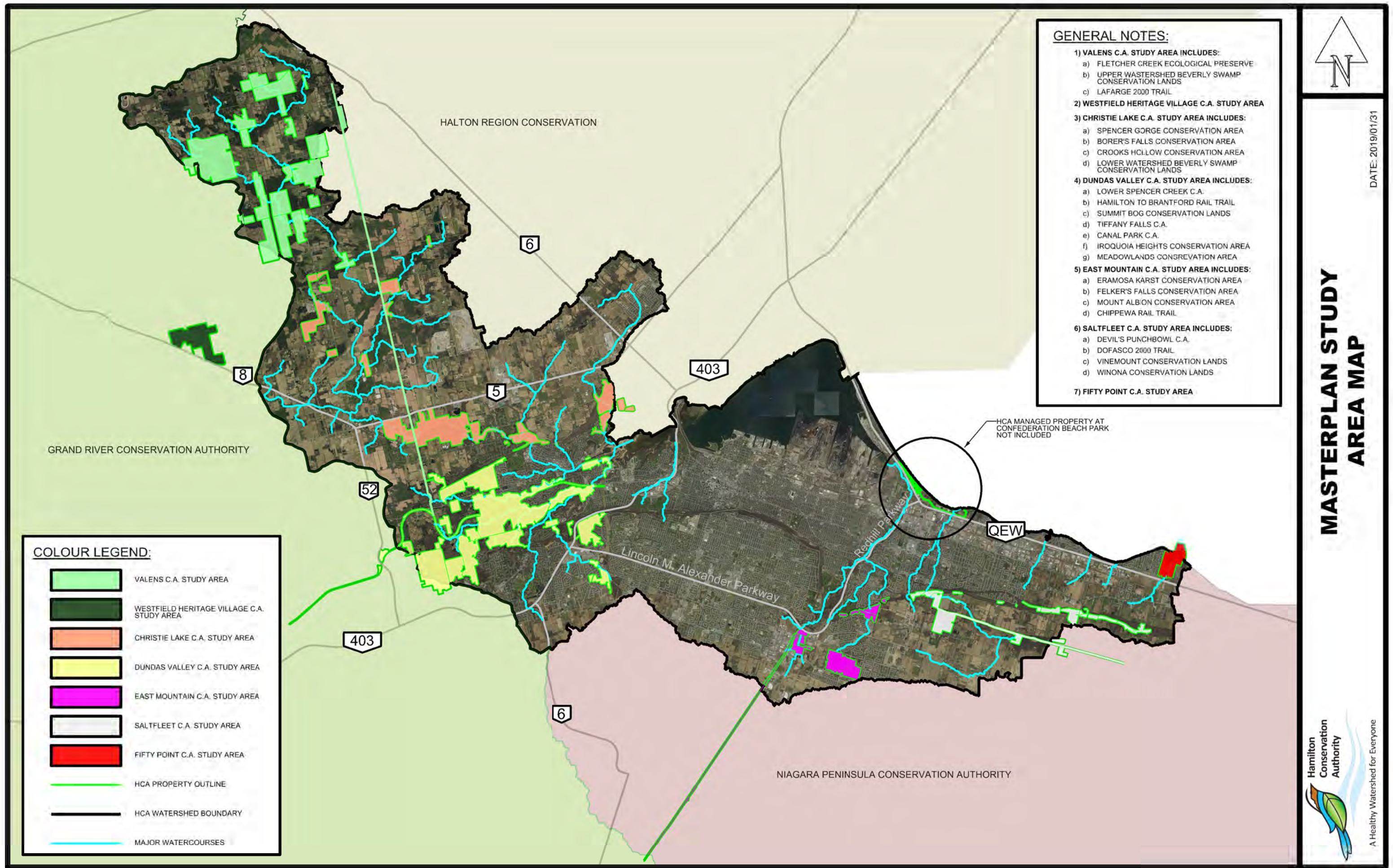
LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

These plan updates are expected to utilize HCA in-house staffing expertise and resources in order to develop and implement as necessary. Third party consultation expertise will be sought to aid in the development of the plans when necessary. Due to their overall size and complexity; plan reviews of both the Dundas Valley C.A. Study Area and Christie Lake C.A. Study Area, are expected to require consultant assistance

in order to facilitate their completion. It is anticipated that expenses associated to Master and Management Plan development will be funded through regular annual HCA Capital Project budget allocations.

CONCLUSIONS

It has been acknowledged previously that all HCA owned and managed properties should have current, modern, and working plans in order to effectively direct HCA staffing and resources to manage, restore and improve areas in an appropriate way. The recommended strategy updates contained in this report, will allow the continuation of HCA Master and Management Plan work to progress in the most effective and efficient way possible.



GENERAL NOTES:

- 1) **VALENS C.A. STUDY AREA INCLUDES:**
 - a) FLETCHER CREEK ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE
 - b) UPPER WATERSHED BEVERLY SWAMP CONSERVATION LANDS
 - c) LAFARGE 2000 TRAIL
- 2) **WESTFIELD HERITAGE VILLAGE C.A. STUDY AREA**
- 3) **CHRISTIE LAKE C.A. STUDY AREA INCLUDES:**
 - a) SPENCER GORGE CONSERVATION AREA
 - b) BORER'S FALLS CONSERVATION AREA
 - c) CROOKS HOLLOW CONSERVATION AREA
 - d) LOWER WATERSHED BEVERLY SWAMP CONSERVATION LANDS
- 4) **DUNDAS VALLEY C.A. STUDY AREA INCLUDES:**
 - a) LOWER SPENCER CREEK C.A.
 - b) HAMILTON TO BRANTFORD RAIL TRAIL
 - c) SUMMIT BOG CONSERVATION LANDS
 - d) TIFFANY FALLS C.A.
 - e) CANAL PARK C.A.
 - f) IROQUOIA HEIGHTS CONSERVATION AREA
 - g) MEADOWLANDS CONSERVATION AREA
- 5) **EAST MOUNTAIN C.A. STUDY AREA INCLUDES:**
 - a) ERAMOSKA KARST CONSERVATION AREA
 - b) FELKER'S FALLS CONSERVATION AREA
 - c) MOUNT ALBION CONSERVATION AREA
 - d) CHIPPEWA RAIL TRAIL
- 6) **SALTFLEET C.A. STUDY AREA INCLUDES:**
 - a) DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL C.A.
 - b) DOFASCO 2000 TRAIL
 - c) VINEMOUNT CONSERVATION LANDS
 - d) WINONA CONSERVATION LANDS
- 7) **FIFTY POINT C.A. STUDY AREA**

COLOUR LEGEND:

-  VALENS C.A. STUDY AREA
-  WESTFIELD HERITAGE VILLAGE C.A. STUDY AREA
-  CHRISTIE LAKE C.A. STUDY AREA
-  DUNDAS VALLEY C.A. STUDY AREA
-  EAST MOUNTAIN C.A. STUDY AREA
-  SALTFLEET C.A. STUDY AREA
-  FIFTY POINT C.A. STUDY AREA
-  HCA PROPERTY OUTLINE
-  HCA WATERSHED BOUNDARY
-  MAJOR WATERCOURSES



DATE: 2019/01/31

**MASTERPLAN STUDY
AREA MAP**

**Master Plans Implementation Priority List - Rev. 1
2019 - 2029**

Study Areas	Scheduled Review Period	NEPOSS / NEC Designation	Current Plan
<u>Saltfleet C.A. Study Area:</u>	2022-2023		
Saltfleet Conservation Area			N/A
Devil's Punchbowl Conservation Area		✓	1976
Dofasco 2000 Trail			2000
Vinemount Conservation Lands		✓	1979
Winona Conservation Lands		✓	1979
<u>East Mountain C.A. Study Area:</u>	2023-2024		
Eramosa Karst Conservation Area			2015
Felker's Falls Conservation Area		✓	1980
Mount Albion Conservation Area		✓	2000
Chippewa Rail Trail			1998
<u>Dundas Valley C.A. Study Area:</u>	2024-2027		
Dundas Valley Conservation Area		✓	1997
Lower Spencer Creek Conservation Area			2010
Hamilton to Brantford Rail Trail		✓	2009
Summit Bog Conservation Lands		✓	1978
Tiffany Falls Conservation Area		✓	2009
Canal Park Conservation Area			
Iroquoia Heights Conservation Area		✓	1993
Meadowlands Conservation Area			2012
<u>Christie Lake C.A. Study Area:</u>	2026-2029		
Spencer Gorge Conservation Area		✓	2013
Christie Lake Conservation Area		✓	2006
Borer's Falls Conservation Area		✓	2002
Crooks Hollow Conservation Area		✓	2014
Lower Watershed Beverly Swamp Conservation Lands			1976

**Master Plans Implementation Priority List - Rev. 1
2019 - 2029**

Study Areas	Scheduled Review	NEPOSS / NEC Designation	Current Plan
Completed Studies:			
<u>Westfield Heritage Village C.A. Study Area:</u>	2029-2030		
Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area			2018
<u>Valens C.A. Study Area:</u>	2030 - 2032		
Valens Conservation Area			2020
Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve			2020
Upper Watershed Beverly Swamp Conservation Lands			2020
Lafarge 2000 Trail			2020
<u>Fifty Point C.A. Study Area:</u>	2032 - 2033		
Fifty Point Conservation Area			2021

Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

PREPARED BY: Lesley McDonell, Terrestrial Ecologist
Mike Stone, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Watershed Planning, Stewardship & Ecological Services

DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: LDD (Gypsy) Moth Surveys and 2022 Control Program

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT this report be received for information regarding our LDD moth surveys and results; and further;

THAT the HCA not undertake a spray program to control LDD Moths in 2022, and;

THAT the HCA undertake a targeted approach (banding, egg mass scraping) that focuses on high value oak trees in our forests for 2022.

BACKGROUND

The European Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) was introduced to North America in the late 1860's near Boston, Massachusetts. This moth has, for now, been renamed LDD. They were brought from Europe to North America for silk production and subsequently escaped and expanded their range. The LDD moth was first detected in Ontario in 1969; however, widespread occurrence and associated defoliation impacts did not occur until 1981.

The LDD moth is a tree defoliator and prefers oak, sugar maple, beech and white pine trees. The life cycle of the LDD moth is very similar to many other native moth species. These moths produce one generation annually and its life cycle consists of four distinctive life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa and adult.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) has been surveying for LDD moth egg masses since 2004. These surveys have been conducted throughout the Dundas and Ancaster Area, mainly through the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (DVCA). Surveys are completed in January and February each year. The east and west ends of the DVCA were surveyed in addition to Borer's Falls, Valens and Iroquoia Heights Conservation Areas. Felker's Falls and Westfield were also surveyed this year as a result of emails and phone calls from Conservation Area staff and the public about the defoliation of the trees.

Survey Locations and Methods

Kaldar plots and walking transect methods are used to count LDD moth egg masses on trees. Kaldar plots are standardized 10m x 10m plots in which all LDD moth egg masses are counted along with the number of trees and the species of tree. Walking transects involve walking trails throughout the conservation area and recording egg masses observed. This is typically completed in lower infestation areas or when large areas need to be surveyed in a limited amount of time. LDD moth egg mass counts are an accepted way of predicting defoliation rates for the upcoming summer months. They can also be used to predict the severity of infestation and the defoliation rate. Defoliation rate is an estimate of the amount of leaf mass in the canopy eaten by LDD moth larvae.

Surveys were completed by HCA staff in the Dundas Valley, Borer's Falls, Iroquoia Heights, Westfield and Felker's Falls Conservation Areas during December 2021 and January 2022. These locations were based on the results of the defoliation surveys completed by staff in spring/summer 2020, as well as in response to information provided by the City regarding their survey results, and phone calls received from the public about areas affected by defoliation. The larger survey area helped to expand our understanding of LDD moth outbreaks and their migration pattern through the Dundas Valley and across the watershed.

Egg mass counts and associated expected impacts can be generally defined as follows:

Egg masses per Ha and defoliation forecast

Egg mass/Ha	Defoliation forecast	Defoliation forecast range (%)
0	Nil	0-5
0-1,250	Light	6-25
1,251-3,750	Moderate	26-65
3,750-5,000	Heavy	66-90
>5,000	Severe	91-100

Walking transect # Egg masses per tree

# of new egg masses/tree	Defoliation forecast	Defoliation forecast range (%)
0	Nil	0-5
0-10	Light-Moderate	6-25
11-50	Moderate-Severe	26-65
>51	Severe	>65

Survey Results

The results of the winter 2021/2022 egg mass surveys on HCA lands indicate that noticeable defoliation (moderate to severe) will likely occur within the majority of Conservation Areas surveyed (see table 1).

Table 1 Defoliation forecast spring/summer 2022

Conservation Area	Average egg masses/Ha	Overall Forecast
Dundas Valley (West end)	18,616	Severe
Dundas Valley (Central)	14,580	Severe
Felker's Falls	6,214	Severe
Borer's Creek (northern portion)	13,659	Severe
Valens (landscape trees)	14, 835	Severe
Westfield	16, 162	Severe
Iroquoia Heights	13, 420	Severe

The attached maps indicate the predicted defoliation level for spring 2022 based on our egg mass counts this fall and winter.

Discussion

The most recent Forest Health Condition Report from the Province of Ontario is from 2020. This report describes the levels of various forest pests across the Province of Ontario. The province surveys for LDD moth both as egg mass surveys on the ground and by helicopter as visual defoliation surveys. The summation of these surveys over the last 4 years indicates that LDD moth are at moderate to severe levels across Southwestern Ontario including Hamilton. The defoliation was similar in 2020 as the past 4 years over Hamilton. The high levels of LDD moths are attributed to increasingly warm winters and dry springs. LDD moth are now considered an endemic species, here to stay. On HCA properties our monitoring and forecasting program indicates that this species is persistent and not cycling over 8-10 years as it has in the past. It is cycling

through HCA forested properties more quickly and there are areas of predicted severe defoliation each year.

Locally, the Dundas Valley was sprayed with *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk for short) in 2018 and 2019. Btk is a naturally occurring bacterium that occurs in soils and forms the base for biological control of LDD caterpillars. Based on the level of egg masses found in each location the spray was effective in reducing defoliation in 2018 and 2019. Although none to very low level of egg masses was found in the spray zones for 2019 and 2020, these levels only remained low for two years, as noted in Chart 1. As of 2021/2022 the predicted defoliation is back to the severe level. In addition, locations sprayed in 2018 in order to sustain mature Red Oak trees in part of the Dundas Valleys was over the long term, unsuccessful. Over the past two years Red Oak trees within these spray zone have died. As the trees were dying HCA had the health of these trees reviewed in the field in 2019 by the Forest Heath Technicians from the provincial and federal government. The result of this review was death caused by environmental factors including drought, pollution and root rot. In addition, the dual defoliation by Fall Cankerworm and LDD moth in 2018 was an additional impact.

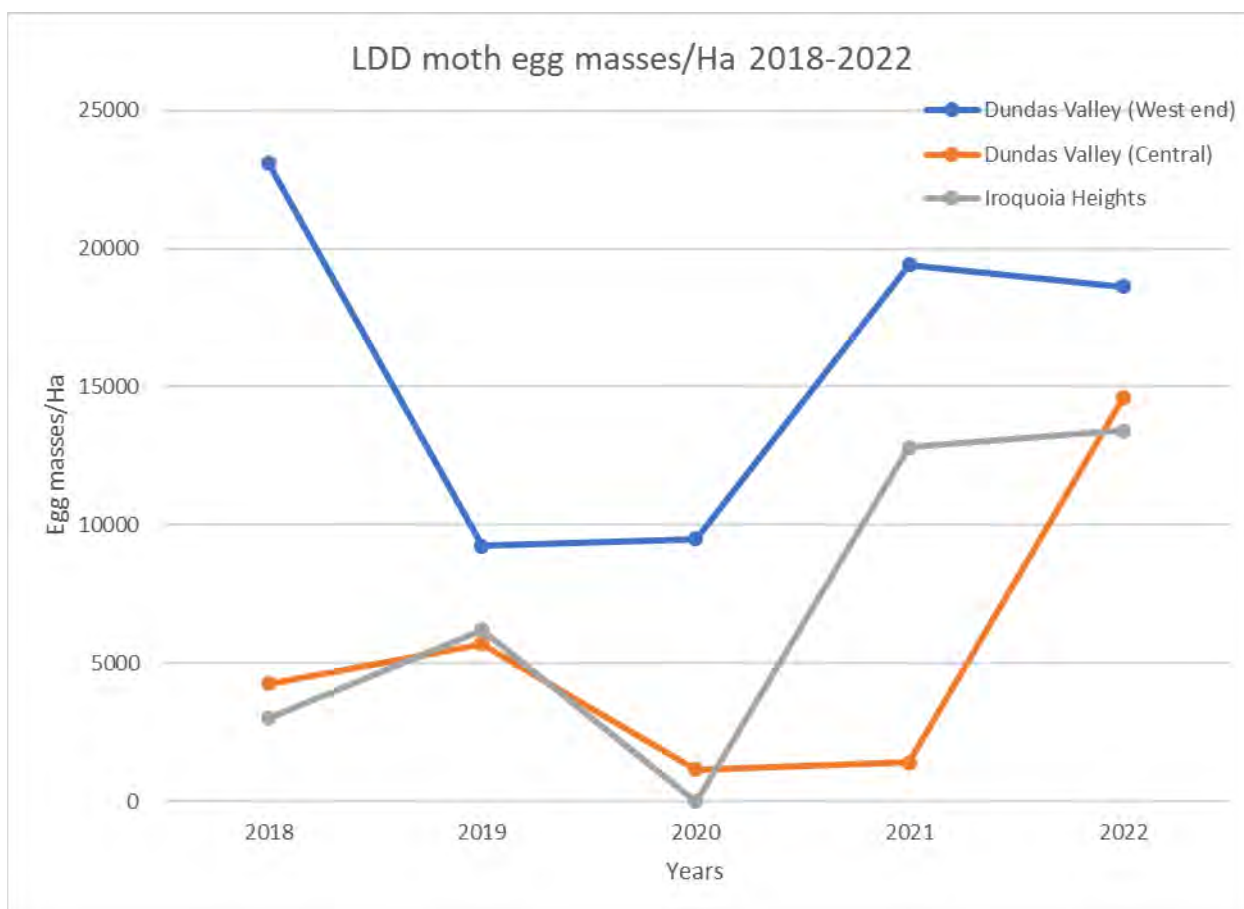


Chart 1: LDD moth egg masses/Ha 2018-2022 in Dundas Valley and Iroquoia Heights Conservation Areas

One of the goals of the Btk spray for LDD moth is to try and conserve mature Oak trees in the Dundas Valley and at other Conservation Areas. These trees are one of the preferred foods of the LDD moth and as a result can be preferentially defoliated. As seen on table 2 below, in plots surveyed, oak trees (red and white) contained the majority of egg masses despite not being the dominate tree in our survey plots, except at Felker's Falls CA.

Table 2 Egg mass counts on Oak trees

Conservation Area	% of Oak trees in survey plots	% of egg masses on oak trees
Dundas Valley (West end)	24	60
Dundas Valley (Central)	25	67
Felker's Falls	63	91
Borer's Creek (northern portion)	12	42
Westfield	29	77
Iroquoia Heights	31	75

Finally, much of the scientific research on the secondary impacts of Btk on other moth species, butterflies, birds and amphibians is more than 10 years old.

STAFF COMMENT

With the information provided in the Discussion section outlining the endemic nature of LDD moth and its short replication cycle (2 years), it is staff recommendation to not spray Btk to control this species in 2022. The following provides staffs rational for this recommendation.

1. LDD moth are now endemic to our forest system, and no longer considered to be a 10-year cyclical species. As such, spraying for LDD control on a once every 10-year cycle would not be expected to affect a population reduction;
2. Our monitoring has shown that oak trees within the forest have died despite our best efforts to spray them for LDD moth reduction;
3. The spray in 2018 was for two defoliators LDD moth and Fall Cankerworm which when combined led to a longer more impactful defoliation; which is not the case with 2022;
4. There are natural controls that will lead to LDD population decline (perhaps collapse). These include a bacterium, a virus and parasitic wasps. Staff noted that a number of LDD caterpillars succumbed to the virus this past summer. In addition, many egg masses have evidence (pin holes) of the parasitic wasp laying eggs;
5. The decline of oak in highly stressful habitats (dry hill tops and urban/forest interface) could be viewed as an ecosystem adjustment to a now endemic species;
6. Focusing efforts on invasive species with no known natural controls may be a more effective use of HCA resources. These species such as Common Buckthorn and Japanese Knotweed are changing whole ecosystems at the ground level with widespread impacts on biodiversity;

7. The majority of tree species in our forests can survive repeat defoliation.

Staff recommend continuing with egg mass scraping on our landscape trees at Valens and Christie Lake Conservation Areas in 2022. This along with burlap banding and caterpillar picking was successful in 2021 with conserving the tree canopies of these landscape trees. In addition, individual oak trees (in forested areas), with severe levels of egg masses and therefore predicted defoliation will be scraped and banded in various Conservation Areas. The scraping and banding of individual trees (in forests) will occur in areas where the oak trees are driving the high levels of LDD moth egg mass counts. HCA will target our green infrastructure in this initiative to help maintain trees along trails and reduce the need for hazard tree removal. Staff will also review the possibility of this becoming a volunteer program in which individuals can adopt an oak tree and help maintain its canopy and health through scraping and banding.

Staff have spoken with the forestry/natural heritage staff at other Conservation Authorities in areas where defoliation levels have been moderate to severe over the last few years. Some of these Conservation Authorities have sprayed small areas of their properties with severe defoliation. Conservation Halton has sprayed their Waterdown Wood property, an oak dominated forest, that has seen high oak decline due to a number of factors. Toronto Region Conservation Authority has sprayed in areas which hosts a Tree Top Trekking companies to preserve trees used for this operation. Finally, Royal Botanical Gardens sprayed in 2021 and plan to again in 2022 to conserve their oak savanna, a provincially rare ecosystem.

STRATEGIC PLAN

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

- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Initiatives – Maintain and enhance the natural heritage features of HCA lands and manage these lands on an environmentally sustainable basis

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not Applicable

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

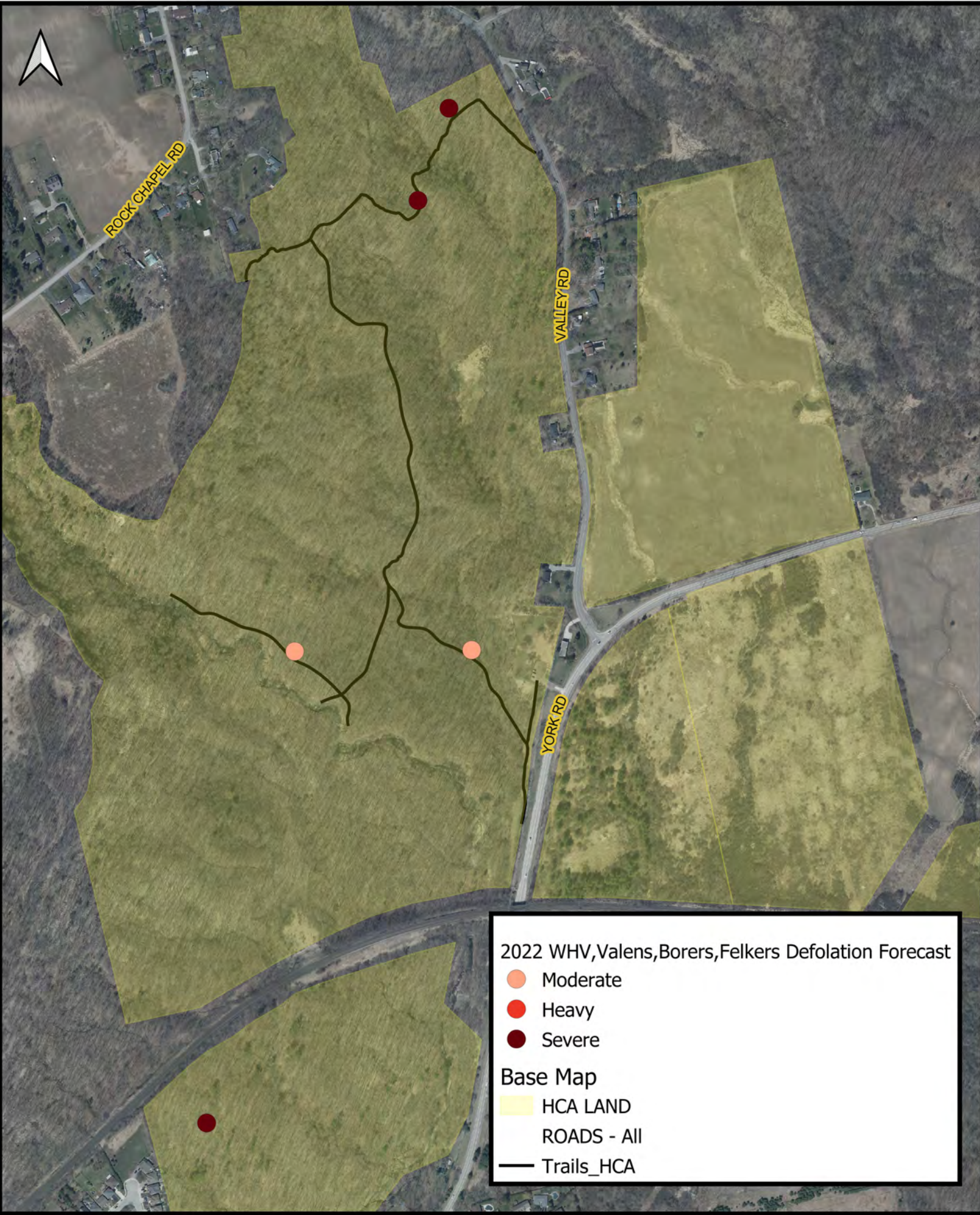
Not Applicable

CONCLUSIONS

Extensive LDD moth egg mass surveys have been conducted throughout the Dundas Valley Conservation Area and surrounding Conservation Areas. The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forests now considers this species endemic to Southern Ontario. The last 4 years of surveys in the Dundas Valley have shown that

even with an aerial spray program LDD moth declines have lasted only two years. In addition, our oak trees have died despite an aerial spray to reduce LDD moth impacts. HCA staff are recommending that HCA move away from a forest wide aerial spray program to a targeted approach that focuses on high value oak trees in our forests for 2022. In this way we can reduce the overall impacts of a spray program while engaging volunteers and conserving high value oak trees.

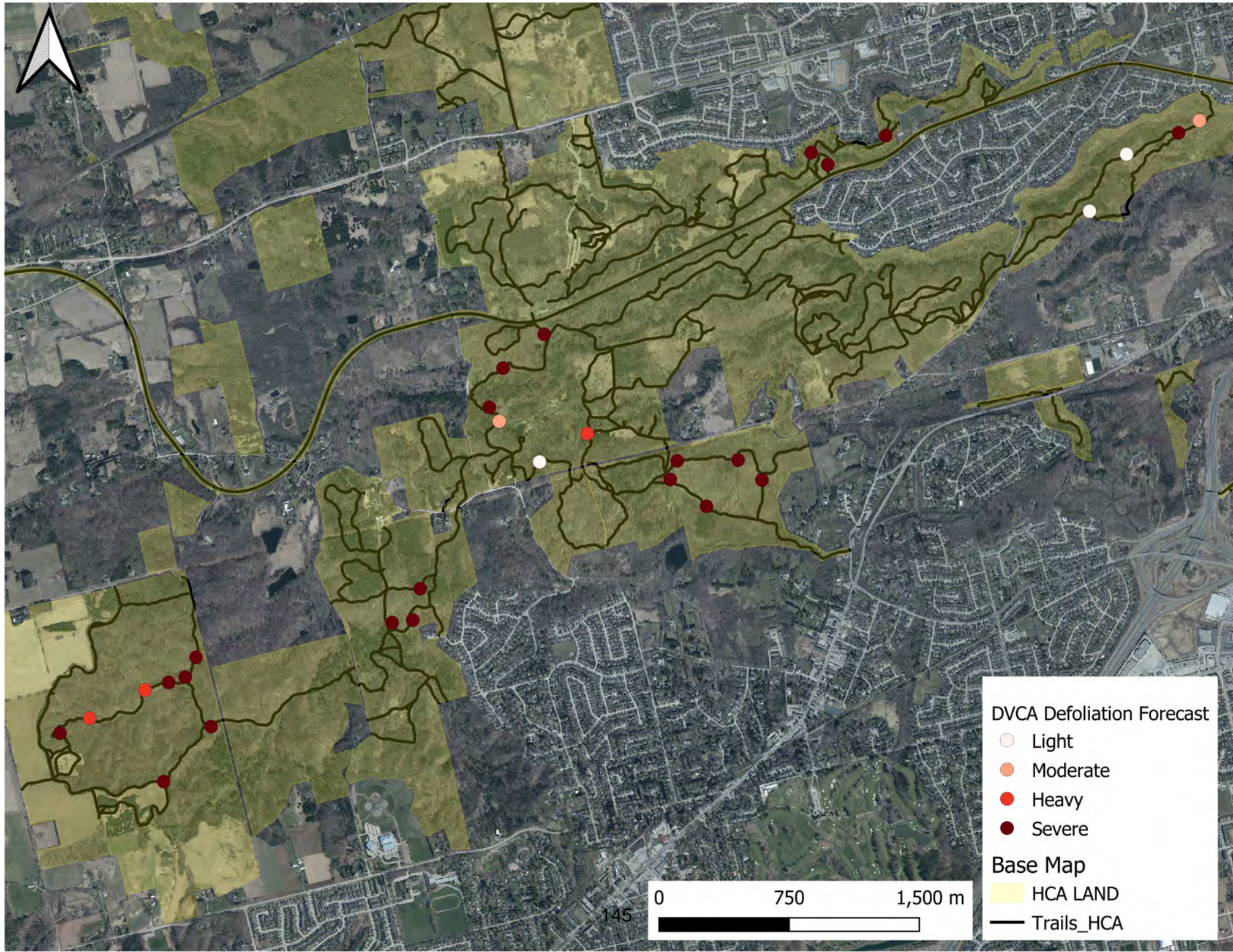




Borer's



144 Felker's

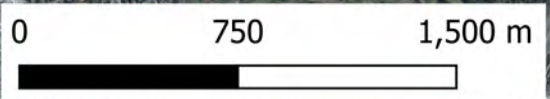


DVCA Defoliation Forecast

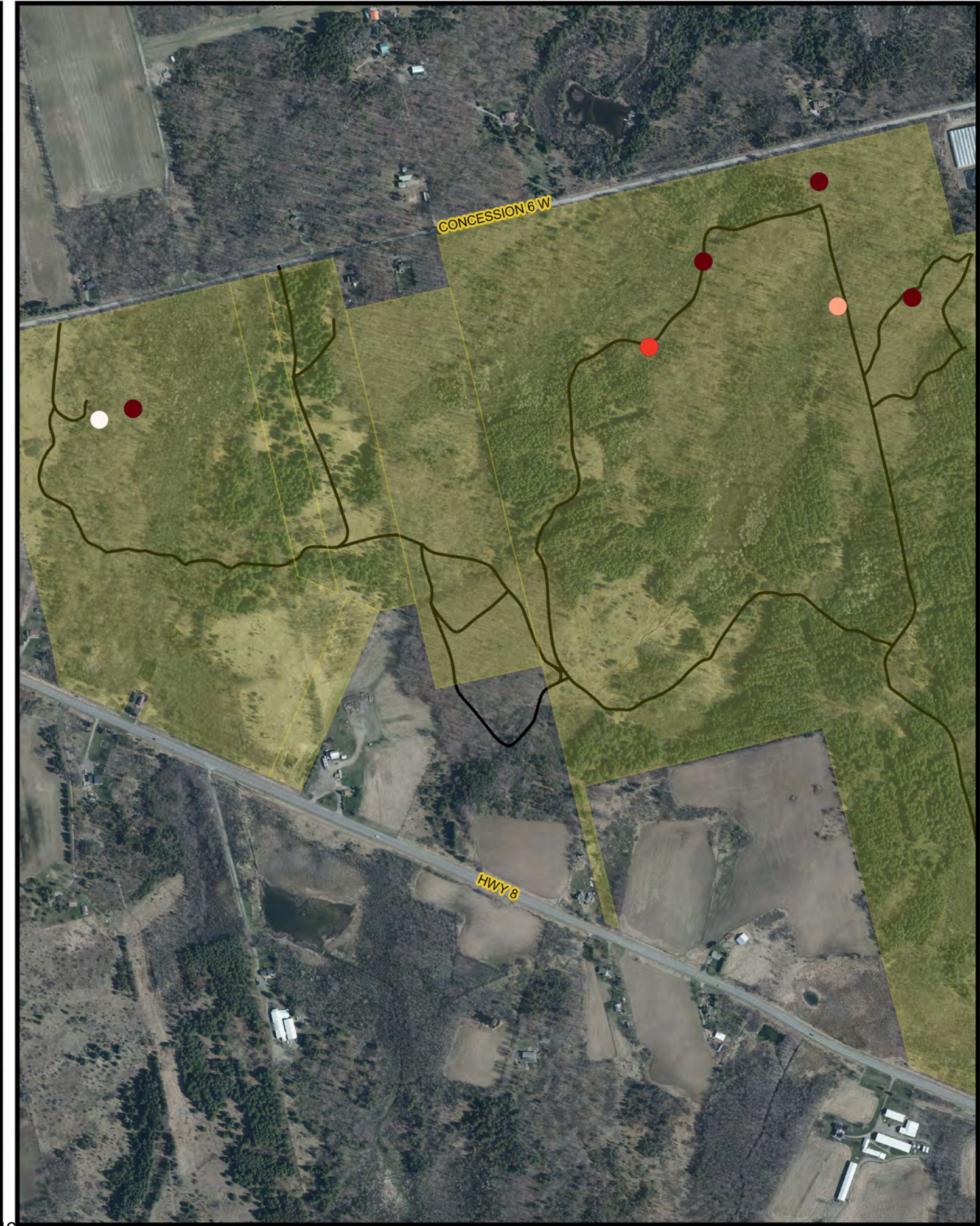
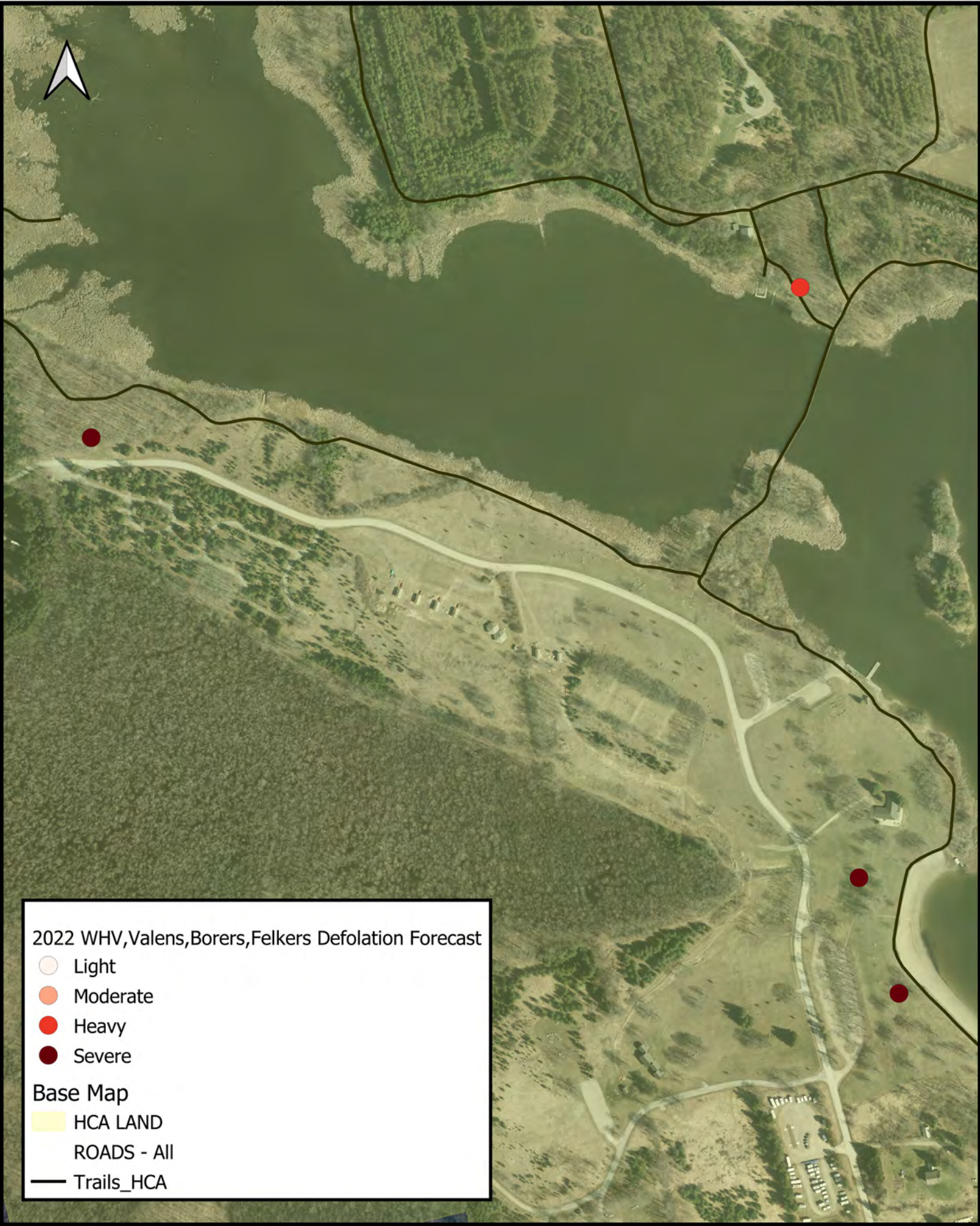
- Light
- Moderate
- Heavy
- Severe

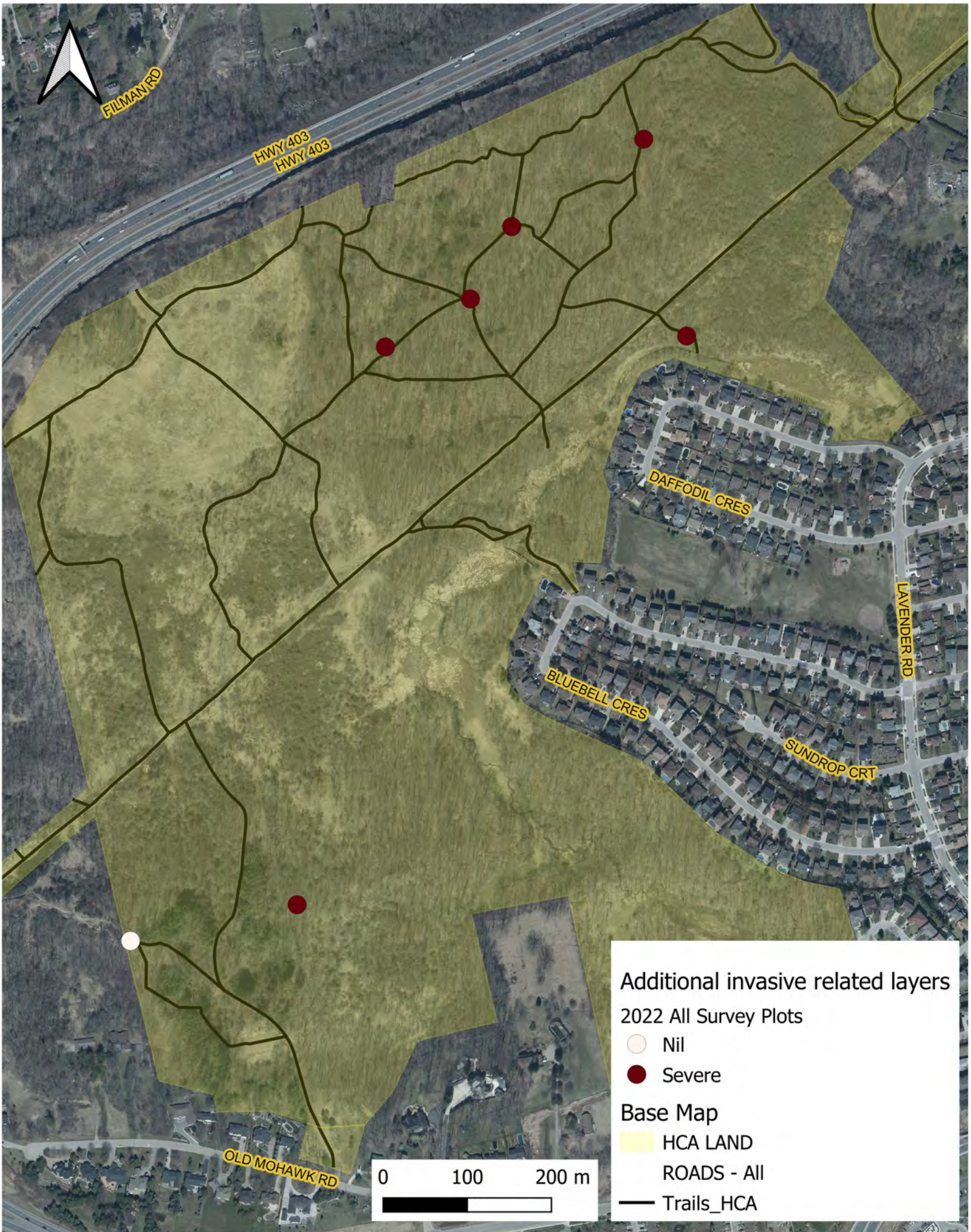
Base Map

- HCA LAND
- Trails_HCA



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Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

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

MEETING DATE: March 3, 2022

RE: Wild Waterworks West Slide Refurbishment – Re-tender Results

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT HCA staff recommends to the Board of Directors:

That the West Slide Refurbishment project at Wild Waterworks be closed given that no bids were received for this second tender attempt.

BACKGROUND

HCA manages Confederation Beach Park, which includes Wild Waterworks (WWW) on behalf of the City of Hamilton. Within WWW there are two existing water slides known as the “Blue Demon” & “Night Rider”. These two tube slides were installed in 2000. Since that time these slides have experienced colour fading due to sun exposure, as well as surface blemishes and discoloration of the riding surface due to rider use and exposure to treated water. The exterior portions of these slides were most recently refurbished in 2012. With the continued closure of Wild Waterworks for the 2021 season and resulting additional non-operational time made available due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, refurbishments of these slides were identified as a cosmetic major maintenance project to enhance their appearance.

An initial tender for this project, which closed in September 2021, attracted only one bid which significantly exceeded the allowable project budget. HCA staff were directed by the Board of Directors to contact City of Hamilton staff to determine if additional funds were available to cover the project, or; to prepare a new tender in the pursuit of receiving additional bids with a more competitive price.

Since that time, HCA staff proceeded to have discussions with City of Hamilton staff regarding the project and funding options. It was determined at the time that the best course of action would be to revisit the tender for work to be completed in the Spring of 2022.

HCA staff proceeded to work with the project consultant to review and refine the project specifications, with the intent to find alternatives where cost savings could be achieved. A new substantial completion deadline of May 13, 2022 was identified by HCA operational staff, in order to give adequate time to complete their standard annual pre-season preparations and quality checks.

STAFF COMMENT

On December 14, 2021, revised tender documents were issued by the HCA. A recommended bidders meeting was held on January 5, 2022; no contractors chose to attend this meeting. Subsequent to this, one commercial pool company reviewed the site for project consideration.

The HCA was also contacted by companies specializing in industrial paintings and coatings, expressing an interest in the project. The requirements for acceptable contractor experience were reviewed between HCA staff and the project consultant. It was agreed that relevant project experience could be expanded to include not only commercial sector pool specialists, but also industrial sector coatings specialists. The deadline to submit bids was also extended to allow extra time for contractors to review project details.

Tender packages were due to be received before 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. No bids were received. A total of seven Full Document Takers were listed on the HCA's Biddingo tender website, however it is suspected that not all document takers listed were fully qualified to perform the work.

Post-tender follow up with contractors who had previously expressed an interest in the project revealed the following:

- Project timing and current commitments were issues for one contractor, it is a very busy time of year for the commercial pool industry for a project of this scale.
- Concern was raised by another contractor that the attraction has reached the end of its serviceable lifespan and recommended replacement instead of refurbishment.
 - This point is also referenced in the recently completed City of Hamilton document: "Master Plan Study – May 2020 – Wild Waterworks at Confederation Beach Park"; presented to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on Nov. 5, 2020, report: Status and Strategy for Wild Waterworks (HSC20048) (City Wide)
 - HCA staff also received feedback from contractors on the previous tender for this project expressing similar thoughts.
- Standard project bonding requirements could not be met by another

At this time, this attraction's condition has not been identified as a public health and safety risk by any outside inspection agency. All required annual inspections for 2022 will be carried out as soon as weather conditions allow and any required maintenance work will be performed prior to re-opening the attraction to the public.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

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

- **Strategic Priority Areas – Organizational Excellence**
 - Initiatives – support the capital development and major maintenance program to enhance our facilities and ensure they are safe, functional and current

AGENCY COMMENTS

Non-applicable.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Non-applicable.

CONCLUSIONS

Given the information shared by contractors and the short time frame available to arrange a third tender attempt and complete work prior to the planned park opening in 2022, it is not recommended that this project be re-considered. HCA staff will instead focus on maintenance, inspections and reopening of the waterslide for 2022.

Additionally, the project should be reviewed in concert with City of Hamilton staff, who are currently working on Wild Waterworks Master Plan feasibility options. As noted in the WWW masterplan, many attractions are at or nearing their life expectancy and current major maintenance budget funds are better served for breakdowns or deficiencies that will be experienced prior to Master Plan recommendation implementations.

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 Engineer

DATE: February 22, 2022

RE: Watershed Conditions Report

SYNOPSIS

Due to a recent rain and snowmelt event (on February 17th), localized road flooding within the HCA watershed is known to have occurred in:

- Sulphur Creek at Sulphur Springs Road between Mineral Springs Road and Governors Road,
- Upper Stoney Creek at Tapleytown Road between Green Mountain Road East and Powerline Road,
- Upper Stoney Creek at Mud Street East between First Road East and Second Road East,
- Upper Stoney Creek at Third Road East between Green Mountain Road East and Ridge Road.

Additional road flooding or significant watercourse flooding may possibly have occurred that was not reported. Also, localized flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels also occurred in various areas, due to this storm event. A Flood Watch and Flood Warning message were issued on February 15th and 17th to communicate to the municipalities, police, fire, school boards, other local agencies, and media.

Due to an ongoing rain and snowmelt event, an Updated Flood Watch was issued today (February 22nd). Significant watercourse flooding and significant public safety concerns

may occur in all area watercourses due to this storm event. Localized watercourse flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels is anticipated. In fact, there are already potential public safety concerns in Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, and Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road.

Christie Lake and Valens Lake levels are above typical winter levels, but significant flood storage is available and the reservoirs are at 23 percent and 48 percent of preferred maximum storage capacities, respectively.

There have been no current or recent observations or reports of Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level in the Hamilton area is about 31 cm above average for this time of year. Shore-bound wave heights of up to 2.1 m are forecasted for Friday, February 25, 2022. These waves have potential to result in localized shoreline flooding. HCA staff continue to monitor closely, and will issue flood messages as appropriate.

Drought conditions are not expected to be identified within the watershed at the next monthly assessment

CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – February 22, 2022

Current Flows in Major Area Watercourses

There are no observations or reports that significant watercourse flooding is occurring at this time. However, current flows at Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, and Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road are significantly elevated with potential public safety concerns. Current flows are slightly elevated above baseflows at Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street and Red Hill Creek at Barton Street.

However, significant watercourse flooding and significant public safety concerns may occur in all area watercourses in the short-term, as a result of ongoing rain & snowmelt.

Current flows are well above the long-term average monthly flows for February.

In addition, average monthly flows in February to date have been well above the long-term average monthly flows.

The average monthly flows in January 2022 were well below the long-term average January flows. The average monthly flows in September to December 2021 were predominantly well above the long-term average monthly flows. The average monthly flows in August 2021 were near to slightly below the long-term average August flows. The average monthly flows in July 2021 were generally significantly above the long-term average July flows. For January to June 2021, in general the average monthly flows were significantly below the long-term average monthly flows.

Current Lake Ontario Water Levels

At this time, there are no observations, reports or expectations of significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level in the Hamilton area is approximately 74.93 m IGLD85. This is about 31 cm above average for this time of year.

Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

The current reservoir level at Christie Lake dam (about 766.40 ft) is above typical winter levels (765.30 – 765.80 ft), due to the recent and ongoing rain and snowmelt events. The reservoir is at 23 percent of its preferred maximum storage capacity (corresponding to a water level of 773.0 ft).

The current reservoir level at Valens Lake dam (about 274.29 m) is above typical winter levels (274.15 – 274.40 m), due to the recent and ongoing rain and snowmelt events. The reservoir is at 48 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 currently moist to wet, and fully frozen.

RECENT STORM EVENTS

During the recent period of January 24, 2022 to February 22, 2022, there was one (ongoing) watercourse flooding event.

Watercourse Flooding

February 15th to ongoing

The Hamilton area received between 19 and 43 mm of total precipitation on February 17th, which was accompanied by significant melting of the snowpack. The majority of the precipitation was received as rain during the day, with approximately 6 – 12 mm of this precipitation being snow received during the evening and night.

Localized road flooding within the HCA watershed is known to have occurred in:

- Sulphur Creek at Sulphur Springs Road between Mineral Springs Road and Governors Road,
- Upper Stoney Creek at Tapleytown Road between Green Mountain Road East and Powerline Road,
- Upper Stoney Creek at Mud Street East between First Road East and Second Road East,
- Upper Stoney Creek at Third Road East between Green Mountain Road East and Ridge Road.

Additional road flooding or significant watercourse flooding may possibly have occurred that was not reported.

Localized flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels also occurred in various areas.

Prior and during this storm event, HCA engineering staff have closely monitored conditions, and issued the following messages to communicate the potential watercourse flooding conditions to the municipalities, police, fire, school boards, other local agencies, and media:

- Flood Watch – Watercourse Flooding on February 15th
- Flood Warning – Watercourse Flooding on February 17th
- Updated Flood Watch – Watercourse Flooding on February 22nd
- Termination of Flood Warning – Watercourse Flooding on February 22nd

RECENT WATERSHED LOW WATER CONDITIONS

For the latest drought assessment (which includes data up to the end of January), the 3-month precipitation totals indicated Level 1 Low Water conditions within the watershed, based on data at 8 available stations. However, 18-month precipitation totals suggest Normal conditions, and 30-day average streamflows also indicated normal conditions within the watershed, based on data at 5 available stations.

As this was the first recent month that indicated possible Level 1 drought conditions, a decision on declaring a Level 1 Low Water condition was deferred until the next monthly assessment at the beginning of March.

FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS

Watercourse Flooding

There is an ongoing significant rainfall and snowmelt event (+20 mm in a day) in the watershed, which HCA staff continue to monitor closely. Localized watercourse flooding of low-lying areas that typically flood during higher water levels is anticipated. In addition, significant watercourse flooding may occur, depending on the total amount and timing of both the rain received and melting of the current snowpack.

There are no other significant rainfall or snowmelt events currently forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks.

Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

Shore-bound wave heights of up to 2.1 m are forecasted for Friday, February 25, 2022. These waves have potential to result in localized shoreline flooding. HCA staff continue to monitor closely, and will issue flood messages as appropriate.

Watershed Low Water Conditions

Given that the amount of precipitation received so far in February is already greater than the long-term monthly average, drought conditions are not expected to be identified within the watershed at the next monthly assessment (beginning of March).