



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday March 6, 2025

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Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Hamilton Conservation Authority is now conducting meetings in a hybrid format via an in-person and WebEx platform.

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

1. Call to Order

– Brad Clark

1.1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Delegations

5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 5.1. Permit Applications Summary Report | Page 1 |
| 5.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – February 6, 2025 | Page 5 |
| 5.3. Approved – December 12, 2024 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only | Page 17 |

6. Foundation Briefing

Foundation Chair – Kathy Lacasse

7. Member Briefing

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 8.1 Vacancies for Conservation Advisory Board and Budget and Administration Committee | - Brad Clark |
|--|--------------|

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

- 9.1. Conservation Advisory Board – February 27, 2025 – Wayne Terryberry
(Recommendations)

9.1.1. CA 2504 Westfield Artifact Accessions for 2024 Page 23

9.1.2. CA 2505 HCA Open Data Portal Page 25

9.1.3. CA 2506 Expansion of the Check out the Great Outdoors Library program: First Nations
Page 33

10. Other Staff Reports/Memorandums

Reports to be approved

- 10.1. Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project –SC-5, Stage 3 Archeological
Assessment Request for Proposal – Scott Peck Page 37

- 10.2. Embankment Repairs Design, Mineral Springs Dam – Jonathan Bastien Page 41

Memorandums to be received

- 10.3 2024 Annual Monitoring Program Summary – Mike Stone Page 45

- 10.4. Watershed Conditions Report – Jonathan Bastien Page 53

- 10.5. Conservation Areas Experiences Update – Brandon Good Page 59

11. New Business

12. In-Camera Items

- 12.1. Confidential Verbal Update - BD/Mar 01-2025
(Land Matter)

13. Next Meeting – Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment



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 Planning and Engineering

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

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: Permit Applications Summary Report

HCA permit applications approved by staff under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 41/24 between the dates of January 25, 2025 and February 21, 2025 are summarized in the following Permit Applications Summary Report (PASR-2/25).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors receive this Permit Application Summary Report PASR-2/25 as information.

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HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PERMIT APPLICATION SUMMARY REPORT (PASR 2/25)

HCA permit applications approved under the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24 between the dates of January 25, 2025 and February 21, 2025

| File Number | Date Received | Date Permit Issued | Review Days | Applicant Name | Location | Application Description | Recommendation / Conditions |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|---|---|---|
| F/F,C,A/24/83 | 13-Dec-24 | 06-Feb-25 | 15 | | 752 Centre Rd to 2 Westview Cr Lot 7, 8, Concession 4 Flamborough | for buried utility conduit and vault installation | Approved subject to standard conditions. |
| SC/F,C/24/76 | 13-Nov-24 | 06-Feb-25 | 56 | | 57 Windemere Rd Lot 1, Concession BF Stoney Creek | for the construction of a new dwelling, attached garage, and associated grading | Approved subject to standard conditions. |
| SC/F,C/25/02 | 13-Jan-25 | 10-Feb-25 | 30 | | Jones St Road ROW Lot 24, Concession 3 Stoney Creek | the removal and installation of conduit, cable and hydro pole | Approved subject to standard conditions. |
| SC/F,C,A/25/08 | 31-Jan-25 | 12-Feb-25 | 24 | | 15 Wendakee Rd Lot 4, Concession BF Stoney Creek | for the replacement of existing shoreline protection works | Approved subject to standard conditions. |
| H/F,C/25/09 | 20-Nov-24 | 12-Feb-25 | 15 | | 70 Chedoke Ave Lot 19, Concession 4 Hamilton | for the rear addition to an existing two- storey dwelling | Approved subject to standard conditions. |
| | | | | | | | |

HAMILTON REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PERMIT APPLICATION SUMMARY REPORT (PASR 2/25)

HCA permit applications approved under the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24 between the dates of January 25, 2025 and February 21, 2025

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|----|--|--|--|---|
| H/F,C,A/25/04 | 03-Feb-25 | 18-Feb-25 | 15 | | 2 Hayes Ave & 94 Lang St Lot 31, Concession 2 Hamilton | for the construction of 130 three-storey maisonettes, six three-storey block townhouses and two three-storey semi- detached dwellings in the Roxborough Park Subdivision | Approved subject to standard conditions. |
| | | | | | | | |

Hamilton Region Conservation Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

February 6, 2025

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, and livestreamed on YouTube.

PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Brad Clark – in the Chair | |
| Jeff Beattie | Craig Cassar |
| Lisa DiCesare | Susan Fielding |
| Matt Francis | Mike Spadafora |
| Wayne Terryberry | Alex Wilson |

Graham Reid – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: Brian McHattie, Maureen Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Brandon Good, Rob Gray, Matt Hall, Amanda Martin, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Sandra Winninger

OTHERS: Jo-Anne Rzaeki – Conservation Ontario

For clarity purposes, the tender included in the Addendum will be listed as number 12.7; it will appear under 12.2 as per the Amended Agenda.

1. Welcome

Lisa Burnside welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the HCA Land Acknowledgment. Jo-Anne Rzaeki, Manager of Business Development & Partnerships for Conservation Ontario, was introduced and was appointed the Acting Chair for the purpose of the Election of Officers.

BD12, 3439

MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

THAT Jo-Anne Rzadki be appointed Acting Chair for the purpose of the Election of Officers.

CARRIED

2. Election of Officers

2.1 Election Procedures

Jo-Anne Rzadki outlined the election procedures for members:

- Nominations only require a “mover”;
- Nominations will be called 3 times for each office;
- Closing of nominations will require a “mover” and a “second”;
- 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;
- Each nominee will be allowed to speak in support of their nomination with a time limit of 5 minutes;
- A vote will be held by secret ballot.
- No member may vote by proxy.

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

2.2 Appointment of Scrutineers

BD12, 3440

MOVED BY: Craig Cassar

SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson

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

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

CARRIED

2.3 Election of 2025 Board Chair

Jo-Anne Rzadki called for nominations for the 2025 Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Nominated: Brad Clark

By – Mover: Lisa DiCesare

Nominations were called twice more. Having no further nominations, Jo-Anne Rzadki asked Brad Clark if they accept the nomination. The election for the office of Chair of the HCA Board of Directors for 2025 was then closed and the position acclaimed with the following resolution:

BD12, 3441**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie****THAT nominations for the 2025 Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority be closed and Brad Clark be confirmed as Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2025****CARRIED**

Brad Clark was declared as Chair of the HCA Board of Directors for 2025 by acclimation.

2.4 Election of 2025 Board Vice Chair

Nominations were called for the 2025 Vice-Chair for the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

**Nominated: Susan Fielding
By – Mover: Wayne Terryberry**

Nominations were called twice more. Having no further nominations, Jo-Anne Rzdaki asked Susan Fielding if she accept the nomination. The election for the office of Vice Chair of the HCA Board of Directors for 2025 was then closed and the position acclaimed with the following resolution.

BD12, 3442**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare****THAT nominations for the 2025 Vice-Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority be closed and Susan Fielding be confirmed as Vice-Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2025****CARRIED****2.5 Board Representatives to the Budget and Administration Committee**

Jo-Anne Rzadki advised that the Budget & Administration Committee consists of

five Board of Director members; the Chair, Vice Chair, and up to three additional directors may join the Chair and Vice-Chair as sitting members of B&A. Members who were interested in sitting on the Budget & Administration Committee were asked to raise their hands.

Following the call for expressions of interest, Jo-Anne Rzdaki announced that Board members Alex Wilson, Lisa DiCesare were interested in sitting on the Budget & Administration Committee. It was noted that another Board member could still join the Committee by expressing interest at a future board meeting, to fill the remaining position.

BD12, 3443

MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie

SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar

THAT Alex Wilson and Lisa DiCesara be confirmed as members of the Budget & Administration Committee for 2025.

CARRIED

2.6 Board Representatives to the Conservation Advisory Board

Jo-Anne Rzdaki indicated that the Conservation Advisory Board would be appointed; up to three directors may sit as members of CAB. Interested members were asked to raise their hands. Wayne Terryberry and Craig Cassar declared their interest in sitting on the Board.

BD12, 3444

MOVED BY: Alex Wilson

SECONDED BY: Susan Fielding

THAT Wayne Terryberry and Craig Cassar be confirmed as members of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2025.

CARRIED

2.7 Election of 2025 Chair to Conservation Advisory Board

Nominations for the 2025 Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board were held.

**Nominated: Wayne Terryberry
By – Mover: Susan Fielding**

Nominations were called twice more. Having no further nominations, Jo-Anne Rzdaki asked Wayne Terryberry if he accept the nomination. The election for

the office of Chair of the HCA Conservation Advisory Board for 2025 was then closed and the position acclaimed with the following resolution:

BD12, 3445

MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson

THAT nominations for the 2025 Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board be closed and Wayne Terryberry be confirmed as Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority Conservation Advisory Board for 2025

CARRIED

3. Call to Order

Brad Clark thanked Jo-Anne Rzdaki for acting as Chair for the election and expressed his thanks for the support of members as well as staff for their dedication.

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 indicated that an Addendum was circulated with two items: approval of the minutes from the special Board of Director's meeting held on January 9, 2025, which will be added as item 7.5 under Consent items and a report regarding a tender for wetland at Saltfleet Conservation Area. This report will be added after item 12.2.

BD12, 3446

MOVED BY: Lisa DiCesare
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie

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. Permit Summary Report
- 7.2. Approval of Board of Directors Minutes – December 5, 2025
- 7.3. Approved October 10, 2024 Conservation Advisory Board Minutes – for receipt only
- 7.4. Email Correspondence regarding Permit Application for 140 Garner Road, labeled a to v
- 7.5. Approval of Board of Director's Minutes – Special Meeting, January 9, 2025

8. Foundation Briefing

Graham Reid, Vice Chair of the Conservation Foundation, reported that the Foundation is off to a strong start in the new fiscal year, which began on December 1, 2024. From December 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025, a total of \$117,202 in donations has been successfully raised. This amount represents 14% of the overall fundraising goal for the year.

Gift Highlights:

- **\$7,500** from the Edith H. Turner Foundation in support of Transportation subsidies for the Outdoor Education Program in Dundas Valley and Westfield Heritage Village.
- **\$37,000** from the Friends of Westfield to support the restoration of the historic locomotive, as well as **\$4,575** lottery proceeds from FOW's Dozen Days of winning lottery held in December.
- **\$52,000** raised through our fall direct mail appeal, as well as year-end fundraising efforts in support of outdoor education, trail development, land acquisition and greatest needs.
- **\$13,750** in bequest gifts from two generous donors.

Looking Ahead to 2025: The fundraising priorities for the year will remain focused on:

- Fully funding the Environmental Education Program with annual commitment up to \$125,000.
- Securing funding for ongoing and future work done at Saltfleet Conservation Area.
- Supporting new wayfinding signage at Webster's Falls, as well as the Indigenous Interpretative Panels project at the Dundas Valley.

- Continuing to support other projects outlined in the HCA master plans, in consultation with HCA staff.

The Foundation is optimistic about continuing this positive momentum and look forward to another successful year of partnership and support.

BD12, 3447

**MOVED BY: Mike Spadafora
SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

THAT the Foundation Briefing be received.

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 12, 2024

11.1.1. CA2431 Hamilton Conservation Authority Shoreline Management Plan

Wayne Terryberry reviewed the staff report, which was initially presented to the Conservation Advisory Board in December 2023, and has since undergone public consultation. He noted that the Shoreline Management Plan provides HCA with updated coastal hazard mapping of its shoreline based on the latest technical information and data, as well as making management recommendations to assist HCA in administering its regulation of development on the shoreline.

BD12, 3448

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

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

THAT the Board of Directors adopt the Hamilton Conservation Authority Shoreline Management Plan.

CARRIED

11.1.2 CA 2432 Hamilton Conservation Authority Floodplain Mapping Projects

Wayne Terryberry reviewed the staff report, highlighting the three study areas: Stoney and Battlefield Creek; Stoney Creek and Numbered Watercourses and Redhill Creek. The mapping provides the HCA with updated flood hazard mapping based on the latest technical information and data to inform planning and permitting decision making.

BD12, 3449

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Mike Spadafora**

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

THAT the Board of Directors adopt the final versions of the flood plain mapping for the following watercourses:

- **Stoney Creek & Battlefield Creek**
- **Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses**
- **Redhill Creek**

CARRIED

12. Other Staff Reports/Memoranda

Reports to be Approved

12.1. 2025 Schedule of Board of Directors' Meetings

Lisa Burnside reviewed the staff report and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3450

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

THAT the Board of Directors' 2025 Meeting Schedule contained within this report be approved.

CARRIED

12.2 Appointment of Voting Representatives to Conservation Ontario

Lisa Burnside reviewed the staff report and answered members' questions.

BD12, 3451

MOVED BY: Alex Wilson
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry
THAT the following members be appointed to
Conservation Ontario for 2025:

Designate: Chair
Alternate: Vice Chair
Second Alternate: Chief Administrative Officer, and
further

THAT Conservation Ontario be advised of these
appointments.

CARRIED

Matt Francis left the meeting

12.7 Request for Tender – Tender Results – Saltfleet Conservation Area – Stoney Creek Wetland Storage Facility (SC-8)

Scott Peck reviewed the staff report, highlighting that the tender is to construct the second of four proposed wetlands located in Saltfleet Conservation Area, located at Green Mountain Rd East and Fifth Rd East. The contractor, Anthony's Excavation Central Inc., has had experience in wetland restoration; they constructed the wetland at Fifty Point and is the lowest bidder.

BD12, 3452

MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare

THAT the HCA staff recommends to the Board of
Directors:

THAT the Tender for the Saltfleet Conservation Area
Stoney Creek Wetland Storage Facility (SC-8) submitted
by Anthony's Excavation Central Inc. be accepted at a
cost not to exceed \$ 1,063,711.94 inclusive of
contingency and HST.

CARRIED

Memorandums to be Received

12.3 Ontario Regulation 474/24 – Minister's Review and Orders under Sections 28.1, 28.1.2 and 28.1.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Scott Peck reviewed the staff memorandum and answered members' questions. In response to member's question, Scott Peck noted that the Minister would review both the Permit application along with HCA's reasons for denying the application.

BD12, 3453

**MOVED BY: Alex Wilson
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the memorandum entitled Ontario Regulation 474/24 – Minister's Review and Orders under Sections 28.1, 28.1.2 and 28.1.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act be received.

CARRIED

12.4 Annual reporting on CA Permit Review Timelines – January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Mike Stone reviewed the staff memorandum and answered members' questions. It was noted that the HCA has a high level of compliance with the legislated Permit review timelines.

BD12, 3454

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Jeff Beattie**

THAT the memorandum entitled Ontario Regulation 474/24 – Minister's Review and Orders under Sections 28.1, 28.1.2 and 28.1.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act be received.

CARRIED

12.5 Watershed Conditions Report

Jonathan Bastien presented a summary of the memorandum, highlighting that there weren't any observations or reports of significant watercourse flooding during the reporting period.

He also noted that the long-term forecast indicates that there is a possibility of significant waves and shore-bound winds from Lake Ontario; the HCA will continue to monitor and will send out a flood watch should it be warranted.

BD12, 3455

**MOVED BY: Craig Cassar
SECONDED BY: Alex Wilson**

THAT the memorandum entitled Watershed Conditions Report be received.

CARRIED

12.6. Conservation Areas Experiences Update

Liam Fletcher provided a summary of the memorandum and answered the members' questions, highlighting the Family Day event at Westfield in addition to activities visitors can do while visiting conservation areas during the winter months as well as current visitation challenges at Tiffany Falls.

BD12, 3456

**MOVED BY: Jeff Beattie
SECONDED BY: Mike Spadafora**

THAT the memorandum entitled Conservation Areas Experiences Update be received.

CARRIED

13. New Business

There was none.

14. In-Camera Items

BD12, 3457

**MOVED BY: Wayne Terryberry
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

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

CARRIED

During the *in-camera* session, one Legal matter was discussed.

14.1. Confidential Verbal Report – BD/Feb-01-2025

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

BD12, 3458

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry**

THAT the confidential verbal update entitled BD/Feb-01-2025 be received and remain in camera.

CARRIED

BD12, 3459

**MOVED BY: Susan Fielding
SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare**

THAT the Board of Directors moves out of closed session.

CARRIED

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the HCA Main Administration Office – Woodend Auditorium, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster, Ontario.

16. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Scott Fleming
Secretary-Treasurer

HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Conservation Advisory Board

MINUTES

December 12, 2024

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., held by video conference and livestreamed on YouTube.

PRESENT:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Wayne Terryberry – in the Chair | |
| Elise Copps | Tyler Cunningham |
| Natalie Faught | Jamie Freeman |
| Haley McRae | Sherry O'Connor |
| Cortney Oliver | Noah Stegman |

Brad Clark – Ex-Officio
Susan Fielding – Ex-Officio

REGRETS: **Brian McHattie**

STAFF PRESENT: **Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Cherish Gamble, Brandon Good, Matt Hall, Amanda Martin, Jeff Stock, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, and Sandra Winninger**

OTHERS: **None**

1. Welcome

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

2. Declaration 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.

**CA2427 MOVED BY: Natalie Faught
 SECONDED BY: Jamie Freeman**

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were none.

5. Member Briefing

5.1. Watershed Stewardship Awards and 30th Anniversary Presentation

Mike Stone, Jeff Stock and Cherish Gamble shared a slide show with the members highlighting the 30-year history of the program. Additionally, two videos were shared of work completed by Stewardship staff in conjunction with private landowners to restore natural features and watershed function on their lands. It was noted that this was produced and shown as part of the Watershed Steward Appreciation Day Awards, held on October 5th at Fifty Point Conservation Area.

**CA2428 MOVED BY: Cortney Oliver
 SECONDED BY: Jamie Freeman**

THAT the Member Briefing be received.

CARRIED

5.2 2024 CaPSS Project Highlights

Matthew Hall provided an overview of the capital projects completed in 2024. The projects included partial replacement of the boardwalk along the Lafarge Trail, corrosion abatement of the East slide tower at Wild Waterworks, new wayfinding signs at the Eramosa Karst and improving an existing accessible pathway to the beach at Christie Lake. Also discussed was the master and management plans in progress as well as the Asset Management Plan.

**CA2429 MOVED BY: Noah Stegman
 SECONDED BY: Elise Copps**

THAT the Member Briefing be received.

CARRIED

6. Chairman's Report on Board of Directors Actions

The Chair noted the following items were approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on December 5, 2024.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| CA 2422 | HCA Conservation Areas Strategy pursuant to Ontario Regulation 686/21 |
| CA 2423 | HCA Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy pursuant to Ontario Regulation 686/21 |
| CA 2424 | HCA Land Inventory Strategy pursuant to Ontario Regulation 686/21 |

7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

7.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (October 10, 2024)

CA 2430 **MOVED BY: Noah Stegman**
 SECONDED BY: Jamie Freeman

THAT the minutes of the October 10, 2024 Conservation Advisory Board meeting be approved.

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

9. Staff Reports/Memorandums

9.1. Hamilton Conservation Authority Shoreline Management Plan

Mike Stone brought forward the staff report, indicating that the Hamilton Conservation Authority regulates approximately 42 km of Lake Ontario shoreline. The key findings and recommendations of the plan were reviewed and it was noted that the draft plan has been out for public and stakeholder consultation since the Conservation Advisory Board approved the draft plan.

The finalization of the plan will allow hazard mapping to be updated as well as assist the HCA in administering its regulation of development on the shoreline.

**CA 2431 MOVED BY: Tyler Cunningham
 SECONDED BY: Elise Copps**

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

THAT the Board of Directors adopt the Hamilton Conservation Authority Shoreline Management Plan.

CARRIED

9.2. Hamilton Conservation Authority Floodplain Mapping Projects

Jonathan Bastien brought forward the staff report, highlighting the three study areas: Stoney and Battlefield Creek; Stoney Creek and Numbered Watercourses and Redhill Creek. The mapping provides the HCA with updated flood hazard mapping based on the latest technical information and data to inform planning and permitting decision making.

**CA 2432 MOVED BY: Natalie Faught
 SECONDED BY: Noah Stegman**

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

THAT the Board of Directors adopt the final versions of the flood plain mapping for the following watercourses:

- **Stoney Creek & Battlefield Creek**
- **Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses**
- **Redhill Creek**

CARRIED

10. New Business

There was none.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CAB is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., at the HCA Main Administration Office – Woodend Auditorium.

12. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.

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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 27, 2025

RE: Westfield Artifact Accessions for 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT the Westfield 2024 Artifact Accessions List be accepted as the artifacts to be added to the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area and the Hamilton Conservation Authority collection.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

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 purpose of this report is to bring forward items to add to the artifact collection as detailed by staff below.

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 2024 Artifact Accessions List

The following items are recommended to be accepted into the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area permanent artifact collection in 2024.

- Wooden cradle, (1796)
- Canopy Bed, early 1800's
- Stanley 55 wood plane kit
- Medicine spoon, silver
- Group of 2 portable chalk board easels
- Group of 4 Rockton World's Fair guides, 1902-1920

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2025 - 2029:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Connecting People to Nature**
 - Initiatives – Strengthen and continue to deliver environmental and cultural heritage education and outreach programs that connect people to nature and foster conservation

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

Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Scott Peck, Deputy CAO / Director, Watershed Management Services

PREPARED BY: Jaime Tellier, Senior Manager, Central Support Services

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2025

RE: HCA Open Data Portal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT the platform for HCA's Open Data Portal and initial datasets for publication, as outlined in this report dated February 27, 2025, be approved.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

As part of HCA's commitment to stay at the forefront of technological innovation and ensure that our data and documentation are accessible and efficiently managed, HCA committed to investigating the technical requirements for implementing an open data program.

'Open Data' is data and information that is free to access, use and share, generally through an open licence and with limited restrictions. It is an increasingly common practice among Conservation Authorities, and across the public sector more generally, to provide free public access to the data and information we produce, store, manage and/or maintain.

Moving toward an Open Data program modernizes HCA's approach to how data is managed and provided to the public and aligns HCA with other Conservation Authority and public agency data and information management practices. Some of the benefits that have been identified as being associated with an open data policy include

increased transparency and accountability, promoting equality, engaging the public, and supporting research and innovation. An Open Data program also results in time savings and efficiencies for staff who are responsible for responding to data requests.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of HCA's proposed open data platform and recommend initial datasets for publication on the portal.

STAFF COMMENT

Open Data Portal

Conservation Ontario created an Open Data Working Group (ODWG), consisting of representatives from Conservation Authorities with well established open data programs, to generate resources for and support other Conservation Authorities looking to launch open data portals.

Through the ODWG it was found that most Conservation Authorities employ ArcGIS Online (AGOL) to host their open data portals. This is particularly efficient as 35 of 36 Conservation Authorities, including HCA, are part of an enterprise agreement with ESRI ArcGIS and as such are already well-positioned to utilize their online platform. Based on these findings, HCA is also proposing to use the AGOL platform for our open data portal.

The portal will have a direct URL address accessible from HCA's website and will also be cross promoted from Conservation Ontario's Open Data Hub. The Hub is a centralized website providing links to all current Conservation Authority open data portals. To date, there are 11 other Conservation Authorities with open data portals connected to the Hub.

HCA's datasets will be keyword searchable and listed under the following categories to be consistent with Conservation Ontario and other participating Conservation Authorities:

- Aquatics
- Basemaps & Imagery
- Boundaries
- Conservation Lands
- Elevations
- Flood Forecasting and Warning
- Groundwater
- Hydrology
- Infrastructure
- Monitoring and Reporting
- Natural Hazards
- Natural Heritage
- Planning and Regulations

- Source Water Protection

Initial Datasets for Publication

An internal working group, consisting of Ecology, Engineering, Planning and Regulations, GIS, and Records Management staff, completed a review of all HCA datasets and have selected twenty-three datasets for initial publication to the HCA portal. **See Appendix A.** The datasets were evaluated based on:

- availability on other open data platforms,
- sensitivity/complexity of the data,
- frequency with which the data are requested, and
- ease of independent use.

Additional datasets will be considered for the portal in the future, however, these will undergo detailed assessments of the suitability of the data prior to publication. The internal working group will be responsible for determining the suitability of any future datasets for publication.

The Open Data Portal is proposed to launch on May 1st. The initial publication will be promoted on HCA's website and social media channels to share the availability of this new service to the public and partner agencies.

It is important to note that HCA's existing regulated area online mapping tool will remain as a separate webpage and online screening tool and will continue to be supported by HCA. This tool allows the public to view an approximation of the extent of HCA's regulated area under Ontario Regulation 41/24, as it relates to individual properties and key natural features, such as watercourses, wetlands, and the Lake Ontario shoreline.

Metadata Portal

In addition to the proposed Open Data Portal, HCA has also begun using an online Metadata Portal, created and maintained by Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority. This portal allows for straightforward publication of standardized metadata for each HCA dataset published to our portal, providing critical information to data users. Metadata is information about a given dataset. It typically includes information about the data source, quality, content and other characteristics.

The portal also allows for unpublished datasets to be listed on the metadata portal, where the public can search/find information about other datasets HCA maintains and can then contact HCA to request the data. This method can be used for complex datasets that require an opportunity for staff to engage with the requestor to provide guidance with regard to the complexity of the data and discuss intended uses.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2025 - 2029:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Initiative – Identify and further invest in technology that improves security measures, business processes, optimises workflows, and facilitates broader access to open data resources.

AGENCY COMMENTS

HCA's open data portal has been developed with assistance from Conservation Ontario as part of its efforts to support Conservation Authorities as they engage in providing open data services. HCA's portal is designed to be consistent with and seamlessly integrate with Conservation Ontario's Open Data Hub.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Conservation Ontario's Open Data Working Group adapted a data licence agreement for use by any Conservation Authority hosting an open data portal. **See Appendix B.** Conservation Ontario and other Conservation Authorities currently employ this agreement. HCA intends to adopt this data licence agreement for our open data portal.

ArcGIS Online utilizes a credits system of payment for publishing that is based on the size of datasets being shared. Based on the initial datasets intended to be published when HCA's open data portal is first launched, the cost of ArcGIS credits will be approximately \$500.00 per year. However, Conservation Ontario often has surplus credits resulting from bulk licencing of ArcGIS for various Conservation Authorities, including HCA, and has offered that HCA can make use of the surplus credits for publishing and would only need to purchase credits should the surplus of credits ever significantly diminish.

CONCLUSIONS

HCA is poised to launch an open data portal that will modernize how our data is managed and shared with the public. The selected platform aligns with open data initiatives of Conservation Ontario and other Conservation Authorities. The portal will make key datasets readily available to the public with greater ease of access and terms of use. It will also result in efficiencies and time savings for staff. Completion of this task and its operationalization is a year-one initiative in HCA's new Strategic Plan.

Appendix A: Datasets for Publication to HCA Open Data Portal

| Dataset | Hub Category |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Bathymetry_Christie Lake | Elevation |
| Contours | Elevation |
| Contours 0.5m | Elevation |
| Contours 2007_Stoney Battlefield EA | Elevation |
| Dams | Flood Forecasting and Warning |
| Ecological Land Classification (Community Level) | Natural Heritage |
| Escarpment | Natural Heritage |
| Forest Cover | Natural Heritage |
| Managed Forest 2017 | Natural Heritage |
| Monitoring Station_Engineering | Flood Forecasting and Warning |
| Monitoring Station_Groundwater | Groundwater |
| Monitoring Station_Historical (Hydrometeorological) | Flood Forecasting and Warning |
| Monitoring Station_Snow Course | Flood Forecasting and Warning |
| Monitoring Station_Water Quality (Hamilton Harbour Watershed) | Monitoring and Reporting |
| Subwatersheds_Main | Boundaries |
| Subwatersheds_Regulation | Boundaries |
| Subwatersheds_Source Water Protection | Source Water Protection |
| Trail Parking | Infrastructure |
| Trails_HCA | Infrastructure |
| Waterbody | Hydrology |
| Watercourse | Hydrology |
| Watersheds_Regulation | Boundaries |
| Watersheds_Source Water Protection | Source Water Protection |

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Appendix B

Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) HCA Open Data Licence v1.0 ("Licence")



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Report

TO: Conservation Advisory Board

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: Scott Fleming, Director of Finance and Central Support Services

PREPARED BY: Lindsay Davidson, Assistant Manager, Marketing and Communications

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2025

RE: Expansion of the Check out the Great Outdoors Library program: First Nations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT HCA partner with First Nations libraries and community centres to deliver the *Check Out the Great Outdoors Library Program*.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

In 2022, with the approval of the Board of Directors, HCA introduced the *Check Out the Great Outdoors Library Program*. This initiative collaborates with local library systems to provide patrons with free access to HCA Conservation Areas through the Membership Pass.

The program began with the Hamilton Public Library and has since grown to include additional libraries serving the HCA watershed. Participating libraries now include:

- Hamilton Public Library,
- Grimsby Public Library,
- Wellington County Library,
- McMaster University Library,

- Redeemer University Library, and
- Mohawk College Library.

Members from these institutions can borrow HCA membership passes, granting them day-use entry through the gate system to HCA Conservation Areas, including Christie Lake, Valens Lake, Westfield Heritage Village, Dundas Valley, and Fifty Point.

The Program has been very well received by the participating institutions and their patrons. Demand for use of HCA passes at the Hamilton Public Library necessitated adjustments to the program to increase the number of passes provided and ensure that a percentage of passes were assigned to the express check out system.

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from the Board of Directors to partner with local First Nations and Indigenous community centres to deliver the *Check Out the Great Outdoors* Library Program in these communities.

STAFF COMMENTS

Building on the success of the program, HCA is proposing to expand the library pass program to First Nations libraries and community centres. This expansion aims to strengthen relationships with First Nations communities while enhancing access to conservation areas in a meaningful and inclusive way.

Extending the program to First Nations Library Systems, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation, and Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC), will help ensure broader community access to nature.

The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation are key communities in this initiative. By providing passes, the program will offer individuals increased opportunities to connect with nature, which is culturally very significant to their community.

Additionally, the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC), located downtown Hamilton, serves as an important resource hub for Indigenous individuals living in urban settings. Extending passes to HRIC will help bridge the gap between rural and urban Indigenous communities for equitable access to natural spaces to connect with nature.

By fostering inclusivity and accessibility, this expanded library program initiative supports individual health and well-being while strengthening connections between First Nations communities and the natural environment.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2024 - 2029:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Connecting People to Nature**
 - Identify and support an inclusive and accessible range of programs and amenities in our conservation areas and managed lands to welcome visitors and enhance inclusivity
- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Increase our engagement with First Nations Peoples to learn about and incorporate traditional knowledge in stewardship and teachings on the Treaty and traditional lands within the HCA watershed

AGENCY COMMENTS

Staff have been in contact with the three library systems and all have confirmed their interest and support for this initiative.

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Check Out the Great Outdoors Program is administered through Memorandums of Agreement between HCA and each lending institution that outline the terms of the initiative and establishing a three-year renewal cycle.

There are no financial implications for this initiative as any costs are accounted for in standard operating costs.

CONCLUSIONS

Expanding the *Check out the Great Outdoors Program* to First Nations Library and community centres is an important step in advancing HCA's commitments to increasing our engagement with First Nations Peoples and connecting people to nature.

By continuing to adapt and grow this initiative, HCA is fostering greater inclusivity, providing opportunities for engagement with nature, and supporting First Nations communities.

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Report



TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**RECOMMENDED
PREPARED BY:** T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy CAO/Director,
Watershed Management Services

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project
– SC-5, Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment Request for
Proposal

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors approve the quote submitted by Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., to complete the required Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment for the SC-5 Wetland for an upset limit of \$727,750.00 excluding HST

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

As part of the design work for the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration project, archaeological assessments are required and have been completed for the BC-1 and SC-8 wetlands. As part of the design work for SC-5 (Punch Bowl lands), Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessments were completed. The results of the completed Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment identified 11 sites that met the criteria for a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment.

In this regard, a Request for Proposal was published on January 30, 2025 requesting submissions to complete the required Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment. The closing date for submissions was February 20, 2025 at 4pm.

The purpose of this report is to detail the Request for Proposals submitted and to recommend that the submission provided by Archaeological Research Associates Ltd be approved.

STAFF COMMENT

A total of 5 submission were provided by the closing date of February 20, 2025.

| Consulting Firm | Core Sites | Provisional Sites | Total |
|--|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Stantec Consulting Ltd | \$300,671.50 | \$99,157.50 | \$399,829.00 |
| 4 Directions Conservation Consulting Ltd | \$595,255.00 | \$133,540.00 | \$728,795.00 |
| ASI | \$509,612.50 | \$217,231.25 | \$726,843.75 |
| TMHC | \$561,015.00 | \$134,790.00 | \$695,805.00 |
| Archaeological Research Associates | \$554,300.00 | \$173,450.00 | \$727,750.00 |

The request for proposal outlined that out of the 11 sites requiring a Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment, 3 of the sites are located outside of the proposed wetland area and were identified as provisional items that would be considered subject to cost. Excavations in the 3 areas may be required in the future to facilitate parking for the conservation area and development adjacent to the existing building for potential visitor facilities. It is staff's opinion that it is better to complete all of the Stage 3 work for the site now and eliminate this work and cost in the future. As such, the recommended submission includes the provisional work.

The recommended submission is not the lowest proposal. It is noted that the Request for Tender specifically notes that "the lowest or any proposal will not necessarily be accepted". In this regard, the lowest quote provided details significantly less field time for the required work compared to the other submissions and notes multiple times in the submission that further work may require change orders. Based on our experience with SC-8 and SC-5, the timing outlined in the recommended submission best reflects the required work in the field. The Archaeological Research Associates submission fully meets the requirements of the Request for Proposal and provides a fulsome and detailed proposal for the full extent of the required work. Further, Archaeological Research Associates completed both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment for SC-5 and is therefore familiar with the site and the overall Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project.

It is noted that dependent on the findings of the Stage 3 Archaeological Assessment, Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment work may also be required.

Engagement with First Nations will be undertaken as part of Stage 3 Archaeological Assessments. For previous work at BC-1, SC-8 and SC-5, the HCA did engage with our First Nations communities and had them on site to monitor the archaeological work being undertaken. This monitoring work does require payment to the respective First Nation communities to cover their time and mileage costs. Based on our most recent

experience with the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment monitoring for SC-5 with Mississauga Credit First Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River and the Haudenosaunee Development Institute, these costs would be approximately \$300,000. This is in addition to the archaeological consulting services recommended in this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Initiatives – Advance progress on the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project and promote its objective and benefits

AGENCY COMMENTS

N/A

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

For 2025, HCA budgeted to have \$2M in costs for the construction of the second wetland (SC-8). With sufficient funds remaining in that reserve after construction costs are applied against the balance, HCA staff are proposing that the costs for the Stage 3 work noted in this report also be covered by the East Mountain Wetland Reserve. In the event that alternative funding is obtained, that alternative funding would be used prior to withdrawing funds for the Stage 3 work thereby preserving monies in the reserve to help fund future expenditures to complete all four wetlands.

CONCLUSIONS

The Stage 3 work noted in this report is required to proceed with the design of the SC-5 wetland. Archaeological Research Associates Ltd., is qualified to undertake this work and has demonstrated their effectiveness and efficiency on the Stage 1 and 2 assessments completed for SC-5.

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Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

RECOMMENDED BY: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

PREPARED BY: Jonathan Bastien, P.Eng., Manager, Water Resources Engineering
Alex Nizharadze, P.Eng., Water Management Engineer

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: Embankment Repairs Design, Mineral Springs Dam

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board of Directors authorize staff to utilize reserves to cover the cost of the consulting design for the Mineral Springs Dam Embankment Repairs.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The Mineral Springs Dam is located on the Sulphur Creek crossing with Martin Road immediately south of the 380 Martin Road driveway in Ancaster (Figure 1). The dam was constructed in early 1990 to provide flood control for the downstream community in Mineral Springs. Due to frequent blockage of the inlet and surficial erosion of the downstream slope, the dam was repaired in 2015. In 2021, HCA retained TULLOCH Engineering Inc. to assess a slope slump identified at the upper portion of the downstream slope within the south terminus of the dam. The consultant concluded that the slump was minor in nature, was not a structural issue and was not considered a dam stability issue at that time. It was recommended to continue inspecting the slope. Monthly inspections of the dam conducted in the summer and fall of 2024 determined that the extent of the slump is similar to that measured by TULLOCH in 2021, but deep horizontal and vertical cavities/voids were found, as well as unstable and loose riprap noticed throughout the slump area.

The objective of this study is to complete a detailed evaluation of the embankment downstream slope slump and provide repair recommendations. It is expected that the previous slope assessment by Tullouch and previous designs for the embankment downstream slope from 2015 can be utilized. The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of Directors of the need for the completion of design work and to request that staff be authorized to utilize reserves to cover the design work required.

STAFF COMMENT

To prevent further degradation of the embankment that can potentially result in instability of the dam, staff recommends retaining the services of a qualified engineering consulting firm (Consultant) to complete a detailed evaluation of the embankment downstream and design of repairs to the downstream slope. In addition, the Consultant will evaluate the necessity for regrading the dam crest to direct sheet flow rainwater away from the top of the dam, which has been previously identified as a likely cause of the slump.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Organizational Excellence**
 - Initiatives – Further the physical asset inventory and enhance how we manage HCA assets through their lifespan.

AGENCY COMMENTS

Not Applicable.

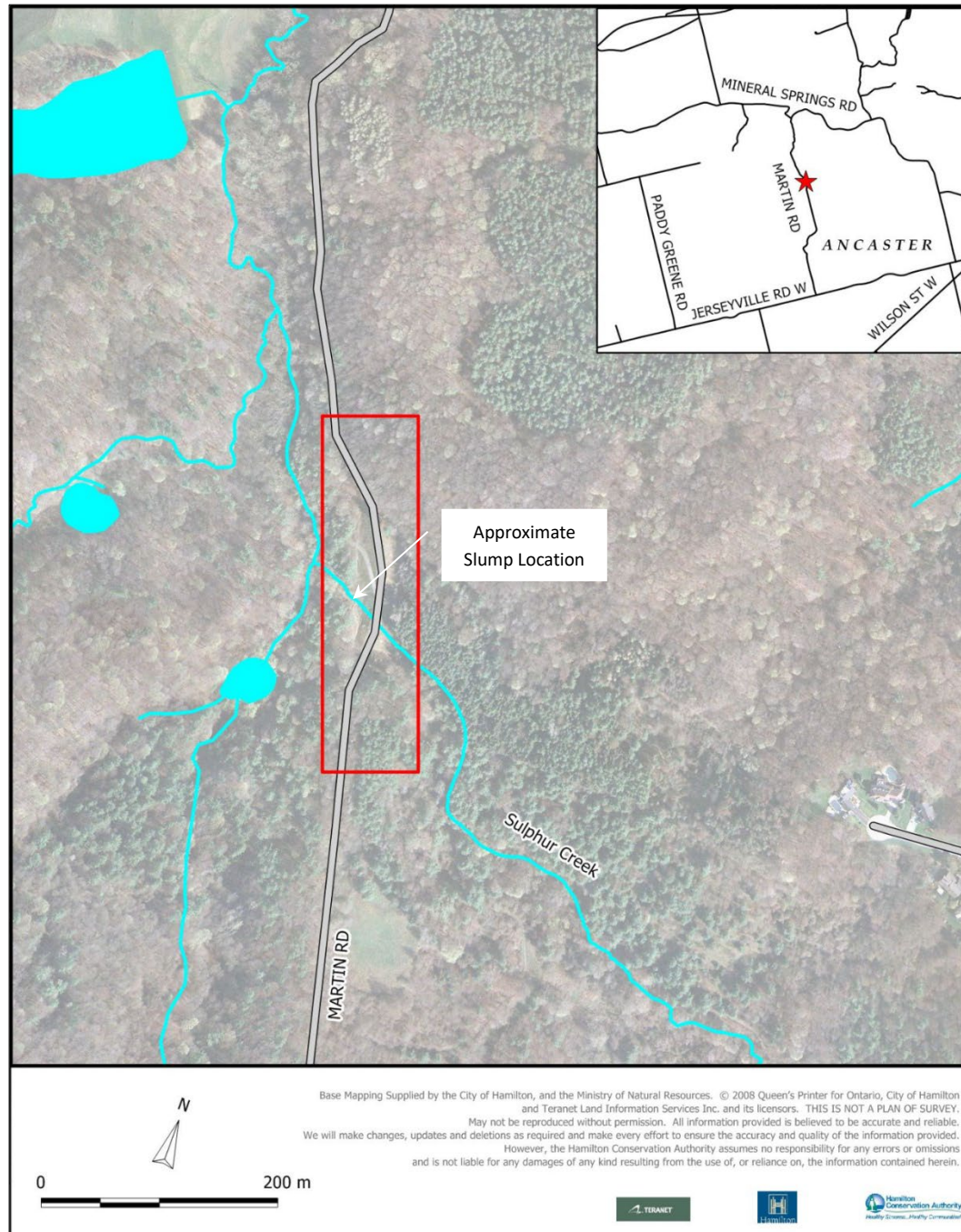
LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the Mineral Springs Dam is located on Martin Road and is in municipal ownership, the HCA is responsible for its operation and structural integrity. Staff estimate the cost of the review and the design to be \$5,000 to \$10,000. The use of reserves is recommended to cover the cost of this required work. It is noted that additional future expenses will be required to implement the repairs, and funding will be sought for this work through the Province of Ontario's Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding.

CONCLUSIONS

HCA operates the Mineral Springs Dam and responsible for its structural integrity. Therefore, to ensure the long-term integrity of the dam structure, it is recommended that a consultant be hired to undertake a review of the downstream embankment slope and prepare a required design that will be used to undertake repairs.

Figure 1. Sulphur Creek Sub-watershed and Slump Location, Mineral Springs Dam



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Hamilton
Conservation
Authority

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

SUBMITTED BY: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy CAO/Director, Watershed Services

PREPARED BY: Mike Stone, MA, MCIP, RPP, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning, Stewardship & Ecological Services
Jonathan Bastien, P.Eng., Manager, Water Resources Engineering
Stacey Van Opstal, Water Monitoring Technologist
Lesley McDonell, Supervisor, Stewardship & Ecological Services
Colin Oaks, Aquatic Ecologist

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: 2024 Annual Monitoring Program Summary

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

HCA undertakes terrestrial and aquatic ecological monitoring and water quality monitoring programs to collect data regarding watershed conditions and to help inform the assessment of long-term trends in watershed health. In response to discussions at the October and November 2023 Board of Directors meetings regarding HCA's watershed conditions reporting and monitoring programs, HCA staff committed to preparing an annual report regarding monitoring program work to be presented to the Board of Directors.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of monitoring program activities and key findings from 2024.

STAFF COMMENTS

Water Quality Monitoring Program

The water quality (chemistry) monitoring programs undertaken by HCA WMS staff provide essential information regarding the current state of water quality in key streams and groundwater areas within the watershed. Maintaining these programs over extended periods of time allows HCA to assess changes and trends in water quality. In addition, the data and assessments provide valuable information to assist HCA and partner organizations and other groups (e.g. City of Hamilton, Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP), academia, development consultants) with their water quality programs, activities and decision making. A summary of 2024 results from HCA's three water quality monitoring programs is presented below.

Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan Water Quality Monitoring of Main Tributaries to Cootes Paradise

HCA's program focuses on collecting surface water quality samples and identifying water quality contributions to Cootes Paradise from key watercourses. Water quality samples collected and reviewed by HCA staff identify potential key sources of watercourse-delivered nutrient, sediment and *E. coli*, determines annual averages and long-term trends in watercourse concentrations, and monitors the effects of implemented remedial actions.

All sampling sites had samples in 2024 that exceeded the total phosphorus, *E. coli* and total suspended solid targets. Chedoke Creek sampling exceeded the total phosphorus targets for all samples at all locations. Chedoke Creek *E. coli* targets were exceeded for all samples at 3 of the 5 sites. Chedoke Creek at Kay Drage Park Bridge experienced 14 out of 18 sample exceedances and Chedoke Creek located downstream of Chedoke Falls experienced 16 out of 20 sample exceedances for *E. coli*. Spencer Creek had 16 out of 19 samples exceed the *E. coli* target and 15 out of 19 samples exceed the total phosphorous target. Borers Creek had 13 out of 20 samples exceed the target for *E. coli*, and 16 out of 20 samples above the total phosphorous target. Ancaster Creek sites total phosphorous sampling experienced 6 to 10 exceedances out of 20 samples for the 4 locations sampled. The 3 downstream Ancaster Creek sites experienced 8 to 11 exceedances out of 20 samples for *E. coli*. The most upstream Ancaster Creek site located at Rousseaux Street had 18 out of 20 samples exceed the target. For all sampling sites, less than half of samples collected exceeded the total suspended solids target. Generally total suspended solids concentrations were highest on sampling days that experience precipitation and as a result surface ground water runoff and erosion.

Under this monitoring program, the long-term data collected to date indicates that Spencer Creek annual average concentrations of total phosphorus, *E. coli*, and total suspended solids are improving. Spencer Creek *E. coli* annual average concentrations are higher than 2023 average concentrations. Two large rain events during the summer resulted in high *E. coli* values. This increased the 2024 average concentration above levels observed in 2023, which had been near the 200 CFU/100 mL target. Spencer

Creek site has had some years where the average annual concentration for *E.coli* and total suspended solids are below the targets.

Borers Creek annual average concentrations of total phosphorus, *E.coli* and total suspended solids are improving. *E.coli* values at this site are often near the target concentration. This site has had some years where the annual concentrations are below the total suspended solids objective of 25 mg/L. Total phosphorus annual average concentrations are consistently above the target concentration of 0.03 mg/L.

Ancaster Creek annual average concentrations of total phosphorus, *E.coli* and total suspended solids are improving at the three downstream sampling locations. These three locations consistently experience annual average concentrations near or below the targets for *E.coli*. These sites also have some years where the average annual total suspended solids concentration is below the target. The most upstream site along Ancaster Creek at Rousseaux Street has annual average concentrations for *E.coli* that are well above the other Ancaster sites. Annual concentrations of *E.coli* at this site appear to be improving, however the period of record for this site is only now at 7 years. For the most upstream site on Ancaster Creek, annual average total suspended solids concentrations have remained relatively stable and below the delisting objective of 25 mg/L.

Chedoke Creek has historically experienced high total phosphorus and *E.coli* concentrations. Annual average concentrations for Chedoke Creek sample sites of total phosphorus and *E.coli* are well above targets. Increasing total suspended solid concentration trends since 2018 have been noted for the most downstream Chedoke Creek sampling site. Varying concentration trends since 2018 have been noted for the other Chedoke Creek sampling sites. All Chedoke sites have a have number of years where the average annual total suspended solids concentration is below the target. Chedoke Creek is a highly impacted system. These impacts include municipal infrastructure (sewer cross-connections and combined sewer overflows), urban runoff, and concrete channelization including sections of the watercourse that are buried underground.

Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)

HCA's focus for these programs is on the collection of water quality samples on behalf of MECP. However, sampling results (provided by MECP) are used by HCA staff for the HCA Watershed Report Card water quality assessments every 5 years. Surface water quality grades for subwatersheds from the latest Watershed Report Card (2023) were two graded 'B', six graded 'C', eight graded 'D' and five graded 'F'. Subwatersheds with higher grading tend to be in areas with more natural cover. Groundwater quality grades from the latest Watershed Report Card (2023) were four wells graded 'A', one well graded 'B' and two wells graded 'C' for nitrate + nitrite concentrations. While three wells graded 'A', one well graded 'B' and three wells graded 'F' for chloride concentrations.

Terrestrial Resource Monitoring Program

The Terrestrial Resource Monitoring Program (TRMP) was developed in 2012 to establish a long-term consistent approach to monitoring forest health in the watershed. The program is closely based on the monitoring methodology developed by Environment Canada in its Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN), and aims to determine the status and trend of hardwood forests following terrestrial indicators of ecological integrity (EI) through time and throughout the watershed. In addition to EMAN, HCA Ecology staff also undertake monitoring activities targeting specific invasive species and to track the success of restoration projects completed by HCA.

Ecological monitoring using standardized data collection protocols at regular intervals allows changes in natural systems over time to be documented, and provides information which can be used by HCA, partners and others, to identify emerging issues, restoration opportunities and help guide management decisions. A summary of 2023 results from the TRMP is presented below.

Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN)

On a year-by-year basis ten of the TRMP's thirty-nine EMAN monitoring plots are surveyed. Surveys document tree species, size and health. Ground vegetation within plots is also recorded by species. Metrics completed from this work include tree health, snag abundance, tree mortality, native plant richness, invasive species occurrence, mean coefficient of conservatism, spring ephemeral diversity and tree regeneration. While the EMAN monitoring protocol does not lend itself easily to year-over-year reporting given only a subset of data is gathered each year, more comprehensive analysis can be completed based on multi-year data. HCA Ecology staff are in the process of compiling and analyzing EMAN data from the 2013-2020 period. Notwithstanding this, a summary of 2024 EMAN survey findings is presented below.

- Ten plots were monitored in 2024, including one plot each in Christie Lake Conservation Area, Meadowlands, Saltfleet and Tapleytown Woods, two in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area and three in the Beverley Swamp (Safari Rd, 8th Concession and 10th Concession).
- Sugar maple (54%) was the most common species recorded during 2024 surveys. Of the 118-plant species recorded, 102 species (86%) were native and 16 species (14%) non-native. Invasive species were recorded in all plots; the most encountered were common buckthorn in 60% of plots, and multiflora rose in 50% of plots.
- Forest regeneration was noted in all plots except one in the Dundas Valley which had no tree regeneration. In all the other nine plots Sugar maple and ash species were the most common.

Invasive Species Monitoring

Three different invasive tree pests are actively surveyed for on HCA owned lands, Spongy Moth, Hemlock Wooley Adelgid (HWA) and Oak Wilt. Each of these are considered threats to tree health and in turn the structure, composition and overall biodiversity of our forests. Oak Wilt and HWA surveys aim to detect the presence/absence of these invasive tree pests on our lands. Spongy Moth egg mass surveys help staff predict the expected level of tree defoliation across known locations of these tree pests.

Neither Oak wilt or HWA were detected during 2024 surveys on HCA lands. However, HWA has been detected less than 1 km away from HCA property at Royal Botanical Gardens near McMaster and has the potential of spreading to the Dundas Valley. Beech Leaf Disease was detected in the Dundas Valley on the Headwaters Trail, Merrick Orchard parking lot access road, and on a private property, as well as at Saltfleet, Eramosa Karst, and Valens Lake.

Spongy moth is a cyclical tree pest that was at its peak across Ontario in 2022. Since then, the numbers of these insects have declined. Egg mass survey results from the winter 2023 - 2024 period suggested that defoliation forecasts for HCA Conservation Areas in 2024 were expected to range from light to severe. HCA ecology staff also conduct forest canopy photo monitoring in five different Conservation Areas with monthly visits (May – September) to the same locations with pictures taken of the canopy. Comparing the forecasted defoliation to the photo monitoring results shows that while some areas were predicted to experience a severe defoliation, only the upper canopy leaves were impacted, and the lower canopy branches and smaller trees maintained their leaf cover at those locations. This lessens the impact on overall tree health.

Aquatic Resource Monitoring Program (ARMP)

The Aquatic Resource Monitoring Program was developed in 2004 to establish a long-term consistent approach to monitoring aquatic systems throughout the watershed. The ARMP focuses on monitoring parameters that are indicators of ecological health. The program integrates chemical (water chemistry via benthic macro-invertebrate community composition), biological (fish populations and communities) and physical (fish habitat, channel morphology) assessments within all major watersheds to allow for assessment of overall watershed health and comparison of results over time.

ARMP survey work is undertaken at sites across the watershed on a three-year cycle, which includes annual sites (sampled each year) and additional sites sampled in alternating years (year 1, year 2 and year 3 sites). The ARMP aims to improve knowledge regarding the health and composition of fisheries and fish habitat, allow for the quantification of changes in fisheries and fish habitat over time, and to provide

information that supports the review of development applications and helps to inform decision making.

In addition to the ARMP program ecology staff also sample additional sites when required using the ARMP protocols for monitoring or inventory work related to HCA projects/programs such as conservation area master planning and restoration project monitoring.

HCA Ecology staff are in the process of compiling and analyzing all available ARMP data from 2000 to present on a subwatershed basis to allow for long-term trend identification. Notwithstanding this, a summary of 2024 ARMP survey findings is presented below.

Fisheries

Both electrofishing and seine netting sampling techniques are utilized to sample fish given the diversity of watercourses/waterbodies found within the HCA watershed. Electrofishing is generally applied in smaller streams that have woody debris and undercut banks, while seine netting is used in the reservoirs. HCA staff follow a modified version of the Ontario Streams Assessment Protocol (OSAP) for its electrofishing surveys. Twenty-nine sites were sampled for fish in 2024 (twelve annual sites, eight year 3 sites and an additional nine sites at Conservation Areas in support of Master Plan and Saltfleet work). Additionally, a combined ten nearshore sampling sites were completed at Valens and Christie Lakes during the summer. Across the sampling a total of 3991 fish were captured, representing 31 different species. Notable catches for 2024 includes an adult Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in Sulphur Creek as part of our Master Plan sampling in the Dundas Valley.

In assessing the fisheries data recorded at the annual sampling sites in 2024, HCA ecology staff have calculated Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) ratings for each applicable stream sample location. The IBI method is a multivariate indicator of stream health, which utilizes metrics such as species richness, indicator species, trophic composition, fish abundance, and fish condition to give an indication of stream health. Five of the thirteen annual sampling sites received a 'Good' rating, seven sites a 'Fair' rating, and one site a 'Poor' rating.

Benthic Invertebrates

HCA follows the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) protocol for the sampling of benthic invertebrates ('benthics'), and analyzes findings using the Family Biotic Index (FBI) methodology. Given benthics are less able to readily move about the stream as compared to fish species, it is assumed they are a better indicator of physical, chemical, and biological conditions at the site level. Benthics were collected at 27 sites in 2024. The results have been added to the table presented last year of the 5-year watershed report card. Showing how 2024 results compare to the average over the last 5 years for each subwatershed. .

For interest, the results of the analysis from the 2024 sampling found that two subwatersheds were graded A, one was graded 'B', four graded 'C', four graded 'D' and four graded 'F'. FBI scores and associated letter grades are based on averages for an entire creek/subwatershed system and are not necessarily an indication of poor water quality throughout an entire system. Additionally, there can also be a temporal error as not all sites within a subwatershed are sampled in every year thus in year averages can contain results not reflective of the 5-year summary period.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGE

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2025 - 2029:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Water Resources Management**
 - Initiative - Collaborate with the City of Hamilton on their Watershed Action Plan and support our partners involved in the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan to achieve shared environmental goals.
 - Initiative - Monitor the impacts of climate change through existing and enhanced monitoring programs and networks to inform adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- **Strategic Priority Area – Natural Heritage Conservation**
 - Initiative - Improve our understanding of watershed ecosystems and address emerging issues by broadening the scope of HCA monitoring activities, and working with our municipal partners on the Biodiversity Action Plan and Natural Areas Inventory.

AGENCY COMMENTS

N/A

LEGAL/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications resulting from the monitoring programs, as current programming is covered under existing funding arrangements as required with the City of Hamilton and Township of Puslinch as either category 1 or 2 programs, and/or with support from the MECP.

CONCLUSIONS

In order to provide additional information regarding watershed conditions, HCA staff will bring an annual report to the Board of Directors each February or March to summarize monitoring results from the previous year. While it may be possible to provide some comments regarding watershed health based on annual monitoring results, identifying

changes in conditions and longer-term trends based on annual data does have limitations. More detailed assessment and meaningful conclusions regarding changes in watershed health require a longer time frame, more similar to the five-year reporting cycle of the Watershed Report Card.



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 Management Services

PREPARED BY: Jonathan Bastien, P.Eng. – Manager, Water Resources Engineering

MEETING DATE: March 6th, 2025

RE: Watershed Conditions Report

SYNOPSIS

During the period of January 27th to February 24th 2025, there were no significant watercourse flooding events nor Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events. However, there were 2 potential Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events that warranted the issuing of messages and additional monitoring of conditions.

There are no observations, reports, or expectations that significant watercourse flooding or significant water safety concerns are occurring at this time.

In January and February, ice conditions have artificially affected readings at the streamflow gauges, thus flow measurements are not considered accurate. Also, Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street water levels have been artificially elevated at times over this period due to planned in-water work related to the Creighton Road bridge work immediately downstream of the gauge. Current actual flows are expected to be near baseflow conditions to slightly elevated above baseflow conditions, given the lack of recent rain and small amount of recent snowmelt.

The average monthly flows for February so far are not considered accurate, due to ice conditions that have artificially affected readings at the streamflow gauges.

Currently, there are no observations, reports, or expectations that significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is occurring. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level

averaged across the entire lake was 19 cm below average for this time of year, as of yesterday.

Current Christie Lake levels are at the low end of preferred winter operating levels, while Valens Lake levels are within preferred winter operating levels.

For the most recent drought assessment (including data up to December 31), the 3-month precipitation totals indicated Level 1 Low Water conditions within the watershed, based on data at the 8 available stations. However, the 18-month precipitation totals indicated normal conditions within the watershed, as did the average flows over the month at the 5 available streamflow gauges. A drought assessment including data up to January 31, 2025 is expected to be completed shortly. An update on watershed drought conditions will be provided once this assessment is available.

There are currently two potential rainfall / snowmelt events forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks. A Flood Watch will be issued later today regarding the February 26 potentially significant runoff event. HCA staff will continue to monitor watercourse and weather conditions closely, as well as reassess the potential for flooding. Additional flood messaging will be issued as warranted.

In the next 2 weeks, no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is expected. HCA staff will continue to undertake monthly drought assessments, and coordinate with the Hamilton Low Water Response Team as required if drought conditions are identified.

CURRENT WATERSHED CONDITIONS – February 24th, 2025

Current Flows in Major Area Watercourses

There are no observations, reports, or expectations that significant watercourse flooding or significant water safety concerns are occurring at this time.

In January and February, ice conditions have artificially affected readings at the streamflow gauges, thus flow measurements are not considered accurate. Also, Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street water levels have been artificially elevated at times over this period due to planned in-water work related to the Creighton Road bridge work immediately downstream of the gauge. Current actual flows are expected to be near baseflow conditions to slightly elevated above baseflow conditions, given the lack of recent rain and small amount of recent snowmelt. The five streamflow gauges are Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road, Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5, Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street, Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street and Red Hill Creek at Barton Street.

The average monthly flows for January and February so far are not considered accurate, due to ice conditions that have artificially affected readings at the streamflow gauges.

December 2024 average recorded flows ranged between significantly below long-term averages to near long-term averages. Monthly flow in Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road was 51% of long-term averages (considered well below average). Monthly flow in Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5 was 39% (considered significantly below average). Monthly flow in Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street was 64% (considered below average). Monthly flow in Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street was 96% (considered near average). Monthly flow in Red Hill Creek at Barton Street was 83% (considered slightly below average). The precipitation amounts recorded at the streamflow gauges do not explain the variations in average monthly recorded flows. There was also no significant thunderstorm activity during the month. It is therefore expected that the variations in average monthly recorded flows are likely due to temporary storages of runoff in the Valens and Christie Lake reservoirs during rainfall events, as well as differences in local rainfall received in the ungauged areas upstream of each streamflow gauge.

November 2024 average recorded flows ranged between significantly below long-term averages to slightly below long-term averages. Monthly flow in Upper Spencer Creek at Safari Road was 50% of long-term averages (considered well below average). Monthly flow in Middle Spencer Creek at Highway 5 was 36% (considered significantly below average). Monthly flow in Ancaster Creek at Wilson Street was 88% (considered slightly below average). Monthly flow in Red Hill Creek at Barton Street was 43% (considered well below average). The precipitation amounts recorded at the streamflow gauges do not explain the considerable variations in average monthly recorded flows. It is therefore expected that the considerable variations in average monthly recorded flows are likely due to significant differences in local rainfall and thunderstorms received in the ungauged areas upstream of each streamflow gauge. Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street flows are not considered accurate, as flows were increased in November due to the winter drawdown of Christie Lake reservoir. Also, Lower Spencer Creek at Market Street water levels and flows were not considered accurate due to in-water work related to the Creighton Road bridge work immediately downstream of the gauge.

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 was 74.45 to 74.46 m IGLD85 as of yesterday. The Lake Ontario mean daily water level averaged across the entire lake (74.44 m IGLD85 as of yesterday) is 19 cm below average for this time of year.

Current Storages in HCA Reservoirs

Current Christie Lake levels (765.31 ft) are at the low end of preferred winter operating levels (765.30 to 765.80 ft).

Current Valens Lake levels (274.31 m) are within preferred winter operating levels (274.15 to 274.40m).

Current Soil Conditions

Surface and root-zone soils are considered wet to saturated across the watershed, and are expected to be partially to fully frozen.

RECENT STORM EVENTS

During the period of January 27th to February 24th 2025, there were no significant watercourse flooding events nor Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events.

However, there were 2 potential Lake Ontario shoreline flooding events that warranted the issuing of messages and additional monitoring of conditions.

Potential for Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

February 12th to February 13th

Forecasts on February 10th predicted that for February 12th and 13th shore-bound waves of up to 2.3 m in height may occur, with sustained winds of up to 38 km/hr and wind gusts of up to 64 km/hr. If these conditions occurred, there would be an increased risk of significant localized flooding and erosion along Hamilton's shoreline due to the resulting storm surge and wave action.

HCA staff continued to monitor weather conditions closely, and reassessed the potential for shoreline flooding.

However, on February 12th and 13th no observations or reports were received of Lake Ontario shoreline flooding.

HCA engineering staff issued the following messages related to this event, to communicate the potential shoreline flooding concerns to the City and public:

- February 10th: Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge
- February 13th: Cancellation - Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge

Potential for Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

February 16th

Forecasts on February 13th predicted that for February 16th shore-bound waves of up to 2.1 m in height may occur, with sustained winds of up to 36 km/hr and wind gusts of up to 61 km/hr. If these conditions occurred, there would be an increased risk of significant

localized flooding and erosion along Hamilton's shoreline due to the resulting storm surge and wave action.

HCA staff continued to monitor weather conditions closely, and reassessed the potential for shoreline flooding.

However, on February 16th no observations or reports were received of Lake Ontario shoreline flooding.

HCA engineering staff issued the following messages related to this event, to communicate the potential shoreline flooding concerns to the City and public:

- February 13th: Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge
- February 18th: Cancellation - Flood Watch – Lake Ontario Storm Surge

RECENT WATERSHED LOW WATER CONDITIONS

For the most recent drought assessment (including data up to December 31), the 3-month precipitation totals indicated Level 1 Low Water conditions within the watershed, based on data at the 8 available stations. However, the 18-month precipitation totals indicated normal conditions within the watershed, as did the average flows over the month at the 5 available streamflow gauges.

A drought assessment including data up to January 31, 2025 is expected to be completed shortly. An update on watershed drought conditions will be provided once this assessment is available.

FORECASTED WATERSHED CONDITIONS

Watercourse Flooding

There are currently two potential rainfall / snowmelt events (+20 mm in a day) forecasted for the watershed over the next 2 weeks, on February 26 and March 5.

A Flood Watch will be issued later today regarding the February 26 potentially significant runoff event. HCA staff will continue to monitor watercourse and weather conditions closely, as well as reassess the potential for flooding. Additional flood messaging will be issued as warranted.

Lake Ontario Shoreline Flooding

In the next 2 weeks, no significant Lake Ontario shoreline flooding is expected.

Watershed Low Water Conditions

HCA staff will continue to undertake monthly drought assessments, and coordinate with the Hamilton Low Water Response Team as required if drought conditions are identified.

Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lisa Burnside, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

PREPARED BY: Brandon Good, Senior Manager of Conservation Area Services

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: Conservation Areas Experiences Update

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

HCA provides 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.

STAFF REPORTING COMMENTS

Maple Syrup Season - Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area

Westfield's Maple Syrup program is back with six (6) program dates this month. This visitor favourite program offers a unique self-guided experience in the picturesque 503-acre Conservation Area. Guests can explore the historic village while learning about the history and process of maple syrup production. Advanced reservations are required for this signature HCA event, which runs every Sunday throughout March, as well as during March Break.

March Break Camps - Dundas Valley

March Break Day Camps at Dundas Valley Conservation Area are set to start March 10 to March 14. Campers will explore forest and meadow ecosystems, hike trails, and investigate animal signs while learning about seasonal changes and wildlife adaptations through hands-on activities and games. Reservations are now open and can be made for single days or for the entire week.

Conservation Area Operations – Winter Operations

February brought heavy snow loads and ice-cold temperatures across the watershed. Conservation Area staff worked diligently to clear large amounts of snow from parking lots, roadways and campsites to maintain access for our visitors seeking winter recreational opportunities. Tiffany Falls continues to be very popular area with high visitation levels one weekends. Private security is scheduled to assist for seasonal parking lot management on weekends through March.

Boat Lift In – Fifty Point Conservation Area

With spring looming, staff at Fifty Point Conservation Area are preparing for the spring boat lift in starting in April. Staff from multiple Conservation Areas will begin training this month to prepare for the transport of over 275 power boats and sail boats from storage to dockside next month.