



# CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

April 9, 2026



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**Notice of Meeting**  
**Conservation Advisory Board**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2026**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**This meeting will be fully virtual via Webex Platform**

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

- 1. Welcome** – Wayne Terryberry
  
- 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – Wayne Terryberry
  
- 3. Approval of Agenda** – Wayne Terryberry
  
- 4. Delegations**
  
- 5. Member Briefing**
  - 5.1. Annual Report – Lisa Burnside Page 1
  - 5.2. Verbal Update – Provincial Announcement – Conservation Authorities Act/Amalgamation  
– Lisa Burnside
  
- 6. Chair's Report on Board of Directors Actions** – Wayne Terryberry
  - 6.1. CA 2604 Volunteer Program Business Plan
  - 6.2. CA 2605 2025 Westfield Artifact Accessions and Deaccessions
  - 6.3. CA 2606 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management Plan

**7. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

7.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (February 12, 2026) – Wayne Terryberry Page 21

**8. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**9. Staff Reports/Memorandums**

Reports for Recommendation

9.1 2026 Westfield Artifact Special Accession – Rondalyn Brown/  
Peter Lloyd Page 27

Memorandums to be Received

9.2. Verbal Update, HCA Visitor Attendance 2025 – Gord Costie

**10. New Business**

**11. Next Meeting – Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**

**12. Adjournment**



Hamilton  
Conservation  
Authority

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

# 20 25

ANNUAL  
REPORT



## Our Vision

A healthy watershed for everyone.

## Our Mission

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

## Our Values

Collaboration

Customer Service

Integrity

Respect

Innovation

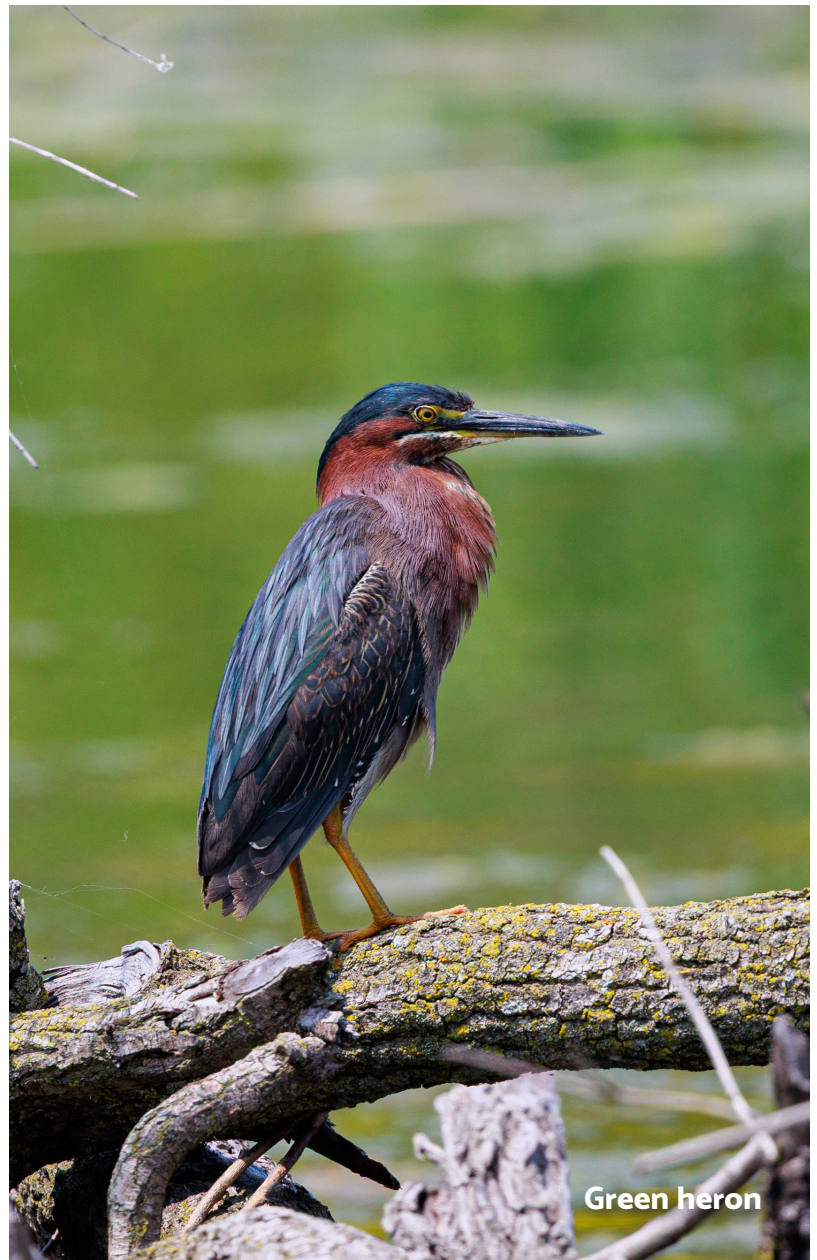
## 2025 HCA Board of Directors

Councillor Jeff Beattie  
Councillor Craig Cassar  
Councillor Brad Clark – Chair  
Elise Copps (November – December)  
Lisa DiCesare  
Susan Fielding – Vice Chair  
Councillor Matt Francis  
Brian McHattie (January – August)  
Councillor Mike Spadafora  
Wayne Terryberry  
Councillor Alex Wilson  
Councillor Maureen Wilson

## Land Acknowledgment

The HCA joins in stewardship of lands and waters with Indigenous Peoples who have cared for them since time before memory. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, and the HCA watershed, is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee.

As an organization, we are committed to learning about the shared history and experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and creating relationships based on respect, trust and friendship. In our shared gratitude for every aspect of the natural world, may we create a lasting legacy now and for future generations.



Green heron

# WHO WE ARE

Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) is one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario and the largest environmental management agency in the watershed. Located at the western end of Lake Ontario, HCA is dedicated to the conservation and enjoyment of watershed lands and water resources.

Established in 1958, the organization became the Hamilton Conservation Authority in 1966. HCA's watershed spans from the headwaters, over the Niagara Escarpment to Cootes Paradise, Hamilton Harbour and Lake Ontario, following the land and flow of water across the landscape.

HCA's work includes protecting people and property from flooding and erosion, managing conservation and recreational lands, and delivering environmental education and stewardship programs.

## HCA WATERSHED



**4,732** hectares of HCA lands  
**22** conservation areas  
**180 km** of HCA trails

**10%** of watershed owned and managed by HCA  
**2** participating municipalities  
**650,000** population

# MESSAGE FROM HCA CAO & CHAIR

It is with pride that we present the 2025 Annual Report, reflecting a year of progress, collaboration, and commitment to the watershed's health.

In 2025, HCA advanced key work across our four strategic plan priority areas. We continued the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project, completing the second of four planned wetlands to reduce flooding, protect downstream properties, and boost local biodiversity. Early monitoring already shows more frogs, birds, and native plants thriving.

Watershed Resources Management remained a priority. We updated floodplain mapping and reviewed monitoring networks to better forecast floods, manage low water, and support permit decisions and planning recommendations. For Natural Heritage, we acquired 18.17 hectares of Fletcher Creek swamp forest to strengthen ecological corridors between Valens Lake Conservation Area and Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve.

HCA continued to modernize systems as an Organizational Excellence priority, to support transparency, sound decision-making, and public access to information. A new online Open Data Hub was launched, which expands public access to watershed maps and environmental data.

Under Connecting People to Nature, we launched the Basadinaa Experience in Dundas Valley Conservation Area, featuring 13 Indigenous-led interpretive signs along the Main Loop Trail. This project shares teachings from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River, bringing conservation, education, and reconciliation together.

At year's end, the province released a proposal for potential regional consolidation of conservation authorities. While we don't support the Province's approach, we are actively participating in the consultation process, providing informed feedback, and working constructively to identify alternatives that maintain effective watershed-based conservation and strong local governance. Throughout this work, we remain focused on our mandate and the services our communities rely on.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the dedication of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and partners. Their commitment and expertise continue to advance our mission and ensure that our watershed remains healthy, resilient, and protected for generations to come.

**Brad Clark**  
Chair



**Lisa Burnside**  
Chief Administrative Officer





HCA staff at Confederation Beach Park

# ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE



Focused on our organizational resources to ensure efficient and responsive operations are available to meet the needs of the future.



## Key Measures



**54%** of operating revenue was self-generated through park operations, fees, and other earned income, supporting financial resilience and reducing reliance on external funding.



**19** media releases contributed to **286** news stories, showing strong public and media interest in watershed protection and HCA initiatives.



HCA's website recorded more than **1.4 million** page views, demonstrating high public demand for information about conservation, recreation, and environmental stewardship.



Social media engagement included **131,089** engagements on Facebook, **13,732** on Instagram, **2,809** on X, and **13,286** on LinkedIn, extending HCA's reach across diverse audiences.



HCA circulated **48** e-newsletters to **27,920** subscribers, keeping residents, partners, and stakeholders informed and engaged throughout the year.



**HCA staff presenting at Conservation Areas Workshop**

## **PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES**

HCA focused on building a stronger organization to protect the watershed and serve our communities for the long term. Investments in people, technology, and partnerships supported financial sustainability, inclusive workplaces, and responsive services across the watershed. Together, these efforts support a skilled, informed, and resilient workforce prepared to respond to environmental challenges while serving the public with professionalism and care.

### **A resilient workforce delivering conservation results**

- Secured more than \$569,570 in grant funding to advance priority work across the watershed, including Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project, Natural Areas Inventory Project, Basadinaa Experience, environmental education, invasive species management, and trail maintenance.
- Strengthened our workplace culture through updated policies, focused training, and a renewed emphasis on inclusion and learning. The launch of HCA's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Framework confirmed our commitment to a respectful, inclusive, and innovative workplace where staff feel valued and able to contribute their skills.
- Supported staff with comprehensive training for readiness and safety across many roles, including first aid, field and operational safety, report writing, Indigenous learning, mental health awareness, communications, and media relations. Organization-wide learning in support of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation furthered HCA's ongoing journey toward reconciliation and helped deepen understanding, relationships, and respect with First Nations partners and communities.

### **Modern systems that improve transparency and decision making**

- Launched a new online Open Data Hub, which expanded public access to watershed maps and environmental data, including boundaries, stream networks, land cover, and elevation information. This platform supports planning, research, and collaboration.

- Refreshed HCA’s website with a modern, accessible design, clearer navigation, and updated photos and branding, making it easier for residents, partners, and visitors to find information about conservation areas, programs, and environmental initiatives.
- Improved corporate records and archives, including staff training, updated retention schedules, and better organization of archival records. This strengthened governance, improved access to information, and supported long-term stewardship of institutional knowledge.
- Expanded digital tools such as TreePlotter and field tablets across conservation areas and watershed management services, allowing staff to assess hazard trees and collect ecological data more efficiently and consistently. These tools improve the quality of data used to guide conservation and management decisions.



Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project

### Facilities and partnerships that extend our impact

- Invested in facilities, which improved both day-to-day operations and collaboration with partners. Improvements at HCA’s main office included new automated gates and lighting, a reconfigured parking lot and walking path, and interior renovations. This expanded workspace capacity and created more functional meeting areas.



Office renovations



HCA staff Truth and Reconciliation workshop

- Hosted local Members of Parliament at HCA conservation areas across the watershed, to highlight our role in land conservation, climate resilience, and public access to nature. These site visits helped build an understanding of HCA's impact and the importance of ongoing investment in watershed protection.
- Actively participated in Conservation Ontario forums and workshops, including the Latornell Conservation Symposium and Conservation Areas Workshop, enabling HCA to share expertise, contribute to sector-wide learning, and advance best practices across the province.
- Hosted 24 film productions at HCA conservation areas, generating self-sustaining revenue while showcasing the watershed's natural landscapes to wider audiences.



**New autogates**



**Basadinaa tree planting**




**Newly installed bridge**




Saltfleet Conservation Area


# WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT


 Focused on safeguarding the health of the watershed and protecting people and property from natural hazards.



## Key Measures

 **92** development permits were issued under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act. **85** permits, or **92%**, were issued within the legislated 90-day timeline.

 **33** watershed condition messages were issued, including Water Safety, Flood Outlook, and Flood Watch notices, along with Termination Messages to signal a return to normal conditions.

 These results reflect consistent, timely permitting and active watershed monitoring that supported public safety and kept municipalities and residents informed during changing weather and water conditions.



## Temperature logger installation

### PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

HCA strengthened our ability to protect people and property from flooding and other water-related risks. The focus was on building climate-resilient wetlands, improving data and mapping to support permit decisions and planning recommendations, and monitoring water quality to support a healthier watershed.

#### Building climate resilient wetlands and waterways

- Advanced the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project, where early monitoring is already showing encouraging signs of frogs and waterfowl using the new habitat. Construction of the second wetland was completed, and archaeological work for a third wetland moved forward, adding future flood storage and habitat that will help protect downstream communities. Long-term monitoring of these wetlands will help HCA track how they change over time and ensure the habitat remains healthy and resilient.
- Completed a Riparian Buffer Analysis, mapping and measuring vegetated areas along watercourses to identify where more trees and plants can improve water quality. As part of this work, the Building Better Buffers workshop brought landowners together on a restoration site to learn about the value of watercourse buffers, and 187 native plants were installed. These efforts support healthier creeks and are an important step toward improving conditions in Hamilton Harbour.

#### Improving data for flood safety and planning

- Updated HCA's Planning and Regulation Policies to reflect recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and to support HCA's new Shoreline Management Plan. This ensures that decisions about where and how development occurs better account for natural hazards and shoreline risks. The updates help keep people and property out of harm's way while supporting responsible growth.

- Completed a system review of HCA’s Water Resources Engineering Monitoring Network, covering rain gauges, streamflow gauges, reservoir water level gauges, and snow survey sites across the watershed. The review identified upgrades to increase the quantity and quality of data, expand the number of monitoring locations, and improve network reliability. This information supports flood forecasting and warning, low-water management, and dam operations at Christie Lake and Valens Lake Conservation Areas.
- Finalized new floodplain mapping, including public consultation, for Stoney Creek Numbered Watercourses, Battlefield and Stoney Creeks, and Redhill Creek. Work also began on mapping for Borer’s, Logie’s, and Sydenham Creeks, as well as watercourses within Dundas Valley. Up-to-date floodplain maps provide the detailed flood hazard information needed to support planning, permitting, and emergency preparedness.



Stream mapping

## Monitoring water quality and supporting Hamilton Harbour

- Continued to invest in watershed monitoring programs that track nutrients, sediment, and other factors that affect watershed health. Provincial water and groundwater quality monitoring was conducted at six surface water sites and six groundwater sites, producing long-term data sets that support trend analysis and adaptive restoration and management plans.
- Delivered monitoring in support of City of Hamilton projects and the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan, including E. coli. monitoring at multiple creek locations, erosion monitoring at several sites, and regular water quality monitoring at 11 creek sites flowing into Hamilton Harbour. This work supports shared goals to reduce pollution, improve habitat, and move closer to delisting Hamilton Harbour as an Area of Concern.



Building Better Buffers workshop



Christmas tree creek restoration

# NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION



Focused on the management and conservation of natural areas, which include the forests, wetlands, meadows, and watercourses within the watershed.



## Key Measures



Ecology teams conducted **1,343** plant surveys in support of master plans and recorded **53** bird species during these surveys.



Monitoring included **32** frog call survey stations with **7** frog species counted, **10** forest health plots, **28** fish monitoring sites, **24** benthic invertebrate sites, and **16** stream temperature sites.



Planting efforts through stewardship and ecology programs included **2,360** lbs of seed, **4,545** trees and shrubs, and **1,428** perennial plugs, supporting long-term habitat restoration across the watershed.

## PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

HCA protected more natural lands, restored key habitats, and strengthened the science needed to respond to climate and biodiversity pressures in the watershed. The focus was on securing priority lands, restoring forests and wetlands, managing invasive species, and working with partners, landowners, and students to care for local ecosystems.

### Protecting priority lands and contributing to 30x30

- Acquired 18.17 hectares of the Fletcher Creek swamp forest, protecting a significant wetland and strengthening the natural corridor between Valens Lake Conservation Area and Fletcher Creek Ecological Preserve. This addition helps maintain habitat in a sensitive part of the watershed.
- Created a new funding stream to support land acquisition priorities in HCA's Land Securement Strategy, directing 10% of annual membership pass sales to help protect more natural areas in future years.
- Contributed nearly 4,000 hectares of protected lands officially to Canada's 30x30 conservation target, reflecting decades of community-supported land acquisition, restoration, and stewardship.

### Restoring habitats and managing invasive species

- Continued restoration work on HCA owned and managed lands across the watershed. More than 3,000 trees were planted at Eramosa Karst Conservation Area in the first mechanical tree planting in many years. Additional tree and shrub plantings took place at multiple conservation areas and restoration sites, supporting healthier forests, wetlands, and stream corridors.
- Completed 26 projects with 18 landowners through HCA's stewardship program. These included native plant installations, low-impact development projects, litter clean-up, habitat feature installations, invasive species removals, temperature logger installations, bank stabilization events, and watercourse surveys.



**HCA staff and volunteer planting**

- Staff and partners worked on invasive species control at 32 sites, managing 13 different invasive species. Thousands of stems were removed, and tens of thousands of square metres were treated or brush cut to give native vegetation a better chance to recover. Boot brush stations were installed at popular trailheads to reduce the spread of invasive species.

### Supporting species at risk, landowners, and community partners

- Supported turtle conservation through hands-on projects at conservation areas. At Christie Lake Conservation Area, students from Mohawk College helped revitalize turtle nesting beds and build a new nesting area. At Valens Lake Conservation Area, 15 turtle nest protectors were installed over snapping turtle nests, and staff helped safely release more than 50 hatchlings into the lake.
- Installed nesting structures in support of Purple Martin colonies at Fifty Point and Saltfleet Conservation Areas in partnership with the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.



Fish sampling



FREED program workshop



HCA staff with Northern hogsucker

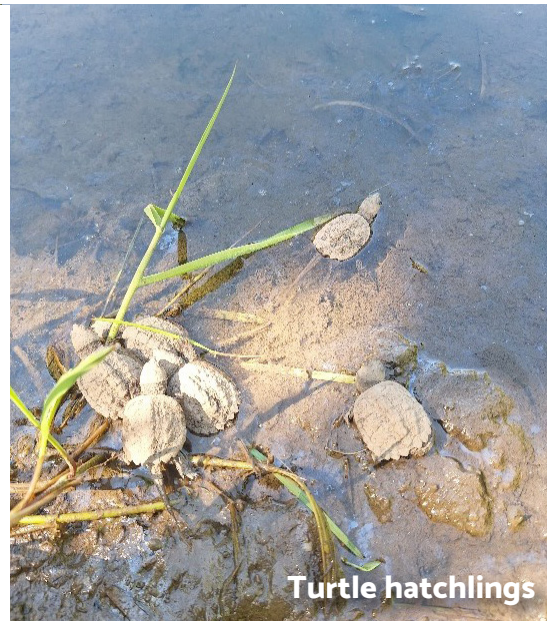
- Through the Hamilton Watershed Stewardship Program, HCA provided funding and technical support to 11 landowners, helping them complete projects that improve wildlife habitat and water quality on their properties. HCA also partnered with groups such as Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Nature@McMaster, City of Hamilton, and Royal Botanical Gardens on stream restoration and invasive species removal projects.

## Advancing monitoring and field learning

- Developed a comprehensive plan to better understand how climate change and other pressures are affecting the watershed, bringing together aquatic, terrestrial, and water quality monitoring programs. The plan links these programs to HCA's Climate Change Strategy, helping identify gaps, share data more easily, and guide future adaptation and mitigation actions.
- Hosted students and staff from several colleges and universities, offering field-based learning in restoration, monitoring, and ecological sampling. Activities included ecosystem restoration tours, electrofishing skills sharing, and hands-on workshops, such as the FREED program, which provides field experience to BIPOC students who may not otherwise have access to these opportunities.



Naturalized lawn



Turtle hatchlings



Tree and shrub planting



Fish seining workshop



Fifty Point Conservation Area

# CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE



Focused on the conservation of HCA lands and connecting communities to natural areas.



## Key Measures



HCA welcomed over **904,300** visitors to its conservation areas, **650,000** visitors to Confederation Beach Park, and **90,400** visitors to Wild Waterworks.



**10,411** HCA Membership Passes were sold, reflecting strong community interest in regular access to conservation areas.



Environmental and cultural heritage education programs at Dundas Valley and Westfield Heritage Village engaged **9,326** students from **305** classrooms, and over **201** program days.



HCA hosted **40** volunteer events with **567** volunteers contributing **1,465** hours, including clean-up efforts that removed more than **550** lbs of litter. Westfield volunteers contributed **10,176** hours of service, supporting events, programs, and site operations.

## PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

HCA conservation areas remained as popular destinations for visitors seeking recreation, learning, and connection to nature. HCA focused on making these experiences more inclusive, engaging, and accessible through investments in trails, facilities, and education programs that help visitors enjoy and care for the watershed.

### Creating meaningful, inclusive experiences

- Opened the Basadinaa Experience, a new Indigenous-led trail signage journey featuring 13 interpretive signs in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area. “Basadinaa,” meaning “in the valley” in Anishinaabemowin, shares teachings, stories, and perspectives from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River. Basadinaa is more than a trail; it is an invitation to experience the land through Indigenous knowledge and shared stories. The project launched during National Indigenous History Month and reflects HCA’s ongoing commitment to truth-telling, reconciliation, and building respectful relationships with First Nations partners and communities.
- Launched the Talking Forest trail app at several conservation areas, which uses GPS to trigger audio stories, images, and captions as visitors move along the trails. From wildlife and ecology to history and geology, the app turns each walk into an opportunity to learn.
- Offered inclusive and low-sensory programs, including mindfulness hikes in conservation areas. At Wild Waterworks, a Sensory Day was held in partnership with Autism Ontario, offering a quieter, calmer experience for visitors who benefit from reduced noise and stimulation.



The Basadinaa Experience

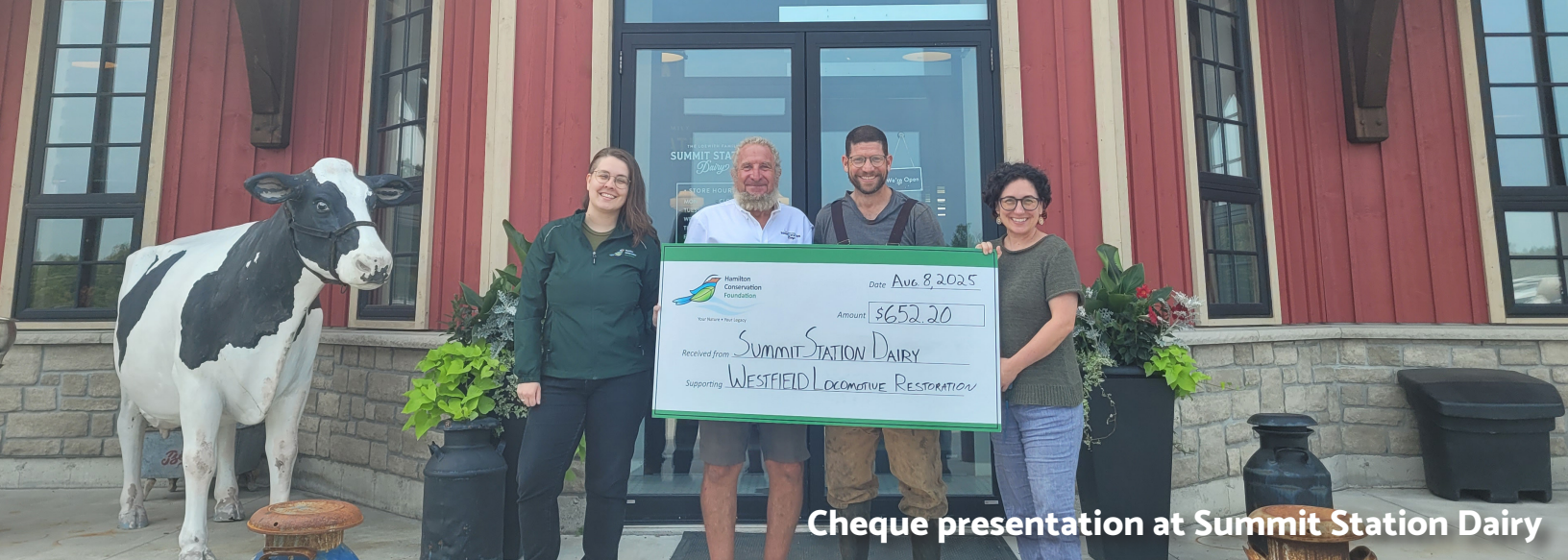
## Improving navigation, accessibility, and recreation

- Installed new trail map and wayfinding signage at Christie Lake, Crooks' Hollow, and Spencer Gorge Conservation Areas to help visitors easily navigate HCA trails. Trailhead welcome signs, clear maps, trail ratings, estimated hike times, and QR codes linking to online information all support better trip planning and informed choices on the trails.
- Invested in recreation infrastructure that supports safe, enjoyable outdoor experiences. This included expanding parking and trails at Saltfleet Conservation Area, road rehabilitation and rebuilding the accessible fishing platform at Fifty Point Conservation Area, and replacement of boardwalks and bridges on popular trails. Accessible parking was also expanded at Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area to better welcome visitors with mobility needs. HCA expanded boat rental offerings to include standup paddleboards at Christie Lake and Valens Lake, giving visitors another way to enjoy time on the water.

## Planning for future visitors and programs

- Completed several key planning documents to guide future visitor use and investments in conservation areas. HCA finalized and received Board approval for the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area Master Plan, the Chippewa Trail Management Plan, and the Tiffany Falls Conservation Area Visitor Use Management Plan. These plans will help balance recreation, conservation, and safety as demand for access to nature continues to grow.
- Delivered in-school programs that reached hundreds of local students following the cancellation of the Hamilton Children's Water Festival.
- Presented Watershed Steward Awards, recognizing landowners for leadership in caring for their properties and supporting local conservation.





Cheque presentation at Summit Station Dairy

## Message from Hamilton Conservation Foundation

**Two Partners, One Hamilton Conservation.** The Hamilton Conservation Foundation is proud to work alongside HCA to raise and steward charitable funds that protect the watershed’s natural spaces and cultural heritage. Our vision is simple: to be your Foundation of choice for investing in the future of conservation, environmental education, and heritage in the Hamilton watershed.

### 2025 at a Glance

Thanks to our generous community of supporters, the Foundation had a record-breaking fiscal year for 2024-2025, raising nearly \$1.16 million. From this, \$1.092 million was invested directly into key HCA projects that enhance conservation areas, programs, and visitor experiences throughout the watershed.

Donor support helped advance several impactful initiatives, including:

- Continued construction and progress of the Saltfleet Conservation Area Wetland Restoration Project.
- Hands-on learning opportunities for 4,623 local students through the Outdoor Environmental Education program.
- The Basadinaa Experience, a new Indigenous-led trail signage journey located in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.
- Capital improvements enhancing visitor experiences, such as the new accessible fishing platform at Fifty Point Conservation Area, as well as the new lookout tower that is currently under construction at Valens Lake Conservation Area.
- Supporting invasive species mapping across the City of Hamilton for the Natural Areas Inventory project, and early detection efforts for the Woolly Adelgid, which was recently identified in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.
- Native tree planting at the Eramosa Karst Conservation Area that builds on HCA’s invasive species management efforts completed earlier in the year and supports long-term restoration plans.

**Thank you.** This year’s achievements reflect the collective impact of our donors, volunteers, and community partners. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and commitment to preserving Hamilton’s natural spaces for future generations.



**Hamilton  
Conservation  
Authority**

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

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**HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Conservation Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**

**February 12, 2026**

Minutes of the Conservation Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., at the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area, 1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton.

**PRESENT:**                    **Wayne Terryberry – in the Chair**  
                                 **Craig Cassar**                    **Tyler Cunningham**  
                                 **Haley McRae**                    **Sherry O’Connor**  
                                 **Cortney Oliver**                    **Noah Stegman**

**REGRETS:** **Natalie Faught, Jamie Freeman, Elise Copps, Brad Clark – Ex-Officio,**  
**Susan Fielding – Ex-Officio**

**STAFF PRESENT:**            **Madolyn Armstrong, Rondalyn Brown, Lisa Burnside, Liam Fletcher, Christina Jager, Ben Laing, Peter Lloyd, Lesley McDonell, Bryson McEwen, Scott Peck, Jaime Tellier, Claire Webber 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.

**CA2601                    MOVED BY: Noah Stegman**

**SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**4. Delegations**

There were none.

**5. Election of the Vice Chair**

Wayne Terryberry called for nominations for the 2026 Vice-Chair for the Conservation Advisory Board.

**Nominated: Sherry O'Connor**  
**By – Mover: Noah Stegman**

The Chair called for nominations twice more. Having no further nominations, Sherry O'Connor was asked if she accept the nomination. The election for the office of Vice Chair of the Conservation Advisory Board for 2026 was then closed and the position acclaimed with the following resolution.

**CA 2502**                    **MOVED BY: Tyler Cunningham**  
**SECONDED BY: Noah Stegman**

**THAT nominations for the 2026 Vice-Chair be closed and Sherry O'Connor be confirmed as Vice-Chair for Conservation Advisory Board for 2026.**

**CARRIED**

**6. Member Briefing**

There was none.

**7. Chairman's Report on Board of Directors Actions**

Wayne Terryberry reported that the following item was approved at the Board of Directors' Meeting held on February 5, 2026

CA 2531 Ecological and Water Resources monitoring Comprehensive

## 8. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

### 8.1. Minutes – Conservation Advisory Board (December 11, 2025)

CA 2603

**MOVED BY: Tyler Cunningham  
SECONDED BY: Sherry O'Connor**

**THAT the minutes of the December 11, 2025, Conservation Advisory Board meeting be approved.**

**CARRIED**

## 9. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

## 10. Staff Reports/Memorandums

### Reports to be Approved

#### 10.1. Volunteer Program Business Plan

Claire Webber provided an overview of the staff report, indicating the goal of the plan is to connect people to nature through volunteering at the Hamilton Conservation Authority. The business plan of the program was reviewed. Members provided additional insights/suggestions that could assist with the specifics of the program.

CA 2604

**MOVED BY: Tyler Cunningham  
SECONDED BY: Haley McRae**

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

**THAT the HCA Volunteer Business Plan be approved as presented**

**CARRIED**

#### 10.2. 2025 Westfield Artifact Accessions and Deaccessions

Peter Lloyd provided an overview of the staff report highlighting that there were items to be added to the artifact collection as well as those that were slated for removal. The

criteria for both accessioning and deaccessioning was reviewed; an object from each category was shown to members.

**CA 2605**                    **MOVED BY: Cortney Oliver**  
**SECONDED BY: Haley McRae**

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

**THAT the Westfield 2025 Artifact Accessions and Deaccessions List be accepted as the artifacts to be added to the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area and the Hamilton Conservation Authority collection of artifacts to be removed from the WHVCA and HCA collection.**

**CARRIED**

10.3 Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management Plan

Ben Laing and Bryson McEwen provided an overview of the staff report highlighting the impact that the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on the Hemlock trees would have within the watershed and in particular, the Dundas Valley, where there are an estimated 20,000 Hemlock trees. The plan proposes a strategy to help manage the invasive species in riparian areas which will not only help to protect the trees but the ecosystems in which the trees help support.

Following discussion, the original staff recommendation was revised through a friendly amendment.

**CA 2606**                    **MOVED BY: Craig Cassar**  
**SECONDED BY: Cortney Oliver**

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

**THAT the *Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management Plan (January 2026)* be adopted; and further**

**THAT the management plan's recommended strategy, Strategy 5 – Protect Trees in Riparian Areas, be implemented;**

**THAT staff undertake further review on other HCA lands;**

**THAT staff undertake outreach to Biodiversity Action Plan partners for possible collaborative approaches to support regional management and funding;**

**THAT staff undertake further review on the scale of management approaches if additional funds were available;**

**THAT staff report back to Conservation Advisory Board on these items at a future meeting.**

**CARRIED**

Reports to be Received

10.4 Dundas Valley Study Area Master and Management Plans – Project Overview

Madolyn Armstrong provided a summary of the staff report, highlighting the conservation areas that will encompass the Master and Management Plans and the timing of the process. In response to a question by Noah Stegman, staff will review the Shaver Falls property with respect to which management/master plan the property would be best associated.

**CA 2607**

**MOVED BY: Haley McRae  
SECONDED BY: Noah Stegman**

**THAT the Memorandum entitled Dundas Valley Study Area Master and Management Plans – Project Overview be received.**

**CARRIED**

**11. New Business**

There was none.

**12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., at the HCA Main Administration Office – Woodend Auditorium.

**13. Adjournment**

On motion, the meeting was adjourned.

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**Report to:** Conservation Advisory Board

**Approved for Circulation By:** Lisa Burnside, CAO

**Reviewed By:** Gord Costie, Director, Conservation Area Services (CAS)  
Brandon Good, Senior Manager, CAS

**Prepared By:** Rondalyn Brown, Manager, Westfield Heritage Village  
Conservation Area (WHVCA)  
Peter Lloyd, Collections Officer, WHVCA

**Meeting Date:** April 9, 2026

**Subject:** 2026 Westfield Artifact Special Accession

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**Recommendation:**

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

**THAT the 1929 Model A Ford be accepted as an artifact into the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area and the Hamilton Conservation Authority artifact collection.**

**Executive Summary:**

Westfield Heritage Village (WHV) is a living history museum dedicated to the collection and presentation of artifacts representing Southern Ontario from 1790–1925. WHV maintains a collection of more than 25,000 artifacts and adheres to current professional museum standards in the acquisition, preservation, documentation, and use of its collection.

This report seeks approval to accept the donation of a 1929 Model A Ford into the WHV artifact collection. The vehicle aligns with the site's interpretive period and has been assessed by HCA's Fleet Coordinator/Lead Mechanic, who has determined it to be in very good condition.

The proposed acquisition presents no purchase cost, with the donation requiring issuance of a tax receipt. Initial maintenance, safety certification, licensing, and administrative requirements, are estimated at approximately \$1,100. Ongoing annual costs are approximately \$100 for general maintenance and \$300 for insurance.

### **Staff Comment / Discussion:**

Westfield Heritage Village (WHV) has been offered a 1929 Model A sedan as a donation, with the donor requesting a tax receipt in exchange for transfer of ownership. The vehicle aligns with the site's interpretive period and was restored to running condition, having been operated within the past several years prior to being stored in a heated workshop. Based on its condition and relevance, WHV staff recommend its acquisition into the collection.

The addition of this vehicle represents a low-cost opportunity to enhance visitor experience, expand outreach, and support revenue generation. It will contribute to the authenticity of on-site programming and can be integrated into regular Sunday operations and special events. The vehicle supports revenue opportunities through weddings, photography, and film rentals, which align with existing site revenue strategies.

The vehicle has been assessed by HCA's Fleet Coordinator and Lead Mechanic, Jim Reeve, and has been determined to be in very good condition, requiring minimal effort to return it to roadworthy condition. Mechanical certification can be completed internally, and insurance can be secured through HCA's existing framework or through a specialty vintage vehicle provider at a modest annual cost.

The proposed acquisition is consistent with WHV's adherence to established collections management practices and provincial museum standards, ensuring that artifacts are acquired, maintained, and utilized in a professional and responsible manner.

Overall, the operational requirements to restore the vehicle are straightforward and manageable within existing resources. The acquisition of the vehicle supports program and interpretive initiatives as well as financial benefit.

### **Strategic Plan Linkage:**

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

**Agency Comments:**

N/A

**Legal / Financial Implications:**

HCA would assume liability and responsibility for the appropriate and professional management of the artifact as part of the Westfield Heritage Village collection.

Acquisition Costs	None, donation requiring tax-receipt
Restoration Costs	Initial costs for maintenance and safety certification are estimated at \$1000.00.
Initial Costs	One time license plate costs and administrative costs are estimated at \$100.00
Recurring Costs	Annual costs include general maintenance estimated at \$100.00 per year and vehicle insurance estimated at \$300.00 per year.

All costs will be allocated to the Westfield Heritage Village Conservation Area operating budget and through support from The Friends of Westfield.

**Related Reports and Appendices:**

- Photo of the 1929 Model A Ford

# 1929 Model A Ford

Model A



MODEL A