

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, October 16, 2020

Meeting to be Held Electronically

MEMBERS

K. (Karen) Ras (Chair)
T. (Tom) Adams (Vice Chair)
J. (John) Brennan
S. (Stephen) Dasko
J. (Johanna) Downey
A. (Ann) Lawlor
M. (Matt) Mahoney
M. (Martin) Medeiros
M. (Michael) Palleschi
G. (Grant) Peters
R. (Ron) Starr
J. (John) Stirk

Pages

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as distributed.

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the 550th meeting of Credit Valley Conservation Authority held September 11, 2020 be approved.

4. PRESENTATION / DELEGATION

4.1. PRESENTATION: HERITAGE HEIGHTS - LET'S GET IT RIGHT

Anand Balram of the City of Brampton will give a presentation to members entitled "Heritage Heights - Let's Get it Right". .

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the presentation entitled "Heritage Heights - Let's Get it Right" from Anand Balram of the City of Brampton be received.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6. NEW BUSINESS STAFF REPORTS

6.1. DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO SHORELINES & WATERCOURSE APPLICATIONS

8

Attached as Schedule 'A' are Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse applications, pursuant to Ontario Regulation 160/06, as approved by staff and presented for members' information.

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse applications, pursuant to Ontario Regulation 160/06, as approved by staff, be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'A'; and further

THAT the staff approvals for each be endorsed.

6.2. GTA WEST TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR UPDATE

24

A report on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Josh Campbell, Director, Planning and Development Services is included in the agenda package as Schedule 'B'.

Recommended Resolution:

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Transportation initiated Stage 1 of the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment in 2008, and in 2018 announced it would no longer be proceeding with the project based on recommendations from the GTA West Transportation Corridor Advisory Panel; and

WHEREAS in June 2019 the province reversed its decision to halt the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment and to proceed with Stages 2 and 3; and

WHEREAS the province has recently proposed to amend regulations associated with the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Assessment Act to streamline process, cut red tape and improve efficiencies for approvals; and

WHEREAS MTO released a bulletin in August 2020 identifying the preferred route for the GTA West Transportation Corridor; and

WHEREAS over 400 municipalities across Ontario have declared a climate change emergency, including the majority of those within CVC's jurisdiction;

and

WHEREAS CVC has a long and successful history in partnering with agencies and stakeholders to study and protect water resources, natural systems and public health and safety as it relates to natural hazards – including considerations to respond to the impacts of a changing climate; and

WHEREAS the province states the proposed GTA West highway will benefit the region from a growth management and goods/people movement perspective, it still must be demonstrated that the negative impacts to human health and the environment do not outweigh those benefits; and

WHEREAS a basic strategy necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emission, a leading cause of the acceleration of the impacts of a changing climate, is to carefully consider shifting traditional transportation modes to more sustainable modes of transportation and undertake more comprehensive and integrated approaches to regional infrastructure planning; and

WHEREAS the proposed GTA West highway crosses the Credit River and portions of CVC's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS CVC staff continue to review and comment on the technical aspects of the Environmental Assessment associated with the GTA West highway to ensure CVC's policy and program interests are addressed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled "GTA West Transportation Corridor Update" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'B'; and

THAT the MTO commit to providing the technical reports in support of the environmental assessment and preferred route selection for public/agency review for comment, prior to detail design stage and/or construction of any major infrastructure associated with this project (e.g. bridges, interchanges etc.) – including revising the environmental assessment to address any concerns expressed by the public/agencies as appropriate; and

THAT the Board of Directors requests the MTO to commit to the use of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, mitigate and offset [compensate]) to address negative impacts of the proposed GTA West highway on natural heritage systems, water resources systems and public health through the environmental assessment process; and

THAT the Board of Directors encourages the MTO to provide for existing and proposed trails or recreation facilities (such as the Credit Valley Trail) in designing infrastructure (e.g. bridges etc.) through the Environmental Assessment for the proposed GTA West highway – in particular, at the location where the highway is proposed to cross the Credit River; and

THAT the Board of Directors requests the MTO to commit to address CVC's regulatory and policy interests, including representing the provincial interest on

natural hazards, and implemented through detail design as approved through the environmental assessment; and

THAT *in an effort to further reduce red tape and streamline process, as well as improve transparency and predictability, the Board of Directors requests the MTO to engage with CVC staff through a Service Level Agreement (or similar agreement) to follow a voluntary review and permitting process for the detail design and implementation phases of the GTA West Transportation Corridor project; and further*

THAT *a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, member municipalities, adjacent conservation authorities and MPPs along the GTA West Transportation Corridor.*

6.3. 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

32

A report on the above on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Tamara Chipperfield, Corporate Secretariat is included in the agenda package as Schedule 'C'.

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT *the report entitled “2021 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule” be received and appended as Schedule ‘C’ to the minutes of this meeting; and further*

THAT *the 2021 schedule of Board of Directors meetings contained in Schedule ‘C’, Appendix 1 be approved.*

6.4. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CVC EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS COMMITTEE

35

A report on the above on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Marlene Ferreira, Sr. Manager, Human Resources is included in the agenda package as Schedule 'D'.

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT *the report entitled “Appointment of Members of the Board to Participate in the 2020 Recognition Awards Committee” be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule D’; and*

THAT *an awards committee be struck to review the 2020 Employee Recognition Awards nominations; and further*

THAT *the following members serve on this committee in 2020:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

6.5. **AMENDMENT TO CVC ADMINISTRATIVE BY-LAWS TO ENABLE ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION**

A report on the above on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Tamara Chipperfield, Corporate Secretariat is included in the agenda package as Schedule 'E'.

Recommended Resolution:

WHEREAS the Direction provided by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has given conservation authorities the ability to amend their administrative by-laws to allow for virtual meetings, including by teleconference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled, "Amendment to the CVC Administrative By-laws to Enable Electronic Participation" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'E'; and

THAT the Credit Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve amendments to Section C "Meeting Procedures" of The Credit Valley Conservation Administrative By-law to enable electronic participation; and further

THAT the Credit Valley Conservation Board of Directors direct staff to post the amended Administrative By-law on the CVC website.

6.6. **BUSINESS CONTINUITY ANALYSIS #6 DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

A report on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Jeff Payne, Deputy CAO and Director, Corporate Services; and Deborah Martin-Downs, CAO is included in the agenda package as Schedule 'F'.

Recommended Resolution:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in office and parks closures and cessation of some of the authority activities; and

WHEREAS some of the revenue streams and staff associated with those ceased functions have been impacted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled "Business Continuity Analysis #6 Due To COVID-19 Pandemic" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'F'; and further

THAT an updated business continuity report be provided to the Board at their monthly meetings for the duration of the pandemic and recovery period.

6.7. **HUNGRY HOLLOW SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (SNAP)**

A report on the above on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Melissa Williams, Sr. Coordinator, Sustainable Neighbourhoods; Andrew Kett, Sr.

Manager, Education and Outreach; and Jeff Payne, Deputy CAO and Director, Corporate Services is included in the agenda package as Schedule 'G'.

Recommended Resolution:

WHEREAS SNAP is an effective model for engaging municipal partners and the community in urban renewal and climate action; and

WHEREAS the Hungry Hollow neighbourhood is a mature, urban neighbourhood in the Credit River watershed; and

WHEREAS Hungry Hollow SNAP is a collaborative, action-oriented plan for a clean, green, climate change-ready neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS the CVC Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-2022, approved by the CVC Board calls for staff to plan for an environmentally sustainable future through neighbourhood plans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'G'; and

THAT the Board of Directors endorses the Hungry Hollow SNAP Final Report; and

THAT staff proceed to seek endorsement of the Hungry Hollow SNAP Final Report from Town of Halton Hills Council; and

THAT staff finalize the Hungry Hollow SNAP Final Report for distribution; and further

THAT staff work with Town of Halton Hills staff and other stakeholders to align existing programs and resources and future budget with the action plan.

6.8. 2021 BUDGET ENDORSEMENT

129

A report on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Jeff Payne, Deputy CAO and Director, Corporate Services is included in the agenda package as Schedule 'H'.

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the report entitled, "2021 Budget Endorsement" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'H'; and further

THAT the preliminary 2021 budget outlined in the report be endorsed by the CVC Board of Directors for presentation to funding partners;

THAT staff discuss with key funding partners the need for sustainable capital to support infrastructure needs resulting from continued growth in the CVC Watershed; and

THAT staff continue to seek alternative funding sources to address capital

needs.

7. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS

7.1. CONSERVATION ONTARIO COUNCIL E-BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2020

146

Conservation Ontario Council E-Bulletin, September 2020, Volume 76.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

9. QUESTION PERIOD

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. RESOLUTION TO MOVE TO 'IN-CAMERA' SESSION

Recommended Resolution:

RESOLVED THAT the Board move to 'In-Camera' session to discuss personnel matters.

11.1. 2020 MARKET COMPENSATION AND PAY EQUITY REVIEW RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Included in the agenda package is a confidential 'In-Camera' report on the above mentioned subject as submitted by Marlene Ferreira, Sr. Manager, Human Resources; and Jeff Payne, Deputy CAO and Director, Corporate Services.

12. RESOLUTION TO MOVE TO OPEN SESSION

13. RESOLUTION FOLLOWING 'IN-CAMERA' SESSION

14. MEETING ADJOURNED

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
 SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
 DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

A) APPLICATION # 20/075 REVISED

OWNER: Branthaven Queen West Inc.

AGENT:

PROPERTY LOCATION: 1817 and 1831 Queen Street West
 Part of Lot 5, Concession 4 WHS
 City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a temporary sales office.

WARD: B 4

B) APPLICATION # 20/217

OWNER:

AGENT:

PROPERTY LOCATION: 57 Heatherglen Drive
 Part Lot 5, Concession 3 WHS
 City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a basement second unit and below grade entrance.

WARD: B 4

DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)

C) APPLICATION # 20/218

OWNER:

AGENT: Empire Design Company

PROPERTY LOCATION: 8406 Creditview Road
Part Lot 3, Concession 3 WHS
City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of the construction of a single-family dwelling, patio and site grading.

WARD: B 4

D) APPLICATION #: 20/229

OWNER:

AGENT: Out of the Box Engineering Inc.

PROPERTY LOCATION: 52 Malaspina Close
Part Lot 1, Concession 5 WHS
City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a deck and stairs.

WARD: B 6

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

E) APPLICATION #: 20/231

OWNER:

AGENT: Laxman Patel Architect

LOCATION: 54 Hanbury Crescent
Part Lot 7, Concession 3 WHS
City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a deck and stairs.

WARD: B 5

F) APPLICATION #: 20/234

OWNER:

AGENT: Jaura Design Studio Inc.

LOCATION: 10 Solidarity Court
Part Lot 1, Concession 3 WHS
City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a below grade entrance for a basement second unit.

WARD: B 4

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

G) APPLICATION #: 20/235

OWNER:

AGENT: Canarch Solution Inc.

LOCATION: 19 Neopolitan Road
Part Lot 14, Concession 3 WHS
City of Brampton (Toronto Township)

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a below-grade entrance for a second dwelling unit.

WARD: B 6

H) APPLICATION #: 20/251

OWNER: Ashley Family Homes Limited

AGENT: Skira & Associates Ltd.

LOCATION: 8911 Heritage Road
Part of Lot 5, Concession 3 WHS
City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for road construction and associated grading and servicing to facilitate a residential subdivision.

WARD: B 6

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

I) APPLICATION #: 20/207
OWNER:
AGENT: Alegre Engineering Corporation
LOCATION: 17196 Old Main Street
Part of Lots 9 and 10, Concession 5 WHS
Town of Caledon
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a detached garage (20' x 18') and front porch (10'
x 9').
WARD: C 1

J) APPLICATION #: 20/210
OWNER: Poltawa Country Club
AGENT:
LOCATION: 49 Baturyn Road
Part of Lot 28, Concession 5 WHS
Town of Caledon
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a detached garage (approx. 952 ft²) and driveway
extension.
WARD: C 2

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

K) APPLICATION #: 20/225
OWNER:
AGENT:
LOCATION: 222 King Street
Part Lot 27, Concession 6 WHS
Town of Caledon
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a 12'11" x 11'10" basement and first floor addition.
WARD: C 2

L) APPLICATION #: 20/248
OWNER: Region of Peel
AGENT: HDR Inc.
LOCATION: Mississauga Road over Credit River
Part Lot 28, Concession 5 WHS
Town of Caledon
APPLICATION: Development in a Regulated Area to facilitate bridge
rehabilitation works.
WARD: C 2

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

M) APPLICATION #: 20/253
OWNER:
AGENT: New Stone Landscaping
LOCATION: 37 Rayburn Meadows
Part Lot 1, Concession A
Town of East Garafraxa
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing an inground swimming pool, patio, pavilion, and
pergola.
WARD: N/A

N) APPLICATION #: 20/178
OWNER:
AGENT: GHD Ltd.
LOCATION: 5746 Trafalgar Road
Part Lots 21 and 22, Concession 7
Town of Erin
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
reconstructing a driveway and replacing two culverts.
WARD: N/A

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

O) APPLICATION #: 20/236
OWNER:
AGENT: Jameson Pools
LOCATION: 27 Grist Mill Drive
Part Lot 16, Concession 8
Town of Halton Hills
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a 4m x 7m inground swimming pool, patio and
pool equipment.
WARD: H 3

P) APPLICATION #: 20/238
OWNER:
AGENT: Solda Pools
LOCATION: 138 Arborglen Drive
Part Lots 16 and 17, Concession 8
Town of Halton Hills
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a 4.87m x 9.75m inground swimming pool,
retaining wall, patio, and cabana.
WARD: H 3

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

Q) APPLICATION #: 20/243

OWNER:

AGENT: Jameson Pools

LOCATION: 90 Foxtail Court
Part Lot 14, Concession 9
Town of Halton Hills

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of constructing a 4.5m x 9m inground swimming pool, patio and pool equipment.

WARD: H 4

R) APPLICATION #: 20/161

OWNER: Region of Peel

AGENT:

LOCATION: Miraya Court
Part of Lot 6, Range 2 NDS
City of Mississauga

APPLICATION: Development in a Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a new watermain.

WARD: M 6

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
 SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
 DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

S) APPLICATION #: 20/193

OWNER: Consulate Management Ltd.

AGENT: C.F. Crozier & Associates

LOCATION: 2020-2046 Camilla Road
 Part Lots 14 and 15, Concession 1 SDS
 City of Mississauga

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for earthworks to facilitate a residential site plan.

WARD: M 7

T) APPLICATION #: 20/226

OWNER:

AGENT: Strickland Mateljan Design Architecture

LOCATION: 1155 Willow Lane
 Part Lot 11, Concession 3 WHS
 City of Mississauga

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate the reconstruction of the existing one storey addition to the house with new covered porches (front, side, rear), rear deck, detached garage, and shed.

WARD: M 11

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

U) APPLICATION #: 20/233
OWNER: Kaneff Properties
AGENT: Kaneff Properties
LOCATION: 202-204 Burnhamthorpe Road East
Part Lot 14, Concession 1 NDS
City of Mississauga
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of two residential towers, associated access roads, parking areas, pool, amenity space, landscaping and grading.
WARD: M 4

V) APPLICATION #: 20/247
OWNER:
AGENT: Complete Home Construction
LOCATION: 34 George Robinson Drive
Part Lot 5, Concession 3 WHS
City of Brampton
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a rear yard sunroom addition.
WARD: B 4

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

W) APPLICATION #: 20/254

OWNER:

AGENT: Alfa Engineering Solutions

LOCATION: 71 Woodvalley Drive
Part Lot 13, Concession 2 WHS
City of Brampton

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a below-grade entrance for a second dwelling unit.

WARD: B 6

X) APPLICATION #: 20/260

OWNER: 1266952 Ontario Ltd.

AGENT: Northridge Homes Ltd.

LOCATION: 471045 A Line
Part of Lot 1, Concession B
Township of East Garafraxa

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate the grading and construction for subdivision T 14/002.

WARD: N/A

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

Y) APPLICATION #: 20/262
OWNER:
AGENT: Halton Pool Guys Inc.
LOCATION: 540 Main Street
Part Lot 21, Concession 10
Town of Halton Hills
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a 13'1" x 34'4" inground swimming pool and 4'
concrete surrounding patio.
WARD: H 2

Z) APPLICATION #: 20/263
OWNER:
AGENT: Halton Pool Guys Inc.
LOCATION: 163 Upper Canada Court
Part Lot 12, Concession 11
Town of Halton Hills
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a 12'6" x 26' inground swimming pool and 3' paver
stone patio.
WARD: H 2

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

AA) APPLICATION #: 20/245
OWNER:
AGENT: Gus Ricci Architect
LOCATION: 1115 Algonquin Drive
Part of Lots 23 & 24, Concession 2 SDS
City of Mississauga
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of constructing the new two-storey dwelling, covered porch, armourstone retaining wall, shed, and associated grading works.
WARD: M 2

BB) APPLICATION #: 20/250
OWNER:
AGENT: David Small Designs
LOCATION: 2064 Dickson Road
Part Lot 4, Range 3 CIR
City of Mississauga
APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of a proposed 1-storey addition, uncovered porch, cabana, in-ground pool, paver stone terrace and retaining wall.
WARD: M 7

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

CC) APPLICATION #: 20/256

OWNER:

AGENT:

LOCATION: 3276 Rhonda Valley
Part Lot 14, Concession 1 NDS
City of Mississauga

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area to facilitate construction of an in-ground pool, pool concrete surround, and concrete pad for pool equipment.

WARD: M 4

DD) APPLICATION #: 20/259

OWNER:

AGENT:

LOCATION: 1980 Lushes Avenue
Part Lot 30, Concession 3 SDS
City of Mississauga

APPLICATION: Development in the floodplain of Sheridan Creek for the purpose of constructing a two-storey dwelling, three car detached garage and two sheds.

WARD: M 2

**DEVELOPMENT, INTERFERENCE WITH WETLANDS, AND ALTERATIONS TO
SHORELINES & WATERCOURSES APPLICATIONS (STAFF APPROVED, FOR BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' ENDORSEMENT)**

EE) APPLICATION #: 20/268

OWNER: Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 82

AGENT: Michael Spaziani Architect Inc.

LOCATION: 35 Front Street North
Part Lot 7, Range 1 CIR
City of Mississauga

APPLICATION: Development in the Regulated Area for the purpose of
constructing a deck and shed.

WARD: M 1

TO: The Chair and Members
of the Board of Directors,
Credit Valley Conservation

SUBJECT: **GTA WEST TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR UPDATE**

PURPOSE: **To report back to the Board of Directors of CVC on the status of the GTA West Transportation Corridor with information related to potential environmental impacts, and local municipal and adjacent Conservation Authority related activities.**

BACKGROUND:

At the Board of Directors of CVC (the 'Board') meeting held on September 11, 2020 an information item in the form of a briefing note was provided from CVC staff titled 'GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment', dated September 4, 2020. The briefing note provided background and the status of the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment (GTA West EA), a review of the proposed regulatory changes to the GTA West EA process, as well as an update on CVC staff's technical review, comments, and anticipated next steps.

As highlighted in the briefing note, the province posted a bulletin in August 2020 identifying the 'preferred route' for the GTA West highway (Highway 413) - illustrating the location, timeline and focused area analysis for the GTA West EA (see attached as Schedule 'B', Appendix 1). At that time, CVC staff had yet to receive the submission of technical studies and reports for review and comment – and currently continues to await receipt.

Through Board Resolution #79/20, the item (briefing note) was received and local municipalities were invited to present their perspectives on the GTA West EA at subsequent Board meetings, to inform the Board should they proceed with formalizing a position on the GTA West highway. To assist, in the analysis section of this report CVC staff have summarized municipal/adjacent CA positions on the matter– where one exists. Within CVC's jurisdiction, the municipalities most directly impacted by the corridor location include Halton Region, Halton Hills, Peel Region, Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. Adjacent affected conservation authorities (CAs) include Conservation Halton (CH) and Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA).

ANALYSIS:

Overall, there are varying opinions/positions from member municipalities and adjacent CAs regarding the proposed GTA West highway in CVC's jurisdiction.

Municipalities

In general, Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills oppose more investment by the province in the GTA West EA - as both have declared climate change emergencies and a new highway would support a large investment in an unsustainable mode of transportation.

The Region of Peel, City of Brampton and Town of Caledon each do not oppose the GTA West EA - as they state it facilitates good growth planning and assists in meeting anticipated future needs for movement of people and goods, subject to ensuring environmentally sustainable design and assessment of impacts on public health.

While the City of Mississauga has not stated an overall position on the principle of building the new highway, concern has been expressed related to the proposed GTA West corridor location. In particular, the corridor's impacts on future employment lands development, parkland and a designated heritage property within city boundaries.

Adjacent Conservation Authorities

It is understood that Conservation Halton Board of Directors has not taken a position on the GTA West EA, as only a very small portion of the corridor is within their jurisdiction and is outside of any significant natural heritage features or areas, and lands containing natural hazards. Toronto and Region Conservation continues to coordinate with the province, as TRCA staff anticipated the preferred GTA West corridor route may have impacts to natural heritage systems and lands containing natural hazards within the Humber River and Etobicoke Creek watersheds – including to lands owned by TRCA.

Key Potential Environmental Impacts for Consideration

Many municipalities across Ontario have declared a climate change emergency in light of the accelerating impacts of the changing climate on natural systems and human health. Within CVC's jurisdiction, several municipalities have done this including Halton and Peel Regions (and all member municipalities), as well as the County of Wellington.

Some key potential environmental impacts of the proposed GTA West highway to consider as it relates to CVC's mandate/responsibilities include:

- Increased air and water pollution from gas emissions and contaminants (e.g. road salt, etc.) on the health and well-being of residents and the environment;
- Increased emissions of greenhouse gases from vehicles and the potential acceleration of impacts from a changing climate;
- Consumption of non-renewable resources such as gravel and other aggregates needed to facilitate the construction of a new highway facility;
- Impacts to, or loss of, natural heritage systems – including the fragmentation of natural features, areas, and their natural functions;
- Potential impacts to agricultural lands such as loss or fragmentation of fields; and

- Potential impacts to natural hazards such as flooding and erosion from unsustainable water management practices (e.g. untreated/managed runoff) and under-designed/under-mitigated watercourse/valley crossings.

Other Considerations

While it is important to consider the potential environmental impacts of the proposed GTA West highway on the environment, it is important to recognize the potential socio-economic benefits as well. The province has recently stated the GTA West highway is a vital undertaking in support of providing the transportation infrastructure to meet future population and economic growth – consistent with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Some of the stated key socio-economic benefits of constructing the proposed highway include:

- Alleviating traffic congestion and improve commuting times;
- Enhancing the movement of goods and people;
- Improving connectivity between urban growth centres;
- Supporting transit by including separate transit and transit station infrastructure; and
- Providing opportunities to integrate transportation and utility corridors to reduce infrastructure footprint and fragmentation of lands.

Review of CVC's Key Areas of Interest for Consideration

CVC staff's stated key areas of interest with the preferred route generally remain the same as previously provided to the Board for information. It is anticipated the forthcoming submission of technical reports in support of MTO's preferred option will address many of these high-level concerns, including:

- The avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and/or offsetting (compensating) of/for negative impacts to the natural heritage system (NHS) - including consideration for the fragmentation of natural features such as valleylands, watercourses, wetlands, woodlands, headwater drainage features and wildlife habitat;
- A commitment to ensure an appropriate level of protection, restoration and/or enhancement of the natural heritage system – in particular, where impacts are unavoidable/non-mitigatable and offsetting (or compensation) is needed;
- Considerations for incorporating trails and/or recreation facilities into the design – in particular, the Credit Valley Trail at the proposed Credit River crossing;
- Assurances that CVC's regulatory and policy interests, as well as responsibilities to represent the provincial interest on natural hazards (flooding, erosion), are addressed in the EA and implemented through subsequent processes; and
 A commitment from MTO to provide timely and comprehensive technical reports in support of the selected routes.

CVC staff continue to coordinate with municipal and TRCA staff to engage with MTO regarding the above issues – however, we continue to await receipt of MTO's submission of technical reports for review.

Additional Key Message for Consideration

In addition to the above, an additional key message for consideration includes requesting MTO to engage with the CA's through Service Level Agreements (or a similar agreement). Such an agreement would follow a voluntary review and permitting process, as Crown Agencies such as MTO are currently exempt from requiring permits from CAs. Following this voluntary process would assist to improving transparency and predictability (e.g. fees, performance measures, review timelines etc.) - resulting in a more efficient and expeditious process. It continues to be unclear if the Province's proposed regulatory changes to the GTA West EA process would support this type of approach.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

There are no communications implications for this project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no financial impact to CVC for this project.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Transportation initiated Stage 1 of the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment in 2008, and in 2018 announced it would no longer be proceeding with the project based on recommendations from the GTA West Transportation Corridor Advisory Panel; and

WHEREAS in June 2019 the province reversed its decision to halt the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment and to proceed with Stages 2 and 3; and

WHEREAS the province has recently proposed to amend regulations associated with the GTA West Transportation Corridor Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Assessment Act to streamline process, cut red tape and improve efficiencies for approvals; and

WHEREAS MTO released a bulletin in August 2020 identifying the preferred route for the GTA West Transportation Corridor; and

WHEREAS over 400 municipalities across Ontario have declared a climate change emergency, including the majority of those within CVC's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS CVC has a long and successful history in partnering with agencies and stakeholders to study and protect water resources, natural systems and public health and safety as it relates to natural hazards – including considerations to respond to the impacts of a changing climate; and

SCHEDULE 'B'
PAGE -5-
2020-10-16

WHEREAS the province states the proposed GTA West highway will benefit the region from a growth management and goods/people movement perspective, it still must be demonstrated that the negative impacts to human health and the environment do not outweigh those benefits; and

WHEREAS a basic strategy necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emission, a leading cause of the acceleration of the impacts of a changing climate, is to carefully consider shifting traditional transportation modes to more sustainable modes of transportation and undertake more comprehensive and integrated approaches to regional infrastructure planning; and

WHEREAS the proposed GTA West highway crosses the Credit River and portions of CVC's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS CVC staff continue to review and comment on the technical aspects of the Environmental Assessment associated with the GTA West highway to ensure CVC's policy and program interests are addressed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled "GTA West Transportation Corridor Update" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'B'; and

THAT the MTO commit to providing the technical reports in support of the environmental assessment and preferred route selection for public/agency review for comment, prior to detail design stage and/or construction of any major infrastructure associated with this project (e.g. bridges, interchanges etc.) – including revising the environmental assessment to address any concerns expressed by the public/agencies as appropriate; and

THAT the Board of Directors requests the MTO to commit to the use of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, minimize, mitigate and offset [compensate]) to address negative impacts of the proposed GTA West highway on natural heritage systems, water resources systems and public health through the environmental assessment process; and

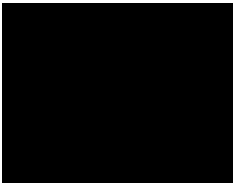
THAT the Board of Directors encourages the MTO to provide for existing and proposed trails or recreation facilities (such as the Credit Valley Trail) in designing infrastructure (e.g. bridges etc.) through the Environmental Assessment for the proposed GTA West highway – in particular, at the location where the highway is proposed to cross the Credit River; and

THAT the Board of Directors requests the MTO to commit to address CVC's regulatory and policy interests, including representing the provincial interest on natural hazards, and implemented through detail design as approved through the environmental assessment; and

***THAT** in an effort to further reduce red tape and streamline process, as well as improve transparency and predictability, the Board of Directors requests the MTO to engage with CVC staff through a Service Level Agreement (or similar agreement) to follow a voluntary review and permitting process for the detail design and implementation phases of the GTA West Transportation Corridor project; and further*

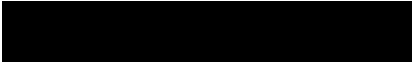
***THAT** a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, member municipalities, adjacent conservation authorities and MPPs along the GTA West Transportation Corridor.*

Submitted by:



Josh Campbell
Director, Planning and Development Services

Recommended by:



Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer

PREFERRED ROUTE ANNOUNCEMENT **GTA WEST STUDY**



The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) West Transportation Corridor Route Planning and Environmental Assessment Study is focusing on the planning and preliminary design of a new multimodal transportation corridor that includes a 400-series highway, transitway, and potential goods movement priority features. Public Information Centre #2 (PIC #2), held in September/October 2019, presented the draft Technically Preferred Route and draft 2019 Focused Analysis Area for comment.

The draft Technically Preferred Route presented at PIC #2 has been superseded by the Preferred Route. **The Preferred Route** map illustrates the route and interchange locations for the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor that will be developed to a preliminary design level of detail over the next 2 years. The Preferred Route map provides information on where changes have been made to the route based on the consideration of feedback from PIC #2, land use and environmental information.

TIMELINE

WINTER 2019 - SUMMER 2020

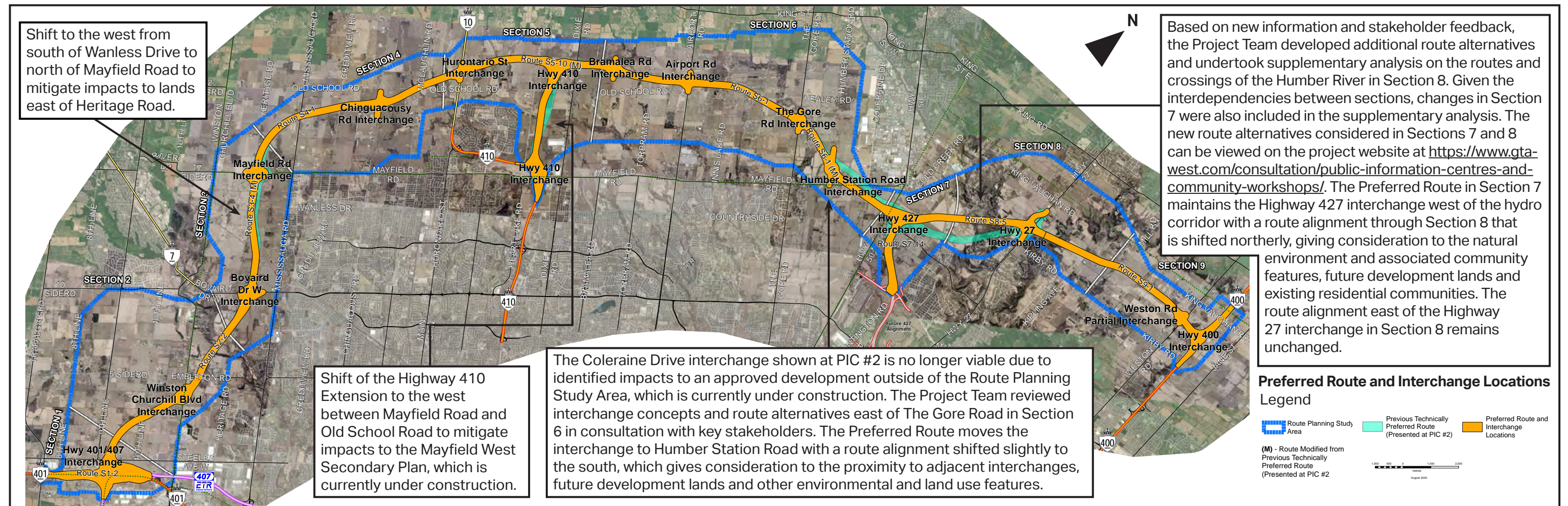
The Project Team reviewed feedback from PIC #2 and worked diligently with advisory groups, municipal staff, agencies and other stakeholders to confirm the Preferred Route and associated 2020 Focused Analysis Area for the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor.

2020 - 2021

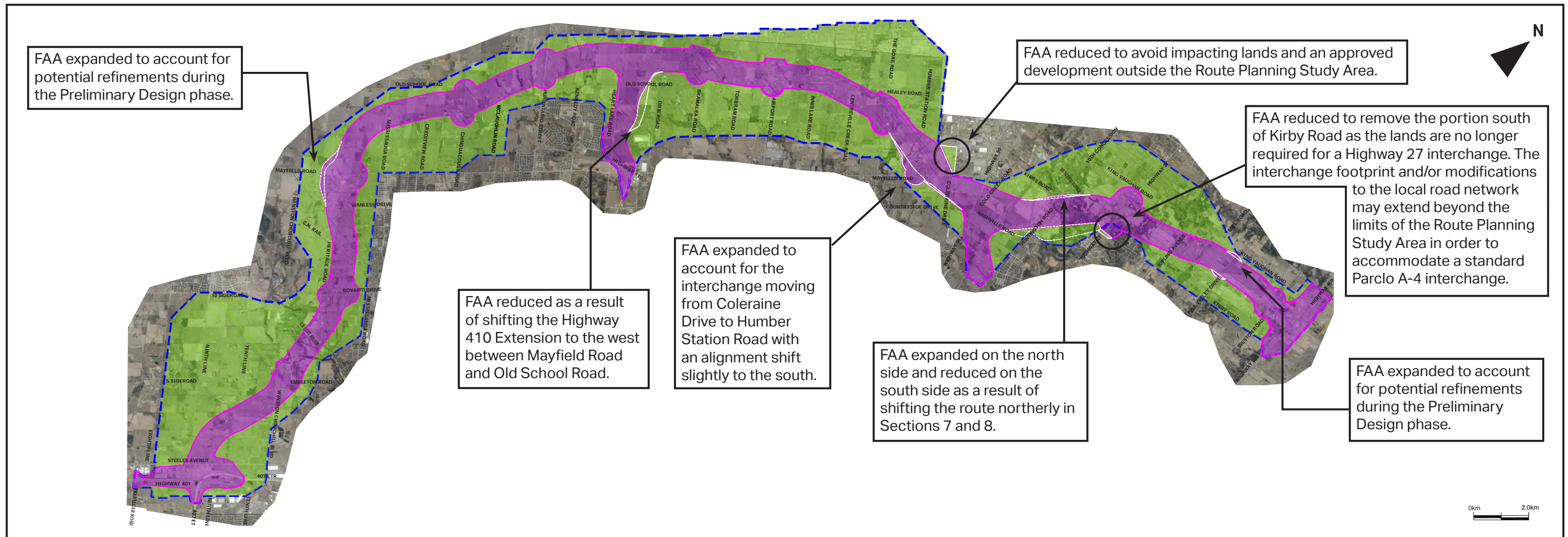
The Project Team will be undertaking fieldwork on properties potentially impacted by the Preferred Route to document existing environmental and engineering conditions.

2020 - 2022

The Project Team will develop the preliminary design of the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor. The Project Team will present the preliminary design, including property impacts and mitigation measures, at PIC #3 for public review and comment. PIC #3 is anticipated to be held in Fall/Winter 2021.



2020 FOCUSED ANALYSIS AREA (FAA)



Purple Area
The 2019 Focused Analysis Area (FAA) that was presented at PIC #2 was in draft format and has since been refined following a review of feedback and other relevant data. The refined 2020 FAA (**purple area**) is a zone that surrounds the Preferred Route and defines which properties continue to be within an area of interest as the study progresses. Properties located within the 2020 FAA could be directly impacted by the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor, ancillary uses, or if refinements are made to the route during the preliminary design stage.

More Information
You can download detailed mapping of the Preferred Route and 2020 FAA from the Public Information Centre #2 section of the project website at www.gta-west.com/consultation/public-information-centres-and-community-workshops/.
Ce bulletin peut être téléchargé en français sur le site Internet du projet à l'adresse www.gta-west.com/french/.
Des renseignements sont disponibles en français en composant (289) 835-2484 (Yannick Garnier).

Green Areas
MTO has a reduced interest in properties located in the green areas on the map. Applications can proceed through municipal development processes and MTO will continue to review all development applications in the study area, but it is anticipated that applications in the green areas will not be impacted by the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor. The Project Team aims to further reduce the FAA when the preliminary design of the Preferred Route is presented at PIC #3.

Route Planning Study Area - - - - -
Geographical area within which alternatives for the GTA West multimodal transportation corridor were considered.

WEBSITE		www.gta-west.com
EMAIL		project_team@gta-west.com
TOLL-FREE		1-877-522-6916
TWITTER		@GTAWestStudy

TO: The Chair and Members
of the Board of Directors,
Credit Valley Conservation

SUBJECT: 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

PURPOSE: To seek approval of the Board of Directors of CVC for the
2021 schedule of Board of Directors meetings.

BACKGROUND:

At the end of each year, a schedule of CVC Board of Directors meetings is approved by the members for the following calendar year.

ANALYSIS:

Attached as Schedule 'C', Appendix 1 is the proposed Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2021.

The schedule for Board of Directors meetings follows the previous practice of the second Friday of every month except where that Friday is a statutory holiday or precedes a statutory holiday Monday. Under these circumstances, the meeting is scheduled the third Friday of the month. The Inaugural Meeting of the CVC Board of Directors follows the previous practice of the third Friday of January. Also, as per past practice, no meeting is scheduled for the month of August.

Per resolution #82/11 dated September 9, 2011 the full CVC Board of Directors sits as the Executive Committee/Hearing Board to conduct hearings as required. Therefore, when required, a hearing will be scheduled at the start of an appropriate CVC Board of Directors meeting.

The Peel District School Board and Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board have identified their scheduled March Break as the week of March 15 to 19, 2021 inclusive. There will be no CVC Board meeting scheduled that week.

CVC Board meetings are held at the CVC Administration Offices, 1255 Old Derry Road, Mississauga unless otherwise specified. In some circumstances the Board meetings may be held electronically.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

The approved schedule of CVC Board of Directors meetings will be forwarded to all member municipalities and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

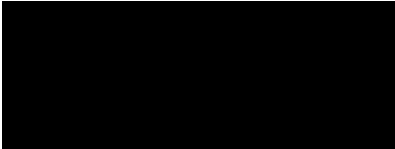
There are no financial implications to this report.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

***RESOLVED THAT** the report entitled "2021 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule" be received and appended as Schedule 'C' to the minutes of this meeting; and further*

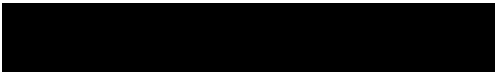
***THAT** the 2021 schedule of CVC Board of Directors meetings contained in Schedule 'C', Appendix 1 be approved.*

Submitted by:



Tamara Chipperfield
Corporate Secretariat

Recommended by:



Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer



TO MEMBERS, MUNICIPALITIES AND STAFF

2021 Schedule of CVC Board of Directors Meetings
Board Meetings Commence at 9:15 a.m.

January 15, 2021 (Inaugural Meeting)

February 19, 2021 (Week later due to Family Day)

March 12, 2021

April 9, 2021

May 14, 2021

June 11, 2021

July 9, 2021

~~August 13, 2021~~ (Cancelled as per usual practice)

September 10, 2021

October 15, 2021 (Week later due to Thanksgiving)

November 12, 2021

December 10, 2021

All meetings will be held at the CVC Administration Office, 1255 Old Derry Rd, Mississauga, ON unless specified otherwise.

As per CVC Resolution #82/11 any required Hearing Board will be held prior to a regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

Approved by Resolution # XX/20, October 16, 2020

TO: The Chair and Members
of the Board of Directors,
Credit Valley Conservation

SUBJECT: **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CVC EMPLOYEE
RECOGNITION AWARDS COMMITTEE**

PURPOSE: **To appoint members from the CVC Board of Directors to the
CVC Recognition Awards Committee to review nominations
for the 2020 Employee Recognition Awards**

BACKGROUND:

The Board approved the report for the revised CVC Employee Recognition Program on October 16, 2015 (Resolution #60/15), stating that: "The new Employee Recognition Program has been designed to build on CVC's culture of recognition and acknowledge staff's achievements that are relevant to our values, as outlined in CVC's strategic plan (2014)." The Employee Recognition Program will recognize staff accomplishments in areas that contribute to five of CVC's values:

- Spirit;
- Innovation;
- Leadership;
- Excellence; and
- Collaboration.

In addition, the Recognition Awards Committee can choose to award one discretionary Award of Distinction to a nominee from all of the nominations submitted.

The review of the nominations and the selection of the recipients are to be staff led through a Recognition Awards Committee. This committee will be comprised of members of the Leadership Team, up to three members of the Board of Directors if they wish to participate and the Senior Manager, Human Resources who will act as Chair and coordinator. The committee will be responsible for the selection of the award recipients based on the criteria for each award category.

The award recipients will be presented with their awards at the Inaugural Board meeting in January of each year.

ANALYSIS:

Since the commencement of this new program, up to three members of the Board served on the Recognition Awards Committee and took part in the nomination review process for CVC Employee Recognition Awards.

We are seeking up to three volunteers to stand in this role for 2020 to review nominations and attend a meeting. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 20, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to noon held virtually through Microsoft Teams where the nominations will be reviewed, and award recipients would be selected.

The Employee Recognition Awards recipients will be presented with their awards at the Inaugural Board meeting in January 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

There are no communications implications for this project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no financial impact to CVC for this project.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

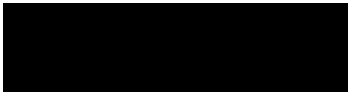
RESOLVED THAT the report entitled "Appointment of Members of the Board to Participate in the 2020 Recognition Awards Committee" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule D'; and

THAT an awards committee be struck to review the 2020 Employee Recognition Awards nominations; and further

THAT the following members serve on this committee in 2020:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Submitted by:



Marlene Ferreira
Senior Manager, Human Resources

Recommended by:



Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer

TO: The Chair and Members
of the Board of Directors,
Credit Valley Conservation

SUBJECT: **AMENDMENT TO CVC ADMINISTRATIVE BY-LAWS TO
ENABLE ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION**

PURPOSE: **To request approval by the Board of Directors of CVC for
amendments to the CVC Administrative By-Laws to permit
electronic meetings**

BACKGROUND:

Credit Valley Conservation' (CVC) current Administrative By-law was approved by the CVC Board of Directors on August 24, 2018 and last updated on April 17, 2020.

As the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way official business is conducted locally and globally, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has provided direction on how conservation authorities (CAs) can continue operations while maintaining a safe physical distance. To ensure conservation authorities can continue to conduct meetings and hearings as necessary, the Minister has given conservation authorities the ability to amend their administrative by-laws to allow for virtual meetings, including by teleconference.

On March 26, 2020, The Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks issued a Direction pursuant to subsection 19.1 (7) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* that applied to all conservation authorities in Ontario, that enabled conservation authorities to convene a meeting electronically in order to make the necessary amendments to their administrative by-laws during provincial and municipal emergencies. It identified the minimum areas where the by-laws should be amended, in the manner deemed appropriate by the CA, to make provision for emergency situations (e.g., electronic participation in meetings and hearings and achieving quorum while participating electronically). The direction also identified that each conservation authority, depending on their individual by-laws, may identify the need to make other necessary amendments to respond to emergencies. Following Minister's direction, CVC held a Special Board of Directors meeting on April 17, 2020 to amend the administrative by-laws to permit electronic meetings during declared states of emergency (as per Resolution #01/SBOD/20)

ANALYSIS

Now that the provincially declared state of emergency has ended and municipally declared state of emergencies have or may end, conservation authorities may be prevented from continuing to be able to meet virtually. As such, the Minister amended the Direction issued on March 26, 2020 to remove this barrier and is directing the conservation authorities to meet virtually for the purpose of reviewing and amending their by-laws, as applicable, to allow for members of a conservation authority to participate electronically in meetings when it is deemed appropriate by the conservation authority to do so. The Minister's Direction is attached as "Schedule 'C', Appendix 1" to this report.

Following the Minister's direction and to enable the CVC Board to conduct meetings electronically, Section 10 of the CVC Administrative By-laws, August 2018 has been amended to allow for electronic participation during and post emergencies (e.g. continued emergency restrictions, inclement weather, accommodating board members).

The amended Section 10 is proposed as follows:

10. Electronic Meetings and Participation

Electronic meetings are permitted and must follow/accommodate all Section C. Meeting Procedures identified in this by-law, or in the case of Hearing Boards, the CVC Hearing Guidelines.

When circumstances occur that prevent members of the General Membership from meeting in person (as determined by the Chair in consultation with the CAO), a Member can participate electronically in a meeting that is open or closed to the public and in either case may be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present at any point in time.

Electronic meetings must permit all participants to communicate adequately with each other during the meeting. For open electronic meetings, the public must be able to attend the meeting electronically and be able to observe all that Members can hear and see at the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

CVC will continue to implement best practices to make Board meetings open to the public in accordance with sub-section 15(3) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. CVC will provide alternate means for the public to participate in any meeting held electronically.

The amended CVC Administrative By-Laws will be posted to the CVC website.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no financial impact to CVC for this amendment.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

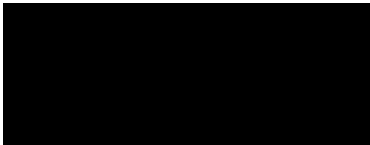
WHEREAS the Direction provided by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has given conservation authorities the ability to amend their administrative by-laws to allow for virtual meetings, including by teleconference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled, "Amendment to the CVC Administrative By-laws to Enable Electronic Participation" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'E'; and

THAT the Credit Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve amendments to Section C "Meeting Procedures" of The Credit Valley Conservation Administrative By-law to enable electronic participation; and further

THAT the Credit Valley Conservation Board of Directors direct staff to post the amended Administrative By-law on the CVC website.

Submitted by:



Tamara Chipperfield
Corporate Secretariat

Recommended by:



Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416-314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416.314.6790



September 10, 2020

TO: Conservation Authorities as listed in the attached **Schedule "A"**

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities during the COVID-19 Outbreak

On March 26, 2020, I issued a Minister's Direction ("**Direction**") pursuant to subsection 19.1 (7) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* that applied to all conservation authorities in Ontario, listed in **Schedule "A"** as attached. The Direction enabled conservation authorities to convene a meeting electronically in order to make the necessary amendments to their administrative by-laws to deal with both provincial and municipal emergencies. It identified the minimum areas where the by-laws should be amended, in the manner deemed appropriate by the CA, to make provision for emergency situations (e.g., electronic participation in meetings and hearings and achieving quorum while participating electronically). The Direction also identified that each conservation authority, depending on their individual by-laws, may identify the need to make other necessary amendments to respond to emergencies.

It has come to my attention that certain conservation authorities amended their by-laws to allow virtual meetings only during declared emergencies. Now that the provincially declared state of emergency has ended and municipally declared state of emergencies have or may end, conservation authorities may be prevented from continuing to be able to meet virtually. As such, I am amending the Direction that I issued on March 26, 2020 to remove this barrier. I am directing the conservation authorities listed in Schedule "A" to meet virtually for the purpose of reviewing and amending their by-laws, as applicable, to allow for members of a conservation authority to participate electronically in meetings when it is deemed appropriate by the conservation authority to do so. For greater certainty, the other provisions of the Direction continue to apply.

Effective Date

This amendment to the March 26, 2020 Direction is effective immediately. If it is in the public interest to do so, I will provide further direction or clarification at a later date related to the matters set out in this Direction.

If you have any questions related to this Direction, please contact:

Chloe Stuart
Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Robinson Pl South Tower, 6th Floor
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON, K9J 3C7
(705) 755-5341
chloe.stuart@ontario.ca

To learn more about how the province continues to protect Ontarians from COVID-19, please visit www.ontario.ca/coronavirus.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario

SCHEDULE "A" CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Ausable Bayfield CA

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Katrina Furlanetto
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Catfish Creek CA

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generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca

Central Lake Ontario CA

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Chris Darling
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Credit Valley CA

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Hamilton Region CA

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Lisa Burnside
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Mississippi Valley CA

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Chandra Sharma
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Nickel District CA

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Nottawasaga Valley CA

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Dan Marinigh
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Raisin Region CA

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Rideau Valley CA

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Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca

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Sault Ste. Marie Region CA

1100 Fifth Line East
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South Nation River CA

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John MacKenzie
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Upper Thames River CA
1424 Clarke Road
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N5V 5B9
Ian Wilcox
wilcoxi@thamesriver.on.ca

TO: The Chair and Members
of the Board of Directors,
Credit Valley Conservation

SUBJECT: **BUSINESS CONTINUITY ANALYSIS #6 DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

PURPOSE: **To inform the Board of Directors of CVC of the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic provincial directions on the business areas of CVC.**

BACKGROUND:

At its meetings of April 17th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th and September 11th 2020 the CVC Board of Directors received In-Camera reports (Resolutions #43/20, #51/20, #59/20, #71/20 and #84/20) outlining the impact of COVID-19 on the staffing, budget and operations of Credit Valley Conservation.

Since that time, the province introduced Bill 195 which came into force on July 24, 2020, bringing an end to the declared state of emergency in Ontario, but almost all orders made under *Ontario's Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* ("EMPCA") remain in effect under Bill 195.

As the province continued to reopen various regions of the province under *A Framework for Opening our Province*, Peel Region finally entered Stage 3 on July 31st, one of the last to do so given the continued higher COVID infections. With the move to Stage 3 the emphasis on essential workplaces has been largely eliminated, replaced with limits to gathering sizes. Very few businesses have been ordered to remain closed and none of these affect the business functions of CVC. On September 18th however, the province moved to reduce unsupervised gathering sizes as COVID infections are rising dramatically and Peel Region is considered one of the hot spots.

This report provides an update for the Board including actual results where possible to the end of August and projections to the end of October to assess the impact of the closures on our business continuity, focusing on business functions, staff and budget.

ANALYSIS:

CVC life is gradually moving back to a new normal. The following sections outline our business areas, effects of COVID-19 and highlight some of our activities.

Getting Back to the Office

The CVC head office opened to staff on September 8th with three separate cohorts of approximately 10 staff per floor in each of the head office buildings (for approximately 50 staff) rotating every 3rd week, working at home in-between their assigned week. While staff expressed concern with this move and many questioned the need to take this step, once in the office, each of the three cohorts expressed their appreciation for being back in the office, seeing their colleagues and for a more normal work experience.

Staff were welcomed back with a personalized small appreciation bag containing hand sanitizer, a welcome back or thank you cookie made by one of our staff, chocolate, a stress reliever 'toy', inspirational quote and a branded reusable face mask. Ice cream days are also planned or have happened to bring everyone together.

With the rising infections in Ontario, we have made the decision to extend the three-cohort model to the end of 2020.

The Warwick Conservation Centre is also implementing a two-cohort system as field work wraps up and more staff are spending their time in the office

Staff continue to have the option to work at home for the remainder of the year based on their personal circumstances. The number of staff electing to do so has risen from 32 initially to 41 for various health and childcare reasons.

A variety of policies, measures and procedures have been put in place and we have providing staff with a guide. Staff coming into the office undertake a self-assessment of health and document on an COVID-19 application that has been built on TEAMS for their use. The application also allows them to record the locations they have been and the people that they have interacted with. There have been several incidents of staff having to self-isolate and becoming infected with COVID. In all situations, the protocols worked and fortunately many of the incidents were resolved as not having been COVID and for those that were infected, they have also been resolved.

We continue to discourage in person meetings between staff and outside clients but will make exceptions as needed. Meeting rooms have been outfitted with equipment to allow effective meetings with both in office and video participants.



Physically distanced thank you event at Warwick



Island Lake Conservation Area staff thank you event

CVC Business Areas – Updated Overview

Each CVC business area is assessed to determine potential impacts. As has been our practice, we will offer a brief situational analysis as to the scope of work and potential impact on staffing and programs. Our Corporate Planning Team continues to meet weekly to address operational concerns through a variety of subcommittees.

The fieldwork re-opening sub-committee has enabled a phased re-start of 37 types of field work activities across 14 divisions and programs through spring and summer. Over 60 staff have re-entered the field. Some of their activities are profiled in the following business areas.

a) Conservation Areas

Situation: CVC reopened nine of our 11 key conservation areas in May and as of June 12th, CVC reinstated gate fees and opened some facilities. As of September 1st PARCS has gone live with their new Legend software that allows reservation bookings of visits to the Cheltenham Badlands and Belfountain CA.

Impact: The parks remain exceptionally busy and are expecting it to continue long after fall colours have ended.

The Cheltenham Badlands and Belfountain Conservation Area re-opened the first week of September under a mandatory reservation system. Under the new reservation system visitors are able to book a date and time to visit each property during regular hours of operation. This will allow us to limit the number of people who can enter the property at one time and create the conditions needed for physical distancing. The badlands have been selling out and Belfountain nearing capacity.

For those accessing the park with a reservation they have been very satisfied with their experience. For those who just showed up, we have experienced some very unhappy customers.

Some unauthorized access has been occurring off the Bruce Trail entrances causing parking issues and trail congestion but we are working with the Town of Caledon to enforce no parking restrictions and have our own security officers engaged as well.

b) Restoration Services (including the nursery, plantings and restoration projects)

Situation: The nursery has been in full production since May and some spring plantings began in May. Other field activities/projects have gradually resumed.

Impact: Staff have been hard at work planting at Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area and on private properties. The fall has been very busy and plant sales are strong.

c) Environmental Inventory and Monitoring

Situation: CVC carries out a variety of environmental monitoring including routine monitoring of physical and natural environment, flow for flood forecasting and warning, compliance for storm water systems on contract with municipalities and some for the province, as well as monitoring performance of restoration and planting projects.

Impact: Staff have been implementing a modified Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program since being activated. Wetland monitoring is complete,

stream and groundwater monitoring is continuing, and forest monitoring began in September.

d) Planning and Development Services

Situation: Planning, permitting and environmental assessment staff have been continuing their work from home or office and attending sites as necessary for compliance or to define development potential.

Impact: There is no impact on work or revenues to date. At the November CVC Board of Directors meeting a planning report on service delivery will go into more detail.

e) Education and Outreach of Watershed Residents

Situation: CVC has a number of programs that provide environmental education to schools, youth programs, public volunteer events, as well as outreach to urban and rural residents and businesses to educate and undertake projects on public and private lands. With closures and COVID-19 protocols these programs were largely ceased.

Impact: Working with the City of Mississauga to celebrate National Forest Week, CVC outreach staff held their first community tree planting event of 2020 on Saturday, September 26th at Brickyard Park in Mississauga. Following new COVID-19 health and safety protocols developed in partnership with municipal staff, over 80 community members in four socially distanced cohorts planted over 200 trees.



September 26th Community Tree Planting Event



September 26th Community Tree Planting Event

Other 2020 community tree planting events are planned in Orangeville and Brampton, as well as a series of "Meadowvale Conservation Corps" planting events with CVC staff cohorts at our head office.

Some of our education staff have been redeployed as Park Interpreters to assist parks staff with visitor experience planning and on the ground education/visitor management. They have engaged with thousands of visitors to date at Rattray Marsh, Silver Creek, and Limehouse Conservation Areas and have now expanded into Belfountain and the Badlands.

f) Water Management Programs

Situation: All the programs to manage stream flow and infrastructure have been considered essential services from the beginning. All staff can work remotely as they currently do on evenings and weekends. Should an event happen we would be opening the office and calling staff in to be able to work more effectively.

Impact: No impact to funding or work. Section 39 transfer payment agreement received.

g) Credit Valley Conservation Foundation

Situation: The CVC Foundation is supported by levy from the municipalities as well as self-generated undesignated funds. The Gala, which was delayed until early October has now been rescheduled to May 6th 2021. We continue to monitor grants and stimulus funds.

SCHEDULE 'F'
PAGE -7-
2020-10-16

Impact: We continue to engage with Gala sponsors and ticket holders to convert their purchase to a donation. We are also finalizing an online auction to support revenue generation to be launched in November (just in time for Christmas shopping).

With less granting action our Grants Coordinator remains redeployed for 75% of their time to parks planning. We continue to track the stimulus funding for the potential to support our projects.

h) Science and Policy Development

Situation: CVC undertakes a number of science-based assessments and product developments (e.g. natural heritage system, Risk and Return on Investment Tool, low impact development guidance).

Impact: No change in funding or work.

i) Source Water Protection

Situation: The source water protection plan is a regulatory plan that we implement with our municipal partners. This work can be conducted remotely. The province has continued to fund it 100% and we have confirmed funding for 2020-2021.

Impact: There is no impact to work or funding. CVC will be taking over as lead for the CTC Source Protection Region as the Credit River watershed contains most of the threats to drinking water and wells. The Chief Specialist, Watershed Plans and Source Water Protection started October 6th.

SUMMARY:

The following tables have been prepared and updated to roll up the implications of revenue and staffing changes due to the closures and delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic from March to October.

We have stopped presenting the staffing information in two week increments as there has been only positive changes as we continue to fill positions left vacant. Table 1 presents the results of our staffing actuals and projections to mid-October. pre-COVID-19 there were 61 positions open to hire. Since our last report ten (10) more positions have been filled. Of the 12 positions left unfilled, 11 of these have been cancelled for hiring and will not be filled in 2020. By end of November, our casual headcount is expected to decrease by 34 positions (to 22 positions) because casual contracts are expected to end with park closures and the end of field work.

SCHEDULE 'F'
PAGE -8-
2020-10-16

Table 1 – Staffing implications summary March - October

Date	Staffing				Notes (Rationale, Specifics)	Vacant Jobs		
	Full-Time	Contract	Casual	Change		Positions Available	Positions Delayed	Vacant Job Notes (Rationale, Specifics)
March 23, 2020 - April 3, 2020 (baseline)	186	31	41	-19	15 casuals (LO) 3 casuals contract ended 1 permanent retired	61	60	15 Active - Vacant 13 On hold - Vacant 1 Cancelled 25 Pending 7 Filled
October 5, 2020 to October 16, 2020	182	38	56	3	1 permanent staff started 2 contract staff started	12	12	0 Active - Vacant 1 On hold - Vacant 11 Cancelled 0 Pending 0 Filled

We then evaluated the financial impact of the staffing changes with other operational cost savings and potential revenue losses to get a picture of the impact on the budget.

The financial analysis presents cost savings under three broad categories – labour savings; materials and supplies; and services and utilities compared against 2019 actuals to the end of August.

To estimate lost revenues and expense savings, we focused primarily on four main parts of our operations:

- Parks,
- Planting & Restoration operations,
- Education/Outreach and
- Property Management & Facilities

Table 2 presents the cost savings for these program areas up to the end of August 2020 and are estimated to be approximately \$727k when compared to the same time last year. Labour costs increased significantly in August as more park staff we brought on to work at Belfountain and Badlands.

Some of the cost savings we were enjoying such as our group benefits premium credits have now been returned to normal billings and with the office reopening there will be a change to our materials and supplies as well as some services and utilities costs.

Additional cleaning and continued purchase of COVID-19 PPE is also a new expense being incurred.

SCHEDULE 'F'
PAGE -9-
2020-10-16

Table 2. Estimated Impact of Cost Savings January to August 31, 2020

ESTIMATED COST SAVINGS		JAN TO AUG YTD		
Category	2019 Jan to Aug YTD Actual	2020 Jan to Aug YTD Actual	\$ Diff	% Diff
Labour Costs	11,919,000	11,512,000	-407,000	-3%
Material & Supplies	587,000	466,000	-121,000	-21%
Services & Utilities	814,000	615,000	-199,000	-24%
Total Estimated Cost Savings up to August 31st, 2020			-727,000	

Table 3 compares revenue losses to the end of August 2020 against the same time period in 2019. Estimated revenue loss (before accounting for the Maple Syrup Festival) up to the end of August 2020 is \$791k when compared to the same time last year. If we also add in the 2020 budgeted revenue for Maple Syrup Festival of \$252k (assuming that we would have achieved budget if we ran the program) then the total estimated revenue loss up to the end of August 2020 is \$1.043 million. Besides Maple Syrup Festival, the other big driver is the non-existent revenue for Belfountain and Badlands.

Table 3. Estimated Revenue Loss January to August 31, 2020

ESTIMATED REVENUE LOSS		JAN TO AUG YTD		
Category	2019 Jan to Aug YTD Actual	2020 Jan to Aug YTD Actual	\$ Diff	% Diff
Parks Revenue (exl. Maple Syrup)	1,140,000	580,000	-560,000	-49%
Planting & Restoration Revenues	306,000	79,000	-227,000	-74%
Education & Outreach	57,000	53,000	-4,000	-6%
Estimated Revenue Loss before MSF			-791,000	
Add: Loss of 2020 Budget for MSF			-252,000	
Total Estimated Revenue Loss up to August 31st, 2020			-1,043,000	

SCHEDULE 'F'
PAGE -10-
2020-10-16

Table 4 presents the projected revenue loss up to the end of October but based on actuals to the end of August. Looking at revenue projections going out to October 31st, we see a substantial pickup in planting and restoration revenues between August and October from nursery direct sales, naturalization activities and JTLCA to help narrow the revenue gap. As a result, estimated revenue loss projected out to Oct 31st is somewhat contained at \$762k. These figures are consistent with the pattern seen in last month's continuity report to the Board in that cost savings essentially offset revenue losses.

Table 4 Estimated Revenue Losses to January projected to October 31, 2020

ESTIMATED REVENUE LOSS	JAN - OCT YTD		\$ Diff	% Diff
	Category	Jan to Oct 2019 YTD Actual		
Parks Revenue (exl. Maple Syrup)	1,410,000	880,000	-530,000	-38%
Planting & Restoration Revenues	415,000	591,000	176,000	42%
Education & Outreach	221,000	65,000	-156,000	-70%
Estimated Revenue Loss before MSF			-510,000	
Add: Loss of 2020 Budget for MSF			-252,000	
Total Estimated Revenue Loss up to October 31st, 2020			-762,000	

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

While COVID-19 has had financial implications on CVC's approved 2020 budget the estimates to date are manageable within the existing budget. As of the end of August we saw revenue reductions largely offset by cost savings. Staff will continue to evaluate operational costs against actuals in the coming reports to the board.

CONCLUSION:

CVC has begun a return to the office and almost all functions of the authority are operating as intended. The cohort system will continue until year end and flexibility will be maintained for staff to continue to work from home till year end as well. Revenue generation resumed in the parks as of mid-June however it is lagging against previous

years but visitation is significantly increased. Very few jobs remain unfilled. Our financial analysis finds no significant impact to budget as of the end of August.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in office and parks closures and cessation of some of the authority activities; and

WHEREAS some of the revenue streams and staff associated with those ceased functions have been impacted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled "Business Continuity Analysis #6 Due To COVID-19 Pandemic" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'F'; and further

THAT an updated business continuity report be provided to the Board at their monthly meetings for the duration of the pandemic and recovery period.

Recommended by:



Deborah Martin-Downs
 Chief Administrative Officer



Jeff Payne, Deputy CAO and
 Director Corporate Services

TO: The Chair and Members
of the Board of Directors,
Credit Valley Conservation

SUBJECT: **HUNGRY HOLLOW SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD
ACTION PLAN (SNAP)**

PURPOSE: **To request endorsement by the Board of Directors of CVC of
the Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan
(SNAP)**

BACKGROUND:

The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is a collaborative project led by CVC in partnership with the Town of Halton Hills that advances the protection and restoration of the Credit River Watershed Natural Heritage System (CRWNHS) by using the SNAP model to target outreach and restoration in a priority community to address local environmental concerns.

In 2016, CVC initiated its first Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) project in Brampton (Fletchers Creek SNAP). Initially developed by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, SNAP is a model for targeting outreach and restoration that has been proven to accelerate the implementation of environmental improvements at a neighbourhood scale. The SNAP model provides an excellent framework for integrating science, engagement, and the actions of multiple stakeholders to overcome restoration and retrofit challenges and apply locally tailored solutions to address a wide range of community objectives. Fletchers Creek SNAP is now in a successful second year of its implementation phase.

Project Initiation

In September 2017, CVC Board of Directors endorsed the initiation of the Credit River – Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (#70/17). This was followed by consultation with the town’s Sustainability Implementation Committee in the winter of 2017/18 and with the town’s senior management team in April 2018. A project proposal was presented to Halton Hills Council on August 22, 2018, which confirmed the town’s partnership in the project and resulted in the town contributing \$15,000/year over a two-year period (2019-2020) to CVC to support the development of the action plan.

Strategic Alignment

Hungry Hollow SNAP establishes the collaborative vision and priority actions recommended to address these challenges and engage the community in urban renewal.

SCHEDULE 'G'
PAGE -2-
2020-10-16

Goal 1, Direction 7 of CVC's Strategic Plan 2020-2022 provided staff with direction to complete and implement the Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan:

Goal 1:	Plan for an Environmentally Sustainable Future
Direction 7:	Complete the Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan and initiate implementation of short- and long-term recommendations.

SNAP also aligns with numerous other goals and directions from CVC's Strategic Plan, including goals three, four, five, six, and eight.

Hungry Hollow SNAP will advance the Credit River Watershed Natural Heritage System (CRWNHS) Strategy (Board approved by Resolution #59/15 in October 2015) which recommends that CVC, "*Undertake targeted outreach and restoration campaigns within high priority areas such as Centres for Biodiversity to advance protection and enhancement by the community and landowners.*"

In addition, Hungry Hollow SNAP will advance recommendations of the following local strategies and plans (among others):

CVC	Town of Halton Hills	Halton Region
Silver Creek Subwatershed Study (2003)	Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2020)	Sustainable Halton Water & Wastewater Master Plan (2011–2031)
Black Creek Subwatershed Study, Phase 3 (2020)	Imagine Halton Hills – Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy (2013)	
	Hungry Hollow Ravine Management Plan (2004)	
	Active Living Strategy (2016)	
	Mayor's Community Energy Plan (2015)	

Hungry Hollow SNAP Study Area

The geographic scope of the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood was chosen through a collaborative process with Halton Hills and CVC staff based on priority issues and opportunities. As the study area contains a significant portion of the Credit River – Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity and the mature, urban Delrex neighbourhood, it presents a number of sustainability challenges in the natural and built environment such as:

- a lack of modern stormwater management controls
- an aging urban forest and uneven canopy cover distribution
- threats to sensitive natural habitats including invasive species, human disturbances, lack of riparian vegetation and erosion
- low ecological value of neighbourhood parks and streetscapes

The study area for the Hungry Hollow SNAP is located in central Georgetown and is bounded roughly by Main Street South and Guelph Street, extending to the southern limit of the Hungry Hollow ravine (see Figures 1 and 2). The neighbourhood falls within Town of Halton Hills Ward 3 and Ward 4, and was largely build in the 1950s. It is home to just over 10,000 people living primarily in single and semi-detached houses and low-rise buildings. These homes are interspersed with six large parks and parkettes, eight schools, five places of worship and two community centres. Over 300 businesses, concentrated mostly along Guelph Street as well as home-based within the neighbourhood, provide a wide range of products and services to the community.

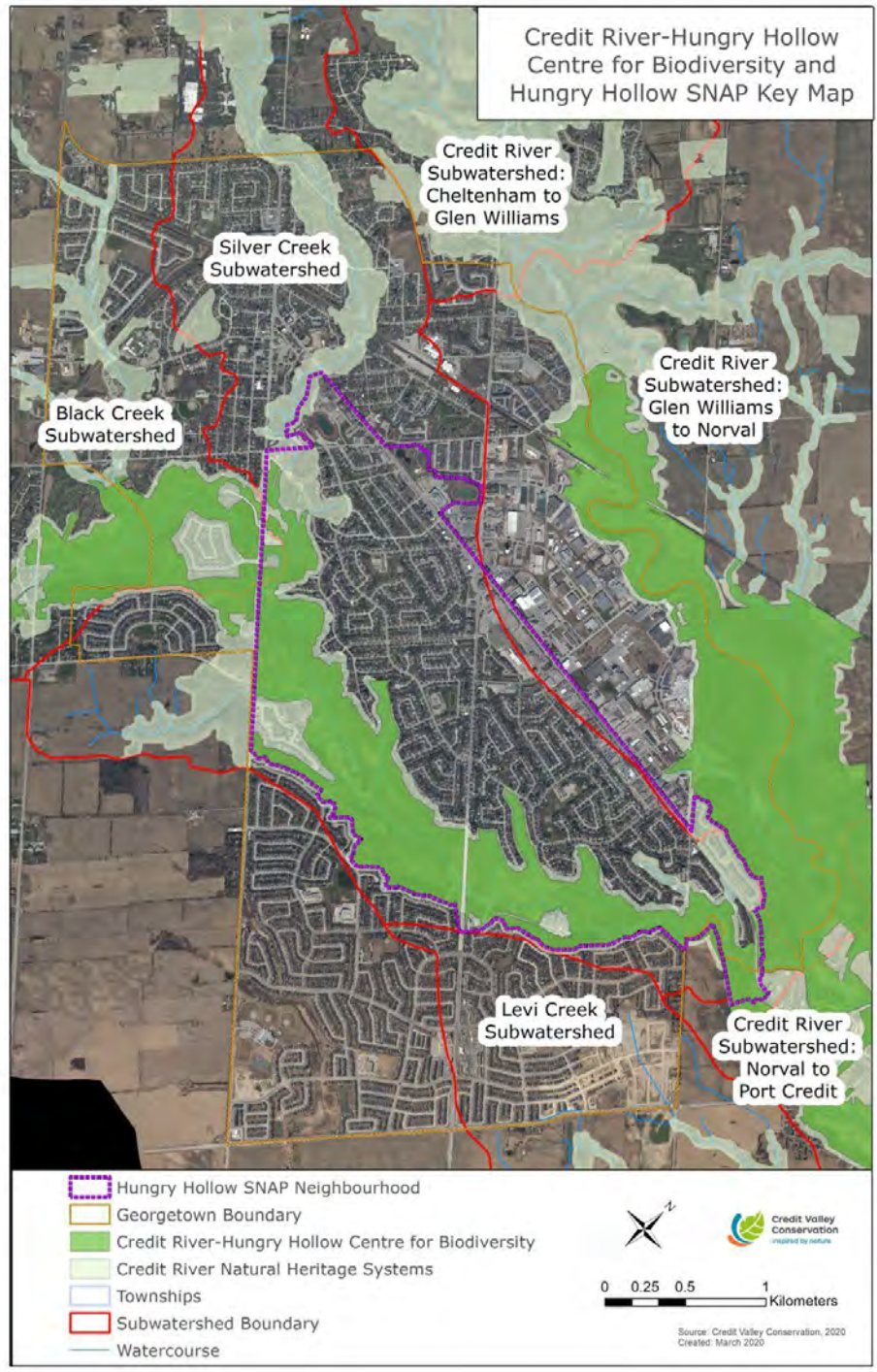


Figure 1: Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity and Hungry Hollow SNAP Key Map

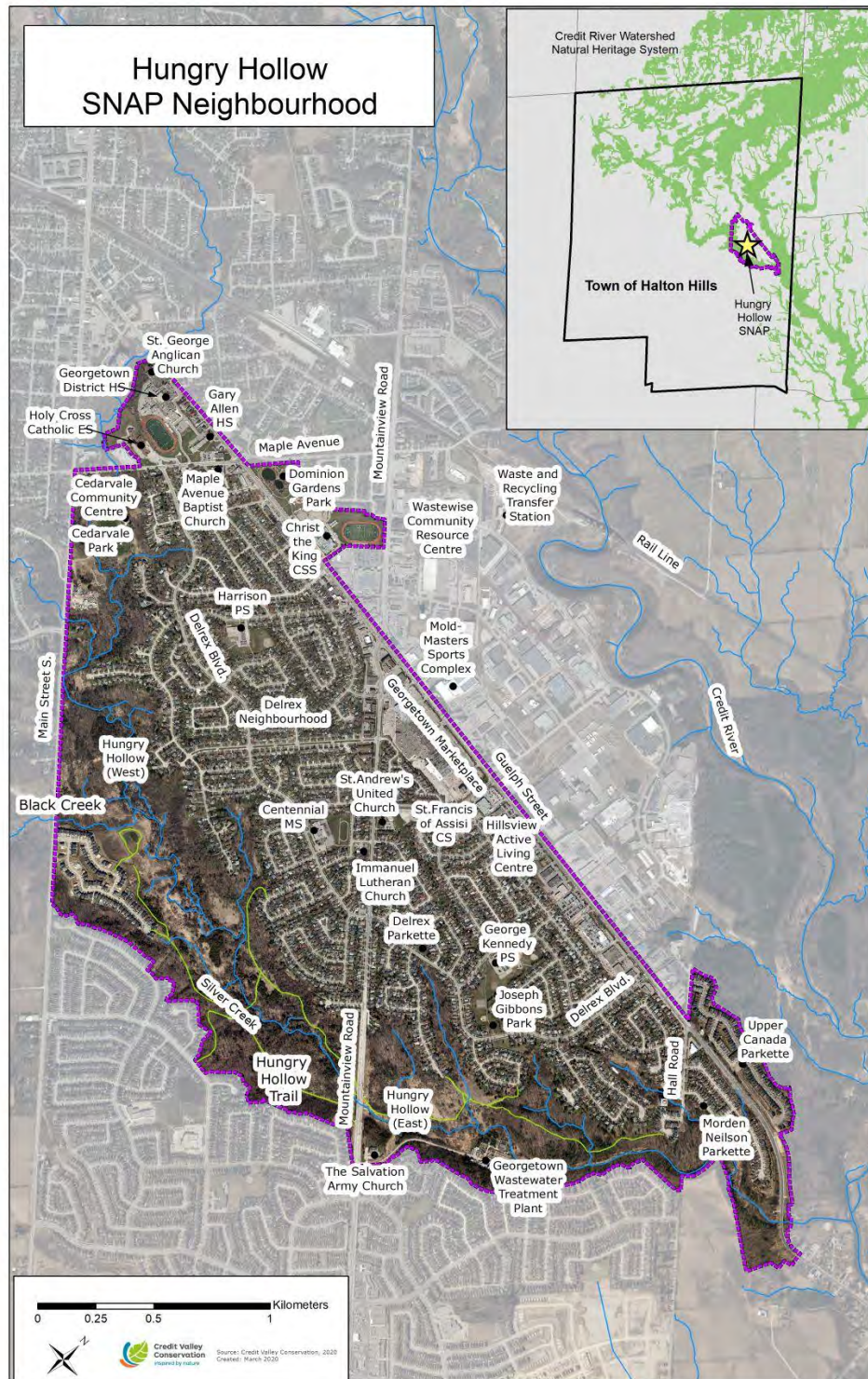


Figure 2: Hungry Hollor SNAP neighbourhood in central Georgetown (Halton Hills) within the Silver Creek and Black Creek subwatersheds

SNAP Planning Model

The following is a high-level summary of the overall approach taken with the Hungry Hollow SNAP:

1. Steering Committee

Hungry Hollow SNAP has been guided by representatives of CVC, Town of Halton Hills, Halton Region and Conservation Halton representing a variety of disciplines including climate change and asset management, ecology and restoration, integrated water management and public engagement. This steering committee has played a vital role in collaborative decision-making and determining project directions.

2. Consultation and Engagement

Consultation and community engagement has been integral to the development of the Action Plan and has been ongoing since the commencement of the project in 2017. Stakeholders include:

- Local residents, leaders and community groups – Over 400 residents, members of Halton Hills Council and representatives from several community groups have been engaged through neighbourhood events, presentations, and individual conversations, including:
 - Hungry Hollow Fall Colours Guided Nature Walk
Hungry Hollow Ravine – October 14, 2017 – 33 attendees
 - Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood Walk n' Talk
Delrex-Cedarvale Area - October 26, 2019 – 30 attendees
 - Public Open House #1
Mold-Masters SportsPlex – November 7, 2019 – 50 attendees
 - Online Survey #1
Virtual - October-December 2019 – 115 respondents
 - Public Open House #2
Virtual – June 10, 2020 – 41 attendees
 - Online Survey #2
Virtual - May-June 2020 - 166 respondents
- Municipal, regional and Conservation Halton staff – Consultations included representatives of many departments and disciplines including water and waste water management, recreation and parks, community development, climate change adaptation, asset management, roads engineering and construction, transportation planning, energy planning, public works, policy and development planning, landscape architecture, landowner and community outreach and restoration.

- CVC staff – A multi-disciplinary team included representatives from several CVC departments including Watershed Transformation, Watershed Management, Watershed Knowledge, and Corporate Services.

The draft action plan was shared with staff and the public for feedback in spring 2020 through a virtual stakeholder workshop, virtual public open house and online public survey. This has resulted in an action plan that is aligned with CVC, partner and community interests and needs.

Project Milestones

The following is a summary of key milestones in the Hungry Hollow SNAP timeline (see Figure 3). CVC staff have completed Phases 1 and 2 culminating in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report and Final Report.



Figure 3: Hungry Hollow SNAP Milestones.

1. Study and Envision (SNAP Phase 1)
Hungry Hollow SNAP Phase 1 involved detailed characterization of existing conditions in the neighbourhood, review of strategic plans, identification of environmental issues, and analysis of social market research, demographics and market segmentation. SNAP Phase 1 is documented in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report which is available upon request and will be posted online at www.cvc.ca/hhsnap.
2. Plan (SNAP Phase 2)
Hungry Hollow SNAP Phase 2 focused on the identification and evaluation of opportunities, development of an action plan concept and supporting illustrations, development of a neighbourhood vision, identification of goals and recommended actions, and identification of priorities for implementation. SNAP Phase 2 is documented in the Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (described below).
3. Implement (SNAP Phase 3) 2021 to 2023
Endorsement of the action plan signifies completion of Hungry Hollow SNAP Phase 2. SNAP Phase 3 entails a three-year implementation period followed by an evaluation period to assess Hungry Hollow SNAP success and realignment of priorities if necessary. Community engagement will continue in 2021 with a public launch of the action plan at a neighbourhood event.

ANALYSIS:**Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan**

The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (Schedule 'G', Appendix 1) is a comprehensive document that outlines the collaborative vision for a sustainable neighbourhood, recommended actions, and a framework for measuring success, briefly summarized here:

1. Vision Statement

"The Hungry Hollow SNAP area is a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood, with biodiverse natural spaces and green infrastructure championed by caring, connected residents and community members."

2. Goals and Recommended Actions

Five place-based goals were developed through consultation with staff, stakeholders, and the community. A total of 28 recommended actions are proposed in five goal areas. Recommended actions are community-based and will strategically align and focus existing programs or enhance planned projects to achieve co-benefits and greater overall impact.

Goal 1 – Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek

Valleylands that sustain flourishing natural habitats, vital freshwater creeks and invaluable native biodiversity while supporting active lifestyles, community well-being and nature appreciation.

Goal 2 – Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces

A network of multi-use parks and open spaces that link and restore natural systems where neighbours and families gather together to play, learn and enjoy time outdoors.

Goal 3 – Connected Streets and Infrastructure

A network of beautiful streets and public infrastructure enhancing neighbourhood ecological and hydrological functionality and facilitating active and safe mobility of people.

Goal 4 – Resilient Homes and Businesses

Climate-ready residences and workplaces that are connected to healthy natural spaces and contribute to a sustainable, resilient and green neighbourhood.

Goal 5 – Strong Schools and Community

Community hubs that showcase climate resiliency and enhance biodiversity, support local learning and social connectivity across all generations, and foster well-informed, engaged citizens.

3. Action Plan Concept

The action plan concept is an illustrative map which lays out how the five place-based goals and their associated actions will be implemented throughout the neighbourhood (see Figure 4).



Figure 4: Hungry Hollow SNAP Action Plan Concept (Note: this map is for illustrative purposes only).

4. Priorities

Of the 28 recommended actions, these four categories of actions were determined to be overarching priority areas based on stakeholder and community interest, CVC and municipal priorities, and the availability of existing programming:

Enhancing Biodiversity in Hungry Hollow and Beyond

Hungry Hollow ravine is highly prized and deeply valued by the community, especially for the nature access and associated health and wellness benefits it provides. Restoration work will continue to be undertaken within the ravine to support high-quality natural habitat and diversity of terrestrial and aquatic species. This will include addressing such issues as invasive species found throughout the ravine as well as in gardens, parks and other green spaces throughout the neighbourhood; human disturbances such as unsanctioned trails and yard waste dumping; limited or absent riparian vegetation along sections of Silver Creek; and erosion due in part to heavy uncontrolled stormwater runoff.

Beyond the natural areas, there is also interest in and a need to support habitat connectivity and biodiversity in areas such as parks and open spaces, residential and business properties, school grounds and other community gathering places.

Strengthening the Urban Forest

The urban forest is an important natural asset in this community but there are concerns about tree loss resulting from Emerald Ash Borer infestation, the 2013 ice storm and other severe weather events and general decline due to a maturing canopy. There is also uneven canopy cover across the neighbourhood, presenting an opportunity to add trees in high-need areas such as along streets, in parks, on school grounds and more, which will contribute numerous environmental and health benefits.

Upgrading Local Stormwater Infrastructure

The Hungry Hollow-Delrex area presents a significant opportunity to implement new and innovative green stormwater management infrastructure. Like many older neighbourhoods it lacks modern stormwater management controls. Stormwater runoff moves across impervious surfaces throughout the neighbourhood and is outlet, untreated, directly into smaller ravines and intermittent streams flowing into Silver Creek. As such, there is little to no opportunity for natural hydrologic functions to occur (such as infiltration, groundwater recharge and evapotranspiration). During community consultations, residents noted that managing stormwater to protect the aquatic habitats and local freshwater creeks such as Silver Creek and to build neighbourhood climate resilience is important to them.

Fostering Community Health and Well-Being

Momentum is building in this neighbourhood: residents have keenly engaged in the action-planning process, new community-led initiatives are emerging and many have expressed an interest in taking part in the implementation of the SNAP Action Plan – yet there is still more to be done to increase engagement, raise awareness and change behaviours. A sense of collective ownership over places like Hungry Hollow ravine will be key to preserving vital natural assets for future generations. Furthermore, active living is highly valued by those who reside in this area, and is inherently tied to the health, accessibility and safety of natural and public spaces. Community members would like to see more support for active transportation with enhanced safety and comfort for walking and cycling in this neighbourhood.

5. Early Action Implementation

A number of events and programs have been initiated by CVC and partners to continue building momentum and support for the SNAP project and climate action in the community. Early actions completed, underway or planned in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood include:

Butterfly Blitz (Summer 2020)

CVC's annual summer-long citizen science program is creating a watershed-wide inventory of butterflies in the Credit River Watershed. Participants learned how to identify butterfly species in their backyard and neighbourhood through free training webinars and contributed important data to the program.

'Nature at Home' – Health and Wellness Webinar (Summer 2020)

Delivered by CVC's Education team for Hillsview Active Living Centre members, this webinar engaged residents age 50+ in learning how keeping active and connecting with nature while staying safe at home and maintaining social distance can improve their well-being during these unprecedented times.

Butterflyway (on-going)

Launched by a local resident in summer 2020, this community-led initiative aims to enhance pollinator habitat throughout Halton Hills. It will build on the interest generated via Hungry Hollow SNAP to inspire residents and partners to create pollinator gardens on both private and public lands, with the goal of stitching together a neighbourhood-scale corridor supporting local butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects.

'Landscaping for Birds' Webinar (Fall 2020)

This free webinar delivered by CVC's Your Green Yard program will teach participants how to attract birds to their yard and keep them safe. Participants who live within the Credit River watershed can sign up at the webinar to receive a free tree or shrub that will provide habitat for local birds, with the option to purchase more.

Rotary Club of Georgetown's 2,020 Trees for 2020 Project (Fall 2020)

The Rotary Club of Georgetown will lead this large-scale public tree planting initiative within Hungry Hollow ravine.

Neighbourhood News (on-going)

One of the foundations for fostering an engaged community is the Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood News – an electronic newsletter administered by CVC with over 160 subscribers and growing. This communications tool keeps residents informed about new initiatives and upcoming events led by CVC and partners, and will provide a channel through which to share collective successes of the SNAP project.

6. Key Outcomes

Implementation of the action plan will result in progress towards Hungry Hollow SNAP goals (see above). Progress will be measured using the following six performance metrics as illustrated in Figure 5:

- Number of Trees Planted
- Area of Land Transformed
- Volume of Stormwater Captured and Treated
- Number of People Participated
- Number of Community Projects Implemented (Public Lands)
- Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented (Private Lands)



Figure 5: Hungry Hollow SNAP performance metrics and goals.

Additional performance metrics will be assigned to individual Hungry Hollow SNAP implementation projects and may include detailed metrics such as number of herbaceous plants installed, length of riparian area restored, design parameters for constructed projects, number of partnerships initiated, funds raised, volunteer hours contributed or programs delivered, and other pertinent project-specific metrics.

7. Next Steps

Hungry Hollow SNAP is the first step towards a more sustainable and resilient neighbourhood. The final report identifies a series of activities for CVC and partners to undertake during the first three years of implementation:

1. Endorsement of the action plan by CVC Board of Directors
2. Endorsement of the action plan by Halton Hills Council on October 26, 2020
3. Public launch of the action plan
4. Creation of implementation teams
5. Alignment of existing program and capital resources where appropriate
6. Detailed project planning and design
7. Coordination of implementation activities
8. Measuring and reporting on project accomplishments to partners and the community
9. Ongoing community engagement

10. Development of a communication strategy
11. Implementation of priority actions
12. Ongoing evaluation and assessment of priorities and identification of new priorities and opportunities

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

A Hungry Hollow SNAP communications strategy will be developed with project partners to guide overall SNAP communications and includes the design and delivery of community events in the SNAP neighbourhood through the implementation phase (2021-2023).

Communication activities in winter 2020-2021 will include: design and printing of the final action plan, addition of action plan documents to the CVC website, social media posts and email newsletter to neighbourhood mailing list (ongoing). A SNAP public launch event will be delivered in spring/summer 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no financial impact associated with the Hungry Hollow SNAP Final Report as this work has been completed.

Financial impacts associated with the implementation of the action plan (Phase 3 2021-2023) will be financed through a combination of internal and external sources. CVC project management and expenses associated with 2021 engagement events will be managed within the proposed 2021 budget (account number 301-335, "Headwaters Stewardship", a shared special levy account).

Other SNAP activities and projects will be funded within other CVC budgets by aligning already-planned activities and focusing them in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood. Partners have also committed to similarly aligning and focusing already-planned activities. Additional funds for projects above and beyond 2021 budget will be sought from external funding agencies to contribute funding on a project-by-project basis.

Financial implications for 2021 and beyond will include ongoing CVC project management and engagement expenses, to be managed through subsequent proposed CVC budgets, as well as those of our partners, and through external funding sources. The selection of activities and projects for implementation going forward will depend on shared partner priorities, community interest, availability of resources, as well as CVC, partner, and community capacity.

CONCLUSION:

Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan is an important initiative, combining watershed priorities driven by the CRWNHS Strategy, aligning with the town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and applying the proven engagement model of SNAP.

Hungry Hollow SNAP identifies the most strategic actions needed to protect and support natural features (including the Credit River - Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity), connect people with nature, and renew and improve the neighbourhood for present and future generations. The plan inspires community action, forges new partnerships, and reinvigorates investment in a shared vision for a cleaner, greener neighbourhood.

The Hungry Hollow SNAP vision of a sustainable neighbourhood is achievable, and implementation of the plan will yield environmental and social benefits for years to come. CVC Board of Directors endorsement of Hungry Hollow SNAP will signify CVC's ongoing commitment to participate in the exciting process of revitalizing the Credit River watershed at the neighbourhood scale.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS SNAP is an effective model for engaging municipal partners and the community in urban renewal and climate action; and

WHEREAS the Hungry Hollow neighbourhood is a mature, urban neighbourhood in the Credit River watershed; and

WHEREAS Hungry Hollow SNAP is a collaborative, action-oriented plan for a clean, green, climate change-ready neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS the CVC Corporate Strategic Plan 2020-2022, approved by the CVC Board calls for staff to plan for an environmentally sustainable future through neighbourhood plans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report entitled Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'G'; and

THAT the Board of Directors endorses the Hungry Hollow SNAP Final Report; and

THAT staff proceed to seek endorsement of the Hungry Hollow SNAP Final Report from Town of Halton Hills Council; and

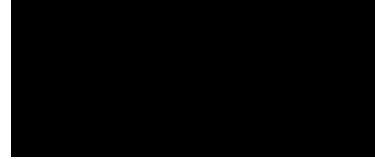
THAT staff finalize the Hungry Hollow SNAP Final Report for distribution; and further

THAT staff work with Town of Halton Hills staff and other stakeholders to align existing programs and resources and future budget with the action plan.

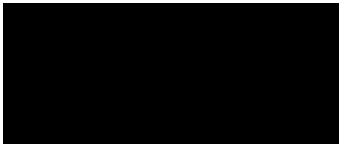
Submitted by:



Melissa Williams,
Senior Coordinator,
Sustainable Neighbourhoods



Andrew Kett
Sr. Manager, Education & Outreach



Jeff Payne,
Director, Corporate Services
& Deputy CAO

Recommended by:



Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan



Hungry Hollow SNAP



Prepared by: Credit Valley Conservation
Prepared for: Town of Halton Hills

September 2020



The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan establishes the collaborative vision and priority actions recommended for neighbourhood climate resilience and sustainability. It provides a framework for measuring progress and shared success.

Thank you to the Project Steering Committee for expertise and guidance on the development of this Action Plan.

Andrew Kett

Senior Manager, Education and Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation

Melissa Williams

Senior Coordinator, Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Credit Valley Conservation

Tooba Shakeel

Coordinator, Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Credit Valley Conservation

Alexandra Veglio

Coordinator, Integrated Water Management, Credit Valley Conservation

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Ecologist, Natural Heritage Management, Credit Valley Conservation

Dharmen Dhaliah

Senior Manager, Climate Change & Asset Management, Town of Halton Hills

Jennifer Spence

Climate Change Outreach Coordinator, Town of Halton Hills

Heather Kaufmann

Community Development Supervisor, Town of Halton Hills

Kathy McAlpine-Sims

Systems Education and Outreach Specialist, Water & Wastewater System Services, Halton Region

Kent Rundle

Coordinator – Landowner Outreach and Restoration, Conservation Halton

Funding for the Action Plan development has been generously provided by:



Acton
Georgetown
Esquesing



Town of Halton Hills
Office of the Mayor



A Message from Mayor Rick Bonnette

July 2020

In May 2019, Halton Hills Town Council declared a climate change emergency. Through adoption of this declaration, the Town committed to taking concrete actions to achieve a net-zero emissions target by 2030.

We recognize that working together with partners such as the Credit Valley Conservation and members of the community will be imperative to achieving such an ambitious yet important target. The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is one of the ways that we can work towards our goal by identifying clear steps we can take to help us adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

While the scope of this plan is at the neighbourhood scale, the actions put forward by are well aligned with Town-wide priorities and will make an impact that is felt well beyond the project's specific focus area. Hungry Hollow ravine is an important natural resource that is enjoyed by residents from across Halton Hills, and its protection and enhancement benefits us all.

We all have a role to play in ensuring the success of this project. By working together, we can foster a greener, cleaner Hungry Hollow and Delrex neighbourhood, and in doing so protect and preserve the Town's natural assets and ecosystems now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Rick Bonnette
Mayor, Town of Halton Hills

1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, L7G 5G2

905-873-2601 | 1-877-712-2205 | haltonhills.ca



Message from Deborah Martin-Downs CAO, Credit Valley Conservation

At Credit Valley Conservation, we aim to inspire a deep appreciation for the role of nature in keeping us all connected, healthy and happy. This resonates throughout the Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), which lays out the path to a climate-resilient Delrex neighbourhood and Hungry Hollow ravine championed by caring community members.

With the impacts of climate change being felt ever more intensely at the local level, more of us are recognizing the true value of our natural areas and green spaces as sources of collective well-being. Furthermore, we are realizing that the actions we take at our homes, businesses, schools and other community institutions can contribute to improving our own health and that of the natural environment around us. Working at the neighbourhood scale, we have potential to make swift and impactful progress on the ground.

Resilient neighbourhoods are forged through collaboration. The Hungry Hollow SNAP was developed in consultation with the community and aligns with local opportunities and priorities. This plan will empower those who live, work and play in the area to take an active role in building an environmentally sustainable future.

We look forward to working with project partners, residents and other local stakeholders to achieve the goals outlined in this plan. We hope you will be inspired to connect with us as we create a healthier tomorrow together.

<Original signed by>

Deborah Martin-Downs
Chief Administrative Officer
Credit Valley Conservation

Executive Summary

The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is a comprehensive approach to urban renewal and climate action at the neighbourhood scale where residents, businesses, institutions and community partners plan and implement locally tailored, sustainable solutions that achieve measurable outcomes and deliver co-benefits such as community resilience, sustainability, health and well-being.

The Hungry Hollow SNAP is the first of its kind for Town of Halton Hills and describes the shared vision and priority actions for local climate resilience and sustainability in Hungry Hollow ravine and the Delrex neighbourhood in central Georgetown. The plan responds directly to opportunities to protect and enhance natural areas (with a special focus on the Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity, a unique landscape that is a vital reservoir for biodiversity in the Credit River Watershed), upgrade stormwater management infrastructure, strengthen the urban forest and foster an environment in which a safe, healthy and engaged community can thrive. It also provides a framework for measuring progress and sharing success and **aligns with the Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan** as a key initiative supporting the Community Resilience implementation theme area.

Residents and local stakeholders were actively engaged in the development of an action plan that not only supports important environmental objectives but also meets local needs. Twenty-eight recommended actions centre around stewardship of natural areas, enhancements in the public realm, sustainable actions on private properties and robust community engagement. Actions are organized under five place-based goals for the neighbourhood:

1. Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek
2. Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces
3. Connected Streets and Infrastructure
4. Resilient Homes and Businesses
5. Strong Schools and Community

Implementation of this plan will commence in 2021, led by Credit Valley Conservation and the Town of Halton Hills in collaboration with Halton Region as well as other partners, community groups and residents. The Hungry Hollow SNAP is an important step towards a more sustainable and climate resilient neighbourhood. In bringing this plan to life, impactful on-the-ground change will follow.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Neighbourhood	3
Building the Action Plan.....	9
The Vision for Hungry Hollow SNAP	11
Hungry Hollow SNAP Concept Map	12
Goal 1 – Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek	14
Goal 2 – Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces.....	16
Goal 3 – Connected Streets and Infrastructure.....	18
Goal 4 - Resilient Homes and Businesses.....	20
Goal 5 – Strong Schools and Community.....	22
Success Factors	24
Demonstrating Progress	27
Overarching Priorities for Implementation	29
Next Steps (2021-2023).....	38
In Closing	41
Acknowledgements.....	42

Appendices

Appendix A – Hungry Hollow SNAP: Habitat Restoration Opportunities Map

Appendix B – Summary Table: Hungry Hollow SNAP Vision, Goals and Actions

Introduction

The Hungry Hollow Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) is a comprehensive approach to urban renewal and climate action at the neighbourhood scale where residents, businesses, institutions and community partners plan and implement locally tailored, sustainable solutions that achieve measurable outcomes and deliver co-benefits such as community resilience, sustainability, health and well-being.



View of the homes in Delrex neighbourhood atop Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo credit: CVC

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), in partnership with Town of Halton Hills (**"The Town"**), has developed the Hungry Hollow SNAP in consultation with Halton Region, Conservation Halton, local residents, businesses and community groups.

The Hungry Hollow SNAP focus area covers 580 ha of land within the Silver Creek and Black Creek subwatersheds. It contains both the Delrex neighbourhood of Georgetown and part of the Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity -- a significant natural area that boasts invaluable biodiversity, supports community well-being and warrants targeted protection and enhancement.

This plan proposes actions that respond to the local needs and opportunities identified through community consultation and advances shared objectives of project partners. Addressing climate change is a major priority locally: The Town declared a [Climate Emergency in 2019](#) and has recently completed development of its [Climate Change Adaptation Plan](#). With the impacts of a changing climate being felt more and more profoundly at the local level, **the SNAP aligns with the Town's** declaration and presents strategies for adaptation and mitigation at the neighbourhood scale.

In addition, Hungry Hollow SNAP advances recommendations of relevant municipal and regional strategies and plans, including:

- [Climate Change Adaptation Plan \(Town of Halton Hills, 2020\)](#)
- [Imagine Halton Hills – Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy \(Town of Halton Hills, 2013\)](#)
- [Silver Creek Subwatershed Study \(Credit Valley Conservation, 2003\)](#)
- [Black Creek Subwatershed Study, Phase 3 \(Credit Valley Conservation, 2020\)](#)
- Hungry Hollow Ravine Management Plan (Town of Halton Hills, 2004)
- [Active Living Strategy \(Town of Halton Hills, 2016\)](#)
- [Mayor’s Community Energy Plan \(Town of Halton Hills, 2015\)](#)
- [Sustainable Halton Water & Wastewater Master Plan \(Halton Region, 2011–2031\)](#)

Through its implementation, this plan will engage partners and the public in innovative ways to meet multiple goals.



Hungry Hollow ravine and Silver Creek provide significant recreational, health and environmental benefits to the community and help build local resilience to climate change. Photo Credit: CVC

The Neighbourhood

Located in central Georgetown, the Hungry Hollow SNAP area is bounded roughly by Main Street South and Guelph Street, extending to the southern limit of the Hungry Hollow ravine. Figure 1 depicts the study area and highlights its position within Halton Hills and the Credit River Watershed Natural Heritage System.

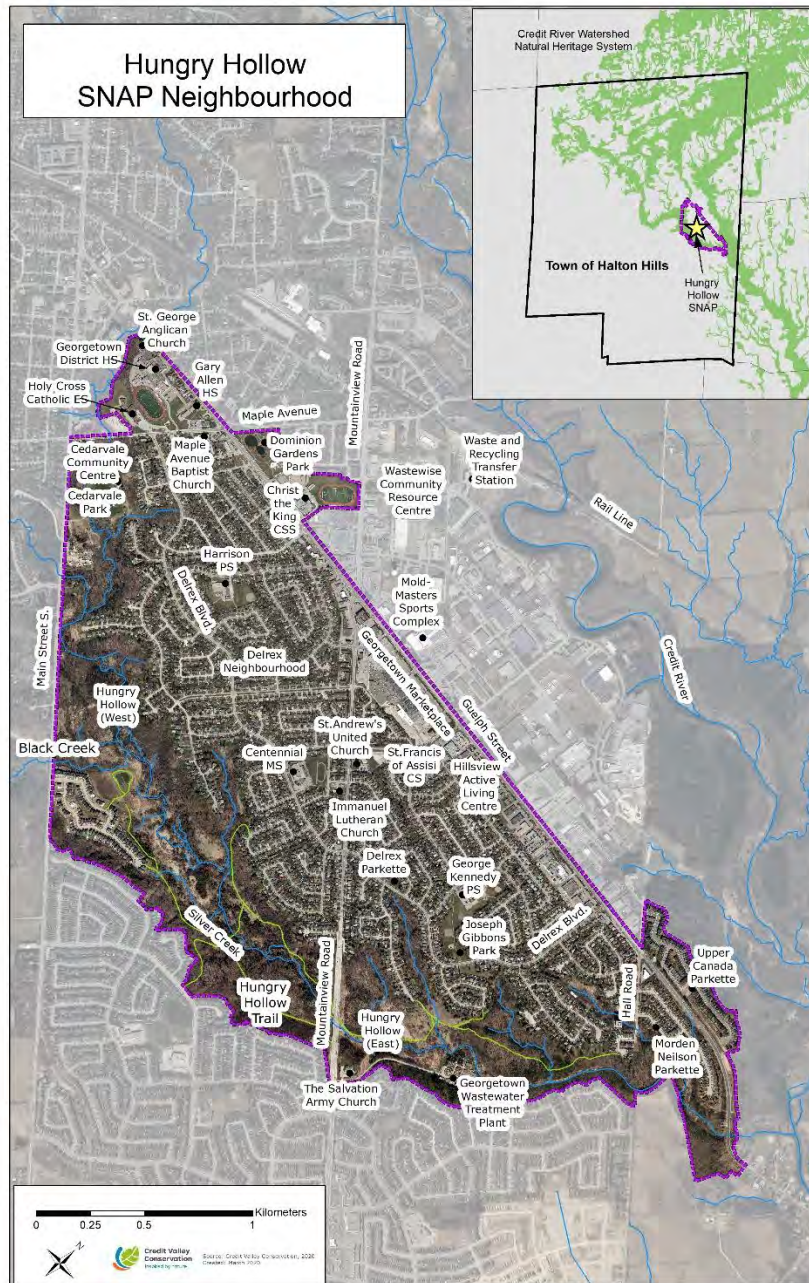


Figure 1. Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood, Halton Hills, Ontario

As outlined in Box 1, the Delrex neighbourhood is home to over 10,000 people living primarily in single and semi-detached houses and low-rise buildings. These homes are interspersed with six large parks and parkettes, eight schools, five places of worship and two community centres. Over 300 businesses, concentrated mostly along Guelph Street as well as home-based within the neighbourhood, provide a wide range of products and services to the community.

Residents here live slower-paced, suburban lives keeping active, enjoying the outdoors, maintaining their homes and visiting nearby amenities. They value small town living, mature trees and serene settings, access to nature, active living, quiet/calmness and opportunities to get involved locally.

This neighbourhood was largely built in the 1950s, and like many older neighbourhoods it lacks modern stormwater management controls. Stormwater runoff moves across large impervious surfaces throughout the neighbourhood and is outlet, untreated, directly into smaller ravines and intermittent streams flowing into Silver Creek. As such, there is little to no opportunity for natural hydrologic functions to occur (such as infiltration, groundwater recharge and evapotranspiration).

Box 1. Neighbourhood Profile

Study area:

- 580 ha
- Bounded roughly by Main Street South and Guelph Street, extending to southern limit of Hungry Hollow ravine

Land use:

- Low-medium density residential: 47 %
- High density residential: 2 %
- High rise residential: 0.3 %
- Natural environment: 33 %
- Commercial/industrial: 7 %
- Parks and Open Space: 4 %
- Roads: 4 %
- Educational/Institutional: 3 %

Demographics (2019 projection by Environics based on 2016 census data):

- Population: 10,205
- Largest age groups:
 - 28 % Boomers
 - 25 % Millennials
 - 19 % Gen X
- Immigrants: 14 %
- Mother Tongue: English (88 %)
- Average Household Income: \$115,411
- Dwellings: 86 % owned, 14 % rented



Snapshots of low, medium and high-density residential areas in the Delrex neighbourhood.
Photo Credit: CVC



Majestic older trees along streets and in private yards are at risk due to natural decline and several urban stresses. Photo Credit: CVC



Typical linear green space linking the neighbourhood and Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC



Hungry Hollow ravine is a valued and actively used natural area and reservoir of biodiversity in the watershed. Photo Credit: CVC

The urban forest here is aging and has been impacted by pests and severe storms, making it more susceptible to decline. Canopy cover is unevenly distributed throughout the neighbourhood and shade is lacking in areas such as playgrounds, school grounds and along sidewalks. Many parks and open spaces contribute minimally to local biodiversity and natural habitat due to their manicured state.

This neighbourhood is closely connected to Hungry Hollow ravine, a largely undeveloped, publicly owned ravine containing trails used for recreation and surrounded by existing development on the adjacent tablelands. Hundreds of residential properties back directly onto the ravine, several smaller ravines extend like fingers into the neighbourhood and a series of trail access points give residents direct entry into the natural area. More information about Hungry Hollow ravine can be found in Box 2 below.

To ensure Hungry Hollow ravine continues to thrive and provide ecosystem services to the local community, action must be taken to protect and enhance its natural habitats. Threats to biodiversity include invasive species found throughout the ravine as well as in gardens, parks and other green spaces throughout the neighbourhood; human disturbances such as unsanctioned trails and yard waste dumping; limited or absent riparian vegetation along sections of Silver Creek; and erosion due in part to heavy uncontrolled stormwater runoff.

Box 2. Hungry Hollow Ravine – A Local Natural Gem

The Delrex neighbourhood is closely connected to Hungry Hollow ravine, a publicly owned ravine through which Silver Creek and a portion of Black Creek flow. This natural area is valued and actively used by community members for recreation and connecting with nature.

Hungry Hollow ravine is part of the Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity. A Centre for Biodiversity (CFB) is made up of critical habitat of watershed importance and strategic areas for restoration and enhancement. These unique landscapes include examples of different physiographic regions and soil types and support diverse combinations of communities and species. As such, they are vital reservoirs of biodiversity; in this CFB alone, there are 16 species-at-risk, 10 provincially rare species, 63 regionally rare species and 97 locally rare species. Figure 2 depicts the location of Hungry Hollow SNAP within the CFB.

The natural assets found within Hungry Hollow ravine and the wider SNAP neighbourhood provide many ecosystem services to residents. These include air purification and carbon sequestration by urban trees and forests, reduced flood impacts by wetlands and recreational and tourism opportunities by parks and other green spaces. In turn, an engaged community with a shared sense of ownership – which is already emerging in this neighbourhood -- is required to ensure long-term protection and enhancement of this natural jewel.



Silver Creek provides some of the best coldwater fish habitat in the Credit River Watershed. Photo Credit: CVC



Redside Dace, a provincially and nationally endangered fish, is one of several significant species occurring in the natural habitat of Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC



Residents stay active by walking their dogs and using nearby Hungry Hollow Trail. Photo Credit: CVC

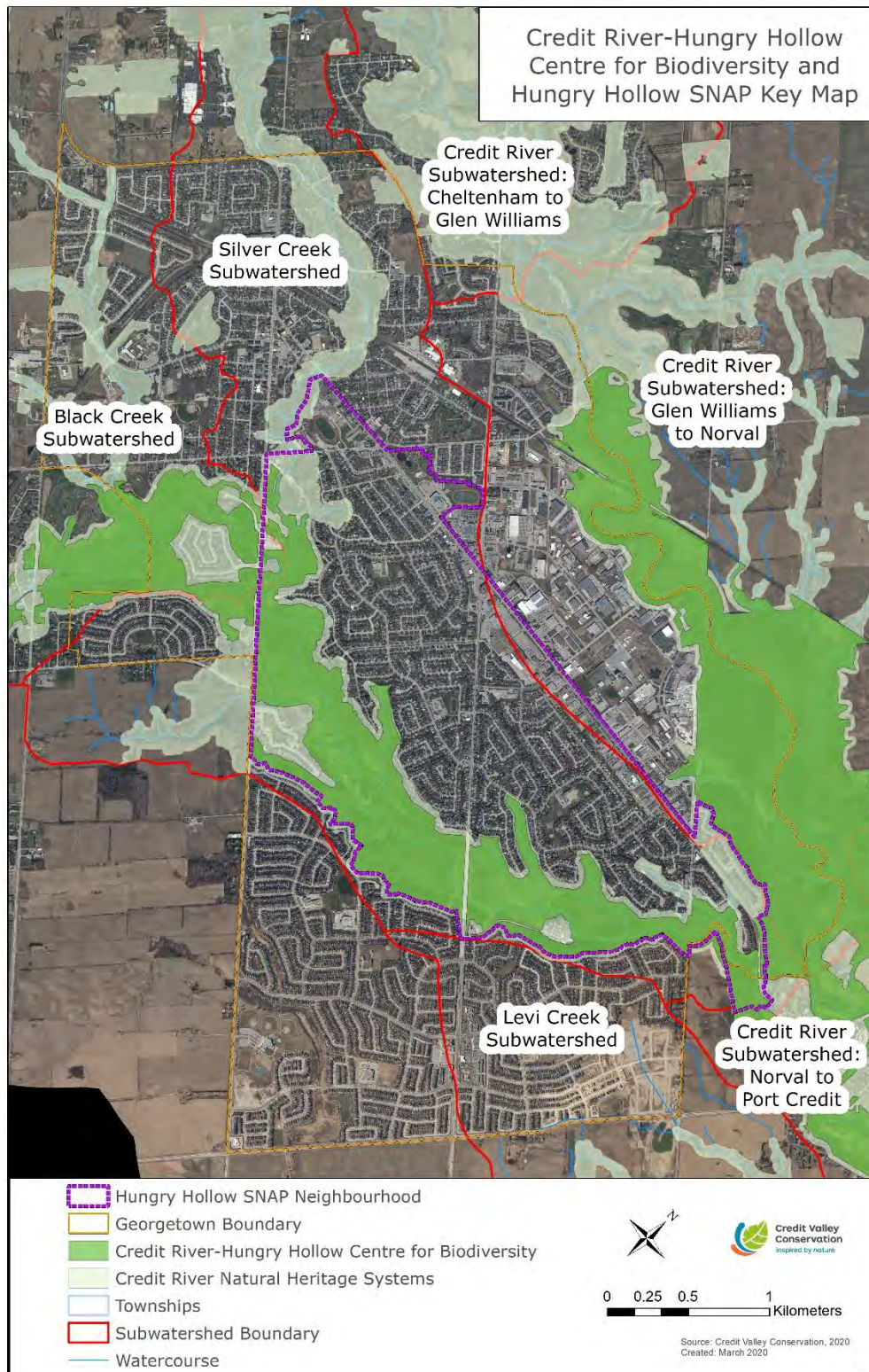


Figure 2. Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity and Hungry Hollow

Residents value and have expressed concern for the health of the local natural environment, including the creeks, rivers, forests and wildlife in the area. They depend on the Hungry Hollow ravine for recreation and nature appreciation. Community members would like to see beautification and revitalization of parks, schools grounds and streetscapes. Residents, especially families and seniors, have also expressed interest in increasing neighbourhood walkability, safety and accessibility, which would allow them to make more comfortable local trips to nearby natural spaces and local amenities.

Current neighbourhood conditions, related environmental needs and community and stakeholder engagement records are documented in detail in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020). A list of top local opportunities for restoration and retrofits, generated in response to these conditions, needs and feedback can be found in Box 3.

Box 3. Top Local Opportunities

- Protect and enhance natural areas through invasive species management
- Protect sensitive natural areas from human disturbances
- Upgrade stormwater management infrastructure
- Enhance urban forest and canopy cover distribution
- Increase ecological value and functionality of neighbourhood parks and streetscapes
- Address local intensification and traffic and enhance accessibility for all



Forests within Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC

Building the Action Plan

This Action Plan is the culmination of a multi-year planning process that included detailed study of the neighbourhood, extensive community and stakeholder engagement, and development and careful refinement of a vision, goals and actions, as illustrated in Figure 3 below.



Figure 3. Hungry Hollow SNAP Project Milestones

Addressing urban renewal and climate resilience at the neighbourhood-scale is dependent upon deep collaboration between partners and engagement from residents and community members.

Climate change and environmental sustainability crosses boundaries between agencies and this project needed the guidance of a multi-disciplinary team representative of key partners with a shared interest in achieving a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood. CVC and the Town partnered to lead the SNAP Steering Committee, providing overall leadership, strategic guidance, direction and support for the project, along with representatives from Halton Region and Conservation Halton. Meetings were aligned with key milestones throughout the action planning process. In addition, over 30 staff from these partner agencies and members of the Town Council were consulted during the action planning process.



Residents, representatives from community groups, members of the Town Council and staff participated in a neighbourhood events to discuss local opportunities and hidden gems. Photo Credit: CVC



Select public comments received during community consultations on the future of Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood. Image Credit: CVC

The action planning process was built upon on a strong understanding of the community and ongoing dialogue with local stakeholders and residents. Social research, staff and stakeholder workshops, neighbourhood walks, in-person and virtual public open houses and online surveys provided multiple opportunities for this engaged and informed community to provide their input on the Action Plan as it was being developed. Over 400 people were engaged via six events and online surveys between 2017-2020.

The information collected through these engagements has helped to shape the recommendations and proposed actions in this Action Plan and, along with on-going communication with the community, it will inform how the public is engaged in the implementation of the plan in the years to come.

The Vision for Hungry Hollow SNAP

Inspired by the aspirations of residents and community members, the vision statement below presents a bold and forward-looking declaration for the Hungry Hollow-Delrex neighbourhood. It envisions an empowered community actively engaged in protecting and enhancing the vital natural assets found in the project area.

Vision Statement

The Hungry Hollow SNAP area is a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood, with biodiverse natural spaces and green infrastructure championed by caring, connected residents and community members.

Hungry Hollow SNAP Goals and Concept Map

Emerging from this vision, five goals provide a framework for the Hungry Hollow SNAP. These place-based goals have been designed to facilitate the protection of that which is most valued by the residents and community members.

Goals

1. Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek
2. Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces
3. Connected Streets and Infrastructure
4. Resilient Homes and Businesses
5. Strong Schools and Community

The Concept Map for the project neighbourhood (Figure 4) illustrates the five goals. The map serves as a visualization tool to display specifically where each proposed goal, and its associated actions, will bring focus and attention within the Hungry Hollow-Delrex neighbourhood. Note that this map is for illustrative purposes only and further analysis will be needed to plan for each given action and associated projects.

Hungry Hollow SNAP Concept Map



Note: This map is for illustrative purpose only

Figure 4. Hungry Hollow SNAP Concept Map

Actions

Twenty-eight strategic actions have been developed in close partnership with the public, community leaders, technical experts and community groups that outline retrofits and enhancements within the neighbourhood where opportunities and needs are greatest and have high potential for co-benefits. These recommendations are based on analysis of the over 800 comments received from these parties, as well as scientific data, findings from site visits, and priorities identified in local municipal and regional strategies and watershed restoration plans. The result is focused, on-the-ground actions in areas such as climate change, natural asset management, community engagement and long-term neighbourhood sustainability.



View of Hungry Hollow ravine from Mountainview Road. Photo Credit: CVC

Goal 1 – Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek

Valleylands that sustain flourishing natural habitats, vital freshwater creeks and invaluable native biodiversity while supporting active lifestyles, community well-being and nature appreciation.



Actions proposed for Hungry Hollow ravine focus on protecting and restoring the unique and valued ecosystems of the Centre for Biodiversity, which provide numerous benefits to the local community (image for illustrative purposes only). Image credit: CVC.

Hungry Hollow ravine (with Silver Creek and portions of Black Creek) is part of the larger Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity. It contains important high-quality forests, wetlands and cool and coldwater streams that support a high diversity of plants and animals (Box 3). These natural assets serve as living green infrastructure providing vital ecosystem services such as improved air quality, urban heat island mitigation, flood and erosion control and carbon sequestration.

The ravine also provides residents with access to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities close to home, with many regularly making use of Hungry Hollow trail that winds through parts of this this unique natural area. Residents and community members feel strongly about protecting and enhancing the ravine for their own use,

as well as to preserve the immense educational, natural and community connection benefits for future generations.

The seven actions below focus on restoring natural habitats, managing invasive species, increasing educational and stewardship opportunities, supporting active lifestyles and promoting residents' appreciation of Hungry Hollow Ravine.

Goal 1 Actions

- 1.1 Implement invasive species and integrated pest management projects for priority species throughout Hungry Hollow ravine.
- 1.2 Connect Hungry Hollow Trail to Cedarvale Park while minimizing impacts on sensitive natural areas.
- 1.3 Conduct plantings and habitat restoration in Hungry Hollow ravine to increase habitat size, improve habitat connectivity and quality and reduce or eliminate unsanctioned trails.
- 1.4 Mitigate erosion along stream banks and steep valley slopes through riparian plantings and stream restoration to improve aquatic habitat, prioritizing high impact sites such as Silver Creek at Cedarvale Park.
- 1.5 Clean and repair outfalls draining stormwater into Silver Creek and other tributaries.
- 1.6 Install a series of interpretative and directional signs and self-guided activities at Hungry Hollow trail heads and at select locations within the ravine.
- 1.7 Increase on-the-ground action and a sense of collective ownership and connection with the ravine by hosting a variety of events within Hungry Hollow ravine for community, school and business groups.

Goal 2 – Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces

A network of multi-use parks and open spaces that link and restore natural systems where neighbours and families gather together to play, learn and enjoy time outdoors.



View of a native pollinator garden planted in nearby McNab Park in spring 2020 through a partnership between Katherine Shaw (local resident and Butterflyway Ranger) and the Town of Halton Hills with support from the David Suzuki Foundation, Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club and Norval Community Association. Photo Credit: Katherine Shaw

The Hungry Hollow-Delrex neighbourhood is home to Georgetown's signature parks such as Cedarvale Park and Dominion Gardens Park, as well as beloved local parks such as Joseph Gibbons Park, Delrex Parkette, Morden Neilson Parkette, Upper Canada Parkette and Kinsmen Park. Several parks and open spaces on the tablelands physically connect to the wooded areas of Hungry Hollow ravine via trails and formal or informal paths, and their ecological health is linked with that of the Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity. Many greenspaces also carry buried stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure and lead to outfalls, drainage channels and intermittent tributaries in Hungry Hollow ravine.

These spaces are highly valued in this neighbourhood. Residents regularly exercise their dogs, walk and cycle through these connected spaces. They are used for informal gathering, recreation and play time, as well as natural cooling areas by families. Residents and experts have highlighted these areas as potential spaces for

community transformation and implementation of local solutions for climate adaptation. Through the consultation process, residents and experts expressed their interest in fostering wildlife habitat and corridors, managing stormwater, increasing urban forest canopy cover, establishing community gardens, hosting public events and adding art and educational signs in these areas.

Five actions below focus on increasing the ecological value and functioning of these spaces, providing education and stewardship opportunities for broader community involvement, animating parks through various existing programs and adding community gathering spaces and features.

Goal 2 Actions

- 2.1 Plant diverse and habitat appropriate native tree species to increase urban forest canopy cover and provide shade for comfort around seating areas, playgrounds, pathways and parking lots.
- 2.2 Naturalize unused areas and establish no-mow or low-mow zones in parks to increase biodiversity, strengthen natural buffers and increase ecological connectivity.
- 2.3 Increase seating, waste bins and lighting for comfort, safety and accessibility in parks to support a range of uses for all.
- 2.4 Install community or public gardens in parks to increase local food production, provide pollinator habitat, add communal and educational spaces, build neighbourhood character and demonstrate sustainable practices.
- 2.5 Install green stormwater features (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales) to manage stormwater on-site in parks.

Goal 3 – Connected Streets and Infrastructure

A network of beautiful streets and public infrastructure enhancing neighbourhood ecological and hydrological functionality and facilitating active and safe mobility of people.



Guelph Street Gateway Enhancement concept incorporating green stormwater infrastructure, shade trees and active transportation (image for illustrative purposes only). Image credit: CVC.

Featuring Guelph Street (a main arterial road) and anchored by Delrex Boulevard, the network of roads in this neighbourhood includes Maple Avenue, Mountainview Road, as well as 84 other local roads and associated sidewalks and pathways. Majestic street trees here provide a cottage-country-like setting, vibrant seasonal beauty and cooling canopy, and support local biodiversity while slowing down stormwater. As no modern stormwater controls are in place in the neighbourhood at present, stormwater moves along paved surfaces, flows untreated into catch basins along streets and flows out into Silver Creek via outfalls.

Streets and pathways were some of the most highly commented-on neighbourhood spaces during community consultations. Hungry Hollow-Delrex is viewed as a walkable neighbourhood by local residents, and these routes connect them with local schools, parks, amenities such as Georgetown Market Place, Hungry Hollow ravine and one another. Protecting existing trees, planting new trees and slowing down and filtering stormwater along streets are actions highly desired by the

community. Residents are also seeking increased shade, comfort and safety for walking and cycling.

Five actions below focus on increasing tree cover, enhancing streetscapes, adding green stormwater infrastructure and supporting safe and active transportation.

Goal 3 Actions

- 3.1 Increase native tree planting and stewardship to grow canopy cover and add shade and cooling along sidewalks and pathways.
- 3.2 Revitalize Guelph Street as a gateway to the neighbourhood through a collaborative design approach, potentially including trees for shade and cooling, pedestrian amenities and sustainable design.
- 3.3 Reduce use of road salt and pilot salt-alternative treatments for roads, sidewalks and parking lots.
- 3.4 Conduct a series of walking and cycling audits with residents to identify opportunities to improve safety, comfort and wayfinding for all ages and abilities.
- 3.5 Identify future road improvements and underused medians and road-adjacent greenspaces (e.g. Sargent Road, Fagan Drive and Delrex Boulevard) to implement green stormwater infrastructure projects and streetscape beautification.

Goal 4 - Resilient Homes and Businesses

Climate-ready residences and workplaces that are connected to healthy natural spaces and contribute to a sustainable, resilient and green neighbourhood.



Residential streets with conceptual depictions of sustainable landscaping, green retrofits and urban forest renewal (image for illustrative purposes only). Image Credit: CVC

A beloved residential neighbourhood, Hungry-Hollow Delrex consists of a unique and diverse mix of homes and apartments with several properties directly adjacent to Hungry Hollow ravine. Sixty-three per cent of survey respondents indicated that they have lived in the neighbourhood for more than 10 years, with several residents sharing stories of making their home here for 50+ years. Many have a strong interest in gardening and landscaping (83 per cent of survey respondents) and have taken steps to increase energy (57 per cent) and water efficiency (53 per cent) at home. Residents are interested in managing invasive plants, gardening with native plants, attracting pollinators and birds, reducing salt and chemical use, growing their own food and planting trees on their properties. Experts are interested in partnering with residents to manage impacts on nearby sensitive natural habitats and manage stormwater runoff of protect ravine slopes and aquatic habitats.

A community of over 300 mostly small- and medium-sized businesses, most of which are concentrated along Guelph Street, offers a variety of products and services to residents and visitors. There is potential to engage these businesses in exciting actions through Hungry Hollow SNAP, such as planting, protecting and

stewarding existing trees in commercial areas and undertaking pollution prevention activities. There are even opportunities to engage employees in tailored sustainability programs and stewardship of nearby natural spaces.

Five actions below focus on supporting residents, businesses and institutions in taking action on their properties and building climate resiliency through sustainable landscaping, pollution prevention, energy and water efficiency and more.

Goal 4 Actions

- 4.1 Increase offerings of native trees, shrubs and perennials to residents and businesses to support planting on private properties.
- 4.2 Promote water efficiency and rainwater harvesting on residential properties including increased use of rain barrels.
- 4.3 Support residents in taking action on their properties by offering educational events, incentives and resources for tree planting, invasive species management, reduction of chemical use, downspout disconnection, appropriate garden waste disposal, food gardening, backyard composting and energy conservation/retrofits.
- 4.4 Support commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional property owners and managers via education on best practices for sustainable landscaping, green stormwater infrastructure, pollution prevention and energy conservation/retrofits.
- 4.5 Promote and support lot-level green stormwater infrastructure at select residential commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional sites to demonstrate best practices and promote further neighbourhood action.

Goal 5 – Strong Schools and Community

Community hubs that showcase climate resiliency and enhance biodiversity, support local learning and social connectivity across all generations, and foster well-informed, engaged citizens.



The Community Circle at Harrison Public School features native trees, pollinator and bird-friendly wildflowers and food gardens. Spaces like this created by the community at schools, churches and community centres serve as hotspots for climate action and biodiversity enhancements throughout the neighbourhood. Photo Credit: CVC

The neighbourhood social fabric includes eight schools (~5,000 students), five churches and two community centres, including the Hillsview Active Living Centre for seniors (~800 members). These institutions are a strong point of interest for residents choosing to make their home in Hungry Hollow-Delrex, and they help foster a strong social network. Local residents, including families and seniors, are socially active and involved in their community. Most institutional properties consist of large open spaces, parking lots, sports fields and mowed grass, while some have trees and gardens and sometimes situated directly adjacent to Silver Creek or Hungry Hollow ravine. As such, there are many opportunities for retrofit and revitalization.

Educators, parents, community leaders and experts are seeking more shade, habitat and rain gardens and outdoor classrooms to align outdoor learning with

school curriculum, youth leadership and community development. Events and projects centred around health and wellness, nature access and celebration and neighbourhood cohesion, in addition to resident-led transformative actions, are top of mind for community members.

Six actions below focus on fostering youth engagement and leadership, revitalizing school and institutional grounds, boosting nature education and access for all and providing opportunities for people to gather and connect with one another.

Goal 5 Actions

- 5.1 Plant and steward native trees on school grounds to increase shade to keep children cool during outdoor play and to increase urban tree canopy cover.
- 5.2 Install habitat gardens, food gardens and outdoor classrooms to support environmental education, skill development, wellness and provide space for outdoor learning.
- 5.3 Deliver in-class and outdoor workshops and activities about Hungry Hollow and Silver Creek, climate change, local environmental issues and active and safe school travel.
- 5.4 Provide guidance to schools and school boards on school ground retrofits and enhancements, implementing retrofits such as green stormwater infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens) to manage stormwater on-site where appropriate.
- 5.5 Provide hands-on educational, volunteer and leadership opportunities for youth, families, seniors and general public through existing programs and partnerships with schools, places of worship and Hillview Active Living Centre.
- 5.6 Organize and empower residents to form volunteer groups (e.g. a neighbourhood association) or support existing groups (e.g. Trees for Halton Hills) that advocate for local issues, form connections and plan local events and projects.

Success Factors



Hungry Hollow ravine and Silver Creek are highly valued natural assets in the neighbourhood, providing significant recreational, health and environmental benefits to the community and helping build local resilience to climate change. Photo Credit: CVC

Successful implementation of the Hungry Hollow SNAP will be dependent upon several key success factors.

Natural and Community Assets

The high-quality natural assets such as Hungry Hollow ravine, nature trails, the mature urban forest, extensive parks and green spaces provide the necessary rationale and ongoing motivation for concentrated and sustained action in the neighbourhood.

Active and engaged residents and community groups based in and around this neighbourhood are part of the strong social network which will serve as the backbone for implementing the Action Plan and transforming this neighborhood. There are thriving community hubs (schools, community centres and places of worship) and a strong local business community. Residents actively participate in community forums, join local groups and share their hopes and ideas for their neighbourhood, as was evident from the high participation at SNAP consultations. The community also regularly uses local amenities, has a strong sense of neighbourhood pride and enthusiastically engages in local events and programs.

Opportunities for Place-Based Demonstration and Innovation

The neighbourhood presents ample opportunities for enhancements and implementation of innovative ideas and approaches, as outlined in the 28 actions above. Locally tailored, place-based projects have strong potential for demonstrating solutions to climate change and sustainable best management practices. For example, a rain garden implemented in a public space can serve as a demonstration of sustainable stormwater management practices that may inspire community members to consider a similar feature for their home or workplace. Such work can also be the foundation for inspiring educational campaigns, community-based behaviour change and widespread adoption of specific actions.

Targeted actions and innovations can open up funding opportunities and allow practitioners the ability to test out new models and methods for addressing large-scale regional, provincial and national issues at a neighbourhood scale.

Partnerships, Efficiencies and Collaboration

Achieving a collective neighbourhood vision depends on partnership and collaboration. Successful implementation of Hungry Hollow SNAP will be contingent upon the wealth of programs, resources and expertise in areas of nature education, active living, restoration, landowner and community outreach, watershed management and green stormwater infrastructure already offered by project partners and community groups.

Directing existing program resources to this neighbourhood will result in aligned goals, program delivery efficiencies, increased program uptake and improved behaviour change outcomes. In addition to programs offered by SNAP Steering Committee member organizations (the Town, CVC, Halton Region and Conservation Halton), the following community groups are active in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood:

- Hungry Hollow Collaborative (see Community Stewardship Spotlight on p.29)
- Trout Unlimited Canada
- Halton-Peel Woodlands and Wildlife Stewardship Council
- Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club
- Norval Community Association
- Halton Eco Film Fest
- Halton Environmental Network
- Rotary Club of Georgetown (2,020 Trees for 2,020 Project)
- Trees for Halton Hills

Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020) contains a full list of existing local programs offered by numerous organizations and groups in the area.

Tremendous potential also exists for forming new collaborations with the extensive network of local community organizations, leaders, businesses and utility companies. Effective partnerships will leverage the strengths of each partner and bring novel ideas, resources, opportunities and ideas to the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood.



Trees along the streets of Delrex-Hungry Hollow neighbourhood. Photo Credit: CVC

Demonstrating Progress



A view of the Hungry Hollow trail. Photo Credit: CVC

Action Plan implementation will focus on achieving the five Hungry Hollow SNAP goals while increasing collective action and demonstrating progress. The progress will be tracked and reported on using the six key metrics listed below.

Key Metrics

Goals

	Number of Trees Planted	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thriving Hungry Hollow, Silver Creek and Black Creek 2. Vibrant Parks and Open Spaces 3. Connected Streets and Infrastructure 4. Resilient Homes and Businesses 5. Strong Schools and Community
	Area of Land Transformed	
	Volume of Stormwater Captured and Treated	
	Number of People Participated	
	Number of Community Projects Implemented (Public Lands)	
	Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented (Private Lands)	

Due to the complex and flexible nature of neighbourhood-based action, performance may also be tracked through additional indicators beyond these six key metrics and used to enhance the quantitative and qualitative reporting of various actions, such as number of herbaceous plants installed, length of riparian area restored, number of partnerships initiated, funds raised, volunteer hours contributed or programs delivered.

Local program and project planning are subject to change, therefore specific targets for the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood may be set on as-needed basis using regional, local and watershed strategies and programs and further consultations. Baseline conditions for the Hungry Hollow-Delrex area are detailed in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report and will be used to inform the development and enhancement of programs and projects to be delivered in this neighbourhood.

Hungry Hollow SNAP progress will be tracked and reported on annually to update the community and stakeholders via a variety of communication channels.

CVC and the Town are working together on a special project to conduct an inventory of natural assets of the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood and assess the stormwater management services provided by those natural assets. This project is currently under development and its results have the potential to summarize the costs and benefits of natural asset management actions. Results of this project may also be used to support and report on the progress of work undertaken in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood over the longer term (i.e. beyond the initial implementation phase from 2021 to 2023).

Overarching Priorities for Implementation



Community members have strong interest in learning about Hungry Hollow ravine, local natural heritage and wildlife and are keen on taking action to protect them. Photo Credit: CVC.

The four overarching priorities developed for the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood are outlined below. They have been informed by and bring together top local opportunities for enhancements and retrofits as identified by staff and stakeholders as well as interests shared by the community during consultations. They also align with priorities identified in local municipal and regional strategies and watershed restoration plans as highlighted on pg. 2 and detailed in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report.

These priorities are woven throughout the five place-based goals for the neighbourhood and will be advanced through the implementation of the recommended on-the-ground actions. While in practice each of the twenty-eight actions may contribute to advancing more than one priority, individual actions are shown below to be associated with the priority which they will most significantly impact. Each priority is also associated with one or more key metric, which, as noted above, will be used to measure progress of the Hungry Hollow SNAP.

Priority 1: Enhancing Biodiversity in Hungry Hollow and Beyond

Community consultations and on-going local scientific research have built a strong case for protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of Hungry Hollow ravine. Sustaining the health of this rare and diverse natural area supports human health, enhances functioning of natural systems and builds local climate resilience. This local gem is highly prized and deeply valued by the community, especially for the nature access and associated wellness benefits it provides.



Hungry Hollow Collaborative members and CVC's Conservation Youth Corps participants remove invasive species in the ravine in 2019. Photo Credit: CVC

Restoration work will continue to be undertaken within Hungry Hollow ravine to support high-quality natural habitat and diversity of terrestrial and aquatic species, as detailed in specific actions under goal one. This will include:

- managing invasive species and implementing integrated pest management plans
- planting and stewarding new native tree, shrub and herbaceous species to restore and expand natural habitats
- reducing erosion on slopes and along riparian areas through planting and rehabilitation

An early map highlighting habitat restoration opportunities in the neighbourhood has been developed to prioritize and guide actions (see Appendix A for Hungry Hollow SNAP: Habitat Restoration Opportunities Map). Further discussion with Town and CVC staff will be conducted prior to commencing such work within the neighbourhood.

Beyond the natural areas, actions identified under goals two through five of the Action Plan, in areas such as parks and open spaces, residential and business properties, school grounds and other community gathering places will focus on:

- managing invasive species
- reducing encroachment and disturbances of natural areas
- planting native species
- creating sustainable landscapes and habitat gardens

Over time, these actions will create the Delrex Greenway, a network of gardens, forests and transformative community spaces that together form a corridor of habitat vital for supporting the presence of birds and pollinators in the area. Work to enhance biodiversity within Hungry Hollow ravine and in the neighbourhood generally is already underway through programs and initiatives led by project partners and several community groups, but this plan will serve to further focus activities and resources where needs are greatest in the project area.

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 2.4, 4.3 and 5.2.

Associated Key Metrics:

- Area of Land Transformed
- Number of Community Projects Implemented
- Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented

Community Stewardship Spotlight: Hungry Hollow Collaborative

Since 2010, stewardship volunteers and contractors have planted over 2,000 native trees and shrubs and removed invasive species in and near Hungry Hollow ravine. Several organizations are working together on such habitat restoration projects as part of the Hungry Hollow Collaborative (which was formalized in 2014).

The following organizations provide funding, staff time, expertise and resources as part of the Collaborative:

- Willow Park Ecology Centre
- Town of Halton Hills
- Credit Valley Conservation
- Ontario Invasive Plant Council
- Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources
- Save Our Ravines
- VectorIAS: Invasive Alien Species Project
- Association of Canadian Education Resources

Priority 2: Strengthening the Urban Forest

This neighbourhood is highly prized for its mature urban forest that contributes to the serene setting and enhances community health and well-being. The majority of the urban forest canopy cover is concentrated in residential areas and some streets, while it is lacking in other areas such as along sidewalks and on playgrounds, in parks and schoolgrounds and around major amenities. Residents appreciate trees for shade, slowing and filtering stormwater, promoting safe and healthy active living, create cooling zones to enjoy their neighbourhood amid intense summer heat and providing shelter from extreme wind.



Newly planted trees at Joseph Gibbons Park near Hungry Hollow ravine. Photo Credit: CVC

Residents and community members have expressed concern about tree loss resulting from Emerald Ash Borer infestation, the 2013 ice storm and other severe weather events, and general decline due to a maturing canopy. In addition to addressing tree loss, there is an opportunity to increase canopy cover distribution to provide shade in high priority areas and address local heat vulnerability to keep people cool while they spend time outdoors. Planting trees along sidewalks and pathways, in parks and on the ground of schools and other community gathering places is a critical step for addressing climate change at neighbourhood-level.

Protecting and enhancing this important natural asset is already underway in Halton Hills. This priority aligns with Town-led measures including the tree replacement program, very popular low-cost native trees and shrubs offered to residents during **the Town's annual Earth Week Celebrations and the Privately-Owned Tree Management Strategy** which is presently under development. Furthermore, several trees were **planted in neighbourhood parks as part of the 'Trees for Veterans Project' during Canada 150 celebrations in 2017. The Town has planted 300 trees in the Hungry Hollow SNAP neighbourhood, including new trees at Joseph Gibbons Parkette.**

The Action Plan includes many recommendations for strengthening the urban forest and addressing uneven canopy cover throughout the neighbourhood including:

- planting new trees in parks and open spaces and along streets and pathways
- supporting tree planting on industrial, commercial and institutional lands
- providing resources and incentives to encourage residential tree planting

In coming years, residents, businesses and community members will have the opportunity to get involved in planting trees on private or public lands through CVC programs such as Your Green Yard, Greening Corporate Grounds, Branch Out, Conservation Youth Corps and Community Tree Planting Program. In addition, a recently formed local non-profit organization, Trees for Halton Hills, will be launching a challenge to the community to plant 65,000 trees in coming years – one for every resident in town. This will be sure to inspire action and celebrate the beautiful urban forest that draws people to this neighbourhood.

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 5.1.

Associated Key Metrics:

- Number of Trees Planted
- Number of Community Projects Implemented
- Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented

Priority 3: Upgrading Local Stormwater Infrastructure

As a mature neighbourhood, the Hungry Hollow-Delrex area presents a significant opportunity to implement new and innovative green stormwater management infrastructure.

Industrial, commercial and institutional lands all have large impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots and driveways. Residential lot sizes are relatively large and, on average, 1/3 of a typical lot here is covered by a solid, impermeable surface (e.g. large roof and driveway area). This impacts the natural hydrologic cycle as it reduces the amount of rainwater that can filter down into the ground.



Managing the quantity and quality of local stormwater runoff is key to protecting local freshwater resources and aquatic habitats like Silver Creek. Photo Credit: CVC

Currently, stormwater runoff is outlet directly to smaller ravines and intermittent streams flowing into Hungry Hollow ravine. Large amounts of stormwater are also entering Silver Creek with little to no opportunity for infiltration, groundwater recharge and/or evapotranspiration. Stormwater increases in temperature when it runs across hot paved surfaces and along the large network of roads, and there is concern that this warm water entering Silver Creek has the potential to damage this sensitive aquatic ecosystem (which provides valuable cool and coldwater habitat for fish such as the endangered Redside Dace).

Sections of the neighbourhood fall within the Wellhead Protection Area Zones (WHPA) and Wellhead Protection Zones Q1/Q2 as determined by the [CTC Source Protection Plan \(2019\)](#) (for the Source Protection Areas of Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario). This means that it is imperative that contaminated and polluted water is not able to consistently infiltrate into the ground in these areas, and that quantities of water infiltration be maintained order to ensure the groundwater resource is not impacted. More information and associated mapping can be found in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020).

During community consultations, residents noted that managing stormwater to protect the aquatic habitats and local freshwater creeks such as Silver Creek and to

build neighbourhood climate resilience is important to them. Specific place-based actions for upgrading stormwater infrastructure are recommended throughout all five goals of the Action Plan, including:

- cleaning and repairing outfalls in the ravine
- installing green stormwater features in parks to manage stormwater on-site
- identifying road improvement projects and underused median and road adjacent greenspaces to implement stormwater retrofit projects
- supporting homes, businesses, schools and institutions with lot-level stormwater retrofits that simultaneously transform spaces for habitat creation and beautification

Currently, approximately 50 per cent of downspouts are disconnected in the neighbourhood. Downspout disconnection results in less stormwater being collected in the storm sewer and potentially infiltrating into the sanitary sewer system, thereby lowering the risk of overflows and downstream erosion. Water conservation is top of mind for residents and many use rainwater harvesting measures such as rain barrel use.

There are opportunities for innovative green stormwater features (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales, permeable parking lots, blue roofs, etc.) to be used to manage stormwater on-site in both public and private spaces. Projects of this nature, which are based on managing communal resources (such as rainwater) and addressing block-level concerns such as stormwater flow and drainage, are dependant on forging partnerships, building buy-in from multiple stakeholders and securing and using resources efficiently. Such features may be communally shared between landowners and/or between the public and private realm and will depend on innovative approaches to help overcome potential challenges to breaking ground and ensuring large-scale impacts can be achieved.

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 1.5, 2.5, 3.3, 3.5, 4.2, 4.5 and 5.4.

Associated Key Metrics:

- Volume of Stormwater Captured and Treated
- Number of Community Projects Implemented
- Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented

Priority 4: Fostering Community Health and Well-Being

Momentum is building in this community. Social research shows that this community actively participates in local programs and events and regularly visits local parks and natural areas.

Residents have keenly engaged in the action planning process and new community-led initiatives are emerging. In addition, it is important to note that collaborative stewardship of Hungry Hollow ravine and general engagement in environmental issues have been prevalent here long before the launch of this project.



Residents participate in neighbourhood events to connect with each other and stay active. Photo Credit: CVC

A sense of collective ownership over places like Hungry Hollow ravine will be key to preserving vital natural assets for future generations. Furthermore, active living is highly valued by those who reside in this area, and is inherently tied to the health, accessibility and safety of natural and public spaces. During consultations, community members shared that they would like to see more support for active transportation and enhanced comfort in this neighbourhood, through the addition of more seating and shade for frequent stops along sidewalks, cycling routes and in parks, more continuous trails and less traffic/reduced speeds on roads.

Given that a high level of community support is vital for effective neighbourhood-scale initiatives, this foundation bodes well for success of Hungry Hollow SNAP, but continuing to build engagement, raise awareness and change behaviours will be crucial. As the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt close to home, the ecosystem services provided by the local environment that enhance human health and well-being become more important than ever, so they must be valued and protected by those who benefit from them.

All five goals of the Action Plan address this priority with actions focusing on:

- engaging and educating community members of all ages
- fostering active living and connection
- enhancing safety and accessibility in natural and public spaces

SNAP project partners, several agencies and community groups offer programming and resources that support neighbourhood sustainability and stewardship in Halton Hills and Hungry Hollow ravine specifically. Detailed information about local community programs and organizations can be found in the Hungry Hollow SNAP Background Report (2020).

This priority will be addressed by implementing actions 1.2, 1.6, 1.7, 2.3, 3.4, 4.4, 5.3, 5.5 and 5.6.

Associated Key Metrics:

- Number of People Participated
- Number of Community Projects Implemented

Early Actions Planned or Underway in Hungry Hollow SNAP Neighbourhood:

- Butterfly Blitz (Summer 2020): This annual summer-long citizen science program is creating a watershed-wide inventory of butterflies in the Credit River Watershed. Participants will learn how to identify butterfly species in their backyard and neighbourhood through free training webinars and contribute important data to the program.
- Health and Wellness Webinars (Summer/Fall 2020): **Delivered by CVC's Education** team for Hillsview Active Living Centre members, this webinar will engage residents age 50+ in learning how staying active and connecting with nature can improve their well-being.
- Landscaping for Birds (Fall 2020): **This free webinar delivered by CVC's Your Green** Yard program will teach participants how to attract birds to their yard and keep them safe. **Participants who live within CVC's watershed can sign up at the webinar to receive a** free tree or shrub that will provide habitat for local birds, with the option to purchase more.
- **Rotary Club of Georgetown's 2,020 Trees for 2020 Project (Fall 2020):** The Rotary Club of Georgetown will lead this large-scale public tree planting initiative within Hungry Hollow ravine.

Next Steps (2021-2023)



A local resident walking through Hungry Hollow trail. Photo Credit: CVC

Developing this Action Plan has been the first step towards fostering a more climate-resilient community. Beyond this stage, project partners will continue to work collaboratively with one another as well as with local residents, schools, businesses, and community groups as the focus shifts from planning to implementation. In order to achieve the goals set out in the Action Plan, everyone involved has an important role to play and responsibilities to fulfill.

As a key element of the Climate Change Resilience **Strategy within the Town's Low-Carbon Resilience Framework**, the SNAP Action Plan will through its implementation **help fulfill the goals of Halton Hills' Climate Change Action Plan on a neighbourhood scale** (across the five theme areas of Community Resilience, Emergency Preparedness and Public Health, Resilient Infrastructure, Flood Protection and Natural Asset Management).

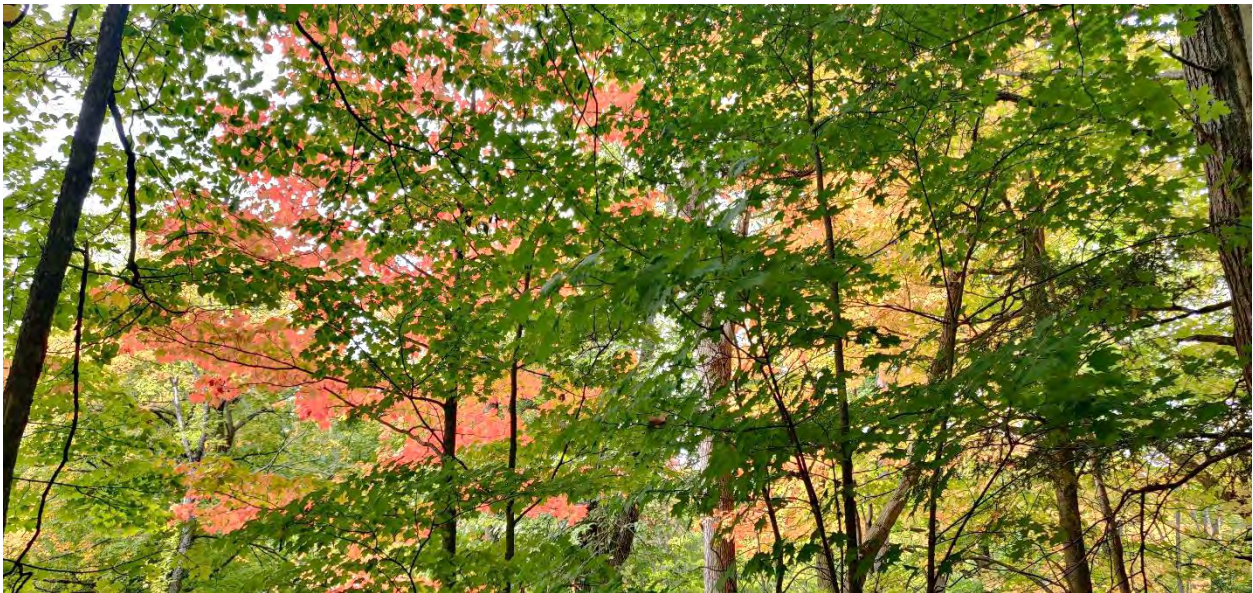
CVC and the Town, in partnership with other stakeholders and the community where appropriate, will undertake the following activities in the first three years of Hungry Hollow SNAP implementation:

1. Seeking endorsement of the Action Plan by CVC Board of Directors and Halton Hills Council to signal municipal support for implementation (fall 2020).
2. Engaging local residents and community members in early actions to continue to building interest in neighbourhood climate action and the Hungry Hollow SNAP project (summer-fall 2020).
3. Developing a communication strategy that identifies key project messages and tools to unify Hungry Hollow SNAP activities, events and projects, **ensuring alignment with messaging from the Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan** (winter 2020-spring 2021).
4. Publicly launching Action Plan to continue to celebrate the work-to-date and build community support for implementation (spring 2021).
5. Transitioning the Steering Committee to an Implementation Committee and developing Implementation Teams and/or working groups (spring 2021).
6. Aligning existing programs and capital resources through capital budget allocation to individual projects where appropriate (spring 2021 and beyond).
7. Developing implementation framework and detailed plans/designs for individual projects including establishing roles and responsibilities, targets, work plans and budgets, and funding strategies that explore the potential for external funding through grants, compensation funds and/or private sector partnerships (spring 2021 and beyond).
8. Ongoing Hungry Hollow SNAP coordination to manage a rigorous and streamlined implementation timeline and maintain communication between partners (2021-2023).
9. Ongoing monitoring to track and report on project accomplishments (2021-2023).
10. Ongoing community engagement to identify project opportunities, grow support for projects and build capacity for long-term neighbourhood leadership (2021-2023).
11. Implementing and monitoring priority actions (2021-2023).

12. Ongoing evaluation and assessment of existing Hungry Hollow SNAP priorities and identification of new priorities and opportunities (2021-2023).

Subsequent Hungry Hollow SNAP activities in the year 2024 and beyond include:

1. Evaluating the Hungry Hollow SNAP accomplishments and assessing priorities in 2024.
2. Ongoing development and implementation of recommended actions.
3. Ongoing administration and monitoring of projects previously implemented, where required.



Fall colours in Hungry Hollow ravine seen through Delrex neighbourhood. Photo Credit: CVC

In Closing



Hungry Hollow SNAP community members actively come together to share ideas and take action for change. Photo Credit: CVC

The Hungry Hollow SNAP charts a course towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for those who live, work and play in this neighbourhood. It builds upon community momentum and presents recommendations for actions that bring together diverse stakeholders, push forward innovative projects and connect people with nature. This will be imperative for preserving the unique and valuable Credit River-Hungry Hollow Centre for Biodiversity and enhancing overall community health in the long term, as impacts of a changing climate continue to intensify.

The path forward is not without challenges. As the project shifts into implementation phase, concentrated and collaborative effort must be made to build strong community and stakeholder support, secure additional resources and funding for the activities outlined in the plan, and shift perceptions and behaviours so all stakeholders understand and assume shared responsibility for attaining the vision that has been developed together.

Given the high levels of support from project partners and engagement from the community to date, it is anticipated that Hungry Hollow SNAP will generate a multitude of benefits that improve the environment and enhance quality of life in this neighbourhood for present and future generations.

Acknowledgements

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) has authored this report on behalf of our project partner, the Town of Halton Hills. Action Plan recommendations were developed by a Steering Committee made up of CVC, The Town, Halton Region and Conservation Halton staff and have been generated in consultation with local stakeholders and area residents. We thank Steering Committee members, staff, municipal leaders and community members for their contributions to the action planning process. The Action Plan will guide urban renewal and climate action in Hungry Hollow and the Delrex neighbourhood.

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Jennifer Spence
Climate Change and Asset Management
Town of Halton Hills
905-873-2601, ext. 2290
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Keep up to date on Action Plan implementation by visiting cvc.ca/hhsnap

Appendix A
Hungry Hollow SNAP: Habitat Restoration Opportunities Map

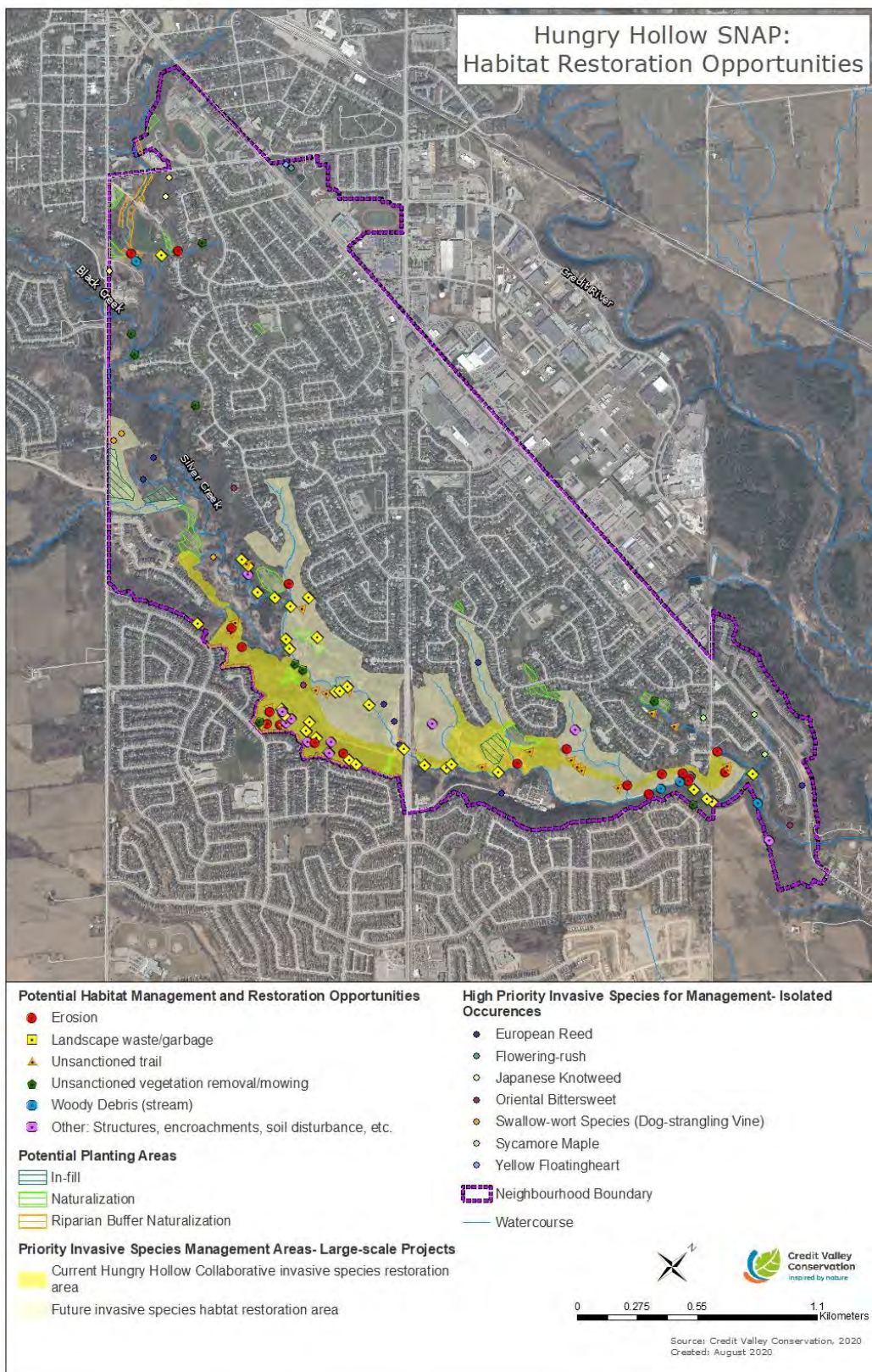






























Figure: Hungry Hollow SNAP: Habitat Restoration Opportunities

Appendix B

Summary Table: Hungry Hollow SNAP Vision, Goals and Actions

APPENDIX B - SUMMARY TABLE: HUNGRY HOLLOW SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN (SNAP) VISION, GOALS AND ACTIONS

The Hungry Hollow SNAP area is a healthy, climate resilient neighbourhood, with biodiverse natural spaces and green infrastructure championed by caring, connected residents and community members.

<p>THRIVING HUNGRY HOLLOW, SILVER CREEK AND BLACK CREEK</p> <p>Valleylands that sustain flourishing natural habitats, vital freshwater creeks and invaluable native biodiversity while supporting active lifestyles, community well-being and nature appreciation.</p>	<p>VIBRANT STREETS AND OPEN SPACES</p> <p>A network of multi-use parks and open spaces that link and restore natural systems where neighbours and families gather together to play, learn, and enjoy time outdoors.</p>	<p>CONNECTED STREETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <p>A network of beautiful streets and public infrastructure enhancing neighbourhood ecological and hydrological functionality and facilitating active and safe mobility of people.</p>	<p>RESILIENT HOMES AND BUSINESSES</p> <p>Climate-ready residences and workplaces that are connected to healthy natural spaces and contribute to a sustainable, resilient and green neighbourhood.</p>	<p>STRONG SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY</p> <p>Community hubs that showcase climate resiliency and enhance biodiversity, support local learning and social connectivity across all generations, and foster well-informed, engaged citizens.</p>
<p> (1.1) Implement invasive species and integrated pest management projects for priority species throughout Hungry Hollow ravine.</p> <p> (1.2) Connect Hungry Hollow Trail to Cedarvale Park while minimizing impacts on sensitive natural areas.</p> <p> (1.3) Conduct plantings and habitat restoration in Hungry Hollow ravine to increase habitat size, improve habitat connectivity and quality and reduce or eliminate unsanctioned trails.</p> <p> (1.4) Mitigate erosion along stream banks and steep valley slopes through riparian plantings and stream restoration to improve aquatic habitat, prioritizing high impact sites such as Silver Creek at Cedarvale Park.</p> <p> (1.5) Clean and repair outfalls draining stormwater into Silver Creek and other tributaries.</p> <p> (1.6) Install a series of interpretative and directional signs and self-guided activities at Hungry Hollow trail heads and at select locations within the ravine.</p> <p> (1.7) Increase on-the-ground action and a sense of collective ownership and connection with the ravine by hosting a variety of events within Hungry Hollow ravine for community, school and business groups.</p>	<p> (2.1) Plant diverse and habitat appropriate native tree species to increase urban forest canopy cover and provide shade for comfort around seating areas, playgrounds, pathways and parking lots.</p> <p> (2.2) Naturalize unused areas and establish no-mow or low-mow zones in parks to increase biodiversity, strengthen natural buffers and increase ecological connectivity.</p> <p> (2.3) Increase seating, waste bins and lighting for comfort, safety and accessibility in parks to support a range of uses for all.</p> <p> (2.4) Install community or public gardens in parks to increase local food production, provide pollinator habitat, add communal and educational spaces, build neighbourhood character and demonstrate sustainable practices.</p> <p> (2.5) Install green stormwater features (e.g. rain gardens, bioswales) to manage stormwater on-site in parks.</p>	<p> (3.1) Increase native tree planting and stewardship to grow canopy cover and add shade and cooling along sidewalks and pathways.</p> <p> (3.2) Revitalize Guelph Street as a gateway to the neighbourhood through a collaborative design approach, potentially including trees for shade and cooling, pedestrian amenities and sustainable design.</p> <p> (3.3) Reduce use of road salt and pilot salt-alternative treatments for roads, sidewalks and parking lots.</p> <p> (3.4) Conduct a series of walking and cycling audits with residents to identify opportunities to improve safety, comfort and wayfinding for all ages and abilities.</p> <p> (3.5) Identify future road improvements and underused medians and road-adjacent greenspaces (e.g. Sargent Road, Fagan Drive and Delrex Boulevard) to implement green stormwater infrastructure projects and streetscape beautification.</p>	<p> (4.1) Increase offerings of native trees, shrubs and perennials to residents and businesses to support planting on private properties.</p> <p> (4.2) Promote water efficiency and rainwater harvesting on residential properties including increased use of rain barrels.</p> <p> (4.3) Support residents in taking action on their properties by offering educational events, incentives and resources for tree planting, invasive species management, reduction of chemical use, downspout disconnection, appropriate garden waste disposal, food gardening, backyard composting and energy conservation/retrofits.</p> <p> (4.4) Support commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional property owners and managers via education on best practices for sustainable landscaping, green stormwater infrastructure, pollution prevention and energy conservation/retrofits.</p> <p> (4.5) Promote and support lot-level green stormwater infrastructure at select residential commercial, industrial, multi-residential and institutional sites to demonstrate best practices and promote further neighbourhood action.</p>	<p> (5.1) Plant and steward native trees on school grounds to increase shade to keep children cool during outdoor play and to increase urban tree canopy cover.</p> <p> (5.2) Install habitat gardens, food gardens and outdoor classrooms to support environmental education, skill development, wellness and provide space for outdoor learning.</p> <p> (5.3) Deliver in-class and outdoor workshops and activities about Hungry Hollow and Silver Creek, climate change, local environmental issues and active and safe school travel.</p> <p> (5.4) Provide guidance to schools and school boards on school ground retrofits and enhancements, implementing retrofits such as green stormwater infrastructure (e.g. rain gardens) to manage stormwater on-site where appropriate.</p> <p> (5.5) Provide hands-on educational, volunteer and leadership opportunities for youth, families, seniors and general public through existing programs and partnerships with schools, places of worship and Hillview Active Living Centre.</p> <p> (5.6) Organize and empower residents to form volunteer groups (e.g. a neighbourhood association) or support existing groups (e.g. Trees for Halton Hills) that advocate for local issues, form connections and plan local events and projects.</p>

Overarching Priorities



Enhancing Biodiversity in Hungry Hollow and Beyond



Strengthening the Urban Forest



Upgrading Local Stormwater Infrastructure



Fostering Community Health and Well-Being

Key Metrics



Number of Trees Planted



Area of Land Transformed



Volume of Stormwater Captured and Treated



Number of People Participated



Number of Community Projects Implemented (Public Lands)



Number of Sustainable Actions Implemented (Private Lands)

TO: The Chair and Members
of the Board of Directors,
Credit Valley Conservation

SUBJECT: 2021 BUDGET ENDORSEMENT

PURPOSE: To present the Board of Directors of CVC with the preliminary
2021 budget for endorsement

BACKGROUND:

Established in 1954 Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario. Conservation authorities operate under the legislated framework set out by the *Conservation Authorities Act* and in partnership with watershed municipalities. The CVC watershed extends over portions of four upper tier municipalities (Dufferin County, Halton Region, Peel Region and Wellington County) and 11 lower tier municipalities (Amaranth, Brampton, Caledon, East Garafraxa, Erin, Halton Hills, Milton, Mississauga, Mono, Oakville and Orangeville). Directors are appointed by CVC's municipal partners within the Credit River watershed, their representation is based on the population in the municipality within the watershed.

The budget is based on a Current Value Assessment (CVA) calculation using Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) data over the watershed area by municipality in the Credit Valley Conservation Authority jurisdiction. The CVC watershed has the third largest population (behind Toronto and Region Conservation and Grand River Conservation) and the second largest CVA of all conservation authorities.

The CVC Board of Directors, representing the watershed municipalities, approves the levy through an annual budget process; this levy is collected through the property tax across the CVC watersheds.

The budget for CVC is funded by three main sources: A General Levy (also referred to as operating) that applies to all municipalities; A Shared Special Levy that applies to all municipalities; and a Special Benefiting Levy that benefits typically a single municipality directly (also referred to as Capital). Currently only the Region of Peel contributes special benefitting levy in two categories – special levy and climate change.

Budget priority setting for CVC is based on our new strategic plan titled "*Our Future Taking Shape*" approved by the Board of Directors on July 10, 2020 (Resolution #65/20). CVC under the new strategy and previously under the prior strategy ensures all program areas that are supported by both general and special levy link to our strategic plan, including:

- stream flow, climate and rainfall monitoring;
- flood plain management and flood operations;
- plan input, review and permitting;
- developing watershed management strategies and guidelines;
- habitat rehabilitation and reforestation;
- monitoring and guidance for new/retrofit of stormwater management systems;
- asset management of lands and associated infrastructure;
- environmental inventory and monitoring;
- conservation areas and outdoor recreation;
- environmental education and stewardship; and
- watershed health reporting.

2021 BUDGET CONTEXT:

1. Strategic Alignment

In July 2020, the CVC Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan for 2020-2022 titled “*Our Future Taking Shape*”. This document aligned closely with our prior strategic Plan “*Our Future to Shape*” building on what had been accomplished and prioritizing what still needs to be done. The strategic plan, with its relatively short timeframe, recognizes the potential for change by the province to the work undertaken by conservation authorities. The vision, mission, and defined values remain ostensibly the same. The goals and outcomes, still looking forward ten years, were updated to reflect current priorities. Significant effort has been made to refine program work plans and align deliverables with the strategic plan. As a result, the organization is very focused on initiating many of the big strategic actions outlined in the plan, such as the Credit Valley Trail (CVT) and the Credit River Watershed Plan.

2. COVID-19 Impact

It goes without saying that the global pandemic is the single most significant economic factor looking ahead to 2021. COVID-19 has dramatically impacted all sectors of the economy with no clear timeline until a ‘return to normal’ is achieved. It is anticipated in 2021 that CVC will continue to experience pressure on the revenue side of the ledger. Fees from education, outreach, nursery sales and parks operations will continue to be negatively impacted primarily because of necessary public health measures that limit or alter the revenue potential for CVC programs. While planning fees have remained near normal for 2020 it is not yet clear what the sustained impact of the pandemic will be on the development sector in 2021, and that creates some uncertainty. Further, the charitable sector has been hard hit, with donations down the Credit Valley Conservation Foundation (CVCF) will face further challenges in 2021. Signature events like the annual CVC Gala, Canoe the Credit and Island Lake Fishing Derby were cancelled in 2020 and at this time it is unclear if they will occur in 2021, or if they do that they will have the same benefit for CVC and important programs such as youth outreach programming.

On the other side of the ledger there will also be some increased costs to absorb related to increased cleaning (offices and public facilities), personal protective equipment for staff (masks, visors and gloves) as well as additional cleaning supplies (disinfectant, wipes, hand sanitizer, and related supplies). The pandemic has also impacted the need for additional staff in the field to deal with the number of people visiting public spaces. This has included the redeploying of staff to act as 'park interpreters' which supports visitor compliance and good behaviour when there is increased staff visibility in the parks and hiring of two security officers. In a typical year, the closure of our parks seasonally does not result in a need for significant monitoring of our properties. We do anticipate that because of ongoing COVID-19 public health measures we will need to maintain a higher level of surveillance and this will be an area we will need to monitor very closely for potential costs.

3. Economic Factors

One of the key indicators of economic performance is the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is obtained by comparing, over time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by consumers. According to the Bank of Canada's most recent announcement on the overnight interest rate target dated September 9, 2020, the Total CPI is close to zero. This is driven largely by significant downward inflationary pressure from energy prices and travel services, and Total CPI is expected to remain at or near zero in the near term.

While Total CPI does show an overall picture, it is impacted by distortions in the economy and for that reason we should look beyond Total CPI. When the volatile factors such as fuel and travel are removed, and we focus in on Core Inflation, we see a different story. As of September, the Bank of Canada, using the adjusted CPI methodologies, measured the core rate of inflation between 1.3% and 1.9%. Core Inflation is more in line with what the average consumer is perceiving; grocery prices are increasing, home repair and home consumer product (appliances and electronics) prices are increasing. While there have been savings related to fuel and reduced transportation/travel – those savings are offset for the average consumer experiencing measurable household increases in costs.

Employment in the CVC watershed has a significant manufacturing and transportation component that is export based. Compared to this time last year, trade concerns have eased significantly with an agreement having been ratified on a renewal of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) now called the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). However, the United States has continued erratic economic policies toward trading partners that have impacted targeted areas of the Canadian economy. The pending Presidential election in the US will determine if current policies continue or if a new policy direction will be set. Regardless of the outcome of the US election it is bound to have an impact on the markets in the near term, but these should stabilize over time. Ongoing global trade disputes like Brexit and US/China tariffs are continuing to result in short term volatility to the markets.

Global economies have all seen significant impacts of the pandemic, with many countries in or near recession levels as a result, especially in the second quarter of 2020. That having been said, there has also been surprising growth in key economies in the second

half of 2020, namely the US, India, and China. Important for Canada, resource prices (such as oil and natural gas) have stabilized and seen recovery also in the second half of 2020. Consumer spending increased sharply in the third quarter of 2020 in Canada and that has been positive for the economy. Finally, the value of the Canadian dollar versus the US dollar has, over the past year, been relatively stable amidst the economic uncertainty, remaining around \$0.75 CDN to the US dollar. A lower value for the dollar is generally seen as a positive for economy as it aids with Canadian export prices. However, the negative is the lower dollar also pushes up prices for imported goods.

In summary there is a great deal of uncertainty in the economy with several key economic drivers pushing Core Inflation upward in the Canadian economy.

4. Provincial Government

The provincial government agenda has been impacted by the pandemic. The government has pivoted to address priorities related to health care, public health, long term care, education, mitigation of the impacts of COVID-19 broadly, and the re-opening of the economy of the province.

This shift in focus by the government has delayed legislative and regulatory changes that would impact conservation authorities. Currently, transfer payments, source water protection funds, and Water and Erosion Control (WECI) funds remain in place and at the same level of funding.

Minister Yurek has indicated that legislative and/or regulatory amendments would be forthcoming this fall but, specific timelines have not been articulated beyond that general statement. Conservation Ontario has continued to reach out to the province and has provided information to support informed decision making by the government.

Municipalities are all struggling with the impacts of pandemic and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has expressed that now is not a good time for changes that would impact budgets or for initiating negotiations on service level agreements with conservation authorities.

Like 2020, the 2021 budget will be a “business as usual” budget based on our understanding of the revisions introduced under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the allowance for a transition period and the opportunity to negotiate with municipalities to maintain programs and services necessary to meet our collective mandates.

5. Watershed Growth Impacts

The CVC watershed continues to be home to one of the fastest growing urban areas in Canada. As of 2019 year-end the estimated total watershed population had reached 990,000. By 2022 it is estimated that the population will grow by over 60,000 with total watershed population exceeding one million. The distribution of this population growth is not even throughout the watershed with most significant growth associated with Brampton and Mississauga. To put the population growth in context, the entire estimated population

for the municipalities (not just CVC Watershed) of Orangeville, Mono, Erin, Amaranth and East Garafraxa combined is just over 55,000, based on the 2016 census.

As the population of our watershed grows so does the value of the land, as land values increase, the cost to acquire land for conservation also increases. Further, as the population grows more people are accessing our lands and using our facilities and this requires more resources to manage our lands. CVC lands, and park lands in general, contribute favorably to land values given proximity to green space is widely seen as desirable by homeowners.

The overall visitation rates to CVC's conservation areas in 2019 grew by 13% over the same period in 2018. In 2019 conservation areas brought in a combined gross revenue of \$1.7 million, achieving 111% of the budget revenue target. 2020 will clearly be a different story to tell. But based on the demand we have seen for regional greenspace ongoing, investment in programs and facilities will be required to meet the growing demand. Additional detail regarding the 2019 CVC conservation area operations was provided to the Board in March 2020 under the report titled "2019 Conservation Areas Update" (Resolution #27/20).

6. Climate Change Investment

As an environmental organization we are very aware of the impact of climate change and it continues to be reflected in our priorities. CVC is deeply grateful for the ongoing demonstrated leadership and significant support from the Region of Peel to help address climate change across the three risk classification categories of 'Act, Invest and Sustain'. With climate change comes the increased likelihood of intense weather events that increase the possibility of localized floods, ice storms and as is the case with the summer of 2016, prolonged dry periods juxtaposed to record Lake Ontario high water levels in 2017 and again in 2019.

CVC is responding to climate change on many fronts. CVC is a leader in low impact development technologies, and we are assisting our municipal partners to take proactive steps to prepare for the ongoing impacts of climate change. CVC also continues to undertake significant floodplain mapping updates. The WISKI flood and climate gauge system software was upgraded in 2019 and new functionality was deployed in 2020, demonstrating our focus and ongoing commitment to this critical CA function. CVC is also working to mitigate the impacts of invasive species in the watershed through a variety of programs and public awareness. These are all ongoing necessary investments at the local level that support efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change on people, infrastructure, and the environment.

7. Land and Capital Assets

CVC is entrusted as the steward for nearly 2,800 hectares (7,000 acres) of publicly held lands. Many of these are environmentally sensitive lands including wetlands, forest and meadows, floodplains, erosion prone areas, in addition to recreational, cultural and heritage properties. In total, the estimated value of CVC assets is approximately 50 million dollars (based on net book value).

CVC works closely with all watershed municipalities to provide services and programs to residents. Some examples include shared operational funding model for the Vicki Baron Trail with Orangeville and Mono that was renewed in 2019; land management agreements through leases with the City of Mississauga; land management agreements with the Ontario Heritage Trust; and shared use facilities with two school boards in the watershed. We continue to look for innovative models to manage and operate public lands and facilities.

CVC has made considerable progress in recent years to assess capital assets and work continues on this front with support from the Region of Peel. The CVC Board of Directors approved on June 8, 2018 (Resolution #53/18) the creation of an operating and capital reserve for the conservation areas.

As a smaller public sector organization CVC has been challenged to establish, plan and properly fund capital reserves for the state of good repair and replacement of assets. With the support of staff at Peel Region, CVC has undertaken a capital asset inventory refresh and work is underway to estimate the reserve gap that will need to be funded to ensure that CVC can plan for a sustainable future. This work is being undertaken to avoid situations where capital asks are made of our funders to support repair or replacement work related to our facilities in an unplanned manner.

8. Leveraging Funding from other Sources

Efforts by CVC continue to secure funding from alternative sources (grants, donations, government programs) to both support and accelerate work on the ground in the Credit River watershed. In 2019 for example revenues recognized from alternative funding sources was \$1.8 million, an amount equivalent to 7% of the total levy.

In recent years CVC accessed federal and provincial funding, with support from municipal partners including the City of Brampton, the City of Mississauga and the Region of Peel under the Clean Water, Wastewater Fund (CWWF) for a number of local projects, including a 'One Water' solution for Belfountain CA (potable, stormwater/LID, wastewater), and development of a 'Risk Management Framework' (ISO) stormwater study in Caledon and Grid LID modeling in Mississauga. In addition, CVC used the NDMP (National Disaster Mitigation Program) funding in support of flood plain mapping and a Risk and Return on Investment Tool (RROIT) pilot for Cooksville Creek in Mississauga. These are just a few examples of CVC working to secure funding for projects from alternative sources, but they are not sustainable and cannot be relied upon annually. CVC also has made application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and we plan to apply under the ICIP COVID Resiliency intake.

ANALYSIS:

The following sections provide an overview of the proposed 2021 budget. Staff have undertaken a detailed process to prepare the draft budget and have continued to identify and implement cost saving measures on an ongoing basis. The initial projection for 2021 forecast an average increase of 4.17% (excluding EAB). The draft budget outlined in this

SCHEDULE 'H'
PAGE -7-
2020-10-16

report identifies an average increase of 2.53% (excluding EAB) that reflects both inflation and the impact of growth.

Table 1 below provides a comparison of the overall CVC proposed 2021 budget on each municipal funder in relation to their 2020 published operating budgets. Our budget represents approximately 1% or less of municipal operating budgets.

Table 1: CVC Budget Compared with Municipal Operating Budgets

Municipality	2020 Municipal Operating Budgets \$ (,000)	Proposed 2021 CVC Budget \$ (,000)	CVC 2021 Budget as % Share of 2020 Municipal Budget
Region of Peel (and its local municipalities)	\$2,566,195	25,230	0.983%
Region of Halton (and its local municipalities)	\$941,780	631	0.067%
Town of Orangeville	\$36,618	293	0.800%
Town of Erin	\$12,885	75	0.582%
Town of Mono	\$15,108	14	0.091%
Township of East Garafraxa	\$2,423	7	0.289%
Township of Amaranth	\$4,063	1	0.034%

a) Current Value Assessment (CVA)

Table 2 shows the change in percentage by funder of the levy apportionment based on the Current Value Assessment (CVA) data provided annually by Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) as generated by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

Table 2: Change in CVA from 2020 to 2021 as a percentage

Municipality	Apportionment of 2020 CVA	Apportionment of 2021 CVA	Change	% Change
Peel Region	91.7320	91.6762	-0.05574	-0.061%
Halton Region	5.0626	5.1446	0.08200	1.620%
Town of Orangeville	2.4078	2.3854	-0.02245	-0.932%
Town of Erin	0.6176	0.6114	-0.00621	-1.006%
Town of Mono	0.1126	0.1126	-0.00004	-0.036%
Township of East Garafraxa	0.0565	0.0588	0.00229	4.056%
Township of Amaranth	0.0111	0.0112	0.00014	1.266%
TOTAL	100%	100%	-	-

SCHEDULE 'H'
PAGE -8-
2020-10-16

Table 3 shows the real dollar change by municipal funder based on the application of the CVA data. It also demonstrates that the dollar impact of the CVA changes are small.

Table 3: Change in CVA from 2020 to 2021 in dollars

Municipality	% Apportionment of 2020 CVA	% Apportionment of 2021 CVA	2021 \$ Based on 2020 CVA	2021 \$ Based on 2021 CVA	\$ Change 2021 over 2020
Peel Region*	91.7320	91.6762	25,237,223	25,230,382	(6,841)
Halton Region*	5.0626	5.1446	621,425	631,491	10,066
Town of Orangeville	2.4078	2.3854	295,555	292,800	(2,755)
Town of Erin	0.6176	0.6114	75,805	75,043	(762)
Town of Mono	0.1126	0.1126	13,822	13,817	(5)
Township of East Garafraxa	0.0565	0.0588	6,930	7,212	282
Township of Amaranth	0.0111	0.0112	1,358	1,375	17
TOTAL	100%	100%	26,252,118	26,252,118	-

**Note: CVA is only applied to General Levy and Shared Special Levy portions and not to Peel Special Benefiting Levy or to EAB funding provided by Halton and Peel*

b) Summary of CVC's Total Levy Request

CVC's total 2021 municipal levy request in all categories is \$26.2 million (rounded) set out in Table 4 and composed of:

- \$9.9 million for general levy;
- \$2.3 million for special shared levy based upon municipal apportionment (CVA); and
- \$13.9 million for special levy directly assessed to the benefiting municipality.

Table 4 shows the 2021 dollar and percentage changes as compared to 2020.

Table 4: Year-Over-Year Proposed CVC Total Levy Increase

Municipality	2020 Total Levy	2021 Total Levy	% Change	\$ Change
Peel Region**	\$24,611,096	\$25,230,382	2.52%	\$619,286
Halton Region**	\$607,417	\$631,491	3.96%	\$24,074
Town of Orangeville	\$288,893	\$292,800	1.35%	\$3,907
Town of Erin	\$74,096	\$75,043	1.28%	\$947
Town of Mono	\$13,510	\$13,817	2.27%	\$307
Township of East Garafraxa	\$6,774	\$7,212	6.46%	\$437
Township of Amaranth	\$1,327	\$1,375	3.60%	\$48
Total Levy	\$25,603,113	\$26,252,120	2.53%	\$649,006

** No EAB

SCHEDULE 'H'
PAGE -9-
2020-10-16

This represents an overall average increase of 2.53%. The specific levy increase meets the 3.7% guideline provided by the Region of Halton before the impact of the CVA adjustment. Peel did not set a specific target.

A key driver of the CVC 2021 annual budget, like other municipalities and government organizations, is related to staff. Salary adjustments in 2021 reflect a cost of living adjustment (COLA) at 1.0% (2020 was 2% and 2019 was 2.0%). The total salary adjustment impact will be approximately \$380,000 in 2021 and that includes COLA, performance management, benefit adjustments and compensation review measures. The proposed 1% COLA is reasonable given the core rate of inflation is currently in the range of 1.3% to 1.9% according to the Bank of Canada report dated September 9, 2020. Further, analysis of comparators is indicating a COLA range of between 0.5% and 2.0%.

In 2020 CVC conducted a pay equity and salary review, approved by the CVC Board in February (Resolution #21B/20). The 2020 review, like the prior 2015 review supports CVC's ability to attract and retain qualified skilled staff in the broader market reflective of competitive changes over the past five years. The adjustments, if approved, will be implement starting in April 2021, and fully annualized in the 2022 budget. The proposed 2021 budget includes the funds necessary to implement the review recommendations.

c) CVC General Levy Apportionment (Shared)

The 2021 general levy that covers CVC's operating expenditures is based on a funding formula set out in regulation. The general levy is increasing in 2021 by an average of 2.62%, down from 3.40% in 2020. It is important to note that while the percentage levy change for some of the smaller municipalities is significant, the change in real dollars translate into small amounts and the changes are reflective of MPAC increases in property values in those municipalities. The general levy is shared by all municipalities and noted in Table 5. The 2021 dollar and percentage changes as compared to 2020 based on the CVA data provided by MECP are set out in Table 5

Table 5: Municipal CVC General Levy - 2021 compared to 2020

Municipality	2020 General Levy	2021 General Levy	% Change	\$ Change
Region of Peel	\$8,875,580	\$9,102,958	\$227,378	2.56%
Region of Halton	\$489,831	\$510,827	\$20,996	4.29%
Town of Orangeville	\$232,968	\$236,852	\$3,884	1.67%
Town of Erin	\$59,752	\$60,704	\$951	1.59%
Town of Mono	\$10,895	\$11,177	\$282	2.59%
Township of East Garafraxa	\$5,463	\$5,834	\$371	6.79%
Township of Amaranth	\$1,070	\$1,112	\$42	3.92%
TOTAL	\$9,675,559	\$9,929,464	\$253,905	2.62%

SCHEDULE 'H'
PAGE -10-
2020-10-16

d) CVC Special Levy Activities Funded by Apportionment (Shared)

The 2021 shared special levy amount is increasing by approximately \$22,795 or 0.98% as shown in Table 6 below. Activities funded by this special levy are on the same basis as the general levy and include ongoing work in the areas of sub watershed studies, natural heritage programs, terrestrial watershed monitoring projects, outreach and stewardship, infrastructure major maintenance and dam major maintenance.

Table 6: Municipal Shared Special Levy 2021 compared to 2020

Municipality	2020 Shared Special Levy	2021 Shared Special Levy	% Change	\$ Change
Region of Peel	\$2,130,622	\$2,150,225	0.92%	\$19,603
Region of Halton	\$117,586	\$120,663	2.62%	\$3,077
Town of Orangeville	\$55,925	\$55,947	0.04%	\$22
Town of Erin	\$14,344	\$14,339	-0.03%	-\$5
Town of Mono	\$2,615	\$2,640	0.95%	\$25
Township of East Garafraxa	\$1,311	\$1,378	5.08%	\$67
Township of Amaranth	\$257	\$263	2.26%	\$6
TOTAL	\$2,322,660	\$2,345,455	0.98%	\$22,795

e) CVC Municipality Special Benefiting Levies

The special benefiting levy for 2020 is increasing by \$372,305 or 2.74% and is composed of activities (capital and climate change) that are funded by the benefiting municipality (see Table 7). This year only the Region of Peel is contributing to these program areas. Peel is supporting critical work related to accelerating the type and quantity of actions to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, investing in infrastructure, and supporting watershed priorities within the Region's portion of the watershed. Peel Region continues to support floodplain mapping and CVC has, in prior years, obtained federal funding to help accelerate this critical work and CVC will continue to look for such funding opportunities to advance this important work. This Peel only Special Levy amount does not include the special EAB funding (for EAB funding see section g.)

Table 7: CVC Special Benefiting Levy by Municipality

Municipality	2020	2021	\$ Change	% Change
Peel Region	13,604,894	13,977,199	372,305	2.74%
Halton Region	0	0	0	n/a
Township of Amaranth	0	0	0	n/a
Township of East Garafraxa	0	0	0	n/a
Town of Erin	0	0	0	n/a
Town of Mono	0	0	0	n/a
Town of Orangeville	0	0	0	n/a
TOTAL	\$13,604,894	\$13,977,199	\$ 372,305	2.74%

f) CVC's Total Gross Budget (By Expenditure/Revenue Categories)

In 2021 CVC is planning for funding of \$30.3 million (less internal program chargebacks of \$5.6 million) for a total of \$35.9 million of which \$26.25 million (excluding EAB funding) is to be provided by the municipalities in the form of general and special levy. Table 8 provides a detailed breakdown of the gross CVC budget. It shows the areas of increase and decrease by various line items. A significant impact to the 2021 budget is the planned closure of Belfountain Conservation Area for a capital works project, this is reflected in the reduction in user fees as well as the reduction in materials and supplies.

Table 8: CVC Total Gross Budget (all sources)

CVC Gross Expenditures	2020 Budget \$000's	2021 Budget \$000's	\$ Change \$000's	% Change
Personnel Services (Salary and Benefits)	24,721	24,810	90	0.4%
Materials & Supplies	1,532	1,168	-364	-23.8%
Purchased Services	5,079	4,827	-252	-5.0%
Internal Chargebacks	4,191	4,157	-34	-0.8%
Debt Financing Charges	434	434	0	0.0%
Minor Capital	239	422	183	76.4%
Transfers to Reserves	188	160	-28	-14.9%
Total CVC Operating Expenditures	36,384	35,978	-406	-1.1%
Gross Funding Sources (all sources) \$000's				
User Fees (Planning, Gate)	4,327	3,409	-918	-21.2%
Municipal Funding (Levy)	25,603	26,252	639	0.4%
<i>EAB (Halton & Peel 'one time' funding)</i>	636	100	-536	
Provincial Funding	96	96	0	0.0%
Other Grants & Program Funding	289	500	211	72.7%
Internal Chargebacks	5,433	5,621	188	3.5%
Total CVC Funding for Operations	36,384	35,978	-406	-1.1%

Estimated revenue for CVC in 2021 totals \$30.3 million of which 33% is funded from the general levy, 8% is funded from the special levy (based on current value assessment) and 46% is funded from the special benefiting levy (including EAB). The balance of revenue (13%) is received from self-generated revenue such as user fees, tree planting fees, regulation fees, plan review fees, government grants and other revenue including interest income and donations.

In June of 2018, the Board supported the creation of several capital reserves and a revenue offset reserve for the conservation areas under "Reserve Management 2018" (Resolution #53/18). The proposed 2021 budget includes ongoing contributions to these reserves as CVC continues to implement more robust measures to support asset management through funding to support the state of good repair, capital life cycle replacement and risk reduction measures related to conservation area revenues.

g) CVC Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Funding

Currently both Peel Region and Halton Region are supporting our work to address the hazards and mitigate the impacts of EAB (see Table 9). The funding for this is outside the normal budget envelop as it is considered 'one time' funding. The 2021 ask related to EAB has reduced significantly based on the successful progress of the program to date. It is important to note that there remain significant pressures related to forest management that are unfunded. The ongoing impacts of climate change (drought, increasing temperatures, invasive species) combine to make forest more susceptible to fire and rapidly declining health of the forest ecosystem. Greater efforts will need to be made to ensure the health of our forests for future generations.

Table 9: CVC Emerald Ash Borer Funding

Municipality	2020	2021	\$ Change	% Change
Peel Region	\$ 420,000	\$ 50,000	-370,000*	-88.10
Halton Region	216,000	50,536	-165,464*	-76.60
Township of Amaranth	0	0	0	n/a
Township of East Garafraxa	0	0	0	n/a
Town of Erin	0	0	0	n/a
Town of Mono	0	0	0	n/a
Town of Orangeville	0	0	0	n/a
TOTAL	\$636,000	\$100,536	-535,464	-84.19%

*Reduced based on revised EAB work plan.

h) Forecast – 3 years (2022 to 2024)

Through the budgeting process CVC also undertakes forecasts for future budget years. The current 2022 budget increase as shown on Table 10 is forecast at 4% (excluding EAB). But as always, we review the future budgets with the targets provided by the municipalities. Given changes in the CA Act, we anticipate that the 2022 budget year will be the earliest that any changes to programs and services could occur and at this time more realistically 2023. As a result, the forecasted budget as shown in Table 10 is expected to change.

The forecast also includes a reduction in funding for EAB because the work has advanced more rapidly than initially forecast through the mobilization of CVC staff resources to assist in addressing the hazard ash trees. We would like to thank both the Region of Peel and Halton Region for their financial support to address this health and safety concern with significant negative environmental impacts. The work has also supported the restoration (planting) efforts to remediate the lost tree cover is support of healthy forest recovery.

Table 10: CVC 3 Year Forecast

Levy Type	2022 Forecast		2023 Forecast		2024 Forecast	
	Amount	% Change	Amount	% Change	Amount	% Change
General Levy	10,241,933	3.15%	10,560,095	3.11%	10,910,207	3.32%
Special Levy	17,064,138	4.54%	17,682,841	3.63%	18,281,202	3.38%
Total	27,306,071	4.01%	28,242,937	3.43%	29,191,410	3.36%
Peel-EAB	0					
Halton-EAB	0					
Grand Total	27,306,071	4.01%	28,242,937	3.43%	29,191,410	3.36%

i) Major Capital Projects and Capital Plan

There are three major capital project budgets (over \$1 million) which are not included in the three-year budget forecast, these projects, and the funding requirements are:

- Belfountain Conservation Area (Phase 1) - \$3.9 million
- Belfountain Conservation Area (Phase 2) - \$8.0 million
- Bundled Park Infrastructure Projects (various locations) - \$4.4 million

The projects are not in the forecast because including these capital expenditures would result in a significant change in the levy. Conservation authorities are not eligible for development charges (DCs), yet we are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of growth as more people access our properties and use our assets. Access to capital has become harder over time with the only sustained capital being related to a small pool of provincial funds for dam safety (Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure [WECI] funds). CVC and the CVC Foundation spend significant time and effort pursuing funds from a broad range of source to try to keep up with our capital needs, but we simply cannot keep up. Efforts have also been made over the years to internally allocated funds for these priority projects and we estimate that by January 2021 we will have a minimum of \$2.1 million set aside for capital. CVC did make application under Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Phase 1 and we are poised to apply under Phase 2 as soon as the intake opens.

CVC staff have spent the past number of years seeking approvals from various provincial agencies to initiate critical work at Belfountain Conservation Area. Having obtained key approvals, the work has entered the final design phase prior to the start of construction. The work on the dam (Phase 1) is critical to address identified safety concerns and, on the channel, to improving environmental function of the river. The work in the conservation area (the public spaces or Phase 2) is essential to address concerns related to parking in the community and to update key elements of the park to address current and future visitor volumes.

Many of the bundled park and trail infrastructure projects have been identified through management plans or are projects related to the Credit Valley Trail (CVT). It is hoped that external funding will be available that will result in CVC advancing this work for \$1.18

SCHEDULE 'H'
PAGE -14-
2020-10-16

million or approximately a quarter of the total bundled project cost of \$4.4 million. CVC can fund the \$1.18 million matching contribution out of our planned capital works, but we will do so at the expense of advancing the Belfountain project or other asset management projects. Many of the bundled park and trail projects are community priorities and will benefit the local residents directly that live in those municipalities (recreation, personal wellness and enhanced property values because of the proximity to amenities) and as such we are seeking funder support for these works.

We recognize the timing of this opportunity may not be ideal, but the potential access to 74-cents on the dollar grant funding represents excellent value. The pandemic has demonstrated that access to green spaces has been critical for watershed residents – visitation to key parks year-over-year has increased nearly 50% based on preliminary data at the end of September 2020. As we emerge from the pandemic, we also know park and trail assets support tourism and contribute significantly to the local economy. For these reasons, we will be asking our funding partners that will benefit from the bundled park and trail projects to provide the recipient portion for the project funding (26-cents on the dollar), if we are successful in accessing the grant funding.

Set out in Table 11 is a proposed Capital Funding Plan, that with Board support, we will take to our funders to advance Belfountain and the bundled parks and trails projects to be constructed over the next five years. CVC has \$2.1 million in accumulated capital, which can support project initiation. Table 11 illustrates how a \$2 million contribution each year from funders can support the capital needs of these priority projects over the next 5 years.

Table 11: Capital needs by year (amounts in \$,000)

Capital Projects	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Totals
Belfountain (Phase 1)	1,000	1,000				2,000
Belfountain (Phase 2)			500	7,000	287	7,787
Bundled Parks Projects	310	370	425	75		1,180
Total by year	1,310	1,370	925	7,075	287	10,967
Capital Contribution	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,000
Carry forward Capital	690	630	1,075	-5,075	1,713	-967

As noted, CVC is looking at a broad range of funding opportunities. To advance the Belfountain work we will pursue other funding sources, including:

- Possible MNRF WECl funding of Belfountain Phase 1 (50% eligible, if approved) = \$993k
- Possible ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Stream for Belfountain Phase 1 (80% grant, intake pending) = \$3 million
- Possible grants accessed through the CVC Foundation of approx. = \$400k
- Re-allocation of funds Halton and Peel had ear marked for EAB work.
- Active marketing of the project for philanthropic donations.

j) Additional Unfunded Pressures and Risks

There are a number of further unfunded pressures and/or future risks that are not included in the draft 2020 budget that this report will briefly touch upon:

i. Siemens Property (pressure)

CVC has been working with the City of Brampton on the development of an outdoor education centre in Brampton. Currently CVC has no base for providing programs and services to the residents of Brampton, the second largest municipality in the watershed. Preliminary work is underway that will inform the funding needs for this future project.

ii. Asset Management (pressure)

Work continues to advance regarding overall asset management for CVC. State of good repair assessments have been completed for all major structures and infrastructure. Work now needs to be done to put in place a plan that supports future funding to maintain and replace assets as necessary.

iii. Facility Development (pressure)

Currently staff at Island Lake, one of the busiest conservation areas in our system, are operating out of a construction trailer. There is a need for not only office space but also visitor amenities to meet the demand of visitors for comfort facilities and year-round, all weather activity spaces.

iv. Forest Management (pressure)

The impacts of aging plantations, a changing climate and invasive species are impacting the health of our forest lands. In addition, key woodlots have been identified for thinning and restoration work that are important to improving resiliency from pests, fire, and general decline in quality. Funding of this work is critical to ensure the health of critical tree cover in the watershed.

v. Watershed Plan (risk)

The Region of Peel is supporting the renewal and updating of the Watershed plan. This work is vitally important to benchmarking the state of the local environment, supporting key planning frameworks at the local level and predicting the future needs for remedial actions particularly to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change and development.

vi. Invasive Species (risk)

There are several invasive species that present a real concern for certain species of trees. The recent example of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestations demonstrate just how devastating and costly such invasive can be. Continued funding to address new invasive species will very likely be required over the coming years meaning that the one-time funding to address EAB could become a standing budget item.

We will continue to work with our funders to help refine and adjust the identified pressures and to seek opportunities to mitigate costs wherever possible, including applications for infrastructure funding, eligible programs, and alternative funding sources.

k) Savings

The 2021 budget process includes ongoing savings (agreements in place), workforce management. Ongoing savings include use of:

- Registered Charity Status (CRA approved Q1 2019)
- Region of Peel bulk fuel purchase contracts
- Region of Peel for routine fleet maintenance services
- Region of Peel Public Sector Network (PSN) for fibre
- Provincial and municipally negotiated contract/service rates

Workforce management includes:

- Gapping of positions (\$200k)
- Promoting from within
- Review all positions that become vacant (band/step)

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

Information regarding the 2021 proposed budget has been provided to staff at the Region of Peel and with Halton Region as part of the regular budget process. Formal presentations will be made to the Councils of funder municipalities late in 2020 and early 2021. The final budget report for formal CVC Board approval is anticipated in February or March of 2021.

Notice of the intent to consider and approve the 2021 CVC budget, the date and location of the meeting and additional information about the proposed budget will appear on the CVC website and will be publicly listed on the appropriate Board of Directors agenda.

Further information detailing the budget and the date of the meeting where the Board will consider and approve the 2021 budget will also be provided in writing to every funder municipality in the watershed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

CVC has been able to table a proposed budget that is in keeping with the budgetary guidelines established by Halton Region. Peel Region did not set a specific target.

CONCLUSION:

CVC proposes a combined general and special levy increase of \$649,005 or 2.53% increase over 2020. This is a 'business as usual' budget that supports and sustains our programs and services.

CVC has, and continues to, prioritize work on key program deliverables and to achieve climate change outcomes, as well as to align or work with the needs of our member municipalities. Additionally, we work to control operating costs and find savings in an effort to manage the year-over-year budget request.

CVC has demonstrated our ability to successfully obtain funding from varied sources to address pressures and will continue to do so as it relates to future budget pressures.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

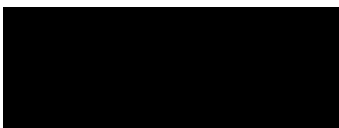
RESOLVED THAT the report entitled, "2021 Budget Endorsement" be received and appended to the minutes of this meeting as Schedule 'H'; and further

THAT the preliminary 2021 budget outlined in the report be endorsed by the CVC Board of Directors for presentation to funding partners;

THAT staff discuss with key funding partners the need for sustainable capital to support infrastructure needs resulting from continued growth in the CVC Watershed; and

THAT staff continue to seek alternative funding sources to address capital needs.

Submitted by:



Jeff Payne
 Deputy CAO and
 Director, Corporate Services

Recommended by:



Deborah Martin-Downs
 Chief Administrative Officer



This e-bulletin provides updates on key issues, primarily from Conservation Ontario (CO) Council meetings, and contains weblinks to specific CO reports, letters and presentations for your reference.

Conservation Ontario Elects New Board of Directors

At Conservation Ontario's Council Meeting, Wayne Emmerson (Chair, Lake Simcoe Region) was declared the Chair of Conservation Ontario. Lin Gibson (Chair, Conservation Sudbury) and Alan Revill (Chair, Cataraqui Region) were elected the Vice Chairs of Conservation Ontario. Linda Laliberte (Chief Administrative Officer, Ganaraska Region), Deborah Martin-Downs (Chief Administrative Officer, Credit Valley) and Samantha Lawson (Chief Administrative Officer, Grand River) are the new Directors of Conservation Ontario. Thank you to the 2019 Conservation Ontario Board of Directors for your support and direction.

CO Staff Contact: [Kim Gavine](#)

Conservation Ontario 2020 Council Member Orientation

In this [presentation](#), CO General Manager Kim Gavine introduces new CO Council Members to Conservation Ontario and provides details on how CO works with CO Council Members.

CO Staff Contact: [Jane Lewington](#)

CO Board of Directors

Wayne Emmerson

*Conservation Ontario Chair
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
Authority Chair*

Alan Revill

Cataraqui Conservation Chair

Lin Gibson

Conservation Sudbury Chair

Deb Martin-Downs

Credit Valley Conservation
CAO

Linda Laliberte
Ganaraska Conservation
CAO

Samantha Lawson
Grand River Conservation
CAO

Conservation Ontario's 2019 Annual Report

Conservation Ontario's **2019 Annual Report** reports back on Conservation Ontario's work around many priorities including the *Conservation Authorities Act* review, cuts to CAs and the Provincial Flooding Strategy. More details can be found in **Conservation Ontario's 2019 Workplan Review**.
CO Staff Contact: [Jane Lewington](#)

Conservation Ontario Strategic Planning

2016-2020 Evaluation Report

This evaluation of Conservation Ontario's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan Report focuses on activities and outcomes in relations to the 'signs of success' established in 2016. Highlights include:

- Integrated watershed management continues to be recognized in provincial and federal policy key to CA business (Great Lakes, *CA Act*, Provincial Plan Review, etc.);
- Federal and provincial funding for Great Lakes, source water protection and flood infrastructure is provided to CAs;
- CO tracked and provided input in 16-23 policy submissions annually in order to promote concerns and priorities of CAs;
- Through the development of collaborative online tools, CA information is integrated and more accessible (e.g. Watershed Report Cards) and CO has worked towards more open data for CAs (Great Lakes Observing System) to create common standards and federate data sharing;
- CO worked with CAs to create templates and best management practices including:
 - 2019 CO Client Service and Streamlining Initiative (including number of tools)
 - 2018/2019 Administrative By-Law Model including Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies required under the new *Conservation Authorities Act*.
 - 2018 Guideline for Development of a Guide to CA Permits on Agricultural Lands
 - 2018 CA Watershed Report Card template and messaging;
 - Training Strategy developed in 2019; CAs engaged with the newly developed Conservation Authorities University Program and CO continued to support CA and partner led workshops relevant to CA business; and,
 - CO developed shared strategies, messaging, templates and best practices for CAs

For more detail, please see the [Council Report](#).

2021-2025 Strategic Plan Process

Working with Strategy Corp, CO has developed the process that will be used to build CO's new 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Input will be collected from CAs by working with Council members through four Strategic Planning Committees. [Strategy Corp's presentation](#) provides a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Treats (SWOT) analysis of CO and their work as well the process to develop the new strategic plan. CO hopes to complete the plan by December 2020.

CO Staff Contact: [Kim Gavine](#)

Amendments to Conservation Authority Best Management Practices and Administrative By-Law Model and Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines

The *Conservation Authority Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Administrative By-Law Model* was prepared with some within-year amendments to facilitate the ability of the Conservation Authorities to update and approve new Administrative By-Laws, compliant with the *Conservation Authorities Act* by the legislated deadline of December 2018. Conservation Ontario is continuing to keep this By-Law Model updated as an ongoing BMP for reference and documentation of major amendments. The amendments address electronic meetings and participation within and outside of a declared emergency (further to Minister's Direction) as well as amendments to clarify procedures to be utilized for Section 28 Hearings that are conducted by the Authority and/or its Executive Committee.

Proposed amendments to the *Section 28 (3) Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines* have also been developed to support electronic Section 28 hearings. These updates provide the basis for amendments to each CA's Hearing Procedures, which are now referenced in the By-Law Model. For more information, see the [Council Report](#).

CO Staff Contact: [Bonnie Fox](#)

Conservation Authorities Act Review - Update

There have been extensive consultations on the *Conservation Authorities Act* over the past year with no collaborative progress on the enabling regulations. Additional legislative amendments and new/amended regulations are being considered by Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for this fall however the details are unknown. Minister Yurek spoke to Conservation Ontario Council at the September 28th meeting and, when asked, indicated that it is his intent to introduce legislative amendments in the fall session of the Legislature. As noted in the [staff report](#), legislative priorities for the fall will be determined by Cabinet and likely will be heavily influenced by demands generated by the Pandemic and economic recovery. The attached [follow-up letter](#) was requested through discussions at Council and encourages enactment of the enforcement clauses.

CO Staff Contact: [Bonnie Fox](#)

Update on the CO Client Service and Streamlining Initiative

The Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative was endorsed at the April, 2019 CO Council Meeting. Since this time, CO staff have worked with CAs to deliver training and multiple guidance documents and templates to support various functions of CA planning and regulations programs.

CO has continued to undertake significant work to address the identified solutions of the Initiative, including developing a "Guideline for Conservation Authority Pre-Consultation", which outlines a suite of best practices for undertaking/participating in pre-consultation processes for CA planning and permitting programs. The guideline has been sent to CAOs/GMs and CA planning contacts at all 36 CAs to be used as BMP guidelines when either undertaking or participating in pre-consultation processes.

In addition to the new guideline, Conservation Ontario developed a bulletin outlining the first quarter results of the high-growth CA permit review timelines reporting, which was initially shared with CAOs/GMs and uploaded to the public Client Service and Streamlining page on CO's website. In June 2020, Conservation Ontario sent correspondence to industry stakeholders and provincial ministry partners, which included the bulletin outlining the new target permit review timelines for high-growth CAs, and demonstrated the success of these CAs in largely issuing permits within both the Provincial and new CO best-practice timelines.

For more information, see the [Council Report](#).

CO Staff Contact: [Leslie Rich](#)

Update on the Proposed Major Amendments to the *Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects*

In September, 2019, Conservation Ontario Council endorsed a set of amendments to the *Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects* (CO Class EA) to better align processes in the Class EA with other similar Class EA parent documents, and to clarify undertakings which are deemed exempt for proponents (i.e. conservation authorities). These draft amendments were further refined, and taken to Conservation Ontario's Board of Directors for endorsement in April 2020.

The amendment proposals were posted to the Environmental Registry in July 2020 for a 45-day public consultation period. Conservation Ontario submitted comments to ensure that the most recent set of Board-approved amendments were those being considered by the Ministry through the major amendment process. CO is now working with the Ministry to address any comments received on the proposed major amendments, and will be assisting Ministry staff with preparing a final updated Class EA document for Ministerial approval. For more information, see the [Council Report](#).

CO Staff Contact: [Nicholas Fischer](#)

Ontario's Flooding Strategy - Update on Activities

"Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy" was released on March 9, 2020. The Flooding Strategy indicates that it outlines steps to be taken by Ontario over the next several years and contains actions designed to address and build upon the recommendations in the Flood Advisor's report. The **Council Report** outlines CO collective priorities for actions/activities identified in Ontario's Flooding Strategy and where activity/discussion has occurred on each of these priorities with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). Broadly, those priorities include: flood mapping, updates to technical guidelines, section 28 regulations, natural hazards program and service regulation, flood forecasting and warning, and, funding programs. The focus of liaison with the Province has been on a collaborative "work plan" approach to support successful implementation.

CO Staff Contact: [Bonnie Fox](#)

Ontario's Flooding Strategy - Flood Mapping Technical Team and National Flood Hazard Data Layer

There continues to be a considerable amount of activity focused on flood mapping at provincial and federal levels. There is communication and some alignment of work being initiated between the Province and Federal Government. This includes the first phase to develop a Federal Flood Hazard Data Layer and the initiation of flood mapping outcomes associated Ontario's Flooding Strategy. Conservation Ontario has been invited to participate on the Ontario's Flood Mapping Technical Team where federal and municipal representatives will participate along with the Conservation Authority network. For more details, see the **Council Report**.

CO Staff Contact: [Jo-Anne Rzadki](#)

Federal Green Economic Stimulus Opportunities

This report summarizes activity since creation of a General Managers working group to provide input on the development of messaging, proposals and strategies to influence the development of, and position CAs in the implementation of transformative, new "Green" Economic opportunities and programs. It is strategically important to continue to engage with all levels of government and partners regarding immediate investment priorities for CAs and how CA services and projects will help stimulate job creation and economic benefits to local communities. This report also provides updates on the Investing in Canada COVID 19 Community Resilience fund, CO Federal 2021 Pre-Budget submission and requests endorsement of an additional collaborative letter to the Federal Government regarding the importance of Natural Infrastructure to COVID Recovery. For more details, see the **Council Report**.

CO Staff Contact: [Jo-Anne Rzadki](#)

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex 4 (Nutrients) Update

A Technical Task Team is now being established to develop Targets and Objectives for Lake Ontario, with work beginning this fall. Environment Canada (ECCC) staff requested identification of 2 or 3 CA staff from Lake Ontario CAs to participate. The Task Team Leads from ECCC and the US Environmental Protection Agency will be providing regular updates to support the work and decisions of the Annex 4 Bi-National Subcommittee. The representatives will be responsible for ensuring that input is provided from Lake Ontario CAs at key points in the process and working with Jo-Anne Rzadki towards the development of any reports to CO Council. Lake Ontario General Managers were requested to identify two or three individuals. Shan Mugalingam (Lower Trent) Josh Diamond (Niagara Peninsula) and Angela Wallace (Toronto and Region) were endorsed by CO Council.

CO Staff Contact: [Jo-Anne Rzadki](#)

Program Updates

Drinking Water Source Protection ([Deborah Balika](#))
Marketing and Communications ([Jane Lewington](#))
Business Development and Partnerships ([Jo-Anne Rzadki](#))
Information Management ([Rick Wilson](#))