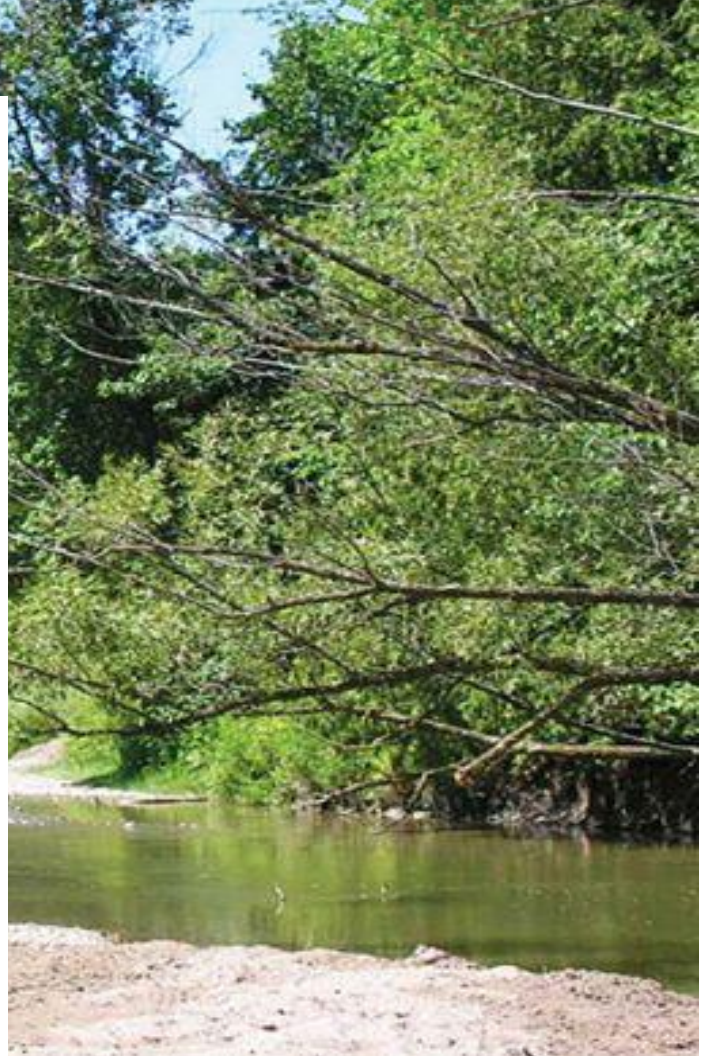


SCHEDULE 6 BILL 229



NOVEMBER 28, 2020

WE LOVE OAKVILLE

In partnership with

Halton Environmental Network

Oakvillegreen Conservation Association

Save Glen Abbey

We  Oakville

SCHEDULE 6 OF BILL 229

Protecting Conservation Authorities

WE LOVE OAKVILLE

We Love Oakville was established in 2019 as a grassroots non-partisan organization comprising nine residents' associations throughout Oakville to collaborate on issues that would negatively impact our community or initiatives that would benefit us.

We Love Oakville Member Residents' Associations

Bronte Village Residents Association (BVRA)
Chartwell-Maple Grove Residents Association (CMGRA)
Clearview Oakville Community Alliance (COCA)
Coronation Park Residents Association (CPRA)
Joshua Creek Residents' Association (JCRA)
Oakville Lakeside Residents Association (OLRA)
North Oakville Ward 7 Residents Association (NOW 7)
Trafalgar Chartwell Residents' Association (TCRA)
West River Residents' Association (WRRRA)

Contact Information

Douglas McKirgan, Chair
www.weloveoakville.org
weloveoakville@gmail.com

"We strongly oppose the proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act through Schedule 6 of Bill 229 and urge the standing committee to remove it in its entirety and to seek collaboration from stakeholder groups and the public for the best way forward for Ontario and the environment."

Oakvillegreen Conservation Association

Oakvillegreen is Oakville's largest residents' association that has been working successfully for over a decade to protect our environment and promote sustainable planning and urban forest stewardship. Aside from our advocacy work, we also deliver free education programs to schools and youth, and provide tree planting and stewardship programs, workshops, and events for volunteers.

Halton Environmental Network

Established in 2004, HEN is an incorporated non-profit organization operating in Halton Region (Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Halton Hills). HEN supports and enhances the capacity for local climate action and environmental sustainability across our community. HEN brings together relevant parties to drive change and facilitates communication, cooperation, resources and alignment with Community members, Conservation Authorities, Non-profits, Faith-Based Organizations), Government, and Educational Sector.

Save Glen Abbey

Save Glen Abbey is a grassroots coalition of people who believe the Government of Ontario and the Town of Oakville must take action to ensure development on the Glen Abbey Golf Course complies with the provincially approved Livable Oakville Plan. If they do not act then the precedent is set for developers to decide what goes where, not elected officials – that affects all of Oakville and Ontario.

SCHEDULE 6 OF BILL 229

Protecting Conservation Authorities

Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs

MPP Amarjot Sandhu, Chair

MPP Jeremy Roberts, Vice-Chair

MPP Ian Arthur

MPP Stan Cho

MPP Mitzie Hunter

MPP Logan Kanapathi

MPP Sol Mamakwa

MPP David Piccini

MPP Sandy Shaw

MPP Dave Smith

MPP Vijay Thanigasalam

Dear Members:

We Love Oakville, in partnership with Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, Halton Environmental Network, and Save Glen Abbey, would like to express our support of the motions to protect conservation authorities with respect to Schedule 6 of Bill 229 that were passed by the Town of Oakville and Halton Region. For your reference, please refer to Appendix A.

We strongly oppose proposed amendments to the Conservative Authorities Act through Schedule 6 of Bill 229 that curtails or prohibits the mandate of conservation authorities.

We value our conservation authorities' critical roles undertaken in accordance with science-based evidence in:

- planning services to provincial agencies and municipalities regulating or guiding development in or adjacent to watersheds and Natural Heritage Systems,
- protecting and preserving of our natural environment, the Greenbelt, Natural Heritage Systems, urban green spaces, watersheds, and wetlands,
- connecting the public, especially youth, with the environment through educational programs,
- actively managing, guiding, and implementing regulations to create a sustainable and climate resilient Ontario, and
- protecting water resources through flood plain management and ensuring access to safe drinking water for the health and safety of all Ontarians.

We are particularly concerned with the provisions in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 which seek to:

- curtail or prohibit the mandate of conservation authorities specifically by:
 - reducing the scope of planning reviews (Sections 21.1 and 21.2),
 - imposing deadlines which undermine a full and comprehensive technical review of development applications (Subsection 28.1),
 - allowing developers to challenge application fees set out by conservation authorities to facilitate comprehensive technical review (Section 21.2),
 - prohibiting conservation authorities from appealing planning decisions to the LPAT or participating in the appeal process (Subsection 28.3 (5)),
- allow the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry the ability to approve development applications directly without technical review and input from conservation authorities (Sections 28 1.1, 23.2. and 23.3), and
- mandate the appointment of members to be duly elected municipal officials only, giving rise to conflict of interest and compromising the fiduciary role of board members (Section 14).

As taxpaying voters, we understand the Province's mandate for efficient governance; however, transparent public consultation regarding this process and all public policy processes is the cornerstone of our democracy with which all levels of government have been entrusted. This has been minimal during the consultation process for Schedule 6 of Bill 229 which is gravely concerning considering the overarching reach of this omnibus bill.



We thank you for your consideration of our submission and strongly urge you to strike in its entirety Schedule 6 from Bill 229 and to seek collaboration with all stakeholder groups and the public on the best way forward for Ontario and our environment. After all, the decisions we make today not only affects us, but also inhibits future generations to benefit from access to safe drinking water, a rich biodiversity, and a sustainable ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Douglas McKirgan, Chair We Love Oakville

Carolyn McMinn, President Trafalgar Chartwell Residents' Association

Elizabeth Chalmers, President Joshua Creek Residents' Association

Nancy Robertson, President Chartwell-Maple Grove Residents Association

Shelley Thornborrow, President Bronte Village Residents Association

Pamela Knight, President Coronation Park Residents Association

George Niblock, President Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association

Bob Brabers, President Clearview Oakville Community Alliance

Nav Nanda, President North Oakville Ward 7 (NOW7) Residents Association

Karen Brock, President Oakvillegreen Conservation Association

Lisa Kohler, Executive Director Halton Environmental Network

Bill McKinlay, Spokesperson Save Glen Abbey

cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

MPP Andrea Horvath, Leader NDP Party

MPP Mike Schreiner, Leader Green Party

Mr. Steven Del Duca, Leader Liberal Party

Chair Gary Carr, Halton Region

Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville

Hassaan Basit, President & CEO Conservation Halton

Deborah Martin-Downs, CAO Credit Valley Conservation Authority

Appendix A

Town of Oakville

(Passed November 16, 2020)

Notice of Motion Protecting Conservation Authorities

**Moved by Mayor Rob Burton
Seconded by Ward 2 Councillor, Cathy Duddeck**

WHEREAS The Town of Oakville has been well served by both Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation;

WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property, and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, ensuring compliance with the Regulations and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the *Planning Act*;

WHEREAS new legislation introduces changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder conservation authorities' participation in and support of local planning appeal processes and their ability to protect development from natural hazards;

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without consideration of local conditions, the Conservation Authority Board approved policies, watershed data and technical expertise;

WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

WHEREAS municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place agreements with conservation authorities for non-mandatory programs;

WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on conservation authority boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the conservation authority boards should be duly elected;

WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a conservation authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed;

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already aligned approaches through Memorandums of Understanding with local watershed municipalities to reduce delays, avoid duplication and improve service delivery for all clients;

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, their municipal partners, and cause delays in the development approval process;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within conservation authority jurisdictions for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value conservation authorities' work to ensure safe drinking water;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Province of Ontario work with conservation authorities to address their concerns by repealing and/or amending changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Planning Act* set out in Bill 229;

THAT the Province of Ontario delay enactment of clauses affecting municipal concerns;

THAT the Province of Ontario provide a longer transition period up to December 2022 for non-mandatory programs to enable coordination of conservation authority municipal budget processes;

THAT the Province respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships;

THAT the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, our local MPPs, our local MPs, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Leaders of all opposition parties, Halton Region, the City of Burlington, the Town of Milton, the Town of Halton Hills, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and be made publicly available.

Region of Halton

(Passed November 25, 2020)

HALTON REGION NOTICE OF MOTION

DATE: November 25, 2020

ITEM: Protecting Conservation Authorities

DATE OF MEETING

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO BE CONSIDERED: Council Meeting – November 25, 2020

MOVED BY: Mayor Gord Krantz

SECONDED BY: Mayor Rob Burton

WHEREAS Halton Region has been well served by Conservation Halton;

WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property, and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, ensuring compliance with the Regulations and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the *Planning Act*;

WHEREAS new legislation introduces changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder conservation authorities' participation in and support of local planning appeal processes and their ability to protect development from natural hazards;

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without consideration of local conditions, the Conservation Authority Board approved policies, watershed data and technical expertise;

WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

WHEREAS municipalities require a longer transition time to put in place agreements with conservation authorities for non-mandatory programs;

WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on conservation authority boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the conservation authority boards should be duly elected;

WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a conservation authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed;

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already aligned approaches through Memorandums of Understanding with local watershed municipalities to reduce delays, avoid duplication and improve service delivery for all clients;

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, their municipal partners, and cause delays in the development approval process;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within conservation authority jurisdictions for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value conservation authorities' work to ensure safe drinking water;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

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THAT the Province of Ontario provide a longer transition period up to December 2022 for non-mandatory programs to enable coordination of conservation authority municipal budget processes;

THAT the Province respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships;

THAT the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, our local MPPs, our local MPs, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Leaders of all opposition parties, Halton Region, the City of Burlington, the Town of Milton, the Town of Halton Hills, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation, AMO, and be made publicly available.