



Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Regional Watershed Alliance Agenda

#1/19

February 13, 2019

6:30 P.M.

HEAD OFFICE, 101 EXCHANGE AVENUE, VAUGHAN

Members

Chair Jennifer McKelvie

	Pages
1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORY	
2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #4/18, HELD ON NOVEMBER 14th, 2018	3
4. APPOINTMENTS TO REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE	17
5. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF	
6. PRESENTATIONS	
6.1 Presentation by Laurie Nelson, Interim Director, Policy Planning and Ian McVey, Senior Program Manager, Ontario Climate Consortium , TRCA Responses to Recent Provincial Plans and Proposed Legislative Changes related to Item 10.1	
6.2 Presentation by Sonya Meek, Senior Manager, Sustainable Neighbourhoods, TRCA Projects: Sustainable Neighbourhoods Retrofit Action Plan (SNAP) related to Item 8.1	
7. CORRESPONDENCE	

8.	ITEMS FOR THE ACTION OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE	
8.1	OVERVIEW OF SELECTED TRCA PROJECTS WITH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019-2020 AND BEYOND	18
	To provide the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) a high-level overview of selected TRCA (2019-2020 and beyond) projects, and associated opportunities for public and RWA member engagement.	
8.2	2019 TRCA PLANNED EVENTS THAT CELEBRATE OUR WATERSHEDS AND WATERFRONT	42
	A summary of 2019 planned events that celebrate our watersheds and waterfront.	
9.	PROJECT TEAMS AND WORKING GROUP VERBAL UPDATES	
9.1	Flooding and Extreme Weather Outreach	
9.2	Greenspace and Ecosystem Services	
9.3	Integrated Community/Watershed Planning and Civic Engagement	
9.4	Watershed Engagement	
9.5	Youth Council	
10.	ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE	
10.1	TRCA RESPONSES TO RECENT PROVINCIAL PLANS AND PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES	47
	To brief the Regional Watershed Alliance on TRCA responses to selected Provincial proposals regarding the environment, climate change and land use/housing planning.	
11.	NEW BUSINESS AND GOOD NEWS STORIES	
12.	ADJOURNMENT	

NEXT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE #2/19, TO BE HELD ON MAY 22nd, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M. AT HEAD OFFICE, 101 EXCHANGE AVENUE, VAUGHAN

Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

/cb

Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting #4/18 was held at Head Office, 101 Exchange Avenue, Vaughan, on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. The Chair Jack Heath, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Barrett, Suzanne	Member
Bream, Margaret	Member
Burnett, Neil	Member
Calvin, Elizabeth	Member
Ditschun, Lisa	Member
Drake, Jennifer	Member
Dyce, Dave	Member
Felix, Rui	Member
Gomez, Orlando (alternate Deawuo, Leticia)	Member
Heath, Jack	Acting Chair
Iacobellie, Tony (alternate Alanna MacKenzie)	Member
Kelly, Jill	Member
Laing, David	Member
Lockridge, Karen	Member
Mallet, Lisette	Member
Malowany, Mick	Member
Mattos, Mike	Member
McGlynn, Chris	Member
Nonnekes, Joanne	Member
O'Connor, Kevin	Member
Pickles, David	Member
Presutti, Michael	Member
Ramsay Brown, Jason	Member
Schofield, Jade	Member
Scotchmer, Carolyn	Member
Schulte, Deb	Member
Wickens, Andy	Member

ABSENT

Ballinger, Jack	Member
Broadbent, Heather	Member
DeBaeremaeker, Glenn	Member
Hogg, Brenda (alternate, Stephen Huycke)	Member
Kavanagh, Brian	Member
Kun, Karen (alternate Doug Wright)	Member
Mahoney, Matt	Member
McCullough, Sean	Member
McDowell, Madeleine	Member
Mckelvie, Jennifer	Member
Ngan, Amory	Member

Taylor, Paul
Tschekalin, Jackie
Vrana, Andrew
Wright, Doug (alternate to Karen Kun)

Member
Member
Member
Member

RES.#R11/18 - MINUTES

Moved by: David Laing
Seconded by: Jennifer Drake

THAT the Minutes of Meeting #3/18, held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, be approved.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

5.1 A presentation by Laurie Nelson, Associate Director, Planning and Development, In regards to [TRCA's Roles and Responsibilities in Planning and Development.](#)

RES.#R12/18 - PRESENTATIONS

Moved by: Suzanne Barrett
Seconded by: Dave Dyce

THAT above-noted presentation 5.1 be received.

CARRIED

5.2 A presentation by Noah Gaetz, Senior Manager, Research and Knowledge Management, in regards to item 7.1 [TRCA's Evolving Approach to Natural Heritage Planning.](#)

RES.#R13/18 - PRESENTATIONS

Moved by: Deb Schulte
Seconded by: Jade Schofield

THAT above-noted presentation 5.2 be received.

CARRIED

RES.#R14/18 -

TRCA'S EVOLVING APPROACH TO NATURAL HERITAGE PLANNING AND NATURAL SYSTEM UPDATE

TRCA is updating its Terrestrial Natural Heritage System (2007) to incorporate new and updated data and recent advances in ecosystem science. This update will ensure TRCA continues to support its municipal partners with the most up to date, science based information and tools.

Moved by: Deb Schulte
Seconded by: Jade Schofield

WHEREAS TRCA uses natural heritage science to inform its watershed management programs and support its municipal partners on matters related to greenspace land use planning decisions;

AND WHEREAS TRCA's understanding and approach to natural heritage management has continued to evolve in response to advancements in ecosystem science and TRCA is updating its natural heritage system to ensure it incorporates new information, the latest science, data and tools available;

THEREFORE staff presentation and draft background report on the update of the natural heritage system be received for Regional Watershed Alliance information and input;

THAT the *Greenspace and Ecosystem Services Working Group* of RWA consider integrating the natural heritage system update as a key component of their work;

AND FURTHER THAT any future community consultation on the updated draft natural heritage system be coordinated with TRCA's municipal partners through the Municipal Comprehensive Review Process;

AND THAT the Greenspace and Ecosystem Services Working Group and the RWA be advised of Municipal Comprehensive Review/Official Plan Review consultation dates once these are known.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Natural heritage planning has evolved over the last few decades in response to an improved understanding of landscape ecology and the extent to which urban development can impact ecological function and biodiversity. Early natural heritage planning focused solely on protecting the most significant natural areas on the landscape. This progressed into recognizing the need to identify, protect and restore connected and expanded natural areas as natural heritage systems. Most recently a more integrated approach to natural heritage planning has emerged, one that considers the whole landscape mosaic, including the built portion, for its ability to support biodiversity and other ecological functions and services. TRCA has been at the forefront of this evolution, ensuring that TRCA and its municipal partners have relevant and scientifically defensible information and support to make informed watershed management and land use planning decisions.

Protection of Significant Natural Features

In 1982 the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) completed an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) study. This study identified areas of environmental significance and provided direction for their recognition and management.

The original ESA program was updated in 1993 to reflect contemporary ecological theory of the time, particularly with regards to recognizing the negative ecological impacts of fragmented and ecologically isolated natural features.

The 1996 Provincial Policy Statement (amended in 1997) provided natural heritage policy direction that required identifying and protecting significant natural features from impacts associated with land use change.

Identifying and protecting significant natural areas through programs such as the TRCA ESA initiative and the land use planning process helped secure and protect several important natural features. However, the ecological data collected by TRCA through the late 1990s and early 2000s as part of the ESA program highlighted an alarming reduction in biodiversity as urbanization continued.

Natural Heritage System Planning

This new understanding, along with advancements in landscape ecology and geographic information systems, helped TRCA and others recognize that a new approach to natural heritage planning was needed in order to protect and, if possible, enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in a rapidly urbanizing region.

TRCA began the development of the Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy (TNHSS). This strategy, endorsed in 2007, used landscape ecology principles and spatial modeling tools to identify a connected and expanded natural heritage system that would help to maintain and restore regional biodiversity. It also explicitly recognized the importance of biodiverse and functioning natural systems in providing ecosystem services important to the well-being of the people and communities within the region.

Several provincial planning documents, including the updated Provincial Policy Statement (2005, 2014), the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2002, updated 2017), and the Greenbelt Plan (2005, updated 2017) have identified the need for natural system planning.

Over the past ten years TRCA has been supporting our municipal partners as they have incorporated natural systems into their official plans and other planning documents.

Although the protection of significant natural features remains an important part of natural heritage planning, the identification of connected and robust natural systems as part of the land use planning process has resulted in a more comprehensive and successful approach to natural heritage protection which has, in part, helped slow the trend of biodiversity loss.

Green Infrastructure

In addition to recognizing the importance of identifying and protecting natural heritage systems, the last 10 years has also seen greater attention focused on how the built portion of the landscape can be designed and managed to improve biodiversity and other ecosystem functions and services. Implementation of green infrastructure outside of natural areas (e.g. green roofs, street trees, community gardens) has emerged as an important way to view and manage natural vegetative systems as vital infrastructure to support ecosystem function and the health and well-being of human communities. The 2014 Provincial Policy Statement defines green infrastructure this way:

Natural and human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes. Green infrastructure can include components such as natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces, and green roofs.

Over the past 10 years TRCA has been partnering with many of its municipalities in the development of urban forest studies. These studies have helped to understand the current

condition of the urban forest, quantify the benefits the forest provides and outline management recommendations.

The most recent update to the growth plan for the greater golden horseshoe (2017) recognizes the importance of green infrastructure in helping to support the establishment of complete communities and improve resiliency to climate change.

RATIONALE

In 2018 TRCA began updating its 2007 natural heritage system. The update will draw from a number of new advancements in science and practice, both locally and globally, in landscape ecology, urban ecology, and conservation planning along with updated data and advanced modelling and GIS techniques.

The update will incorporate a number of new analyses and components including:

1. Partner municipalities NHS(s) as appropriate.
2. Existing climate change vulnerabilities of terrestrial and aquatic systems
3. Terrestrial biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity needs under current and future urbanization (including green infrastructure) and climate change scenarios
4. Aquatic biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity needs under current and future urbanization and climate scenarios
5. Critical hydrological linkages between aquatic and terrestrial systems under current and future urbanization and climate change scenarios
6. Other ecosystem services as co-benefits provided by current and future landscape under current and future urbanization and climate change scenarios

This update will define a connected natural heritage system as well as identify green infrastructure opportunities within the built portion of the landscape, therefore allowing for a comprehensive approach to natural heritage planning that considers how the entire landscape mosaic can contribute to biodiversity objectives.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The update to the natural heritage system is fully funded by municipal capital levy.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The comprehensive update to the natural heritage system will be complete in 2020. However, there are three distinct phases to the update each with its own discrete deliverables. Therefore, as new analysis is complete it will be available to inform implementation opportunities as they arise including incorporation into watershed plans and informing municipal conformity requirements.

Staff to work with RWA's Greenspace and Ecosystem Services Working Group to incorporate key milestones into their work plan. The Regional Watershed Alliance will be kept informed of progress on the update and will be asked to provide feedback at key points during the process.

Staff to work with TRCA's Municipal partners to ensure coordination of any future consultation needs through the Municipal Comprehensive Review Process.

Report prepared by: Noah Gaetz, extension 5348

Emails: ngaetz@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Noah Gaetz, extension 5348

Emails: ngaetz@trca.on.ca

Date: October 24, 2018

RES.#R15/18 -

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE BY-LAW

Required Compliance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Moved by: Lisette Mallet
Seconded by: Tony Iacobellie

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act (Act)* amendment requires conservation authorities to have administrative practices that meet the requirements of Section 19.1 of the *Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Authority approved the Board of Directors Administrative By-law on September 28, 2018;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Watershed Alliance is bound by the rules and procedures outlined in the By-law;

THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report on the Board of Directors Administrative By-law and its impacts on the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) be received.

CARRIED

RATIONALE

At Authority Meeting #8/17, held on October 27, 2017 the Terms of Reference for the Regional Watershed Alliance was approved. Further, at RWA Meeting #1/17, held on November 15, 2017, Resolution #R5/17 was approved, in part, as follows:

AND FURTHER THAT the Alliance provide input on compensation of members (Section 5) for staff consideration...

...AND THAT options for compensation for approved disbursements be considered and report back at the next RWA meeting.

At Authority Meeting #7/18, held on September 28, 2018, the [Board of Directors Administrative By-law](#) was approved. The RWA Terms of Reference (ToR) are included with the By-laws as an official companion document; such ToR were not included with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's previous Rules of Conduct, and the requirement to follow the rules and procedures of the Authority was not formally laid out.

As a result of the new By-law, staff has made the required administrative changes to the ToR for the RWA to reflect the approved By-law, primarily to reflect the new name of the Authority, which is the Board of Directors.

In addition, compensation guidelines have been expanded as per the November 15, 2017 request of the RWA. In this regard, Section 5.0 of the ToR - Compensation for Regional Watershed Alliance Members has been updated to reflect that "incidental childcare expenses as a result of attending Regional Watershed Alliance meetings or authorized business may be reimbursed where the Chair of the Alliance deems financial hardship would otherwise result, and such expenses shall be pre-approved by the Chair."

The By-law formally adopted a Code of Conduct for Board Members, which also applies to RWA Members. The Code of Conduct is intended to enhance public confidence that Members

operate from a base of integrity, justice and courtesy. It is also intended to assist Members in dealing with situations not adequately addressed or that may be ambiguous in existing TRCA resolutions, regulations, or policies and procedures. The Code of Conduct for Board Members outlines the expectations for Members when at TRCA meetings or acting on behalf of TRCA.

As TRCA is bound by the [Municipal Conflict of Interest Act](#), currently the expectation is that Members adhere to that Act and any such rules of their appointing agency. The Conflict of Interest rules and procedures included within the By-law are intended to assist Members in understanding their obligations. Members are required to review the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* on a regular basis.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff and the Chair will ensure meetings are conducted in accordance to the By-law. The election of officers on the agenda for the same meeting as this staff report will follow the procedures outlined in the By-law. RWA Members are expected to review the full [By-law](#) to ensure there is a clear understanding of duties and responsibilities, and that Members act accordingly.

Report prepared by: Kathy Stranks, extension 5264

Emails: kstranks@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Kathy Stranks, extension 5264

Emails: kstranks@trca.on.ca

Date: October 9, 2018

Attachments: 1 – [Link to Board of Directors Administrative By-law](#)

RES.#R16/18 -

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Confirmation and approval of Youth Council Executive members.

Moved by: Mick Malowany
Seconded by: Mike Mattos

WHEREAS the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) has approved the framework for the Youth Council, including the structure of membership to be comprised of both “General” and “Executive” members.

AND WHEREAS the Youth Council Working Group, with staff support, has selected a final Executive membership comprised of 10 members for a term of 1 year;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the membership list for the Youth Council Executive, as appended, be confirmed and approved;

AND THAT the Youth Council Executive will meet on a monthly basis, and will provide direction to and identify priorities for the Youth Council for a one year term;

AND FURTHER THAT intake for the General membership is to remain open.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The long-term success of efforts to advance environmental protection and sustainability in the Toronto region depends on the support of the region’s youth, both now and into the future. The TRCA Community Engagement Strategy highlights the importance of engaging youth and reflecting their unique perspectives in TRCA’s priorities and programs, and identifies the creation of a Youth Council, overseen by the Regional Watershed Alliance, as an important and immediate priority. Around the world, youth councils have been created by governments, community groups and non-profit organizations as a means of providing local youth with an opportunity to gain important skills, build capacity and network, while providing the sponsoring agencies with important input and perspectives from youth stakeholders.

At RWA meeting #2/17 held on February 21, 2018, the framework for the Youth Council was approved. In this framework, two tiers of Youth Council membership were described: general and executive membership. The general membership is open to all youth in TRCA’s jurisdiction. General members will be invited to participate in Youth Council meetings and events, but participation will be voluntary. Executive members are an application-based position. Executive members will be responsible for the development of priorities for action, communication with the general Youth Council membership, organizing meetings, and the development of a work plan for a one-year term.

There are four objectives that will guide the development of program activities for the Youth council: “Build Capacity and Engage Youth,” providing youth across the Toronto region with learning opportunities; “Build a Youth Network/Strengthen Existing Networks,” creating a broad network of youth in the region that is interested in environmental and sustainability issues; “Identify Youth Perspectives,” developing an understanding of youth opinion around current environmental issues and how these might be incorporated in the work of TRCA and its partners; and “Create fun opportunities for youth,” providing entertaining and engaging learning opportunities.

RATIONALE

Recruitment materials were developed by the RWA Youth Council Working Group in consultation with staff. Applicants for the executive membership were also asked to answer two out of the four following questions:

- 1) Why are you interested in joining the Youth Council?
- 2) What would you like to accomplish as part of the Youth Council?
- 3) What would make you a good candidate for the Youth Council Executive?
- 4) What do you think is the biggest challenge faced by your neighbourhood or region right now? What would you do to help people understand and address that challenge?

Executive applicants were also invited to attach a resume, though this step was optional. Recruitment for both tiers of the Youth Council began online in mid-September, and applications for executive membership closed on October 15, 2018 (recruitment for general membership continues to remain open). Advertisement for the recruitment was carried out on Instagram and YouTube, and was circulated communicated through relevant TRCA networks.

In total, 19 applications for executive membership were received. These applications were evaluated by the Youth Council Working Group and staff. Considerations for members included: representation from across the jurisdiction, demographic factors, and merit based on the quality of application. The final members can be found in attachment 1. 75 applications for general membership have been received from across the jurisdiction (a breakdown by postal code can be seen in attachment 2), and region-wide recruitment of general Youth Council members will continue.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- An inaugural meeting of Youth Council Executive Members is set for the month of November. At this meeting members will begin process of developing a work plan, and structure for monthly meetings.
- A meet-up for all Youth Council Members is to be set up for the month of November.

Report prepared by: Kate Goodale, extension 5280

Emails: kate.goodale@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Kate Goodale, extension 5280

Emails: Kate.Goodale@trca.on.ca

Date: October 23, 2018

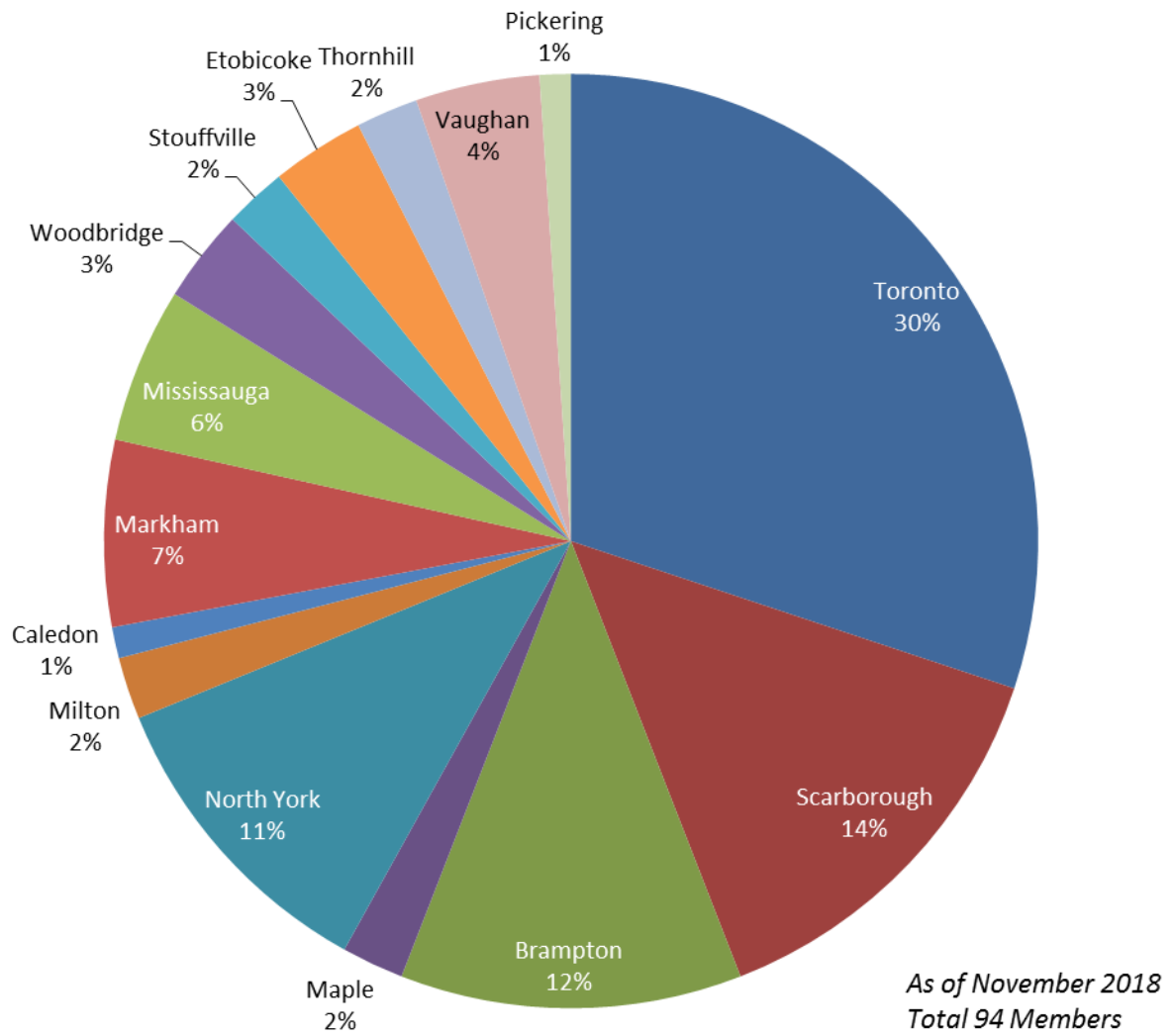
Attachments: 2

Attachment 1

2018 Members of TRCA's Youth Council Executive

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Affiliation
Adeena	Afridi	University Undergraduate Student
Ahmad (Imran)	Amanullah	University Graduate (Bachelor)
Anjali	Bapat	University Graduate (Bachelor)
Alana	Cameron	University Graduate (Bachelor)
Adrian	De Rushe	College Student
Tua	Hytönen	University Graduate (Bachelor)
Wai Ying	Lam	University Graduate Student
Eleni	Pappas	University Undergraduate Student
Ashwini	Selvakumaran	High School Student
Haohan	Zhang	High School Student

TRCA Youth Council Membership Current address based on postal code



RES.#R17/18 -

2019 REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEETING SCHEDULE

A schedule of meeting dates is proposed for the Regional Watershed Alliance

Moved by: Jill Kelly
Seconded by: Kevin O'Connor

THAT the meetings for the Regional Watershed Alliance scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on the following dates be approved;

AND FURTHER THAT the meetings be held at 101 Exchange Ave., Vaughan, ON, unless otherwise noted.

2019 DATES

#1/19 Wednesday, February 13, 2019

#2/19 Wednesday, May 22, 2019

#3/19 Wednesday, September 11, 2019

#4/19 Wednesday, November 13, 2019

CARRIED

RATIONALE

A schedule of meetings is proposed to assist the Regional Watershed Alliance members. TRCA staff did an examination of the dates of municipality meetings to avoid conflict with council meetings within the Toronto, Peel, Durham and York Regions.

TRCA will provide meeting space to the Regional Watershed Alliance on a regular basis at 101 Exchange Ave., Vaughan, ON. This location is central to all the watersheds and easily accessible.

Working group meetings will be hosted at 101 Exchange Ave., via teleconference, or at other locations as appropriate and convenient to working groups.

Report prepared by: Cindy Barr, extension 5569

Emails: cindy.barr@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Cindy Barr, extension 5569

Emails: cindy.barr@trca.on.ca

Date: September 20, 2018

PROJECT TEAMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATES

RES.#R18/18 - PROJECT TEAMS AND WORKING GROUPS UPDATES

Moved by: Suzanne Barrett
Seconded by: Andy Wicken

THAT the verbal project teams and working group updates be received.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The meeting was turned over to Alisa Mahrova, Acting Clerk, Corporate Secretariat, to conduct the elections.

RES.#R19/18 - APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

Moved by: Jade Schofield
Seconded by: Mick Malowany

THAT Jessica MacDonald, Administrative Assistant, Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds, Victoria Kramkowski, Watershed Specialist, Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds and Alisa Mahrova, Interim Clerk and Coordinator, Clerk and Corporate Records, TRCA, be appointed as scrutineers for the election of officers, if required.

CARRIED

CHAIR OF REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Jennifer McKelvie was nominated by Jack Heath.

RES.#R20/18 - MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS

Moved by: David Laing
Seconded by: Jade Schofield

THAT nominations for the office of Chair of the Regional Watershed Alliance be closed.

CARRIED

Jennifer McKelvie was declared elected by acclamation as Chair of Regional Watershed Alliance.

VICE CHAIR OF REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Jennifer Drake was nominated by Andy Wickens.

RES.#R21/18 - MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS

Moved by: David Pickles
Seconded by: Lisette Mallet

THAT nominations for the office of Vice Chair of the Regional Watershed Alliance be closed.

CARRIED

Jennifer Drake was declared elected by acclamation as Vice Chair of Regional Watershed Alliance.

RES.#R22/18 - MOTION TO APPOINT AN ALTERNATE CHAIR

Moved by: Deb Schulte
Seconded by: Mick Malowany

THAT in case of absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair at the future 2019 meetings of the Regional Watershed Alliance, Andy Wickens is appointed an Alternate Chair.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting terminated at 9:00 p.m., on Wednesday, November 14, 2018.

Item 4

APPOINTMENTS TO THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE FOR 2019-2021

The Director of Community Engagement and Outreach at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority can advise that all the persons listed below have been duly appointed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors and are entitled to sit as Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance for the term of 2019-2021.

DURHAM	Councillor Joanne Dies
TORONTO	Councillor Jennifer McKelvie Jennifer Drake
PEEL	Councillor Jennifer Innis
YORK	Councillor Jack Heath

The person listed below has been duly appointed by the City of Mississauga to sit as Member of the Regional Watershed Alliance for the term of 2019-2021.

MISSISSAUGA	Councillor Stephen Dasko
--------------------	--------------------------

The person listed below has been duly appointed by the Township of King to sit as Member of the Regional Watershed Alliance for the term of 2019-2021.

KING	Sara Olivieri
-------------	---------------

The person listed below has been duly appointed by the City of Pickering to sit as Member of the Regional Watershed Alliance for the term of 2019-2021.

PICKERING	David Pickles
------------------	---------------

The person listed below has been duly appointed as the Greenbelt Foundation's representative to sit as a Member of the Regional Watershed Alliance for the term of 2019-2021.

FRIENDS OF THE GREENBELT FOUNDATION	Thomas Bowers
--	---------------

The person listed below has been duly appointed as a Non-Voting Senior Staff Liaison Representative to sit as a Member of the Regional Watershed Alliance for the term of 2019-2021.

PEEL	Learie Miller
-------------	---------------

[Please see the complete list of current Regional Watershed Alliance members here.](#)

ITEMS FOR THE ACTION OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #1/19, Wednesday, February 13, 2019

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Community Engagement and Outreach Division

RE: OVERVIEW OF SELECTED TRCA PROJECTS WITH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019-2020 AND BEYOND

KEY ISSUE

To provide the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) a high-level overview of selected TRCA (2019-2020 and beyond) projects, and associated opportunities for public and RWA member engagement.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a high-level overview of selected TRCA projects involving public engagement opportunities (2019-2020 and beyond) be received for information;

THAT Regional Watershed Alliance members be invited to engage with TRCA on these projects through collaboration, participation and fundraising opportunities, as appropriate;

AND FURTHER THAT presentations on selected TRCA projects be brought forward to Regional Watershed Alliance members by TRCA staff, beginning with a presentation on the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Program (SNAP).

BACKGROUND

TRCA has always had a unique and challenging role as the conservation authority charged with management of the natural and water resources of Ontario's largest urban center. Over TRCA's five decades of existence, the scope of environmental and sustainability challenges facing the Toronto region has expanded significantly. As new issues and priorities emerge, TRCA has evolved its programming and projects to provide direct benefit and value to its partner municipalities, communities and the watersheds within its jurisdiction. On an annual basis, TRCA staff undertake a large number of projects and programs across nine watersheds and the waterfront. The majority of these projects are initiated in partnership with, or supported by, TRCA's municipal partners, and reflect the priorities and principles upon which TRCA is based.

Potential projects are identified through several approaches. [TRCA's Strategic Plan](#) lays out twelve strategies which guide TRCA initiatives and priority projects. TRCA's watershed plans, which provide direction on the protection, restoration, enhancement and management of each watershed, also highlight issues that must be addressed and recommend priorities for action on a watershed scale. Furthermore, regional strategies related to natural heritage, trails, restoration priorities provide guidance for projects. TRCA also looks to align its work with municipal strategic priorities and needs in order to support partner municipalities, seek out new opportunities and maximize the benefits of TRCA work.

Item 8.1

Similarly, projects are funded through a variety of mechanisms. Municipal funding sources can include regional municipal funding provided to TRCA through TRCA member municipalities, as well as local municipal and other government agency partnerships focused on a particular project or outcome. Many TRCA projects also garner private sector support or receive funding through grants from many different agencies.

The project included in this report have been divided into three main categories Flood Mitigation Projects address issues related to flooding, including erosion, public safety, threats to property and other environmental, social and economic impacts. Public Realm Improvement Multi-Objective Projects provide multiple benefits to communities and the environment. Benefits and outcomes may include environmental protection or enhancement, recreational opportunities, active transportation, increased access to greenspace, making sites or facilities more inclusive and accessible, increasing community and corporate resiliency and improving infrastructure. Watershed Restoration Projects involve the restoration of watercourses, wetlands, meadows, riparian areas and other greenspaces through plantings, the construction of green infrastructure, natural channel design and other mechanisms.

Provided below is a list of selected projects with public engagement opportunities, which offers an overview of the range of work and partnerships that TRCA will be undertaking in 2019-2020 and an associated map (Attachment 1 – Selected TRCA Projects Planned for 2019-2020). The projects are organized by Region, with the local municipality being identified for each project. Within each Region, projects are further broken down according to the categories of Flood Mitigation Projects, Public Realm Improvement Multi-Objective Projects, and Watershed Restoration Projects.

Further details on these projects can be provided by project managers upon request.

RATIONALE

Many projects offer opportunities for the public to get involved. Such opportunities can include taking part in public information centers, community-based restoration events and citizen science initiatives, watershed and waterfront clean-ups, involvement in committees and other actions. In addition, TRCA offers additional opportunities for public engagement, including educational workshops and watershed events. RWA members are encouraged to seek out opportunities to engage with the projects below and to share information on the projects, as well as associated public engagement opportunities, with their respective networks and organizations.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 1 – Green the Toronto region’s economy

Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

Strategy 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

LIST OF SELECTED TRCA PROJECTS FOR 2019-2020

Region of Peel

FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Brampton Riverwalk Flood Protection Project

Watershed: Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton, Downtown Brampton

Corresponding # on attached map: 1

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Brampton, with funding provided by Peel Region Climate Change Fund and the Federal Government through the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

Project Purpose and Description: TRCA in partnership with the City of Brampton, has commenced the Downtown Brampton Flood Protection Project Environmental Assessment (DBFP EA), a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule C). Downtown Brampton is located within a flood-vulnerable area and is subject to land use development restrictions set by the Province of Ontario. The goal of the DBFP EA is to identify a preferred Alternative Solution that will reduce flood risk to the downtown core, while considering opportunities for revitalization and ecological benefits. The completion of the DBFP EA is a critical step towards achieving the Riverwalk – a transformative opportunity for the City of Brampton to realize a revitalized future downtown core. Riverwalk’s overarching goal is to create a healthy, sustainable and resilient downtown Brampton.

Projected Completion Date: The project is currently in Phase II of the Municipal Class EA process and is proposed to be completed by March 31, 2020.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: The first Public Information Centre (PIC) was held on November 7th 2018. This meeting introduced the Downtown Brampton Flood Protection EA project, a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Schedule C) Project, to the general public. The PIC also provided information on the current conditions, a Preliminary Alternative Solutions and the proposed criteria that will be used to evaluate the Alternative Solutions. Additional PICs will be scheduled for Spring 2019. Furthermore, the DBFP EA Consultation Plan includes a Technical Advisory Committee and Community Liaison Committee, as well as engagement with Indigenous Communities.

Additional Resources: trca.ca/dbfpea

Project Name: Bolton Berm

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Caledon, Community of Bolton

Corresponding # on attached map: 2

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and Town of Caledon

Project Description: This project focuses on the Bolton Special Policy Area (SPA), which consists of the Historic Village of Bolton. The flood control works implemented for the Village of Bolton were constructed in the early 1980's and were intended to provide flood protection up to, and including, the 500-yr storm. In 2012, the Town of Caledon and TRCA initiated the Bolton SPA Update and through this study it was determined by the TRCA that the Berm does not provide the level of service it was originally intended to provide. TRCA initiated the Bolton Berm Hydraulic Assessment and Remediation study in 2016 with the intent to identify the cause of structural deficiencies within the existing flood control infrastructure and develop a remediation strategy to implement in the coming years. The study included the development of a 2D model

Item 8.1

of the Bolton SPA, as well as fluvial, geotechnical, and structural assessments of the existing flood control infrastructure within the Bolton SPA.

Flood remediation plans for priority sites to restore the Bolton Flood Protection berm have been developed. TRCA staff will develop detailed design drawings and an implementation plan for the Bolton Berm in 2019, with restoration activities tentatively scheduled for the end of 2019 and early 2020.

Projected Completion Date: Detailed design work is planned for 2019 and project implementation planned for 2020.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Due to extensive public consultation as part of the Bolton SPA Update, a letter will be sent to the surrounding community, at a minimum. There is also the opportunity for potential consultation with municipal staff and councillors.

Additional Resources: <https://www.caledon.ca/en/townhall/resources/BoltonSPA-Flood-Risk-and-Planning-Justification-Dec-2015-DRAFT-A1.pdf>

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS MULTI-OBJECTIVE PROJECTS

Project Name: Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Mississauga

Corresponding # on attached map: 3

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Credit Valley Conservation Authority and Region of Peel, with support from the City of Mississauga and the City of Toronto

Project Description: Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), the Region of Peel and TRCA are creating a beautiful and naturalized conservation area known as Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area. It will transform the Lakeview neighbourhood into a hub for passive waterfront recreation, a hotspot for wildlife migration and a green oasis in the heart of the city. The new conservation area will comprise a total of 26 hectares and include 3500 meters of new trails and 1.6 km of new shoreline. The new conservation area will be owned and managed by CVC.

Projected Completion Date: 2024-2026

Type of Engagement Opportunity: CVC is leading the public engagement with support from TRCA and the Region of Peel. Public engagement includes regular updates to the project blog, news releases, video updates, meetings with the Community Liaison Committee, and pop-up events to update the public and local councillors.

Additional Resources: <https://cvc.ca/jimtoveylakeviewca/>

Project Name: Bolton Camp

Watershed: Humber Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Caledon, Community of Bolton

Corresponding # on attached map: 5

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and Town of Caledon

Project Description: Since purchase of the property in 2011, TRCA staff has been working with municipal partners, school boards, community groups and the general public to create a vision for a renewed Bolton Camp. Through this process, the community has crafted a concept plan for transforming Bolton Camp from its previous use as an overnight summer camp into an inclusive community commons that brings people together to share in the Toronto region's rich arts, culture and recreation marketplace. Built around 50 historic buildings nestled in the picturesque Humber River valley, the re-envisioned Bolton Camp will bring the business sector, not-for-profits, social enterprises, and others together to provide youth, artists and

Item 8.1

entrepreneurs the opportunity to transform this historic landscape into an inclusive attraction that encourages creativity, innovation and learning.

In partnership with the Jays Care Foundation, Caledon Challenger Baseball, and the Town of Caledon, TRCA retrofitted the existing Bolton Camp sports field into an accessible baseball diamond that will provide children and young adults with physical and cognitive disabilities with a place to play. To celebrate this milestone, the Toronto Blue Jays and Jays Care Foundation launched the first ever Blue Jays Takeover event at the Bolton Camp site on July 10, 2018. Approximately 900 community members attended the event.

Projected Completion Date: Redevelopment of Bolton Camp anticipated being a 10-year project consisting of multiple phases.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: The redevelopment of Bolton Camp into an arts, culture, recreation and culinary destination for the Toronto region will support job creation through strategic investments in social infrastructure, as well as longer term training, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, once fully operational. Multiple community engagement events will be planned throughout the implementation of this project.

Additional Resources: www.trca.ca/boltoncamp and www.boltoncamp@trca.on.ca

Project Name: Glen Haffy Conservation Area Master Plan

Watershed: Humber Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Caledon

Corresponding # on attached map: 6

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and Town of Caledon

Project Description: The Glen Haffy Conservation Area Master Plan will set out management direction for the Glen Haffy Conservation Area and neighbouring TRCA properties on the Niagara Escarpment. The entire project will include an inventory and report of current and past conditions, a vision statement, management zones, management recommendations, a public use plan, a trail plan and a preliminary phased implementation schedule and budget. This will be developed in consultation with a project community advisory committee and the general public.

Projected Completion Date: Anticipated completion by 2021

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Participation on the Advisory Committee (to be established in late 2019 or early 2020)

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/greenspace-management/> under the Public Consultations tab and <https://yoursay.ca/>

Project Name: Albion Hills Conservation Area Master Plan Implementation

Watershed: Humber Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Caledon

Corresponding # on attached map: 7

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and Town of Caledon

Project Description: With the support of municipal partners, donors and special partners, TRCA is implementing the Albion Hills Conservation Area Master Plan as approved in 2016. Implementation of this master plan includes investment in new facilities and infrastructure that builds the brand of both Albion Hills Conservation Area and TRCA, which supports the Tourism and Education sector. Another key component of the Master Plan implementation will address service gaps and state of good repair issues to optimize the function of the property and maximize its value. Projects will include trail improvements, office, workshop and storage facility demolition and replacement, and Lakeview site public use infrastructure improvement.

Projected Completion Date: Anticipated completion by 2020

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and public tours.

Item 8.1

Additional Resources: <https://s3-ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/trcaca/app/uploads/2016/04/17165528/Albion-Hills-CA-Master-Plan-TRCA-Board-April-2016.pdf>

Project Name: Claireville Conservation Area

Watershed: Humber Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton

Corresponding # on attached map: 8

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Brampton and City of Toronto

Project Description: Claireville Conservation Area is the site of multiple complementary projects, all of which contribute towards the implementation of the Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan Update, as approved in 2012. Implementation of this updated management plan is occurring in cooperation with municipalities, partners and donors, and will include investment in new facilities and infrastructure that builds the brand of both Claireville Conservation Area and TRCA, and which supports the Tourism and Education sector. Another key component of the Management Plan implementation will address service gaps and state of good repair issues to optimize the function of the property and maximize its value. Related projects include repairs to the Wiley Bridge, waterline replacement, improvements to the Robinson House land area, road upgrades, and public programming reinvigoration planning. Another project at the site is the Claireville Inter-regional Trail, which involves the design and construction of a trail that will connect local municipal pathways, the West Humber inter-regional trails and a linear trail system through Claireville Conservation Area. The trail will accommodate multiple user types, address accessibility for users, explore the potential for a heritage trail and include directional way-finding and interpretive signs. It will be constructed with minimal impact on the sensitive natural habitat and cultural heritage attributes of the conservation area. One of several restoration activities at the site is the Claireville Meadow Restoration. This is a large meadow restoration project that includes invasive species management and native meadow establishment through seeding and plug planting near the Claireville Conservation Area entrance off of Highway 50. Invasive management site preparation is underway and the area will be seeded and planted in 2019.

Projected Completion Date: Major construction of the Claireville Inter-regional Trail is slated to begin in 2019 and expected to finish in 2020. Meadow restoration to be completed in 2019. Completion of other Management Plan Update activities is anticipated by 2020.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: There will be opportunities for community-based restoration events once trail construction and meadow restoration are completed, as well as citizen science opportunities to maintain and monitor the meadow.

Note: Stakeholders are also being engaged as staff investigate opportunities for future animation of Claireville as directed by the Regional Watershed Alliance RES.#R2/18 on September 19th 2018.

“THAT the Greenspace and Ecosystem Services Working Group of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) work with staff to investigate opportunities to animate Claireville Conservation Area and create programming and infrastructure that will promote greenspace engagement, ecosystem preservation and education, and outdoor activities to the diverse communities of the local community and GTA and report back in Quarter 2 2019. THAT the RWA and staff should also investigate potential partnerships and involvement of municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as other means of generating the sustained investment and funding that would be required to implement the proposed priorities”.

Item 8.1

Project Name: Burnhamthorpe SNAP

Watershed: Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Mississauga, Burnhamthorpe Community

Corresponding # on attached map: 9

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Mississauga, Region of Peel, local utilities, community groups (e.g. EcoSource), residents and businesses

Project Description: TRCA, the City of Mississauga and Region of Peel have worked with local residents and businesses to develop the Burnhamthorpe SNAP. This action-oriented plan will help implement the Etobicoke Creek watershed plan, Mississauga's Living Green initiatives and other municipal priorities, helping the community to become more sustainable, and more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Implementation projects have included a DePave project at a housing cooperative, home retrofit promotions, a raingarden demonstration in partnership with Sheridan Nurseries and a balcony gardening program. The project partners have now launched a Tower Program aimed at helping residential towers with building retrofits and revitalization of outdoor public spaces. The program assists tower owners and management to access available programs for stormwater credits, water and energy efficiency and other green infrastructure initiatives.

Projected Completion Date: Tower Program Phase 1 estimated completion in 2020. Overall SNAP implementation plan to be reconfirmed 2021.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Targeting local tower tenant community and tower owners to solicit tower revitalization ideas and encourage participation in revitalization projects and programs. Municipal partner engagement to deliver on municipal multi-unit priorities. Engaging green technology sectors and utilities as program delivery partners.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/sustainable-neighbourhoods/snap-neighbourhood-projects/burnhamthorpe-snap/>

Project Name: County Court SNAP and Upper Nine Stormwater Pond Retrofit

Watershed: Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton, County Court Neighborhood

Corresponding # on attached map: 10

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Brampton, Region of Peel, local utilities, community groups (e.g. County Court Neighbourhood Association), Brampton Golf Club, local residents and businesses.

Project Description: As TRCA's first pilot, the County Court SNAP is a plan to build a sense of community, make the neighbourhood more environmentally friendly and prepare it for the impacts of climate change. The plan helps implement plans and priorities of TRCA, City of Brampton, Region of Peel and local residents. A neighbourhood-based vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning project is being led by TRCA, in partnership with City of Brampton, Region of Peel, County Court Neighbourhood Association and other local community stakeholders. This project will use inspiring activities to create personal connections to local climate futures and access local knowledge to refine municipal-scale climate vulnerability assessments and develop a shared adaptation plan for implementation with the final stages of the SNAP Action Plan.

Construction of the City of Brampton's Upper Nine Stormwater Pond Retrofit project is a retrofit project that will include restoration work to enhance an existing stormwater management pond. The existing dry pond will be converted to a wet pond to improve water quality and quantity. This project will improve stormwater management, natural heritage and community amenities with the addition of trails and benches. The local community has provided input at all design stages and will continue to be engaged in celebration of the final project.

Item 8.1

TRCA will also encourage more local homeowners interested in hosting their neighbours in DIY home energy retrofit parties by connecting them with appropriate expertise and information. These current initiatives, together with many projects already completed, will address virtually all implementation areas of the adaptation plan.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Local community, business and municipal partner implementation action. Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings at Upper Nine Stormwater Pond Retrofit.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/sustainable-neighbourhoods/snap-neighbourhood-projects/county-court-snap/> and <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: West Bolton SNAP

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Caledon, Community of Bolton

Corresponding # on attached map: 11

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Town of Caledon, Region of Peel, local utilities, community organizations and residents.

Project Description: TRCA, with the Town of Caledon and Region of Peel, is working closely with neighbourhood residents and businesses to launch implementation of the West Bolton SNAP. This includes an on-the-ground demonstration of the town's Community Climate Change Action Plan, delivery of Peel Region's climate plan priorities, local implementation of the Humber River Watershed Plan and many other municipal priorities. A locally targeted home retrofit program, with a focus on lot-level stormwater management, natural heritage and energy efficiency, will include home consultations for residents interested in participating in existing utility programs and DIY home retrofit workshops for those who prefer to learn how to undertake simple retrofits while helping their neighbours. A Jaffary's Creek corridor revitalization project involving a local private institution and the community will alleviate erosion in the stream and create a community gathering space to celebrate the local heritage. Additional planting initiatives are also being planned to address heat vulnerability and contribute to the urban forest targets.

Projected Completion Date: 2025

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Engagement targets local homeowners to participate in home retrofit program. Local residents and community leaders will be engaged to provide input to detailed designs of initial revitalization projects. Engaging green technology sectors and utilities as program delivery partners.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/sustainable-neighbourhoods/snap-neighbourhood-projects/west-bolton-snap/>

WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Castlemore Park North - Riparian and Stream Restoration

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton, Castlemore Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 12

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and City of Brampton

Project Description: This project includes bank repairs in Castlemore Park (North and South) of an undercut outside bank and removal of sediment depositions upstream and downstream of the Fitzpatrick Drive bridge. Banks have been graded with toe protection and bioengineered.

Item 8.1

Riparian plantings will add natural cover and stabilize the riparian area. Construction occurred in fall 2018 and plantings will continue into 2019.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Kennedy Valley Wetlands

Watershed: Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton

Corresponding # on attached map: 13

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel, City of Brampton and Infrastructure Ontario

Project Description: This is a wetland restoration project which will include natural bollard placement, habitat structures and aquatic plantings in restored wetlands. Wetland construction was completed in 2018 and coordinated plantings with the City of Brampton and TRCA will continue in 2019.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Reddington Wetland Restoration

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Caledon, Community of Palgrave

Corresponding # on attached map: 14

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and Town of Caledon

Project Description: This project will include offline pond decommissioning, wetland restoration and planting on a new property acquired by the TRCA. Construction and wetland plantings were completed in fall 2018, with additional forest plantings continuing into 2019.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: King's Park Stream and Wetland Restoration

Watershed: Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Mississauga, Kings Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 15

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and City of Mississauga

Project Description: This project will include the removal of an existing in-stream barrier, stream restoration, the construction of a tertiary treatment wetland at storm water outfall and valley-land plantings post construction.

Projected Completion Date: 2022

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Green Infrastructure Improvements - Outfall 18

Watershed: Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton

Corresponding # on attached map: 16

Item 8.1

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and City of Brampton

Project Description: This project will include a tertiary treatment wetland at a stormwater outfall to add wetland habitat and treat stormwater flows prior to reaching the creek. The project will involve regrading to connect the storm outfall to a created wetland and tree and shrub planting.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Jefferson Park Stream Restoration

Watershed: Mimico Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton, Jefferson Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 17

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and City of Brampton

Project Description: A natural channel design project designed to repair failed infrastructure and improve fish habitat and flood storage capacity. The project will involve removal of a concrete channel and implementation of natural meanders and stream features. Inclusion of green infrastructure will be a component of the project as well. Riparian plantings will follow post-construction. The project will include enhancing park amenities, trail improvements and community outreach.

Projected Completion Date: 2022

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Alfred Kuehne Phase 3 Stream Restoration

Watershed: Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton

Corresponding # on attached map: 18

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and City of Brampton

Project Description: A natural channel design project designed to repair failed infrastructure and improve fish habitat. The concrete channel and eroded stream were replaced with natural channel design. Construction was completed in 2018 and plantings will continue in 2019.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Professor's Lake Shoreline and Fish Habitat Restoration

Watershed: Mimico Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton, Professors Lake

Corresponding # on attached map: 19

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and City of Brampton

Project Description: This is a shoreline restoration and erosion control project designed to enhance the existing inland lake shoreline while mitigating eroded sections and restoring riparian areas around the lake. Works will also include a viewing/community gathering node and installation of in-water fish habitat.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: William Hostrawser Valley (South) Channel Realignment

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Brampton, William Hostrawser Valley

Corresponding # on attached map: 20

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Region of Peel and City of Brampton

Project Description: This project will include restoration work to realign the existing stream channel and enhance the riparian buffer. Construction was completed in fall 2018. Plantings, maintenance, seeding, and erosion sediment control removals will occur in spring 2019.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

City of Toronto

FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Toronto Islands Flood Characterization and Risk Assessment Study

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto

Corresponding # on attached map: 21

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: TRCA and the City of Toronto have been collaborating to reduce the damage caused by high lake water levels. With funding from City of Toronto and the National Disaster Mitigation Program, this project will serve to characterize the lake-based flood hazard on the Toronto Islands, and will help facilitate an understanding of the community and infrastructure vulnerabilities, potential impacts and risk to residents and municipal assets, and inform future structural and non-structural flood mitigation investments.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Targeted stakeholder consultation, including with community residents and businesses. Consultation also being undertaken as part of Toronto Islands Master Plan being led by City of Toronto.

Project Name: Black Creek Flood Protection Project

Watershed: Humber Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto

Corresponding # on attached map: 22

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: Through this project, TRCA and the City of Toronto will complete a thorough re-assessment of the flood remediation alternatives developed in TRCA's 2014 "Black Creek (Rockcliffe Area) Riverine Flood Management Class Environmental Assessment". The project will assess the viability of the revised list of flood remediation alternatives from both a hydrotechnical and transportation systems perspective and will provide TRCA and the City with a revised set of alternatives for consideration.

The assessment will identify potential implications to the local drainage system and identify areas of servicing and utility conflicts, as well as areas of opportunity to ensure a comprehensive flood remediation plan is provided for the area.

Item 8.1

Projected Completion Date: Detailed design work planned for 2019 and project implementation planned for 2020.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Public information centers to take place in early 2020, with involvement from City of Toronto staff. Consultation plan to be solidified in mid-late 2019.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/flood-risk-management/stay-informed/black-creek-environmental-assessment/>

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS MULTI-OBJECTIVE PROJECTS

Project Name: Trail Strategy for the Greater Toronto Region

Watershed: All watersheds in TRCA jurisdiction

Local Municipality and Location: All municipalities in TRCA jurisdiction

Corresponding # on attached map: Entire TRCA jurisdiction

Proponents/Partners: Municipal, provincial and federal governments, the Regional Watershed Alliance, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community partners and the development industry.

Project Description: TRCA has prepared the Draft Trail Strategy for TRCA's Jurisdiction (Trail Strategy) to provide a strategic vision for a complete regional trail network in greenspace that facilitates sustainable living in this next generation of trails. As development accelerates, TRCA will employ this Strategy and partner with municipal, provincial and federal colleagues, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community partners and the development industry to inform efforts to acquire, protect and enhance natural assets and to achieve new and upgraded trails, while connecting people to nature. Through this collaboration, ongoing public securement of greenspace and the provision of scenic trail greenways will occur. By working together strategically, we can grow and maintain our trail legacy in support of complete communities, a thriving economy and a healthy environment.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Several opportunities will emerge building upon existing collaboration with local stewardship groups as the Strategy is implemented.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/greenspace-management/conservation-land-care/trca-trail-program/>

Project Name: The Meadoway Project

Watershed: Don River Watershed, Highland Creek Watershed and Rouge River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto

Corresponding # on attached map: 23

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Toronto and the W. Garfield Weston Foundation

Project Description: The Meadoway project is transforming a barren power corridor into a vibrant 16-kilometre stretch of urban greenspace and meadowlands that will become one of Canada's largest linear urban parks. Cyclists and pedestrians will soon be able to travel from the heart of downtown Toronto to Rouge National Urban Park without ever leaving nature. Over the next seven years this site will turn into a place filled with butterflies, birds and wildflowers – a rich meadow landscape. Phase 1 of the project is funded with \$10 million from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation which will develop a visualization toolkit, completion of the Class EA and detailed design, meadow habitat restoration and maintenance and community engagement.

Completion Date: The entire project is expected to take at least 7 years and be completed by 2025.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Public consultation has already begun as part of the Class EA and will also begin in 2019 for the engagement and public relations plan. Nature hikes, school/public plantings, litter cleanups and more are planned for 2019.

Additional Resources: <https://themeadoway.ca/>

Item 8.1

Project Name: Scarborough Waterfront Project

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, District of Scarborough

Corresponding # on attached map: 24

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: TRCA, in partnership with the City of Toronto, is proceeding with an Individual Environment Assessment (EA) for the Scarborough Waterfront Project under the provincial EA Act. The project proposes to create a system of publicly accessible and safe greenspaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline between Bluffer's Park and East Point Park in Toronto, which respect and protect the significant natural and cultural features of the Bluffs, enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and provide a safe and enjoyable waterfront experience. The Final EA was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on June 15, 2018. The ministry has confirmed that they will be posting its Review of the Scarborough Waterfront Environmental Assessment project on February 22, 2019 for a five week comment period ending on March 29, 2019. The Ministry's website for the posting will be this: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/scarborough-waterfront-project>

Projected Completion Date: Implementation is anticipated to take approximately 12 years but may take longer or shorter depending on material and funding availability.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Public engagement as per the EA Act. RWA members are encouraged to submit comments through their respective networks directly on the site specified above.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/green-infrastructure/scarborough-waterfront-project/>

Project Name: Don Mouth Naturalization

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto

Corresponding # on attached map: 25

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Waterfront Toronto and City of Toronto

Project Description: The Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project (DMNP) is a precedent-setting undertaking aimed at revitalizing the mouth of the Don River. It consists of 22 separate projects. The DMNP will ultimately transform the existing mouth of the Don River, including the Keating Channel, into a healthier, more naturalized river outlet, while simultaneously providing critical flood protection to 240 hectares of Toronto's eastern waterfront.

Projected Completion Date: Anticipated for 2025

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Public consultation will be conducted for each project.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/green-infrastructure/don-mouth-naturalization-port-lands-flood-protection-project/>

Project Name: East Don Trail Project

Watershed: Don River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto

Corresponding # on attached map: 26

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Toronto and Government of Canada is investing up to \$11.25 million for the project under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF).

Project Description: This project will construct an exciting new multi-use trail to connect the existing East Don Trail, Gatineau Corridor Trail and the Don Trail System. The new East Don Trail will fill a significant gap in the City of Toronto's multi-use trail system and will connect diverse communities to nature through a new active transportation and recreation corridor.

Item 8.1

Construction will be completed in three phases. Phase 1 is located between the Lower Don Trail (at Taylor Massey Creek) and Bermondsey Road. Phase 2 will connect the existing East Don Trail (at Wynford Heights) to Wigmore Park (at Elvaston Trail). Although approved by the Environmental Assessment, Phase 3 has not undergone detailed design and still requires funding allocation at this time.

Projected Completion Date: Phase 1 and Phase 2 to be completed in December 2020 pending suitable weather and site conditions. Phase 3 does not have an estimated completion date at this time.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Opportunities to share news stories, ask questions and download project materials through project website. Closer to the completion of Phase 1 and 2, there will be community tree planting events hosted by City of Toronto as part of the restoration plan for the project.

Additional Resources: <https://yoursay.ca/east-don-trail>

Project Name: Tommy Thompson Park Pavilion Project

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Tommy Thompson Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 27

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: Project includes the creation of a pavilion at Tommy Thompson Park and entrance improvements.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Regular public updates regarding Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan implementation.

Additional Resources: https://waterfrontoronto.ca/nbe/wcm/connect/waterfront/d00f57c6-7a3f-496c-b16b-e50959ecbd97/03_TTP_OctDRP+WM.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

Project Name: Waterfront Major Maintenance Program

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Waterfront

Corresponding # on attached map: 28

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: TRCA owns and maintains an extensive network of 233 active waterfront erosion control structural assets along the north shore of Lake Ontario across its jurisdiction.

Under this program, structures are monitored, repaired, upgraded and replaced to protect trails, beaches, navigation channels, park greenspace and essential municipal infrastructure from current and predicted future coastal processes.

Projected Completion Date: Ongoing

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Engagement determined on a project by project basis and ongoing social media updates.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/erosion-risk-management/>

Project Name: Black Creek SNAP

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Black Creek Community

Corresponding # on attached map: 29

Proponents/Partners: City of Toronto, local utilities, numerous community organizations (e.g. FoodShare, Tree Mobile), local landowners, residents and businesses.

Project Description: Black Creek SNAP has been developed with the City of Toronto and local groups and residents to help transform this northwest Toronto priority neighbourhood into a healthy, green and self-sufficient community. Ongoing implementation of the home retrofit

Item 8.1

program will continue to engage local homeowners and promote uptake of actions for lot-level stormwater management, basement flood risk reduction, water and energy efficiency, urban forest planting and waste reduction through surplus harvest donation. Capacity building in partner delivery groups will continue with the goal of enabling them to continue to assist TRCA in scaling the delivery of this program. San Romanoway Tower Revival project will be showcased for the National Housing Strategy as a model of how green infrastructure and urban agriculture projects can achieve socio-economic co-benefits through capacity building and generate trust in residential tower owners to advance other building efficiency improvements.

Projected Completion Date: 2020

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Local homeowners are engaged to participate in home retrofit program. Local community organizations, utilities and City programs being engaged to help in delivery of home retrofit program. A variety of communications initiatives will engage resident champions, tenants, local social enterprise and community organizations and tower owners involved in the San Romanoway Revival project to tell their stories.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/sustainable-neighbourhoods/snap-neighbourhood-projects/black-creek-snap/>

WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Grenadier Pond Phragmites Management and Shoreline Restoration

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, High Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 30

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Toronto and Friends of High Park

Project Description: This project will focus on the management of phragmites in Grenadier Pond for 3 to 5 years. Shoreline restoration planting and habitat creation will follow the control of the invasive species.

Projected Completion Date: 2024

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Community consultation and ongoing social media updates will be posted throughout the implementation of this project.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Toronto Zoo Chorus Frog Swale Wetland

Watershed: Rouge River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Toronto Zoo

Corresponding # on attached map: 31

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Toronto Zoo and Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Project Description: This project will create wetland habitat through the restoration of a drainage ditch to enhance habitat opportunities for amphibians. Construction was completed in 2018 and plantings are planned for 2019

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential community-based restoration opportunities through Toronto Zoo.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Morningside Creek Stream Restoration

Watershed: Rouge River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto

Corresponding # on attached map: 32

Item 8.1

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Toronto and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Project Description: This project will focus on restoration plantings designed to increase soil stability/reduce erosion, improve biodiversity, and provide shade to the watercourse and bio-treatment of surface flows prior to entering the watercourse. A monitoring study regarding temperature influences on the creek is ongoing. Morningside Creek is the last redside dace-inhabited creek in Toronto.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Humber Arboretum Pond

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Humber College North Campus

Corresponding # on attached map: 33

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Toronto, Humber College and Humber Arboretum

Project Description: This project will restore and naturalize the existing stormwater management pond next to the Humber Arboretum on the Humber College North Campus. The restoration work will include shoreline restoration, new wetland restoration, the addition of tertiary treatment features, tree and shrub plantings and aquatic plantings.

Projected Completion Date: December 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and interpretive education opportunities through City of Toronto and Humber Arboretum.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/> and <https://humber.ca/arboretum/explore/ecosystems/humber-pond.html>

Project Name: High Water Level/Storm Damage Repairs to Lake Ontario Shoreline and Infrastructure

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Waterfront

Corresponding # on attached map: 34

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: This project focuses on waterfront repairs across the Toronto waterfront and Toronto Islands due to damage from high water lake levels and storms. Restoration includes a beach curb installation and other works to protect shorelines and infrastructure. This project is led by the City of Toronto.

Projected Completion Date: To be determined

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Engagement determined on a project by project basis and ongoing social media updates will be posted throughout the implementation of this project.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Morningside Park Wetland Restoration

Watershed: Highland Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Morningside Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 35

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: This project will restore an existing wetland and stream channel to improve wetland habitat and improve problematic park drainage. Plantings will be coordinated with the City of Toronto and will follow construction. This project will also include efforts to manage invasive phragmites in the park.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Item 8.1

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science engagement.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Gibraltar Point Erosion Control Project

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Toronto Island

Corresponding # on attached map: 36

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: Remediation of erosion hazards and enhancing ecological habitat at Gibraltar Point is a matter of public safety, protects essential structures on the Toronto Islands, and enhances key natural areas and community public space. A severe storm event in 2004 prompted the City of Toronto to engage the TRCA in emergency works on the Toronto Islands, specifically at Gibraltar Point to protect a washroom facility. The ongoing need to protect Gibraltar Point from erosion prompted the Gibraltar Point Erosion Control Class Environmental Assessment, which has been approved and implementation/construction began in September 2018.

Projected Completion Date: 2022

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Community liaison committee established. Ongoing social media updates will be posted throughout the implementation of this project.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/green-infrastructure/gibraltar-point-erosion-control-project/>

Project Name: Franklin Children's Garden Wetland Restoration Project

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto, Toronto Island Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 37

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: The primary objectives of this project are to improve water retention and supply issues in the pond/wetland, create wildlife habitat, and improve overall aesthetics. Additional benefits from this project will include improving overall site design and visitor experience of the pond and surrounding garden through the incorporation of new and enhancement of existing interpretive features and educational facilities.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Ongoing social media updates will be posted throughout the implementation of this project.

Project Name: Ashbridges Bay Landform Project

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Toronto

Corresponding # on attached map: 38

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Toronto

Project Description: This project will identify a preferred solution that will mitigate the risk to navigation due to sediment erosion and deposition at the harbour entrance of Ashbridges Bay and Coatsworth Cut, while considering the various approved facilities, planning initiatives and current uses in the study area.

Projected Completion Date: Implementation anticipated to be started in spring 2019 with completion in 2024

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Public information sessions will be planned and ongoing social media updates will be posted throughout the implementation of this project.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/green-infrastructure/ashbridges-bay-erosion-sediment-control-project/>

York Region

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS MULTI-OBJECTIVE PROJECTS

Project Name: Bayview Glen SNAP

Watershed: Don River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Markham, Bayview Glen Community

Corresponding # on attached map: 39

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Markham, Region of York, local utilities and local residents.

Project Description: TRCA and the City of Markham have worked closely with local residents to develop the Bayview Glen SNAP. This action-oriented plan applies direction from the Don River Watershed Plan and Markham's Greenprint Sustainability Plan initiatives to help the neighbourhood prepare for climate change and become a national leader in sustainability. The progressive action plan was endorsed by Council in April of 2016. Implementation of a locally targeted home retrofit program engages homeowners in actions aimed at lot-level stormwater management, local flood risk reduction, water and energy efficiency, urban forest succession planning and green transportation options. A flood remediation project was leveraged to achieve the revitalization of a local park, by incorporating greater environmental function and community amenities.

Projected Completion Date: To be confirmed, pending municipal direction.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Local community, business and municipal partner implementation action.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/sustainable-neighbourhoods/snap-neighbourhood-projects/bayview-glen-snap/>

WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Vaughan Mainline Compensation Planting

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Vaughan, Nashville Resource Management Track

Corresponding # on attached map: 40

Proponents/Partners: TRCA

Project Description: This project includes compensation plantings that are part of a larger reforestation project along TRCA's Nashville Resource Management Tract.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Cold Creek Conservation Area Wetland Restoration

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Township of King, Cold Creek Conservation Area

Corresponding # on attached map: 41

Item 8.1

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, York Region, Township of King, and Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Project Description: This is a wetland restoration project with a focus on increasing habitat for Western Chorus frog populations (threatened under SARA). Wetland construction was completed in 2018 and plantings will be completed in 2019.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science opportunities to monitor and maintain plantings.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Redelmeier Pond Restoration Project

Watershed: Don River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Vaughan

Corresponding # on attached map: 42

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Vaughn

Project Description: This restoration project will include dam decommissioning, channel re-establishment for existing cold water streams, stormwater tertiary treatment wetland feature and riparian plantings.

Projected Completion Date: 2020

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Community consultations occurred in 2018 and will continue in 2019. Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science tree health monitoring and maintenance opportunities.

Additional Resources: <http://4mycommunity.ca/2018/03/have-your-say-redelmeier-pond-restoration-project-public-meeting-follow-up-survey/> and <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: German Mills-Settlers Park Restoration Project

Watershed: Don River Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Markham, German Mills-Settlers Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 43

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, York Region and City of Markham

Project Description: This is a planting and stream restoration project that will include plantings of valley slopes, stream bank regrading and stabilization through plantings.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science tree health monitoring and maintenance opportunities.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Nashville Wetland Restoration Project

Watershed: Humber Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Vaughan, Nashville Resource Management Track

Corresponding # on attached map: 44

Proponents/Partners: TRCA

Project Description: This restoration project will enhance wetlands to improve native vegetation communities, structural habitat quality, diversity and function.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration opportunities.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Philips Lake Restoration Project

Watershed: Humber River Watershed

Item 8.1

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Richmond Hill

Corresponding # on attached map: 45

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and York Region

Project Description: This project will remove an existing fish barrier on Philips Lake to improve fish passage and naturalize the shoreline to improve fish habitat. The boat house will be removed and shoreline restored.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and community consultation.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Durham Region

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS MULTI-OBJECTIVE PROJECTS

Project Name: Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update Project

Watershed: Carruthers Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Ajax and City of Pickering

Corresponding # on attached map: 46

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and Region of Durham

Project Description: A new Watershed Plan will aim to protect the ecological health of Carruthers Creek, now and for years to come. Community input on both the Vision and Management Philosophy which guide this new Watershed Plan will help TRCA and the Region of Durham create a healthier future for Carruthers Creek. The updated Watershed Plan will assess the current health of the watershed, revisit its Vision and Management Philosophy, and make recommendations to protect the future health of Carruthers Creek, based on current conditions. The final plan will recommend management actions focused on the protection, restoration, enhancement, and long-term management of the watershed.

Projected Completion Date: The Watershed Plan will be finalized and completed in late 2019.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Stakeholders and the general public are asked for feedback on Management Recommendations and on the draft Watershed Plan.

Additional Resources: Information and documents available at <https://yoursay.ca/carruthers-creek>

Project Name: Frenchman's Bay Master Plan Implementation

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: City of Pickering

Corresponding # on attached map: 47

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and City of Pickering

Project Description: The Frenchman's Bay Master Plan Implementation project will work towards completing a detailed implementation plan with budget and schedule, securing necessary permits and approvals.

Projected Completion Date: 2020

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Ongoing public information sessions and social media updates posted throughout the implementation of this project.

Additional Resources: <https://www.pickering.ca/en/city-hall/RFBWP-MasterPlan.aspx>

Project Name: Goodwood Resource Management Tract Trail Plan Implementation

Watershed: Duffins Watershed

Item 8.1

Local Municipality and Location: Uxbridge

Corresponding # on attached map: 48

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Green Durham Association, Oak Ridges Moraine Trail Association, Trans Canada Trail, Parks Canada and Township of Uxbridge

Project Description: The Goodwood Resource Management Tract Trail Plan Implementation project will work towards completing a detailed trail implementation plan with budget and schedule, securing necessary property agreements and/or acquisitions to ensure a safe trail connection to Webb Road and continue to work with project partners to secure funds necessary to implement the trail plan as described in the phased implementation budget. TRCA will also work with Parks Canada to further the implementation of the Webb Road pedestrian crossing and continue to collaborate with Parks Canada regarding signage, detailed pedestrian crossing design, and future parking opportunities to ensure alignment with RNUP trail planning work.

Projected Completion Date: It is anticipated that this project will take 9 years to complete. Most of the efforts to secure funding to complete the project will be completed by 2020.

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Opportunities for advocacy to support trail construction funding and potential opportunities to participate in sign installation events.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/greenspace-management/conservation-land-care/goodwood-trail-plan/>

WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Rouge National Urban Park Restoration Project

Watershed: Rouge River Watershed and Duffins Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Pickering, Town of Markham and Rouge National Urban Park

Corresponding # on attached map: 49

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, Parks Canada

Project Description: This initiative involves multiple wetland, riparian and forest restoration projects, including stream restoration work. Projects are located throughout Rouge National Urban Park and are coordinated with Parks Canada staff and tenants.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Engagement opportunities to be determined by Parks Canada.

Project Name: Pickering Golf Course Creek Stream Restoration

Watershed: Duffins Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Pickering

Corresponding # on attached map: 50

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Pickering and Infrastructure Ontario

Project Description: This project will improve channel stability and conditions for fish passage at a remnant weir. Instream improvements are proposed downstream of the water control structure to provide better passage through the structure. Riparian conditions around the stream and online pond will be enhanced with plantings.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential community-based restoration opportunities lead by City of Pickering

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Brock South/North Compensation Planting Projects

Watershed: Duffins Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Ajax

Item 8.1

Corresponding # on attached map: 51

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and Ministry of Transportation

Project Description: This project will enhance riparian and terrestrial reaches throughout the Brock North and South properties through plantings.

Projected Completion Date: 2020

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential community-based restoration opportunities.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Duffins Marsh Northeast Lagoon

Watershed: Duffins Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Ajax

Corresponding # on attached map: 52

Proponents/Partners: TRCA

Project Description: This marsh restoration project will enhance existing wetlands to improve native vegetation communities, structural habitat quality, diversity and function.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential community-based restoration opportunities.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Ajax Waterfront Meadow

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Ajax

Corresponding # on attached map: 53

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and Town of Ajax

Project Description: This project will conduct meadow maintenance and manage invasive species on previously restored native meadow.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration opportunities.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Seaton Lands Wetland, Riparian and Forest Restoration

Watershed: Duffins Creek Watershed

Local Municipality and Location: City of Pickering

Corresponding # on attached map: 54

Proponents/Partners: TRCA, City of Pickering and Infrastructure Ontario

Project Description: This project includes multiple wetland, riparian and forest restoration projects throughout the Seaton Land property.

Projected Completion Date: To be confirmed

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration and citizen science tree health monitoring and maintenance.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Project Name: Paradise Park Wetland Restoration Project

Watershed: Waterfront

Local Municipality and Location: Town of Ajax

Corresponding # on attached map: 55

Proponents/Partners: TRCA and Town of Ajax

Project Description: This project will include wetland restoration and drainage improvements at Paradise Park in Ajax. This builds on previous wetland restoration works, beach dune restoration and shoreline restoration at the site.

Projected Completion Date: 2019

Item 8.1

Type of Engagement Opportunity: Potential for community-based restoration opportunities.

Additional Resources: <https://trca.ca/conservation/restoration/>

Report prepared by: Vince D'Elia, extension 5667

Emails: vd'elia@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Victoria Kramkowski, extension 5707

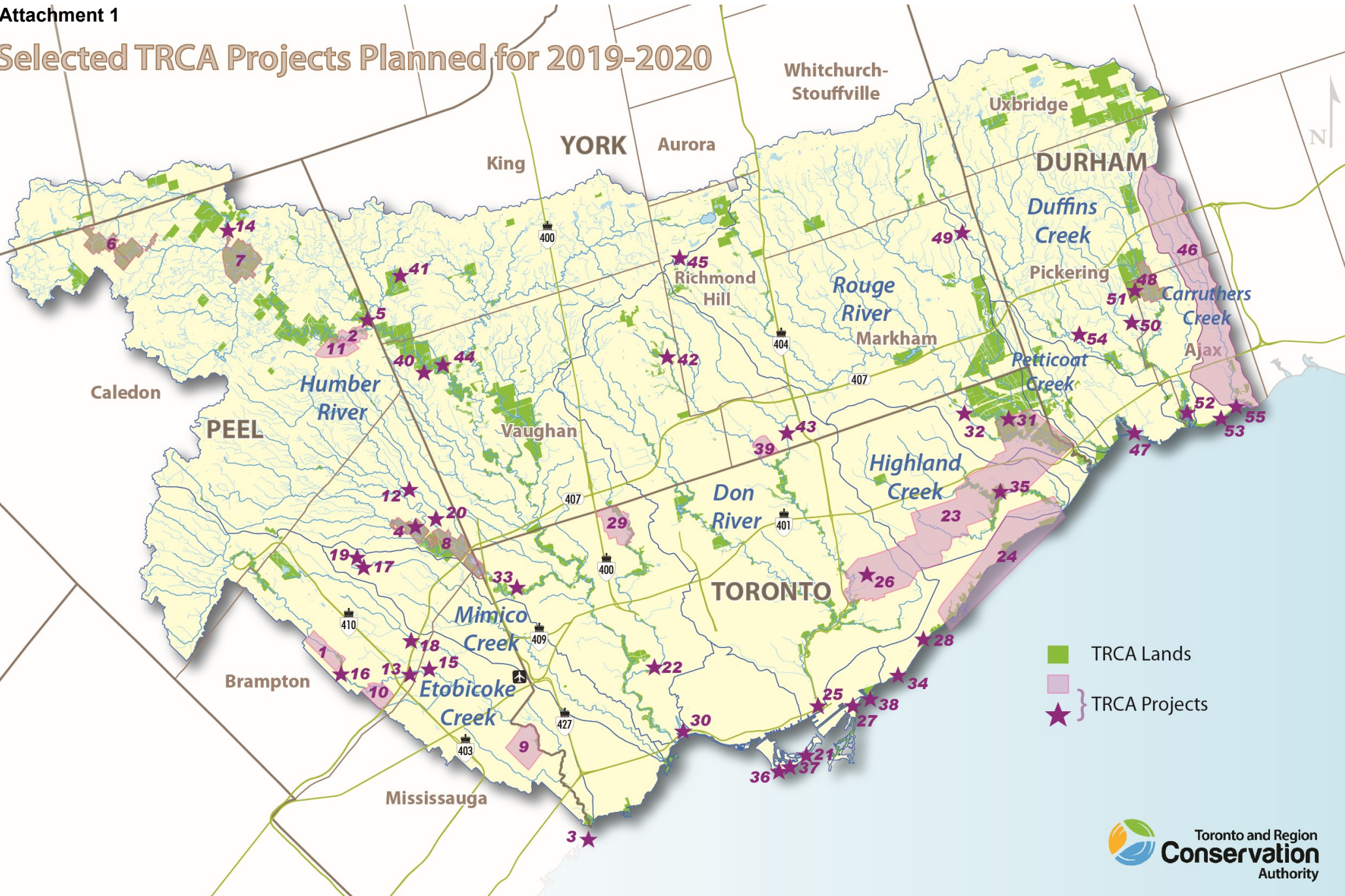
Emails: Victoria.kramkowski@trca.on.ca

Date: February 6, 2019

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1 – Selected TRCA Projects Planned for 2019-2020 and beyond.

Selected TRCA Projects Planned for 2019-2020



ITEMS FOR THE ACTION OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #1/19, Wednesday, February 13, 2019

FROM: Victoria Kramkowski, Government and Community Relations Specialist,
Community Engagement and Outreach Division

RE: **2019 TRCA PLANNED EVENTSTHAT CELEBRATE OUR WATERSHEDS
AND WATERFRONT**

KEY ISSUE

A summary of 2019 TRCA planned events that celebrate our watersheds and waterfront.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report on 2019 TRCA planned events be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Regional Watershed Alliance members be invited to engage in these events through attendance, collaboration, participation, volunteering and assistance on fundraising opportunities, where appropriate.

BACKGROUND

For many years TRCA has delivered a variety of events across its jurisdiction. Events include workshops and speaking series, conservation area events and large-scale signature watershed and waterfront events that help TRCA increase its presence in watershed communities, raise support and help implement TRCA strategic priorities and objectives. TRCA events also provide an excellent opportunity to engage communities and build awareness and appreciation for the watersheds in our jurisdiction.

Some events take place as components of larger celebrations. For example, this year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Humber River's designation as a heritage river by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. As a result, TRCA is developing a year-long celebration plan for this anniversary, with the signature event, Humber by Canoe, being one component of it.

RATIONALE

The following summary provides a snapshot of TRCA's events that celebrate our watershed and the waterfront in some way for 2019. There are various opportunities for Regional Watershed Alliance member involvement. Members can engage with event planning or day-of volunteering, collaborate with TRCA on an event as a partner, or help with event promotion and sponsorship through fundraising efforts.

In addition to these major events, TRCA also hosts a wide range of other public events each year. More information on these events can be found on TRCA's Events Calendar <https://trca.ca/events-calendar/>

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 6 - Tell the Story of the Toronto Region

WATERSHED AND WATERFRONT EVENTS SUMMARY

DON WATERSHED EVENTS

Manulife Paddle the Don

Manulife Paddle the Don is one of TRCA's long running signature events. It represents a novel way for people to connect with the Don River watershed from a completely different vantage point - from the water itself. Participants are provided an opportunity to paddle down the Don River from E.T. Seton Park to the Keating Channel on Corktown Common Park near Lake Ontario. Through a partnership with Manulife, this event not only provides participants with a connection to the river, but also raises significant funds that go directly back into environmental initiatives in the watershed.

Date: Sunday, May 5, 2019

Location: Don River (E.T. Seton Park to Corktown Common)

Typical Attendance Numbers: 1000

HIGHLAND CREEK WATERSHED EVENTS

The Salmon Festival at Highland Creek

Held annually in Morningside Park, the Salmon Festival at Highland Creek is an event that brings watershed residents from across the region to view the annual salmon migration from Lake Ontario, up Highland Creek, and through Morningside Park. The Salmon Festival offers children's activities, environmentally-themed vendors, live performances and guided nature hikes to celebrate the storied history of Highland Creek while witnessing nature in action in an urban setting.

Date: Sunday, October 6, 2019

Location: Morningside Park, Scarborough

Typical Attendance Numbers: 2250

ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED EVENTS

Morningside Creek Festival

The Morningside Creek Festival invites the community to learn about the Rouge River watershed by getting involved in habitat restoration and joining guided nature hikes. This family-friendly event invites partner organizations and community members to help TRCA and the City of Toronto to achieve the goals of a multi-year restoration project along Morningside Creek.

Date: June, 2019

Location: TBD

Typical Attendance Numbers: 500

HUMBER RIVER WATERSHED EVENTS

Humber by Canoe

Hosted in partnership with the City of Toronto, TRCA offers Humber by Canoe, where participants can get in a canoe, learn about the Humber River's rich cultural and recreational values and raise the profile of the Humber River's Canadian Heritage Rivers' designation. The event features an opportunity for participants to experience being in a canoe for the first time in the presence of safety professionals.

Date: September 8, 2019

Item 8.2

Location: Etienne Brule Park, Toronto

Typical Attendance Numbers: 2,000

Caledon Canada Day

Albion Hills offers a unique Canada Day celebration for all participants. The event features a wide array of family-friendly activities, various performances and fireworks that light up the night sky at 10 p.m. The Humber River will be celebrated at this event.

Date: Monday, July 1, 2019

Location: Albion Hills Conservation Area, 16500 Peel Regional Rd 50, Caledon

Black Creek Community Farm Festival

This is Black Creek Community Farm's largest free community event of the year. Fresh wood-fired pizza is available to purchase and there are family-friendly activities to enjoy. Visitors can participate in farming-focused workshops, play games, do yoga, take a tour of the farm or just relax and enjoy the day. Fresh produce from the farm is available for purchase as well.

Date: Saturday, July 20, 2019

Location: Black Creek Community Farm, 4929 Jane Street (at Steeles)

Typical Attendance Numbers: 500-1000

Dinner at the Farm: A Night of Culinary Enchantment in Support of Black Creek Community Farm

Black Creek Community Farm hosts an annual on-farm fundraiser dinner in collaboration with some of the best chefs in the Greater Toronto Area. This is an opportunity to support the educational programming at this unique urban farm, celebrate urban agriculture in Toronto, and enjoy delicious tapas-style food right from the farm. Participants can celebrate local food under the night sky and support a valuable community space in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood.

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2019

Location: Black Creek Community Farm, 4929 Jane Street (at Steeles)

Typical Attendance Numbers: 250

Four Winds Kite Festival

This festival introduces participants to fascinating, fabulous kites as they take flight. Renowned as a great family outing, attendees can watch professional kite flying demonstrations, make a kite, enjoy pond dipping, have a picnic and take a self-guided hike to see nature blooming in the spring.

Launched in 1989, the Four Winds Kite Festival is one of the longest-running kite events in the country. The festival features experts from renowned kite clubs, who dazzle the crowds with spectacular demonstrations.

Date: May, 2019

Location: Kortright Centre for Conservation

Typical attendance: 500-800

Maple Syrup Festival

The Maple Syrup Festival features demonstrations, wagon rides, and activities, as well as pancakes and real maple syrup. Special family-fun activities are also held on weekends and March Break.

Date: March 9 – April 7, 2019

Location: Kortright Centre for Conservation, Bruce's Mill Conservation Area,

Typical Attendance: 56,000

ETOBICOKE-MIMICO CREEKS WATERSHED EVENTS

Bike The Creek

Bike the Creek offers the community an opportunity to bike through Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga along the Etobicoke Creek Trail. Four different rides are offered according to various skill levels, while pavilions along the way offer educational opportunities for participants to engage in the natural and cultural history of the area. Participants can present their passport at each pavilion and receive stamps in order to win great prizes. Bike the Creek runs rain or shine.

Date: June 22, 2019

Location: Meet at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Drive, Brampton

Typical Attendance Numbers: 700

WATERFRONT EVENTS

Lake Ontario Evenings

Lake Ontario Evenings are a public speaker series on topics affecting the lake hosted by the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Program. Three to four Lake Ontario Evenings are held annually which usually include three 20-minute presentations from the invited speakers and a question/discussion period.

Evenings are free of charge, easily accessible by public transportation and include free snacks, as well as drinks for purchase. Events are advertised through the RAP mailing list, on the RAP and TRCA website, and through social media (Twitter and Facebook). Representatives from all three levels of government, community groups, academia, and the general public are typically in attendance.

RWA members could participate in Lake Ontario Evenings by attending or volunteering at events, advertising through their networks, and/or providing recommendations on speakers or topics to the RAP team.

Date: Various

Location: Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W, Toronto, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 80 – 110

Clean Water - Our Future

An annual event with the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association (GTSWCA) and other partners, to complete large-scale shoreline clean-up operations. The partner groups donate trained manpower, barges, marine vessels, safety equipment and tools. The TRCA waterfront team works with the City of Toronto to identify locations and equipment needs for the events.

Date: Various

Location: Various

Typical attendance: 50 - 100 people per event

Spring Bird Festival

The Spring Bird Festival introduces participants to the amazing phenomenon of migration and the importance of bird conservation. A variety of activities are offered for people of all ages and all birding abilities.

Item 8.2

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019
Location: Tommy Thompson Park
Typical attendance: 700

Tommy Thompson Park Butterfly Festival

The Butterfly Festival offers participants a glimpse of the Monarch Butterfly before they start their annual migration to Mexico, where they spend the winter. This 3,500 km migration takes place between August and November and begins with the gathering of the Monarchs at places like Tommy Thompson Park, Toronto's Urban Wilderness.

The annual Tommy Thompson Park Butterfly Festival celebrates this incredible migration by welcoming children, families and nature lovers to learn more about butterfly conservation and biodiversity. Through the many activities, nature hikes and educational displays at this free event, visitors can discover the more than 55 species of butterflies and moths recorded to date at the park.

Date: Saturday, August 24, 2019
Location: Tommy Thompson Park
Typical Attendance: 2,000

Report prepared by: Joanna Gardner, extension 5575
Emails: Joanna.gardner@trca.on.ca
For Information contact: Victoria Kramkowski, extension 5707
Emails: Victoria.kramkowski@trca.on.ca
Date: February 6, 2019

ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #2/19, Wednesday, February 13, 2019

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Community Engagement and Outreach Division

RE: **TRCA RESPONSES TO RECENT PROVINCIAL PLANS AND PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

KEY ISSUE

To brief the Regional Watershed Alliance on TRCA responses to selected Provincial proposals regarding the environment, climate change and land use/housing planning.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the provincial government has recently brought forward new proposals for plans and legislation related to the environment, climate change and land use planning, including amendments to the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Preserving and Protecting Our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan* and *Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018 and Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario*;

WHEREAS the proposed changes in the above plans and legislation relate to, or potentially impact, TRCA's work, projects or mandate;

THEREFORE LET IT BE PROPOSED THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance be informed of TRCA's response to these changes through this report and an accompanying presentation by staff.

BACKGROUND

TRCA's interacts with, and supports, the public, businesses and all levels of government on a variety of issues related to the environment, land use planning and climate change. For example, TRCA acts as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act*, is a public comment body under the *Planning Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act*, is a body with delegated authority in plan review to represent the provincial interest for natural hazards, as well as offering climate change services through the Ontario Climate Consortium, partnering with businesses through Partners in Project Green, supporting residents in sustainability through the Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Program (SNAP) and conducting research. As such TRCA's roles, responsibilities and services offered can be impacted by provincial legislation, plans or amendments that touch on these topics.

Recently, the Province of Ontario released a number of legislative, policy, and regulatory proposals of interest to TRCA, the vast majority of which were posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for consultation. TRCA staff has provided, or will provide, written comments, within specified commenting periods, on those proposals that directly or indirectly affect the work of TRCA. Four recent proposals that TRCA has commented on, or is in the process of commenting, include the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Preserving*

Item 10.1

and Protecting Our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan and Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018, and Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario.

RATIONALE

It is important for TRCA to provide input on provincial proposals in order to encourage provincial initiatives to align with and support TRCA's objectives, mandate and interests. The outcomes of such provincial policy initiatives have implications on TRCA's day-to-day work in TRCA's multiple roles as a regulatory agency, public commenting body with delegated authority to represent the provincial interest for natural hazards, resource management agency, proponent of undertakings with and for our partners, and landowner in a region experiencing significant growth and associated land use and environmental challenges.

A good example of the impact that responses from organizations and individuals can have is exemplified by *Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018* ("Bill 66"). Extensive Public feedback, including that from TRCA (See Attachment 1 – TRCA Response to Bill 66) helped to convince the provincial government to removed Schedule 10 from Bill 66.

On November 29, 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks released the proposed *Preserving and Protecting Our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-In-Ontario Environment Plan* ("the Environment Plan") for review and comment. The Environment Plan proposes actions that relate to TRCA's existing programs, while also posing potential roles for TRCA to play in helping to enact some of the goals laid out in the document. TRCA's response to the Environment Plan covers recommended considerations as well as opportunities for utilizing TRCA's breadth of expertise (See Attachment 2 – TRCA Response to Provincial Environment Plan).

TRCA's response on the Ministry of Municipal Housing's *Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario* proposal dated January 25th 2019 is also attached (Attachment 3 – TRCA Response to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario)

TRCA staff is also currently preparing feedback for amendments proposed for the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* ("the Growth Plan"). On January 15, 2019 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing released a proposed amendment to the Growth Plan for public comments on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) due February 28, 2019. Conservation Ontario is coordinating a response on behalf of all 36 conservation authorities in addition to the submissions made by individual conservation authorities.

The Ministry states that the Growth Plan amendment is proposed to address, "policies seen as potential barriers to the development of housing, job creation and business attraction." The Ministry states that the changes are intended to streamline growth management in order to achieve the following outcomes:

- More Streamlined Process (faster municipal implementation of the Plan);
- More Land for Housing (more flexibility for additional Greenfield Development);
- More Housing and Jobs Near Transit (increase the supply of housing and jobs near transit infrastructure);
- Greater Flexibility for Municipal Implementation (municipal implementation to better reflect local context).

The four items being circulated for comment concern amendments to the Growth Plan for the

Item 10.1

Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan), modifications to transitional matters surrounding growth plans, designation of provincially significant employment zones, and potential exemptions from the need for the Minister's approval of official plan amendments to aid the implementation of refinement policies for the Agricultural System and Natural Heritage System.

The Growth Plan amendment contains new and revised policies within the framework of the existing Growth Plan across the following six general categories:

1. Employment Planning,
2. Settlement Area Boundary Expansions,
3. Rural Settlements,
4. Natural Heritage and Agricultural Systems,
5. Intensification and Density Targets, and
6. Major Transit Station Areas.

TRCA staff are currently in the process of reviewing the Amendments and drafting comments that will be brought forward in a report to the Board of Directors on February 22, 2019.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:
Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

Report prepared by: Victoria Kramkowski, extension 5707

Emails: victoria.kramkowski@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Victoria Kramkowski, extension 5707

Emails: victoria.kramkowski@trca.on.ca

Date: February 6, 2019

Attachments: 3

Attachment 1 – TRCA Response to Bill 66

Attachment 2 – TRCA Response to Provincial Environment Plan

Attachment 3 – Response to Request for Comments – Consultation: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario (ERO #013-4190)



January 7, 2019

BY E-MAIL ONLY (ken.petersen@ontario.ca)

Mr. Ken Petersen
Provincial Planning Policy Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay St., 13th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Mr. Petersen:

**Re: Response to Request for Comments
Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018 (ERO #013-4293)
Proposed Open-for-Business Planning Tool (ERO #013-4125)
New Regulation Under the Planning Act (ERO #013-4239)**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) circulation proposal for Bill 66 and the associated Open-for-Business planning tool and proposed future regulation. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has an ongoing interest in this process given our experience and roles as:

- A regulator under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*;
- A public commenting body under the *Planning Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*;
- A resource management agency operating on a local watershed basis;
- A body with delegated authority in plan review to represent the provincial interest for natural hazards;
- One of the largest landowners (18,000 hectares) in the Toronto Region; and
- A source protection authority (SPA) under the *Clean Water Act*.

It is our understanding that Schedule 10 of the proposed legislation involves changes to the Planning Act to create a new economic development tool, the open-for-business planning by-law (OFBPBL). The OFBPBL would be available to all local municipalities to ensure they can act quickly to attract businesses seeking to advance proposals on development sites. In circumstances where there are employment and economic growth opportunities, municipalities could request to use an OFBPBL, provided certain criteria were satisfied. The regulation containing these criteria is not yet written but would include details on the new major employment use, identify the uses of land, buildings or structures that may be authorized by the tool, and prescribe how notice is to be given to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing following the passing of an OFBPBL.

Our understanding of the intent of Bill 66, and Schedule 10 in particular, is that an approved OFBPBL would have the effect of exempting applications under the Planning Act from having to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (2014). It would also exempt applications from having to conform to policies in a number of other Provincial Acts, such as the Clean Water Act, the Great Lakes Protection Act, the Greenbelt Act and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, among others. Additionally, an OFBPBL is only available to authorize uses of land for "prescribed purposes" (job creation), which have not yet been defined and are to be prescribed by regulation at a later date.

TRCA offers the following comments for your consideration in finalizing the regulations and associated documents.

General Comments

The Provincial Policy Statement, the Acts listed above, and their associated policies and/or plans are vital to the long-term sustainability, health, and safety of the people of Ontario and to fulfilling TRCA's mandate under the CA Act. The PPS guides land use planning to serve the public interest and deliver development that balances economic, environmental and social objectives. Without consideration of the PPS and area specific Acts and Plans that have been promulgated over the last two decades to address areas of public concern, the proposed OFBPBL tool could result in economic considerations outweighing of equally important or more important public interests.

As currently proposed, these changes to the Planning Act significantly diminish our ability to achieve our mandate particularly within our jurisdiction where growth pressures are significant, and the need to protect drinking water, sensitive lands, and aquatic and natural heritage resources is great. At present, it is unclear what criteria municipalities would have to meet before seeking approval to adopt this new economic development tool. The proposed authorization for an OFBPBL uses only the single test of present day job creation (50 or 100 jobs per population of less or greater than 250,000, and the types of jobs are not defined) as the rationale for waiving an assessment that includes other equally important considerations. Without the comprehensive tests afforded by the various pieces of identified legislation and regulations, there could be inadvertent and undesirable impacts on the site itself, as well as to adjacent and downstream properties, in the short term or over time. These impacts may include flooding, ground and surface water contamination, loss of critical habitat function or linkages, and the loss of productive agricultural lands that provide important environmental functions.

TRCA recommends that the province amend the draft Bill and regulations to require municipalities to maintain the conformity/consistency requirements of the PPS, the Clean Water Act, and area specific Plans such as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan.

The Clean Water Act and Source Protection Planning

Several pieces of provincial legislation including the Greenbelt Act, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, and the Clean Water Act are in place to protect some of the most hydrologically sensitive lands in Ontario. These lands capture, infiltrate and clean rainwater and snowmelt for storage in natural underground aquifers, which, along with surface water sources, then provide drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents and their communities that rely on ground and surface water. The Clean Water Act, which provides the legislative basis for Source Protection Plans and their associated policies, alongside the Great Lakes Protection Act, is an essential tool necessary to avoid another tragic contaminated water incident such as what occurred in Walkerton in 2000, which led to multiple deaths and long-term illnesses for many hundreds of people.

Bill 66 proposes to override the need to conform to significant drinking water threat policies, which were mandated and approved by the Province in Source Protection Plans under the Clean Water Act. Eliminating the ability to guide land use planning decisions that protect clean, safe drinking water sources creates risks of more contaminated water illnesses and in a worst case scenario loss of life. Further, Bill 66 is inconsistent with the Province's recently proposed Made in Ontario Environment Plan, put forward by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The plan states, "We will protect these critical systems by using water more sustainably and keeping our water and air clean while growing our economy."

TRCA recommends reinserting the requirement for compliance with the Clean Water Act and the other Area Specific Acts noted above, to avoid risks to public health from contamination and overuse impacts to groundwater aquifers and surface water, relied upon for drinking water and ecosystem health.

Natural Hazard Risks from Flooding and Erosion

TRCA is a commenting agency under both the Planning Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, and a regulatory agency under the Conservation Authorities Act. The Conservation Authorities Act provides the legal basis for TRCA's mandate to undertake watershed planning and management programs that prevent, eliminate, or reduce the risk to life and property from flood hazards and erosion hazards, as well as encourage the conservation and restoration of natural resources. TRCA also has a delegated responsibility to represent the provincial interest on natural hazards under Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement.

All new development has the potential to increase the risk of hazards to life and property from flooding and erosion, and add to downstream cumulative impacts. Bill 66 with its employment focus would benefit from recognizing the importance of the management of stormwater from increased impervious surfaces. Historically, employment lands have increased impervious surfaces on up to 90% or more of a site, requiring significant stormwater management infrastructure to minimize impacts from flooding and erosion. Ensuring new development or redevelopment is not at risk from flooding or erosion is essential, and must remain a basic principle in determining the feasibility of new development. Without proper evaluation of these potential impacts, maintenance and operation costs will be uncertain creating risk. Furthermore, downstream residential areas could face increasing flood risks, with the attendant costs and liabilities attributed to the Province and municipalities involved in their review and approval. TRCA has useful mapping tools and hydrology models to aid municipalities in evaluating these risks, managing them with effective mitigation strategies and helping to decide on strategic locations where an OFBPBL could be best utilized. TRCA has successfully worked with municipalities and the proponent to facilitate development of major employment uses within tight timeframes including the Costco, Fed Ex, Canadian Tire, and Home Depot distribution centres within the current planning framework outside of the Canadian Tire distribution centre in Caledon where a Minister's Zoning Order approach was applied. Very recently TRCA has worked with municipalities to facilitate major employment uses on urban redevelopment sites which provided retrofitting and restoration opportunities. Without a specific need to consider important PPS and area specific plan requirements remediation and restoration opportunities that address important matters of public safety and hazards could be missed resulting in costly impacts.

TRCA recommends that Bill 66 and the implementing regulation require municipalities to work closely with their local Conservation Authority and to obtain their sign off on the proposed conditions and requirements to mitigate risks and protect downstream communities from flooding and erosion hazards.

TRCA further recommends that any proposal only be considered by the Minister if it is at a minimum consistent with Section 3.1 of the current 2014 PPS so as to protect public safety and to minimize risk.

Consultation and Due Planning Process

Bill 66 proposes that an OFBPBL is not required to be subject to any public process, including the holding of a public meeting / hearing or the ability to appeal decisions to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). Additionally, site plan approval by a municipality is not required, although similar conditions may be imposed. A municipal council must first pass a resolution requesting that the Minister of Municipal Affairs approve an OFBPBL. The Minister has the power to impose conditions on an approval, but a municipality is not required to give public notice or hold a public meeting prior to the passing of an OFBPBL. Only after passing the OFBPBL is the municipality required to give public notice within 30 days, even though the by-law comes into force within 20 days after passing.

TRCA supports broad consultation and stakeholder engagement throughout the planning and development process. In particular, conservation authorities (CAs) have long-established close working relationships with local municipalities, and local municipalities regularly consult with CA staff, especially where development occurs within a CA's regulated area. The approach of providing notice after the fact creates a troubling

precedent whereby municipal councils can bypass normal public notice requirements, creating a situation where public and other private interests may not be given adequate consideration.

From a development review perspective, removing site plan approval by a municipality presents serious concerns. The site plan stage is the time when approval agencies receive confirmation that the promises, commitments and conceptual designs made during early stage discussions (stormwater management, grading outside the natural heritage system, hazard land impacts, etc.) are shown that they can be achieved. The site planning process is the time when development feasibility of the proposal on the site needs to be proven. Sites with physical constraints need to be designed appropriately to meet technical standards for public health and safety. Many recent applications proposed a development footprint within site constraints, and benefit from a thorough site plan review process. Without site plan approval, design proposals made at earlier stages will potentially not be followed through to construction and implementation. Further, if the development is not required to obtain site plan approval from the municipality, there will be the potential for confusion, as site plans will be required by CAs for final permits, where development is within lands regulated by a CA.

The bill and future regulation need to incorporate a municipal pre-screening process involving the CAs to confirm development limits, water management and the ability to appropriately address physical site constraints in keeping with provincial standards.

Removing the ability to appeal an OFBPBL to the LPAT undermines the principle of due process within the land use planning system in Ontario. A key purpose of the LPAT (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board, or OMB) is to ensure that all parties' interests are adequately and fairly considered, including those of the proponent, municipalities, agencies, and community members. Removing appeal mechanisms limits the ability of municipalities and planning agencies to ensure the development will not have negative impacts on the surrounding public, property, or environment.

Interestingly in some of our recent experiences involving employment lands it has been litigation between opposing private interests, e.g., landowners opposing landowners to ensure previous landowner agreements are upheld, or to ensure cooperation on servicing arrangements, cost sharing, equitable allocation of community uses, etc. in addition to public interests that have characterized approval processes. Currently, in our jurisdiction most landowners, where there is serviceable land, are part of cost sharing and servicing arrangements premised linked to established Planning Act processes. The notice and approval requirements allow landowners to self-police to allow equitable and orderly development of communities and fair cost sharing. One unintended consequence of this legislation may be to create a situation that would allow one private interest to benefit at the expense of other private interests resulting in an inequitable approach to land development. There is a concern that this situation might result in an individual landowner trying to shirk previous commitments around environmental conditions involving the Conservation Authority and the landowner group.

As currently proposed, by removing or restricting the appeal process, Bill 66 removes the ability for the voice of local communities and private interests to be heard. As the Bill is proposing that consultation with the public is not required, and that the public only have a very limited amount of time to voice their opinion during which time the OFBPBL can be passed, the public and private interests nearby, including landowners, has been effectively removed from the process.

TRCA recommends that an administrative tribunal appeal process remain, even in an altered manner, in order to give agencies, private interests and members of the public adequate channels to be engaged in the protection of public health and safety matters and the shaping of their communities.

It is unclear how the OFBPBL tool will operate in the context of the current planning framework. Municipalities have approved official plans with identified and designated employment lands based on full servicing. Municipal, TRCA and private interests are also currently engaged in the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR)

processes in our jurisdiction to identify the next generation of employment (and residential) lands to accommodate growth and development to the 2041 planning horizon.

Accordingly, official plans have identified certain lands, based on public consultation, where other community values take precedence, to identify areas that are not suitable for employment lands. Bill 66 and the OFBPBL seems to be able to override these approved plans to potentially site new employment opportunities in unsuitable areas. The OFBPBL tool could be adjusted in scope to be used wisely to be able to accelerate development approvals for employment lands, while respecting past planning decisions.

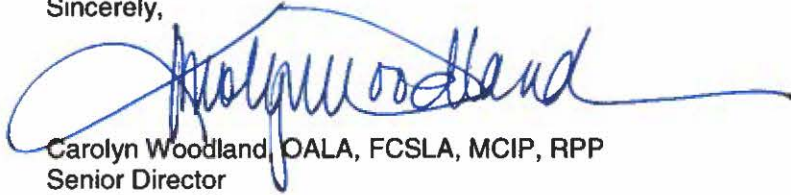
TRCA recommends that the Act and regulation clarify that an accelerated approvals process only be allowed to occur on lands currently serviced and designated for employment in municipal official plans.

Recommendations

- 1. The consideration of use of an OFBPBL should be geographically limited to existing designated employment lands with access to full municipal sewer and water services and proximity to 400 series highways and/or other major transportation corridors.**
- 2. The province should require consistency with the PPS, Clean Water Act, and area specific plans in the proposed regulation to ensure the CA mandate for protection from natural hazards is implemented through an OFBPBL application, a process that has been developed over decades of consultation and application of legislation to minimize risk to people, life and property in Ontario.**
- 3. If the recommendation above is not pursued in full, TRCA recommends including in the regulation of “prescribed criteria” for an OFBPBL application, the following minimum requirements to demonstrate that public health and safety issues will be addressed:**
 - Drinking water supplies and designated vulnerable areas are protected;**
 - Appropriate considerations are incorporated to development and redevelopment decisions, to ensure new natural hazards from flooding and erosion are not created and existing hazards not aggravated, including review and sign off by the local CA prior to Ministerial endorsement;**
 - Include requirements that no development or site alterations take place within a 30 metre setback from Key Natural Heritage Features and Key Hydrologic Features; and**
 - That sites be pre-screened by a municipality, with approval from the local CA, to ensure the development feasibility of the proposal in relation to the physical characteristics of the site, so that public health, safety and natural hazard technical issues can be addressed appropriately on the site to meet provincial standards.**
- 4. Where an OFBPBL is to be considered for lands outside of existing designated and serviced employment lands that only employment uses that are agriculture related or on-farm diversified uses should be permitted. This measure will help to maintain the integrity of rural and agricultural land uses in the Greenbelt and on the Oak Ridges Moraine.**
- 5. The future regulation needs to include additional specific details to provide clarity on:**
 - The types of employment uses that are permitted to use this fast-tracked process; and**
 - A shortened, but open and transparent regime of notice and public consultation under the established Planning Act process.**

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important initiative. Should you have any questions, require clarification, or wish to meet to discuss any of the above remarks, please contact David Burnett, Senior Manager, Provincial and Regional Policy, at extension 5361 or at david.burnett@trca.on.ca. We would appreciate receiving specific written responses to our comments.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Woodland, OALA, FCSLA, MCIP, RPP
Senior Director
Planning and Development

BY E-MAIL

cc:

TRCA: John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer
Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies
David Burnett, Senior Manager, Provincial and Regional Policy



January 28, 2019

BY E-MAIL ONLY

Nathaniel Aguda
Project Manager
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
EnvironmentPlan@ontario.ca

Re: Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan (EBR #013-4208)

Dear Mr. Aguda:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan.

TRCA has an interest in the proposed Environment Plan given our role in protecting and managing approximately 18,000 hectares of conservation land and assisting our member municipalities to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources within our area of jurisdiction. TRCA offers a wide range of programs and services and works with a diversity of stakeholders in fulfilling our mandate under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, which governs Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). These programs and services help to protect the health of people and the environment by reducing risk from flood and erosion hazards, climate change and extreme weather.

TRCA offers the following comments for the Ministry's consideration as it finalizes the Environment Plan and moves through to implementation.

1. General Comments

The proposed Environment Plan sets out areas of potential action related to many of the programs and services delivered by TRCA. In turn, TRCA and other CAs can play essential roles in supporting the Province in implementing many objectives and actions of the Plan. Through long-term partnerships with municipalities, numerous local community leaders and groups, TRCA and other CAs are uniquely positioned to enable local networks to engage in collaborative action.

Recommendation 1.1: TRCA recommends that the MECP work with Conservation Ontario and other CAs to:

- **Take advantage of the success of Ontario's CA program and close to 70 years of unique experience, technical expertise, and collaborative approach to engaging diverse stakeholders and communities in dealing with the most pressing issue of our times - climate change.**
- **Leverage the importance of watershed-based governance model that has enabled innovation to develop practical solutions to current and emerging issues (e.g., flood management, drinking water and Great Lakes water quality, climate change, rapid urbanization/growth); and**
Leverage CA programs to achieve multiple provincial priorities.

In its current form, the Environment Plan is focused on the MECP. However, many other Ministries have responsibilities to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment. Many of the actions identified in the Environment Plan will require support from other Ministries for implementation success. While the Province has committed to make climate change a cross-government priority, we recommend that this approach be extended to all other areas identified in the Environment Plan. For example, infrastructure initiatives involving MTO, MOI or MTCS and TRCA are excellent opportunities to advance implementation of the Environment Plan. A whole-of-government approach is necessary to effectively address our pressing environmental challenges and move communities towards sustainability and long-term prosperity.

Recommendation 1.2: TRCA recommends that a cross-government approach be extended to all areas of the Environment Plan to bring environmental protection and climate change to the forefront of all government decisions and contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. This could include establishment of inter-governmental working group involving TRCA to advance implementation Plan in inter-ministry projects and plans.

2. Protecting our Air, Lakes, and Rivers

Great Lakes Health

The Great Lakes are the primary source of drinking water to millions of Ontarians. As indicated in the most recent Minister's Annual Drinking Water Report, Ontario has a comprehensive Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program to protect municipal sources of drinking water, including the Great Lakes. Continued improvement to the initial technical work that was completed to prepare source protection plans will be necessary as more information becomes known about the impact of emerging influences such as blue-green algae and Cladophora, road salt, increased development, and flooding caused by severe weather events.

Through the DWSP, the Credit Valley – Toronto and Region – Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee (SPC) investigated the impact of spills on municipal drinking water systems drawing water from Lake Ontario. A number of policies are set out in the Approved CTC Source Protection Plan (SPP), addressing spill prevention, contingency planning, and emergency response. The proposed online platform for reporting incidents, commitment to improve the complaint response system, and a goal to improve transparency between stakeholders will all lead to collaborative and consistent emergency response.

Recommendation 2.1: TRCA recommends that the MECP continue to support the Drinking Water Source Protection Program and continue to build on the technical studies and analyses completed for source protection planning to protect water quality and the Great Lakes ecosystem.

As the lead for the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP), TRCA plays a key role in leading collaborations for Lake Ontario initiatives. The Toronto and Region RAP recognizes the influence of watersheds on nearshore lake health. Any updates to the Great Lakes Strategy will need to continue to recognize the significant influence local watersheds have on nearshore lake health. Integrated watershed management is critical to managing pollutant loads and protecting spawning habitats. A more explicit link between watershed planning and management and nearshore lake health should be established in the proposed Environment Plan.

Recommendation 2.2: TRCA recommends that the Environment Plan be strengthened to establish a stronger, more explicit connection between watershed planning and management and nearshore lake health.

TRCA is pleased to see the Province's continued commitment to restoring the Great Lakes. Executing on-the-ground restoration projects will be critical to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In order to deliver on resiliency objectives and achieve measurable impact in a cost-effective manner, it is important to deliver restoration at a large scale and in strategic areas where multiple objectives can be realized (e.g., water quality, water quantity, erosion and sedimentation remediation, natural cover, and connectivity, etc.) to maximize the value on investment. For example, TRCA has completed a jurisdiction-wide Integrated Restoration Prioritization (IRP) process, which directs site selection to provide the maximum benefit to natural system function on a watershed basis.

Recommendation 2.3: TRCA strongly encourages that the MECP adopt a strategic approach to restoration on proposed provincial infrastructure investments that could be based on the TRCA IRP model. This will allow government to focus available resources on areas where multiple objectives can be achieved, based on the latest science and real monitoring data pertaining to ecosystem health and integration of climate resilience measures to address vulnerability and risk to ecosystems and communities.

Vulnerable Waterways and Inland Waters

TRCA agrees with the importance of protecting Ontario's water resources, which are essential to long-term sustainability of our environment, economy and communities. Monitoring the quality of our lakes, rivers, and aquifers is necessary to understand the impact of our everyday activities on these dynamic systems. Although we agree that increasing sodium and chloride from the application of road salt is a stressor to our source water, monitoring efforts should not be restricted to this activity. The Province must work with its stakeholders and partners to promote best management practices to reduce the impact of all land use activities on all sources of drinking water. Effective watershed management and continued water quality monitoring of lakes, rivers, and aquifers will allow us to evaluate the implementation success of initiatives such as source protection planning which employ best management practices. Conservation Authorities and municipalities can be essential partners in protecting additional vulnerable waterways and inland waters through effective implementation of the provincial planning and water policy framework (e.g., the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and *Clean Water Act*, etc.).

Recommendation 2.4: TRCA welcomes the MECP's commitment to supporting effective watershed management and recommends continued support for water quality and quantity monitoring of lakes, rivers, and aquifers conducted by Conservation Authorities and municipalities.

TRCA can also provide support in understanding vulnerabilities of waterways and inland waters based on a watershed perspective. TRCA has been piloting a "next generation" approach to watershed planning in the development of an updated watershed plan for Carruthers Creek in partnership with the Region of Durham. This "next generation" approach will help to better consider climate change vulnerabilities and ecological connectivity, and green infrastructure planning for improved community resilience, among other benefits. Watershed planning can bring a solid foundation of science to inform many key community planning issues such as: identifying and enhancing natural heritage systems; providing guidance to manage stormwater using green infrastructure and low-impact development (LID) techniques; managing the risk to property and infrastructure from natural hazards, and assessing the impact of potential future climate change, among others.

Recommendation 2.5: TRCA recommends that the MECP provide clear direction on how the goals of watershed and subwatershed planning should relate to existing provincial or other legislation, policies and guidelines for watershed and environmental protection.

Water Use, Conservation and Security

The understanding of how water cycles through watersheds in southern Ontario, obtained through the DWSP Program, was a strategic investment by the Province. This knowledge can inform water management decisions being made by the Province in the issuance of Permits-To-Take-Water and Environment Compliance Approvals. TRCA strongly supports the Province's goal of ensuring that the knowledge gained through the DWSP Program is applied to other provincial program areas.

The proposed Environment Plan identifies the need to manage water takings to ensure we have sustainable water resources in the face of a changing climate and continued population growth. The premise of evaluating cumulative water takings in the context of overall water management is vital to ensuring that water resources are adequately protected and used sustainably. Therefore, TRCA supports the review of current water taking policies, programs and science tools. The extensive technical work which has been completed, peer-reviewed, and approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks through the DWSP Program will be invaluable in completing this review.

The tiered water budget studies completed under the *Clean Water Act* have identified current and projected future water takings in each watershed or subwatershed in Ontario in an effort to evaluate the vulnerability to municipal drinking water supplies. Where the potential for stress to a particular drinking water system was identified during these assessments, more elaborate drought and climate change scenarios were considered in an effort to ensure the sustainability of the water resource over the long-term. This technical work provides a solid foundation for identifying sustainable approaches to managing our water for the future, including the adoption of water conservation practices and technologies.

Effective water management requires strong coordination and collaboration across multiple stakeholders. Watershed Plans are prime examples of a collaborative process that brings together a comprehensive understanding of water (quantity, quality, uses, etc.) under present and future timeframes, as the basis for developing management strategies that may include allocation guidelines. It is important that the Province continues to support and enable these and other forms of collaborative water management.

Recommendation 2.6: TRCA recommends that the MECP establish a stronger, more explicit commitment to enabling collaboration across various agencies responsible for aspects of water management.

Municipal Wastewater and Stormwater Management and Reporting

TRCA supports efforts to improve municipal wastewater and stormwater management and reporting, which if properly managed can significantly benefit the health of our watersheds. TRCA leads watershed hydrology studies and integrated watershed plans which provide the basis for effective stormwater management criteria and inform municipal decision-making regarding new development and priorities for urban retrofits. TRCA also plays a role in the implementation of these projects for our municipal partners often as a result of funding from senior levels of government including the Province. With additional resources, we could assist in strategic planning and implementation of green infrastructure designed to reduce flood risk, improve stormwater management and achieve numerous social and economic co-benefits for communities. Policies established at the Provincial level are important to guide science-based wastewater and stormwater management at the municipal level, with priority given to LID and green infrastructure. Provincial support for incentive programs related to Stormwater innovation and infrastructure grants for green infrastructure could also be used to leverage municipal wastewater and stormwater management initiatives.

Recommendation 2.7: TRCA recommends that the MECP support incentive programs related to stormwater, implementation of LID and green infrastructure and work with other ministries to fund TRCA infrastructure renewal projects involving partner municipalities.

3. Addressing Climate Change

Understanding Climate Change Impacts

TRCA recognizes that adapting to climate change impacts is a critical natural resource management issue. Through the Ontario Climate Consortium (OCC), TRCA has developed expertise to respond to issues of climate adaptation and mitigation across both technical and policy fronts. OCC also commonly partners with municipalities in TRCA's jurisdiction on climate change initiatives such as vulnerability assessments, workshops on climate risks, and various research projects. TRCA offers a range of expertise in climate change mitigation and adaptation that could be used to help the Province develop and deliver policies and actions to achieve its goals in addressing climate change.

While TRCA supports the commitment to undertake a provincial climate change impact assessment, we suggest that any such impact assessment must inform local and regional decision-making. For example, balance between a high-level, broad-scale approach and a regional-scale assessment that considers spatial detail (e.g., the Great Lakes), local land use and sector interdependencies will be key to addressing local risks.

Further, while provincial and municipal scale sector-based vulnerability assessments are important, certain aspects of their implementation ultimately happens at the ground level by residents, businesses and other groups. TRCA's Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) is piloting a neighbourhood-based vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process in the City of Brampton, which is bringing different levels of information together with local knowledge to develop a shared action plan. The process is building capacity in local stakeholders to lead implementation actions that will address multiple urban renewal objectives and deliver greater impact. This model is expected to be transferable to other communities and could harness additional local resources for action.

Recommendation 3.1: TRCA recommends that the provincial-level climate change impact assessment must inform local or regional decision-making in the Greater Toronto Area, to inform Great Lakes concerns or sector-based risks. This can be achieved by scaling some systems or sectors down to a more local or regional level where more detailed research

and engagement work is conducted by organizations including TRCA and partner municipalities;

As the largest conservation authority in Ontario serving the most urbanized region, TRCA has played a critical role in addressing climate change risks and the impacts of rapid growth and urbanization within our area of jurisdiction, which supports the Province's and municipalities' efforts to address pressing environmental issues such as Lake Ontario water quality, flood and erosion hazard management, stormwater, natural heritage systems planning, and source water protection. An important component of this work has been collecting climate and other environmental data while undertaking various types of vulnerability and risk assessments, including:

- Hydrologic modeling (2D, LiDar) for enhanced riverine flood risk assessment and floodplain mapping delineation;
- Dual drainage modeling in case study areas to estimate and consider the interactions and extent of urban and riverine flooding;
- Stream erosion assessments and prioritization for erosion control works, monitoring and reporting through key performance indicators;
- Vulnerability and risk assessment of TRCA flood control infrastructure;
- Natural system vulnerability assessment to climate change in Peel Region.

Recommendation 3.2: TRCA recommends that the proposed provincial impact assessment incorporate existing information from CAs and other organizations at the local and regional scales; and include case studies of small, medium, and large municipalities where growth pressures are expected, under both greenfield and redevelopment / intensification scenarios, and may exacerbate climate change impacts.

Recommendation 3.3: TRCA recommends that where climate change vulnerabilities and risks are already well known, funding for adaptation actions should be applied in high priority areas regardless of province-wide impact assessment processes occurring in the coming years.

Government Policies Update

TRCA strongly agrees with the Province that a cross-government approach to addressing climate change is essential for Ontario to successfully respond to the all-encompassing nature of climate change. Coordination and partnership building are extremely important to managing climate change risks and developing policies, programs, and services. Municipalities, utilities and other broader public sector organizations need to be included in cross-governmental coordination efforts, particularly at the local and regional scale where expertise and resources can be shared to help build joint-capacity for effective decision-making. Conservation Authorities, as regional environmental agencies, can play a critical role in regional coordination and providing guidance to local government and other public agencies operating on-the-ground. CAs can also play a critical role in encouraging local environmental leadership through partnerships with community groups and business associations. As the Province moves forward with updating government policies to update policy direction on climate resilience, TRCA would welcome the opportunity to support the government with technical expertise and insights gathered through decades of climate change work at the local level.

Recommendation 3.4: TRCA recommends that the Province work with CAs to enhance regional coordination and provide guidance to municipalities on climate action, while also encouraging local leadership through partnerships with community groups and local businesses.

Local Climate Resilience

TRCA is pleased to see the commitment to empower effective local leadership on climate change and improve local climate resilience. We know that left unaddressed, climate risks pose significant threats to population health and economic prosperity in the future. Community-led initiatives and programs, which use innovative means of engaging citizens in personalizing their connection with the future climate, are more effective in raising awareness and helping individuals determine the actions they need to take. TRCA has been very active in this area with sector specific on-the-ground mobilization through initiatives around climate change mitigation and adaptation such as our Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP), Ontario Climate Consortium (OCC), and Partners in Project Green (PPG): a Pearson Eco-Business Zone. TRCA will continue to support efforts by member municipalities and senior levels of government to respond to climate risks by helping to build infrastructure that is more resilient to flood and erosion hazards, providing expertise in predicting the effects of climate on watersheds and communities, and connecting stakeholders with the knowledge and technologies that they require.

Recommendation 3.5: TRCA recommends that the MECP identify the essential role of community-led actions, and role of regional organizations such as TRCA in providing the necessary support and guidance to local communities, business, and municipalities in building local climate resilience.

Green Infrastructure

Watershed planning assists municipalities and their partners and stakeholders in integrating greenspace and green infrastructure into new and existing communities. TRCA has supported initiatives such as retrofitting existing stormwater management ponds, terrestrial natural heritage system design, urban forest management and facilitating LID. TRCA has expertise in LID and urban forest strategies, and experience in engaging private and public landowners and municipalities in the planning, design and implementation of green infrastructure plans on public and private property. There are significant environmental benefits that accrue from this work, as well as numerous social and economic co-benefits. TRCA's integrated planning processes bring a multi-objective lens to the design of green infrastructure systems, which is necessary to optimize designs for greatest impact. These multi-objective projects are low-regret actions that offer the opportunity to leverage planned infrastructure renewal to achieve cost-sharing opportunities and the basis for innovative funding sources. This work should be a priority implementation program due to its multiple benefits. TRCA is well positioned with completed plans that require funding and established partnerships available to advance implementation of green infrastructure quickly.

Recommendation 3.6: TRCA recommends that the MECP make multi-objective green infrastructure projects a priority implementation program of the Environment Plan.

4. Reduce Litter and Waste and Keep our Land and Soil Clean

Waste Reduction

TRCA supports the focus on food and organic waste, which represents 6% of Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions. TRCA also supports efforts to reduce plastic waste that ends up in our lakes and rivers, which support clean watersheds and conservation areas. Efforts to prevent waste from entering these areas is consistent with the mandate of CAs.

Since its inception, TRCA's Partners in Project Green has supported thousands of businesses and facilitated the completion of hundreds of green projects in Canada's two largest employment areas, the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and the City of Toronto. As an example, business in these employment areas diverted more than 4,000 tonnes of materials away from landfill using circular economy principles. TRCA commonly engages community members to participate in a variety of education, training and outreach initiatives such as cleanups, including shoreline cleanup events

along Lake Ontario to raise awareness of the waste we generate, get people outside to appreciate nature, and save our wildlife.

Excess Soil Management and Brownfield Redevelopment

TRCA is a commenting agency under both the *Planning Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and a regulatory agency under the *CA Act*. We work to ensure that new development or redevelopment is not at risk from flooding or erosion, as well as encourage the conservation and restoration of natural resources. While we welcome the clean-up of contaminated lands in Ontario, we would like to be further engaged as the Province sets out to revise the brownfields regulation and record of site condition guide to ensure that proper protections are in place to facilitate brownfield redevelopment while protecting the public and the environment.

Recommendation 4.1: TRCA would like to recommend that MECP engage CA's to support the revision of brownfield regulations and the record of site condition to ensure that the environment and the public is protected while reducing barriers to the redevelopment of brownfield sites.

TRCA supports the Province's intention to set clear rules to support the beneficial reuse of safe soils and work with stakeholders to increase enforcement on illegal dumping of excess soil. TRCA has developed a number of guidelines to protect soils, including "Preserving and Restoring Healthy Soil: Best Practices for Urban Construction" (2012). TRCA could provide support to the Province in setting clear rules to allow industry to reuse excess soils.

Recommendation 4.2: TRCA would like to engage with the MECP to support the establishment of clear rules to support the beneficial reuse of safe soils and enable strong enforcement on illegal dumping.

Management of Hauled Sewage

TRCA supports the consideration of approaches for the management and spreading of hauled sewage. It is our understanding that the Source Protection Programs Branch is reviewing current circumstances under which this activity could be a significant drinking water threat to municipal sources of drinking water. We agree that there is still much to understand with respect to how these materials could impact the environment. Therefore, a more comprehensive understanding of their behaviour and management is warranted.

5. Conserving Land and Greenspace

Natural Ecosystems

Conservation Authorities play a central role in improving the resilience of natural ecosystems, which in turn help to increase the resilience of communities within the province to flooding, erosion, and climate change. For example, TRCA and partners developed the targeted terrestrial natural heritage system, which is necessary to support regional biodiversity and contributes significantly to water management as well as other social and economic co-benefits within the region. We also play a key role in restoring natural ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, woodlands, and streams) and supporting habitat quantity as well as quality. We welcome provincial support on the accelerated securement, protection and restoration of the natural heritage system. TRCA and other CAs can be essential partners in land and water conservation to preserve areas of significant environmental and ecological importance. Further, CAs are provincially mandated to be able to enter into agreements for land conservation.

Recommendation 5.1: TRCA recommends provincial investment to accelerate and scale-up the securement, protection and restoration of the natural heritage system.

Recommendation 5.1: TRCA recommends that the Province identify specific targets or thresholds for protecting and restoring natural ecosystems based on the latest science provided through watershed and subwatershed planning, to enhance the ability for municipalities and CAs to implement actions to meet ecological targets.

Conservation and Environmental Planning

TRCA appreciates the Province's support for conservation and environmental planning and the Province's intention to work with municipalities and stakeholders to improve the delivery of the mandate of CAs. As indicated above, TRCA delivers a broad range of programs and services in fulfilling our mandate under the *CA Act*, which contribute to many of the objectives and actions identified in the Plan. TRCA is both a proponent of EA's and a reviewer of EA's. We would highly welcome the opportunity to remain engaged and work collaboratively with the Province and other stakeholders to continuously improve our programs and services, and ensure that an appropriate level of funding and resources is in place to sustain them moving forward. We will be advancing an amendment to the Conservation Authority parent Class EA document to recognize the need for more integrated project delivery in our jurisdiction.

TRCA would also like to be engaged as the Province looks to modernize Ontario's environmental assessment process as the review of environmental assessments is an integral part of our work at the TRCA.

Recommendation 5.3: TRCA would like to engage further to support the Province in delivering the mandate and objectives of CAs as set out in the *Conservation Authorities Act* and in modernizing Ontario's Environmental Assessment processes.

Parks and Forests

TRCA is improving and expanding trail systems across our area of jurisdiction. We have improved public access to greenspace by acquiring nearly 700 acres of new public greenspace and partnered with government agencies, municipalities and NGOs to formalize over 800 km of the regional trail system throughout our jurisdiction. In addition, TRCA has developed a Regional Trail Strategy to guide our work with partners to develop a 1,100-km network of regional trails that will create opportunities for people throughout the Greater Toronto region to explore and enjoy natural greenspace. In 2017, TRCA Parks and Culture facilities attracted over 1 million visitors to experience nature and cultural heritage. Conservation Authority operated recreation infrastructure adds immense economic (tourism) and public health value to the residents of Ontario. Currently with population growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, these important assets are facing pressures and challenges. Provincial investment in these assets is critical.

Recommendation 5.4: TRCA would like to work with the Province and other partners to explore innovative investment opportunities related to our Regional Trails Strategy and destinations to support the continued growth of and enhanced access to the parks and trails infrastructure networks in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region;

Species Protection

TRCA will soon complete our invasive species strategy to strategically address the growing threat of invasive species in urban and near-urban areas. A regionally coordinated approach to invasive species detection and management will be the most efficient and cost-effective way to achieve meaningful gains. Similarly, a coordinated approach to species-at-risk that includes a holistic view of the natural system will achieve greater benefits to ecological communities and wildlife, including species-at-risk. We would welcome the strengthening of this action area to include commitment to the timely completion of Species Recovery Plans.

Recommendation 5.5: TRCA recommends that this area of the Environment Plan be strengthened to include a commitment to the timely completion of Species Recovery Plans.

6. Next Steps Implementation

TRCA would like to be further engaged with the Province as the proposed Environment Plan is finalized and implemented. CAs already work in many areas of the Plan and are uniquely positioned to enable local networks to enrich the engagement and coordination of environmental protection and stewardship. Additionally, TRCA offers a range of climate change expertise which can be leveraged through the proposed advisory panel on climate change to support implementation and further development of climate change actions.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important initiative. Should you have any questions, require clarification, or wish to meet to discuss any of the above remarks, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



John Mackenzie, M.Sc.(PI), MCIP, RPP
Chief Executive Officer

BY E-MAIL

cc:

Nick Saccone, Senior Director, Restoration and Infrastructure
Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies
Carolyn Wooland, Senior Director, Planning and Development
Darryl Gray, Director, Education, Training and Outreach
Derek Edwards, Director, Parks and Culture

January 25, 2019

BY E-MAIL ONLY (housing.supply@ontario.ca)

Rachel Simeon
Director, Market Housing Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay St., 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 1Z3

Dear Ms. Simeon:

**Re: Response to Request for Comments
Consultation: Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario (ERO #013-4190)**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's public consultation on "Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario", which requests input based on five themes:

1. **Speed:** It takes too long for development projects to get approved.
2. **Mix:** There are too many restrictions on what can be built to get the right mix of housing where it is needed.
3. **Cost:** Development costs are too high because of high land prices and government-imposed fees and charges.
4. **Rent:** It is too hard to be a landlord in Ontario, and tenants need to be protected.
5. **Innovation:** Other concerns, opportunities and innovations to increase housing supply.

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has an ongoing interest in residential development processes given our experience and roles as:

- A regulator under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*;
- A public commenting body under the *Planning Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*;
- A resource management agency operating on a local watershed basis;
- A body with delegated authority in plan review to represent the provincial interest for natural hazards;
- One of the largest landowners (18,000 hectares) in the Toronto region; and
- A source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act*.

Informed by TRCA's experience in the planning and development process, this submission focuses primarily on opportunities and recommended actions related to consultation themes 1 and 5 noted above, which would contribute to positive outcomes for the Province's housing objectives.

Balancing land use needs

TRCA supports the messages in the consultation document, "Increasing Housing Supply in Ontario," that creating more housing will help make home ownership and renting more affordable and give people more choice. We also agree with the statements in the document that describe housing as one of many competing interests for land in the urban areas of Ontario and that rules and processes exist

to ensure the health and safety of residents, protect environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, and support economic development and a vibrant agricultural sector. The document goes on to state that various regulatory requirements and approvals were established to serve specific public interests, policy objectives or government goals; and that efforts to streamline these requirements need to balance these multiple goals. Indeed, balancing these interests, objectives and goals is an exercise that TRCA undertakes on a regular basis in the roles outlined above.

TRCA's jurisdiction is the most highly urbanized, rapidly intensifying and redeveloping city-region in the Province. As a result, TRCA expertise and experience is in addressing the integration of key provincial policy priorities such as:

- 1) Protecting people, property and infrastructure from the natural hazards of flooding and erosion and for protecting and restoring the natural environment, and,
- 2) The need for residential growth/housing supply and the substantial infrastructure projects to service growth.

TRCA recognizes the importance of efficiency, certainty, transparency and accountability in the development and infrastructure review processes, so that quality housing supply can be brought to market in a timely and environmentally sustainable manner.

Front load the process for more certainty and innovation

Ultimately, the advisory and regulatory responsibilities of conservation authorities in the development process are not about slowing or preventing development and all its attendant economic benefits. Rather, they are about good environmental planning which includes the municipality, the conservation authority and the development industry taking a comprehensive, creative and collaborative approach early in the process. TRCA finds that when these efforts to compile all required information to make decisions are made early and done well, it leads to innovative urban designs that result in shorter review times and more timely approvals and cost reductions in the short and long term for all stakeholders. This collaborative approach, which includes provision of high quality in appropriate formats information at the front end of the development process, also helps to avoid appeals to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal thus avoiding delays, costs, and uncertainty associated with these appeal processes.

Overall, more effort upfront in the planning process to coordinate and project manage complete applications taking into account public agency information requirements provides greater clarity, more certainty, opportunities for innovation, and better enables timely approvals of residential development and its supporting infrastructure.

Critical role of conservation authorities in a growing and intensifying city-region

TRCA exercises all of its roles and responsibilities in the planning and development process in accordance with the Province's "Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities" (2010). TRCA regulates development in or near valleylands, rivers, streams, flood plains, wetlands and the Lake Ontario shoreline in accordance with section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Further, where applications for new residential development and/or servicing fall within TRCA regulated areas, TRCA works with both private and public proponents to

facilitate sustainable development and infrastructure that is adequately set back and protected from natural hazards and/or from environmentally sensitive areas.

We also work with our provincial and municipal partners to seek opportunities for remediation and restoration to reduce risk and increase resiliency where comprehensive redevelopment/community revitalization is proposed that includes areas of historical residential development within the flood hazard. In this way, increased housing supply is facilitated while risk is reduced and provincial and municipal policies for public safety and environmental protection are upheld.

The natural resources that TRCA is charged with protecting under the *Conservation Authorities Act* convey many benefits to humans – these “ecosystem services” of nature become that much more important when housing is increasing/urban areas are expanding and intensifying – clean air, water, retention of storm and flood waters, greenspace and trails for recreation and mental health.

Providing certainty through clear policies and guidelines

The provincial policy framework in Ontario clearly sets out what is important to protect and manage in the context of development and redevelopment adjacent to dynamic natural systems. Policies in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and the Provincial Plans on natural hazards, natural heritage and water management direct municipalities on where and how to grow. In addition, the PPS guides land use planning to serve the public interest and deliver development that balances economic, environmental and social objectives. Such clarity should be maintained and strengthened in upcoming reviews in order to provide certainty to all stakeholders in the development and infrastructure planning processes.

TRCA’s own policy document, “The Living City Policies” (2014) is consistent with the provincial framework in its policy intent and supporting technical guidelines. In addition to describing all of TRCA’s roles in the planning process as listed above, the document directs staff participating in the review of applications under the *Planning Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Adhere to the Living City policies helps to ensure that the applicant and municipal planning authority are aware of the section 28 Regulation permitting requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, where applicable, and assists in the coordination of these applications to avoid ambiguity, conflict and unnecessary delay or duplication in the process.

Further, TRCA works routinely with provincial agencies, (e.g., Metrolinx) utilities (e.g., Enbridge) and other public infrastructure providers, which may be exempt from TRCA’s section 28 Regulation, to achieve shared objectives for sustainable infrastructure planning that supports growth in the residential sector.

Other measures that support streamlined review processes and limit re-submissions are TRCA’s ongoing pre-consultation and training efforts to educate applicants that include:

- regular meetings with municipal staff to “triage” applications that are pending agency circulation;
- for residential and all types of development and servicing, TRCA has technical guidance documents to assist proponents in the application process, to scope reviews and expedite timelines while ensuring policy and regulatory compliance;

- TRCA-lead stakeholder workshops on application requirements and technical guideline training to assist proponents in preparing their submissions;
- where there are minor residential works affecting natural hazards or natural features, TRCA has a number of streamlining initiatives in place such as staff delegated approval of permits.

The governance model of conservation authorities as watershed-based jurisdictions facilitates coordination of local technical expertise to inform municipal decision making. The leadership of our municipal partners has enabled innovation in climate change research, strategies and technical guidance tools that help solve block and site plan design challenges within residential developments affected by dynamic natural systems.

Further delegation of plan review responsibilities to conservation authorities

TRCA recognizes that in Ontario, the permitting and approval process for development can be lengthy and complex. To avoid redundancy in reviews under the *Planning Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act*, TRCA and its member municipalities have developed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and service delivery agreements (SDAs) to establish review roles and technical clearance responsibilities for conservation authorities within the municipalities' watersheds (e.g.s, Durham Region has an MOU with TRCA and its four other conservation authorities to improve efficiency and process certainty for development approvals. Metrolinx and TRCA have an SDA setting out TRCA areas of review and timing for Metrolinx undertakings).

In some cases, overlapping review roles still exist. For example, in the Greater Toronto Area, stormwater management plans for development are reviewed and approved by the local municipality (owner and operator), the conservation authority (watershed manager) and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Environmental Compliance Approvals). There may be an opportunity to streamline approvals and allow for more housing to reach the market faster while not compromising public safety (from natural hazards) and the environment. Other opportunities to more efficiently streamline approvals and review in the GTAH exist with work conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and conservation authorities. TRCA suggests that further leveraging of conservation authority expertise in natural resource management for development and infrastructure, where capacity exists.

In light of all of the above, **the following are recommended actions and opportunities** the Province could pursue to achieve their housing objectives.

Proactive Planning

- **Maintain the natural heritage, natural hazard and water management policies of the Provincial Policy Statement and the Provincial Plans** as critical land use provisions for the development of safe, healthy and affordable communities.
- **Invest in proactive sub-watershed work** early in the planning process. This would include a comprehensive assessment of natural hazards, stormwater management and overall master planning lead by the municipality and supported by the conservation authority. This would go a long way to accelerating strategic identification of areas that could accommodate more housing.

- As part of **comprehensive zoning by-law updates**, municipalities could pre-zone for the appropriate development types in Major Transit Station Areas, Urban Growth Centres, major corridors, etc. with pre-defined, non-negotiable natural heritage systems with appropriate buffers. However, this would need to be done strategically with adequate information acquired in the front end of the planning process to better inform where development should be located and how it is to be designed, (e.g., stormwater management master planning and comprehensive flood risk assessments to ensure no impact to existing downstream development). It would also be necessary for the Province to provide adequate funding to municipalities for sewer, water, and transit infrastructure in pre-zoned areas.
- Conservation authorities, municipalities and developers could work more closely in the development of site plans by participating in **upfront collaborative approaches** that bring expertise from all approval authorities together. This would assist the development industry in attaining certainty around what is required for a complete application while allowing for new and innovative approaches to be implemented. One such example is the revitalization of the Black Creek corridor at Jane Street and Highway 7 in the City of Vaughan as a precursor to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre urban growth area. City-facilitated urban design workshops/charettes with public agencies and landowners collaborating on urban design resolution resulted in a “win-win” for the environment and development.
- Undertake a review of Special Policy Areas and other flood vulnerable areas that are in need of revitalization, the purpose for **implementing remedial capital works to reduce lands impacted by natural hazards such as flooding**. This may allow for new growth areas in existing urban boundaries that did not exist before. TRCA has experience working with stakeholders in the planning and environmental assessment processes for innovative technical solutions for development and site design in flood vulnerable areas where appropriate, (e.g., Lower Don Redevelopment, Downtown Brampton Revitalization).
- Undertake a review of what built heritage assets owned by TRCA could be adaptively re-used with support of community, government and industry partners to support housing. TRCA has worked with community organizations including 360 kids to help house at risk youth in Markham in TRCA assets.

Streamlining and Delegation

- **Transfer the review of Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECA)** along with associated resources for stormwater management under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* to conservation authorities that have the expertise in place and that have completed watershed plans with set stormwater management targets to ensure provincial interests are protected. Currently, ECAs can take up to one year, whereas conservation authority approval times could be achieved in 60 to 90 days.

- **Streamline provincial environmental approvals by having conservation authorities (CAs) with expertise and capacity play a larger role in undertaking wetland evaluations and approvals, and staking of provincially significant wetlands.** These wetland evaluations involve MNRF but they are typically unable to respond within the timeframe requested by the building industry. CAs could also expand their role in wildlife management by administering fisheries timing windows and wildlife collection permits, which are currently lengthy processes that can impact the timing of housing projects. In addition, CAs could play a role in the application of the *Endangered Species Act*, which could include habitat delineation, permit negotiation and issuance, timing window application and Overall Benefit Permit planning and implementation.
- **MECP Records of Site Condition (RSC), Site-Specific Risk Assessments (SSRA) and issuance of Certificates of Property Use (CPU) can take years to complete. Using technical resources from conservation authorities during the review process may be an opportunity to streamline these approvals.**
- **Delegate comprehensive updates of MNRF Technical Guidelines for natural hazards (2001) to conservation authorities based on our technical expertise in flood and erosion risk delineation and mapping.** TRCA has worked with MNRF and MOECP staff in the past to inform the Province's work on updates to technical guidance for implementation of provincial policies.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important initiative. TRCA would be pleased to discuss these and other opportunities for enhancing certainty and efficiencies in the residential development and infrastructure review processes where conservation authorities are concerned. Should you have any questions, require clarification, or wish to meet to discuss any of the above remarks, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



John MacKenzie, M.Sc.(PI), MCIP, RPP
Chief Executive Officer

BY E-MAIL

cc:

TRCA: Carolyn Woodland, Senior Director, Planning and Development
Nick Saccone, Senior Director, Restoration and Infrastructure
Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies
Laurie Nelson, Associate Director, Planning and Policy
Sameer Dhalla, Associate Director, Engineering Services