



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Moved by: _____ Date: March 9, 2020
Councillor B. Lewis

Seconded by: _____ Resolution No.: _____
Councillor A. Lawlor

Item No. 15.2

WHEREAS the Town of Halton Hills is a member of Conservation Halton (CH), Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and is represented on their Boards of Directors;

AND WHEREAS the municipally appointed board of directors determines the policies, priorities and budget of the Conservation Authorities;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Halton Hills has been well served by these Conservation Authorities;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities are watershed-based organizations providing programs and services that contribute to a safer, sustainable environment and address climate change;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities have flood management programs employing a watershed-based approach that monitors stream flow, water levels and climatic conditions, forecasts flooding, issues flood warnings, regulates development activities in natural hazards, educates the public about flooding, operates flood management infrastructure, protects natural cover and manages stormwater that helps reduce the impacts of flooding;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities are partners with municipalities in developing the science and policy to manage drinking water source protection;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities owns, manages and operates a valuable network of conservation areas that provide access to green space and family friendly recreation activities for our growing communities, contributes to the local economy, provides jobs for youth and promotes health and wellness for our residents. It also provides outdoor experiential education to local school children and encourages communities to embrace and value our natural and scenic assets;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities undertakes reforestation and landscape restoration and aids landowners to make changes on their properties in support of naturalization or water quality protection within the watershed;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities provide the Town of Halton Hills and Halton Region with technical expertise in support of its their planning and infrastructure delivery, education and health programs;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities are important partners in on-the-ground and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change;

AND WHEREAS smaller municipalities do not have capacity or the financial resource to employ staff with the technical expertise that conservation authorities provide;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Halton Hills has service agreements with Conservation Authorities for planning and other services;

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities must be able to charge fees, and derive revenue from its facilities, programs and services as appropriate to reduce the burden to the tax levy;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario provincial government has cut 50% from their \$7.4 million Natural Hazards Transfer Payment Grant (Section 39) to Ontario conservation authorities that supports flood and erosion control infrastructure, flood forecasting and warning, watershed planning projects and technical studies, and the new act has the effect of downloading additional responsibilities to the Conservation Authorities to be paid for by municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Halton Hills request that the Provincial Government restore or improve their funding of Conservation Authorities to provide a more stable funding base that would prevent further downloading of costs to municipalities and allow maintenance of hazard programs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Provincial Government ensure that the programs and services of the Conservation Authorities maintain their watershed focus and allow for the flexibility of including programs and services important to local circumstances;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province include experts from Conservation Authorities, staff of the Ministries of Natural Resources and Forestry, Environment Conservation and Parks as well as Municipal Affairs and Housing and municipalities when developing the draft regulations;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province not dictate the form, content or duration of the MOU's or agreements, allowing for municipalities to support non-mandatory programs in a manner that suits local circumstances;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all local MPPs, all local Conservation Authorities and Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Mayor Rick Bonnette