



March 11, 2016

Office of the Chair  
1151 Bronte Road  
Oakville ON L6M 3L1  
Fax: 905-825-8273

The Honourable Ted McMeekin  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

Dear Minister McMeekin,

RE: Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System

I am writing this letter on behalf of Halton Regional Council to request further support from the Province with respect to the ongoing efforts of the Region and its partners to develop the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.

As you are aware, Halton Region is one of nine partners working collaboratively to establish a 2,000 + hectare urban EcoPark System in the Cities of Burlington and Hamilton, known as the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.

The Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System contains ecological significant lands that together form one of Southern Ontario's richest areas of biodiversity. These lands are comprised of partner owned lands and privately owned stewardship lands connecting them. Due to their significance, and due to challenges facing these lands as result of their proximity to Hamilton and Burlington, Halton Region has been a strong supporter of efforts to establish an urban EcoPark System in this area to ensure permanent protection and enhancement of its biodiversity and promote the parks human health benefits.

We respectfully request that the Province of Ontario enact special purpose legislation to recognize the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System as an area of Provincial significance and we would request the Province of Ontario join the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System partnership, by conveying and or enhancing ecological stewardship of Crown property, and by collaborating on potential joint initiatives.

At our December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting, Regional Council moved the attached motion to request Provincial involvement and financial support for this ecological treasure in our area.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this request with you and your colleagues at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Carr".

Gary Carr  
Regional Chair

Regional Municipality of Halton  
HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1  
905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866

c: The Honourable Bill Mauro, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Eleanor McMahon, MPP Burlington  
Indira Naidoo-Harris, MPP Halton  
Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills  
Kevin Flynn, MPP Oakville  
City Clerk, City of Hamilton  
City Clerk, City of Burlington  
Town Clerk, Town of Milton  
Town Clerk, Town of Halton Hills  
Town Clerk, Town of Oakville  
Ron Glenn, Director Planning Services and Chief Planning Official, Halton Region  
Chris Firth-Eagland, Chief Administrative Officer, Hamilton Region Conservation Authority  
Hassaan Basit, General Manager, Conservation Halton  
Mark Runciman, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Botanical Gardens  
Beth Kummeling, Executive Director, Bruce Trail Conservancy  
Maggie Sims, President, Hamilton Naturalists Club  
Patrick Deane, President and Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University



## **HALTON REGION**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

DATE: December 16, 2015

ITEM: Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System

DATE OF MEETING  
NOTICE OF MOTION  
TO BE CONSIDERED: Council Meeting – December 16, 2015

MOVED BY: Councillor Craven

WHEREAS the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System is a collaborative initiative among 9 partners, whose objective is to establish a 2,000+ hectare urban EcoPark in the City of Hamilton and the City of Burlington;

AND WHEREAS Halton Region has been involved in this initiative since 2007;

AND WHEREAS in 2013, Halton Region entered into a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the other EcoPark System partners, which the partners wish to extend for a further 5 year term beginning in 2016;

AND WHEREAS the long-term sustainability of the Ecopark System requires support and resources that exceed those which the partners are collectively able to contribute;

AND WHEREAS the partners are seeking support from senior levels of government and welcome their participation in the initiative;

AND WHEREAS through its support and investment in the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, the Province can realize the significant benefits of urban greenspace and biodiversity conservation within the City of Hamilton and the City of Burlington, at a fraction of the cost of establishing a new provincial park;

AND WHEREAS Regional Council has through Report No. LPS01-13, previously recognized the need for provincial legislation to recognize the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Regional Chair correspond with the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to request that the Province of Ontario enact special purpose legislation to recognize the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System as an area of Provincial significance, as a priority for funding under Provincial programs to protect and enhance natural and cultural heritage and to grant the partner agencies powers to manage, protect and enhance this important area;

**AND THAT** the Province of Ontario be invited to join the Cootes to Escarpment Ecopark System partnership by becoming a party to the MOU, conveying and or enhancing ecological stewardship of Crown property and collaborating on joint initiatives;

**AND THAT** the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Regional Council's resolution to the City of Hamilton, the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, Royal Botanical Gardens, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, the Hamilton Naturalists Club and McMaster University for their information.