

*Presentation*  
*February 1st, 2016*



*Public Works Committee*



# Since Sept 2012, We have removed...

- 3,889 bags of garbage
- 546 Tires
- 86,801 lbs of rubble
- 37,679 lbs of metal
- Total of 194,827 lbs of litter and debris removed



Our volumes may be higher,  
but the Spirit is the Same as the  
Wonderful People who do one-day  
Spring Cleanups in your Ward

But there are **7 important difference** in the  
approach of Stewards of Cootes Watershed

## Difference #1

We are out there Each and Every Weekend  
from March to December

### In Three Years

- 137 separate cleanup events
- 1,957 Volunteer outings
- 5,906 hours of volunteer effort  
invested in the field



## Difference #2

We'll do whatever it takes to get an area pristine

Go Back to the Same Site  
as many times as it Takes

Remove Every Single Piece of Garbage  
no matter .....

... Or how  
complicated

... How big

... How small



## Difference #3

We have the  
equipment,  
resources and  
training to get  
the job done



## Difference #4

# Keeping it Clean once we Get it Clean Monthly Stewardship –



- Volunteer Stewards commit 90 minutes each month to keep their reach of watershed clean
- Report of any events of environmental significance
- **25 Stewardship Routes** active every month in the Cootes Watershed

## Difference #5

# We tackle 10 systemic problems at their sources each year

- Hockey Ice Line Paint after the ice has melted into the watershed at 19 Arenas across the City
- RioCan's extends debris fence to protect Ancaster Creek
- Major Cross Connection discovered on Spring Creek behind St. Joseph's Villa, Dundas





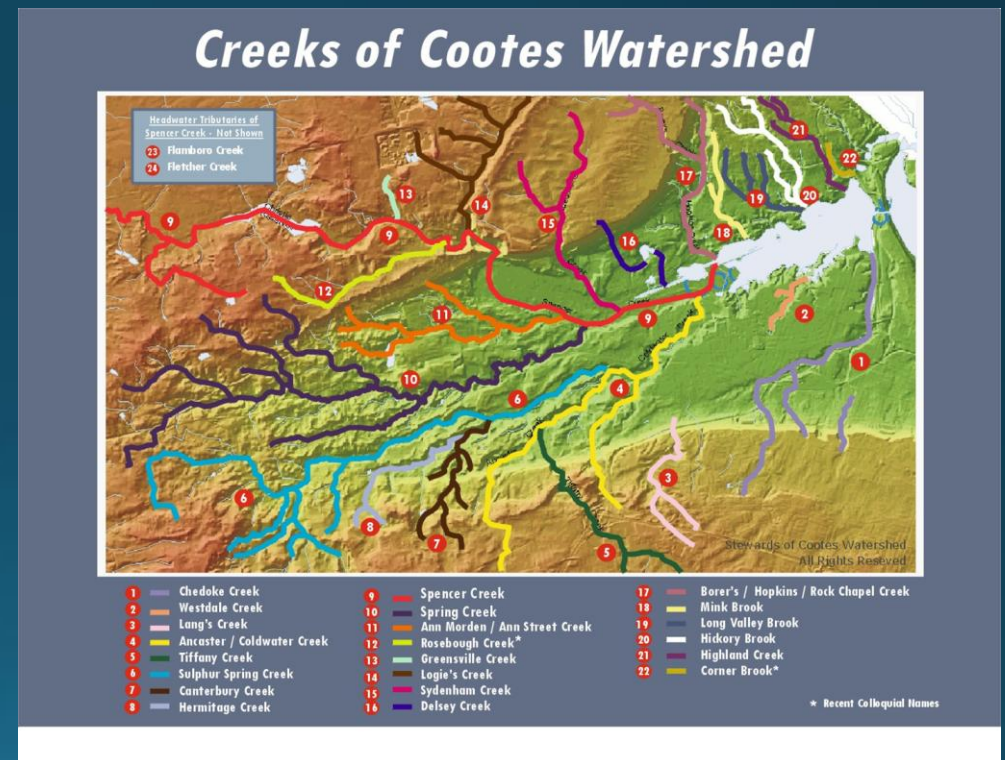
## Difference #6

We have

- non-profit incorporation,
- a full time staff,
- office space,
- access to grants
- ability to raise charitable donations ( April , 2016 )

# Difference #7

- We think **Big**
- We are working to give Hamilton the largest Urban Watershed that is cleaned and kept clean of litter and debris in the entire country.



# We are not asking for Grant Funding

## We are asking for Fee for Service Funding

Burden of Proof rests with Stewards of Cootes in two ways

1. To prove that we are providing an important service to the City
2. Even with the City's contribution - there is a measurable and significant savings to the City by having us run this program – Not just to the community or the local economy – but directly to city coffers

Q. Do we leave ourselves open to other environmental groups coming to ask for similar funding ?

A. If anyone else can demonstrate significant savings to your satisfaction then I am sure you would be eager to fund them as well.

# Savings to the City #1

## Fewer Media –Driven Emergency Cleanups

- November Emergency Cleanup of Waterfront Trail cost \$57,000
- Communities tolerance for sewage and 'flushed plastics' in natural waterways is very low and falling
- Slow trickle of material – could and is coming from anywhere
- Cleanups to prevent buildup
- Middle solution – debris booms to collect and consolidate



## Savings to the City #2

### Fewer Debris Jams that increase impact of flooding

- Creeks are the largest most important part of our Stormshed
- Most Debris Jams start with human-made debris – pallets , shopping carts
- July – October spent in waders doing in-stream cleanups
- Problem is dramatically magnified by Micro-Cell behaviour of Global Warming
- *"Micro Cell storms could happen anywhere ... Removing debris jams is something we can do right now to reduce the impact" – Brian Montgomery – City of Hamilton*



## Savings to the City #5 - 8

### Holding City Contractors to their Obligations

- *Construction Debris left at the Ancaster Creek CSO*

### Holding the Province to its Obligation

- *Hwy 403 debris flying past collapsed safety fence in to Chedoke Creek*

### Holding Commercial Enterprises to their Obligations

- *Construction Worker Debris York Boulevard Ramp into Cootes Paradise*

### Holding Citizens up to their Obligations

- *City trees near Chedoke Falls topped to provide views for Scenic Drive homes*



## Savings to the City #12

### How We Work -

Working directly with City Staff quietly, professionally, to find the best solution

- *Waterfront Trail Cleanup – November 2015 - counterpoint*
- *Ice Paint at City Arenas*
- *Spring Creek Cross Connections*
- *Dundas CRC*

*This only works because our concerns have been met by City Staff with responsiveness and professionalism*



# Our 40/25/10 Program

Three Integrated Programs that create a  
Clean watershed that is Kept Clean

- 40 Group Cleanups
- 25 New Stewardship Routes
- 10 Incidents of Systemic Watershed Stressors  
– Resolved at the Source





# Our Proposal

Two 40/25/10 programs

- One operating in the Lower Cootes Watershed
- The second in a watershed at the City's direction

- |               |                              |                                |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Watersheds of | • Red Hill Valley            | • Stoney Creek (fmr. Township) |
| Headwaters of | • Bronte Creek               | • Grand River                  |
|               | • 20 Mile Creek              | • Red Hill                     |
|               | • Hamilton Harbour Shoreline |                                |

SCW to maintain all Stewardship Routes established



# Annual Costs

40/25/10 programs x 2 Watersheds

**Total Cost \$368,900**

<b>In Kind Contributions - Total</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>
SCW	\$20,000
Community	\$35,000
<b>Volunteers Work</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>
<b>Cash Contributions</b>	<b>\$203,900</b>
<b>SCW through Grants and Donations</b>	<b>\$117,450</b>
<b>Partnering Municipality</b>	<b>\$86,450</b>



# The Value Equation

A Conservative Estimate of the Savings  
40/25/10 Program in 2 Watersheds

**\$401,000** / year

Cost of our Program **\$86,450** / year

*Thank You*



Stewards of  
**Cootes Watershed**

BRINGING BACK PRISTINE STREAMS