

FEB 27 2018

February 22, 2018

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

RE: Conservation Authority Boundary Review

Thank you for your letter dated January 25, 2018, addressed to the Honourable Premier Kathleen Wynne, the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Nathalie Des Rosier and Chair of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, now Councillor Doug Conley, regarding the City of Hamilton Council approved motion item 7.11 - Conservation Authority Boundary Review.

Conservation Authorities are local agencies that deliver services and programs to conserve and manage natural hazards and natural heritage resources on a watershed basis in co-operation with our municipal partners, the provincial and federal governments, landowners and many other stakeholder organizations. Conservation Authorities are legislated under the *Conservation Authorities Act, RSO 1990*.

The main principle of Conservation Authorities is that they are organized on a watershed basis. A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater and can cross municipal borders. A watershed starts at the smallest tributary in its headwaters and encompasses all land drained by the river system ending as it empties into a lake or river. Each Conservation Authority in Ontario has a distinct watershed.

The objectives of conservation authorities are focused on their watersheds in the following broad areas:

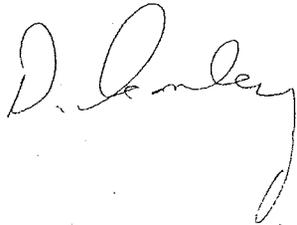
- Ensure Ontario's rivers, lakes and streams are properly safeguarded, managed and restored
- Protect, manage and restore Ontario's woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat

- Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion
- Provide opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn from and respect Ontario's natural environment

An enlargement of Hamilton Conservation Authority's jurisdiction to include geographic areas of neighbouring conservation authorities (GRCA, NPCA and Halton CA) would require Hamilton Conservation Authority to carry out objectives for partial watersheds and would appear to be inconsistent with the premise of the watershed basis on which conservation authorities are formed.

However, the Conservation Authority's Act does contain provision for enlarging areas of jurisdiction, amalgamations and dissolutions as noted in your letter under section 10(1) and 10.1.1. As stated in that section, it is the municipality that may ask for a meeting with all other municipalities that are within the area under consideration. This does not appear to be a subject that can be initiated by a conservation authority. We would welcome comment from the Honourable Nathalie Des Rosier on the applicability and relevance of the section and do understand the current difficult levy apportionment situation being faced by the City of Hamilton.

Sincerely,



Doug Conley
Chair, Hamilton Conservation Authority



Lisa Burnside
Chief Administrative Officer