



P.O. Box 89052  
HAMILTON, ONTARIO L8S 4R5

Sept. 24, 2018

**Re: Application to Amend Zoning By-law for Lands Located at Binbrook Conservation Area for a proposed zip line adventure park**

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of City Council:

The Hamilton Naturalists' Club supports the presentation to the Planning Committee on Sept. 18 by Brett Harrington, Chairperson of the Glanbrook Conservation Committee, in opposition to the proposed zip line adventure park at the Binbrook Conservation Area.

We share the concerns of the Conservation Committee that the Treetop Trekking plan would be an unnecessary commercialization of the Binbrook CA when conservation should be the fundamental priority. Many people enjoy the natural amenities of the park, such as hiking, birding, fishing, canoe rentals, and a splash pad. It is not as if the Binbrook CA is lacking in opportunities for people of all ages to appreciate and enjoy nature.

We understand the need for conservation authorities to raise funds. However, we would much prefer to see the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority encourage efforts to improve environmentally-friendly and more passive forms of recreation at the Binbrook CA.

The goal should be on creating more interest with interpretive displays, a bird banding station and amenities to promote the CA as a premier educational resource for schools and home educators. In contrast, the zip line plan would inevitably impact the birds, wildlife, trees and natural landscape of the Binbrook CA.

We have serious reservations about the loss of 100 trees, including 69 that are in good condition. Although replacement trees will be planted, there is a big difference between cutting down a healthy older tree versus planting young ones that do not have the capacity to clean the air as mature trees have. Removing trees in a Conservation Area, for a project of this kind, is counterintuitive.

As Mr. Harrington noted, the plan could well interfere with, and detract from, enjoyment of the trails and make it more difficult to preserve the health of the trees, breeding birds and wildlife --- including several Species at Risk bats --- and wetlands.

A five-year monitoring strategy to evaluate whether the project is harming the environment does not alleviate our concerns about the issues that people have. Mr. Harrington made a telling statement to the committee that nearly everyone he spoke to at the Binbrook Fair was opposed to the project. As he said, the NPCA's emphasis should be on conservation of the natural environment.

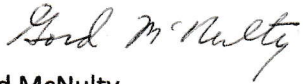
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The unease in the community reflected a public consultation process that left much to be desired. The Hamilton Naturalists' Club was not aware of a project which has significant ramifications for Hamilton. We believe there should have been a better effort to engage the community from the start.

We urge City Council to decline the zip line proposal and support the Glanbrook Conservation Committee in enhancing the Binbrook CA as a natural conservation oasis.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gord McNulty".

Gord McNulty  
Ontario Nature Representative,  
Hamilton Naturalists' Club