




**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT**  
**Hamilton Fire Department**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 7, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Hamilton Fire Department On-going Training Agreement with Hamilton Conservation Authority (HSC23042) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Shawn De Jager (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3378
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	David Cunliffe Chief, Hamilton Fire Department Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the Fire Chief of the Hamilton Fire Department, or their designate, be authorized to negotiate, enter into and execute any required agreement and any ancillary documents required to give effect thereto with the Hamilton Conservation Authority and other parties to facilitate use of property for Fire Department training activities with content acceptable to the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (b) That the Chief of the Hamilton Fire Department, or their designate, be authorized to execute amendments and any ancillary documents related to these Agreements as required for the use of property for Fire Training purposes that are acceptable in content to the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Hamilton Fire Department is seeking the authority to formalize the longstanding practice of utilizing spaces throughout the Hamilton Conservation Authority's property to perform pre-incident planning for technical rescue operations, and to train on equipment and rescue techniques to provide optimized service delivery to our residents and

---

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

visitors. Fifty Point, Devil's Punch Bowl, Dundas Valley, Spencer Gorge, Tiffany Falls, Crooks Hollow Christie Lake, and Valens Conservation Areas are Hamilton Conservation Authority lands that are anticipated for use, but the requested authority would allow for inclusion of additional Hamilton Conservation Authority land.

Understanding and navigating the topography and terrain of the trails and water systems in these conservation areas is extremely important when creating incident action plans to rescue trapped, stranded, and injured people. Preplanning and training on-site of the escarpment, trails, ravines, and waterways is paramount to support our firefighters to successfully implement safe rescue tactics when responding to emergencies in these areas of the City.

The Hamilton Fire Department recently operationalized a new piece of rescue equipment and Hamilton Conservation Authority requested liability insurance in relation to the City's use of the equipment on Hamilton Conservation Authority lands. While reviewing this request, Legal Services recommended the formalization of this relationship between the Hamilton Fire Department and Hamilton Conservation Authority. Entering a formal agreement will ensure Hamilton Conservation Authority is protected from liability arising from the Hamilton Fire Department's use of their property. Additionally, the agreement will protect the City by ensuring its use of the property for training purposes has been properly authorized.

It is anticipated that training opportunities on other third party's properties may arise. This report also requests delegated authority to enter agreements with third parties to facilitate use of property for Fire Department training purposes.

### **Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

### **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: N/A

Staffing: N/A

Legal: All agreements with the Conservation Authority and private land owners will be reviewed by Legal Services.

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Hamilton Fire Department has been using Hamilton Conservation Authority lands to train on rope and ice rescue scenarios, along with remotely piloted aircraft and robotic system training. The Fire Department is seeking the approval to continue in this practice

to help ensure our technical rescue teams can safely and effectively provide rescue services for residents and visitors of the City in their time of need.

This past spring, when a question came up around insurance liability, Legal Services recommended the Fire Department formalize the existing practice and seek Council approval to do so by means of an agreement between both parties for ongoing Fire Department training on Hamilton Conservation Authority lands.

The Hamilton Fire Department is also seeking delegated authority to enter agreements to use land and property for training purposes with other parties as needs and opportunities arise.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Occupational Health and Safety Act

City of Hamilton By-Law No. 19-034 "To Establish, Maintain, and Operate Hamilton Fire Department."

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Staff have consulted with Corporate Services and the Hamilton Conservation Authority. All recommendations have been incorporated in this report.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Firefighting, emergency medical response, and rescue operations are very dangerous activities which require reliance on proven equipment and training in some of the most arduous and time sensitive situations.

Understanding and navigating the topography and terrain of the trails and water systems in these conservation areas is extremely important when creating incident action plans to rescue trapped, stranded, and injured people. Preplanning and training on-site of the escarpment, trails, ravines, and waterways is paramount to support our firefighters to successfully implement safe rescue tactics when responding to emergencies in these areas of the City.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

N/A

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A