

# NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM COUNCIL

Meeting  
October 22nd, 2010  
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
Petun, Collingwood  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm

**Acting Chair:** Beth Kummling

## WELCOME/ROLL CALL

In Attendance

### Committee Members:

Steven Barnhart	City of Hamilton
Sean Everitt	Town of Blue Mountains
Ingrid Vanderburg	City of Burlington
Beth Kummling	Bruce Trail Conservancy
Chris Hachey	Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
Tim Marchand	Ontario Parks
Byron Wesson	Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Sandy Bell	Hamilton Conservation Authority
Deanna Cheriton	Toronto Region Conservation Authority
Judi Orendorff	Credit Valley Conservation
Rick Reitmeier	Halton Region

### Advisors

Susan Cooper	Ministry of Natural Resources
Mark Frawley	Niagara Escarpment Commission

### Observers:

Robert Pineo	Ministry of Natural Resources
--------------	-------------------------------

### Absent:

Bob Edmondson	Conservation Halton
Barbara Heidenreich	Ontario Heritage Trust
Sean Lipere	Parks Canada
John Fisher	Ontario Parks
Darcy Baker	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
David Nattress	Country Heritage Experience
Tys Theysmeyer	Royal Botanical Gardens
Debbie Whitehouse	Niagara Parks Commission
Brian Huis	Ontario Parks

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MEETING MINUTES** (May 14, 2010)

Moved by: Mark Frawley  
Seconded by: Steve Barnhart

THAT the minutes from the meeting of May 14, 2010 be approved as circulated

Carried

## **2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING MINUTES** (May 14, 2010)

- Bob Edmondson wrote a letter on behalf of the Council to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to introduce NEPOSS and inquire about available funding (letter circulated to Council members on Wednesday October 27, 2010)
- Credit Valley CA will host the May 13, 2011 meeting at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area as the City of Hamilton's Gage House will be under restoration at that time period.
- Beth Kummling circulated the Marketing and Communication subcommittee report at the meeting.
- Mark Frawley set up NEPOSS blog on behalf of the Council <http://neposs.blogspot.com/>  
Please contact Mark Frawley should you wish to post information on the blog at this point.
- Next quarterly meeting with committee chairs should be scheduled for end of November

## **3. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

**Action Item:** Increase the amount of time designated for this agenda item to 60 minutes.

### **Deanna Cheriton - Toronto Region Conservation Authority**

- No active management planning
- Developing acquisition project to identify target properties and funding partners

### **Chris Hachey – Grey Sauble Conservation Authority**

- Working with Conservation Ontario to develop a new CA guide book ; listing prominent NEPOSS parks

### **Shawn Everitt – Town of Blue Mountains**

- Receiving an increased number of conservation easements from the municipality
- Need to fund conservation partners securing conservation properties and undertaking conservation projects

Delphi Park, mainly forested, consisting of a mixed hardwood forest stand that is approximately 60 years old. The park is managed to protect geological features that include a rocky (shale) shoreline and several low shoreline ridges.

- In Delphi Park, park that was hit by a tornado in 2009, the parking lot is now completed, MNR forestry cut the fallen trees and they were used to build boardwalks. The new opening of Delphi Park will be in the summer of 2011.

**Please Note:** Please contact Shawn (519) 599-3131 X 281 for wood chips as he has a substantial supply from the fallen trees.

### **Steve Barnhart - City of Hamilton**

Battlefield Park, 77 King Street West at Centennial Parkway South, Stoney Creek, the site of the Battle of Stoney Creek in 1813. Battlefield Park is a designated historical site.

- Started phase 1 of the park management plan which involves extensive historical restoration to the buildings and landscape.
- Preparing Battlefield Park for the bicentennial celebration in 2013 for the [War of 1812](#).

City of Hamilton is starting the park management planning process for Churchill Park. 199 Glen Road by Parkside Drive. Churchill Park is a large park developed on land belonging to the Royal Botanical Gardens. It offers several activities, including lawn bowling, soccer and softball fields, and a playground with an accessible play structure.

- Challenge of mitigating competing interests for different park users and stakeholders.

In collaboration with Hamilton CA, the City completed the Red Hill Valley 10 km trail loop. Red Hill Bowl is a natural area as well as an excellent baseball park, located west of the Red Hill Creek. A portion of the Red Hill Valley Recreational Trail runs through the park.

### **Ingrid Vanderbrug – City of Burlington**

New City Park, northwest portion of Burlington, 67 hectare area including 29 hectares of former farmer's fields that will be restored to naturalized areas and converted to recreational uses including soccer and baseball fields.

- Initiated the natural restoration including 50-100m wide area along the Brow
- Rough grading of the phase 1 area (northwest quadrant of site) is complete
- Completion of the phase 1 area has been appealed by a neighbour through the Development Permit process and is now with the Niagara Escarpment Hearing Office
- Concerned about meeting the March 2011 infrastructure funding deadline

### **Sandy Bell – Hamilton Conservation Authority**

Cootes to Escarpment Strategy has been approved, currently developing ToR for governance of Steering Committee:

- Building partnerships
- Land securement strategy was approved in Spring 2010
- Approaching Trillium to support a landscape strategy
- Receiving support from Halton Region's Securement Strategy

### **New Plan Eco-gateway**

- Where Dundas meets Cootes Paradise

Approved Hamilton Conservation Authority land securement strategy in which most relates to the escarpment)

### **Issue – Number of deer in the Dundas Valley**

- Aerial survey done with MNR to get handle on the deer situation
- Native hunters showing up and hunting
- A deer management committee has been set up and meetings start in May

- Iroquois Heights 10x over the capacity, people are feeding the deer

East Mountain trail loop (10k in which 7k City of Hamilton and 3k HCA)

- Barrier free recreational route
- Going to link a couple of C.A areas
- Funding received through the stimulus program (trail building needs to happen end of this year)

Hamilton CA has initiated the Christie Lake Park Management Plan process. Christie Lake is located in Dundas and supports 10 km of trails, 18 hole Disc Golf Course, 7 ponds stocked with rainbow lake and a sandy beach.

### **Judi Orendorff - Credit Valley Conservation**

Terra Cotta was re-opened as a nodal park (funding came from the Region of Halton and Peel).

- Able to renovate washrooms, learning and visitor centre

CVCA is initiating a park management plan for Limehouse Conservation Area. Trails also take visitors past remnants of the Lime industry where they can stand before huge lime kilns and associated features like an old powderhouse. A community project is underway to protect the deteriorating historic features of Limehouse

CVCA has noticed a shift from land securement to conservation easements; the CA is working with landowners to acquire conservation property.

CVCA has developed a land management database which includes:

- Property site information
- Natural heritage feature and site infrastructure monitoring
- Capital assets

The CA is working with low impact development projects, e.g. rain gardens as demonstration sites.

### **Tim Marchand – Ontario Parks**

Infrastructure Funding for three escarpment parks (Short Hills, Cabot Head and Mono Cliffs)

- Work being undertaken is trail work, boundary fences, Cabot Head bird observatory-partnership (which is needed for upgrades and maintenance)

ON Parks is participating in an international professional exchange.

ON Parks submitted a project application to Fleming College to conduct a GIS analysis on a proposed land securement project.

ON Parks is working with the local Stewardship Council and the Niagara Restoration council to install deer fencing at Short Hills Provincial Park; Short Hills is challenged with a high deer population for a park with a low deer capacity.

Deer Management projects:

- Presquile Provincial Park has been cited as a deer management success story using deer herding and effective public consultation.

- Hamilton CA is working with first nations to resolve the deer capacity at Iroquois Heights

ON Parks is working towards developing current park management plans for all of their parks in the south/west.

**Byron Wesson - Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority**

The NVCA is working with the Georgian Triangle Anglers Association to rehabilitate or remove an on line pond located at the Petun CA. Several options are available and all come with big price tags. Opportunities for any option taken will be to educate the general public on the value of cold water systems and the need to protect them

**Mark Frawley - Niagara Escarpment Commission**

Reviewing Conservation Halton Park Management Plans, the Commission has concerns regarding high impact recreational activities, e.g. mountain biking and rock climbing and the size of the proposed interpretive centre at Crawford Lake.

**Susan Cooper – Ministry of Natural Resources**

MNR is currently reviewing 4 Conservation Halton Park Management Plans. The Ministry is hoping to circulate the next draft of the NEPOSS Manual to the NEPOSS Council for comment within the next 4 months

**Beth Kummling - Bruce Trail Conservancy**

The BTC has completed the traffic study for the Badlands; the park management plan is continuing to proceed.

The BTC is spending a lot of time on municipal outreach to change official plans to allow conservation easements for conservation organizations. Seventy-five percent of BTC land acquisitions require a severance at a cost between \$2,500 and \$5,500 per application, even when a supporter wants to donate a portion of his or her lands. Over the last number of months the BTC has been working toward approval for an amendment to the Planning Act which would provide for an exemption to subdivision control in order that conservation agencies such as the BTC could acquire and dispose of land for conservation purposes within the NEP.

**4. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Land and Park Planning Subcommittee**

Susan Cooper advised that their Subcommittee has nothing to report at this time, however current projects include:

- Coordinating invasive species management resources for the NEPOSS web site
- Facilitating the NEC's geodatabase for the NEP/GIS layers for NEPOSS
- Investigate what other lands are on the escarpment but not part of NEPOSS; review old map (lands inside and outside of NEPOSS)

**Marketing and Communications Subcommittee**

Beth Kummling circulated the Marketing and Communication subcommittee report to the council

Not practical to use colleges and universities to get branding done

New direction

- Steve Barnhart mentioned that he could approach a consultant to develop a logo
- City of Burlington and TRCA mentioned that both had staff that could review marketing plans

Mark Frawley developed a temporary blog site (<http://neposs.blogspot.com/>) where the Council could post NEPOSS resources in the library section. To share resources, the NEPOSS members would need to provide a link from an external web site.

Comments received:

- Currently only one person can post information, may be time and energy intensive for that individual in the long term
- The blog can not be password protected; would need to build a web site instead of a blog to acquire different levels of protection
- The blog can be found by search engines and would be a good opportunity to post public documents

**Action Item:**

- Mark Frawley to provide posting directions
- Mark Frawley to establish hot links to each NEPOSS member organizations
- Judi Orendorff to provide information on a Google based product
- Steve Barnhart to investigate logo development opportunities

### **Park Management Subcommittee**

- Collectively need to post/coordinate the monitoring that is being done on the Niagara Escarpment
- With consideration to accessibility, Steve Barnhart mentioned that MTO have started two test sites for pervious concrete, a highly permeable medium that could be used for parking lots and trails
- Deanna Cheriton mentioned that there was an on-going update for accessibility standards for trail systems

**Action Item – Sandy** to post accessibility resources and requirements on the NEPOSS blog site

- Deanna Cheriton to provide information on the current accessibility standards for trail systems

### **Sustainable Funding Subcommittee**

Discussions regarding suspended Greenlands funding.

**Action Item – Judi Orendorff, Beth Kummling and Bob Edmondson** to develop a letter to send to the Minister regarding available funding for Niagara Escarpment funding initiatives

## **5. Council Business**

Beth Kummling agreed to be the NEPOSS Council Secretary

## **6. Lunch**

## **7. Invasive Species Presentation by Hayley Anderson, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters**

**Action Item** – Susan Cooper to obtain the OFAH Presentation and post on the NEPOSS blog site

- Susan Cooper to investigate if a permit is needed for spraying Great Hogwood when it is adjacent to Jefferson Salamander (knows to be in the area)
- Susan Cooper to obtain application information for the OFAH SWOT Team to work on the Niagara Escarpment for summer 2011

### **OFAH SWOT Team**

To book a member of the invasive species SWOT Team for next summer, you can contact Francine MacDonald, the invading species program manager at [francinem@ofah.org](mailto:francinem@ofah.org) or 705-748-6324 ext 238 or Sophie Bull, Invading Species Liaison at [Sophie\\_bull@ofah.org](mailto:Sophie_bull@ofah.org) or ext 274.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

Credit Valley CA will host the May 13, 2011 meeting at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area

## **10. TOUR OF PETUN FISH HATCHERY**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT 2:30 PM**