

May 21, 2013

Dear Mayor Goldring and Members of Council,

There are a number of items on this evening's Council meeting agenda with significant environmental implications that BurlingtonGreen would like to provide input on. We apologize for not being aware of them earlier so we could have provided you with more thoughtful input at Committee.

Respectful of your time, we would like to offer brief comments on two of the items below. The other two items will be addressed via delegations this evening with Ken Woodruff providing input on the Burlington Executive Airport update and myself, Amy Schnurr providing input regarding the proposed removal of 60 trees at City View Park.

**1. Re: Report providing comments on proposed modifications to the *Endangered Species Act*. (PB-32-13, February 28, 2013)**

BurlingtonGreen is pleased to learn that the City shares our concerns regarding the MNR's proposed amendments to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 that are likely to threaten the effectiveness of the existing legislation in the protection of endangered species and their habitat. We concur with the key concerns identified by city staff such as the need for:

- greater municipal participation in consultation regarding the ESA;
- greater clarity regarding issues such as time span of the proposed amendments and the types of species and developments to which the proposed amendments apply; and
- proponents to be required to provide information regarding mitigation, monitoring and impacts to species at risk **in all cases**.

Unfortunately only the title page of the Appendix A document was available on-line so we are unable to learn of the more detailed comments submitted by the City to the MNR on February 25, 2013. We would very much appreciate being informed when the response from the MNR is available for public consumption.

Additionally, in the report's "Communications Matters" section, we noted that while the Region of Halton and Town of Oakville were consulted on this important issue, it appears that Conservation Halton was not. Given the collaborative effort with CH to protect the endangered Jefferson Salamander species, this is of surprise and we suggest that opportunities to present a stronger, united voice to the MNR could be an effective strategic approach to realize a positive outcome benefiting the shared goal to protect endangered species.

**2. Re: Conservation Halton's Watershed Report Card. (DI-13-13-1, April 11, 2013)**

Upon review of the webcast of Conservation Halton's Watershed Report Card presentation to Committee, there are a number of key items worthy of comment but in the interests of time, we would like to offer comment on just a few:

- We concur with the CH staff presenter's emphasis that the report card's identified issues provide a tremendous **opportunity** to the City of Burlington to focus on advancing actions to ensure environmental health for our communities;

- Effective, sustainable planning based on a framework of **balanced social, environmental and economic values**, can support growth that ensures the protection of our communities natural systems;
- **Early consultation** with relevant agencies/stakeholders to ensure **required components and standards are in place** to protect and improve the health of the environment is essential;
- **The city's current Official Plan review provides a timely opportunity to integrate the report card's outcomes** into solution focused planning and strategic decision making. For example: advancing alternative options to traditional paving to improve our urban impervious land cover. Doing a better job at protecting both our rural and urban tree cover as we develop so we can achieve and exceed the minimum requirement of 30% forest cover to sustain species biodiversity.

Respectfully,

*Amy*

Amy Schnurr

Executive Director

BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association