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**The Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program  
of Conservation Halton  
and Hamilton Conservation Authority**

**Preserving Ontario's Headwaters  
A Community Workshop  
with Conservation Halton**

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Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program

March 9, 2010



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## Purpose of the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program

- ✓ Educate all rural and urban watershed landowners of natural areas and watercourses about the important role they have to play in the protection of the natural heritage features they own.
- ✓ Support landowners as they take responsibility for the protection and rehabilitation of the natural heritage features they own.



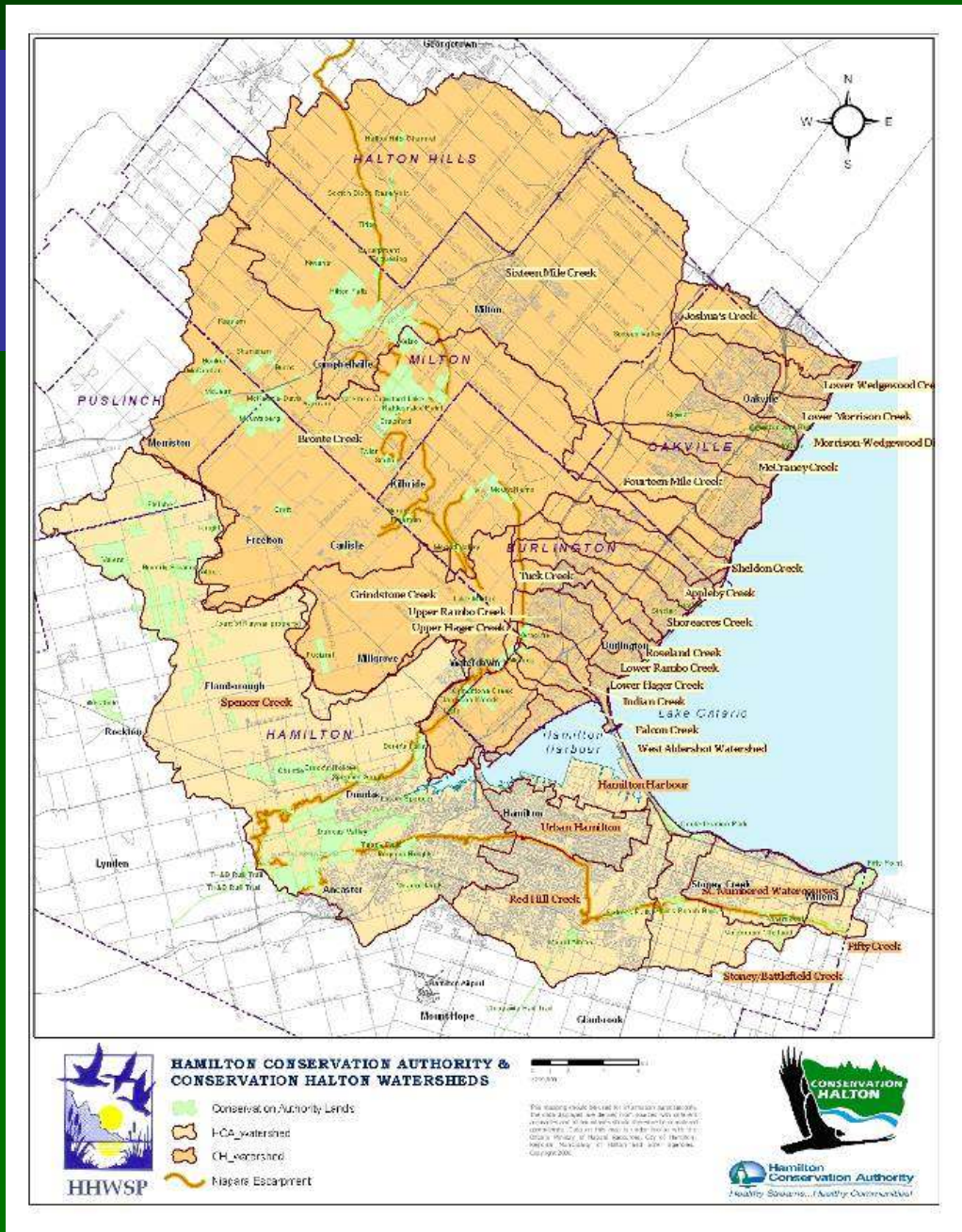
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# Stewardship Program's Watersheds

Watershed Area Covered by HHWSP is 1,417 km<sup>2</sup>



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## Conservation Authority Partners

### Hamilton Conservation Authority Watershed

**Size:** 447 square kilometres

**Municipalities:** City of Hamilton, Wellington County (Township of Puslinch), Niagara Region (Town of Grimsby)

### Conservation Halton Watershed

**Size:** 970 square kilometres

**Municipalities:** Halton Region (City of Burlington, Town of Milton, Town of Oakville, Town of Halton Hills), City of Hamilton, Wellington County (Township of Puslinch), Peel Region (City of Mississauga)



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## Stewardship Staff

- ✓ Watershed Stewardship Technicians (2)

  - One Permanent – Colleen Lavender – CH Watershed

  - One Permanent – Cherish Elwell – HCA Watershed

  - (Each person 100% per Conservation Authority)

- ✓ Watershed Stewardship Manager (1)

  - One Permanent – Sheila O’Neal

  - (50% Hamilton Conservation Authority  
and 50% Conservation Halton)



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## Stewardship's Major Program Areas

1. Neighbours and Friends Protecting Water and Nature
2. Educational and Promotional Tools Encouraging and Celebrating Good Stewardship Practices
3. Improving Water Quality and Habitat
4. Recognizing Exemplary Watershed Stewards with the Watershed Stewardship Award



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*"Changing Minds, Practices and Landscapes"*

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# Neighbours and Friends Protecting Water and Nature

## 1. Community Outreach and Education – 150 landowners consulted one-on-one

### A. Activity: Initiate Landowner Contact (One on One)

Why? To address Issues and Stresses in Watershed Plans

- Wetlands – Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Wellhead Protection Areas – Ministry of the Environment
- Escarpment Tributaries Subwatershed of Grindstone Creek Watershed - Insufficient Buffers - Burlington Community Foundation
- Westover Residents- Enbridge
- Species at Risk - Environment Canada



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## Neighbours and Friends Protecting Water and Nature

### 1. Community Outreach and Education

#### B. Activity: Respond to Landowner Initiated Contact

- Direct incoming calls
- Conservation Authority staff and other agency staff referrals

#### C. Activity: Community Consultation

- Local Soil and Crop Improvement Associations – Erosion Hot Spots
- Hamilton-Burlington Real Estate Association – First Contact with New Landowners
- Weed By-Law Enforcement – Naturalization/Buffer
- Friends of ... the Creek or Natural Area in Your Community! – Toolkit for New Friends Groups eg. Friends of Greenville Creek



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## Educational and Promotional Tools Encouraging and Celebrating Good Stewardship Practices

### 2. Community Outreach and Education

#### Activity: Issue Press Releases

- Wetlands are Wonderful!
- Attention Halton Residents!

#### Activity: Produce Landowner Contact Newsletter

- Different Themes – 2009 Call for Landowners' Stories
- Financial Assistance Edition

#### Activity: Update information on HCA Website

- Resources for landowners and the general public



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# Educational and Promotional Tools Encouraging and Celebrating Good Stewardship Practices

## 2. Community Outreach and Education

Activity: Workshop/Information Sessions Series

- Friends of Workshop (First Sharing Experiences Workshop) – April 10, 2010
- Grindstone Creek Watershed Plan Update
- Nest Box Building Workshop – November 27, 2010
- Planning for Golf Course Workshop - 2010



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# Educational and Promotional Tools Encouraging and Celebrating Good Stewardship Practices

## 2. Community Outreach and Education

Activity: Examples of collaboration on community events lead by partners

- University of Guelph – Healthy Lands for Healthy Horses
- Trout Unlimited Canada – Bronte Creek Watershed Renewal Program – Family Fun Day!
- City of Hamilton- Well and Septic Provider Workshops
- City of Hamilton – Well and Septic Information Sessions for Landowners



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## Water Quality and Habitat Improvement

2009 Total Cost of Project Costs: \$52,064.34

2009 Grants through HHWSP: \$29,123.37

2009 Water Quality/Habitat Enhanced:

- \* 3.6 km of riparian habitat enhanced/created.
- \* 7ha of natural area enhanced/created.

1994 – 2009 As of December 2009 Over:

- \* 17 km of riparian habitat enhanced/created.
- \* 95 ha of natural area enhanced/created.



# Recognizing Exemplary Landowners Watershed Stewards

## Activity: Hold Award Ceremonies

- Conservation Halton's Awards of Excellence Evening
- Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting

## Activity: Organize a Watershed Stewards in Action Event

- First Annual Watershed Stewards Appreciation Day – September 27th at Westfield Heritage Village

As of December 2009 Over:

- \* 325 Watershed Steward Awards
- \* 130 km of stream protected
- \* 2700 ha of natural area protected



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## A Look to the Future! Increasing Populations

- ✓ Hamilton Conservation Authority Watershed
  - Population 2006 – 448,195
  - Population 2031 – 539,424
- ✓ Conservation Halton Watershed
  - Population 2006 – 450,589
  - Population 2031 – 636,665
- ✓ Result: Increasing stresses on the watershed



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## Each one of us has a role to play!

- ✓ Healthy watersheds lead to Healthier Communities
- ✓ Good land management practices today will lead to healthier communities for future generations



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**Thank you for your time and  
Thank you to HHWSP's 2009 Funders.**



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