

Mary Bromley

Mon 2026-01-26 11:55 AM

To Clerks

Dear Mayor Pellegrini / All Members of Council,

RE: Councillor Schaefer's Motion re Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

As a King resident living on the banks of the East Humber River across from the Humber Trails Conservation Area, I have, for some years now, observed the Toronto Region's Conservation Authority growing neglect of this area that was flooded by Hurricane Hazel, devastating the houses in its wake.

There used to be regular vigilance of the eroding banks and any alterations along the river's route with reparations. Today there is a drastic decline in this practice and with the amalgamation of Conservation Authorities there will be fewer boots on the ground overseeing local watersheds, river banks, the health of wetlands and all the natural processes that help mitigate flooding, droughts and fires.

Indigenous peoples are finally being acknowledged for their wisdom of preserving local knowledge of the land and water. I would think this move on the part of the Ontario government to drastically hinder vigilance over our land and waters would be anathema to Indigenous wisdom. Our future as water keepers will haunt us if we do not carefully protect our land and water with the intimate knowledge we need to have of how water behaves in local environments, not unlike human communities which are each unique. There will be many fewer watching with this disastrous consolidation.

Climate Change/Heating has already shown its tear on the landscape...flash-flooding of the cataclysmic kind to the drying up of wetlands and streams. The Ontario government has already enacted Bills that disregard the crucial importance of Ontario's water systems. Tearing down local guardrails for conservation means less oversight,

fewer walkers to witness inevitable changes that need remediation, fewer knowledge keepers of local land and river stories that tell what to watch for, and less preparation for the inevitable growing number of natural disasters, so many based on either too much or too little water.

I urge Council to oppose any consolidation of Conservation Authorities and support Councillor Schaefer's motion. The Ontario government's intent is, in whole, contrary to good practice for protecting Ontario's, indeed, King's increasingly vulnerable lands.

Sincerely,

Mary Bromley