

Mayor and Council
Town of Caledon
PDF c/o agenda@caledon.ca
September 16, 2024



RE: A Municipal Charter for Watershed Security can help with Caledon's Official Plan, 12 Bylaws, Aggregate Review, and more

Dear Mayor and Council,

Further to past submissions and depositions, the Ontario Headwaters Institute is pleased to share with you that we recently received approval from the Canada Revenue Agency for amended objects.

Our lead object is now "To promote watershed security in Ontario", with subsequent objects relating to research, education, and outreach activities to increase public understanding of watershed security and its importance to ecological integrity, social wellbeing, and economic vitality in Ontario.

One core project under our new mandate which may interest you is to encourage the adoption of Municipal Charters for Watershed Security by integrating land use and watershed planning,

Given extensive community interest in Caledon's new Official plan and its shift from an ecosystem approach to a landscape features approach, the 12 Bylaws and their proposed holds, the evolution of your aggregate review, and increased development in general in Caledon, we hope that you might consider developing a Charter on Watershed Security per the concept overleaf.

The OHI would be pleased to discuss this with any delegated councilor or staff member at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Andrew McCammon

Executive Director
416 231 9484

Promoting Watershed Security in Ontario
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Concept Paper for Caledon, September 16, 2024



Developing a Municipal Charter for Watershed Security

As Ontario municipalities deliver core services that impact watershed security, including land use permitting and infrastructure to manage drinking water, storm water, and sanitary sewage, and as Ontario's population and development pressures grow at a time the climate and biodiversity crises require strategic direction, it is more important than ever that municipalities integrate land use and watershed planning.

As a first step along this path, the OHI suggests that municipalities develop a Charter for Watershed Security to protect public health, social wellbeing, and economic vitality, or similar high-level commitment, by integrating land use and watershed planning.

The charter and/or subsequent supporting initiatives could have the following elements:

- A commitment to safeguard watershed security by integrating land use and watershed planning;
- Taking a whole watershed approach by collaborating with both upstream municipalities to secure normal flows of clean water entering the municipality as well as with downstream municipalities to assure them of the same;
- A mandate for all or specific departments, such as economic development, permitting, transportation, and works, to integrate their land use planning responsibilities with watershed planning, with specific objectives for mitigating and adapting to a changing climate;
- Undertaking both an ecological land classification system and a water resource inventory and using the information to create both a natural heritage system strategy and a biodiversity strategy to identify and protect key ecological features and functions for local watershed health;
- Establishing watershed and/or sub-watershed targets, including restoration targets where necessary, for areas in natural heritage, wetlands, streamside vegetation, and urban canopies and greenspace;
- Ensuring before and after terrestrial and aquatic monitoring of the immediate impact of specific development, including infrastructure, as decided by a municipal protocol;
- Performing cumulative monitoring on a regular basis and implementing adaptive management to redress unacceptable conditions, and,
- Encouraging sound stewardship practices for all land in the municipality.

The OHI is available to discuss this further with any councilor or staff member, at their convenience. For more information, please contact Andrew McCammon as below.

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