April 18, 2007

Mr. Kevin Christenson, City Clerk
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Dear Kevin:

RE: Shortfall in Provincial Transfer Payments to Conservation Authorities

The Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors approved the attached report and resolution on the shortfall of provincial transfer payments to conservation authorities at its meeting of March 8, 2007.

Our Board is working with Conservation Ontario, our collective association of conservation authorities, to increase its efforts to lobby the provincial government to reinstate Section 39 provincial transfer payments to conservation authorities (CA’s) to levels equal to those in 1995. Transfer payments to CA’s have decreased by 87% since the mid 1990’s and an increasing burden is being placed on our member municipalities to cover the shortfall.

Our Board believes that the province needs to reinvest in conservation and match the contributions being made by member municipalities for programs of provincial interest. We respectfully request the support of our member municipalities in this effort.

Please contact either myself or Steve Miazga, our General manager/CAO should you wish to discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours in Conservation,

[Signature]

Chris Firth-Eagland
Chair

cc: Brian Penman, Chair - Conservation Halton
    Alan Dale, Chair - Grand River Conservation Authority
    Douglas Ransom, Chair - Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
** Provincial Transfer Payments - Shortfall **

In light of the 87% decrease in provincial transfer payments to Conservation Authorities since 1992 to support their core mandate of flood and erosion control and the fact that this reduction has severely impacted the ability of all conservation authorities and their member municipalities to protect lives and property from natural hazards, the Hamilton Conservation Authority believes that conservation authorities across the province and all the member municipalities need to initiate a new lobbying effort to more effectively reach the provincial decision makers with the message of needed financial support.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority has itself experienced a reduction in provincial transfer payments from $1.1 million in 1992 to only $175,000 in 2006.

The Hamilton Conservation Authority believes that the province needs to reinvest in conservation and match the contributions being made by member municipalities for programs of provincial interest.

As such, the Board of the Hamilton Conservation Authority supports the following resolution:

** THAT the Hamilton Conservation Authority stress the need to Conservation Ontario to continue to lobby the Provincial government to reinstate Section 39 provincial transfer payments to Conservation Authorities to levels equal to those in 1995; and, **

** THAT the Hamilton Conservation Authority actively support Conservation Ontario’s lobbying effort and enlist the support of our member municipalities; and further **

** THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier, the Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources, John Tory, Leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, Howard Hampton, Leader of the Ontario NDP and local M.P.P.’s. **

Approved by the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board of Directors as Resolution Number FA 12,840 at their meeting of March 8, 2007.