

Durham Environmental Advisory Committee  
PDF to delegations@durham.ca

January 18, 2022



**RE: Agenda Item 7 B, DEAC, January 20 - - Including Carruthers Creek Headwaters in the Greenbelt**

Dear Members of the Committee,

Incorporated in Ontario, the Ontario Headwaters Institute is a federally registered charity. Originally focused on protecting headwater areas, where our watersheds start, supplementary letters patent issued in 2018 expanded our mandate to full watersheds, their natural heritage, and receiving waters such as Lake Simcoe and the Great Lakes.

This was a natural evolution, keeping pace with changes in Ontario's planning and environmental protection protocols as they shifted to a more integrated framework, particularly from 2005 to 2017 such as with respect to the Conservation Authorities Act, the Clean Water Act, the Provincial Policy Statement, the Greenbelt, A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and other initiatives.

On the Growth Plan, we have written numerous municipalities with respect the on-going Municipal Comprehensive Review. Our letter of June 24 to Durham included the following: that Durham

“Recognize that most downstream areas of many of South-central Ontario's watersheds have been intensively developed, creating poor ecological conditions that include reduced and fragmented natural habitat as well as poor water quality and leaving headwater areas as de facto reservoirs of regional forests, wetlands, wildlife, and water quality & quantity. As a result, we ask you to consider special protection for your headwaters areas, as development based on past protocols will probably be inadequate to prevent serious negative cumulative impact to the whole watershed.”

On a related front, we are working to establish a series of headwater alliances across South-central Ontario. With a passion for your area and as we are familiar with the recent report on Carruthers Creek done by the Region and the local conservation authority, and are currently recruiting a steering committee for a combined Carruthers & Duffins Headwaters Alliance.

As a result of both of these efforts, we support the motion to add the upland headwater areas of Carruthers Creek to the Greenbelt. In addition to the four key issues cited in the motion, we also note the benefit of protecting local agricultural lands to address food security. Indeed, we urge Durham to find innovative ways to retain agricultural lands while assisting with increased natural areas on farms, increased farm income, and farm succession.

Further, we urge Durham to take a broader perspective and consider adding the full “donut” in the right-hand-side drawing overleaf to the Greenbelt.

As the proposal before you has many nuances, please note that we would be happy to provide any assistance we can to the committee and the Region to expand the Greenbelt locally as part of a strategy to maintain the ecological integrity of Carruthers Creek and your region.

Sincerely,  
*Andrew McCammon*  
Executive Director

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Carruthers Creek N of Taunton Rd

Headwater streams, defined as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> order, are shown in Pink, Blue, and Yellow respectively. Two 4<sup>th</sup> order streams, which are already in the Greenbelt, can also be seen in orange.

Same Area, showing lands in the Greenbelt, in green, between Taunton Road and Highway 7. The OHI supports the consideration of adding all the lands in the “donut” below to the Greenbelt.

