



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

SUMMARY

MAY 13, 2022

1. **C-2022-104**
Correspondence received May 5, 2022 from Office of Secretary-General for the Mohawk Nation of Grand River Country, respecting BlueBelt + Grand River Conservation and Stewardship, A Haldimand Treaty Restoration Project.
2. **C-2022-105**
Correspondence dated May 3, 2022 from the Township of Horton, respecting a resolution requesting that Federal and Provincial Governments to provide more funding to rural municipalities to support infrastructure projects related to major bridge and culvert replacements.
3. **C-2022-106**
Correspondence dated May 12, 2022 from Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, respecting Proposed Development Charges for Agriculture, Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Subject: RE: Bluebelt + Grand River: A Treaty Restoration Project

From: Secretary-General Benjamin Doolittle U.E. [<mailto:benjamin.doolittle@mohawkuniversity.org>]

Sent: May 5, 2022 3:32 PM

Subject: Bluebelt + Grand River: A Treaty Restoration Project

Hello all,

My name is Benjamin Doolittle UE, Secretary-General for the Mohawk Nation of the Grand River Country ("Mohawk University"), I am a fraternal member of the Sha'tekari:wate; one of nine sub-clans of the Mohawk Confederacy. I am writing to introduce myself and our project, BlueBelt + Grand River, The Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy. (www.bluebelt.org)

Promised to the Mohawk descendants of the old villages of Canojaharie, Tikondarago, and Aughugo and their posterity to enjoy forever. The Haldimand Tract is 950,000 acres or 3,844 square kilometers. The Grand River watershed is the largest inland river system in Oniatari:io ("beautiful lake"). It has a total area of 6,800 square kilometers. This acquired territory extends to the mouth of the Lake Erie shoreline establishing riparian rights.

BlueBelt + Grand River, The Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy is commissioned by The Mohawk Charitable Foundation for Grand River and learning organization ("Mohawk University"). The first charitable foundation to be formed under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River Country. The Trust is managed by Mohawk University for the benefit of the U.E.L. (Loyalist) Mohawk Descendants.

The Mohawk Charitable Foundation for Grand River and learning organization ("Mohawk University") exists to provide services to its members; and to enter into mutually beneficial relationships with other charitable foundations, non-member persons, states, and other parties.

The Charitable Foundation is a non-incorporated, pre-Columbian longbody existing within the metes and bounds of A'nowara'ko:wa (Great Turtle Island), for greater certainty but not limited to the Grand River Country ("Haldimand Province"). The first charitable foundation was formed under the jurisdiction of the Mohawk Nation of Grand River Country.

The Mohawk University provides services to all members and non-members under its jurisdiction until another Mohawk Nation foundation becomes ratified, at such point any Mohawk Nation members beyond the Grand River would come under the jurisdiction of their own respective Mohawk Nation foundation.

The directors of the Mohawk University welcome any interest and look forward to a further expansion of the Mohawk Nation.

Please find (3) attached documents:

1. Mission and Vision Statement - Bluebelt
2. Conservation and Stewardship - Bluebelt
3. Haldimand Tract - Bluebelt

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Sincerely,
Secretary-General Benjamin Doolittle U.E.
Office of Secretary-General for the
Mohawk Nation of Grand River Country
Mohawk Domain [Without Canada]



The Office of Secretary-General for the
Mohawk Nation of Grand River Country
(["MOHAWK UNIVERSITY"](#))



Mission and Vision Statement

The Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy (“**BlueBelt + Grand River**”) gets its name and geographic boundaries from the days of early Mohawk settlement in acquired territories along the Grand River and granting of the Haldimand Tract to Tyendanaga (Colonel Joseph Brant UEL) of the Mohawk Nation for the benefit of the Loyalist Mohawk descendants forever in perpetuity.

Mission

The mission of Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy is to protect, care for, and connect people to the extraordinary lands that make this area special.

The Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy protects the scenic, natural, agricultural, and open landscapes of Grand River for the benefit of the community and future generations by:

- Developing long-term land protection strategies;
- Promoting private and public funding for land conservation;
- Acquiring land and conservation easements;
- Practicing stewardship, including the restoration of conservation properties; and
- Promoting a sense of place and a land ethic through activities, education, and outreach.

Vision

We see a future where the wild and working forests, the rivers and wetlands, the globally unique biotic habitats, and the Grand River’s rich farming and indigenous heritage—those things that define the extraordinary place we call Grand River Country—are preserved *forever*, are lovingly cared for by supportive communities and are cherished by all as an extraordinary gift that generations before has made to future generations.

We will support our vision through a variety of strategies including:

- Work with landowners, resource agencies, and other conservation organizations, to preserve the prime agricultural lands, open spaces, and wetland habitats of the Grand River watershed.
- Perform conservation activities that will result in improved health of the vital watersheds and water resources of Grand River Country and positively impact our natural places through rehabilitation.
- Collaborate with landowners, resource agencies, and other conservation organizations to protect the entire ecosystem contained within the Haldimand Province, situated between the Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron.
- Implement a process for refreshing and re-evaluating our Vision so that it continually reflects the values of our community and honors the perpetual nature of the organization.

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- Conduct conservation activities that will lead to greater opportunities for people to directly experience the spectacular and diverse landscapes of Grand River Country.
- Create and maintain easement monitoring programs, land management practices, and landowner partnerships that will be considered among the best in the world.
- Develop and sustain a robust financial reserve that ensures that we can continue to provide excellent stewardship of our lands in perpetuity and will be able to move quickly to acquire key parcels when opportunities arise.
- Become a recognized conservation leader, and model for other land trusts seeking to protect critical habitat, managed forests, agricultural, open spaces, and wetlands.



BlueBelt + Grand River Conservation and Stewardship, A Haldimand Treaty Restoration Project

Promised to the Mohawk descendants of the old Villages of Canojaharie, Tikondarago, and Aughugo and their posterity to enjoy forever. The Haldimand Tract is 950,000 acres or 3,844 square kilometers. The Grand River watershed is the largest inland river system in Oniatari:io ("beautiful lake"). It has a total area of 6,800 square kilometers. This acquired territory extends to the mouth of the Lake Erie shoreline establishing riparian rights.

Land conservancies, also known as land trusts, are community-based, nonprofit organizations dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of natural and working lands for the beneficiaries and public good.

Land conservancies are positioned to act swiftly and professionally to help landowners and communities protect the endangered places important to us all—open spaces that define our sense of place, connect us to the natural world, and provide real services such as water quality protection, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and agri-sources of food and timber.

How does a Land Conservancy Work? Land conservancies are better suited than any other organization to safeguard Grand River's natural beauty and the conservation values of our most important lands. To do this, land conservancies use the following suite of tools to protect and steward land forever:

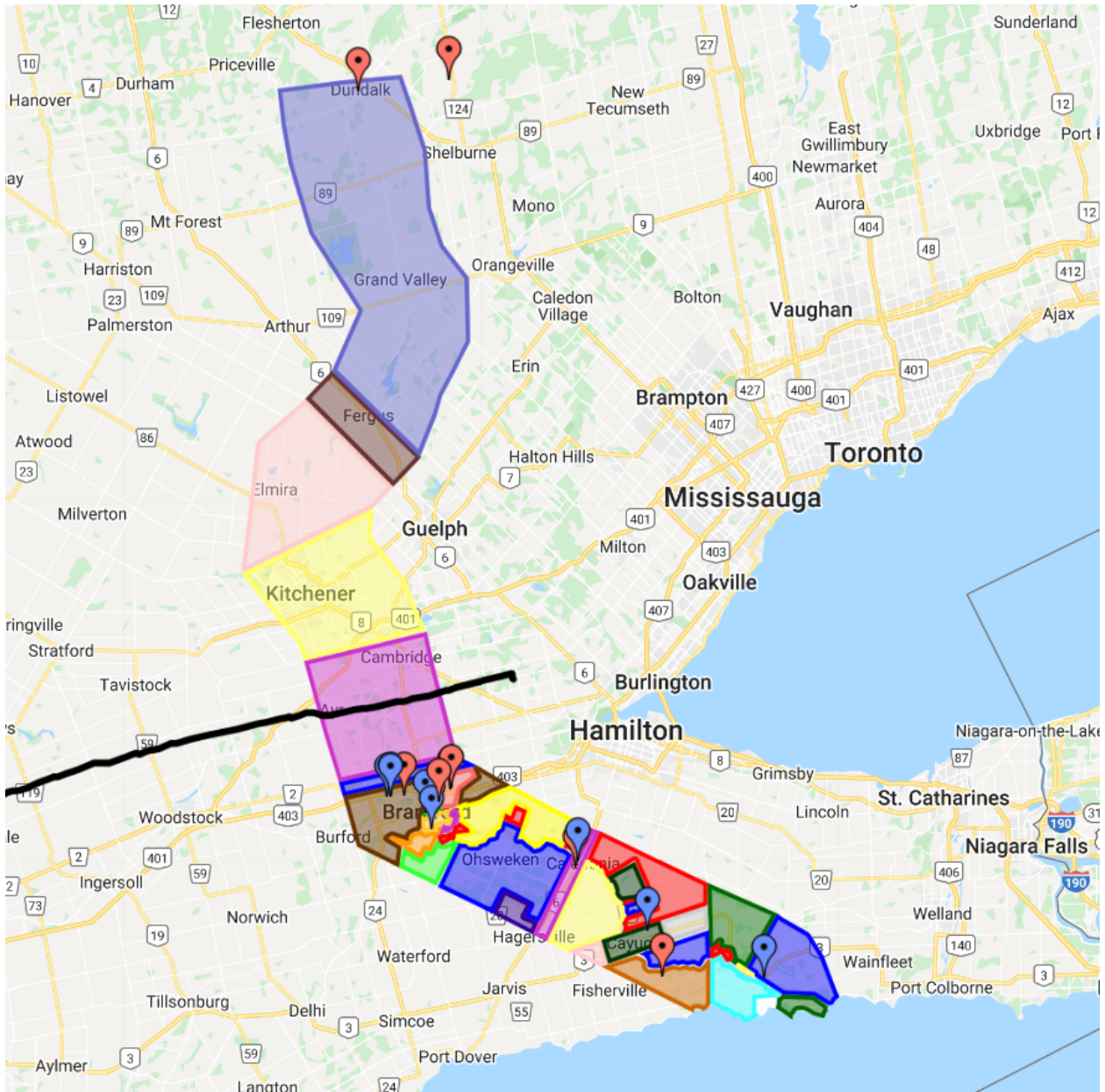
- **Nature Preserves or Sanctuaries** – Haldimand Tract Lands are acquired through reversion, repossession, and expropriation, donation or purchase to be used as a nature preserve or sanctuary. Often, these lands are open to the general public to visit and enjoy.
- **Conservation Easements** – A voluntary legal tool that allows the land to remain in private ownership but permanently limits development to protect the conservation values of the property.
- **Government Assists** – Conservancies often help local communities or the Mohawk University acquire public parkland and open space. Assistance can range from grant writing support to leading fundraising campaigns.
- **Stewardship** – For the lands that are owned and managed by conservancies or for the conservation easements they hold, stewardship is the term used for ongoing management and monitoring to protect the conservation values of those properties.
- **Education** – Whether providing education to landowners about conservation options or engaging community members in the stewardship of natural areas, conservancies educate people about the values of participating within our own natural environment.

How do you inherently participate within your own environments? "Karén:na" The Mohawk name of the force, principle, or magic power which is ... to be inherited in everybody and being in nature and in every personified attribute, property, or activity, belonging to each of these and conceived to be the active cause or force, or dynamic energy, involved in every operation or phenomenon of nature, in any manner affecting or controlling the welfare of man.

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Haldimand Tract



This map seeks to outline the territory of the Haldimand Tract ("Province") as set out in the acquisition of territory by the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784 and the recent struggles to fight off the alien occupying

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forces government, known collaborators, and land developers planning to profit on stolen lands. The interactive map divides the Haldimand Province into smaller tracts based on the history of land theft orchestrated by alien residents and occupying foreign governments.

The expression 'acquisition of territory' is usually employed as meaning the establishment of sovereignty over a given piece of land. Well-known UN Security Council resolutions refer to 'acquisition of territory' in this manner, notably Resolution 242 (1967). The expression, however, requires some precision. First, strictly speaking, 'territory' as a term of art comprises not only emerged land, but also airspace, the territorial sea, and internal waters.

BlueBelt + Grand River, The Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy is a direct response to the encroachments of the Haldimand tract, intensified by preservation projects of the greenbelt that directly promotes rampant development within the Haldimand tract. The greenbelt rests alongside the Haldimand tract straddling boundaries.

The Haldimand Tract Land Trust Conservancy services the Haldimand Province under a claim of right to peaceable possession of the Haldimand Tract under operation of a formal treaty known as the Haldimand Proclamation, a sacrosanct agreement. BlueBelt + Grand River is empowered by Mohawk University.



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Received May 10, 2022
C-2022-105

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Moved by: Councillor Webster

Resolution No.: 2022-118


Seconded by: Councillor Humphries

May 3, 2022

THAT The Township of Horton Council support the Township of Clearview February 7, 2022 resolution requesting that Federal and Provincial Governments to provide more funding to rural municipalities to support infrastructure projects related to major bridge and culvert replacements;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct that this resolution be forwarded to Ontario municipalities, AMO, Premier of Ontario, Provincial Minister of Finance, Federal Finance Minister and ROMA for support.

X CARRIED



Hope Dillabough, CAO/Clerk

May 12, 2022

Re: Proposed Development Charges for Agriculture, Regional Municipality of Niagara

Dear Mayor and Council:

Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association represents over 200 nurseries that produce over \$270 million in farm gate sales. A significant portion of these farms are in the Niagara area. These growers represent the foundation of the broader Nursery/Landscape/Horticultural value chain that employs over 100,000 individuals and contributes 8.7 billion dollars to Ontario's economy.

We learned last week of proposed changes to the Region's development charges for agricultural buildings through a meeting of the Regional Development Charges Policy Task Force. The consultant proposed that the **Region amend Section 11 of the current By-law to remove agriculture from the exemptions list** as it does not align with the Region's incentive priority areas. Further, we learned that the proposed amendments include the **application of development charges in the 'commercial' category, at a rate of \$8.76-\$18.44 per square foot**. It is our understanding that the Task Force has approved the background study, including the proposed changes to agriculture's status.

This is alarming.

We are unaware of any consultation with agricultural sectors over the last year and have been advised that local municipalities within the Region were also uninformed with regards to this proposed change. The entire agriculture sector is a key driver within the Region, creating jobs, contributing to the GDP, and on a more personal level – contributing to the Region's community, green spaces and culture. The proposed development charges would effectively destroy the potential for future growth of the agriculture sector in the Region. Under Ontario's *More Homes for Everyone Act (2022)*, there increased prioritization of home building, however, it is shocking to think that this priority will come at the expense of agriculture and its contribution to the Region.

Agricultural sectors are communicating our concerns to the Region's Council and Task Force and are requesting that the agricultural sector maintain its exemption in the proposed 2022 By-law. However, in this communication, we wanted to ensure your awareness of this issue and would appreciate your support through your municipality's representation at the Region.

Sincerely,



Tony DiGiovanni
Executive Director
Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association