



**For Immediate Release
November 7, 2016**

Haudenosaunee and HCA Set Dates for 2016-2017 Harvest

The Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWWHA) and Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) have agreed to a Specific Agreement for the 2016-2017 season based on the existing Protocol to address the Treaty Rights of the Haudenosaunee on HCA owned lands.

Deer harvesting for the 2016-2017 season will be conducted in **two areas** of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (DVCA) designated as **Schedule A** and **Schedule B** (see below). For the months of November and December 2016, harvesting will occur within Schedule A. Harvesting for January 2017 will take place within Schedule B. The area designated in Schedule B has no public access or trail system.

Within **Schedule A**, harvesting will only occur on HCA owned lands on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** only between **November 14 and December 8** of 2016.

For **Schedule B**, harvesting will occur on HCA owned lands on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** only between **January 2 and January 12** of 2017.

The number of deer to be harvested is limited at 60 deer. The Hamilton Police Services and Ministry of Natural Resources Enforcement staff have been consulted with respect to public safety and advised of the harvest and corresponding area closures. Appropriate trail signage and notification to adjacent residents will be provided about the harvest and area closure.

Background

Deer harvesting has been a long standing tradition of the Haudenosaunee dating back thousands of years and serving an important role in their way of life. With regards to the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (DVCA), the Nanfan Treaty or the Treaty at Albany of 1701 gives the Haudenosaunee the right to harvest and fish in this area.

In 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs recognized and fully supported this Treaty and encouraged the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) to continue collaboration with the Haudenosaunee. The HCA recognizes the importance and validity of the Nanfan Treaty and also respects the important cultural role that deer harvesting plays in the Haudenosaunee's way of life.

In 2011, the HCA's Board of Directors authorized entering into an agreement with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWHA) to establish a protocol regarding deer harvesting on HCA owned lands. An agreement was made and continues to be in effect allowing the HWHA to harvest a set number of deer in selected parts of the DVCA.

"The HCA and the HWHA would be in continuous contact with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Hamilton Police Services to secure their cooperation towards ensuring public safety" said Chris Firth-Eagland, HCA's Chief Administrative Officer. "The HWHA will be using traditional methods only such as archery equipment and not firearms or methods involving dogs, feed bait, or jack-lighting" added Firth-Eagland.

Paul Williams of the HWHA says, "We're confident that we have been able to find a place where it is safe for our hunters to go; where we can exercise legal traditional rights carefully. And we're grateful that we are able to work with partners who share our ecological values. Of course we intend to conduct the harvest safely, humanely, and consistent with best conservation practices. And the deer taken will go to longhouses for ceremonies and to elders, as well as to feed hunters' families".

Copies of the Protocol, Specific Agreement and notification documents are available at www.conservationhamilton.ca

Media contact:

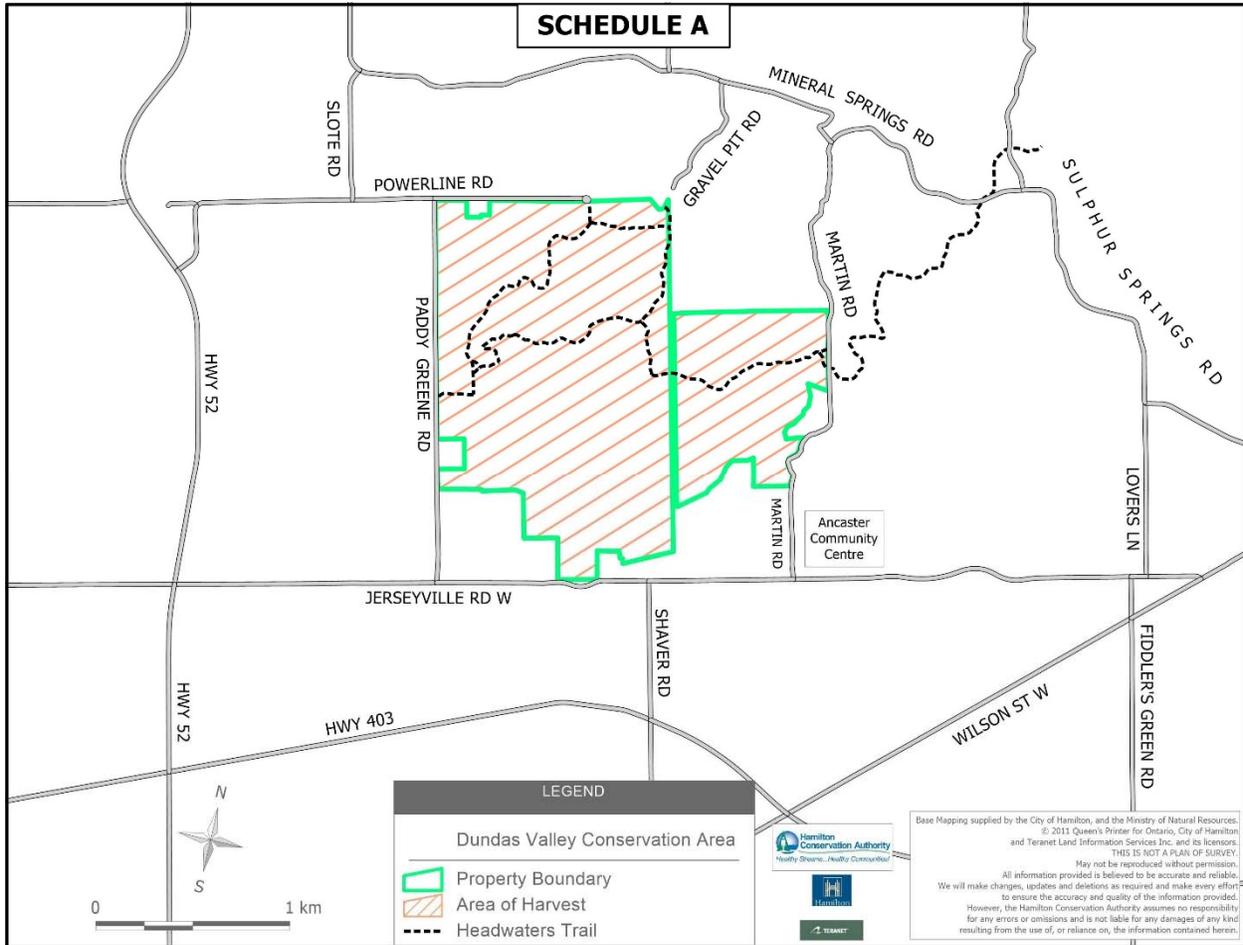
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Schedule A

Harvesting will take place on Mondays through Thursdays between November 14 and December 8, 2016.



Schedule B

Harvesting will take place Mondays through Thursdays between January 2 and January 12, 2017.

