



Watershed Stewardship Award

In order to foster ecological stewardship and conservation on privately owned lands, the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System has joined with the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program to deliver a landowner outreach program focused on the Cootes to Escarpment area. The Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program has been working with private landowners for 20 years.

The Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program has an award program called the Watershed Stewardship Award which recognizes landowners who make a voluntary commitment to protect the natural features of their property.

The Watershed Stewardship Award is offered to landowners who:

- understand the important role they have to play in protecting the natural features on their land;
- have been managing their land in a way that protects the health of the watershed; and
- are willing to enter into a voluntary handshake agreement with the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program (HHWSP) to continue to protect and preserve the natural features and watercourses on their property for as long as they own their property.



What voluntary commitments do landowners make in accepting the award?

Landowners agree to the following in accepting the Watershed Stewardship Award:

- To continue to maintain and protect their natural area to the best of their ability.
- To notify the Conservation Authority or Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program of any planned land use change that might threaten the natural heritage features.
- To notify the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program of any intent to sell or transfer ownership of the property. This information enables the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program to contact the new landowners once they have had a chance to settle in.

Over 300 landowners in the watersheds of Hamilton Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton have already received awards for their stewardship efforts. You can recognize these Watershed Stewards by their awards which are the signs they proudly display on their properties.

These Stewardship Awards represent voluntary agreements that landowners have made protecting over 12,000 acres of land, of which over 7,000 acres are in a natural state. These voluntary agreements also protect over 160 kilometers of stream and over 320 kilometers of streamside habitat.

Is the Watershed Stewardship Agreement legally binding on the owner of the property?

No. The agreement is a verbal handshake agreement and signifies the landowner's sincere intentions to protect the natural features of the land they own. The strength of the agreement is in the landowner's word.

Contact us to find out how you can become an award-winning Watershed Steward.

Contact

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Hamilton-Halton
**Watershed
Stewardship
Program**

