



Haudenosaunee—Hamilton Red Hill Agreements

We are guided by a collaborative framework established through a series of agreements between the City of Hamilton and the Haudenosaunee.

- Agreement About Facilitated Negotiations, September 2003
- Agreement Concerning Respect for and Protection of Human Burials in the Red Hill Creek Valley and Assurances Concerning Archeological Work in the Red Hill Creek Valley, October 2003
- General Agreement, November 2003
- Agreement About Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering, November 2003
- Agreement on Tolls, November 2003
- **Joint Stewardship Agreement, December 2003**
- Agreement on Medicine Plants and Other Significant Plants, December 2003
- Agreement on Economic Opportunities in the Red Hill Valley, January 2004
- Agreement Respecting the Human Heritage of the Red Hill Valley, January 2004



Board Members

Chad Collins, Councillor, City of Hamilton
 Doug Conley, Councillor, City of Hamilton
 Aaron Detlor, Haudenosaunee Representative
 Brian Doolittle, Haudenosaunee Representative
 Hazel Hill, Haudenosaunee Representative
 Maria Pearson, Councillor, City of Hamilton

www.jointstewardshipboard.com

Board Resources

Jennifer DiDomenico, City of Hamilton
 Adrienne Kupchanko, City of Hamilton
 Robert Norman, City of Hamilton
 Guy Paparella, City of Hamilton

Board Coordinator
 Sheri Longboat, PhD



Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board

Annual Report to Community 2015



Respect • Trust • Friendship

The Joint Stewardship Board is a commitment between the Haudenosaunee and City of Hamilton for collaborative environmental guardianship of the Red Hill Valley. Grounded in the spirit of shared responsibilities, the Board brings together unique and different knowledge and resources in order to restore and protect the Red Hill Valley for future generations. This report highlights some of our achievements in 2015.

Vision

Our vision is to facilitate a deeper connection to the cultural landscape of the Red Hill Valley watershed in order to promote human and environmental well being.

Objectives

1. Acknowledge and honor ancestral experiences
2. Provide a link between the Haudenosaunee and Hamilton residents
3. Enlighten the access to the Valley for all
4. Protect and enhance the ecosystem and the environment
5. Understand human impacts in the Red Hill Valley ecosystem
6. Capitalize on economic opportunities without compromising the ecological integrity of the Red Hill Valley

Environmental Interpretive Centre Developments



Exterior view from the valley trail.



Interior view from entrance.

The Joint Stewardship Board continued design work for the Environmental Interpretive Centre. Working with Architects Tillman, Ruth and Robinson, initial Schematic Design plans were completed, including a brief video illustrating a 3-dimensional walk-through the Centre.

In developing the Schematic Design, we were guided by Design Principles established in 2013 and further explored how the Centre will invite visitors to consider their perceptions of the relationship between site and sustainable environments through:

- Sensory experiences, such as natural light, views and water features are therapeutic and boosts the immune system; and
- Connections to natural elements effecting physiological assistance in reducing stress and anxiety.
- Building material and systems to be integrated into the Interpretive Centre are selected to engage visitors in this important discourse with the Valley.

* Select text and images extracted from: *Red Hill Valley Interpretive Centre, Schematic Design Brief for Joint Stewardship Board, ATRR, September 2015*

2016 Activities and Priorities

Environmental Interpretive Centre

- Continued design development using sustainable architecture including options for servicing using off-the-grid and green technology that will conserve the natural environment and resources and curb negative impact on the environment.
- Discussions and pre-planning on programming and potential partnerships.

Meeting Places

- Turtle Meeting Place: Fall construction when planting and seeding is likely to be most successful. An official opening of the Turtle and Bear Meeting Places in Spring 2017.
- Nest Meeting Place: Completion of concept design scheduled for Spring 2016. Detailed design, tender and construction slated for 2017.

Environmental Monitoring

- Dissemination of results from the Red Hill Valley Comprehensive 5-Year Integrated Monitoring Plan and high level discussion to establish a long-term monitoring plan.
- Continued monitoring of overall health of the medicine plants with a proposed seasonal walk-thru the valley with traditional Haudenosaunee medicine people to visually assess and compare plant health over time.
- Assessing and responding to activities that may impact the ecological health of the valley in a timely and protective manner.

Stewardship and Education

- Activities with local partners and organizations aimed to strengthen linkages between communities, and facilitate relationship building and knowledge exchange among valley users and current and future stewards.
- Exploring opportunities to work with organizations and community groups to organize grass roots and community led creek clean-ups within the Red Hill Valley watershed.
- Participation in Six Nations and City of Hamilton education events. Planned events include: Turtle Island News Earth Day at Six Nations in April, and the 3-day Hamilton Children’s Water Festival in May.

Joint Stewardship Board Administration

- Regular meetings on a quarterly basis and special project meetings as required.
- Communications via web site, annual report distribution and presentations by request.
- Streamlining collaborative processes and establishing protocols for effectively responding to activities in the Red Hill Valley in a proactive manner consistent with the Board’s vision and objectives.

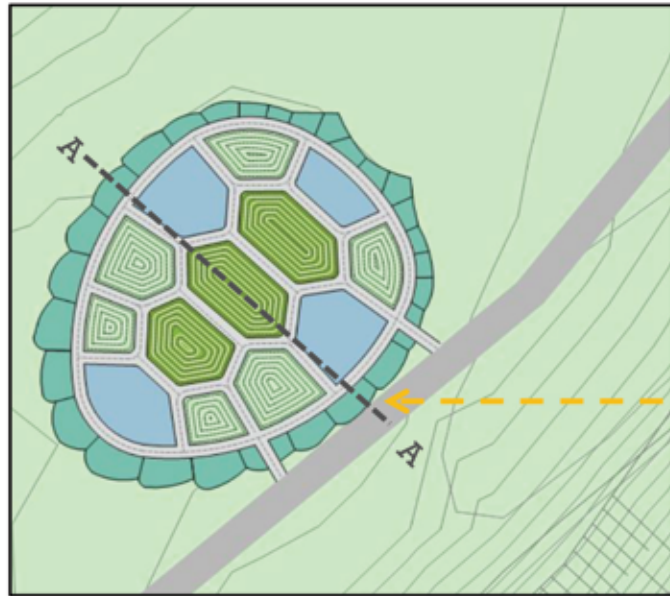
The Turtle Meeting Place



In 2015, the Joint Stewardship Board completed the design phase for “The Turtle”; a second Meeting Place planned for the Red Hill Valley; located at the north end of the valley trail near the QEW pedestrian bridge crossing. The MMM Group, led by Ian Gray (OALA), was contracted for concept development, construction drawings, specifications and documentation, as guided by the following specifications:

- Protect existing habitat,
- Protect use by species at risk,
- Enhance meadow habitat,
- Consider existing regeneration planting,
- Protect existing vantage points and views,
- Enhance educational opportunities for engaging with the site’s natural and cultural heritage through recreation and interpretation; and
- Provide inclusive access.

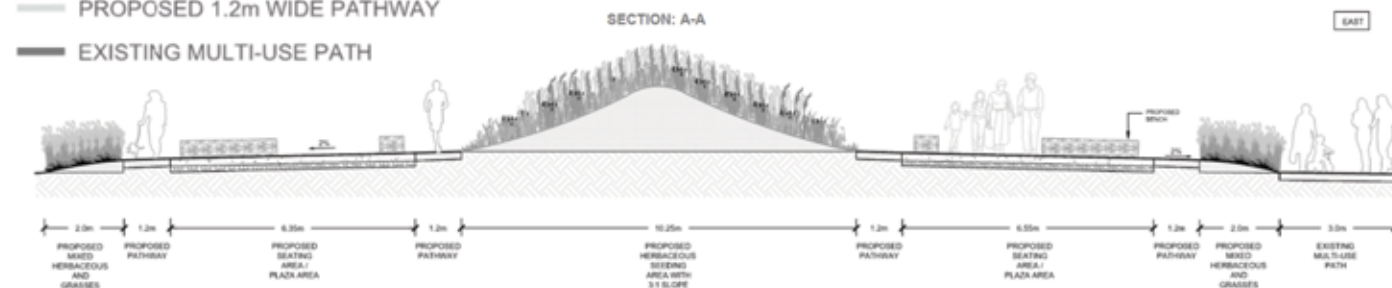
The Turtle design is illustrative of the shell of a snapping turtle—a land and water being significant for the Haudenosaunee and other Indigenous people. There are 13 plates on a snapping turtle, which are used to keep track of the 13 moons in each year. There are 29 smaller plates on the circumference of the shell, used to keep track of the days between new moons. The turtle-lunar calendar will be a key feature of this location.



- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED SEATING AREA
 - PROPOSED HERBACEOUS SEEDING AREA WITH 3:1 SLOPE
 - PROPOSED MIXED HERBACEOUS AND GRASSES
 - PROPOSED ORNAMENTAL GRASSES SEEDING AREA WITH 4:1 SLOPE
 - PROPOSED 1.2m WIDE PATHWAY
 - EXISTING MULTI-USE PATH



* Select text and images extracted from: Preliminary Landscape Design report, MMM Group, January 2015.

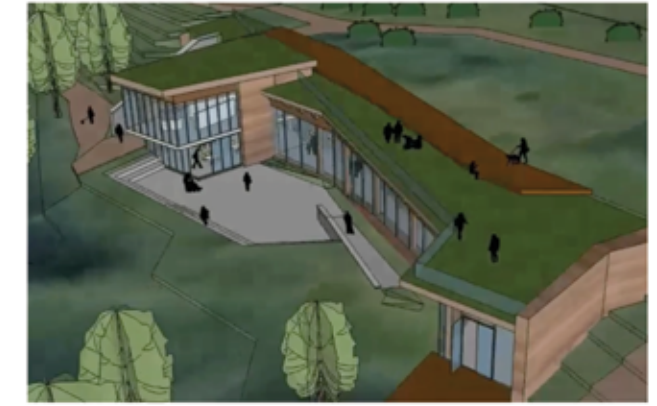


...Sustainable Design

Protecting the health of Environmental Interpretive Centre occupants and the surrounding community by minimizing carbon emissions, water consumption, light pollution and site disturbance will include detailed design with careful consideration, selection and integration of **building systems** such as:

- **Orientation:** Glazing optimizes passive solar performance.
- **Green roof:** The habitable landscaped roof reduces the Centre’s visual impact on the landscape, and permits a greater percentage of the valley to remain natural and undisturbed. A landscaped roof also contributes to further temperature stabilization and insulation.
- **Thermal walls:** The thermal mass of the Centre’s walls retains, stores and radiates heat in the winter, and cools the building in the summer.
- **Rain water:** The rainwater collected along the top of the Centre is directed into a storage tank from which it can be distributed for irrigation and domestic water. Grey water is collected, recycled and re-circulated in the plumbing system.
- **Solar:** Power is collected by a local array of solar panels positioned at the edge of the forest. More energy than is needed may be redistributed into to the grid.
- **Energy:** Energy may be saved through a highly-insulated building envelope (double the R-value required by code). The use of geothermal ground-source heat pumps will also be explored.

* Images extracted from a video animation available on our home page: www.jointstewardshipboard.com



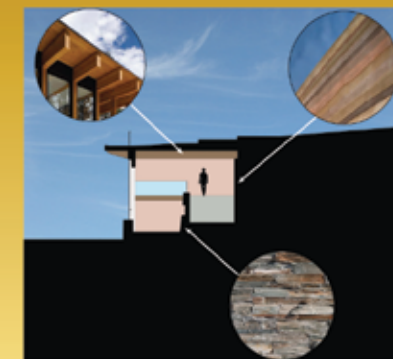
Exterior view showing “Green Roof” example.



Interior view showing use of natural materials.



Interior view showing multi-purpose gathering area.



Innovative use of local materials will be key to making the Centre a unique extension of the extraordinary landscape that will make this place special. “Rammed” local earth mixed with concrete and colour additives, will not only reflect the colour of the landscape, it’s mass will retain warmth in the winter and cooling in the summer.

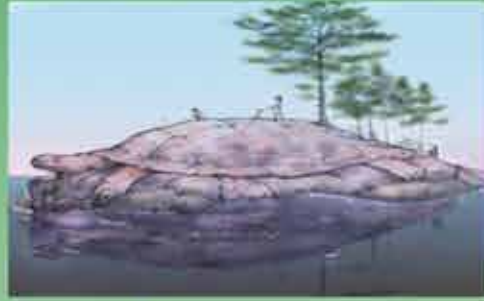
Ontario Certified Wood will be used throughout building – both structurally and aesthetically – for the best use of a renewable resource. Addition of natural stone will also contribute to the Centre’s thermal mass.

Traditional Medicine and the Haudenosaunee

Traditional medicine and healers are part of the foundation of every Indigenous society and Nation across Turtle Island (North America). The use of Haudenosaunee traditional medicines can be traced as far back as the Creation Story, when the Haudenosaunee were given their Original Instructions; instructions that told us who we are, why we were given life, what our responsibilities are as human beings, and how we are to go about on this earth.

The Creation Story also explains how the Haudenosaunee people received their knowledge of traditional medicines that continue to be used by the traditional medicine people in ceremonies and healing to this day. Traditional medicine and medicine plants is key to Haudenosaunee good health, healing and survival as a Nation.

Adapted from *The Haudenosaunee Code of Behaviour for Traditional Medicine Healers*, NAHO, 2006. Turtle Island Image: <http://media.oneidanation.net>



Medicine Plants Protection

To ensure continued protection of medicine plants habitat and communities, the Joint Stewardship Board called upon the Traditional Haudenosaunee medicine people to examine potential impact of planned maintenance and construction activities in the Red Hill Valley. In 2015, the City of Hamilton undertook in-stream repairs and adjustment to the creek embankment along 3km of the Red Hill Creek that runs through King's Forest Golf Course. These activities were necessary to address erosion and sedimentation caused from flooding storm events that occurred in previous years.

The traditional medicine people assessed the presence, health and distribution of medicine plants along the Creek's banks and margins. In some areas where medicine plants were believed to be at risk, medicines were recovered. The project was a solid example of joint stewardship at work. Both the City of Hamilton and Haudenosaunee interests were respected, and the ecological and cultural landscape of the Red Hill Creek was protected for the future generations.



Traditional Knowledge Sharing

A series of on-site workshops designed to promote health and well-being through Indigenous medicine were delivered in collaboration with local Hamilton organizations: McQuesten Urban Farm, Niwasa Aboriginal Education Programs, and De dwa da dehs nye s Aboriginal Health Centre. Traditional Haudenosaunee medicine people Eunice Henry and Pat Hess shared teachings around the significance, use and protection of medicine plants, and stressed Haudenosaunee protocols for appropriate behaviour in working with medicines. In the Salve Making Workshop participants were guided through hand-on activities to create a variety of salves for common ailments using plants found in the Red Hill Valley and elsewhere. The workshops were very well received as the photos on page 4 show! Additional workshops are planned for 2016.

Marigold Salve



Coltsfoot



Single Ingredient Salves



Chest colds
Nasal congestion
Ear infection



Witch Hazel



McQuesten Urban Farm

niwasa
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Cold sores
Arthritis
Headaches



Peppermint Salve



Burdock Root



Cuts
Wounds
Sores

