

Haudenosaunee— Hamilton Red Hill Agreements

We are guided by a collaborative framework established through 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



Acknowledgements

City of Hamilton
Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council
Six Nations of the Grand River

Board Members

Aaron Detlor, Haudenosaunee Representative
Brian Doolittle, Haudenosaunee Representative
Chad Collins, Councillor, City of Hamilton
Hazel Hill, Haudenosaunee Representative
Russ Powers, Councillor, City of Hamilton
Terry Whitehead, Councillor, City of Hamilton

Board Resource

Andrew Grice, City of Hamilton
Guy Paparella, City of Hamilton
Robert Norman, City of Hamilton

Board Coordinator

Sheri Longboat, PhD

Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board

Annual Report to Community 2014

Working together for future generations



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 2014.

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

The Bear Meeting Place

The Bear Meeting Place is an architectural landscape feature that was designed to reflect the image of a bear footprint. Opened in September 2014, the Bear is the first of four meeting place features proposed for the trail by the Red Hill Valley Joint Stewardship Board.



Bear Meeting Place Opened September 2014

The Meeting Places are sites along the Red Hill Valley Trail designed for sharing and learning and visitors can stop to rest and experience the beauty of the valley landscape. Three other meeting places are planned for implementation in the future to represent a Turtle, Nest and Eel.

An interpretive plaque is installed on the trail with more details about the Bear design and connections to Onkwehonwe or Indigenous people's history and tradition.

The Turtle Meeting Place is planned for 2016 and will be located at the northern end of the trail near the QEW pedestrian bridge crossing.

An opening event to celebrate the Turtle and Bear will be planned for 2016!



Map showing Bear location and valley trail.

Community Outreach

The board coordinator conducted numerous community outreach activities in 2014 and will expand on these in 2015:

- Guest lecturer, UU 101 Perspectives on Sustainability, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Guest lecturer, Global Studies 351 Nature, Culture and Development, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Invited speaker for Sacred Water Circle, Trent University
- Presentation for Women's Water Symposium, Trent University
- Presentation for Mohawk College staff at education workshop at Six Nations Polytechnic
- Guest speaker for Environmental Monitoring Class at Grand River Employment and Training
- Presentation for Hamilton City Council, General Issues Committee
- Sustainability Network, Invited Speaker, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council meeting in June, and annual report distribution
- Invited speaker for GroundSwell Conference, University of Guelph
- Sustainable Archaeology, McMaster University Innovation Park facility tour
- Presentation to Hamilton Conservation Authority Board, November 2014



Presentation for Hamilton City Council, GIC

Activities Planned for 2015

Guided by our stewardship framework and building upon past achievements, the Joint Stewardship Board will focus on a number of activities in 2015:

- Turtle Meeting Place – Completion of the conceptual and detailed design for a second architectural landscape feature in the valley.
- Environmental Interpretive Centre – Enhanced development of the concept design to support marketing, and strategic planning to explore options for moving the Centre from vision to reality.
- Environmental Monitoring - High level discussion and dissemination of results from the Red Hill Valley Comprehensive 5-Year Integrated Monitoring Plan.
- Stewardship Activities – Collaboration with local partners on stewardship activities in the valley including programming for the Bear Meeting Place.
- Educational Material – Development of a Joint Stewardship Guide to the valley that will also provide the basis for future curriculum on valley ecology, Indigenous history, Hamilton history, and engineering and restoration.



Interested in learning more about the Joint Stewardship Board?

Visit our web site at www.jointstewardshipboard.com or contact board coordinator Sheri Longboat slongboat@jointstewardshipboard.com who will be happy to assist.

Red Hill Valley Environmental Interpretive Centre

In 2014 the Joint Stewardship Board continued with the design phase for an Environmental Interpretive Centre. Working with Architects Tillman, Ruth and Robinson, the concept design was completed. The Board also identified and investigated potential site locations and assessed the strengths and limitations of each site.

The following are highlights of the Red Hill Valley Environmental Interpretive Centre concept design that embodies the Vision and Principles established by the Joint Stewardship Board in 2013.

- The Centre will be a story of the communities that share a history in the Valley, the values that bind our communities together and our path to a resilient future.
- The Centre is a framework that invites many levels of engagement and movement through the site.
- The Centre is truly connected to the site and integrated with the natural patterns it embodies.
- The Centre expresses, through modest and respectful building, our responsibility to the land and those yet to come.
- Spaces are dynamic and adaptable with a responsible use of available resources and materials.
- The small footprint of built space is configured to maximize flexibility and adoptability in the use of indoor and outdoor classrooms and exhibition space.
- The Centre incorporates passive strategies for sustainable design.



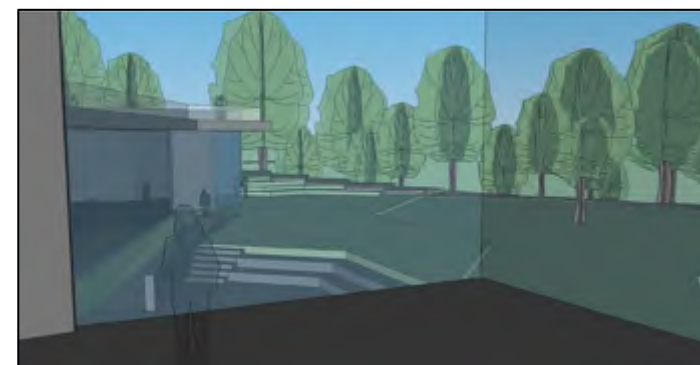
Site Plan



Lower Level



View Looking North



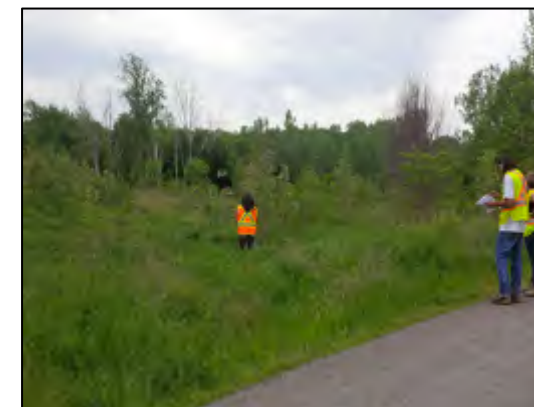
View from Inside Centre looking North to Valley



* Select text and images extracted from the ATRR Design Brief for Joint Stewardship Board, January 2014

Enhancing the Valley Ecosystem

Ecological restoration continued in 2014 to improve habitat values and the overall quality and natural beauty of the Red Hill Valley. Supported by board members and Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins, the Joint Stewardship Board facilitated tree planting by Kayanase, a native plant and seed business and industry leader in ecological restoration.



Assessing planting survival and invasives.

In the fall of 2014, nearly 1,000 trees ranging in size from 1 gallon to 20 gallons were planted in the Red Hill Valley. The species consist primarily of trembling aspen, sycamore, red cedar, dogwood and white pine. Control and management of invasive species such as manitoba maple, locust, and phragmites was also completed to encourage continued growth and success of plants native to the region.



Jessica Sault planting white pines



Kurtis Green planting at Glen Castle Drive

Learning from Our Past

Working with Archaeological Services Inc., the board showcased a selection of archaeological artifacts from the Red Hill Valley through two free public events. The first at City Hall in Hamilton ran from April 7 to May 16th, and the second at the Grand River Employment and Training atrium at Six Nations from May 19th to June 27th.

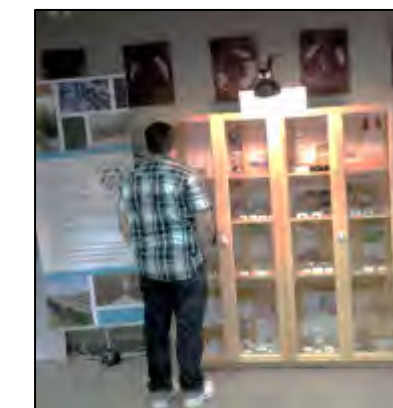


The display content and artifact images area available on our website <http://jointstewardshipboard.com/archaeology/>

The exhibits covered the 12,000 years of human occupation in the Red Hill Valley. Objects included pre-contact stone tools, pottery, polished bone implements, netsinkers (weights that were added to fishing nets) and smoking pipes, as well as nineteenth-century Euro-Canadian historical objects such as ceramic dining wares, utensils, and personal items.

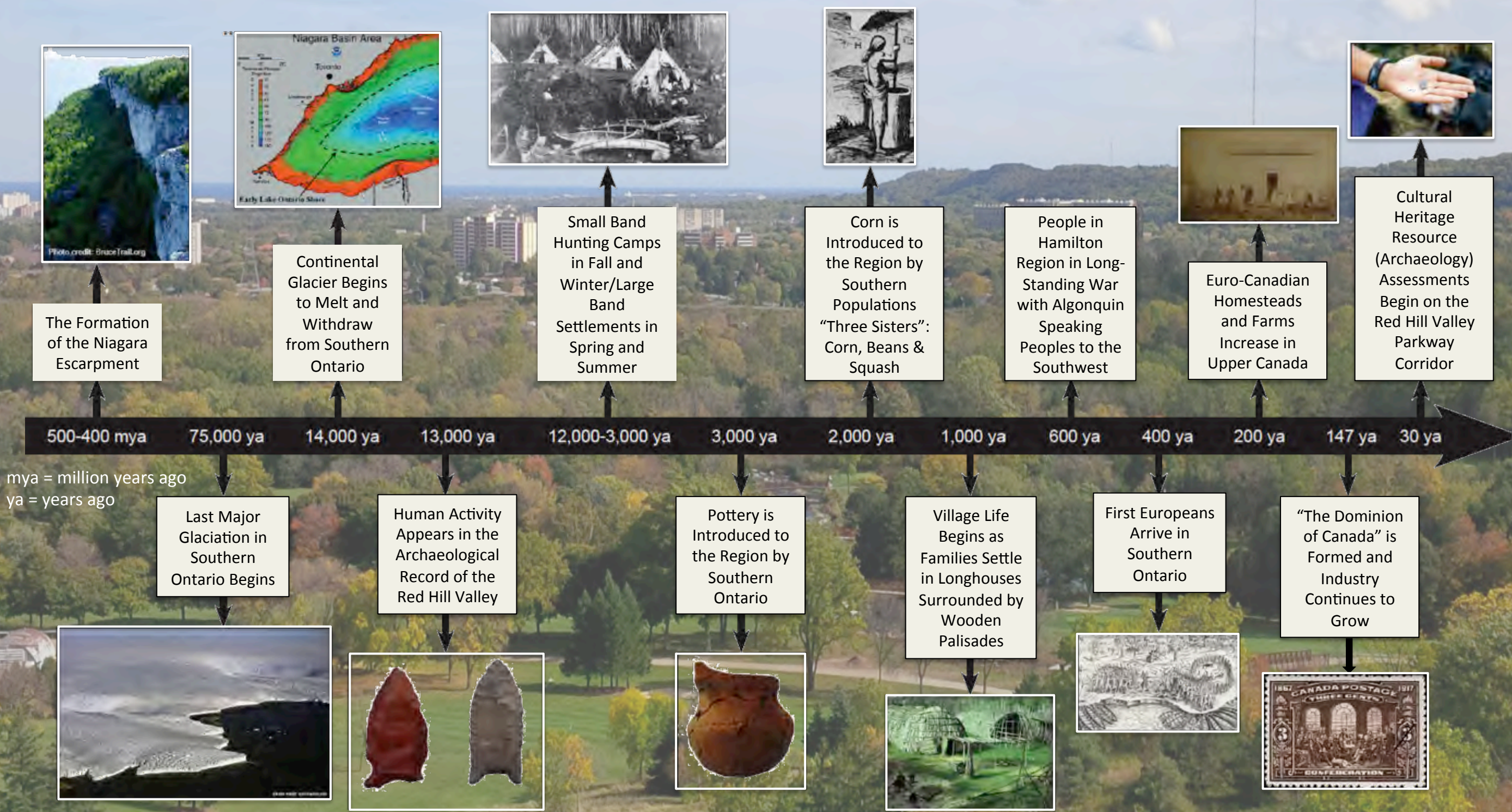


Display at Hamilton City Hall



Display at Six Nations

A Timeline of Natural and Cultural History of the Red Hill Valley



* Text and images courtesy of Archaeological Services Inc.

** Photo Credit: Virden, W.T., J.S. Warren, T.L. Holcombe, D.F. Reid, and T.L. Berggren, 1999. Bathymetry of Lake Ontario, Geophysical Data Center, World Data Center for Marine Geology and Geophysics, Boulder, CO. Report MGG-15. Scale 1:275,000 poster.