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# Proposed Lower Trent Conservation Watershed Enlargement *Questions & Answers*



## **What is the purpose of the proposed watershed jurisdiction expansion?**

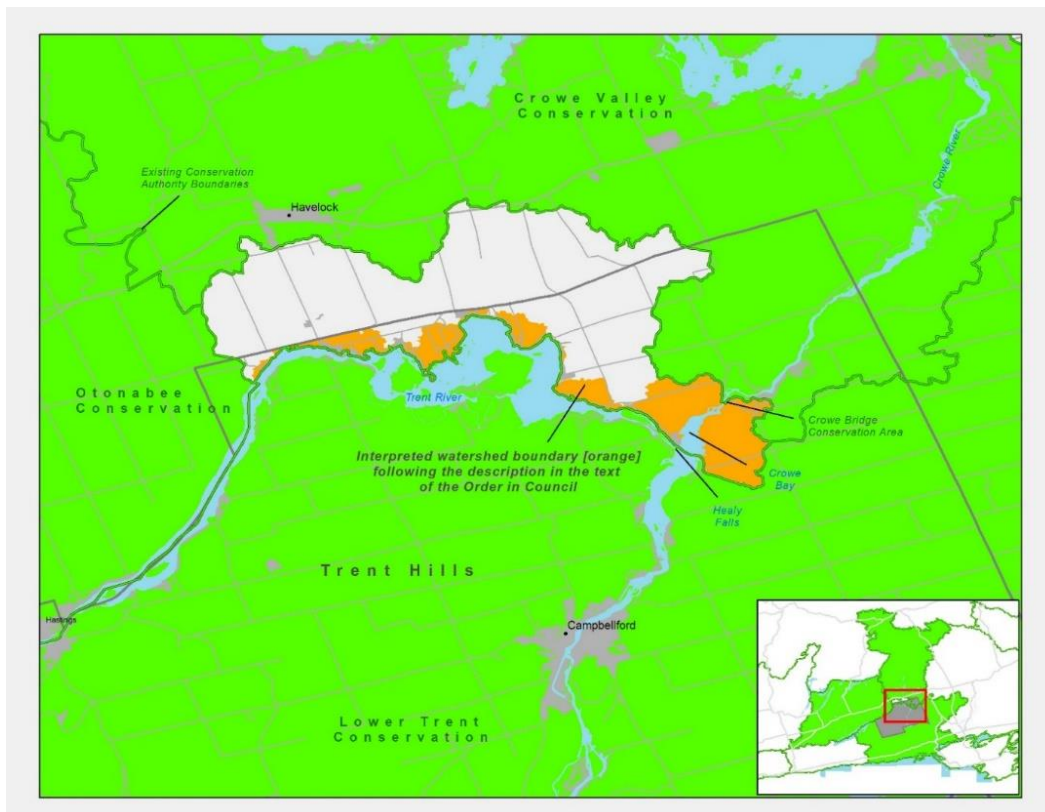
A small portion of the Municipality of Trent Hills, in former Seymour Township, is not within Conservation Authority jurisdiction. The proposed expansion will result in provision of more consistent service delivery with respect to development and conservation services to the residents of Trent Hills.

## **Who will be affected by expanding the Conservation Authority jurisdiction?**

The individuals residing outside of Conservation Authority jurisdiction in the Municipality of Trent Hills would be affected by the proposed expansion.

- The green areas on the map below are in Conservation Authority jurisdiction: Otonabee Conservation, Crowe Valley Conservation or Lower Trent Conservation. The mapped Conservation Authority boundaries are shown as a dark green line.
- The orange shading on the map below, shows additional area that is in Conservation Authority jurisdiction, based on the legal description of Lower Trent Conservation. This area is not currently mapped as part of the Conservation Authority, but is legally part of the watershed jurisdiction.
- The white areas on the map are not in Conservation Authority jurisdiction. The white area within the Municipality of Trent Hills is proposed to be added to Lower Trent Conservation jurisdiction.

One of the outcomes of the proposed expansion is to remove the ambiguity associated with the Conservation Authority jurisdiction.



**What will be the cost implications to tax payers?**

There will be no appreciable direct cost implications to the tax payers in the area proposed to be added to Conservation Authority jurisdiction. The Municipality of Trent Hills will pay an estimated additional cost of \$6,000 to the Conservation Authority – this will be applied across the municipality.

**What will be the benefits to residents in the area to be added?**

With a Conservation Authority in place, residents have an environmental organization looking out for the health of the Trent River and its watershed, for now and for the future.

Conservation Authorities are mandated to ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs. This includes:

- Ensuring that our rivers, lakes and streams are properly safeguarded, managed and restored;
- Protecting woodlands, wetlands and natural habitat;
- Developing and maintaining programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion;
- Provide opportunities for the public to enjoy, learn from and respect the natural environment.

To learn more about Lower Trent Conservation and the programs it provides, visit: [www.ltc.on.ca](http://www.ltc.on.ca)

**What will be the benefit to the Municipality of Trent Hills?**

The process that is being undertaken will better define the Conservation Authority regulated area within Trent Hills. Currently the majority of lands within Trent Hills are covered by municipal policies and regulations relating to land use, as well as Conservation Authority input and regulation when it comes to development, improvement and building along rivers, watercourses and near wetlands. In the area outside of Conservation Authority jurisdiction, the same level of information and assistance is not available. By including these lands, the same level of service will then be available all Trent Hills residents.

**What will be the impacts if I choose to develop?**

When a landowner wishes to develop, they must obtain permits from the municipality and other relevant agencies such as the Trent-Severn Waterway. Within Conservation Authority jurisdiction, a permit is required for work/development in or adjacent to wetlands and watercourses and other hazard lands (e.g., steep slopes).

**Why is this area already not part of Conservation Authority jurisdiction?**

The Conservation Authorities in the Municipality of Trent Hills were formed at different times: Crowe Valley Conservation (1958), Otonabee Conservation (1959) and Lower Trent Conservation (1968). The formation of a Conservation Authority comes about through a request from the local community and municipalities. When Lower Trent Conservation was formed, the Township of Belmont did not wish to be part of a third Conservation Authority so a small area of Belmont Township and the downstream area in the former Seymour Township, was not included in Conservation Authority jurisdiction.