



November 21, 2025

Expanding Protected Areas Project
Conservation Policy Section, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
40 St. Clair Avenue West, 14th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1M2

Re: Expanding Protected Areas in Ontario – Additional Sites Proposed to be Regulated under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 (ERO-019-9306)

The Escarpment Corridor Alliance (ECA) is a conservation organization focused on protecting and connecting the Niagara Escarpment lands of South Georgian Bay (The Blue Mountains area). I am writing on behalf of the ECA and our supporting community of 4,000+ to applaud the Expanding Protected Areas Project by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. We believe elevating the protection status of these provincial lands is very important and that it sets a great conservation and stewardship example for municipalities, private land owners and businesses across Ontario. This expansion will improve nature-based solutions for biodiversity loss and climate resiliency while increasing access to nature-based recreation for all Ontarians.

The ECA was pleased to see seven areas being considered for expansion in our Area of Influence in South Georgian Bay. Our research has also identified these areas as highly ecologically and recreationally valuable and in need of protection. As such, we recommend that the province approve all of the considered protected area expansions in Ontario including these 3,308 hectares in our focus area. This will significantly support Canada's 30x30 conservation goal as well.

Beaver Valley Lowlands Conservation Reserve (680 ha)
Duncan Escarpment Provincial Park Addition (126 ha)
Hoggs Falls Conservation Reserve (235 ha)
Kolapore Uplands Conservation Reserve (1,892 ha)
Len Gertler Conservation Reserve (Loree Forest) (363 ha)
Nottawasaga Lookout Provincial Park Addition (144 ha)
Pretty River Valley Provincial Park Addition (12 ha)

This announcement has already positively resulted in local land holders in our region who have land near or adjacent to these properties to inquire if they can put their own lands into elevated protection through donation or conservation easement through our land trust program.

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Approving this expansion will result in increased conservation land connectivity but strengthening ecological corridors which is extremely important.

Please let me know if the Escarpment Corridor Alliance can be of advisory service in the South Georgian Bay area for future initiatives.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jarvis Strong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

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