



For Immediate Release

## 7 Groups unite against the NGTA highway: A road to ruin

Niagara Escarpment, February 2, 2011

Burlington, Flamborough and Niagara residents are outraged at the provincial government's intention to rip a major highway through the Niagara Escarpment. In renewed efforts to put an end to this destructive and unsustainable approach to transportation planning, Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment (COPE), Lowville Area Residents Association, BurlingtonGreen, Oakvillegreen, the Coalition of the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), the Cedar Springs Community and Protecting Escarpment Rural Lands (PERL) have formed a coalition to protect the escarpment and all of the value it holds. The impacted areas include Halton's Natural Heritage System (NHS), Flamborough's rich farmlands, the Bronte Creek watershed, and the Beverly Swamp along with all other eco-systems fundamental to maintaining nature's balance. Lee Hartwell, spokesperson for the Cedar Springs community says, "A coalition of citizens groups working together is a powerful voice".

The groups are working in concert to ensure those in decision-making positions get the message that the highway is neither needed nor wanted. To this end they have organized a petition. "It is maddening that our government is pushing to pave and develop this world recognized treasure, for the short-term gain of the few, when the asset belongs to us all. Add in the biased valuation of impacts and benefits of a highway, as well as inflated population estimates, and building a highway is irresponsible," said COPE Co-Chair Susan McMaster.

A recent development involving an "asphalt arrow" painted across Halton Region's official plan (ROPA38) highlighted the need for collective action. On Oct. 27, 2010 the Ministry of Municipal and Housing Affairs, issued a requirement to Halton Region to include a new highway corridor on its official plan. This new corridor has been changed from previous routes. It and now passes through North Burlington's rural area from Tremaine Road/407 to Mt.Nemo, through Lowville, Kilbride and Carlisle, then westwards to the Ancaster/Hamilton area. When Halton Regional Council accepted ROPA 38, it did not include this highway corridor. Until the amendment, this portion of highway had not been included in any other documents related to the Niagara GTA study; but is clearly intended to be part of that highway. "This direction circumvents the legislated process put in place to protect valuable land. It's one more attempt to chop up the Niagara Escarpment, forever marring this **UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserve** and sacrificing its sensitive features," said coalition spokesperson Geoff Brock.

Liz Benneian, president of Oakville Green said: "If we are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the-ever-escalating high cost of road construction and maintenance and meet the transportation needs of Ontario's businesses and citizens, we need to look at modern modes of transportation: goods should be increasingly moved by rail and people by public transit. Building highways was state-of-the-art transportation planning in the 1930s, now we need better solutions."

The coalition is asking all concerned citizens to sign a petition opposing the new highway. It is available at 12 locations (listed below) in Burlington or it can be downloaded at [www.stophighway.com](http://www.stophighway.com).

[www.stophighway.com](http://www.stophighway.com)  
<http://nohighway.blog.com>

Other organizations interested in joining the coalition can contact Geoff Brock or Sue McMaster.

<http://nohighway.blog.com>

or

[www.stophighway.com](http://www.stophighway.com)

Become a friend of the fight at

<http://www.facebook.com/nohighway>

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Coalition Group Members**

Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment (COPE)

[www.stophighway.com](http://www.stophighway.com)

Oakvillegreen Conservation Association

[www.oakvillegreen.com](http://www.oakvillegreen.com)

Lowville Area Residents Association (LARA)

[www.welcometolowville.com](http://www.welcometolowville.com)

BurlingtonGreen

[www.burlingtongreen.org](http://www.burlingtongreen.org)

Coalition of the Niagara Escarpment (CONE)

[www.niagaraescarpment.org/](http://www.niagaraescarpment.org/)

Protecting Escarpment Rural Lands (PERL)

[www.perlofburlington.org](http://www.perlofburlington.org)

Cedar Springs Community

<http://web.me.com/thomassimpson/CedarSpringsCommunity/Home.html>

### **Petition Locations**

Wild Birds Unlimited

3350 Fairview St. Burlington

Tumblehome Clothing

401 Brant St. Burlington

Conservation Halton

2596 Britannia Rd.

New World Cycle

560 Plains Rd. Burlington

Mt. Nemo Lawn and Garden Equipment

5025 Guelph Line

Escarpment Pet Retreat

6449 Guelph Line

Lowville Bistro

6179 Guelph Line, Lowville

Limestone Animal Hospital

6634 Guelph Line

Bousfield Farm

5408 Derry Rd.

Curves

Walkers Line and Upper Middle Rd. Burlington

Serenity Valley

2640 #8 Side Rd. Kilbride area off Guelph Line

Rockton Berry Market

621 Hwy # 8, West of Peter's Corners, Flamborough