

From: [Genevieve Scharback](#)
To: [Lindsey Glazier](#)
Subject: FW: Dec 1 Council Meeting
Date: November 27, 2020 10:46:40 AM
Attachments: [Ontario Communities Put at Risk by Changes to Conservation Authorities Act NOV-19-2020.pdf](#)

From: Bev Falco

Sent: November 20, 2020 2:20 PM

To: gscharback@westgrey.com; mayor@westgrey.com; deputymayor@westgrey.com; Beth Hamilton <bhamilton@westgrey.com>; rhergert@westgrey.com; dhutchinson@westgrey.com; Geoffrey Shea <gshea@westgrey.com>; stownsend@westgrey.com

Subject: Dec 1 Council Meeting

Hello Ms Scharback,

I would kindly ask that you include this letter in the Dec 1 agenda.

To Mayor Robinson, All Councillors, and the Clerk:

I would like to respectfully request that West Grey Council consider approaching the provincial government at their earliest convenience, to hopefully discourage their attempt to make changes to the Conservation Authorities Act within the budget presented in Bill 229. Specifically, Schedule 6 of this Bill.

Bill 229 was tabled on Nov 5, with the second reading and debate occurring on Nov 18 and 19th. Third reading and assent may be imminent. Some MPPs have spoken on this issue on behalf of their concerned constituents, and at least one petition has been presented, with more to come.

Among the key concerns identified are:

- Narrowing of the scope and powers of Conservation Authorities, impeding the achievement of the overall purpose of the CAA, which is to “provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario;”
- Restricting the duties of Conservation Authorities’ members so that they no longer must act to further the watershed-based mandates of the Conservation Authorities, but rather can act only on behalf of the narrower interests of their respective municipalities;
- Reducing the ability of Conservation Authorities to act as independent public bodies in land use planning, including removing their ability to seek to appeal municipal planning decisions;
- Introducing new rights for developers to force fast-tracking of development approvals and to appeal decisions they do not like, without providing the same opportunity to citizens who may wish to challenge decisions that damage the environment; and
- Giving the Minister new power to overturn a conservation authority’s decision to refuse to issue a permit for development.

As much as all of these are serious concerns, take a look at the last one. I, for one, have been able to sleep peacefully knowing that the Conservation Authorities are actually committed to protecting our environment. They are not elected officials, with undue pressure from lobbyists /developers/ contributors. I am very afraid that Schedule 6 may be a direct result of these pressures.

I know we have all experienced or witnessed the extra precautions homeowners and businesses are asked to take when building or renovating at the request of the Conservation Authorities. As much as this may be considered an inconvenience at the time, it is, as our mothers used to say, 'for our own good', and in the long run, benefits us all.

I am hoping that council will agree on, as do many others that I speak with, the urgency in communicating our opposition to Schedule 6 of Bill 229. Many groups that I belong to are actively preparing petitions and letters for this reason. Ideally, I would like to see all municipal councils/mayors of Grey Bruce stand together in protecting the work our Conservation Authorities undertake on our behalf. Considering the time that might take to organize, hopefully at least the voice of West Grey will find its way to the House.

I have personally sent an email to all of the Ministers listed below and signed all petitions that have come to my attention.

I have also attached a press release from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority that I just received today.

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,

Bev Falco

Additional Information:

The following are the email addresses of the pertinent Ontario government ministers to contact:

- Minister Philips, Minister of Finance, minister.fin@ontario.ca,
- Minister Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, minister.mah@ontario.ca
- Minister Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, minister.mnrf@ontario.ca
- Minister Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, minister.mecp@ontario.ca
- Our local MPP Bill Walker bill.walker@pc.ola.org
- Ian Arthur, NDP Environment Critic IArthur-QP@ndp.on.ca

The House is meeting the following dates in 2020:

Nov 23,24,25,26, 30, Dec 1,2,3,7,8,9,10. Next scheduled session in 2021 is Feb 16.

Nov 23 agenda includes: **G229**. Resuming the debate adjourned on November 18, 2020 on the motion for **Second** Reading of Bill 229, An Act to implement Budget measures and to enact, amend and repeal various statutes. Hon. Mr. Phillips.