



**For Immediate Release: Wednesday, November 13, 2013**

## **Haudenosaunee and HCA Set Dates for 2013 Harvest**

The Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWWHA) and Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) have agreed to a Specific Agreement for the 2013-2014 season based on the existing Protocol to address the Treaty Rights of the Haudenosaunee on HCA owned lands.

Deer harvesting for the 2013-2014 season will be conducted in **two areas** of the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (DVCA) designated as **Schedule A** and **Schedule B** (see below). In previous years, the harvest was kept within Schedule A. For the months of November and December 2013, harvesting will remain within Schedule A, however harvesting for January 2014 will be relocated to take place within Schedule B.

The area designated in Schedule B has no public access or trail system. The purpose of relocating the January harvest dates to Schedule B is to minimize interactions between harvesting activities and conservation area users.

Within **Schedule A**, harvesting will only occur on HCA owned lands on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** only between **November 18 and December 12** of 2013.

For **Schedule B**, harvesting will occur on HCA owned lands on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** only between **January 7 and January 17** of 2014.

The number of deer to be harvested is limited at 80 deer. The Hamilton Police Services and Ministry of Natural Resources Enforcement staff have been consulted with respect to public safety and advised of the closure. Appropriate trail signage and notification to adjacent residents will be provided about the closure and relocation.

### **Background**

Deer harvesting has been a long standing tradition of the Haudenosaunee dating back thousands of years and serving an important role in their way of life. With regards to the Dundas Valley Conservation Area (DVCA), the Nanfan Treaty or the Treaty at Albany of 1701 gives the Haudenosaunee the right to hunt and fish in this area.

In 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs recognized and fully supported this Treaty and encouraged the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) to continue collaboration with the Haudenosaunee. The HCA recognizes the importance and validity

of the Nanfan Treaty and also respects the important cultural role that deer harvesting plays in the Haudenosaunee's way of life.

In 2011, the HCA's Board of Directors authorized entering into an agreement with the Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority (HWWHA) to establish a protocol regarding deer harvesting on HCA owned lands. An agreement was made and continues to be in effect allowing the HWWHA to harvest a set number of deer in selected parts of the DVCA.

On the need for such an agreement, HCA Chair Brian McHattie states "The treaty rights are valid, and the Haudenosaunee have the right to hunt as they wish. The protocol clarifies our mutual intentions and protects both parties, as well as the public".

"The HCA and the HWWHA would be in continuous contact with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Hamilton Police Services to secure their cooperation towards ensuring public safety" said Chris Firth-Eagland, HCA's Chief Administrative Officer. "The HWWHA will be using traditional methods only such as archery equipment and not firearms or methods involving dogs, feed bait, or jack-lighting" added Firth-Eagland.

Brian Skye of the HWWHA says, "We're confident that we have been able to find a place where it is safe for our hunters to go; where we can exercise legal traditional rights carefully, where, as a result of there being no other hunters, the deer population has become such that it is damaging the balance of the local ecosystem. And we're grateful that we are able to work with partners who share our ecological values. Of course we intend to conduct the harvest safely, humanely, and consistent with best conservation practices. And the deer taken will go to longhouses for ceremonies and to elders, as well as to feed hunters' families".

Copies of the Protocol, Specific Agreement and notification documents are available at [www.conservationhamilton.ca](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca)

**Media contact:**

Anuja Ramgoolam

Project Coordinator

Hamilton Conservation Authority

Phone Number: 905-525-2181 ext.157

[Email Anuja Ramgoolam](mailto:Anuja.Ramgoolam@hamiltonconservation.ca)

Chester Gibson

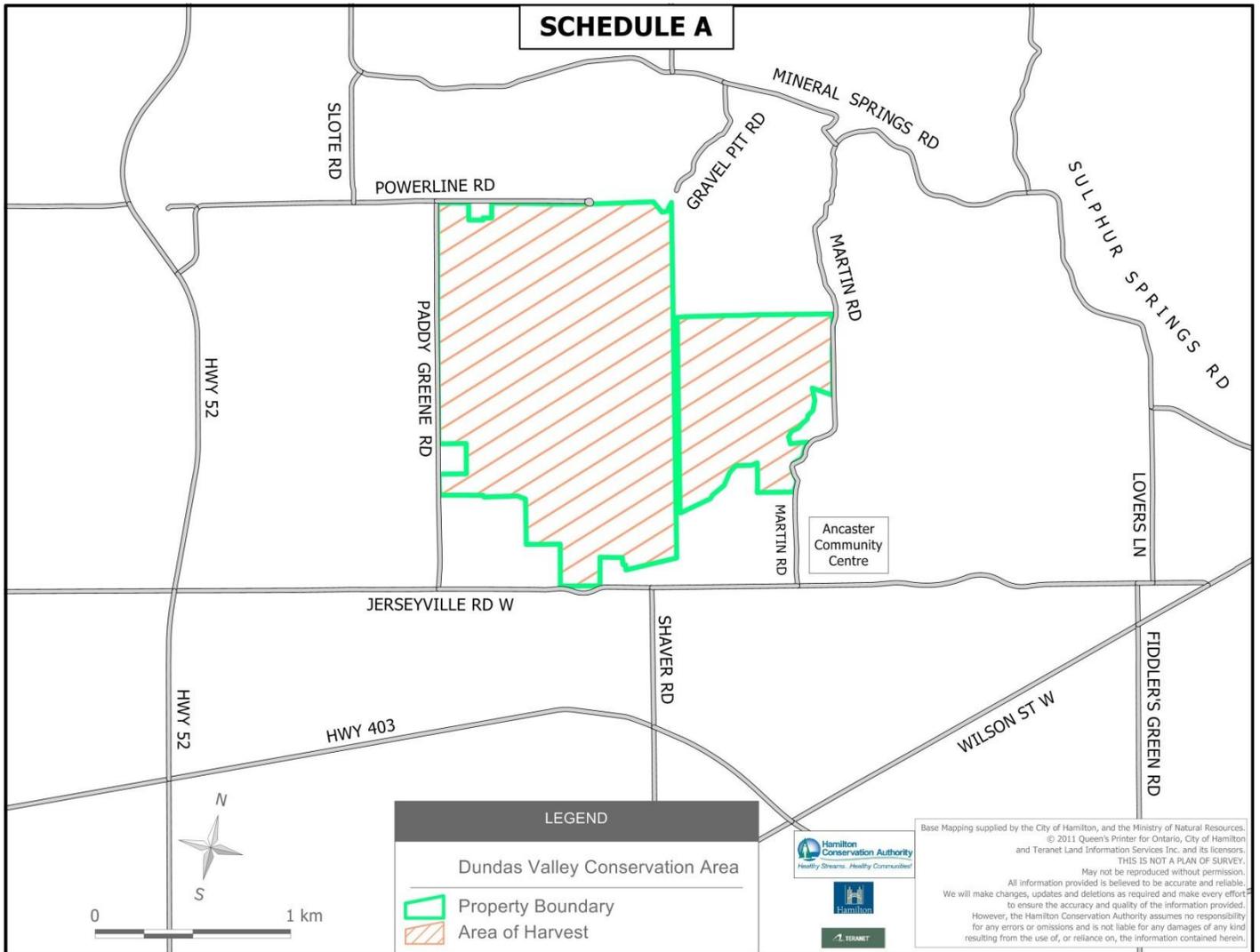
Haudenosaunee Wildlife and Habitat Authority

[Email Chester Gibson](mailto:Chester.Gibson@hwwha.com)

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## Schedule A

Hunting will take place on Mondays through Thursdays between November 18 and December 12, 2013



# Schedule B

Hunting will take place Mondays through Thursdays between January 7 and January 17, 2014

