



Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment www.stophighway.com

Donation Request

Dear COPE Members,

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is marching ahead with the Niagara GTA Corridor. In March 2011 the MTO released the latest report on the status of the project. Public comment must be submitted by June 6, 2011. The report includes optimizing existing road networks, a new highway from Fort Erie to Welland and continued study on a highway commencing at the 403 in Ancaster and cutting through Flamborough on the way to toll highway 407 in North Burlington. COPE, along with our fellow members of the newly formed Stop Escarpment Highway Coalition (SEHC), maintain that the Flamborough / North Burlington portion should be removed as it would irreparably damage Niagara Escarpment, agricultural land and eco-systems while failing to address traffic congestion in the GTA.

COPE and the SEHC have commissioned a scientific study to assign an economic value of the eco-systems in the Flamborough / Burlington study area. Over the last 10 years we have asked the MTO to complete such a study to no avail. Given the increased awareness of the importance of our environment as a life-sustaining element, we have taken this important step ourselves. The report will form part of our response to the MTO on the NGTA corridor as well as support our position on sustainable transportation planning with all levels of government.

To assign an economic value with accuracy and credibility, we contracted Green Metrics to complete the Natural Capital Study. The cost for this professional undertaking is \$10,000. We have raised \$6,800 in funds and pro-bono scientific services. We need to raise the remaining balance of \$3,200 in order to pay for the report, which is to be completed by May 31, 2011.

We are asking for your help in meeting this goal. Please send your donation to:

P.O. Box 20014, 2211 Brant Street
Burlington, ON, L7P 0A4

Make cheques payable to Citizens Opposed to Paving the Escarpment.

Please note that all members of the Coalition are grassroots organizations without charitable status. We regret that we cannot issue tax receipts.

It is our intention to make the report available to like-minded groups – so we can work in concert to stop the destruction of our environment, with no regard to ecological and economic cost.

With thanks,

The COPE Steering Committee