

Letter of Inquiry Cover Page

Name of Organization: The Ontario Headwaters Institute

Date Submitted: February 13, 2014

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List all project partners: Preliminary support confirmed with Alton Grange Association, Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, Grand River Environmental Network, Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, and Save the Oak Ridges Moraine. Additional support will be sought with members within both the Credit River Alliance and the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance, of which the OHI is a member, as well as with groups in other sectors. A specific effort will be made to identify at least one hike on agricultural land.

List all project funders: Ontario Headwaters Institute (using a donation from Edward Bronfman Memorial Legacy Trust), Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

Total Organizational Revenue (from last audited statements):

2009: \$23,305; 2010: \$33,568; 2011: \$3,429; 2012: \$4,981 2013 not yet complete

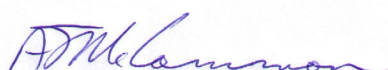
Amount Requested: \$21,770.00

Total Project Budget: \$29,910.00

Please provide a project title and description (100 words or less):

Headwater Hikes in the Greenbelt: The Ontario Headwaters Institute seeks to develop a series of ten hikes, in collaboration with local partners, to increase public understanding of the important role that headwaters perform in the health of the Greenbelt's biodiversity, downstream watersheds, and socio-economic fabric. Once the hikes are developed, individuals will be able to experience headwater areas on their own while the local partners will be welcome to use the materials as they see fit, with the exception of for schools. The Hikes will be designed to increase overall appreciation of the Greenbelt, as well as the need to safeguard and strengthen it.

Signature



Date

February 13, 2014

The Ontario Headwaters Institute

Working to preserve the foundation of Ontario's watersheds

Headwater Hikes in the Greenbelt

Overview and Purpose

The Ontario Headwaters Institute seeks to develop a series of ten hikes, in collaboration with local partners, to increase public understanding of the important role that headwaters perform in the health of the Greenbelt's biodiversity, downstream watersheds, and socio-economic fabric.

While it is often cited that the Oak Ridges Moraine, a significant portion of the Greenbelt, provides sources of water to 65 watercourses, people in general do not understand the overall importance of headwaters* across the whole of the Greenbelt.

Key ecological aspects of headwaters include that they:

- Comprise the majority of the both surface area and stream length in most watersheds;
- Constitute areas of high hydrologic exchange between land and water, regulate the flow of water into a watercourse, and help mitigate flooding;
- Contribute the majority of the flow to most watercourses, as well as significant portions of a stream's nutrients, organic material, and sediment; and,
- Provide key habitat for breeding, feeding, and the sheltering of upstream species, thereby nurturing the majority, and in many ways the base, of a watershed's biodiversity.

By helping people to experience our headwater areas, these hikes will help increase overall appreciation of the Greenbelt, as well as the need to safeguard and strengthen it.

Description and Main Activities

1. The OHI will contact numerous organizations, including NGOs, conservation authorities, and municipalities, to help identify locations for ten Headwater Hikes in the Greenbelt. The OHI hopes, in particular, to identify at least one headwater hike with an agricultural partner;
2. While individual hikes may demonstrate only one type of headwater area, the OHI will seek to develop a suite of walks in a variety of headwater types, including: upland forests with vernal pools and ephemeral streams; wetland complexes; aquifers, infiltration zones, and areas of groundwater upwelling or extensive surface flow; and various topographies with small streams;
3. The OHI will develop high-level text on the importance of headwaters in general and for the Greenbelt in particular. Longer text will be available for use on websites and shorter versions of the high-level text will be used, along with hike-specific material, on individual hikes;
4. In addition to helping to identify local hikes, partners will be asked to proofread text on their local hike and to provide photos or other hike-specific material that they think might be useful;
5. All hike text will be posted on the OHI website, and will be available for use by the Friends of the Foundation;
6. Once supporting material for the hikes is developed and posted to the OHI website, the OHI will be able to use hikes to deliver outdoor programming, and will be developing an educational hiking program for schools; and,
7. The partners in hikes will be provided with digital files of their local hike for use as they deem helpful, except with respect to on-going school programming as mentioned in item 6 above.

* Headwaters include vernal pools and both ephemeral and intermittent streams; zero, first, and second order streams; the areas drained by these small watercourses; and groundwater, aquifers, and wetlands. A first order stream is one with no tributaries, while a second-order stream starts where two first-order streams converge.

Project Benefits

- Increases public awareness about the importance roles played by Greenbelt headwater areas;
- Expands the number of Greenbelt Walks while creating a sub-set of walks with specific appeal;
- Provides a framework for all partners to engage the public in their organizations, local issues, and the broader dialogue about safeguarding and strengthening the Greenbelt; and,
- Form part of the basis for planned OHI outdoor educational programming to schools.

Project Outcomes Supporting the Goals of the Greenbelt Foundation

- Advances knowledge and understanding of the value of the Greenbelt;
- Provides material and experiences for local organizations to generate increased support for the greenbelt while encouraging the public to get out into the Greenbelt;
- Helps demonstrate environmentally appropriate practices in agricultural operations; and,
- Will provide a new tool to increase positive public support in the review of the Greenbelt Plan.

OHI History, Objectives, and Current Activities

The Ontario Headwaters Institute is a registered charity working to preserve and protect Ontario's headwaters through research, education, and best practices. Following a three-year period to develop a strategic plan and intellectual property, the OHI will be launching new efforts in the first quarter of 2014 to establish a higher profile and form the basis of future programs and funding.

Tasks, Timelines, Preliminary Budget

Period	Task	OHI \$s	OHI & Partner Pro Bono	Grant Request
Feb 2014	Prepare Headwater Hike Concept and submit application (1 week staff time)	\$1,070.00		
March	Develop full proposal (1 week)	\$1,070.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Aug - Sept	Contact partners to identify candidate hikes; Begin work on high-level text on the importance of headwaters (3 weeks)			\$3,210.00
Sept - Oct	Conduct hikes of best-bet candidate areas; Begin local text; Assemble maps, photos for Hikes (3 wks; travel)		\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
November	Complete high-level and local text; vet internally and with partners; discuss comments (3 weeks)		\$2,000.00	\$3,210.00
December	Incorporate comments into final text; Post to OHI website; Provide digital material for other websites (3 weeks; Fees for professional layout)			\$5,210.00
Feb 2015	Contact regional and larger media on Hike info leading up to Feb 28 – 10 th Anniversary of the Greenbelt (2 Wks)		\$ 500.00	\$2,140.00
Later in 2015	In conjunction with the earlier of spring hike season or the launch of the Greenbelt Review, conduct a second round of media contacts, offering them a Hike (3 weeks; travel)		\$ 500.00	\$4,000.00
Totals		\$2,140.00	\$6,000.00	\$21,770.00