

The benefits of regular onsite collaboration throughout the permitting process. Lessons learned from the Framgard channel realignment

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Focused on the benefits of a collaborative process, this presentation discusses the planning and construction of a natural channel design in a quickly developing greenfield area of Milton. The small ditch-like watercourse meandered through farm fields. As a result of corridor creation, the watercourse was redesigned and now includes stable slopes, fish habitat, pocket wetlands and features such as raptor poles, turtle nesting areas and snake hibernacula.

Initial work towards this realignment began with a municipal Secondary Plan that set out principles for how features are to be protected, enhanced and mitigated. The physical alignment and design were outlined in a Subwatershed Impact Study (SIS), which brought together the natural systems and integrated them with development concepts.

Permission for channel realignment is required under Ontario Regulation 162/06 administered by Conservation Halton. Communication involved pre-consultation, resulting in a smooth permitting process and the issuance of a permit on March 31, 2016. Weekly on-site meetings involved staff from Conservation Halton, Mattamy, NAK Design and Town of Milton. Construction issues were identified and corrected promptly and informally.

All hazards are now contained within the corridor which is in public ownership. The channel includes amenity space for the public and all properties within the subdivision are not regulated by Conservation Halton. The entire process went smoothly because of open and frequent communication among all parties. This presentation will focus on the lessons learned throughout this process.

Biography

Charles Priddle is the Coordinator of the Regulations Program at Conservation Halton and Benjamin Davis is a Regulations Officer within that Program. Prior to working at Conservation Halton, Charles received his Ph.D. in Water Resources Management at the University of Western Ontario, and Benjamin received his Hons B.Sc in Environmental Science from University of Guelph. Combined, Charles and Benjamin have 14 years with Conservation Halton in the Regulations Department issuing permit for development on lands regulated by the Conservation Authority. This work involves issuing permits for works ranging from small decks to entire channel realignments within one of the fastest growing Regions in Canada.