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Subject: Twelve Mile Creek Principles of Partnership

We are pleased to propose a partnership in principle between the Town of Pelham and the Niagara Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada for the purposes of improving the aquatic health of the headwaters of Twelve Mile Creek, Niagara's only year-round cold water resource

Trout Unlimited Canada is a charitable organization and Canada's leading advocate for cold-water conservation. The Niagara Chapter focuses on improving the headwaters of aquatic habitat of Twelve Mile Creek.

The Headwaters of Twelve Mile Creek lie within the Town of Pelham, Ontario and is composed of five unique and historic villages: Effingham, Fenwick, Fonthill, North Pelham, and Ridgeville.

Brook Trout, once populous throughout Twelve Mile Creek, are important indicators of stream health since they are very susceptible to increases in temperature, turbidity, sedimentation, and disturbance. Unfortunately, in recent years, development in the headwaters of Twelve Mile Creek has put at risk the resident population of Brook Trout - the only trout species that is native to the Niagara Region's streams. This clearly suggests a degradation of this important watershed.

Trout Unlimited has been working with landowners to help bring back the Brook Trout by increasing shade and stabilizing stream banks through the planting of trees and native plants on private properties. These actions will help reduce excessively warm temperatures in the summer and stop harmful erosion.

As these waters are located mostly within the boundaries of the Town of Pelham meaningful improvements require close cooperation between landowners and the Town and various agencies of government that regulate stream improvements.

The Town of Pelham and Trout Unlimited agree that partnership can be an important ingredient in the improvement of the aquatic health of Twelve Mile Creek. Some of the dynamic actions could include:

- Adopting proactive public works policies regarding mowing or spraying of trees and plants adjacent to Twelve Mile Creek as well as managing runoff from road salt that lead directly into Twelve Mile Creek
- As part of the approval process assessing the environmental impact of all road improvement actions on the aquatic health of Twelve Mile Creek

- Undertaking or assisting with projects designed to rehabilitate streams such as roadway design, removal of obstructions, culvert and stream bank repairs, assessing other areas of improvement and monitoring stream health
- In all new development within the Town, take into consideration the impact increased runoff will have on the Headwaters of the Twelve, which originate within 500 metres of Highway 20.

To this end the Niagara Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada and the Town of Pelham agree to the following partnership principles:

1. Prepare a declaration for Town Council expressing the Town of Pelham's commitment to actions and policies that will improve the health of Twelve Mile Creek;
2. Meet on an as needed basis and at least once a year to review policies plans and projects that might impact Twelve Mile Creek and discuss options and mitigation measures;
3. Communicate on a regular basis on work that Trout Unlimited is doing in the headwaters especially where this work impinges on Town property;
4. Advise on stream rehabilitation strategies and help develop projects where graduate students in Niagara College's Environmental Programs can best deploy their expertise and co-operate in overseeing these projects;
5. Exchange information and ongoing advice pertaining to issues that might affect the health of the headwaters of Twelve Mile Creek including actions by the Town and possible problematic actions by landowners;
6. Coordinate outreach to citizens for education and awareness of their role in improving the health of cold water resources;
7. Consider supporting the work of Trout Unlimited on Twelve Mile Creek via financial and in-kind services
8. Agree to review these principles of partnership annually and report on progress

We are pleased to move forward based on these principles and look forward to a long and productive relationship.

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Niagara Chapter Trout Unlimited

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Town of Pelham