

Municipal Resolution in Support of NEBN

Whereas the Niagara Escarpment, from Queenston in the south to Tobermory in the north, has been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Biosphere since 1990;

And whereas the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere (NEB) provides a range of very positive returns to Ontarians, including but not limited to promoting biodiversity of both flora and fauna, open landscape, productive agriculture and agri-tourism, traditional Indigenous knowledge and cultural history, eco-system services, a living laboratory for learning, carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and adaptation;

And whereas the NEB is integral to the protection and enhancement agenda for the Great Lakes, especially since several of Ontario's major riverine systems have their headwaters within the NEB that in turn feed into each of Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay;

And whereas oversight of the NEB has successfully transitioned from the Ontario governmental agency, the Niagara Escarpment Commission to a citizen-centred, not-for-profit organization, namely the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN);

And whereas the NEBN has been established as a Co-Leadership model between Indigenous and Non-indigenous leaders, with a key objective of establishing the future direction of the NEBN as a model of delivering on the worthy goals of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as a demonstrated commitment to the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

And whereas the NEBN has made and continues to demonstrate its commitment to partner engagement and collaboration across many sectors and interests, including municipal, environmental, tourism, educational, youth, economic, research, and more;

And whereas Town of Pelham Council has demonstrated its commitment to the integrity of the NEB through policy and action over many decades;

And whereas the NEBN is seeking continuation of the official UNESCO Biosphere designation for the NEB, with the support of those who call the NEB home for work, play and study;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Pelham Council strongly supports the continuation of the UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Niagara Escarpment and for the oversight model that has been established with the NEBN.