



November 4, 2019

Cobourg Council  
55 King Street West  
Cobourg, ON  
K9A 2M2

Dear Mayor Henderson, Deputy Mayor Séguin and Councillors,

**RE: A Natural Heritage Waterfront Park**

On behalf of Ontario Nature, I am writing to express our full support for the creation of a Natural Heritage Waterfront Park in Cobourg, as proposed by the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Ontario Nature is a charitable conservation organization representing over 150 organizations and more than 30,000 individual members and supporters across the province. Since 1931 we have been protecting wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement.

The need and opportunity to protect the west side of Cobourg Harbour first came to our attention when we surveyed our member groups about sites that they felt merited protection as part of Canada's efforts to meet its obligation under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to protect at least 17 percent of our lands and waters. Having investigated the matter further with the Willow Beach Field Naturalists, we understand that the West Harbour has significant natural and cultural value. Over 268 bird species and 248 plant species have been recorded at the site, and the beach itself is one of the best and one of the few remaining along Lake Ontario.

The creation of a Natural Heritage Waterfront Park would support nature conservation and appreciation as well as many nature-based experiences valued by the community (boating, walking, fishing, birding, etc.). It would protect biodiversity and safeguard the area from development, so that it is permanently available for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

We urge you to proceed with the creation of a Natural Heritage Waterfront Park as soon as possible, working with the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and other community organizations to ensure that appropriate rules and regulations are developed to protect the area's significant natural and cultural values.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Anne Bell  
Director of Conservation and Education