



Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Alliance pour les espaces verts dans la capitale du Canada

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For Immediate Release

**Environmental Group objects to
Road Widening through Stony Swamp**

Ottawa, 4 March 2014: The City of Ottawa is proposing to turn a 2-lane road through Stony Swamp, a Provincially Significant Wetland, into a 4-lane divided highway, and the National Capital Commission is allowing it to happen. Stony Swamp is the most florally diverse site in Eastern Ontario and a gem of the capital's Greenbelt. The Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital has filed an objection with the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Jim Bradley, under the provisions of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Stony Swamp site, located in the Greenbelt between Kanata and Bells Corners, includes a particularly rich wetland that is the headwaters for five streams. The proposed road expansion would cut through the wetland, introducing heavy traffic into a sensitive ecosystem, and create a vastly thicker barrier for the movement of wildlife.

"There is a far more benign alternative available to accommodate increased traffic from the West of Ottawa," says Erwin Dreessen, co-chair of the Alliance. "By the City's own estimates, widening Fallowfield Road instead of Hope Side Road and Old Richmond and West Hunt Club Roads, would add at most 4 minutes to a commuter's travel time and avoid burdening Stony Swamp altogether."

The NCC recently reviewed its Greenbelt Master Plan and allowed 25 new road projects to cut through the Greenbelt. The original plan, to extend Hope Side Road to Highway 416, was one of the few that were vetoed as a result of a Joint Study by the City and the NCC regarding the cumulative effect of various proposed road projects. In a kind of bait-and-switch, it then proceeded to allow the City's new proposal. Its impact was not assessed in the Joint Study.

"As a barrier to the free movement of wildlife, there is a vast difference between a 2-lane road and a 4-lane divided highway," says Sol Shuster, a director of the Alliance. "The City proposes some dry culverts for the passage of turtles, but what about all other animals, especially larger mammals?"

The Greenspace Alliance calls on the Minister to order a more thorough assessment of the Fallowfield option, or, should the proposed routing be allowed, a much stronger mitigation plan against the adverse effects of these road widenings.

For more information, please contact:

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The Greenspace Alliance's request, along with background information is available at:

<http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/StonySwamp>