Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

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Bill 152

An Act to conserve the Waterloo Moraine by prohibiting development and the operation of new pits and quarries in the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area

Ms A. Clancy

Private Member's Bill

1st Reading	November 17, 2026
2nd Reading	
3rd Reading	
Royal Assent	



EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill enacts the *Waterloo Moraine Conservation Act, 2026* to designate a Waterloo Moraine Protected Area and to prohibit any person from doing certain things within that protected area.

Bill 152 **2026**

An Act to conserve the Waterloo Moraine by prohibiting development and the operation of new pits and quarries in the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

Definitions

1 In this Act,

"pit" has the same meaning as in the *Aggregate Resources Act*; ("puits d'extraction")

"quarry" has the same meaning as in the *Aggregate Resources Act*. ("carrière")

Designation of Waterloo Moraine Protected Area

2 (1) The following area is designated as the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area:

1. The area of the Waterloo Moraine located outside of the urban boundaries of the municipalities within The Regional Municipality of Waterloo that is delineated by such boundaries as may be specified in the regulations.

Regulations

(2) The Minister may make regulations specifying the boundaries of the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area.

Prohibitions in Waterloo Moraine Protected Area

3 No person shall, within the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area,

(a) use any land, except for farming operations;

(b) construct, erect or place any building or structure or undertake any development, except for buildings, structures or development that are necessary to conduct farming operations;

(c) apply for an aggregate permit to operate a new pit or quarry; or

(d) expand an existing pit or quarry.

TRANSITIONAL MATTERS

Existing uses, buildings, structures, etc.

4 (1) Nothing in this Act prevents,

(a) the use of any land, building or structure for a purpose for which the land, building or structure was lawfully used on the day this Act came into force and continues to be used for that purpose;

(b) the construction, erection or placing of a building or structure for which a permit has been issued on or before the day this Act came into force,

(i) if the permit has not been revoked, and

(ii) if the building or structure when constructed, erected or placed is used and continues to be used for the purpose for which it was constructed, erected or placed; or

(c) the operation of a pit or quarry for which a permit has been issued on or before the day this Act came into force if the permit has not been revoked.

Expansion of existing building or structure

(2) Nothing in this Act prevents the expansion of an existing building or structure on the same lot, if the applicant demonstrates that,

(a) there will be no change in use; and

(b) the expansion will not adversely affect the ecological integrity of the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area.

Exception

(3) Despite subsection (2), an existing mineral aggregate operation or an existing wayside pit within a natural core area may not be expanded beyond the boundary of the area under licence or permit.

Expansion of existing institutional use

(4) Nothing in this Act prevents the expansion of an existing institutional use, if the applicant demonstrates that,

(a) there will be no change in use; and

(b) the expansion will not adversely affect the ecological integrity of the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area.

Reconstruction

(5) Nothing in this Act prevents the reconstruction, within the same location and dimensions, of an existing building or structure that is damaged or destroyed by causes beyond the owner's control, and the reconstructed building or structure is deemed to be an existing building or structure if there is no change in use and no intensification of the use.

Conversion to similar use

(6) Nothing in this Act prevents the conversion of an existing use to a similar use, if the applicant demonstrates that the conversion will not adversely affect the ecological integrity of the Waterloo Moraine Protected Area.

Definition

(7) In this section,

"institutional use" includes use for the purposes of a long-term care facility, hospital, school, university or college.

Building or structure previously authorized

5 Nothing in this Act prevents the use, construction, erection or placing of a building or structure if the use, construction, erection or placing was authorized by the approval of an application that was commenced before the day this Act came into force and approved after that date.

Exception, site plan approval

6 An application for site plan approval under section 41 of the *Planning Act* is not required to comply with this Act if it relates to land in respect of which any of the following was commenced before this Act came into force and approved after that date:

1. An application for an amendment to a zoning by-law.
2. An application for approval of a plan of subdivision under section 51 of the *Planning Act*.
3. An application for approval or exemption from approval for a plan of condominium under section 9 of the *Condominium Act, 1998*.

COMMENCEMENT AND SHORT TITLE

Commencement

7 This Act is deemed to have come into force on November 17, 2026.

Short title

8 The short title of this Act is the *Waterloo Moraine Conservation Act, 2026*.