



Conservation  
ONTARIO



**ANNUAL**

*Report*



📍 Terra Cotta (Credit Valley Conservation)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE

# General Manager

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## THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION IS COLLABORATIVE

*Are you an optimist or a pessimist by nature? With the many twists and turns of the past few years, I no longer consider myself on one side or the other. Instead, I think of myself as a “possibilist”. An individual who thinks of outcomes and opportunities as creative spaces for shared wins: so long as we avoid the limitations of small-picture thinking.*

Without a doubt, Conservation Authorities (CAs) and Conservation Ontario (CO) have had challenges over the years; however, with excellent members that comprise our network and extended networks, we are positioning ourselves for future success.

Most of you know I take many things seriously, including drafting this message. In my short time at CO, I have been honoured to work and negotiate on your behalf. These negotiations required me to grow as a professional and to expand the limits of my thinking for our shared organizations. I am comfortable in rooms where it is necessary to build bridges to help people come together to find productive solutions.

*Through discussions and debates, I've realized that collaboration is key to unlocking the full potential of conversation and conservation.*

This annual report will tell stories of successful collaborations between CO and various stakeholders. These stories serve as a reminder that no single entity can tackle the challenges of conservation alone. Through partnerships, we leverage our collective strengths, share best practices, and amplify our impact.

The work being carried out by CO on behalf of the Conservation Authority (CA) network is aligned with this vision. CO's programs and initiatives support and highlight the transformative impact of collaboration by fostering partnerships between government agencies, Indigenous communities, businesses, agriculture, stewardship organizations, environmental organizations, and engaged citizens.



📍 Rogers Reservoir (Lake Simcoe Region CA)

From watershed management to floodplain mapping, from climate change adaptation to biodiversity conservation, CO's work exemplifies the strength that lies in unity. By combining diverse perspectives and expertise, we are driving positive change across the province.

This report highlights the importance of engaging and supporting the CA network. This inclusive approach ensures the sustainability of conservation efforts across watersheds.

Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our collaboration with organizations across Ontario. We aim to expand our reach and influence in conservation by forging strategic alliances and nurturing partnerships. Together, we can drive change, advocate issues relevant to CAs, and create a future where the delicate balance between human progress and environmental preservation is maintained.

I want to thank Chair Chris White and our Board, Council, CAs, and partners for their support. Your dedication and commitment have enabled us to make significant strides over the past year. Let us embrace collaboration and possibility as the cornerstone of our efforts, knowing that together, we can build sustainable communities for all.

**Angela M. Coleman**  
General Manager,  
Conservation Ontario



## CONSERVATION

# Authorities Act

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## COLLABORATION IN ACTION: TRANSITIONING TO NEW REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT

Conservation Authorities (CAs) have been working on implementing the Transition Plans and Agreements regulation (O. Reg. 687/21) under the *Conservation Authorities Act* since October 2021. This implementation was accompanied by additional legislative and regulatory updates. The purpose of the transition period is to allow CAs and Municipalities time to address changes to the budgeting and levy process related to mandatory programs and services (Category 1), municipal programs and services (Category 2), and other programs and services (Category 3), as well as to reach agreements.

In 2023, CAs focused on ongoing consultations with Municipalities regarding the Conservation Authority (CA) Program and Service Inventory, negotiations with Municipalities on cost apportioning agreements, and quarterly progress reporting to the Province. CAs submitted their quarterly progress reports to the Province, with the last one due on October 1, 2023. This date also marked the deadline for any extension requests to the Transition Period, which concluded on January 1, 2024. Eighteen CAs were granted extension requests to finalize agreements and align with 2024 budget approvals.

In addition to the Transition Period requirements, O. Reg. 402/22 (Budget and Apportionment) took effect on July 1, 2023. This regulation governs budgetary and apportionment matters for all CAs, requiring each CA to prepare a budget for 2024 and each subsequent year as per the regulation.



## CONSERVATION ONTARIO SUPPORT FOR COLLABORATION

In 2023, Conservation Ontario facilitated seven sessions for General Managers and Conservation Authority staff to ensure compliance with the Transition Period requirements and transition to the new budget and apportionment framework. These sessions included a webinar in partnership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, focusing on the Next Steps for Conservation Authorities and Municipalities.

## GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Conservation Ontario (CO) and Conservation Authorities (CAs) are aligned with the Provincial government's commitment to governance, accountability, and transparency. All 36 CAs adhere to the Chair and Vice-Chair provisions outlined in the *Conservation Authorities Act* for 2023. This ensures Chairs and Vice-Chairs have not served more than two consecutive terms unless granted a Minister's exception. Additionally, the 36 CAs upheld their Governance webpages, with support from CO staff as needed, and shared relevant materials per the April 2022 Information Requirements regulation.

## UPCOMING CONSERVATION AUTHORITY DELIVERABLES

Conservation Ontario (CO) provided valuable support to Conservation Authorities (CAs) in the development of key provincial deliverables due by December 31, 2024. Over the course of six sessions, CAs focused efforts on developing key deliverables including the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy, Conservation Area Strategy, Conservation Land Inventory, and Natural Hazard Infrastructure asset management plans.

Strategies encourage consultation with stakeholders and the public throughout their development and subsequent updates. To assist CAs, CO developed comprehensive consultation and engagement toolkits for CA use.



## FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL

# Consultations

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## CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Conservation Ontario (CO) plays a crucial role coordinating reviews of provincial and federal policy proposals and consultations by Conservation Authorities (CAs) that impact the CAs' mission of conserving natural resources and safeguarding public health and safety.

In 2023, 21 out of 36 CAs actively collaborated in the development of 14 submissions by CO. These submissions addressed a wide range of policy proposals, including those concerning the *Planning Act* (e.g., Provincial Policy/Planning Statement), the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*, and flood mapping specifications, as well as the modernization of Regulations under various Acts.

In January 2023, CO submitted the Five-Year Review Report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding the use of CO's *Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects*. CO also continued its collaboration with MECP to enhance the efficiency of CO's Class Environmental Assessment process.





📍 **Cataraqui Trail (Cataraqui Conservation)**



## CLIENT SERVICE AND

# Streamlining Initiative

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## IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE TO SUPPORT SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

To support development without jeopardizing public health, safety, or the environment, Conservation Ontario (CO) continues to collaborate with Conservation Authorities (CAs) to enhance client service and accountability, and increase the speed of approvals, while streamlining processes and reducing regulatory complexities.

CO works with all CAs to provide an annual report on permit review timelines. Participation in the annual reporting cycle showcases CA commitment to increasing transparency within the permit review process, as well as providing efficient reviews and approvals. The timely issuance of permits by CAs not only ensures the effectiveness of their role in the development approval process, but also safeguards people and their properties from potential impacts of natural hazards.



## ACTIVITIES



## 2023 RESULTS



**11,517**  
Permits Issued



**95%**  
Issued within Provincial Timelines



**36**  
Conservation Authorities Participated

### DIGITIZING THE FUTURE: STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESSES

In 2023, Conservation Ontario (CO) actively engaged in technical working groups focused on service digitization to streamline and standardize development applications for Conservation Authority (CA) permits and municipal planning and development processes.

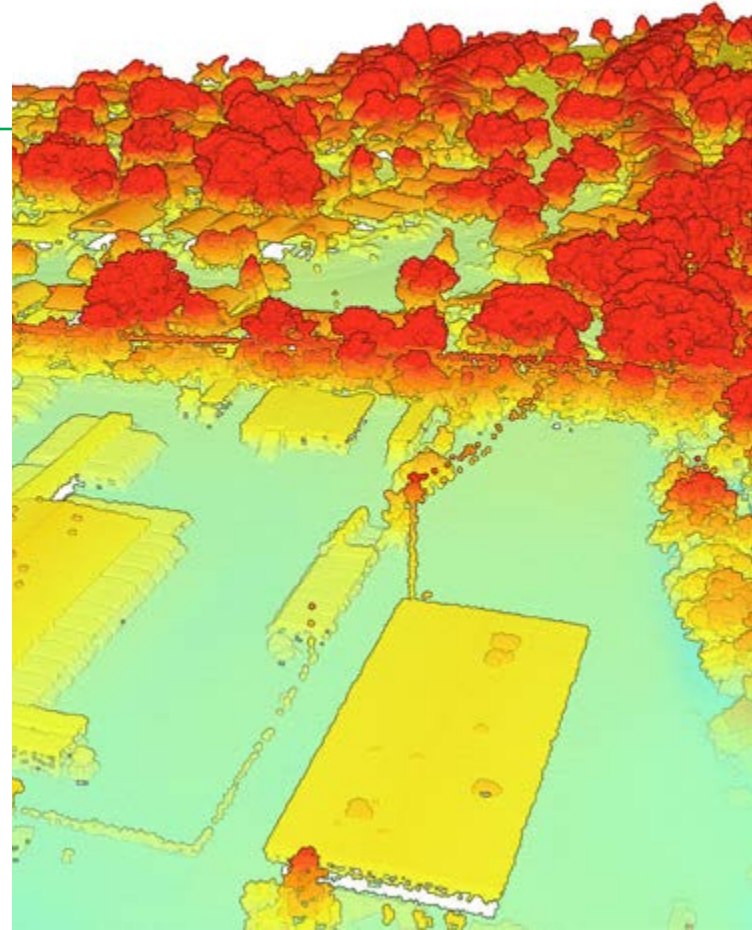
CO collaborated with e-permitting stakeholders and Conservation Authorities on a pilot project aimed at enhancing building permitting software. Additionally, CO participated in a Technical Committee led by the Digital Governance Standards Institute in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery. This committee is dedicated to establishing data standards for municipal planning and development applications, encompassing lexicon and common data field standards.

# Flooding

## CONSERVATION ONTARIO SUPPORTS FLOOD MAPPING INVESTMENTS FOR CAS AND MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH FEDERAL PROGRAM

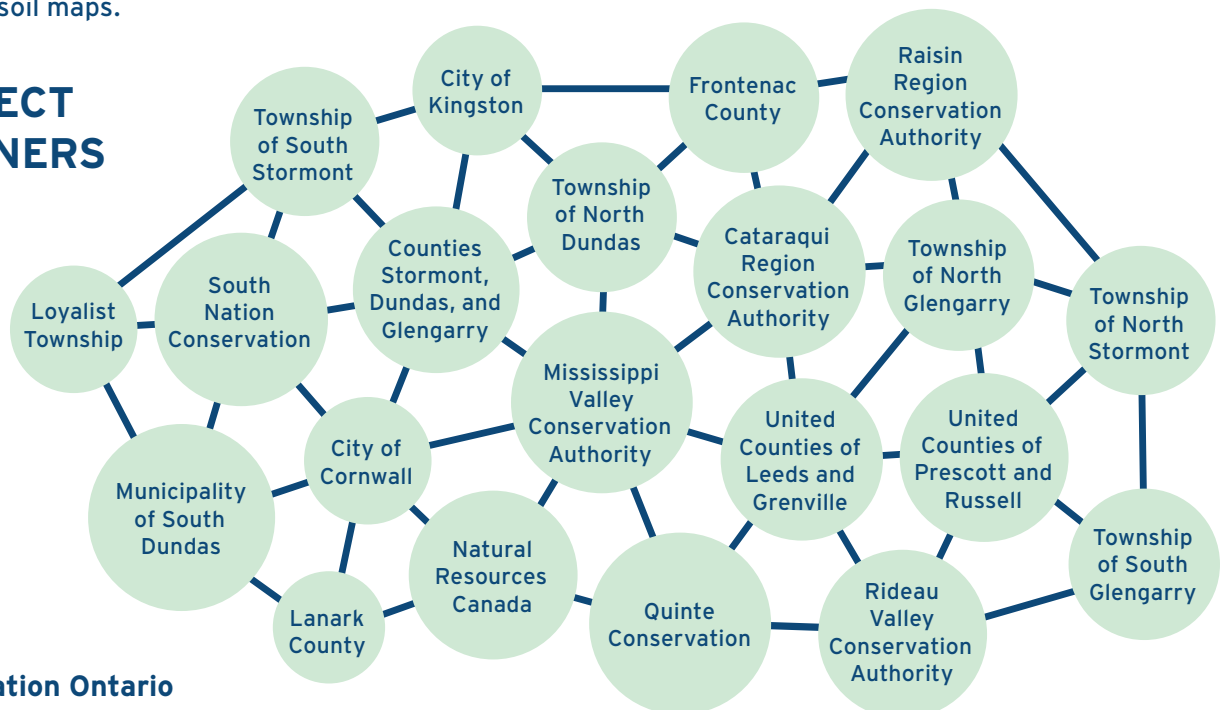
Conservation Ontario (CO) works in collaboration with Provincial and Federal governments to distribute funding from the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) to Conservation Authorities in the Greater Toronto Area, including the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation, Conservation Halton, and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. The project, titled "2023 Spring Leaf-off Airborne LiDAR Data Acquisition and Classification for the Greater Toronto Area to Hamilton," involved the acquisition of LiDAR for flood mapping purposes, with the support of local Municipalities.

Additionally, CO allocated FHIMP funding to the Eastern Ontario LiDAR Acquisition Project to aid in flood mapping efforts and provide data for updates to Ontario's soil maps.



3D LiDAR Point Cloud depicting buildings, powerlines, and tree canopy in Conservation Halton's watershed.

## PROJECT PARTNERS



## DRINKING WATER

# Source Protection

## PROTECTING ONTARIO'S DRINKING WATER TOGETHER

Conservation Ontario offers essential coordination and support services to Conservation Authorities (CAs), enabling them to fulfill their legislative duties as Source Protection Authorities. CAs, known for their collaborative nature, excel in program delivery through partnerships with the Province, Municipalities, and other stakeholders, playing a crucial role safeguarding our drinking water.

The inception of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP) under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, ensures the protection of current and future sources of municipal drinking water on a watershed basis.

### PARTNERSHIPS AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

- ▶ The Source Water Seminar Series for Risk Management Officials, Inspectors, CA DWSP Project Managers, and supporting staff was reintroduced in 2022. This bi-annual seminar series facilitates collaboration among staff from the Province, Municipalities, CAs, and consulting fields to build partnerships, share best practices, and work together on solutions for safeguarding drinking water.
- ▶ CO organizes quarterly meetings with CA Project Managers and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to enhance relationships and exchange information, ensuring the effective operation of the program.
- ▶ CO assists DWSP Project Managers by offering quarterly peer-to-peer knowledge-building sessions to support their professional development and enhance program effectiveness.

### CREATING AWARENESS

Conservation Ontario has successfully executed five social media campaigns focusing on source water protection, emphasizing best practices and fundamental principles. These campaigns have been widely shared across the Province.

### PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

In collaboration with CAs, Conservation Ontario has identified 30 process improvements aimed at enhancing program delivery and safeguarding sources of drinking water. Significant efforts are underway with our partners, including the Province, CAs, Municipalities, and consulting fields, to continuously enhance the delivery of this vital program.





# Partnerships

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## **\$10 MILLION IN PARTNERED FUNDING FOR WECI INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and Conservation Ontario (CO) partner to support safety and repair projects and studies on aging infrastructure which was built to protect lives and property from natural hazards.

The Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) database was managed by CO for the 2023-2024 WECI funding application review process. The WECI Committee hosted an information webinar in early February 2023 to provide guidance for submitting applications. The Committee reviewed 151 funding applications from 26 Conservation Authorities (CAs) with total project costs around \$10 million.

Overall, the MNRF approved and fully allocated their 50 per cent funding (i.e. \$5 million) to 135 infrastructure safety and repair projects and studies being undertaken by 26 CAs.

# NATURE SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

Over three years (2021-23), Conservation Ontario (CO) has received \$11,048,189 from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

Through agreements with 20 Conservation Authorities (CAs), over 70 local projects were implemented to support reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by protecting and restoring wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and implementing sustainable agricultural practices like cover cropping. These projects contribute to GHG reductions and also provide additional benefits such as flood risk reduction, habitat restoration for species at risk, and improvements in water quality and soil health.

In June 2023, CO applied to ECCC's Ecosystem Protection and Climate Mitigation Intake for 2023-2025 land acquisition projects, resulting in the approval of three sites for the securement of 79 hectares. Additional restoration projects were also submitted and successfully approved, securing an additional \$2,164,189 in funding over two years (2023-2025) and enabling two more CAs to join the program.

In addition to these achievements, CO launched a social media campaign showcasing one project from each participating Conservation Authority and displayed a Nature Based Solutions banner at the 2023 Latornell Conservation Symposium.





## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE: CONSERVATION ONTARIO AND GLSLCI JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER COMMUNITIES

In December 2023, Conservation Ontario and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) Mayor's Commission on Coastal Resilience (MCCR) approved a Memorandum of Collaboration to assist communities to prepare for the increasing risks posed by flooding, erosion, and severe storms along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River coast. The signing of the Memorandum of Collaboration took place on the inaugural day of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Toronto in January 2024.





📍 St. Lawrence River

Chris White, Chair of Conservation Ontario's Board of Directors, and a signatory to the Memorandum of Collaboration expressed, "This Memorandum of Collaboration signifies our commitment to collaborating on critical challenges faced by coastal communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. By combining our resources and expertise, we aim to develop solutions that bolster coastal resilience and protect vulnerable communities in these regions."

This collaboration will optimize resources by jointly focusing on communication, fundraising, and addressing gaps in science and implementation. Leveraging their existing capacity and expertise, Conservation Authorities play a pivotal role as key partners in enhancing coastal resilience and assisting communities in proactively addressing climate vulnerabilities and risks. For example, in December 2023, CO, in conjunction with the GLSLCI and six Coastal Conservation Authority pilot regions, submitted a funding request of \$5.5 million to Natural Resources Canada's Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Fund.

The collaborative efforts of the GLSLCI, MCCR, and CO encompass various responsibilities, including developing funding messages, planning and delivering messages to elected officials, creating funding applications and partnership agreements, showcasing on-the-ground strategies and projects, crafting joint communications, offering technical expertise, boosting response rates to the GLSLCI Annual Survey, and co-developing frameworks, tools, and educational opportunities.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO PLANT 2 BILLION TREES

Conservation Ontario (CO) fostered collaboration with planting partners to address opportunities, challenges, and solutions in tree planting and forest management, with a focus on the successful implementation of the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) Program.

Conservation Authorities (CAs) play a pivotal role as valued partners to numerous organizations and Municipalities in tree planting and forest management, with nearly two million trees planted annually and a remarkable 20 million trees planted over the past decade.

Partners involved in tree planting under the federal 2BT Program, including Forests Ontario, Forest Recovery Canada, Tree Canada, ALUS, Agro Forestry, Woodlot Extension Society, and CO, have been actively engaging in discussions to ensure the effective delivery of the program.

In October 2023 (photo above), Forests Ontario, local CAs, and CO celebrated enhanced federal commitments to the 2BT Program for Forests Ontario at a press conference in Ottawa. Our longstanding partnership with Forests Ontario is essential for our shared goals for tree planting in Ontario.

In December 2023, Tree Canada and CO collaborated on a new initiative to provide additional funding for CA tree-planting initiatives. This partnership offers interested CAs with projects to plant up to 600,000 additional trees annually from 2024 to 2026.

Throughout these discussions, staff have emphasized the significance of our partnerships and stressed the importance of effective communication and collaboration to guarantee the successful delivery of the program.

## PARTNERS IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

### CLIMATE PROOF CANADA COALITION NATIONAL ADAPTATION SUMMIT

As a member of the Climate Proof Canada Coalition, Conservation Ontario sponsored and participated in the Climate Proof Canada Climate Adaptation Summit in November 2023. The Summit featured a Panel Session with Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Stephen Guilbeault, along with representatives from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, First Nations communities, the insurance industry, and emergency management.

This Summit marked the culmination of a series of summer workshops aimed at developing recommendations to guide federal investment to help Canada make rapid and tangible progress toward the targets outlined in the National Adaptation Strategy. The key focus areas of the recommendations include Adapting to Extreme Heat, Building Resilient Climate Infrastructure, Enhancing Indigenous Resilience, and Climate-Proof Housing.

### EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation (ORCCA) steering committee includes Conservation Ontario, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. ORCCA is a pilot initiative led by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Canada and supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. Financial support is also being provided by the Government of Canada through Environment and Climate Change Canada to fulfill federal and provincial commitments under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health. ORCCA aims to assist First Nations, Municipalities, and communities in their climate action projects by providing access to relevant climate data and resources for effective climate adaptation efforts.

### MAXIMIZING RESTORATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

During a panel session hosted by the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation Ontario, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff shared Conservation Authorities' perspectives on maximizing the long-term benefits of restoration for climate resilience. The participants included non-government organizations, Indigenous representation, and federal government staff responsible for funding programs like The 2 Billion Trees Program, Nature Smart Climate Solutions, climate adaptation, and land securement initiatives that involve restoration.

The session emphasized the need for ongoing investments to ensure restored ecosystems are effectively managed to withstand the impacts of climate change, land use changes, recreation, and invasive species, to meet Canada's 30 by 30 targets.





# Stewardship

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## ADVANCING ONTARIO'S SOIL HEALTH STRATEGY

The Soil Action Group, comprised of key stakeholders such as the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Conservation Ontario (CO), agricultural producer groups, soil health NGOs, and academia, guides the implementation of Ontario's Soil Health Strategy. Ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the significance of soil health, best practices, monitoring, and research remain a top priority. CO is actively promoting the Province's Soil Resource Inventory initiative, aimed at updating soil resource inventory maps and information through comprehensive soil field sampling across Ontario. CO is also promoting Conservation Authority partnerships in the delivery of Agricultural Best Practices.

## BULK

# Purchase

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## CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S EFFORTS TO DELIVER COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY

In 2023, Conservation Ontario (CO) continued to provide cost savings and efficiencies for its members through bulk purchases and shared tools and services. CO implemented Year 2 of a three-year Enterprise Agreement with Esri Canada, offering Conservation Authorities (CAs) discounted access to the latest GIS technologies, training, and services. Additionally, bulk purchase arrangements were maintained with Teranet for single sign-on access to the Geowarehouse, OnBoard for meeting and Board management software, and a new agreement was negotiated with KnowBe4 for discounted access to cyber risk management solutions for CAs. Other bulk purchase agreements were provided for group benefits, insurance, and communications tools.



## INFORMATION

# Management

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## CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S LAND ACQUISITION INITIATIVE: A SUCCESS STORY IN PROTECTING CANADA'S ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS

In 2021, Conservation Ontario signed a \$1.2 million contract with Environment and Climate Change Canada under the Canada Nature Fund. By 2023, the project expanded to a three-year, \$12.5 million initiative to assist Conservation Authorities (CAs) in obtaining ecologically significant lands.

Year 2 (2022-23) concluded with 14 CAs successfully securing 27 parcels, protecting a total of 1,365 hectares of land. These acquisitions have been submitted to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database to support Canada in achieving its 30x30 targets.

Year 3 (2023-24) began in April, with 12 CAs actively working to acquire an additional 23 parcels. To date, CAs have matched federal funding with over \$13 million in CA-raised cash and in-kind contributions towards the program.



View of the Otonabee River with the Otonabee River Conservation Authority's 12.9-hectare property acquisition in the backdrop.

# HOW HEALTHY ARE ONTARIO'S WATERSHEDS? WATERSHED REPORT CARDS

The Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards offer a comprehensive assessment or “checkup” of the health of many of Ontario’s watersheds. They monitor and report on the quality of surface and groundwater, as well as the state of our forests.

Launched on World Water Day (March 22, 2023), this release marked the third in a series of reports on environmental health published by Conservation Authorities (CAs) on a five-year reporting cycle since 2011. Out of 36 CAs, 29 have produced watershed report cards, with an additional six CAs contributing data for the provincial-scale State of Ontario’s Watersheds story map. Key concerns highlighted by many CAs include non-point source pollution (runoff) and climate change, along with issues such as invasive species, loss of wetland and forest cover, urbanization, and habitat fragmentation.

The findings suggest that our watersheds are facing significant stress, emphasizing the need for increased investment in watershed management programs to help Ontarians adapt to climate change and the rapid development in our region.





Learn about the health of Ontario's watersheds at [watershedcheckup.ca](http://watershedcheckup.ca)



## Average Letter Grades in Ontario

(Proportional to area of subwatershed)

	<b>Surface Water Quality</b>	<b>C</b>
	<b>Forest Conditions</b>	<b>C</b>
	<b>Groundwater Quality Chloride</b>	<b>B</b>
	<b>Groundwater Quality Nitrite + Nitrate</b>	<b>B</b>



# Events

## 2023 LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

### CHANGING CLIMATES: OUR WATERSHED MOMENT

The 2023 Latornell Conservation Symposium, themed *Changing Climates: Our Watershed Moment*, experienced high demand, leading to a swift sell-out of registrations. The symposium welcomed 317 delegates, with the top five participant groups being Conservation Authorities, private and consulting, NGOs, Municipal, and students. Co-hosted by Conservation Ontario and the University of Guelph, the event took place on October 23 and 24 at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Notable highlights included:

1. **Keynote luncheon with Commissioner Henry Lickers of the International Joint Commission.**
2. **Five half-day experiential field trips organized by Conservation Authorities and partners, covering various topics such as agricultural management practices, wetland programs, habitat conservation, and invasive species management.**
3. **Two on-site workshops: one discussing nature-based solutions on a global and local scale through a panel discussion, and another focusing on cultivating a “Think Again” mindset.**
4. **Student poster competition and networking event.**
5. **A full day of concurrent sessions with five streams, including Watershed Management, Nature-based Solutions, Program Transformation, Equity and Inclusion, and Natural Heritage.**





## STEP INTO NATURE HEALTHY HIKES

The 2023 Healthy Hikes Step Into Nature social media campaign was launched during Mental Health Week with the theme of Nature as Self-care. The campaign included the following initiatives: Recreate Responsibly, More Than Just Trees, Create Memories in Conservation Areas, and Reconciling through Nature.



## EDUCATION AND

# Training

## WORKSHOPS

### Level 1 Provincial Offences Officers Training Course

- ▶ January 23 - February 3
- ▶ 28 CA staff; 17 CAs represented

### Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Funding Application Information Session

- ▶ February 8
- ▶ 38 CA staff; 32 CAs represented

### Provincial Flood Forecast and Warning Workshop

- ▶ September 18-19
- ▶ 84 CA staff; 30 CAs represented

### Private Onsite Wastewater Systems - Advancing Technologies

- ▶ September 21
- ▶ 24 CA staff; 18 CAs represented

### Risk Management Official Source Water Seminar Series

- ▶ October 3, 2023
- ▶ 58 CA and Municipal participants; 20 CAs represented

### Conservation Authorities University: Module 1 Governance

- ▶ October 19-20
- ▶ 37 CA staff; 25 CAs represented

### Latornell Conservation Symposium

- ▶ October 23-24
- ▶ 116 CA staff; 17 CAs represented

### Conservation Areas Workshop - Back to the Future: Strong Foundations for Tomorrow's Growth

- ▶ October 24-26
- ▶ 127 CA staff; 26 CAs represented

### Rekindle The Sparks Workshop - Rekindle Unplugged: A Holistic Approach to Environmental Education

- ▶ November 1-3
- ▶ 48 CA staff; 19 CAs represented

### CA Natural Asset Management Planning Workshop

- ▶ November 1
- ▶ 40 CA staff; 18 CAs represented



## Ontario Land Tribunal Process Training for Section 28 Permit Appeals

- ▶ November 6
- ▶ 246 CA staff; 36 CAs represented

## CA Communications Workshop

- ▶ November 15
- ▶ 28 CA staff; 17 CAs represented

## Regulatory Compliance Committee Post-Latornell Workshop

- ▶ November 16
- ▶ 55 CA staff; 21 CAs represented

## Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy Working Session

- ▶ November 17
- ▶ 57 CA staff; 31 CAs represented

## Conservation Authority Collaborative Information Sessions (CACIS)

- ▶ November 20
- ▶ 68 CA staff; 22 CAs represented

## Conservation Authorities University: Module 2 CA Public Administration I

- ▶ December 12-13
- ▶ 36 CA staff; 25 CAs represented

## Floodplain Mapping Metadata Application Update

- ▶ December 15
- ▶ 77 CA staff; 33 CAs represented

## Conservation Authorities Act Implementation General Manager &/ or CA Staff Lead Virtual Sessions

- ▶ Eight sessions from February 21 - December 4
- ▶ Average of 42 staff; Average of 31 CAs represented

## WEBINARS

### Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas Regulation

- ▶ April 12
- ▶ 115 CA staff; 31 CAs represented

### Overview of the 2023 Watershed Report Cards

- ▶ April 13
- ▶ 89 CA staff; 24 CAs represented

### Conservation Ontario/Association of Municipalities of Ontario Webinar: Next Steps for Conservation Authorities and Municipalities

- ▶ April 19
- ▶ 500+ participants

### Part VII Enforcement and Offences Training

- ▶ May 16
- ▶ 125 CA staff; 34 CAs represented

### Latornell Conservation Symposium - Navigating Adaptation to Coastal Hazards

- ▶ September 26
- ▶ 122 CA staff; 23 CAs represented

### CA Natural Asset Management Planning

- ▶ October 18
- ▶ 48 CA staff; 16 CAs represented

### Latornell Conservation Symposium - Building Resilient Shorelands: How to take positive land use action in a changing environmental and legislative climate

- ▶ November 21
- ▶ 98 CA staff; 24 CAs represented

\*These numbers are not reflective of the total number of webinar participants.



# What We Do

**CONSERVATION ONTARIO REPRESENTS ONTARIO'S 36 CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (CAs) ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST TO POSITIVELY INFLUENCE POLICY DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT.**

CAs are community-based watershed management agencies that implement programs focused on watershed management to safeguard people and property from flooding and other natural hazards. Additionally, they work towards conserving natural resources to promote economic, social, and environmental benefits. CAs operate under the legislative framework of the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1946*.



## **CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S BUSINESS FUNCTIONS**

- ✓ Policy and Program Development
- ✓ Government Relations
- ✓ Business Development and Partnerships
- ✓ Education and Training
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Corporate Services
- ✓ Information Management and Research



# How We Work



## VISION

Conservation Ontario will engage Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and to shape effective policies relating to Conservation Authorities.



## MISSION

To promote and continually strengthen a watershed-based conservation coalition in Ontario.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chair, Chris White**  
Grand River  
Conservation Authority

**Vice Chair, Pierre Leroux**  
South Nation  
Conservation

**Vice Chair, Robert Rock**  
Kawartha Conservation

**Director, Rob Baldwin**  
Lake Simcoe Region  
Conservation Authority

**Director, Linda Laliberte**  
Ganaraska Region  
Conservation Authority

**Director, Chandra Sharma**  
Niagara Peninsula  
Conservation Authority

# CONSERVATION ONTARIO

## 2023 Financial Summary

In 2023, Conservation Ontario generated total revenues of \$10,053,123. These revenues were sourced from membership fees, special projects funded by federal and provincial governments, and non-governmental agencies.

After a detailed review of all expenses, Conservation Ontario achieved a surplus of \$311,306 in revenue over expenditures.

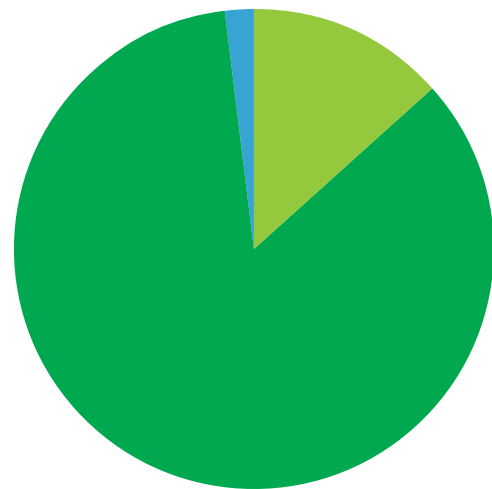
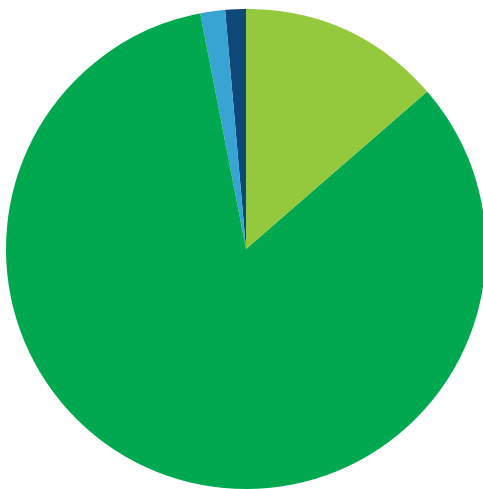
### REVENUES

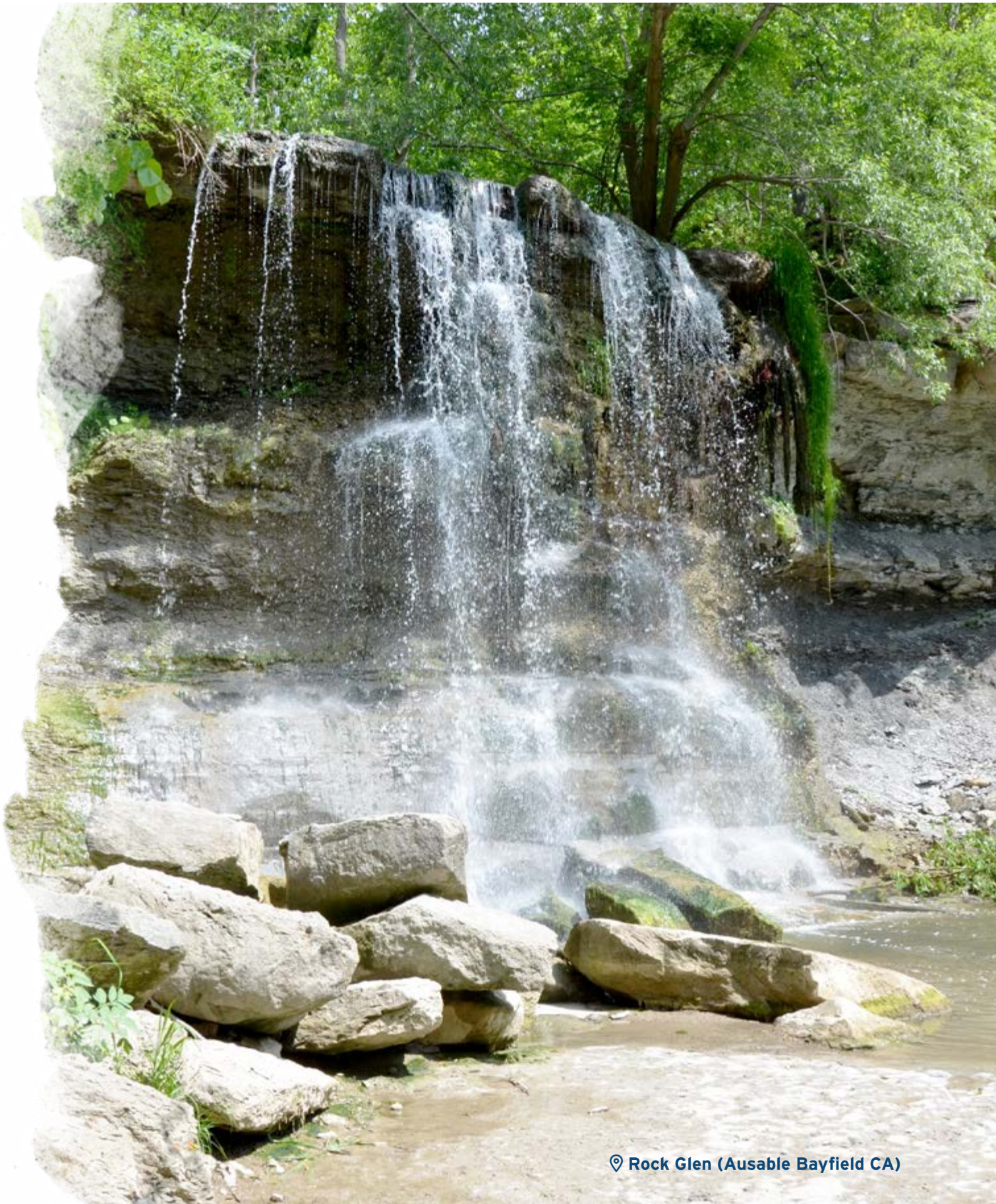
● Membership Fees	1,375,000
● Special Projects	8,373,752
● Source Water Protection	175,726
● Other	128,645
	<hr/>
	<b>\$10,053,123</b>

### EXPENDITURES

● Operations	1,301,053
● Special Projects	8,265,038
● Source Water Protection	175,726
	<hr/>
	<b>\$9,741,817</b>

Surplus of revenue over expenditures **\$311,306**





📍 Rock Glen (Ausable Bayfield CA)



# Conservation ONTARIO

120 Bayview Parkway  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3 Canada

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☎ 905-895-0716

✉ [info@conservationontario.ca](mailto:info@conservationontario.ca)

🌐 [conservationontario.ca](http://conservationontario.ca)

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📘 Ontario's Conservation Areas / Conservation Ontario

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🌐 Conservation Ontario