

# Fact Sheet

## Protecting the Health of Ontario's Watersheds Watershed Stewardship Services within Conservation Authorities

Conservation Authorities work with their watershed communities and landowners in identifying local concerns and creating solutions to protect and enhance the local environment.

Two key watershed stewardship programs offered by many Conservation Authorities:

1. Water Quality Improvement
  2. Forestry
- Under these programs, Conservation Authorities may offer expert technical advice, design services and financial incentives to landowners.
    - **Agricultural Beneficial Management Practices**  
–nutrient storage, buffer strip establishment, erosion prevention, shelterbelt planting, fencing of livestock from streams
    - **Reforestation, Tree & Shrub Planting/Woodlot Management**  
- tree/shrub planting, tree/shrub sales, site planning, site assessment, monitoring
    - **Rehabilitation, Restoration and Enhancement Projects**  
– stream & wetland rehabilitation, wildlife habitat enhancement, species at risk protection and restoration
    - **Water Supply and Septic Management**
  - **Conservation Authorities deliver programs and services on behalf of, or in partnership** with landowners, other agencies and all level of government, pooling resources and expertise in order to provide the best value for watershed stewardship benefits (eg. Trees Ontario and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association).

### **What is Watershed Stewardship?**

Watershed stewardship is caring for our water, land, air and biodiversity on a watershed basis recognizing that everything is connected in a watershed and is affected by natural and human activities.

### 2012 Conservation Authority Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- 586 landowners engaged resulting in 541 projects
- \$2.5 million in grant dollars given out (total value of \$6.6 million)
- 47% of grant dollars come from municipalities
- 75% of projects are agricultural

### 2012 Tree Planting Programs

- 3 million trees planted (approximately 1.7 million in partnership with the Trees Ontario 50 Million Trees initiative)
- Over 5,000 hectares of land planted
- 3,037 landowners engaged resulting in 1,959 projects
- \$5 million in grant dollars given out (total value of \$7 million)
- 32% of projects are agricultural

### 2012 Habitat Rehabilitation/Restoration Projects

- 495 landowners engaged resulting in 609 projects
- 367 hectares and 83 km of stream restored or rehabilitated
- \$5.9 million in grant dollars given out (total value \$6.6 million)
- 30% of projects with agricultural producers; 70% with rural non-farm landowners
- 123 projects aimed at invasive species; 55 targeted at species at risk

### 2012 Water Supply and Septic Management Projects

- 865 projects were completed, including decommissioning unused wells, private septics, and wellhead protection.
- \$2.4 million in grant dollars generated total project costs of \$5.2 million
- 59% of grants were provincial, 30% municipal, 9% federal, and 2% other

## **About Conservation Authorities**

- Conservation Authorities are local, science-based, community agencies that manage natural resources on a *watershed basis* across Ontario. Conservation Authorities operate under the Conservation Authorities Act.
- Almost 90% of the Ontario population resides in watersheds managed by Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.
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