



2026 PROVINCIAL FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2026 | BURLINGTON, ONTARIO



ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

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The Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop aims to strengthen connections among agencies involved in flood forecasting and warning, emergency management, flow measurement, and data collection—along with other partners—to address policy and implementation needs and to provide training opportunities.

2026 WORKSHOP THEME

The theme of the 2026 Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop is **Collaboration in Action: Ontario's Flood Forecasting and Warning System**.

Attendees can look forward to two full days of presentations and networking opportunities, showcasing agency collaborations, technological innovations, and insight into recent weather events!

WORKSHOP SURVEY AND PRIZES

We want to hear from you! Please take a few minutes before the end of the Workshop to respond to our survey (scan the QR Code). All survey respondents are entered into a draw for a PFFWW prize pack!



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



ANNA CIORAP
PARKS CANADA



CHRISTINE PHILLIBERT
QUINTE CONSERVATION



HOLLY ANNAND
MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



IRYNA SHULYARENKO
MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



JESS PENZ
UPPER THAMES RIVER
CA



KATHERINE WATSON
SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION



MELANIE TAYLOR
ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA



RITA LUCERO
TORONTO AND REGION
CA



TRUDY KIDD
ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE
CANADA



VAHID TALEBAN
GRAND RIVER
CA



NICHOLAS FISCHER
CONSERVATION ONTARIO
(COORDINATOR)



ROBYN RUMNEY
CONSERVATION ONTARIO
(COORDINATOR)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
8:30 a.m.	Registration Open and Continental Brakfast	
9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Cara Chiapponi , Ministry of Natural Resources Angela Coleman , Conservation Ontario
10:00 a.m.	Future-ready: Transforming Ontario's Conservation Authority System	Hassaan Basit , Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency
10:30 a.m.	Networking and Refreshment Break	
11:00 a.m.	Atmospheric Rivers and Disastrous Floods in Ontario: Statistics and Seasonal Case Studies (Virtual)	Ruping Mo , Environment and Climate Change Canada
11:45 a.m.	Lunch Break	
12:45 p.m.	When Ice Takes Control: Predicting the Unpredictable	Paul Barrette , National Research Council Denise Sudom , National Research Council
1:30 p.m.	AFFES Weather Office: Long-Range Weather Outlook	Andrew Giacomini , Ministry of Natural Resources Kieran Salim , Ministry of Natural Resources
2:15 p.m.	Networking and Refreshment Break	
2:45 p.m.	The Rain Retrospective: Insights and Lessons Learned from Recent Weather Events	Vahid Taleban , Grand River CA Cameron Wilson , Emergency Management Ontario Angela Mills , North Bay-Mattawa CA
3:45 p.m.	Where the Water Went: Ontario's Low Water Response Program, the 2025 Drought, and Lessons Learned	Camelia Rusmir-Woods , Ministry of Natural Resources Katherine Watson , South Nation Conservation Kathryn Starratt , Mississippi Valley CA Christine Phillibert , Quinte Conservation Heather Brodie-Brown , Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5:30 p.m.	Social Hour and Dinner Reception	

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	
9:00 a.m.	Beyond the Forecast: Connecting Preparedness and Flood Messaging	Rhianydd Phillips , Toronto and Region CA
9:30 a.m.	Flood Communications in Practice: Interagency and Public Communications During the 2026 Freshet	Ken Cheney , Lake Simcoe Region CA Anna Ciorap , Parks Canada Frank Jonkman , Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
10:00 a.m.	Building Capacity for Water Management Communications	Kathryn Starratt , Mississippi Valley CA
10:15 a.m.	Networking and Refreshment Break	
10:45 a.m.	Hydrometric Data and Systems in Ontario: Overview, Operational Challenges, and Data Availability	Wayne Beaton , Environment and Climate Change Canada Melanie Taylor , Environment and Climate Change Canada
11:15 a.m.	You Down with the OHPCC? Yeah, You Know Me! With an Assist from the Third Party Operators Assist Agreement	Ben O'Reilly , Conservation Halton
11:45 a.m.	Lunch Break	
12:45 p.m.	2024 Storm Events: What Happened and What We Learned	Mohammad Semnani , Toronto and Region CA
1:15 p.m.	Navigating Jurisdictional and Technical Complexity: Flash Flood Forecasting in Canada	Natalie Gervasi , Environment and Climate Change Canada
2:00 p.m.	Networking and Refreshment Break	
2:30 p.m.	Beyond the Forecast: Understanding ECCC's Assessment of Weather Risk	Trudy Kidd , Environment and Climate Change Canada
3:00 p.m.	Translating Urban Modelling into Impact-Based Forecasting using Risk & Return On Investment Tool (RROIT): Lessons from Sophia Creek Pilot Project	Mohammad Hajiseyedjavadi , Lake Simcoe Region CA Khashayar Saniei , Lake Simcoe Region CA
3:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Survey Draw	

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Hassaan Basit

Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Provincial
Conservation Agency

Presentation Abstract:

For decades, Ontario's conservation authorities have played a critical role in flood forecasting, warning, and watershed management, built on strong partnerships, local expertise, and a shared commitment to protecting communities. Yet population growth, associated development pressures, and climate impacts are creating a more complex and demanding operating environment than ever before. Meeting these challenges requires enhanced tools, capacity, and coordination to enable conservation authorities to deliver faster, more efficient, and cost-effective services. In the first part of this presentation, Hassaan Basit, CEO of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), will reflect on the evolution of Ontario's conservation authority system, the strengths that made it a best-in-class model, and the realities shaping today. The second part of the presentation will look ahead to a future vision that is not about reclaiming something lost, but about building something new. Through shared resources, streamlined processes, advanced technologies, and stronger regional collaboration, modernization presents an opportunity to create a more integrated, digitally enabled, and resilient system. Conservation authorities will remain at the centre of this vision, with OPCA helping to drive innovation, build capacity, and support the delivery of consistent, high-quality services across the province. By moving beyond consolidation toward true transformation, Ontario has an opportunity to transform its conservation authority system with modern, efficient, and future-ready tools to deliver better outcomes for communities.

Biography:

Hassaan began his career as an evolutionary biologist at the University of Toronto, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology. He later completed a Master's degree in Science Communication from Queen's University Belfast and an Executive MBA in Digital Transformation from the DeGroote School of Business at McMaster University. Prior to joining the provincial government, Hassaan served as City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Burlington. Before that, he spent 20 years at Conservation Halton, ultimately serving as its President and Chief Executive Officer. In 2025, Hassaan was appointed Ontario's first Chief Conservation Executive and now leads the newly established Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency.



Ruping Mo

Senior R&D Meteorologist
Environment and Climate
Change Canada

Presentation Abstract:

Atmospheric rivers (ARs) are increasingly recognized as major drivers of flooding in North America, yet their role in inland flooding across Ontario remains understudied. This study quantifies AR contributions to significant flooding based on data from the Canadian Disaster Database and a published AR catalogue. Between 1947 and 2020, 75 disastrous flooding events affecting Ontario were documented (14 winter, 39 spring, 19 summer, 3 autumn), showing an apparent increasing trend linked to climate and societal changes. Of these, 49 events (65%) were directly associated with ARs, with seasonal contributions of 79% (winter), 64% (spring), 53% (summer), and 100% (autumn). Spring floods often involve additional drivers such as snowmelt, while summer floods are more frequently tied to localized convection with weaker AR dependence. Four seasonal case studies illustrate typical AR-driven flood mechanisms, underscoring the value of AR monitoring for provincial flood forecasting and warning.

Biography:

Dr. Ruping Mo is a Senior Research Meteorologist with 10 years of experience in operational weather forecasting. His ongoing projects in the national laboratory aim to improve scientific understanding and prediction of high-impact weather in coastal and mountainous environments, and to facilitate technology transfer of scientific results, especially advances in numerical weather prediction, into operational weather forecasting programs. One of his expertise is in the area of analysis and operational forecast of atmospheric rivers.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Paul Barrette

Senior Research Scientist
National Research
Council

Presentation Abstract:

River ice causes floods across Canada every year. Yet, because ice behaviour is highly complex and strongly influenced by weather patterns—which are difficult to foresee even in the short term—there are currently no fully reliable methods for predicting how river ice will behave. Local communities, however, are well positioned to monitor their river and develop practical, experience-based knowledge of its behaviour through the winter season. This presentation offers a general perspective of why and how river ice leads to flooding, the types of data that are most relevant to anticipate these events, available observation methods as well as mitigation measures.

Biography:

Paul has been conducting research in ice engineering for nearly three decades. During that time, he has investigated different aspects of river ice — its nature, formation, behaviour and various manifestations including frazil ice. His scientific contributions are twofold: advancing technical knowledge and helping bridge the communication gap between experts and end users. He is a member of the Committee on River Ice Processes and the Environment (CRIPE), a Canadian organization recognized internationally for its biennial river ice workshops and publications.



Denise Sudom

Senior Research Engineer
National Research
Council

Presentation Abstract:

River ice causes floods across Canada every year. Yet, because ice behaviour is highly complex and strongly influenced by weather patterns—which are difficult to foresee even in the short term—there are currently no fully reliable methods for predicting how river ice will behave. Local communities, however, are well positioned to monitor their river and develop practical, experience-based knowledge of its behaviour through the winter season. This presentation offers a general perspective of why and how river ice leads to flooding, the types of data that are most relevant to anticipate these events, available observation methods as well as mitigation measures.

Biography:

Denise has more than 20 years of research experience in ice engineering, including field and laboratory work, data analysis, and risk assessment. At the NRC, she plays an active role in coordinating and implementing projects that address practical challenges through the development of technologies that improve the safety and sustainability of operations in cold regions. Her work strengthens collaboration between science and industry, helping ensure that research outcomes are relevant and applicable to real-world needs.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Presentation Abstract:

The Grand River Watershed experienced significant hydrological stress following a record-breaking snow in the winter of 2025/2026, particularly in its northern regions accompanied by heavy record-breaking rain at the end of March 2026. The presentation explores the impact of such events on flood management infrastructures and downstream communities.

Biography:

Vahid currently serves as the Director of Flood Operations with the Grand River Conservation Authority, overseeing the flood forecasting and warning program as well as engineering review of development applications. Prior to joining GRCA in 2017, Vahid worked in the private sector as a water resources engineer. His experience includes leading and supporting watershed and subwatershed studies, floodplain mapping projects, environmental impact assessments, and stormwater master plans.

Vahid Taleban

Director of Flood
Operations
Grand River
Conservation Authority



Presentation Abstract:

This presentation will discuss the actions taken by MEPR and Ontario Corps partners in response to widespread flooding impacts in Central Ontario in April 2026. The focus will include how the flooding affected municipalities, information sharing between partners, and how MEPR deployed Ontario Corps resources.

Biography:

Cameron started working as a Field Officer with Emergency Management Ontario in 2022 and has planned for and responded to major emergencies across Ontario, including wildfires, flooding, ice storms, and evacuations. Much of Cameron's previous work experience comes from the NGO sector, where he has lead projects in Central America and Eastern Europe.

Cameron Wilson

Field Officer
Emergency
Management Ontario

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Angela Mills

Water Resources
Specialist
North Bay-Mattawa
Conservation Authority

Presentation Abstract:

This presentation will provide an overview of the multi-faceted 2026 spring freshet flood event, highlighting inter-organizational collaborations that have been implemented as lessons learned since the 2019 flood event.

Biography:

Angela has worked in water quality, hydrogeology, ecology and source protection related programs over the past 10 years at multiple Conservation Authorities and has been with the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority since 2021. In addition to being a lead in the flood forecasting and low water response program, she leads the surface water quality and groundwater monitoring programs and assists with the Source Protection program.



**Camelia
Rusmir-
Woods**

Program Analyst
Ministry of Natural
Resources

Presentation Abstract:

Sometimes there's too much water, and sometimes, not nearly enough! Ontario's Low Water Response (LWR) Program ensures provincial and local authorities are prepared in the event of low water or drought conditions. As a sister to Flood Forecasting and Warning, this session will provide a multi-agency look at Ontario's LWR and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring (PGMN) Programs, recent drought events, impacts on water resources and stakeholders, organizational insights into low water management, and opportunities to strengthen drought preparedness.

Biography:

Camelia Rusmir-Woods is a Program Analyst with the Surface Water Monitoring Centre (SWMC) at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). She has worked with MNR and SWMC on and off since 2007 and brings more than 23 years of experience in the Ontario Public Service. Camelia holds a master's degree in physical Geography from the University of Waterloo and began her OPS career as a scientist with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Throughout her career, she has held a variety of roles across operational, policy, and science divisions within MNR. Her work has primarily focused on provincial water management programs, including water quality and quantity.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



**Katherine
Watson**

Coordinator, Early
Warning Systems and
Watershed Plans
South Nation
Conservation

Presentation Abstract:

Sometimes there's too much water, and sometimes, not nearly enough! Ontario's Low Water Response (LWR) Program ensures provincial and local authorities are prepared in the event of low water or drought conditions. As a sister to Flood Forecasting and Warning, this session will provide a multi-agency look at Ontario's LWR and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring (PGMN) Programs, recent drought events, impacts on water resources and stakeholders, organizational insights into low water management, and opportunities to strengthen drought preparedness.

Biography:

Kat coordinates SNC's Water Response Programs, including the Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response programs. She is an active member on several Provincial Committees including the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Committee and the Ontario Hydrometric Program Coordinating Committee and enjoys working with external partners to advance Early Warning Tools to better protect people and their property.



**Kathryn
Starratt**

Water Resources
Specialist
Mississippi Valley
Conservation
Authority

Presentation Abstract:

Sometimes there's too much water, and sometimes, not nearly enough! Ontario's Low Water Response (LWR) Program ensures provincial and local authorities are prepared in the event of low water or drought conditions. As a sister to Flood Forecasting and Warning, this session will provide a multi-agency look at Ontario's LWR and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring (PGMN) Programs, recent drought events, impacts on water resources and stakeholders, organizational insights into low water management, and opportunities to strengthen drought preparedness.

Biography:

Kathryn coordinates MVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response programs and supports the water management team through leadership in watershed communications, dam operations, system monitoring, and drought management. She plays a key role in coordinating flood response and advancing tools and programs that support informed water management decisions. She holds a degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Waterloo and previously worked in consulting, where she supported emergency management and response initiatives.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



**Christine
Phillibert**

Manager, Water
Resources
Quinte Conservation

Presentation Abstract:

Sometimes there's too much water, and sometimes, not nearly enough! Ontario's Low Water Response (LWR) Program ensures provincial and local authorities are prepared in the event of low water or drought conditions. As a sister to Flood Forecasting and Warning, this session will provide a multi-agency look at Ontario's LWR and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring (PGMN) Programs, recent drought events, impacts on water resources and stakeholders, organizational insights into low water management, and opportunities to strengthen drought preparedness.

Biography:

As the Water Resources Manager at Quinte Conservation, Christine oversees the Flood Forecasting and Warning program, Low Water Response program, Floodplain Mapping updates, and management and operation of Water Control Infrastructure. She also provides technical support across other CA program areas. Christine brings a risk-based approach to all aspects of her work. In her spare time Christine enjoys spending time with family and outdoor activities such as playing sports, camping, hiking, and skiing.



**Heather
Brodie-Brown**

Group Leader,
Groundwater Monitoring,
Ministry of the
Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Presentation Abstract:

Sometimes there's too much water, and sometimes, not nearly enough! Ontario's Low Water Response (LWR) Program ensures provincial and local authorities are prepared in the event of low water or drought conditions. As a sister to Flood Forecasting and Warning, this session will provide a multi-agency look at Ontario's LWR and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring (PGMN) Programs, recent drought events, impacts on water resources and stakeholders, organizational insights into low water management, and opportunities to strengthen drought preparedness.

Biography:

Heather Brodie-Brown is the Group Leader, Groundwater Monitoring with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). She leads Ontario's Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN), supporting the collection and reporting of long-term groundwater data used to inform water management, drought assessment, and climate resilience initiatives across the province. With more than 28 years of experience in consulting and government, Heather has worked in many areas of hydrogeology and groundwater management, including groundwater monitoring, contaminated sites, source water protection, water supply, and environmental assessment.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



**Rhianydd
Phillips**

Communications
Coordinator, Flood
Emergency
Management
Toronto and Region
Conservation
Authority

Presentation Abstract:

This presentation explores how Conservation Authorities can move beyond storm event flood messaging to build year round communication strategies that improve public and municipal understanding, preparedness, and response. Drawing on practical examples from TRCA's Flood Risk Outreach Program, this presentation highlights how preparedness messaging and conservation authority flood messages can work together to drive meaningful action.

Biography:

Rhianydd Phillips is a Flood Communications Coordinator at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), where she supports flood risk management, emergency preparedness, and public engagement initiatives. Since joining TRCA in 2015, she has leveraged her background in communications, marketing, and program administration to lead strategic flood communications projects and develop case studies that support public awareness and understanding of flood risks.



**Kenneth
Cheney**

Director, Flood
Management
Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority

Presentation Abstract:

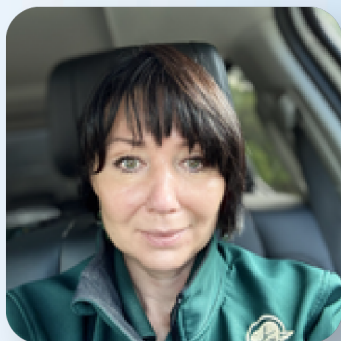
Synopsis of 2026 event and the actions taken by Parks Canada regarding dam operations during the flooding along the Lake Simcoe /Severn River watershed. An overview of the flood event, messaging, municipal response, jurisdictional roles and the communications and interactions between Parks Canada, LSRCA and municipalities. An overview of the coordination and public communications taken to minimize flooding and increase situational awareness while respecting federal and provincial legislation and policies and jurisdictional responsibility.

Biography:

A licensed professional engineer in Ontario, Kenneth Cheney is the Director of Flood Management at the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. After graduating from the University of Waterloo in 2007 in Environmental Engineering, Ken worked in private consulting in the water resources sector before joining the Conservation Authority in 2014. He manages the Flood Forecasting and Warning and Floodplain mapping Programs for the Conservation Authority.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Anna Ciorap

Water Management
Manager
Parks Canada

Presentation Abstract:

Synopsis of 2026 event and the actions taken by Parks Canada regarding dam operations during the flooding along the Lake Simcoe /Severn River watershed. An overview of the flood event, messaging, municipal response, jurisdictional roles and the communications and interactions between Parks Canada, LSRCA and municipalities. An overview of the coordination and public communications taken to minimize flooding and increase situational awareness while respecting federal and provincial legislation and policies and jurisdictional responsibility.

Biography:

Anna Ciorap is the Water Management Manager at Ontario Waterways Unit, Parks Canada. After graduating from York University in 2012 with PhD in Geography focusing on hydrology and biogeochemistry of Arctic environments Anna joined Parks Canada agency in 2013. She is responsible for flow and level regulation across Trent -Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal.



Frank Jonkman

Drainage Superintendent
Town of Bradford West
Gwillimbury

Presentation Abstract:

Synopsis of 2026 event and the actions taken by Parks Canada regarding dam operations during the flooding along the Lake Simcoe /Severn River watershed. An overview of the flood event, messaging, municipal response, jurisdictional roles and the communications and interactions between Parks Canada, LSRCA and municipalities. An overview of the coordination and public communications taken to minimize flooding and increase situational awareness while respecting federal and provincial legislation and policies and jurisdictional responsibility.

Biography:

Frank Jonkman is the Drainage Superintendent for the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and Township of King, where he oversees day-to-day drainage operations and helps keep the Holland Marsh's drainage system running smoothly. Growing up in a family closely connected to the Marsh, Frank brings practical experience and a strong understanding of local needs. His steady, hands-on approach and commitment to teamwork help support the safety and productivity of this unique agricultural area.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



**Kathryn
Starratt**

Water Resources
Specialist
Mississippi Valley
Conservation Authority

Presentation Abstract:

MVCA has established a Water Management Communications Program to manage increasing public inquiries through dedicated communications leadership, standardized processes, inquiry tracking, a public information dashboard, and staff resources. The program enhances efficiency, consistency, and transparency while improving public access to water management information.

Biography:

Kathryn coordinates MVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response programs and supports the water management team through leadership in watershed communications, dam operations, system monitoring, and drought management. She plays a key role in coordinating flood response and advancing tools and programs that support informed water management decisions. She holds a degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Waterloo and previously worked in consulting, where she supported emergency management and response initiatives.



**Wayne
Beaton**

Head of Operations,
Southern ON
Environment and
Climate Change
Canada

Presentation Abstract:

With over 500 hydrometric monitoring stations across Ontario Region, four regional offices, and watersheds located in diverse urban and rural settings, field operations require careful coordination. Decisions regarding high-water measurement activities are influenced by station accessibility, travel logistics, staff availability, and equipment needs. Advances in telemetry and more frequent data polling have strengthened real-time data availability, allowing the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) to respond more effectively to changing conditions. As weather patterns become increasingly variable and localized flooding events occur more frequently year-round, operational planning and deployment decisions are becoming progressively more complex.

Biography:

Wayne Beaton serves as the Head of Operations for Southern Ontario with the National Hydrological Services – Water Survey of Canada. He is responsible for the operational planning and management of the NHS hydrometric network in Southern Ontario. Wayne began his career with NHS in 2002 as a hydrometric technologist where he operated real-time streamflow monitoring gauges and computed hydrometric data to national and ISO standards. During this time, he became a regional expert in Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers and Electronic Data Acquisition Systems.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Melanie Taylor

Data Control and Client Services Lead, Ontario and Quebec
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Presentation Abstract:

With over 500 hydrometric monitoring stations across Ontario Region, four regional offices, and watersheds located in diverse urban and rural settings, field operations require careful coordination. Decisions regarding high-water measurement activities are influenced by station accessibility, travel logistics, staff availability, and equipment needs. Advances in telemetry and more frequent data polling have strengthened real-time data availability, allowing the Water Survey of Canada (WSC) to respond more effectively to changing conditions. As weather patterns become increasingly variable and localized flooding events occur more frequently year-round, operational planning and deployment decisions are becoming progressively more complex.

Biography:

As the Data Control and Client Services Lead for Ontario and Quebec, Melanie Taylor has supported the National Hydrological Services – Water Survey of Canada for over 21 years. Starting her career as a Hydrometric Monitoring Technician, she has worked her way up to where she is now where she assists in providing continued support and resources both inside and outside of the organization.



Ben O'Reilly

Manager, Flood Forecasting and Operations (Acting)
Conservation Halton

Presentation Abstract:

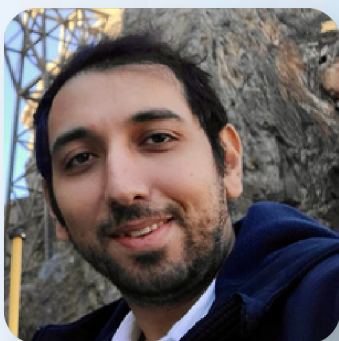
In this age of partnerships (doing more, with less!) this presentation will provide a brief overview of the Ontario Hydrometric Program Coordinating Committee (OHPCC), a shadowy cabal of malcontents, as well as the Third Party Operator Assist Agreement partnership process.

Biography:

Ben has worked at Conservation Halton for the past 10 years, and for Conservation Authorities for 15 years. He is a Flood Duty Officer, Dam Operator, and one of the CA reps on the OHPCC.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Mohammad Semnani

Engineer, Flood Risk
Management
Toronto and Region
Conservation Authority

Presentation Abstract:

This study examined July 16 and August 17, 2024, extreme rainfall events across the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority jurisdiction through two complementary reports. The Storm Analysis Report characterized peak flows and water levels; infrastructure impacts; and comparisons with historical storms. The Climate Pattern Analysis Report investigated the meteorological drivers, forecast performance, and influence of climate change. The two reports found that the July 16 and August 17, 2024, storms were short-duration, high-intensity convective events driven by abundant moisture, atmospheric instability, and repeated thunderstorms over the same areas. Both produced localized rainfall with significant impacts.

Biography:

Mohammad is an Engineer with flood risk management group with TRCA. He has a background in Water Resources Engineering from University of Manitoba, and he specializes in hydrologic/hydraulic modeling. Mohammad was involved in various floodplain mapping and channel design projects within Greater Toronto Area.



Natalie Gervasi

Physical Sciences
Specialist
Environment and
Climate Change
Canada

Presentation Abstract:

Following the 2025 Texas floods and recent flash flooding in Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia, ECCC conducted a feasibility study to assess the state of flash flood forecasting in Canada. This presentation explores the outcomes of the study: Canada's ability to forecast and warn for flash flooding is limited by jurisdictional complexity and technical gaps. Provincial and Territorial (PT) and federal responsibilities intersect, but no single authority holds a clear mandate, and while ECCC has a baseline of existing products and services, it lacks critical products, like real-time quantitative precipitation estimates. Ultimately, leveraging national partnerships and enhanced federal-PT collaboration could help address these challenges.

Biography:

Natalie Gervasi is a Physical Sciences Specialist with Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) National Hydrological Service. She is a primary support and partner liaison for hydrological prediction efforts in eastern Canada, conducting outreach and engagement and providing technical expertise on ECCC products and services to provincial and territorial flood forecasters, as well as providing technical support to ECCC's transboundary water management activities in the Great Lakes.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



Trudy Kidd

Warning Preparedness
Meteorologist
Environment and
Climate Change
Canada

Presentation Abstract:

Weather forecasting has become more than predicting the weather. It is about assessing uncertainty, communicating confidence, and supporting informed decisions. This presentation will provide a behind-the-scenes look at how Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) evaluates weather risk and communicates that information through its decision-support tools. It will also explore how new technologies are being incorporated into the forecasting process, and why collaboration with partners remains essential for understanding real-world impacts and strengthening risk communication.

Biography:

Trudy is a Warning Preparedness Meteorologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Her role focuses on supporting emergency management partners and other stakeholders by improving understanding of ECCC's forecasting and warning services and the interpretation of weather forecasts. Through regular engagement with provincial organizations and partner agencies, she provides insight into evolving forecast products, weather risk, forecast uncertainty, and the communication of high-impact weather.



Mohammad Hajiseyedjav- adi

Water Resources
Engineering Technician
Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority

Presentation Abstract:

An overview of how LSRCA used PCSWMM to model different urban flood scenarios in one of the most urbanized subwatersheds in the City of Barrie (Sophia Creek) and how the RROIT framework was applied to calculate financial damages under existing and climate change conditions. Building on RROIT results and hydrology, a rainfall-to-impact reference card was developed to link forecast rainfall, informed by ECCC's Ontario Vigilance Bulletin, to estimate number of buildings affected, a grain of salt financial damages, and impact band, which is aligned with Ontario Vigilance Bulletin, for the Sophia Creek Subwatershed.

Biography:

Mohammad is a Water Resources Engineering Technician with LSRCA. He holds a Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) from Western University. Before joining the Flood Management department, he worked in Research and Innovation department in LSRCA, focusing on stormwater management and applied research into better SWM practices. He now supports the Flood Forecasting and Warning program and floodplain mapping projects. As a Certified Internet Web Developer (CIW), he also contributes to the automation of Daily Planning Cycle with the goal of increasing lead time for municipal and emergency management partners during flood events.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



**Khashayar
Saniei**

TBC
Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority

Presentation Abstract:

An overview of how LSRCA used PCSWMM to model different urban flood scenarios in one of the most urbanized subwatersheds in the City of Barrie (Sophia Creek) and how the RROIT framework was applied to calculate financial damages under existing and climate change conditions. Building on RROIT results and hydrology, a rainfall-to-impact reference card was developed to link forecast rainfall, informed by ECCC's Ontario Vigilance Bulletin, to estimate number of buildings affected, a grain of salt financial damages, and impact band, which is aligned with Ontario Vigilance Bulletin, for the Sophia Creek Subwatershed.

Biography:

Khashayar is a Water Resources Engineering Technician with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). He holds a Master of Engineering (MEng) in Environmental Engineering from the University of Guelph and a Master of Science (MSc) in Water Resources Engineering from Iran. Prior to joining LSRCA, Khashayar worked in private consulting within the water resources sector, gaining experience in hydrologic and hydraulic modelling. He has been with LSRCA for over a year, where he contributes to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program, and supports floodplain mapping projects.

