



Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions

ADDING VALUE

How Conservation Authorities support provincial priorities



Climate change

- Local adaptation strategies such as green infrastructure, urban and rural stormwater management, tree planting
- Flood management programs to address climate change
- Data collection, monitoring, modelling and research



Healthy Great Lakes

- Rural stewardship, urban and rural stormwater management, nutrient management, green infrastructure and other programs reduce nutrient impact on Great Lakes
- Great Lakes Guardian Fund projects
- Data collection, monitoring, modelling and research



Growth and urbanization

- Conservation Authorities Act Section 28 regulations control development in and near wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes and Great Lake shorelines
- Advice to municipalities to ensure development is compatible with a healthy and sustainable environment and consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and provincial plans (e.g. Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe)



Flood warning and protection

- \$2.7 billion worth of public infrastructure including more than 900 dams, dikes, channels and erosion control structures
- Floodplain mapping, flood monitoring and warning systems to protect lives and properties
- Flood damage reduced \$100 million annually

ADDING VALUE

How Conservation Authorities support provincial priorities



Natural heritage and biodiversity

- 146,000 hectares of natural land protected through CA ownership
- Tree planting, forest management, river habitat and wetland protection and improvements
- Support provincial efforts to protect Species at Risk and manage Invasive Species



Recreation, health and tourism

- 250 Conservation Areas attracting 6.8 million visitors annually
- 2,500 kilometres of trails connecting people to nature



Education

- Close to 50 outdoor education facilities serving more than 400,000 students annually at 3,800 schools in partnership with 50 of the province's 72 district school boards
- Partners in Water Festivals: fun, interactive way for kids to learn about water issues
- Partners in Specialist High Skills Major Program



Water quality

- Implementing the Clean Water Act for drinking water source protection
- Stewardship programs protect water quality on farm and rural land



Water supplies

- Implement Low Water Response Program during dry conditions
- Water budgets and other research guide informed decisions on municipal water supplies
- Some CAs operate reservoirs used to maintain river flows in summer and fall



Monitoring and reporting

- Partner in Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network, Hydrometric Network and others
- CA Watershed Report Cards provide an overview of watershed health

Conservation Authorities are proud to work with these ministries:

Natural Resources & Forestry, Environment & Climate Change, Municipal Affairs & Housing, Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Economic Development, Employment & Infrastructure, Health, Tourism Culture & Sport, Education, Northern Development & Mines