

# Fact Sheet

## Flooding in Ontario CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Flooding is the leading cause of public emergency in Ontario.

Flood management is a shared responsibility in Ontario and Conservation Authorities are on the front lines of the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning program.

Flooding can happen at any time. Heavy rains, snowmelt, spring break up and ice jams, wind-related storm surges, or the failure of dams can all cause flooding.

Conservation Authorities and municipalities prepare for, track and manage local flooding in a lot of Ontario. Advance warning enables them to put emergency plans into operation, evacuate communities if necessary, and secure property in areas that are more likely to flood.

**Monitoring weather and flood conditions** is a shared responsibility of Conservation Authorities, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Environment Canada. When flooding is possible or about to occur, Conservation Authorities issue flood messages to municipal emergency management officials and the media. Municipalities then take action to warn local residents.

### Conservation Authorities' responsibilities around flood management:

- Undertake floodplain mapping, modelling, and monitoring streamflow, rainfall and snowpacks
- Regulate development in flood prone areas in cooperation with municipalities and the Province
- Provide planning support & advice to municipalities to minimize flood impacts and issue warnings
- Acquire important floodplain lands and flood vulnerable structures
- Operate over 900 dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures (asset replacement value: \$2.7 billion)

Conservation Authorities bring added protection and benefits through watershed planning, watershed stewardship/natural heritage system management, stormwater management, low impact development, stewardship, monitoring and many other programs they deliver.

**Together, Conservation Authorities prevent more than  
\$100 million/year in flood damages.**

For more information on flood forecasting and warning, please visit:

**Conservation Ontario's website:**

**Conservation Authorities and Flood Management** <http://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/flood-management/>

**Conservation Ontario's 2013 Flood Business Case** <http://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/flood-management/flood-business-case/>

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