



Conservation  
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# 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.

#### 2016 Conservation Authority Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- 1,398 landowners engaged resulting in 634 projects
- \$2.4 million in grant dollars given out (total value of \$5.4 million)
- 53% of grant dollars come from municipalities
- 88% of projects are agricultural

#### 2016 Tree Planting Programs

- 2.3 million trees planted
- Over 1,200 hectares of land planted
- 2,206 landowners engaged resulting in 1,584 projects
- \$4.6 million in grant dollars given out (total value of \$5.1 million)
- 39% of projects are agricultural

#### 2016 Habitat Rehabilitation/Restoration Projects

- 630 landowners engaged resulting in 964 projects
- 414 hectares and 258 km of stream restored or rehabilitated
- \$9.9 million in grant dollars given out (total value \$10.5 million)
- 20% of projects with agricultural producers; 80% with rural non-farm landowners
- 119 projects aimed at invasive species; 105 targeted at species at risk

#### 2016 Water Supply and Septic Management Projects

- 510 projects were completed, including decommissioning unused wells, private septics, and wellhead protection.
- \$803,402 in grant dollars generated total project costs of \$4.5 million
- 6% of grants were provincial, 53% municipal, 37% federal, and 4% 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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