

Fact Sheet

Conservation Authorities Healthy Forests for Healthy Watersheds

Healthy Forests help to create and maintain a healthy and resilient environment.

Proper forestry practices can improve water quality in lakes and streams; provide wind and water erosion protection; make poor land more productive and can create wildlife habitat. In addition, trees provide windbreaks and shade, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs. Trees also help us to adapt to climate change impacts by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Conservation Authority Forestry Programs

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities plant over 2 million trees per year in addition to providing technical, planning and management services. Conservation Authorities:

- Participate in the Trees Ontario 50 million trees campaign
- Design, specify and/ approve forest management plans
- Classify, inventory and map forests
- Appraise, evaluate or certify forests
- Audit forest management practices
- Work with landowners to help manage local woodlots or forests
- Provide information to landowners and others educating them about the many benefits of good forest management

2010 Conservation Authority Tree Planting Statistics

- 2.7 million trees planted (estimated that this represents approximately 70% of all trees planted in southern Ontario)
- Over 2,000 hectares of rural and urban lands planted
- Over 1,900 landowners engaged
- \$4 million in grant dollars given out, (total value of \$6 M)
- 30% of projects are agricultural

Benefits of Conservation Authority Forestry Programs

Conservation Authority forestry programs have a long legacy delivered by experienced and qualified staff since they were first established over 60 years ago. In addition to the forestry services, most Conservation Authorities offer other related natural resource programs and services which complement their forestry efforts. For example, these include water quality/quantity improvement programs; watershed planning services and stewardship initiatives with landowners and businesses.

Through work in their other program areas, Conservation Authorities are able to target high priority planting sites to achieve multiple objectives.

Conservation Authorities Work in Partnerships

Partnerships continue to play a significant role in Conservation Authority tree planting efforts. In 2010, Conservation Authorities planted over 1.7 Million trees in collaboration with Trees Ontario including the 'Fifty Million Trees' program. Other valued partners include Municipalities, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Ontario Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada and community groups and many non-government organizations.

More Information About Conservation Authorities

- Conservation Authorities are local, science-based, resource management 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 Conservation Authorities.
- Conservation Authorities partner with watershed municipalities and others on natural resource programs and services.
- Conservation Authorities offer many opportunities for residents to experience local forests through a wide variety of trails and events that take place throughout the year within Conservation Authority lands. For more information: www.ontarioconservationareas.ca
- Contact Information:

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