

Fact Sheet

Working Together to Protect the Health of Ontario's Watersheds

Watershed Stewardship Services within Conservation Authorities

The goal of Conservation Authority Watershed Stewardship programs is to protect and improve the health of watersheds in Ontario.

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, CAs 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**

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.

2008 Conservation Authority Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- 617 projects
- 646 landowners involved
- \$1.7 million in grant dollars given out (total value of \$6.9 M)
- 64% of grant dollars come from Municipalities
- 79% of projects are with agricultural producers

2008 Tree Planting Programs

- 2.6 million trees planted (44% increase from previous year)
- 1,778 hectares of land planted
- 1,496 landowners involved (1,357 projects)
- \$2.4 million in grant dollars given out, (total value of \$7 M) (100% increase from previous year)
- 43% of projects are with agricultural producers

2008 Habitat Rehabilitation/Restoration Projects

- 397 projects
- 241 landowners involved
- 346 hectares and 222 kilometres of stream
- \$1.2 million in grant dollars given out (total value \$5.8 M)
- 42% of projects are with agricultural producers

2008 Water Supply and Septic Management Projects

- 682 projects (almost 100% increase from previous year)
- \$1 million in grant dollars given out (total value of \$2.8 M) (100% increase from previous year)
- 67% of grant dollars come from Municipalities

About Conservation Authorities (CAs)

- 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 Conservation Authorities.
- Contact Information:

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Nov 2009