

# Fact Sheet

## Conservation Authorities Regulatory and Land Use Planning Activities Contribute to Provincial Plan Outcomes

Greenbelt Plan \* Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan \* Niagara Escarpment Plan \*  
Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

In their role as watershed management agencies, Conservation Authorities provide support for implementation of the land use planning system, including four key provincial plans. They do this through their delegated responsibilities around flooding and other natural hazards; their watershed management role; as service providers to their municipalities and as one of the largest landowners in Ontario.

Eighteen Conservation Authorities specifically deliver programs and activities that help the Province and municipalities to reach the important environmental objectives of these plans.

### Conservation Authorities' Delegated Responsibilities Protect Against Natural Hazards

The Conservation Authorities have delegated responsibilities to represent provincial interests around flooding and other natural hazards in implementation of the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2014*. This includes:

- flood plain management;
- hazardous slopes;
- Great Lakes shorelines; and,
- unstable soils and erosion.

Conservation Authorities regulate development activities in, or adjacent to sensitive environmental areas to protect people and property as well as build resilient watersheds.

### Conservation Authority Watershed Management Role Strongly Supports Plan Objectives

Under the *Planning Act* Conservation Authorities are automatically notified of policy documents and planning and development applications which impact activities and areas within the jurisdiction of the four provincial plans. They will often comment on these, providing their expertise as watershed-based resource management agencies.

Conservation Authorities develop business plans, watershed plans and natural resource management plans within their watersheds which identify issues and target solutions, managing the impacts of our activities on natural systems. These plans usually recommend specific approaches to land use and resource planning and management that protect ecosystem features and functions, strongly supporting the objectives of these provincial plans and promoting balanced growth.

## **Planning Advisory Service to Municipalities – Leveraging Conservation Authority Expertise**

Conservation Authorities provide a wide variety of technical support and plan review expertise to municipalities. This could include assessment or analysis of environmental impacts associated with activities in the vicinity of natural heritage features or fish habitat, hydrogeology, stormwater studies; and, in some cases, septic system reviews.

## **Conservation Authorities as Landowners**

As the second largest landowners in Ontario, Conservation Authorities can become involved in the planning and development process, either as an adjacent landowner or as a proponent.

As well, Conservation Authorities purchase lands to protect important ecosystems such as wetlands, floodplains, creek valleys, designated federal/provincial environmentally significant areas, groundwater recharge and discharge areas, significant Great Lakes properties and corridors connecting important conservation lands.

For More Information:

Conservation Authority Programs Help Reach the Goals of Provincial Plans – Conservation Ontario website: <http://www.conservationontario.ca/what-we-do/planning-regulations/provincial-plans-review>

Conservation Ontario

P.O. Box 11, 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket Ontario L3Y 4W3  
Tel: 905.895.0716 Email: [info@conservationontario](mailto:info@conservationontario)

conservationontario.ca