

# CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## Mission Statement

*"To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs  
in order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"*

**A Full Authority meeting is to be held on  
Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Location: Aylmer Legion (211 John Street North, Aylmer, ON)**

**Masks must be worn and social distancing must be maintained.**

**The meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room upstairs.**

## A G E N D A

- 1) Welcome / Call to Order ..... Lori Baldwin-Sands
- 2) Land Acknowledgement
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
- 5) Disclosure of Intention to Audio / Video Record Meeting
- 6) Adoption of Minutes of:
  - a) Full Authority Meeting FA #03/2022 (April 14, 2022) ..... 3 - 8
  - b) Interview Committee IC #02/2022 (April 26, 2022) ..... 9
  - c) Interview Committee IC #03/2022 (April 27, 2022) ..... 10
- 7) Business Arising from Minutes
- 8) Public / Special Delegations
- 9) Reports:
  - a) Report FA 15/2022 - Monthly Staff Reports ..... 11 - 12  
(Tony Difazio, Peter Dragunas, Gerrit Kremers)
  - b) Report FA 16/2022 - April Summary of Revenue & Expenditures ..... 13 - 14  
(Susan Simmons)
  - c) Report FA 17/2022 - Accounts Paid ..... 15  
(Susan Simmons)

d)	Report FA 18/2022 - Summer Employment Program Grants	16
	(Dusty Underhill)	
e)	Report FA 19/2022 - University of Guelph Research Request	17
	(Gerrit Kremers)	
f)	Report FA 20/2022 - Phase 2 Regulations	18
	(Dusty Underhill)	
g)	Report FA 21/2022 - Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting	19 - 20
	(Dusty Underhill)	
h)	Report FA 22/2022 - WECI Capital Investment Program	21
	(Dusty Underhill)	
10)	General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer's Report	Dusty Underhill
11)	Unfinished Business	
12)	Chairperson's / Board Member's Report	
13)	Notice of Motions / New Business:	
14)	Correspondence:	
	a) Not Copied:	
	- Correspondence Register for April, 2022	
	b) Copied:	
	- M.P. Karen Vecchio re: Canada Summer Jobs 2022	
	- Port Bruce Ratepayers Association	
	- Port Bruce Community Project/Association	
	- 2022 Pre-Election Discussion Paper	
	- 2022 Pre-Election Handout	
15)	Closed Session	
16)	Next Meeting / Termination	

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Meeting #03/2022**

The meeting of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Full Authority was conducted at the Aylmer Legion to accommodate social distancing.

**PRESENT:**

Lori Baldwin-Sands	Chairperson	City of St. Thomas
Arthur Oslach	Member	Town of Aylmer
Sally Martyn	Member	Municipality of Central Elgin
Rick Cerna	Member	Township of Malahide

**STAFF:**

Dusty Underhill	General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Simmons	Financial Services Coordinator
Tony Difazio	Resource Planning Coordinator
Peter Dragunas	Water Management Technician
Gerrit Kremers	Conservation Areas Supervisor
Brittany Bell	Program Support Assistant

**ABSENT:**

Paul Buchner	Vice-Chairperson	Township of South-West Oxford
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**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rob Perry	Aylmer Express, Reporter
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**WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER:**

The General Manager-Secretary/Treasurer welcomed Brittany Bell, the Authority's new Program Support Assistant and introduced the members of the Board.

Chairperson Baldwin-Sands welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at (10:03 a.m.).

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

<u>Motion # 28/2022</u>	S. Martyn	R. Cerna	CARRIED
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THAT, the Agenda for the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Full Authority meeting be adopted as circulated.

**DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:**

No one had a pecuniary interest to disclose at this time.

**DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO AUDIO / VIDEO RECORD MEETING:**

The Chairperson asked for disclosures of intentions to audio or video record the meeting. No one indicated any such intentions at this time.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Motion # 29/2022                      R. Cerna                                      A. Oslach                                      CARRIED

THAT, the Minutes of Full Authority Meeting # 02/2022 (March 10, 2022), be accepted as circulated.

Motion # 30/2022                      A. Oslach                                      S. Martyn                                      CARRIED

THAT, the Minutes of Interview Committee Meeting #01/2022 (March 25, 2022), be accepted as circulated.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

No one reported any outstanding business to discuss from the previous Minutes.

**PUBLIC / SPECIAL DELEGATIONS:**

None

**REPORTS:**

Report FA 08/2022 – Monthly Staff Reports, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 31/2022                      R. Cerna                                      A. Oslach                                      CARRIED

THAT, Staff Reports for the months of March, 2022, be noted as amended and filed.

Report FA 09/2022 – March Summary of Revenue and Expenditures, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 32/2022                      S. Martyn                                      A. Oslach                                      CARRIED

THAT, Report FA 09/2022 (March Summary of Revenue and Expenditures), be noted and filed.

Report FA 10/2022 – Accounts Paid, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 33/2022                      R. Cerna                                      S. Martyn                                      CARRIED

THAT, Accounts Paid totaling \$36,738.64, be approved as presented in Report FA 10/2022.

Report FA 11/2022 – Approved Section 29 Regulation Applications, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 34/2022                      A. Oslach                                      R. Cerna                                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority receive the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Applications Report FA 11/2022, as information.

Report FA 12/2022 – Municipal Plan Review, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 35/2022                      S. Martyn                                      A. Oslach                                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority approve the Municipal Plan Review Report for the months of January, February & March 2022.

Report FA 13/2022 – 2022 General Insurance, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 36/2022                      A. Oslach                                      R. Cerna                                      CARRIED

THAT, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority renew its 2022-2023 insurance coverage with Intact Public Entities Inc. through McFarlan Rowlands Insurance Service Limited at a total cost of \$58,643.08, plus applicable taxes.

Report FA 14/2022 – Forest Birds at Risk Program Research Request, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

The Board requested staff obtain a copy of the finalized Study for presentation at a future meeting.

Motion # 37/2022                      S. Martyn                                      A. Oslach                                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority issue a Research Permit to Forest Birds at Risk Program orchestrated by Birds Canada to undertake research projects at various CCCA owned properties.

**GENERAL MANAGER / SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Completed the final Great Lakes Local Action Fund Report. Construction and Rehabilitation of 4 sites totaling 275m including erosion protection, in-stream habitat enhancement, and trail restoration totalling 275m of shoreline restoration at the Archie Coulter Conservation Area with the assistance of Environmental Leadership Program Students. The ELP students participated in water quality and stream morphology assessments, benthic and stream morphology studies and helped with the design of the conceptual plans submitted to the GLLAF.

Met with Kristen Corrgial from MECP to discuss and ask questions in regards to the Agriculture Representative who will be a provincially appointed member to our board. The Agriculture rep will have all the same powers for voting but cannot vote on amalgamation or enlargement of a CA's watershed. According to information related to the position, "the Minister appointed agricultural sector representative of the Conservation Authority will be expected to provide input on all Board matters, including discussions and applicable decisions related, but not limited, to, matters of strategic direction, the establishment and implementation of regulations, policies and programs, management of authority-owned lands, including proposals to acquire or dispose of land, subject to the requirements under the Conservation Authorities Act, the creation of Committees and/or Advisory Boards, the members thereof and the terms of reference for these

Committees and/or Advisory Boards, consultation requirements and processes for the delivery of programs and services, opportunities to raise money for non-mandatory programs and services, proposal for new and implementation of existing capital projects, matters related to administration of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) section 28 natural hazard permit, holding hearings required for the purpose of reviewing section 28 permit applications in accordance with the Statutory Powers and Procedures Act, planning matters under the Planning Act as delegated by Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) as part of the provincial one window review process and by NDMNRF for consistency with natural hazard policies of the Provincial Policy Statement: and other operational matters.

Austin Verbeek has registered for Level 1 Provincial Offences Training. After completion of his training, he will be the third officer on staff at the CCCA and will be able to assist with the enforcement of section 28 and 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Assisted Ilona Feldman Source Water Protection with data collection to support the completion of the 2021 Catfish Creek Source Protection report. All 19 threats have been addressed and the CCCA has completed 100% of its regulatory compliance.

Throughout the Month of March, the CCCA staff provided ongoing information in regards to the flooding in Port Bruce on February 17, 2022. The CCCA continues to work with Malahide Township to address concerns brought forth by local watershed residents.

Met with the OPC Path of Honor committee for the first time in two years with Gerrit Kremers to discuss the OPC path of honor maintenance plan and to set a formal workday to complete tree plantings etc. The OPC signed the annual maintenance agreement contract on March 24 for a two-year period.

Worked with Gerry Richer to finalize a time with Alizabeth George, our Guest Speaker from Oneida of the Thames who will be doing a formal presentation for staff on Indigenous Culture, History and Truth and Reconciliation at the Aylmer Legion on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The Central Elgin Environmental Committee met in March to discuss the status of the tall grass prairie project. Betsy gave an update on what plugs were available for planting for that project. Staff are still working diligently to complete a tree cutting education program in conjunction with KCCA's Jeff Lawrence, the Elgin County Tree Commissioner. A "Local Champions" social media campaign was discussed with the group to recognize people in the municipality of Central Elgin for their outstanding environmental contributions. Alex Piggot Central Elgin's Environmental Services Manager gave a very informative presentation on the status of solid waste and recycling trends within the municipality of Central Elgin.

Touched base with Jake Hiebert from Falco construction who is going to make a plan of action to start the completion of the stage. He is obtaining quotations for the rest of the work that needs to be completed.

It's been three years since Latornell came together in-person and since that time, so much has happened and many things have changed. For that reason, the theme of the Latornell Symposium this year is Re-Imagining Conservation. Through an in-person Symposium and several webinars this fall, CA staff plan to explore how conservation governance, policy, and operations are being redefined and re-imagined in the work we do at CA's today, and how this shapes the future for the next seven generations.

The CCCA attended a Virtual Lake Erie Source Protection Region Management Committee meeting on March 31, 2022. The Project Manager presented a summary report, which indicated the CCCA source protection plan is expected to undergo s.36 updates within the year. CCCA has made some updates on the Lake Erie Source Protection website regarding the description of the watershed in regards to agricultural sector and current population of the watershed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**CHAIRPERSON'S / BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT:**

None

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS / NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) Copied:
  - none
  
- b) Not Copied:
  - Correspondence Register for March, 2022.

<u>Motion #38/2022</u>	R. Cerna	S. Martyn	CARRIED
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THAT, the Copied Correspondence and the Correspondence Registers for March, 2022, be noted and filed.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

<u>Motion # 39/2022</u>	R. Cerna	A. Oslach	CARRIED
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THAT, the Full Authority adjourn to Closed Session at (11:10 a.m.).

<u>Motion # 40/2022</u>	S. Martyn	A. Oslach	CARRIED
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THAT, the Full Authority rise from Closed Session with report at (11:55 p.m.).

<u>Motion # 41/2022</u>	R. Cerna	S. Martyn	CARRIED
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THAT, the Full Authority renew its 2022 - 2023 Employee Group Benefits Plan with Sun Life Financial through Dorbar Employee Benefits and Insurance Solutions effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

<u>Motion # 42/2022</u>	A. Oslach	R. Cerna	CARRIED
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THAT, the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Full Authority that the Board of Directors' Code of Conduct be reviewed and signed/ resigned; and further,

THAT, the Code of Conduct be incorporated into the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority's Best Management Practices and Administrative by Laws as "Appendix A."

**NEXT MEETING / TERMINATION:**

The next meeting of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Motion # 43/2022

S. Martyn

A. Oslach

CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority be terminated at (12:01 p.m.).

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager / Secretary –Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authority Chairperson

**Minutes of The Meeting Of The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
Interview Committee**

Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Meeting # IC 02/2022

**PRESENT:**

Paul Buchner                      Committee Member                      Township of South-West Oxford

**STAFF:**

Gerrit Kremers                      Conservation Lands Supervisor  
Noah Pineau                      Field Technician

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m.

**Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest:**

No one had a pecuniary interest to disclose at this time.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview applicants for the position of Park Technician, which was advertised, in The Aylmer Express newspaper, as well as on Indeed and the CCCA social media platforms.

Two (2) Park Technician positions are required for the start of the 2022 camping season. Five (5) candidates were contacted to be interviewed for the two (2) remaining Park Technician positions.

At the conclusion of the interview process, the Interview Committee selected the following individuals for the Park Technician Team.

Returning Staff: Joshua Smith, Caleb Giesbrecht, Kolton Levesque  
New Staff: Ronee Sykes, Colm Ritter

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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Paul Buchner  
Committee Member

**Minutes of The Meeting Of The Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
Interview Committee**

Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Meeting # IC 03/2022

**PRESENT:**

Sally Martyn                      Committee Member                      Municipality of Central Elgin

**STAFF:**

Susan Simmons              Financial Services Coordinator  
Brittany Bell                      Program Support Assistant

The meeting was called to order at (2:15 p.m.).

**Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest:**

No one had a pecuniary interest to disclose at this time.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview applicants for the position of Gate Attendant which was advertised in the Aylmer Express newspaper, as well as on the CCCA social media platforms.

Seven (7) Gate Attendant positions are required for the 2022 camping season. Three (3) staff are returning from last season. A total of seven (7) candidates were contacted to be interviewed for the five (4) remaining Gate Attendant positions. Six (6) of those candidates attended an interview.

At the conclusion of the interview process, the Interview Committee selected the following individuals for the Gate Attendant Team.

Returning Staff: Leah Moore, Téa Bastiaansen, Margo McDougall  
New Staff: Kylie Annett, Dustin Ashford, Oliver Glazer, Natasha Ciapka  
Alternates: Lucy Cowx, Maddie Ladell

The meeting was adjourned at (4:00 p.m.).

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Sally Martyn  
Committee Member

**REPORT FA 15/2022 To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Water Management Technician  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Staff Report for the Month of April  
**DATE:** May 2, 2022

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**Water Management Technician, Peter Dragunas**

**Current Activities:**

- Forests Ontario 50 Million Tree Program administration.
- 2022 Malahide Roadside Tree Planting Program.
- Administration of the Greening Communities Program for the CCCA.
- Continue monitoring/assessments of Lake Erie shoreline storm surge and wave uprush for Flood Outlook, Storm Surge Watch and Warning watershed condition valuations.
- February 2022 flood analysis and Port Bruce resident written inquiry responses.
- Assessment of the CCCA vertical and spacial mapping requirements/availability for flood line mapping.
- Mapping of CCCA properties for land inventory mapping.
- Assessment and required adjustments to the Low Water Response, low water benchmark and threshold criteria to improve early identification of low water threats to support Level I, II and III low water condition reporting.

**Upcoming Activities:**

- Continue monitoring Lake Erie shoreline storm surge and wave uprush.
- CCCA 2022 Tree Planting Program.
- Lake Erie shoreline storm surge and wave uprush literature reviews as required to assist with flood tool designs.
- Low Water Response monitoring.
- Regular duties as assigned.

**Conservation Areas Supervisor, Gerrit Kremers**

**Current Activities:**

- Conducted Staff interviews to fill summer park positions;
- Coordinated appointments for people to move their trailers in or out of the campground co-dependent on individual situations;
- Charged up all three water systems within Springwater Campground, fixed all minor plumbing/ electrical issues;
- The first set of Drinking Water Samples were taken in to fulfill our due diligence in accordance to Drinking Water Regulation 319/08;
- Completed a study permit for permissions for University of Guelph to continue their work at Springwater Conservation Area;

- Seasonal camper/ staff administration;
- Assisted with tree planting season logistics;
- Assisted in the completion of a wetland complex as part of a stewardship project;
- Me and two fellow staff obtained our working at heights certification, for the green roof on the stage;
- Conducted property maintenance at Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area;
- Participated in a Conservation Ontario training session, in regards to regulatory investigations;
- Met ALUS Elgin at a private landowners to secure funding for a stewardship project;
- Assisted in and processing of applications pursuant to Section 28 of the **Conservation Authorities Act**;

### Upcoming Activities

- Seasonal camper administration/ enforcement;
- Springwater campground opens officially for Seasonal Camping May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022;
- Grounds maintenance;
- Preparations for transient camping to open May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022;
- Review of proposed Regulations pursuant to the **Conservation Authority Act**, planning and delivery of CCCA Programs;
- Monitoring of work permit conditions and processing of applications pursuant to Section 28 of the **Conservation Authorities Act**; and,

  
 Peter Dragunas  
 Water Management Technician

  
 Gerrit Kremers  
 Conservation Areas Supervisor

REPORT FA 16 / 2022 : To The Full Authority  
 FROM: Susan Simmons, Financial Services Coordinator  
 SUBJECT: Summary of Revenue & Expenditures - April  
 DATE: April 30, 2022

**SUMMARY OF REVENUE**  
 for the period ending April 30, 2022

	2022 Budget	2022 To Date	Difference	2021 To Date
MNRF Provincial Grants	\$ 41,215.00	\$ -	\$ (41,215.00)	\$ -
Other Provincial Grants	\$ 30,321.84	\$ 13,404.34	\$ (16,917.50)	\$ 66,869.18
Federal Grants	\$ 131,904.79	\$ 166,752.08	\$ 34,847.29	\$ -
Employment Program Grants	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 7,581.20	\$ (29,418.80)	\$ 38,128.94
General Levy	\$ 372,421.82	\$ 22,611.94	\$ (349,809.88)	\$ 167,116.02
Special Benefiting Levy	\$ 20,890.39	\$ 350.00	\$ (20,540.39)	\$ 5,250.00
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 42,380.00	\$ 19,313.13	\$ (23,066.87)	\$ 65,752.25
Conservation Areas Revenue	\$ 636,589.00	\$ 150,850.37	\$ (485,738.63)	\$ 153,440.66
Maple Syrup Revenue	\$ 4,860.00	\$ 7,207.20	\$ 2,347.20	\$ 3,751.88
Bank Interest Earned	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ (3,000.00)	\$ -
Education Programs	\$ 720.00	\$ -	\$ (720.00)	\$ -
Legal Inquiries/Permit Applications	\$ 4,223.61	\$ 2,796.46	\$ (1,427.15)	\$ 2,354.00
Watershed Stewardship	\$ 21,458.00	\$ 20,111.76	\$ (1,346.24)	\$ 1,625.00
Revenue from Other C.A. Lands	\$ 13,067.00	\$ 12,885.59	\$ (181.41)	\$ 52,693.28
Other Revenue	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ (500.00)	\$ -
Contract Services	\$ 831.00	\$ -	\$ (831.00)	\$ -
Vehicle & Equipment Rental Recoveries	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 3,254.05	\$ (32,745.95)	\$ 5,750.68
Previous Year Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 8,666.73	\$ 8,666.73	\$ -	\$ 593.59
Income Appropriation from Special Reserves	\$ 23,673.94	\$ -	\$ (23,673.94)	\$ -
Income Appropriation from General Reserves	\$ 28,677.93	\$ -	\$ (28,677.93)	\$ -
	<u>\$ 1,458,401.05</u>	<u>\$ 435,784.85</u>	<u>\$ (1,022,616.20)</u>	<u>\$ 563,325.48</u>

<b>DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS</b>	2022 Budget	Received To Date	Difference
Special Projects	\$ 6,080.00	\$ 6,080.00	\$ -
Annual Report	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Environmental Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,020.00	\$ 1,520.00
EESS ELP Sponsorships	\$ 6,500.00	\$ -	\$ (6,500.00)
Community Forest	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ (300.00)
Maple Syrup Festival	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Springwater Forest Trails	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 5,450.08	\$ (17,549.92)
Archie Coulter C.A. Trails	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 296.40	\$ (2,203.60)
YNHA	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 294.95	\$ (1,705.05)
Special Conservation Projects	\$ -	\$ 4,171.70	\$ 4,171.70
Ontario Police College Path of Honour	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ (500.00)
<b>TOTAL Donations/Sponsorships</b>	<u>\$ 42,380.00</u>	<u>\$ 19,313.13</u>	<u>\$ (23,066.87)</u>

**SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES**

for the period ending April 30, 2022

	2022 Budget		2022 To Date		Difference		2021 To Date
<b>MANDATORY PROGRAMS</b>							
1 RISK OF CERTAIN NATURAL HAZARDS (Corporate Services	\$162,205.25	\$	67,953.37	\$	(94,251.88)	\$	59,038.83
2 FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	\$204,457.99	\$	76,143.31	\$	(128,314.68)	\$	67,985.97
3 DROUGHT AND LOW WATER RESPONSE	\$14,517.11	\$	4,368.72	\$	(10,148.39)	\$	-
4 ICE MANAGEMENT	\$12,640.39	\$	6,293.11	\$	(6,347.28)	\$	20,158.43
5 INFRASTRUCTURE (Dam)	\$26,133.72	\$	6,262.87	\$	(19,870.85)	\$	3,728.75
6&7 ACT REVIEWS & PLAN REVIEW	\$10,310.51	\$	3,390.97	\$	(6,919.54)	\$	-
8 ADMININSTRATING & ENFORCING THE ACT (Section 28)	\$43,286.76	\$	18,300.30	\$	(24,986.46)	\$	15,535.47
9-11 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LANDS	\$76,296.51	\$	21,645.62	\$	(54,650.89)	\$	10,273.31
12 WATER QUALITY (PGMN & PSMP)	\$10,179.59	\$	4,208.85	\$	(5,970.74)	\$	-
13 SOURCE PROTECTION	\$5,481.84	\$	2,011.99	\$	(3,469.85)	\$	2,227.24
<b>SUB TOTAL: MANDATED PROGRAMS Expenditures</b>	<b>\$565,509.67</b>		<b>\$210,579.11</b>		<b>-\$354,930.56</b>		<b>\$178,948.00</b>
<b>OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>							
WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP	\$180,077.22	\$	93,359.97	\$	(86,717.25)	\$	14,592.93
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$7,720.00	\$	930.74	\$	(6,789.26)	\$	15,881.05
SPECIAL PROJECTS	\$2,331.00	\$	1,029.74	\$	(1,301.26)	\$	11,646.46
C.A. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	\$40,182.00	\$	8,849.56	\$	(31,332.44)	\$	77,755.26
MAPLE SYRUP PROGRAM	\$4,860.00	\$	1,997.98	\$	(2,862.02)	\$	11,755.17
SPRINGWATER CONSERVATION AREA	\$566,721.16	\$	93,063.82	\$	(473,657.34)	\$	106,383.68
VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS	\$91,000.00	\$	15,643.78	\$	(75,356.22)	\$	41,639.02
<b>SUB TOTAL: OTHER PROGRAMS Expenditures</b>	<b>\$892,891.38</b>		<b>\$214,875.59</b>		<b>-\$678,015.79</b>		<b>\$279,653.57</b>
<b>APPROPRIATION TO GENERAL RESERVES</b>	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
<b>APPROPRIATION TO SPECIAL RESERVES</b>	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,458,401.05</b>		<b>\$ 425,454.70</b>		<b>\$ (1,032,946.35)</b>		<b>\$ 458,601.57</b>

*Susan Simmons*

Susan Simmons,  
Financial Services Coordinator

**REPORT FA 17/2022 : TO THE FULL AUTHORITY**

FROM: Susan Simmons, Financial Services Coordinator  
 SUBJECT: Accounts Paid  
 DATE: May 3, 2022

VENDOR	CHQ #	TOTAL	EXPLANATION
A&J Baertsoen	31025	\$ 317.87	trail box repair
Martin's Safety Training	31026	\$ 587.60	Fall Arrest Training
Lil' Country Woodshop	31027	\$ 10,000.00	picnic tables
Aylmer Home Building Centre	31028	\$ 116.12	campground maintenance
Aylmer Home Hardware	31029	\$ 30.50	campground maintenance
Berenz, Michael	31030	\$ 100.00	seasonal camping refund
Blake, John	31031	\$ 2,755.00	seasonal camping refund
Canadian Tire	31032	\$ 445.27	campground maintenance
Canon Canada Inc.	31033	\$ 248.79	photo copier service billing
Delta Power Equipment Ltd.	31034	\$ 166.82	equipment maintenance
Duff's Garage	31035	\$ 196.56	equipment maintenance
FrancoTyp-Postalia Canada	31036	\$ 67.80	postage meter rental
Gemmell, Artie	31037	\$ 125.00	seasonal camping refund
Glenbriar Bottled Water Co. Ltd.	31038	\$ 11.24	water cooler service
Integrity IT Services	31039	\$ 289.27	computer network support
J.J. MacKay Canada Limited	31040	\$ 9.49	mobile pay system service charges
Longworth, Maureen	31041	\$ 125.00	seasonal camping refund
M Live Bait Wholesale	31042	\$ 122.04	store product for resale
MacNinch, Terry	31043	\$ 2,730.00	seasonal camping refund
McFarlan Rowlands Insurance Brokers	31044	\$ 58,643.08	general insurance premiums
Ontario Hose Specialties Limited	31045	\$ 377.75	equipment maintenance
Purolator Courier	31046	\$ 19.32	courier fees
Richmond, Mike	31047	\$ 125.00	seasonal camping refund
Smale, Kim	31048	\$ 125.00	Managed Forest Plan approval
Springwater Mills Ltd.	31049	\$ 2,350.40	firewood for resale
St. Thomas Ford Lincoln Sales Ltd.	31050	\$ 134.27	vehicle maintenance
Tyler-Smith, Cathy	31051	\$ 125.00	seasonal camping refund
Eastlink	Cash	\$ 1,046.34	phone, fax line, internet, gauges
Telus Mobility	Cash	\$ 214.70	mobile phones
Hydro One	Cash	\$ 1,096.50	operations centre & campground
CIBC Visa	Cash	\$ 186.42	Office Supplies
CIBC Visa	Cash	\$ 89.27	Business Prime Membership
CIBC Visa	Cash	\$ 22.60	Meeting Platform
CIBC Visa	Cash	\$ 424.30	Planning expenses
CIBC Visa	Cash	\$ 69.24	SPW CA supplies
CIBC Visa	Cash	\$ 180.00	Staff Training
CIBC Visa	Cash	\$ 89.00	License Plate Renewal
		<u>\$ 83,762.56</u>	

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT, Accounts Paid totalling \$83,762.56 , be approved as amended in Report FA 17/2022



Susan Simmons,  
 Financial Services Coordinator

**REPORT FA 18 / 2022 : To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Dusty Underhill, General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer

**SUBJECT:** Summer Employment Program Grants

**DATE:** May 3, 2022

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Purpose:

To provide the Board with an update on the details of the Summer Employment Programs approved thus far for 2022.

Discussion:

The following chart outlines the various Summer Employment Programs approved for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority for 2022.

Sponsoring Agency	Name of Program	# of Participants	Total Hours	Total Funding
Employment and Social Development Canada	Canada Summer Jobs	6	1650	\$28,520.00
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development through Fanshawe Career and Employment Services (Aylmer Community Services)	Training Incentive	1		\$2,500.00

Recommendation:

THAT, the Full Authority acknowledge receipt of the information on the 2022 Summer Employment Programs as outlined in Report FA 18/2022.



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Dusty Underhill  
General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer

**Report FA 19 / 2022 : To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Gerrit Kremers, Conservation Areas Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** University of Guelph Research Request

**DATE:** May 12, 2022

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Purpose:

To consider a request from University of Guelph to undertake a research project at Springwater Conservation Area.

Discussion:

On April 14<sup>th</sup> 2022, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) received a request from the University of Guelph to conduct blacklegged tick sampling within Springwater Conservation Area.

The purpose of the University of Guelph surveys are to research and document:

- 1) the current locations and/or populations of the Blacklegged tick in the London and surrounding area;
- 2) There are region all across the country that the University is monitoring tick populations.

Recommendation:

THAT, the Full Authority issue a Research Permit to the University of Guelph to undertake research projects at Springwater Conservation Area.



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Gerrit Kremers  
Conservation Areas Supervisor

**REPORT FA 20 / 2022: To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Dusty Underhill, General Manager/ Secretary Treasurer

**SUBJECT:** Phase 2 Regulations

**DATE:** April 21, 2022

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Purpose:

To update the Full Authority in regards to the newly released Phase 2 Regulations which amend the Conservation Authorities Act.

Discussion / Background:

The Phase 2 regulations represent the second of two phases of regulatory and policy proposals that implement legislative changes made to the Conservation Authorities Act and focus on regulatory and policy changes, which provide' direction to conservation authorities as they transition to the new Conservation Authority (CA) municipal funding framework by January 1, 2024.

Ontario Regulation 402/22 details the new CA budget process and municipal apportionment methods and requirements/ which includes revocation of the current regulations that govern levies.

Ontario Regulation 401/22 determines amounts Under Subsection 27.2 (2) of the Act. This regulation details the methods available to CAs to determine amounts owed by their specified municipalities for CA programs and services provided in respect of the Clean Water Act, 2006 and the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008.

Minister's Fee Classes Policy is a published list of the classes of programs and services for which a CA may charge a fee. If the CA wishes to charge a user fee, they must develop a fee policy. In addition, category 2 MOUs/ other agreements and category 3 cost apportioning agreements with a municipality will be required to include provisions permitting the CA to charge user fees.

Ontario Regulation 400/22 increases transparency of CA operations by requiring the public posting of prescribed information on a Governance section of a CA's website. Governance webpage must include or provide a link to the following information:

CA membership; Contact Information; Annual meeting schedule; Full meeting agendas and minutes; Category 2 (municipal) & Category 3 (cost apportioning) agreements; Authority bylaws; Annual auditor's report; Other governance docs; Notice to Minister by January 1, 2023 that the requirements have been met.

Ontario Regulation 399/22 increases transparency regarding the use of user fees for category 3 programs and services (those that a CA determines are advisable to provide in its jurisdiction), where a cost apportioning agreement is in place.

RECCOMENDATION:

That, the overview of Phase 2 Regulations in Report FA 20/2022, be received as information at this time.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dusty Underhill  
General Manager Secretary Treasurer

## REPORT FA 21 / 2022: To The Full Authority

**FROM:** Dusty Underhill, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer  
**SUBJECT:** Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting  
**DATE:** April 21, 2022

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### Purpose:

To provide the members with an update in regards to Conservation Ontario's Annual General Meeting.

### Discussion:

On April 11 2022, Conservation Ontario held its Annual General Meeting virtually.

At Conservation Ontario's Annual General Meeting, Alan Reville (Chair, Cataraqui Region) was declared the Chair of Conservation Ontario. Alan Dale (Chair, Upper Thames River) was elected as the Vice Chair of Conservation Ontario. Linda Laliberte (Ganaraska Region), Rob Baldwin (Lake Simcoe Region) and Samantha Lawson (Grand River) are the new Directors of Conservation Ontario.

On January 20, 2022, CO Chair Andy Mitchell and CO GM Kim Gavine presented to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. The submission highlighted the importance of conservation authorities as key delivery agents for the Province and focused on the need for increased investment for our provincially mandated programs.

In March, conservation authorities were provided with CO's 2022 Provincial Election Strategy. The strategy was developed in collaboration with Conservation Ontario's Advocacy Committee and includes a Pre-election Discussion Paper and a Handout, which can be left behind following meetings with candidates. Key messages are outlined in the strategy and other documents.

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference was held virtually again this year from January 23-25.

Conservation Ontario provided highlights on their 2021 Annual Report. It featured information on CO's new Strategic Plan, Implementation of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, New Funding Partnerships, Science and Policy work as well as how CAs were recognized for their innovations around conservation areas during pandemic conditions

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted the Phase 2 Regulatory and Policy Proposals under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to the Environmental Registry on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. These Phase 2 proposals focus on changes intended to provide direction to CAs as they transition to the new funding framework by January 1, 2024. In addition to the Phase 2 Regulatory and Policy Proposals, Conservation Ontario continued to host General Managers' Sessions in the first quarter of 2022 to provide ongoing support for implementation of the Phase 1 Regulations.

Bill 109 "*More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022*" was introduced on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and received Royal Assent on April 14, 2022. *More Homes for Everyone* is part of the government's initial response to the recommendations put forward by the Provincial Housing Affordability Task Force. The omnibus legislation amends five pieces of legislation, including the *Planning Act* with overarching goals of removing "red tape" and increasing the supply of homes; making it easier to build community housing; and protecting homebuyers, homeowners and renters.

As part of the ongoing Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative, since 2020 14 high-growth CAs have tracked and reported on review and approval timelines for section 28 permit applications. In 2021, these 14 high-growth CAs were joined by 17 volunteer "non-high-growth" CAs to track and report on

permit timeliness. As part of this work, each CA reports based on timelines outlined in the provincial "Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities", as well as the more challenging CO Best Practice timelines.

Over the past five years, Conservation Ontario has undertaken activities in support of advancing reconciliation within corporate CO, as well as activities, which support Ontario's conservation authorities. These activities have included incorporation of Indigenous programming at the Latornell Conference Symposium, delivery of Indigenous engagement and awareness training sessions, development of social media and communications products, and more.

The *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* (ONCA) was proclaimed on October 19, 2021. A working group has been created that will undertake a thorough analysis of the provisions of the ONCA against the *Conservation Authorities Act* and its administrative and governance requirements. This will help determine what changes need to be made to the Conservation Authority Best Management Practices and Administrative By-law Model.

A presentation on an overview of the Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards is available. The report cards are very important tool for conservation authorities to connect local residents and decision-makers to local environmental conditions. They also help to communicate what the CAs do to address issues or protect important ecosystems and features in Ontario's watersheds. The next round of report cards are due to be launched on World Water Day, March 22, 2023.

Over the past five years, Conservation Ontario has focused efforts on enabling CAs to make data more discoverable, accessible, and available through a series of targeted activities made possible through funding provided by the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS). Conservation authorities achieved significant success through collaboration, leveraging the collective knowledge and expertise of our colleagues in conservation, federal and provincial government, and other key partners with a passion for data sharing in the Great Lakes region.

The Latornell Conservation Symposium is switching gears this year and hosting 3 online webinars along with a one and a half day in-person event at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington on October 17 and 18. The theme for this year's event is Re-Imagining Conservation. The in-person event will feature field tours on the afternoon of day one and on day two, a keynote speaker, presentations and workshops will be organized across at least three different streams.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority receive report FA 21/2022 as information.



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Dusty Underhill  
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

**REPORT FA 22 / 2022 : To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Dusty Underhill, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

**SUBJECT:** WECl Capital Investment Program

**DATE:** May 5, 2022

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Purpose:

To update the members on the status of the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) Capital Investment Program for 2022/ 2023.

Discussion:

Staff budgeted and entered three projects into the WECl Inventory Database for funding consideration in 2022/ 2023 and all three projects approved.

**Catfish Creek Conservation Authority 2022-2023 Approved Projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>CCCA</b>	<b>Provincial Grant</b>
Staff Gauge Replacement	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Dam Gantry and Fence Repair	\$4000.00	\$2000.00	\$2000.00
Springwater Dam - Repair Wide Crack South Upstream Wing-Wall	\$2000.00	\$1000.00	\$1000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority contribute 50% matching funds to complete the above three repairs to the Springwater Dam by March 31, 2023.

  
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Dusty Underhill,  
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

**Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
Correspondence Register – April 1 – 30, 2022**

Date	Type	Agency	Topic
Apr, 1	Email	CO	Weekly updates
Apr, 1	Email/ Response	CO	HOLD CAU GM Session - Inventory Consultations, MOUs, & Quarterly Reporting
Apr, 4	Email/ Response	CO	Conservation Ontario Annual AGM
Apr, 4	Email	ALUS	Update from ALUS
Apr, 4	Email/ response	Mississippi Valley CA	Member remuneration
Apr, 4	Email	RBC	Test Transfer Update
Apr, 4	Email	MECP	Materials from PWQMN workshop
Apr, 5	Email	Malahide	Flood Q&A
Apr, 5	Email	NDMNRF	S.39 Year end summary report
Apr, 5	Email	CO	Avian Influenzas update
Apr, 5	Email	NDMNRF	Provincial Flood Watch Issued
Apr, 5	Email	NDMNRF	Intro to the Canadian Precipitation Analysis
Apr, 5	Email/ Response	GRCA	CCCA SPA Annual Report
Apr, 5	Email/ Response	April Anderson Cheryl Duffet	Flood related response
Apr, 6	Email	NDMNRF	Shoreline Condition Statement
Apr, 6	Email	NDMNRF	Ontario Low Water products
Apr, 6	Email	MECP	Water analysis announcement
Apr, 6	Email/ Response	GRCA	Lake Erie Region administrative protocol
Apr, 6	Email/ Response	CIBC	Signing authority operations
Apr, 6	Email	NDMNRF	Surface water monitoring center
Apr, 7	Email	Malahide	Flood
Apr, 7	Email	MECP	PWQMN Issues
Apr, 7	Email/ Response	Oxford County	Water and wastewater Master Plan
Apr, 8	Email/ Response	CCCA	Ecological Gifts Program
Apr, 8	Email	CO	Avian Influenza
Apr, 8	Email	MECP	PGMP contact info update
Apr, 8	Email/ Response	CO	Annual Statistical survey

Apr, 19	Email/ Response	GRCA	CCCA Resolution April 14th
Apr, 19	Email/ Response	Malahide	PBRA Letter
Apr, 19	Email/ Response	WECI	Project Cost
Apr, 19	Email	CO	Collecting Evidence Webinar
Apr, 19	Email	OMNRF	Section 39 Reporting
Apr, 19	Email	OMNRF	Section 39 Reporting confirmation
Apr, 20	Email/ Response	Ian Johnson	Flood questions
Apr, 20	Email/ Response	Lower Trent CA	Asset management plan discussion
Apr, 20	Email	CIBC	Updating signee
Apr, 20	Email/ Response	LERMC	Response to proposed questions
Apr, 21	Email/ Response	Shannon Zylstra	Tree planting event overview
Apr, 21	Email	Julie Berry	Tree planting event overview
Apr, 21	Email	WECI	No Change Confirmation
Apr, 22	Email	Ecological Gifts	Ecological Gifts Program: Ontario submission information
Apr, 22	Email	CO	Annual Meeting Report
Apr, 22	Email	MECP	Phase 2 Regulation Releasal
Apr, 22	Email	CO	Phase 2 Regulation Overview
Apr, 22	Email	Oxford County	Water and Wastewater Master Plan
Apr, 22	Email	CO	Media Release Phase 2 Regs
Apr, 25	Email/ Response	Ian Johnson	CCCA Response to Flood Questions
Apr, 25	Email	CO	Phase 2 Regs
Apr, 25	Email	MECP	Conservation and Source Protection
Apr, 25	Email	Ilona Feldman	LERMC Meeting request
Apr, 25	Email	McFarlan Rowlands	Insurance Policies
Apr, 27	Email	CO	Overview of Phase 2 Regs.
Apr, 27	Email/ Response	KCCA	Dredging questions
Apr, 28	Email	OSG	CCCA contact info update



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

**Karen Vecchio**  
Member of Parliament  
Elgin—Middlesex—London

**April 14, 2022**

**TO: Catfish Creek Conservation Authority**  
**ATTN: Susan Simmons**

**RE: Canada Summer Jobs 2022**

I am pleased to advise you that your organization has been granted funding under the Canada Summer Jobs program.

**Your organization will be receiving \$28,520 for 6 student(s) for a total of 1,650 hours.**

Service Canada will be reaching out to your organization to provide further information. Please note that the earliest start date for jobs funded through the program is **April 25, 2022**.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

**Karen Vecchio**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Elgin-Middlesex-London**

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### Ottawa

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St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 1E2  
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www.karenvecchiomp.ca



Port Bruce Ratepayers  
Association

Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
8079 Springwater Rd  
Aylmer, ON N5H 2R4

Att: Dusty Underhill  
and CCCA Staff

April 18, 2022

We, the Port Bruce Ratepayers Association, would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the staff of Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, for your dedication to putting measures in place to help with the hopeful prevention of the Spring freshet flooding in Port Bruce on February 17, 2022.

We understand this is an ongoing commitment to ensure the safety of our community and we look forward to working with you toward flood risk reduction efforts for the possible 2023 Spring freshet.

Sincerely

Linda Newman  
Chairperson/PBRA

## Susan Simmons

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**From:** April Anderson <aprilandersonconsulting@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** April 5, 2022 9:08 PM  
**To:** Dave Mennill; Dominique Giguère; lbaldwin-sands@stthomas.ca; General Manager; Scott Lewis; Adam Betteridge; Matt Sweetland; Jeff Spoor  
**Subject:** Todays Informal Meeting with Port Bruce Community

Good Day

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, for hosting (at the request of the Port Bruce Ratepayers Association) today's informal meeting.

I would like to think it went well as it gave the people of the community the opportunity to be heard, using their own voices, sharing, with you, their own concerns.

As do others, I look forward to learning from the answers that will be provided, in time, so that we (the community) can then move forward, hopefully working with CCCA and Malahide Township in preparing an emergency/flood plan for the next season of possible flooding.

Again, thank you  
April

--  
April Anderson & Cheryl Duffett  
Port Bruce Community Project (Social)  
Port Bruce Community Association (Advocacy)  
226.378.2750



# Conservation Authorities

## Important Partners for a More Resilient Ontario

### 2022 Pre-Election Discussion Paper

#### Introduction

One of the lessons we've learned from battling pandemic conditions and managing the impacts of severe natural hazard events across Canada over the past few months is that the key to a more resilient Ontario lies in understanding how nature is so closely connected to our own health and well-being and to our economy. These events confirm for us that we need to do all we can to restore and conserve nature and natural systems.

The goal is to ensure the sustainable use, development, restoration & protection of ecosystem features, functions & linkages. Conservation authorities (CAs) are very effective partners in this work. Conservation authority watershed management programs already contribute significantly to building Ontario's resiliency and can do more.



#### ***Value of Conservation Authorities***

Conservation authorities are **key delivery agents** for the Province and other levels of government, particularly around natural hazards, source water protection and agriculture. Their programs help improve and protect Ontario watersheds, reduce the risks of flooding and erosion, provide clean drinking water and support the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River systems. They contribute to sustainable agricultural practices and support a wide range of other industry needs.

Conservation authorities also play a key role in managing development. They support a provincial housing strategy by continuing to improve plan review and approval application processes which ensure new development is safe, doesn't create new hazards or deplete natural resources such as drinking water and contributes to environmental sustainability.

As the second largest landowners in Ontario, next to the Province, conservation authorities own and manage a wide variety of province-wide, important natural resources that protect drinking water sources, contribute to climate change adaptation, and engage residents in outdoor activities.

More financial support is needed for conservation authorities to allow them to effectively fulfill their mandates.

## Five Recommendations for the Province

1. **Provide increased financial and technical support for natural hazard programs in order to continue to effectively protect people and property reducing the risk and costs of flooding and erosion.**
2. **Provide financial support for the infrastructure and operational needs of conservation areas so that residents can continue to safely visit these natural areas which have become so important for their physical and mental well-being.**
3. **Provide financial support for the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of watershed natural assets such as forests, grasslands and wetlands. These assets provide important nature-based climate change solutions that absorb carbon, reduce temperatures, reduce peak flows during times of flood and increase water retention on the landscape during times of drought, support a healthy agricultural economy, and protect drinking water sources.**
4. **Improve the enforcement and offences abilities of conservation authorities by enacting relevant sections of the CA Act and convening a working group including staff from provincial ministries, conservation authorities and municipalities to provide recommendations to the province.**
5. **Invest in CA watershed studies and research, improve CA technical capacity and expand partnerships in conservation authority monitoring programs.**



## Building Resilience

Being already familiar with our connection to nature, conservation authorities have long promoted an **integrated watershed (IWM)** approach to protect and build resiliency within our natural resources and ecosystems. This approach uses a variety of policy and program tools to manage human activities and natural resources, together.

Conservation authority watershed management programs protect important natural assets and ecosystems such as water sources, wetlands, forests and habitats. They contribute to clean and sustainable water resources and help to ensure food security through working with landowners to steward healthy agricultural lands. The outcomes from this work support a broad base of industry such as transportation, tourism, and food production.

Other ways conservation authorities help build Ontario's resilience:

- Protect people and property from flooding and erosion and ensure safe drinking water
- Build and share local science needed for decision-making

- Help to improve the physical and mental well-being of Ontarians by providing access to outdoor activities at conservation areas across the province

Sustainable provincial funding would ensure greater consistency and broader outcomes from conservation authority watershed management programs.

Advantages of conservation authorities:

- Bring community interests together in order to determine regional issues and actions impacting the watershed's resources, and then identify priorities, plans and actions which can be leveraged for broader province-wide outcomes
- Deliver actions and decisions informed by science - watershed scale data collection, monitoring, evaluation and modelling to assess local conditions
- Use a watershed approach to create efficiencies. Watershed strategies, management plans, subwatershed studies and watershed report cards all help to identify priority issues and actions
- Sustain important longstanding partnerships with landowners, government and other agencies which enable conservation authorities to leverage resources for broader outcomes

## Closer Look at the Recommendations

### 1. Help conservation authorities to protect people from flooding and erosion

**Recommendation: Increase financial and technical support for natural hazard work and infrastructure to keep up with the growing threats of flooding and erosion.**

Flooding events and costs are increasing, not decreasing. Ontario's economy and people are at risk by natural disasters such as flooding and erosion which damage or destroy homes, affect drinking water quality, create business disruptions, decimate agricultural production and result in costly repairs or upgrades.

Conservation Authorities' flood and erosion control infrastructure and programs are a vital part of Ontario's flood protection. People are safer from natural hazards as a result of the approach conservation authorities rely on to reduce the risks of flooding. Monitoring the entire watershed, conservation authorities can anticipate and respond quickly to emergencies as well as help residents to learn how to adapt to changing conditions. CAs protect the lives of almost 95% of Ontario's population living in a conservation authority watershed and prevent well over \$150 million per year in damages.

- Their work includes: monitoring conditions, issuing flood messages, mapping floodplains, educating residents about the threats of flooding and erosion, managing \$3.8 billion in flood and erosion infrastructure and protecting wetlands, forests and natural/vegetated shorelines which help to reduce flooding and erosion.
- Conservation authorities have experienced significant reductions in provincial support for their flood and erosion management. This results in a less resilient watershed which is more vulnerable to climate variability.
- Land use planning is a critical component of an integrated approach to natural hazard management, including, for example, flooding. A cornerstone of the conservation authorities' preventative approach is their plan review and regulatory role and it is this

work that has significant impact on preventing flood impacts on homes and businesses from happening in the first place.

### Conservation Authority Client Service Improvements

Conservation authorities facilitate a provincial housing strategy by balancing growth and environmental pressures. They protect new development from flooding and erosion hazards as well as ensure it doesn't create any new hazards or threaten the important sustainability of our natural resources. They do this in part through subwatershed studies/plans and through plan review and permitting roles.

Since April 2019, Conservation Ontario has been working with CAs to make improvements to CA plan review and permitting activities through the *Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative*. The Initiative was created to support actions outlined in the provincial *Housing Supply Action Plan*, and identifies a number of actions to improve client service and accountability, increase speed of approvals and reduce red tape to help the Province address the lack of housing supply.

From January 1st – December 31st, 2020, high-growth conservation authorities issued a combined total of 6,652 permits. The CAs were highly successful – issuing 91% of permits within the provincial timelines and 83% within the significantly reduced CO best practices timelines.

In order to support the needs of conservation authorities around natural hazards management, the Province needs to:

- ✓ increase funding for improvements to aging critical flood and erosion control infrastructure
- ✓ update technical guidelines that support effective natural hazards policy
- ✓ ensure adequate sustainable funding for conservation authorities' flood and erosion management programs, including green infrastructure
- ✓ invest in supporting early watershed and subwatershed studies/plans that will support a streamlined and informed development process
- ✓ move as expeditiously as possible to enact Part VII (Enforcement and Offences) of the CA Act

## **2. Nature Nurtures - Conservation areas need help to continue to contribute to the physical and mental well-being of Ontarians**

**Recommendation: Provide funding for the infrastructure and operational needs of conservation areas and improve compliance tools so that residents can continue to safely visit these natural areas which have become so important for their physical and mental well-being.**

Conservation areas are incredibly important for their natural heritage and climate resiliency values but what we've learned from the pandemic is that conservation areas also need to be recognized as important public health assets and protected for public use.

In order to accommodate more visitors safely, there are common needs in all the conservation areas for infrastructure improvements such as parking upgrades, signage, retrofitting amenities such as trails, bridges and



washrooms, as well as the addition of sanitation stations. Conservation authorities also need more tools to address illegal activity taking place on their lands.

A combination of site design and infrastructure improvements as well as investments in operations, visitor management tools and visitor education information will ensure conservation areas can meet the demand being placed on them by increasing visitor numbers.

- Ontario's conservation authorities collectively own and manage approximately 500 conservation areas in northern and southern Ontario covering a total area of approximately 154,000 hectares. Almost 300 of them are available for use by the general public
- Approximately 8-10 million people visit conservation areas year round for hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, snowshoeing, skiing and many other outdoor recreation activities. A number offer camping and all publicly accessible conservation areas have hiking trails
- Conservation areas act as living classrooms for approximately 3,000 schools and almost 400,000 students each year
- They contribute to local tourism economies via spillover effects of the 8-10 million visitors per year to conservation areas often located near to towns and cities across the province
- Conservation areas' greenspaces located near or adjacent to communities increase the appeal and livability of communities attracting homebuyers, other residents and industry

#### *Specific Health Benefits*

Research shows that the health benefits related to greenspaces can reduce costs on our health system. Studies reveal benefits that include: reductions in obesity and type 2 diabetes, improvements in mental health from decreased depression and anxiety, better birth and developmental outcomes and reductions in cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses. The strongest benefits have been found in the reduction of cardiovascular disease and improved mental health and well-being.

Overall, this creates healthcare savings, prevents lost productivity associated with poor mental health and illness, and contributes to reduced mortality.



The Province needs to:

- ✓ Support the infrastructure and operational needs of conservation areas so that residents can continue to safely visit these natural areas

### **3. Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation**

**Recommendation: Provide financial support for the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of watershed natural assets such as forests, grasslands and wetlands. These assets provide nature-based solutions that absorb carbon, reduce temperatures, reduce peak flows during times of flood and increase water retention on the landscape during times of drought, support a healthy agricultural economy, and protect drinking water sources.**



**Conservation authority lands provide important benefits that contribute to Ontario's natural resilience. These habitats support flora and fauna communities, contributing to Ontario's biodiversity.**

**As well, the wetlands, forests and other systems in a conservation area help to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion, capture carbon emissions and protect water quality and quantity. These benefits cannot be replaced.**

**Conservation authority watershed stewardship, stormwater management and green infrastructure programs and services build watershed resilience and reduce the risk of natural hazards.**

**The natural assets protected by CA programs also help to store carbon, reduce temperatures, improve air and water quality as well as provide important habitat for pollinators, wildlife, birds and fish. They also contribute to healthy soils and sustainable agriculture.**

**They also contribute to the economic health of Ontario by**

- **Reducing risk of natural hazard impacts (e.g. flood, erosion) and thus preventing business disruption, and decreasing damage costs from climate change/natural disasters**
- **protecting the viability of important green infrastructure such as wetlands, trees, healthy water resources, habitats and other biodiversity needed for food security and industry, and**
- **reducing healthcare system costs by providing opportunities for residents to improve their mental and physical health by being in nature and participating in outdoor recreation, all of which reduces healthcare system costs.**

**The Province:**

- ✓ **needs to invest in habitat rehabilitation and restoration which is critical for ensuring we can continue to develop nature-based solutions to address the growing impacts of climate change.**

#### **4. Improvements in Compliance Tools**

**Recommendation: The Province needs to support improvements in the enforcement and offences abilities of conservation authorities by enacting relevant sections of the CA Act and convening a working group to make further recommendations to the province.**

Conservation authorities have seen a significant increase in the inappropriate use of their lands since the beginning of the pandemic with a corresponding increase in the number of infractions. Conservation authorities have also seen a significant increase in the number of violations under their Section 28 (development) regulation.

Enforcing regulations is complex and conservation authorities lack the regulatory tools to address infractions outside of the court system. The need to proceed through the court system puts an unnecessary strain on the municipal levy and unfair burden to the local taxpayer.

Conservation authorities need the tools to effectively manage activities on their lands – consistent with those of municipal by-law officers. They also have to be able to address unauthorized activities such as off-road vehicles and liquor consumption on CA owned land which can threaten the safety of visitors. A working group consisting of staff from provincial ministries, conservation authorities and municipalities should be convened to provide recommendations to the province regarding how to improve CA compliance tools.

The Province:

- ✓ needs to enact relevant sections of the CA Act
- ✓ convene a working group on CA compliance tools

## **5. Conservation authority science is needed to address climate change**

**Recommendation: Invest in conservation authority watershed studies and research, improve CA technical capacity and expand partnerships in conservation authority monitoring programs**

Through the development of their watershed plans and strategies, including drinking water source protection plans and subwatershed plans, conservation authorities monitor and assess local conditions, conduct technical studies, develop strategies and implement programs which help to build our knowledge about the local science in Ontario's watersheds.

Supporting and using conservation authority local science for decision-making will help us to mitigate and adapt to environmental changes caused by increasing climate change impacts such as more intense rainfall and runoff, increasing heatwaves, threats to water quality and quantity as well as fluctuating coastal, river and inland lake shorelines.

Conservation authorities' monitoring programs are some of the longest standing programs in Ontario. CAs use this data to produce watershed report cards to report every five years on surface water quality, groundwater quality and forest conditions. Using Canadian standards, in 2018 they indicated that, on the whole, Ontario's watersheds averaged a 'C' grade. Investments are needed in watershed research, studies and improvements to technical capacity.

## **Conclusion**

Understanding how connected nature is to our health and economy requires us to do whatever we can to adapt to the challenges it presents and to also protect our natural assets and ecosystems which support a healthy population and economy.

Pandemic conditions and the growing impacts of climate change make it imperative that we re-imagine the value of nature and our relationship to it. There has never been a better opportunity to take advantage of our renewed interests in nature and support programs that protect, restore and conserve our important natural resources.

Conservation authorities are cost effective and knowledgeable partners for the Province. For years, they have been protecting Ontario's watersheds and the people who live in them, but we could do a lot more with new or increase provincial support and investments.



## Conservation Authorities Are Important Partners for a Resilient Ontario

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES



# Conservation Authorities Important Partners for a More Resilient Ontario

Pre-election Handout 2022

## What Conservation Authorities Need From the Province

### 5 things that will help us serve Ontarians better:

1. **Natural Hazards Protection:** Increased financial and technical support for conservation authority natural hazard work
2. **Safe Conservation Areas:** Provincial support for the infrastructure, compliance and operational needs of conservation areas
3. **Resilient Natural Assets:** Financial support for the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of watershed natural assets such as trees, forests and wetlands for climate change adaptation
4. **Enforcement:** Improvements for the enforcement and offences abilities of conservation authorities
5. **Local Science:** Investments in CA watershed studies and research, to improve CA technical capacity and expand partnerships in conservation authority monitoring programs

### Issue

Extreme weather and other climate change impacts take a costly toll on the well-being of Ontario's residents, on our infrastructure and with the functioning of business and industry.

The key to a more resilient Ontario lies in understanding how nature is so closely connected to our own health and well-being and to our economy; and then doing everything we can to protect, restore and conserve our environment and its natural systems.



Additional investments in conservation authorities would increase their ability to protect people and property from flooding and erosion, reduce natural hazard cost impacts, help Ontario to adapt to climate change, as well as support a more resilient economy and healthy population.

## Conservation Authorities are important partners for the Province:

- They are **key delivery agents** for the Province particularly around natural hazards, source water protection, for Great Lakes' water quality and a healthy agricultural industry
- They **help to implement a provincial housing strategy** by producing and aggregating science to both support growth and protect the environment. Conservation authorities' improved plan application processes have sped up services and reduced red tape. Conservation authorities'

planning and regulatory programs, including subwatershed studies/plans ensure development does not create new costly or life-threatening hazards, or deplete natural resources, including drinking water

### What does Ontario get in return?

- **Reduced risk and costs of flooding and erosion events**
- **Safe natural areas for Ontario visitors**
- **Streamlined and informed development decisions in support of a provincial housing policy and sustainable growth**
- **Stronger local resilience to climate change impacts**
- **Improved public health and reduced healthcare costs**
- **Healthy and sustainable natural resources to support Ontario's economy**



### Advantages of Working with Conservation Authorities

- ✓ **Long term relationship with the Province**
- ✓ **Known and valued for their watershed-based approach to managing flooding & erosion**
- ✓ **Watershed management model is scientifically solid and subwatershed studies/plans done early, supports streamlined and informed development decisions**
- ✓ **Cost effective partners using science to guide priorities and identify targets**
- ✓ **Governed by member municipalities and fosters collective actions at the local and community level**
- ✓ **Ability to leverage partnerships for greater resources and broader outcomes**
- ✓ **Conservation Authorities operate within a legislative and regulatory framework established by the Province**

To read our Pre-election Discussion Paper, visit Conservation Ontario's website:  
[www.conservationontario.ca](http://www.conservationontario.ca)