



# 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, June 12, 2025 at 10 a.m.**

## **Meeting Location:**

***The meeting will be conducted in the CCCA Boardroom***

# A G E N D A

- 1) Welcome / Call to Order.....Morgaine Griffin
- 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 02/2025 (April 10, 2025).....3-9
- 7) Business Arising from Minutes
- 8) Public / Special Delegations
- 9) Reports:
  - a) Reports FA18-21/2025 - Monthly Staff Reports.....10-16  
(Peter Dragunas, Gerrit Kremers, Al Bradford, Brittany Bell)
  - b) Report FA 22/2025 - April & May Summary of Revenue &Expenditures.....17-18  
(Susan Simmons)
  - c) Report FA 23/2025 - Account Paid.....19-20  
(Susan Simmons)
  - d) Report FA 24/2025 - Congratulatory Letter to MPP Flack.....21-25  
(Dusty Underhill)

e)	Report FA 25/2025 - Bill 5, the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act. Bill 17, the Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025.....	26- 27
	(Dusty Underhill)	
f)	Report FA 26/2025 - Summer Employment Program Grants .....	28-29
	(Dusty Underhill)	
g)	Report FA 27/2025 - Southwestern Regional Envirothon Competition.....	30- 31
	(Dusty Underhill)	
h)	Report FA 28/2025 – CO Council Meeting.....	32-37
10)	General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer’s Report.....	38
	(Dusty Underhill)	
11)	Unfinished Business	
12)	Chairperson’s / Board Member’s Report	
13)	Notice of Motions / New Business:	
14)	Correspondence:	
a)	Copied:	
-	RE: Conservation Ontario Comments – Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025.....	39-44
-	Re: Conservation Ontario’s comments on “Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025” (ERO#025-0380).....	45-46
-	RE: Bill 5: Protect Ontario by Unleashing Out Economy Act.....	47-48
b)	Not Copied:	
-	Correspondence Register for, April and May 2025 .....	49-52
15)	Next Meeting of the Full Authority: September 11, 2025	
16)	Termination	



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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025**

**Meeting #02/2025**

**PRESENT:**

Morgaine Griffin	Chairperson	Municipality of Central Elgin
Paul Buchner	Vice-Chairperson	Township of South West-Oxford
Arthur Oslach	Member	Town of Aylmer

**STAFF:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Gary Clarke	Member	City of St. Thomas
Scott Lewis	Member	Township of Malahide

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tom Slade	Friends of Springwater
David Birch	Friends of Springwater
Alex Lecuyer	Friends of Springwater
Victoria Adams	Representing the Friends of Springwater

**WELCOME / CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Griffin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at (10:01 a.m.).

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:**

The CCCA recognized that the land on which we gather is in the traditional territory shared between the Haudenosaunee confederacy, the Anishinabe nations, and the Attiawonderonk Neutrals.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Motion # 10/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the Agenda for the April 10, 2025, Full Authority meeting be adopted as circulated and amended.

**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 #11/2025                      P. Buchner                      A. Oslach                      CARRIED

THAT, the Minutes of Full Authority Meeting #01/2025 (February 20, 2025), be adopted as circulated.

Motion #12/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the Minutes of the Interview Committee Meeting #02/2025, be adopted as presented.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

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

**PUBLIC / SPECIAL DELEGATIONS:**

Victoria Adams, Representing the Friends of Springwater

Ms. Adams provided a presentation which included their objectives, events and overall operation of the Friends of Springwater. The Friends of Springwater requested a meeting to discuss items presented in the presentation. The meeting will be scheduled at a later time.

## REPORTS:

Reports FA 01 to FA 05/2025 – Monthly Staff Reports, were presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 13/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, Staff Reports FA 01 to FA 05/2025 for the months January – March, 2025 be noted and filed.

Report FA 06/2025 – 2025-2026 General Insurance Program was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 14/2025                      P. Buchner                      A. Oslach                      CARRIED

THAT, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority renew its 2025-2026 insurance coverage with Reith and Associates at a total cost of \$75,524.00 plus applicable taxes as detailed in Report FA 06/2025 .

Report FA 07/2025 – Quarterly Summary of Revenues & Expenditures, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 15/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, Report FA 07/2025 – Quarterly Summary of Revenue & Expenditures, be noted and filed.

Report FA 08/2025 – Accounts Paid was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 16/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, Accounts Paid totalling \$72, 962.73, be approved as presented in Report FA 08/2025.

Report FA 09/2025 – 2025 Budget and Levy, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 17/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the 2025 Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Budget totalling \$1,794,162.50, be adopted as presented; and further,

THAT, the 2025 Municipal General Levy in the amount of \$486,721.80, be approved as presented.

<b>Member's Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>CVA Apportionment %</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Morgaine Griffin</b>	<b>Municipality of Central Elgin</b>	<b>28.0888%</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Arthur Oslach</b>	<b>Town of Aylmer</b>	<b>26.0182%</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Paul Buchner</b>	<b>Township of South-West Oxford</b>	<b>3.4096%</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Gary Clarke</b>	<b>City of St. Thomas</b>	<b>6.2277%</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Scott Lewis</b>	<b>Township of Malahide</b>	<b>36.2556%</b>			<b>X</b>

Report FA 10/2025 – Tarriff Free Canada, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 18/2025                      P. Buchner                      A. Oslach                      CARRIED

THAT, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority stand with Team Canada to persuade decision-makers that tariffs are not in the best interests of Canadian or American consumers and businesses;

AND THAT, the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority endorse the federal and provincial call for Buy Canadian.

Reports FA 11/2025 – Cabinet Shuffle, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 19/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the Board of Directors receives Report FA 11/2025 as information.

Report FA 12/2025 – CCCA Committees, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 20/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority approve the Committee appointments for the year 2025 as amended and presented in Report FA 12/2025.

Report FA 13/2025 – Media Report, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 21/2025                      P. Buchner                      A. Oslach                      CARRIED

THAT, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Media Report be received as information at this time.

Report FA 14/2025 – Updated Special Events Agreement, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 22/2025                      P. Buchner                      A. Oslach                      CARRIED

THAT, the Springwater Conservation Area Event/Facility Rental Application Form be approved as presented.

Report FA 15/2025 – Approved section 28 Regulation Applications, was presented, discussed, and resolved.

Motion # 23/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority receive the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Applications Report FA 15/2025, as information.

#### **GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT:**

- Prepared for and hosted the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting for the authority. Numbers were excellent in regard to attendees and Adam Shoalts as the guest speaker really helped attain a crowd. The AGM was a huge success, and I received a lot of positive feedback for the following few days after the meeting.
- Held a preliminary discussion with Malahide Township staff to assure during the flood season we are all on the same page etc. when it comes to messaging, duties/roles and responsibilities.
- Booked my stay for the General Managers meeting that happens at the Kingsbridge Conference Center at the end of June Annually.
- Took in a webinar hosted by the DFO on February 6, 2025, in regard to the review of Lake Erie fish habitat restoration and action goals.
- Took in some training provided by Conservation Ontario regarding training on government relations and election messaging.
- Attended an online forum hosted by CO in regard to the updates to the CA Act Model Hearing Guidelines.
- Attended the end of the year Audit online meeting to discuss the 2024 Fiscal Year before it was presented by Graham Scott Enns at the AGM.
- Assisted with the coordination and delivery of information to fulfill the annual 2024 permit timeline and compliance reporting for Conservation Ontario.

- Completed the necessary documentation for Reith and Associates to complete their annual renewal of the CCCA's insurance program.
- Assisted with the renewal of our benefits plan, switching providers to provide more coverage and better rates.
- Assisted with onboarding of coop students.
- Reviewed all the final updates to the ca act model hearing guidelines.
- Reviewed DFO's Lake Erie restoration goals and actions.
- Worked with staff fulfilling the 12hr 8-8-night shift duties for flood season. This year the flood season was a bit later than normal which caused staff conflict with the Maple Program. Gerrit and Noah would take the day shift, and I came in and covered off the night shifts. The citizens of Port Bruce noticed our efforts immensely and gave great thanks to all parties working together to mitigate said risks the best we can. This year's flood season went extremely well. All organizations worked very n-sync with each other and mother nature played a crucial role providing necessary cooling and warming trends to make it a perfect break up.
- Re-negotiated with the Metis Nation of Ontario for funding for Logan Belanger's summer position and was successful in obtaining it. Details will be worked out closer to May.
- Working with the City of St Thomas ongoing to find suitable tree planting sites to cover off their environmental retribution that is necessary for the offsets for the battery plant site.
- All necessary items and reports were completed for the April 2025 Full Authority Meeting.
- Reviewed the agenda and attended the March 17<sup>th</sup> LERMC meeting held virtually.
- Reviewed AMOs plan communities embrace for tariffs impact. AMOP has launched a new website to provide all the latest news on tariffs, trades and actions.
- Completed a draft of MPP congratulatory letter regarding the recent election.
- Reviewed the DWSP Progress Report #2 covering the period from September 1 to December 31, 2025.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

a) Copied:

- Correspondence Register for January – March 2025.

Motion # 24/2025

P. Buchner

A. Oslach

CARRIED

THAT, the Copied Correspondence and Correspondence Register for the months of January – March, 2025, be noted and filed.



**CLOSED SESSION:**

Motion # 25/2025                      P. Buchner                      A. Oslach                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority adjourn to Closed Session at 10:48 a.m.

Motion # 26/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority rise with report at 11:45 a.m.

Motion # 27/2025                      P. Buchner                      A. Oslach                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority renew its 2025-2026 Employee Group Benefits Plan with Canada Life Financial through Dorbar Employee Benefits and Insurance Solutions effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

**NEXT MEETING / TERMINATION:**

The next meeting of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion # 28/2025                      A. Oslach                      P. Buchner                      CARRIED

THAT, the Full Authority be terminated at 11:45 a.m.

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General Manager / Secretary –Treasurer

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Authority Chairperson

## **REPORT FA 18/2025: To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Peter Dragunas, Water Management Technician

**SUBJECT:** April, May 2025 Monthly Staff Report

**DATE:** June 3, 2025

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### **Water Management Technician**

#### **Current Activities:**

- Completed analysis of the 2025 flood season data, relative to statistical acceptability associated with present CCCA Flood Forecasting Tools (Freezing Day Calculator for forecasting creek ice thickness, CCCA Precipitation Discharge Interpolator for available cumulative runoff vs time and Hydrometric Interpolator for forecasting discharge using available runoff from CCCA Precipitation Discharge relationships)
- Catfish Creek watershed hydrologic modeling using HEC (Hydrologic Engineering Centre) series of software designed to simulate the complete hydrologic processes of a watershed network, for use as a tool to replace existing modeling resources for Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) flood forecasting and as a water resource planning tool.
- Monitoring of the CCCA administrative area for low water conditions as per the Ontario Government, Ontario Low Water Response criteria.
- Continuous:
  - Catfish Creek watershed HEC series software modeling for integration into flood forecasting and water resource planning.
  - Maintaining the Catfish Creek water quantity database for seasonal flows (flood and low water).
  - Monitoring for watershed seasonal flows (low and or high) to verify and issue Watershed Condition Statements.
  - Monitoring Lake Erie weather patterns and water levels for Lake Erie Watershed Condition Statements, coupled with evaluations for wind induced storm surge and subsequent shoreline flood conditions.

#### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Catfish Creek sounding at Port Bruce
- Continue monitoring Lake Erie shoreline storms for storm surge and wave uprush conditions.
- Assessment of CCCA administrative areas flood plains for storage capacities.

#### **Recommendation:**

THAT, Staff Reports for the month of April and May 2025, be noted and filed.

#### **Submitted by:**

Peter Dragunas  
Water Management Technician

## **REPORT FA 19/2025: To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Gerrit Kremers, Resource Planning Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** April and May Monthly Staff Report

**DATE:** June 3, 2025

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### **Resource Planning Coordinator**

#### **Current Activities:**

- Participated in planning pre-consultation meetings with member municipalities and private landowners looking to conduct work within adjacent lands of a natural hazard feature;
- Responded to inquiries about potential natural hazards on properties of interest to buyers;
- Participated in a working group as part of the North Shore Resilience Plan Working Group with staff from neighbouring Conservation Authorities and other agencies;
- Held various site meetings with landowners to discuss CA policies, S.28, regarding future development activities on their property;
- Met with local Drainage Superintendents regarding planned drainage works within the watershed;
- Walked through Hawkins Tract and Johnson Tract, with Conservation Areas Supervisor and Brian Kington, to determine suitability of a commercial harvest;
- Met with City of St. Thomas staff in regard to Yarmouth Yards environmental offsetting and hosting habitat structures on CCCA lands;
- Participated in online Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program information session for approving plans;
- Various meetings with private landowners and stewardship associations to plan for 2025 stewardship projects;
- Attended the online Conservation Authority Coastal Network workshop, engaging with planning and regulations staff from the majority of Conservation Authorities;
- Along with Conservation Areas Assistant and Field Technician, completed two day in-person first aid and CPR training;
- Led Forestry station for the 2025 Envirothon competition, hosted at Springwater Conservation Area, with Field Training Day on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Competition Day on April 29<sup>th</sup>, with this years topic being Roots & resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship;

#### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Joint Health and Safety Committee Meeting;
- Planning Ecology working group meeting with staff from other Conservation Authorities.
- Continuation of updating the CCCA Planning and Regulations Policy and Procedure Manual;

- Planning pre-consultation meetings with member municipalities and private landowners looking to conduct work within adjacent lands of a Natural Hazard Features;
- Continue to monitor on-going s.28 work permits and associated work permit conditions;
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**Recommendation:**

THAT, Staff Reports for the months of April and May, 2025, be noted and filed.

**Submitted by:**

**Gerrit Kremers  
Resource Planning Coordinator**

## **REPORT FA 20/2025: To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Al Bradford, Conservation Areas Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** April & May Monthly Staff Report

**DATE:** June 3, 2025

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### **Conservation Areas Supervisor**

#### **Current Activities: April**

- The Operations team ran a couple of last Maple Syrup Programs the first week of April
- I want to thank all staff that assisted with our Maple Syrup Program, I believe it was a successful year for programs and our Public Festival
- Brittany and I, met with Heron Adventures and set up a partnership for the company to use Springwater Conservation Area for ORCKA canoe certification courses here
- Staff met regarding the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2025
- Over the month of April had a couple's wedding meeting to discuss rental of schoolhouse and grounds
- Assisted with Envirothon that was held here at Springwater CA
- Brian Kington, Gerrit and I did a timber cruise at a couple of our properties
- Met with Co-op teachers from the 3 different schools that have a placement here at the CCCA
- Sat in with Brittany and Susan Camis meetings
- Set up for fish pickup for stocking of Springwater Pond for our annual Trout Derby, worked with the Tri County Travelers, as they assisted with opening weekend of our Trout Derby (camping, selling day passes and doing campground cleanup and picnic table repairs)
- Gerrit and I sat in on a meeting to find out about "Western Lake Erie Student Summit & Stewardship Project" which we will work alongside other CA's to promote stewardship and education through local schools within our watersheds
- Hosted Monsignor O'Neil school for a full day of our education programs with 120 students that came out for the day
- Campground cleanup for preparation of opening of the campground (water, leaves, tables, grass, tree trimming) were just a handful of tasks that needed to be completed
- Hydro was finished up in the lower arb
- Office Parking lot was prepped for paving
- **May**
  - Staff Orientation Day was held on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025
  - Thom & Noah took the RX100 Low Complexity Course at Upper Thames CA in preparation to have additional staff trained for prescribed burns
  - Workday at the OPC Path of Honor (mulching the trees that have been planted and a

cleanup)

- Education programs for school groups throughout the month
- Continued Campground preparation for opening of both Seasonal and Transient camping here in Springwater CA
- New stainless countertops are installed at concession booths so we would be complying for our inspection
- Met with Southwest Public Health for our inspection at the concession booth
- took part in some additional online training regarding completing a PON and Part III summons, as well as completing a Caution
- All staff worked hard to make KIDS FIRST DAY a success once again (Malahide Fire was onsite with a truck and fire prevention displays, wagon rides, canoe and kayak use, lawn games and food available at the concession booth)
- Peters Paving completed the office parking lot job now operations staff will work on cleaning up the hillside around the parking lot and finish it off with grass or river rock

#### **Upcoming Activities:**

- Preparing for Vanfest
- Preparation for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (working with staff to plan events for the day to showcase the Stage for our outdoor concert featuring some local talent)
- Assisting with preparation for the Aylmer Community Festival as we have a CCCA booth going into the event
- Continuous grounds maintenance throughout our properties
- Continued staff training
- Many events for the month of June and July is a very busy month of event bookings and weddings taking place here at Springwater CA
- Quite a few education programs are booked for end of school year trips to Springwater CA
- Also prepping for the Springwater Summer Camps with staff that will be taking place in July and August
- Wrapping up final stages for the WIFI throughout West & East Campground

#### **Recommendation:**

THAT, Staff Reports for the months of April & May, 2025, be noted and filed.

**Submitted by:**

**Al Bradford  
Conservation Areas Supervisor**

## **REPORT FA 21/2025: To The Full Authority**

**FROM:** Brittany Bell, Communications/Program Support Assistant

**SUBJECT:** April and May Monthly Staff Report

**DATE:** June 3, 2025

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### **Communications/Program Support Assistant**

#### **Current Activities:**

- Seasonal camper administration
- Maintained social media channels and posted entertaining content
- Monitoring CCCA website inquiries
- Catfish Creek Conservation Authority administrative and Communication duties
- Booked Springwater Conservation Area facility rentals
- Met with couples looking to book weddings at the schoolhouse, pavilions and Audreys Place Pavilion for 2025 and 2026
- Springwater Conservation Area Campground Administrative duties
- Marketing for upcoming events at Springwater Conservation Area
- Updates to the CCCA website
- CAMIS Meetings and CAMIS testing
- Working with the Conservation Areas Supervisor to design new signs
- Preparation for the Trout Derby
- Orientation for seasonal staff
- CPR Training Certification
- Working on preparation for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Health and Safety Training for Staff
- Working on revamping on onboarding materials for seasonal staff
- Adminstration preparation for Springwater Conservation Area camping
- Updating administration documents for the CCCA and Springwater Conservation Area
- Article for In Elgin for the CCCA with regards to the CCCA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Completed Food Handlers Certification
- Hosted Kid's First day
- Met with event organizers for events at Springwater Conservation Area
- Met with organizers for a canoe course to be hosted at Springwater Conservation Area
- Continued work on implementing CAMIS
- Visitor Centre preparation
- Advertisements for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Upcoming Activities:**

- Joint Health and Safety Committee
- Work on Springwater Conservation Areas Administration Documents
- Continued administration for Springwater Conservation Area
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Preparation
- CAMIS Implementation (continued)
- Work on advertisements on social media channels
- Seasonal Campers administration
- Catfish Creek Conservation Authority administrative and Communications duties
- Numerous events being hosted at Springwater Conservation Area
- Facility Bookings
- Staff training

**Recommendation:**

THAT, Staff Reports for the months of April and May 2025, be noted and filed.

**Submitted by:**

**Brittany Bell**  
**Communications/Program Support Assistant**



**REPORT FA 22/2025 : To The Full Authority**  
**FROM: Susan Simmons, Financial Services Coordinator**  
**SUBJECT: Summary of Revenue & Expenditures**  
**DATE: May 31, 2025**

### SUMMARY OF REVENUE

for the period ending May 31, 2025

	2025 Budget	2025 To Date	Difference	2024 To Date
MNRF Provincial Grants	\$ 41,215.00	\$ -	\$ (41,215.00)	\$ -
Other Provincial Grants	\$ 2,878.86	\$ 710.42	\$ (2,168.44)	\$ 19,819.71
Other Grants - N/E	\$ 790.00	\$ -	\$ (790.00)	
Federal Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Employment Program Grants	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 13,386.37
Municipal General Levies	\$ 486,721.80	\$ 486,721.79	\$ (0.01)	\$ 252,060.61
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 35,300.00	\$ 20,576.40	\$ (14,723.60)	\$ 17,844.70
Conservation Areas Revenue	\$ 742,000.00	\$ 496,920.56	\$ (245,079.44)	\$ 482,683.47
Maple Syrup Revenue	\$ 43,900.00	\$ 68,064.32	\$ 24,164.32	\$ 46,187.52
Bank Interest	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 4,575.16	\$ (10,424.84)	\$ 7,197.87
Environmental Education	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 25,246.01	\$ 17,246.01	\$ 1,670.27
Legal Inquiries/Permit Applications	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,504.44	\$ (1,495.56)	\$ 1,345.15
Watershed Stewardship	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 2,658.50	\$ (3,091.50)	\$ 39,985.00
Revenue from Other C.A. Lands	\$ 13,341.00	\$ 2,964.61	\$ (10,376.39)	\$ 13,105.28
Other Revenue	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ (1,700.00)	\$ -
Contract Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Vehicle & Equipment Rental Recoveries	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 2,059.16	\$ (52,940.84)	\$ 17,913.20
Previous Year Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 955.54	\$ 955.54	\$ -	\$ 9,204.92
Income Appropriation from Special Reserves	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ (7,000.00)	\$ -
Income Appropriation from General Reserves	\$ 314,610.30	\$ -	\$ (314,610.30)	\$ -
	<b>\$ 1,794,162.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,139,956.91</b>	<b>\$ (654,205.59)</b>	<b>\$ 922,404.07</b>

	2024 Budget	Received To Date	Difference
<b>DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS</b>			
Annual Report	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)
Environmental Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,005.00	\$ 505.00
EESS ELP	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ (8,000.00)
Commemorative Forest	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ (200.00)
Springwater Forest Trails	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,266.90	\$ (6,733.10)
Archie Coulter C.A. Trails	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 73.00	\$ (927.00)
YNHA	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 261.50	\$ (1,338.50)
Trout Program	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ (2,000.00)
Maple Syrup Festival	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 2,100.00
SPW Capital Development	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)
Special Conservation Projects	\$ -	\$ 1,370.00	\$ 1,370.00
75th Anniversary Celebration	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Ontario Police College Path of Honour	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ (3,000.00)
<b>TOTAL Donations/Sponsorships</b>	<b>\$ 35,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,576.40</b>	<b>\$ (14,723.60)</b>

REPORT FA 22/2025 : To The Full Authority  
FROM: Susan Simmons, Financial Services Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Summary of Revenue & Expenditures  
DATE: May 31, 2025

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

for the period ending May 31, 2025

	2025 Budget	2025 To Date	Difference	2024 To Date
<b>MANDATORY PROGRAMS</b>				
1 RISK OF CERTAIN NATURAL HAZARDS (Corporate Services)	\$171,437.42	\$ 82,234.39	\$ (89,203.03)	\$ 67,855.99
2 FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	\$280,358.97	\$ 141,715.35	\$ (138,643.62)	\$ 154,183.80
3 DROUGHT AND LOW WATER RESPONSE	\$18,908.02	\$ 8,223.83	\$ (10,684.19)	\$ 7,068.56
4 ICE MANAGEMENT	\$27,807.35	\$ 14,139.32	\$ (13,668.03)	\$ 11,068.96
5 INFRASTRUCTURE (Dam)	\$27,347.89	\$ 13,957.98	\$ (13,389.91)	\$ 12,073.20
6&7 ACT REVIEWS & PLAN REVIEW	\$3,494.72	\$ 1,378.48	\$ (2,116.24)	\$ 1,184.34
8 ADMINISTRATING & ENFORCING THE ACT (Section 28)	\$56,408.83	\$ 25,337.80	\$ (31,071.03)	\$ 21,533.36
9-11 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LANDS	\$97,097.29	\$ 34,831.29	\$ (62,266.00)	\$ 32,378.76
12 WATER QUALITY (PGMN & PSMP)	\$10,203.08	\$ 4,100.70	\$ (6,102.38)	\$ 3,534.28
13 SOURCE PROTECTION	\$2,878.86	\$ 710.42	\$ (2,168.44)	\$ 1,351.41
<b>SUB TOTAL: MANDATED PROGRAMS Expenditures</b>	<b>\$695,942.43</b>	<b>\$326,629.56</b>	<b>-\$369,312.87</b>	<b>\$312,232.66</b>
<b>OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>				
WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP	\$15,741.21	\$ 10,546.55	\$ (5,194.66)	\$ 17,616.06
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	\$16,500.00	\$ 3,999.23	\$ (12,500.77)	\$ 2,601.91
SPECIAL & CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$121,142.19	\$ 66,683.68	\$ (54,458.51)	\$ 52,782.06
MAPLE SYRUP PROGRAM	\$48,900.00	\$ 45,235.09	\$ (3,664.91)	\$ 31,917.93
SPRINGWATER CONSERVATION AREA	\$812,984.62	\$ 248,862.53	\$ (564,122.09)	\$ 208,427.91
VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS	\$82,952.05	\$ 58,146.84	\$ (24,805.21)	\$ 62,274.91
<b>SUB TOTAL: OTHER PROGRAMS Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,098,220.07</b>	<b>\$433,473.92</b>	<b>-\$664,746.15</b>	<b>\$375,620.78</b>
<b>AMORTIZATION</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>APPROPRIATION TO SPECIAL RESERVES</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>APPROPRIATION TO GENERAL RESERVES</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>APPROPRIATION TO RESERVES ADJUSTMENT</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,794,162.50</b>	<b>\$ 760,103.48</b>	<b>\$ (1,034,059.02)</b>	<b>\$ 687,853.44</b>



Susan Simmons,  
Financial Services Coordinator

## REPORT FA 23/2025 : TO THE FULL AUTHORITY

FROM: Susan Simmons, Financial Services Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Accounts Paid  
DATE: May 31, 2025

VENDOR	CHQ #	TOTAL	EXPLANATION
De Lage Landen Financial Services Canada Inc.	online	\$ 229.42	postage metre
Hydro One	online	\$ 2,392.94	operations centre and campground and gauge
Reliance Home Comfort	online	\$ 57.86	water heater rental
Waste Connections of Canada Inc.	online	\$ 557.84	campground maintenance
Receiver General HST	online	\$ 2,344.60	quarterly remittance
Bell Canada	online	\$ 104.43	gauge
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 158.72	Office Equipment Purchase
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 209.95	Stationery & Office Supplies
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 132.17	Meeting Expenses
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 39.88	Flood Forecasting: Special Projects
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 123.90	Other CAs - General Expenses
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 4.98	Environmental Education: supplies
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 156.37	MS Advertising
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 33.89	SPW Supplies - software
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 46.32	SPW Supplies - miscellaneous
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 1,661.07	SPW Maintenance - office equipment
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 549.23	MS General Operating Expenses
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 94.03	SPW Advertising
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 25.58	SPW Staff Training
Telus Mobility	online	\$ 306.40	mobile phones
Aylmer Home Hardware Building Centre	32104	\$ 86.94	campground supplies
Aylmer Tire	32105	\$ 243.15	equipment maintenance
Berry Hill Market	32106	\$ 10,324.86	maple products for resale
Canadian Tire	32107	\$ 60.73	campground supplies
Durand, Chris	32108	\$ 20.99	website management
Educational Animal Display	32109	\$ 1,751.50	maple syrup festival - special event
Integrity IT Services	32110	\$ 444.38	computer network support
J-Aar Materials Limited	32111	\$ 692.10	campground supplies
Key West Gates Inc.	32112	\$ 423.75	campground maintenance
Koolen Electric	32113	\$ 451.29	campground maintenance
McDougall Energy Inc.	32114	\$ 486.66	shop heat fuel
Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Assoc	32115	\$ 438.44	maple products for resale
Ontario Trails Council	32116	\$ 123.47	annual membership
Super Air Bounce Rentals	32117	\$ 405.20	75th anniversary celebration
Uplink Communications Inc.	32118	\$ 660.21	internet service provider
Aylmer Community Festival	online	\$ 20.00	SPW promotion
CBSC Capital Inc.	online	\$ 890.07	photocoper maintenance agreement
Eastlink	online	\$ 243.65	gauges
Hydro One	online	\$ 1,697.01	operations centre and campground and gauge
Angyal, Dennis	32119	\$ 50.00	seasonal camping refund
Aylmer Express Limited	32120	\$ 333.35	advertising
Aylmer Home Hardware Building Centre	32121	\$ 186.53	campground supplies
Camis Inc.	32122	\$ 5,141.50	installment 1 of 4 - annual Registration Software
Canadian Tire	32123	\$ 362.94	campground supplies
Francotyp-Postalia Canada	32124	\$ 67.80	postage metre
Integrity IT Services	32125	\$ 80.51	computer network support
Kettle Creek Conservation Authority	32126	\$ 185.53	share of Farm Show costs
Koolen Electric	32127	\$ 43,193.36	springwater capital development
L.S. Putnam & Son	32127	\$ 232.68	campground maintenance
Ludani, Kathy	32128	\$ 33.00	trail fee refund - entered too much in Passport Parking
M.W. Horeth	32129	\$ 2,034.00	equipment procurement - mower attachment
McDougall Energy Inc.	32130	\$ 1,836.71	equipment and vehicle fuel
McLain, James	32131	\$ 75.00	seasonal camping refund
Passport Labs, Inc	32132	\$ 4.90	mobile parking app fees
Paul Fody	32133	\$ 1,356.00	springwater capital development
Silvercreek Aqualture Inc.	32134	\$ 2,033.00	Trout for annual Trout Derby
St. Jacques, Helen	32135	\$ 125.00	seasonal camping refund
Sterrit, Sue	32136	\$ 3,205.00	seasonal camping refund
Sunrise Small Engine & Rental	32137	\$ 61.01	equipment maintenance
Walker, Patsy	32138	\$ 100.00	seasonal camping refund
Westburne Ontario	32139	\$ 311.02	campground supplies
Waste Connections of Canada Inc.	online	\$ 867.91	campground maintenance
Bell Canada	online	\$ 104.43	gauge
De Lage Landen Financial Services Canada Inc.	online	\$ 123.97	postage metre
Telus Mobility	online	\$ 310.66	mobile phones
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	Stationery & Office Supplies
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	CS: General Expenses

## REPORT FA 23/2025 : TO THE FULL AUTHORITY

FROM: Susan Simmons, Financial Services Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Accounts Paid  
DATE: May 31, 2025

VENDOR	CHQ #	TOTAL	EXPLANATION
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	Meeting Expenses
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	Other CAs - General Expenses
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	Environmental Education Supplies
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	MS General Operating Expenses
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	MS Advertising
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	SPW Supplies - software
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	SPW Supplies - General
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	SPW Advertising
CIBC Visa	online	\$ 2,241.49	SPW Staff Training
Aylmer Express Limited	32140	\$ 279.11	advertising
Capstone Development Training	32141	\$ 293.80	staff training
Elgin Pure Water	32142	\$ 228.03	campground maintenance
Glenbriar Bottled Water Co. Ltd.	32143	\$ 57.46	water cooler service
Hyde Park Equipment Ltd.	32144	\$ 498.38	equipment maintenance
Integrity IT Services	32145	\$ 685.91	computer network support
Jaffa Machine Ltd.	32146	\$ 64.07	equipment maintenance
Jette, James	32147	\$ 125.00	seasonal camping refund
London Quality Dairy and Wholesale	32148	\$ 605.35	store product for resale
M Live Bait Wholesale	32149	\$ 180.80	store product for resale
R Safety	32150	\$ 215.74	campground supplies
Reith & Associates	32151	\$ 87,132.12	annual insurance premiums
Safetycare Inc.	32152	\$ 3,220.50	staff training
Silverthorn Landscape Supplies	32153	\$ 88.14	campground supplies
Smith, Brian	32154	\$ 100.00	seasonal camping refund
Sutton, Norm	32155	\$ 75.00	seasonal camping refund
The Canada Magazine	32156	\$ 2,260.00	advertising for Maple Syrup and SPW C.A.
Underhill, Dusty	32157	\$ 135.00	expense reimbursement
Uplink Communications Inc.	32158	\$ 381.10	internet service provider
Hyde Park Equipment Ltd.	32159	\$ 38,307.00	lawn tractor procurement
Almas, Steven	32160	\$ 1,000.00	seasonal camping refund - CAMIS glitch
Belagio, Donni	32161	\$ 100.00	TaggedTrout-2025
Pearson, Tyler	32162	\$ 100.00	TaggedTrout-2025
Pay, Andrew	32163	\$ 100.00	TaggedTrout-2025
Attard, Sarah	32164	\$ 100.00	TaggedTrout-2025
Eastlink	online	\$ 243.65	gauges
407 ETR	online	\$ 120.13	mileage costs
Hydro One	online	\$ 1,963.04	operations centre and campground and gauge
Angyal, Dennis	32165	\$ 50.00	seasonal camping refund
Armorex	32166	\$ 2,134.46	campground supplies
Aylmer Home Hardware Building Centre	32167	\$ 174.96	campground supplies
Aylmer Tire	32168	\$ 32.34	equipment maintenance
Conservation Ontario	32169	\$ 9,944.00	installment 2 of 2 - annual Levy
Durand, Chris	32170	\$ 350.00	website management
Farrell, Lisa	32171	\$ 100.00	seasonal camping refund
Frank's Mobile Service	32172	\$ 1,017.78	equipment maintenance
Glenbriar Bottled Water Co. Ltd.	32173	\$ 22.49	water cooler service
H. Broer Equipment Sales & Service Inc.	32174	\$ 17.23	equipment maintenance
Integrity IT Services	32175	\$ 1,916.76	office equipment - PC for Dusty
K&K Locksmiths	32176	\$ 33.90	campground supplies
Koolen Electric	32177	\$ 3,390.00	campground maintenance
Langton RV	32178	\$ 113.00	campground supplies
London Quality Dairy and Wholesale	32179	\$ 128.52	store product for resale
M.R.C. Systems Inc.	32180	\$ 175.15	equipment maintenance
Passport Labs, Inc	32181	\$ 12.25	mobile parking app fees
Peters Paving Inc.	32182	\$ 30,270.44	operations centre parking lot grade and repave
Reith & Associates	32183	\$ 805.00	insurance premium add on
Scott Lewis Auto	32184	\$ 1,200.68	vehicle maintenance
Upper Thames Conservation Authority	32185	\$ 962.83	staff training
WRC Purifying	32186	\$ 245.21	campground maintenance
Zap's Tree and Lawn Service	32187	\$ 6,099.18	campground maintenance
Zeus Athletics	32188	\$ 813.60	ELP program
Zomer, Laura	32189	\$ 125.00	seasonal camping refund
		<b>\$ 314,560.29</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT, Accounts Paid totalling **\$314,560.29** , be approved as presented in Report FA 23/2025

**REPORT FA 24/2025 : To The Full Authority**

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

**SUBJECT:** Congratulatory Letter MPP Flack

**DATE:** May 21, 2025

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**PURPOSE:**

Rob Flack has been re-elected as the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Elgin, Middlesex, London. As a re-elected representative, Mr. Flack will continue to play a role in shaping provincial policy, including matters that affect conservation authorities and environmental stewardship across the province.

**DISCUSSION:**

A congratulatory letter was drafted and sent on behalf of Catfish Creek Conservation Authority to acknowledge Mr. Flack's re-election. The letter conveys appreciation for his continued public service and reinforces the Authority's commitment to working collaboratively on matters of shared interest.

This correspondence also serves to maintain a constructive relationship with provincial representatives and to ensure that the Authority's mandate and priorities remain top of mind during legislative and policy discussions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT, Report FA 24/2025 be received as information at this time.

**Submitted by:**

**Dusty Underhill**  
**General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer**



**CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**8079 Springwater Road, RR# 5, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4**

**PHONE: (519) 773-9037 • FAX: 519-765-1489**

**e-mail: [admin@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:admin@catfishcreek.ca) • [www.catfishcreek.ca](http://www.catfishcreek.ca)**

May 28, 2025

The Honorable Rob Flack  
Suite 201  
750 Talbot St.  
St. Thomas, ON  
N5P1E2  
Via Email – [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Extending congratulations on your re-election as MPP of Elgin, Middlesex, London**

Dear Honorable Rob Flack,

On behalf of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA), I extend our sincere congratulations on your re-election as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Elgin—Middlesex—London.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can collaborate to advance our shared objectives and address the critical socio-economic and environmental challenges impacting your riding.

The CCCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Within our jurisdiction, we deliver mandatory programs and services under the Conservation Authorities Act and work closely with our municipal partners, including the Township of Malahide, the Municipality of Central Elgin, the Town of Aylmer, and the City of St. Thomas.

For over 75 years, the CCCA has been dedicated to protecting people and property from the risks associated with flooding, erosion, and other natural hazards. Ontario's Conservation Authorities are recognized globally for their integrated approach to natural hazard and resource management. For more than seven decades, the Province of Ontario and Conservation Authorities have partnered to conserve, restore, develop, and manage Ontario's natural resources—ensuring safe, resilient, and livable communities.

The CCCA supports local communities not only through hazard mitigation but also by delivering environmental education programs and maintaining access to recreational opportunities. In 2023, we developed a new strategic plan that will guide the organization from 2023 to 2033, aligning with our legislative mandate and outlining clear priorities for conservation, sustainability, and community engagement.

Our strength lies in the deep-rooted involvement of our local communities. The conservation movement has long been one of grassroots action—by the people, for the people. We continue to design and implement programs that protect and enhance the natural resources of the Catfish Creek watershed.

Through partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups, the CCCA has successfully delivered numerous climate change resilience and environmental restoration projects across the watershed. We manage over 1,300 acres of conservation lands across 23 properties, providing habitat for various species at risk, including the Blanding's Turtle and the Monarch butterfly.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you to enhance the environmental health of our watershed and its boundaries within Elgin County, to support a sustainable and resilient future for all who live and work within the watershed.

Sincerely,



Chair



General Manager/ Secretary - Treasurer, CCCA

*Mission Statement: "To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs  
In order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"*





## CATFISH CREEK CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

8079 Springwater Road, RR# 5, Aylmer, Ontario N5H 2R4

PHONE: (519) 773-9037 • FAX: 519-765-1489

e-mail: [admin@catfishcreek.ca](mailto:admin@catfishcreek.ca) • [www.catfishcreek.ca](http://www.catfishcreek.ca)

May 28, 2025.

Honourable Mike Harris  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Via email - [minister.mnr@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mnr@ontario.ca)

### **Re: Extending congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Natural Resources**

Dear Minister Harris,

On behalf of Catfish Creek Conservation Authority (CCCA) board and staff, we would like to extend our sincerest congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Natural Resources.

The CCCA was founded in 1950 and for over seventy-five years, the Province of Ontario and Conservation Authorities (CAs) have been valuable partners in the conservation, restoration, development, and management of Ontario's natural resources, ensuring safe livable communities.

Today, almost 95% of Ontario's population lives in a watershed managed by a Conservation Authority and relies on the responsible management of our water, land and natural habitats for economic, social and environmental benefits. Conservation Authorities continue to maintain a commitment to providing exceptional client services to their watershed residents and collectively:

- **Prevent more than \$150 million a year in flood damage and disruptions**, protecting homes, private businesses, roads and critical municipal infrastructure.
- **Manage \$5 billion in flood control and prevention infrastructure** including dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures.
- **Ensure Ontario's water resources are properly safeguarded, managed, and restored**, delivering clean and safe drinking water to more than 10 million people through the Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Plan.

Minister Harris, Ontario's model of Conservation Authorities is admired around the world for its efforts to safeguard people and property from natural hazards and avoid financial losses. Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities have collaborated on



various initiatives to maintain their current level of service. We would be pleased to share more with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Chair



General Manager/CAO

*Mission Statement: "To communicate and deliver resource management services and programs  
In order to achieve social and ecological harmony for the watershed"*



**REPORT FA 25/2025: To The Full Authority**

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

**SUBJECT:** **Bill 5, the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act.**  
**Bill 17, the Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025**

**DATE:** May 27, 2025

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**PURPOSE:**

To reprise the members of recent ramifications regarding Bill 5, the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act.

**DISCUSSION:**

Over the Easter long weekend, the Ford government tabled Bill 5, the "Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act." But behind its misleading title lies one of the most dangerous rollbacks of environmental protection in Ontario's history.

Bill 5 is a sweeping, pro-industry bill designed to fast-track resource extraction, terminate environmental oversight, and hand unprecedented power to developers, mining companies, and Cabinet ministers all at the expense of Ontario's ecosystems, species at risk, and public accountability.

This bill would repeal Ontario's internationally respected Endangered Species Act and replace it with the Species Conservation Act. The new law guts the definition of habitat, protecting only a species' immediate dwelling, like a den or nest, while leaving the surrounding ecosystem open to destruction. Forest corridors, wetlands, migratory routes, essential areas species rely on would become fair game for development.

Even worse, Bill 5 puts politicians, not scientists, in charge of deciding which species are protected. Cabinet could ignore expert advice and make politically motivated decisions that risk pushing species closer to extinction. This is not conservation. This is ecological negligence.

Bill 5 doesn't stop with wildlife. It opens the floodgates to large-scale, unaccountable development by:

- Creating "special economic zones" where developers handpicked by the province can override environmental laws.
- Fast-tracking mining approvals—especially in the sensitive and carbon-rich Ring of Fire region—without proper environmental scrutiny.
- Weakening environmental assessments for major infrastructure and industrial projects, removing safeguards designed to protect communities and ecosystems.

These changes amount to a systematic dismantling of the checks and balances that have protected Ontario's environment for decades.

The Ford government claims Bill 5 is about “economic independence” and “energy security.” But this is a false choice. Protecting nature is not a barrier to prosperity—it's the foundation of it. Clean air, clean water, stable climate systems, and healthy biodiversity are essential to our health, food systems, and long-term economy.

Bill 5 is a clear signal that this government is willing to sacrifice environmental stewardship and science-based policy in the name of short-term profits. If passed, the damage could be irreversible—not just to species and ecosystems, but to the democratic processes that protect them.

Bill 17, the Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025, represents the provincial government's push to accelerate development and infrastructure projects in response to economic pressures, including rising U.S. tariffs. The legislation seeks to streamline municipal development approvals, standardize development charges across jurisdictions, and fast-track transportation and transit-oriented projects. While these measures may promote investment and job creation, they also risk undermining critical environmental and planning safeguards. By centralizing decision-making and reducing local and public input, Bill 17 could strain municipal capacity, limit tailored responses to local conditions, and weaken the accountability mechanisms that ensure sustainable growth. Furthermore, the cumulative effects of Bill 17, in conjunction with Bill 5, may erode long-standing protections for natural systems and biodiversity if proper checks and balances are not retained. Therefore, while the intent to stimulate economic activity is clear, it is vital that the province ensures transparency, upholds environmental standards, and meaningfully engages stakeholders to avoid long-term consequences to Ontario's ecological and community well-being.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT, the Board of Directors receives Report FA 25/2025 as information.

**Submitted by:**

**Dusty Underhill**  
**General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer**

**REPORT FA 26/2025 : To The Full Authority**

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

**SUBJECT:** Summer Employment Program Grants

**DATE:** May 28, 2025

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**PURPOSE:**

To provide the Board with an update on the Summer Employment Program grants approved thus far in 2025.

**DISCUSSION:**

The following table outlines the various Summer Employment Programs approved for the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority for 2025.

<b>Sponsoring Agency</b>	<b>Name of Program</b>	<b># of Participant</b>	<b>2025 Total Funding</b>
Metis Nation of Ontario	Metis Nation of Ontario Summer Career Placement Program	1 Park Technician	\$10,320.00
Colleges and Institutes Canada	Career Launcher	1 Field Technician	\$25,000.00
Employment and Social Development Canada	Canada Summer Jobs	2 Customer Services Clerks 2 Campground Maintenance Workers 1 Education Outreach Program Coordinator	\$23,840.00
<b>TOTAL GRANT FUNDING APPROVED .....</b>			<b>\$59,160.00</b>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT, the Full Authority acknowledge receipt of the information on the 2025 Summer Employment Programs as outlined in Report FA 26/2025.

**Submitted by:**

**Dusty Underhill  
General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer**

## **REPORT FA 27/2025: To The Full Authority**

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

**SUBJECT:** **Southwestern Regional Envirothon Competition**

**DATE:** May 20, 2025

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### **PURPOSE:**

To provide the members with a synopsis of the Southwestern Regional Envirothon Competition held at the Springwater Conservation Area on April 29, 2025.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The 2025 Southwest Envirothon was a one-day academic and experiential competition designed to engage high school students in environmental education through hands-on learning. The event provides a platform for students to expand their environmental knowledge while developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills in an interactive, real-world context.

Each Envirothon team is composed of five high school students who work collaboratively to tackle a series of challenges focused on environmental science topics. The top-performing team from the regional event advances to the Ontario Provincial Envirothon Competition.

This year's event saw strong participation, with 15 teams representing 9 different secondary schools from across the region. Participating schools included:

Thames Valley District School Board's Environmental HELP Program registered (6 teams) – a semester-long environmental leadership program open to Grade 10 and 11 students,

Strathroy District Collegiate Institute  
Woodstock Collegiate Institute  
West Elgin Secondary School  
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School  
Huron Park Secondary School  
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School  
London Central Secondary School

The theme for the 2025 competition was "Roots + Resilience: Fostering Forest Stewardship," which challenged students to explore the ecological, social, and economic roles of forests and the importance of long-term sustainable management.

Congratulations to West Elgin Secondary School, whose team emerged as the winning team of this year's regional competition. They will proudly represent the Southwest Region at the upcoming Ontario Provincial Envirothon Competition.

Special thanks to the Elgin Stewardship Council for their generous sponsorship and continued support of youth environmental education. We are also grateful to our knowledgeable panel of judges—Kim Smale, Uwe Kraemer, and Becky Simons—as well as the many dedicated volunteers who made the day a success.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT, Report FA 27/2025, be noted and filed.

**Submitted by:**

**Dusty Underhill**

**General Manager / Secretary - Treasurer**

## **REPORT FA 28/2025 : To The Full Authority**

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

**SUBJECT: Conservation Ontario Council Meeting**

**DATE:** April 30, 2025

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### **PURPOSE:**

To update the members on the business items discussed at the Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer attended the Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting held at the Sheraton Parkway North Hotel on April 14th, 2025.

Highlights of the meeting included:

#### **a) Election of Officers:**

Chairperson	Dave Barton
Vice-Chairperson (1)	Ed McGugan
Vice-Chairperson (2)	Pat Warren
Council Director	Brad McNevin
Council Director	Rob Baldwin
Council Director	Chandra Sharma

#### **b) Conservation Ontario Standing Committee Representation,**

The By-laws of the Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario state the following:

Standing Committees will work with the General Manager on operational matters to ensure that recommendations to Council reflect Conservation Authority operational viewpoints. Standing Committees and membership will be confirmed by Council decision. They may be composed of Council members and/or Conservation Authority staff specialists. They will elect their Chair and report directly to Council. The following Standing Committees are:

1. Budget and Audit Committee
2. Group Insurance and Benefits Committee
3. Occupational Health and Safety/Risk Management Committee



c) Conservation Ontario Representatives and; Annual Update: Committees and Conservation Authority Discussion Group,

Conservation Ontario (CO) provides an annual list of CO Representatives and Conservation Authority (CA) Discussion Groups to recognize the significant volunteer contributions provided through CA staff to collective strategic priorities.

d) 2024 Audited Financial Statements and Audit Letters,

The Budget & Audit Committee's role includes oversight of the audit process, review of the results of the external audit, recommendation of any action required in response to the Auditor's recommendation and recommendation of the appointment of the Auditors and the audit fee for the upcoming year.

Conservation Ontario's Auditors (BDO Canada) met with Angela Coleman, Lauren McPherson, and the Budget and Audit Committee on March 7, 2025, to review the Auditor's Report and Draft 2024 Financial Statements. There were no concerns identified in the Auditor's report. BDO Canada will be presenting the Audited financial statements at the April 14, 2025, Annual General Meeting. The audited financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The audited statements and various letters have been reviewed and approved by staff.

e) 2025 Insurance Renewal and Committee Update

The Group Insurance and Benefits Committee met with our broker, Marsh Canada Limited, on October 3, 2024, to conduct a mid-year claims review and to provide direction related the marketing plan for the upcoming 2025 renewal. The Committee met again with Marsh on March 6, 2025, to review the insurance renewal terms for the year starting April 1, 2025. The Committee also met with Mosey & Mosey, its broker for health, life and disability insurance benefits on March 28, 2025, to receive a review of the past 10 months of experience and a forecast for the next renewal, September 1, 2025.

f) 2024 Conservation Ontario Annual Report.

The 2024 Conservation Ontario Annual Report highlights the efforts of Conservation Ontario (CO) and Conservation Authorities (CAs) in managing Ontario's watersheds, mitigating natural hazards, and promoting sustainable environmental practices. Throughout the year, CO worked closely with provincial and federal partners to enhance policy development, improve regulatory frameworks, and streamline services for increased efficiency.

g) 2025 Special Projects Budget,

The Budget & Audit Committee reviews and recommends the proposed special projects budget to Conservation Ontario Council. The committee met on March 7, 2025, to review the proposed 2025 Special Projects Budget. The 2025 Special Projects Budget is presented at the Annual General Meeting in April, rather than with the 2025 Operating Budget in September. The rationale is that special projects typically depend on provincial and federal funding and Governments [with fiscal years having a March 31st year end].

The high value of the Budget is driven by multi-year budget reporting required under the Provincial Marginal Lands Agreement, Coastal resilience Agreement, and other multi-year Provincial TPAs Funds, (most of these funds directly to partner Conservation Authorities).

h) Conservation Ontario Client Service and Streamlining Initiative (CSSI) and 2024 Permit Timelines and Regulatory Compliance Report,

Since 2019, Conservation Ontario's CSSI supported objectives to increase housing supply without jeopardizing public health and safety, or the environment. The Initiative is guided by the Client Service and Streamlining Steering Committee (GMs/CAOs) and the Timely Review and Approvals Task Force. Annual reporting on CA Section 28 Permit timelines is a core component of the CO CSSI. April 1, 2024, amendments to Ontario Regulation 686/21 under the Conservation Authorities Act introduced a new requirement for all CAs to prepare annual reporting on CA permit statistics, timelines, and other matters of regulatory compliance. This report includes details of Conservation Ontario's support for consistent CA reporting, as well as the results of the 2024 reporting of all 36 CAs.

i) Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authority Access Agreement Template,

Under Ontario Regulation 688/21, a permit is required from a Conservation Authority (CA) for specified activities within conservation areas (e.g., entering and remaining in a "day-use" permit area, camping, making excavations, etc.) Conservation Ontario was approached by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in August 2024 to discuss a standard template agreement for accessing CA lands to undertake research and monitoring activities. Pending approval, the template agreement will be provided to each CA to consider local use and adoption. Use of a Standard Template Agreement is intended to reduce legal and administrative burden for both CAs and MNR, and support longstanding monitoring and research relationships between both agencies.

j) Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes Project,

Conservation Ontario partnered with three Conservation Authorities to deliver Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes (the Project). Coordinated by Conservation Ontario, the Project received funding over four years (2024-2027) through Natural

Resources Canada's Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities (CRCC) Program. While ensuring knowledge transfer, the Project will co-develop three regional coastal resilience plans to guide adaptation actions for at-risk and vulnerable communities along the coast of Northern Lake Superior, Southern Lake Huron, and Western Lake Ontario.

k) Congratulatory Letters to Elected Members of Provincial Parliament and Appointed Cabinet Ministers,

Conservation Ontario sent congratulatory letters to eight of Ontario's appointed Cabinet Ministers. This included the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources, Associate Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Products, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Associate Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Ministry of Red Tape Reduction, and Ministry of Rural Affairs.

l) Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program – Marginal Lands Initiative,

Conservation Ontario is delivering the Marginal Lands Initiative, a program funded by a \$12 million investment over four years from the governments of Canada and Ontario through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). The Marginal Lands Initiative will support farmers by providing technical expertise from organizations specializing in agri-environmental planning to support the implementation of practices that reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, sequester carbon and increase Ecosystem Goods and Services.

m) Conservation Ontario's comments on "Enabling the Development of Commercial-Scale Geological Carbon Storage in Ontario: The Geological Carbon Storage Act" (ERO# 019- 9299)

On November 25, 2024, as part of the Bill 228 Resource Management and Safety Act, 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced a proposed Geological Carbon Storage Act, which, if passed, would enable the permanent storage of carbon dioxide within geological formations. This report provides an overview of Conservation Ontario's response to the recent consultation.

n) Conservation Ontario's comments on the "2016-2020 Cumulative Impact Assessment under the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (ERO#019-9455),

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement ("SWRA") establishes requirements to conduct cumulative impact assessments to present water budgets for the Great Lakes basin, and individual lakes within the watershed basin. In June 2023, a five-year cumulative impact assessment (2016- 2020) was published by the Great Lakes-St Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council. The Ontario

Water Resources Act requires reports to be published to the Environmental Registry, inviting public feedback on the actions Ontario should take in response.

o) Re-Launch of the Drainage Act and Section 28 Regulations Team (DART),

In 2012, the province released the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol ("Protocol"). This Protocol was developed based on the advice of the inter-agency Drainage Act and Section 28 Regulations Team (DART). The DART team was active for many years supporting implementation of the Protocol. Through conversation, it is clear there is a need for organizations to meet more frequently to discuss drainage activities. Conservation Ontario will host a meeting of the group in April.

p) 2025 Latonell Conservation Symposium,

For three decades, the Latonell Conservation Symposium has been a vibrant forum for Conservation Authorities, environmental leaders, practitioners, and advocates dedicated to watershed management. This report provides information on the two-day experience.

q) Policy and Planning Program,

This report provides updates on Member Services provided by Policy and Planning staff since December 9, 2024, Council Meeting. The services provide focus on supporting the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) implementation and Great Lakes Coastal Resilience.

r) Business Development and Partnerships Program,

Conservation Ontario Business Development and Partnership activities since December 2024 have supported several Conservation Authority business areas and initiatives, including advocating for and securing investments and partnerships, policy input, and project management. Highlights are provided in this and other reports in this Agenda. This report provides an update on engagement with partners at events and initiatives.

s) Drinking Water Source Protection Program,

The Clean Water Act received Royal Assent in 2006, establishing the Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) program administered by the Conservation and Source Protection Branch (CSPB) of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The program is funded by the province. Conservation Ontario (CO) provides coordination and support to Conservation Authorities (CAs) as Source Protection Authorities (SPAs) who deliver and implement this program on a watershed basis.

t) Marketing and Communications,

The PaRx program, also known as the "Park Prescriptions" program, is a national health initiative that encourages healthcare professionals to prescribe time in nature as part of patient treatment plans. Led by the BC Parks Foundation, this innovative approach has demonstrated significant health benefits and presents an excellent opportunity for Conservation Authorities (CAs) to play a crucial role in promoting community well-being by encouraging people to spend time outdoors and in Conservation Areas.

u) Information Management Program,

This report provides an update on key information management activities involving Conservation Ontario and Member CAs. The report highlights Information Management-related initiatives that were endorsed by the Council through the Conservation Ontario Strategic Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT, the information outlined in Report FA 28/2025, be noted and filed.

**Submitted by:**

**Dusty Underhill  
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer**

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On April 1 2025, Malahide staff attended the CCCA boardroom to discuss the 2024, 2025 flood season. Minor changes occurred this year, but weather played a huge factor, it was the perfect thaw and freeze which allowed for the runoff to happen in increments rather than all at once.

Met with Dan Reith of Reith and Associates to go over our 2025- 2026 renewal. Dan got us an excellent rate increase of about 5.3% when we are used to being hit by a 15%-20% increase.

Completed reports necessary to fill closed sessions and committee meetings.

Completed the MNO agreement to secure employment funding for Logan Belanger.

Completed the employee enrollment for the switch to Canada Life. Greg Newton also held a onboarding meeting with staff to ensure a smooth transition.

I had a maintenance meeting at the path of honor. We do not need to purchase any trees this year as we are ten ahead and did not have any losses.

Attended CO Council Annual General Meeting with Chair Griffin in Toronto.

Completed the Enabling Accessibility Grant final report and submitted it before the required deadline.

Completed the Transfer Payment Agreement to acquire CCCA's Provincial Transfer Payment.

Attended a General Managers meeting virtually about Bill 5, Throne Speech and other amendments to acts that are posted on the ERO.

Provided the PBRA with an update about their donation towards a flood model. Staff have applied for grants using this as a leverage but have not heard anything back from any agencies yet.

Assisted staff with Kids First Day, a day for young people to be introduced to the environment and activities that can be associated with it.

Assisted staff with meetings about the Friends of Springwater Campers Association.

Staff have been preparing for the Aylmer Community Festival in conjunction with Councillor Desrosiers which we will take part in. I, and or Gerrit will be attending a booth to educate people on the CCCA and what we offer to our watershed residents.

Assisted staff with preparation for Door Open in conjunction with Councillor Chapman from the Town of Aylmer.

Preparations for CCCA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

***Bill 5 “Special Economic Zones Act, 2025” (ERO#025-0391)***

**Purpose of Submission:** Standing Committee Written Submission

**Organization Name:** Conservation Ontario

**Presenter’s Name and Title:** Angela M. Coleman,

Conservation Ontario, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date:** Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Address:** 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 3W3

**Email Address:** [acoleman@conservationontario.ca](mailto:acoleman@conservationontario.ca)

**Phone Number:** 289-763-4807

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Honourable Aris Babikian, MPP  
Chair, Standing Committee on the Interior  
Whitney Block, Room 1405  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3

**RE: Conservation Ontario Comments – Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act. 2025***

Dear Chair Babikian and Honorable Members of the Standing Committee,

**Verbal Presentation to Standing Committee:**

My name is Angela Coleman and I am the Chief Administrative Officer of Conservation Ontario. Conservation Ontario is the member service organization for Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, located across the Province, on a watershed basis.

I deeply respect and acknowledge the submissions of my co-presenters, on this panel. I am honored to share this space with you and recognize the significance of your comments as rights holders while my comments are from a stakeholder perspective.

Conservation Authorities work directly with the Province, Member Municipalities, partners and communities, to protect people and property from: natural hazards [such as: flooding, erosion, and landslides]; maintain flood and erosion control infrastructure; maintain sensitive lands and Conservation Areas for public benefit; protect municipal drinking water; and offer watershed enhancement, protection, and restoration projects (including agricultural and business stewardship projects, wetland projects, grassland and tree planting projects, and land securement).



## **Opportunity to review Conservation Authority Individual Submissions**

Many Conservation Authorities have made individual submissions on this Bill. Members, if you review these submissions, you will gain perspectives from individual Conservation Authorities: many provide more detailed comments than my time permits today – so I invite you to review those.

## **Government Proposal**

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting, Bill 5, the Protect Ontario by *Unleashing our Economy Act*, 2025, proposes to amend existing and enact new legislation, including the *Special Economic Zones Act*. Upon proclamation, the *Special Economic Zones Act* will provide regulation-making authorities to the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) and applicable Minister to make criteria for and to designate “*special economic zones*”, “*trusted proponents*”, and “*designated projects*”. Specific definitions of these terms have not been provided with the proposed Bill.

Once established, *designated projects* undertaken by *trusted proponents* in *special economic zones* may receive exemptions or modifications to specified legislative or regulatory permitting, approvals, or other similar requirements. The proposed legislation may apply in any area of Ontario, and to any provincial Act, regulation or instrument, including municipal by-laws.

Conservation Ontario reviewed and received many comments and concerns on the proposed legislation; however, today, with limited time, I will focus comments directly on our specific legislative frameworks under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and *Clean Water Act*.

## General Comments

1. Protecting Public Health and Safety Supports Economic Prosperity: Providing strong protections for people and property from risks related to natural hazards and existing and future sources of municipal drinking water are essential to support economic development and safe and prosperous communities. Conservation Ontario recommends that natural hazard permitting requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and policies set out in the source protection plan under the *Clean Water Act* continue to apply in any designated special economic zones. The continued application of these regulations and policies will balance potential risks and further support safe and healthy communities.
2. Support for improved processes: Conservation Ontario and the 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs) share the government's commitment to identify process improvements and provide timely approvals to support development priorities. We are committed to supporting a strong provincial economy, safe housing and critical infrastructure development, and safeguarding sources of municipal drinking water. We believe that efficient permitting can be achieved while maintaining these important shared priorities.

## Recommendations

1. Natural Hazards Protection: Ontario's natural hazard regulatory framework protects housing, critical infrastructure, and the public from natural hazard impacts, including flooding and erosion. The success of Ontario's hazard management framework and the Conservation Authority model is recognized for minimizing flood hazard risks to housing compared to other provinces in Canada, [even though we have the most housing starts in Ontario], resulting in considerably lower insurable losses. This coordinated, hazard, risk-

based framework is supported by Ontario's Special Advisor on Flooding in their report "An Independent Review of the 2019 Flood Events in Ontario".

2. Municipal Drinking Water Protection: Conservation Authorities support protecting sources of municipal drinking water as Source Protection Authorities (SPAs) under the *Clean Water Act*. Protecting drinking water sources from Ontario's lakes, rivers, streams, and underground aquifers is critical to economic prosperity. All Source Protection Plans are approved by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Maintaining high protections established under the *Clean Water Act* ensure strong legislative and regulatory protections apply to safeguard drinking water quantity and quality. Ontario's multi-barrier approach to ensuring the safety of drinking water is strongly supported by Justice O'Connor in the 2002 *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*.

3. Applying Protection Provisions in Special Economic Zones: Given the risk to public health and safety from natural hazards and extreme weather events we recommend: the Provincial Planning Statement natural hazard policies; *Conservation Authorities Act* permitting requirements; and source protection plans under the *Clean Water Act* apply in any potential *Special Economic Zone*.
4. Technical Expertise and Experience: Conservation Authority staff bring decades of specialized expertise balancing development pressures and finding local solutions to complex matters. Both Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities welcome opportunities to ensure provincial development priorities are planned and implemented safely, supporting long-term economic prosperity and a healthy environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the “Special Economic Zones Act, 2025” (ERO#025-0391). I am pleased to respond to any questions you have at this time.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Coleman,

Chief Administrative Officer, Conservation Ontario



May 15, 2025

Public Input Coordinator – Species at Risk Protection  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Species at Risk Branch  
40 St. Clair Avenue West,  
Toronto, ON  
M4V 1M2

**Re: Conservation Ontario's comments on "Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025" (ERO#025-0380)**

Bill 5, the *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025* proposes interim amendments to the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (*ESA, 2007*), and later repeals the *ESA, 2007* and enacts the new *Species Conservation Act, 2025* (*SCA, 2025*), once proclaimed.

Conservation Ontario supports the connection between species at risk (SAR) protection, ecosystem resilience, and social and economic well-being.

The proposed interim amendments and enactment of the *SCA, 2025*, remove the requirement for the Province to prepare recovery strategies, management plans, and government response statements. As part of the proposed *SCA, 2025*, the Province reaffirmed a commitment to invest in SAR conservation through the new Species Conservation Program.

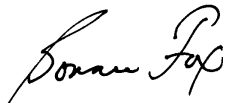
This program replaces the Species at Risk Stewardship Program and increases funding to support voluntary SAR protection and conservation activities by up to \$20 million per year. As proposed, the new program would support a wider breadth of conservation activities, including SAR habitat preservation, rehabilitation and enhancement, public education and outreach programs, and other activities to assist in the protection and conservation of species.

Conservation Ontario supports the Province's collaboration with partners and agencies to facilitate timely, targeted, on-the-ground activities contributing to SAR recovery and habitat protection. Conservation Authorities are collectively the second-largest landowner in the Province of Ontario, owning and managing a diverse portfolio of natural landscapes that support, among other objectives, SAR and their habitats. Through the proposed Species

Conservation Program, and given eligibility for funding, Conservation Authorities stand ready to prioritize activities that protect and conserve SAR and their habitat, while contributing to species recovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on "Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025" (ERO#025-0380). Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities look forward to opportunities to work alongside the Province and other partners to provide continued protection, conservation and recovery for SAR and their habitat in Ontario. We would be pleased to further discuss these comments at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Fox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bonnie" and last name "Fox" clearly distinguishable.

Bonnie Fox  
Policy and Planning Director

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs

**Submission to the ERO for 025-0416  
and to the Standing Committee on the Interior  
RE: Bill 5: Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act**



May 16, 2025

The Ontario Headwaters Institute, a provincial corporation with charitable status, promotes watershed security in Ontario, which we define as healthy and resilient watersheds that protect regional ecological integrity, social wellbeing, and economic vitality.

One of our key current efforts in this regard is publishing a series of position papers on the need to replace Ontario's diluted, fragmented, and ineffective approach to land use and watershed planning with an **Outcomes-based Framework for Watershed Security**. You can find an introduction and the first three position papers at <https://ontarioheadwaters.ca/watershed-security-project-updates/>.

Not only would prescribed ecological outcomes safeguard our watersheds, biodiversity, public health, and economic vitality, a framework identifying a clear lead agency for the outcomes would deliver goals that the Ontario government has been talking about since 2018: stream-lined, more effective environmental management.

Toward that common goal, we provide the following 8 comments and 6 recommendations.

Comments

1. The OHI appreciates that there is a housing crises and supports the need for action. That action should be based on the principles of a low carbon economy and complete communities, and should not be taken at the expense of the environment nor traditional democratic and legal rights.
2. We have, on many occasions, expressed support for potential efficiencies across environmental legislation, regulations, and agency actions. The government has never asked for any help with that.
3. Unfortunately, the Ontario government has for years conflated the need for action on housing with a non-scientific desire and policy bias to reduce rather than adjust environmental safeguards to make them more effective while supporting ecologically and economically unsustainable sprawl development.
4. Regarding changes to the mandate and role of conservation authorities and efforts to increase municipal housing starts, the OHI firmly believes that it is not possible to separate land use and watershed planning. Cutting corners on today's watershed protections will harm future environmental integrity, agriculture, biodiversity, social wellbeing, public health, and economic vitality.
5. Over the last several years, the Ontario government has also run roughshod over democratic and legal norms. This has included efforts to amend as many as 40 acts and regulations in omnibus bills; to create special by-law areas in which the Clean Water Act would have been suspended; backdoor efforts to alter the Greenbelt; the profligate use of Minister's Zoning Order to end run normal planning; and restriction of who can appeal development issues to the Ontario Land Tribunal.
6. The use of omnibus bills has been particularly deleterious to Ontario society. Organizations seeking meaningful consultation have been given limited opportunity to address the government, while there has been extensive disaffection from First Nations on the government's duty to consult.

7. Indeed, the consultation process has been so broken that the government's haste to impose its will has often resulted in third reading just minutes after meetings of standing committee, and/or the close of postings on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), with no time for the serious consideration of any deputations or submissions. This behaviour is antithetical to meaningful consultation and maintaining the trust of the public.
8. Bill 5 may be the worst omnibus effort to date. Its many failings have been well-documented by First Nations, a wide range of civil society, and in the media. In addition to the by-now normal subjugation of the environment to development, the invention in Bill 5 of "trusted proponents: and/or "designated projects" in "special economic zones", none of which have any meaningful definition but are at the discretion of an order in council. These initiatives represent a significant abrogation of Lord Durham's recommendations for responsible government and the rule of law in Ontario.

### Recommendations

I The government should listen to the extensive concerns expressed by the public, policy experts, and First Nations and withdraw Bill 5.

**In addition, the OHI urges the government to consider the following additional, constructive recommendations for sustainable development in a vibrant Ontario, each of which needs extensive consultation.**

- II Develop provincial standards similar to the guideline in the federal publication "How Much Habitat is Enough" while working to better implement Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy.
- III Restore / renew A Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario, 2017–2030.
- IV Require municipalities to integrate land use and watershed planning, perhaps based on the eight actions found at <https://ontarioheadwaters.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Integrating-Land-Use-and-Watershed-Planning-through-a-Municipal-Charter-April-22-2025.pdf>.
- V Reduce the impact of secondary land conversion (the conversion of farms, at an average loss of 319 acres a day, as well as old aggregate sites to impervious surfaces) by expanding the role of conservation authorities and Conservation Ontario, with support from appropriate ministries, to lead a massive effort to identify where to enlarge or create new Greenbelt-style core and corridor natural heritage areas as a counter-balance to the extensive development now taking place across South-central Ontario, especially in areas of anticipated high population growth.

**This initiative would constitute the basis of a multi-generational effort to safeguard our watersheds, their biodiversity, and agricultural land; reduce environmental risk and avoid the future costs of reduced natural assets; and help deliver nature-based solutions to address the climate and biodiversity crises.**

- VI Increase the commitments in the Planning Act and the Provincial Planning Statement, as well as in similar initiatives, for sustainable planning, sustainable communities, and sustainable buildings.

Sincerely,

*Andrew McCammon,*  
Executive Director



**Catfish Creek Conservation Authority  
Correspondence Register – April 1 – May 31, 2025**

Date	Type	Agency	Topic
April 1, 2025	Email/ Response	Harrison Pensa	RE: Intention to Address the Full Authority on April 10, 2025
April 2, 2025	Email/ Response	Reith and Associates	Insurance Renewal
April 2, 2025	Email/ Response	Jamie Chapman	COI Request
April 4, 2025	Email	CO	Conservation Ontario (CO) Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) Agenda April 14, 2025
April 4, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Expression of Interests
April 7, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	AMO Policy Update - New Advocacy on Development Charges, Buy-Canadian & Buy-Ontario Initiatives, and Codes of Conduct
April 7, 2025	Email/ Response	Dorbar	Transition to Canada Life
April 8, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Oxford County Clean Water Program
April 8, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Premier Ford Announces Updated Parliamentary Assistant Roles
April 8, 2025	Email/ Response	MNO	Summer Employment Grant
April 8, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Webinar: Updates to the CA Act Model Hearing Guidelines
April 8, 2025	Email/ Response	Nancy Moore	Invitation to Earth Day - 200 Trees for 200 Years
April 8, 2025	Email/ Response	LERMC	Submission of 2024 Annual Progress Report to CCSPA
April 9, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Conservation Ontario (CO) Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) Agenda April 14, 2025
April 9, 2025	Email	CO	Ontario Proposing to Expand Strong Mayor Powers to 169 Additional Municipalities
April 9, 2025	Email	OPC	Path of Honor work day
April 11, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Sunday Dinner at Sheraton for Council Members Planning to Stay Overnight
April 11, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Overhaul of Permits

April 14, 2025	Email/ Response	The Patagonia Boys	Visit to the Catfish
April 15, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	AGM Intros
April 16, 2025	Email/ Response	Reith and Associates	Crime Application
April 16, 2025	Email/ Response	Reith and Associates	CYBER Renewal and invoice 28 March 2024 Catfish-Creek-Conservation-Authority-Coalition-Policy-232273
April 16, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Excerpts from the Speech from the Throne (Spring 2025)
April 16, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Provincial funding for municipalities for Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure
April 17, 2025	Email/ Response	Dorbar	Employee Rollout
April 17, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	UTRCA Flood Contingency Plan - 2025 Update
April 22, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Call for Drain Sampling Contract Proposals - 2025
April 23, 2025	Email/ Response	OPC	Path of Honor Meeting
April 24, 2025	Email/ Response	LERMC	Submission of 2024 Annual Progress Report to CCSPA
April 25, 2025	Email/ Response	Reith and Associates	Commercial Insurance Renewal Catfish Creek Conservation Authority
April 25, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Bill 5 ERO Proposals: CO Approach and Timing
April 28, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	New Deputy Minister MECP
April 29, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	May 1st Natural Asset Management workshop -AMONTario-
April 30, 2025	Email/ Response	Heritage Festival	Door Open
May 1, 2025	Email	CO	General Managers' Training Session 1 Recording (Feb 21, 2025)
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	Heritage Festival	COI
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	Reith and Associates	Drivers Additions
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	Malahide	Levy Inquiry
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	City of St Thomas	Levy Inquiry
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	Central Elgin	Levy Inquiry
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	Town of Aylmer	Levy Inquiry
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	Canada Life	Portal Inquiry
May 1, 2025	Email/ Response	City of St Thomas	Levy Inquiry
May 5, 2025	Email/ Response	FOSPW	Meeting Details
May 5, 2025	Email	CO	Bill 5 The Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 : Endangered Species

			Act / Species Conservation Act
May 5, 2025	Email/ Response	Springwater Forest Tour OWA	Tour Details
May 5, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Bill 5 The Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 : Special Economic Zones Act
May 6, 2025	Email/ Response	FOSPW	New Friends Logo and Calendar Cover
May 6, 2025	Email/ Response	MECP	Update and Upcoming Mtg: Lake Erie Action Plan Implementation Team
May 6, 2025	Email	CVC	CVC 2024 Annual Report
May 7, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Webinar on Natural Asset Management - May 29th
May 8, 2025	Email/ Response	UTRCA	Strategic Plan input for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
May 9, 2025	Email/ Response	Ian Begg	ALUS Schedule
May 12, 2025	Email/ Response	RVCA	Use of Integrity Commissioners
May 12, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Communications Update - 25th Anniversary of the Walkerton water contamination event
May 12, 2025	Email/ Response	Town of Aylmer	Creek Bank Spraying
May 13, 2025	Email	CO	Bill 17, Protect Ontario Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025
May 14, 2025	Email/ Response	City of St Thomas	Norman Drain Branch A
May 14, 2025	Email/ Response	DORBAR	Canada Life roll out
May 15, 2025	Email	CO	Final CO Submission: Bill 5 The Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 : Endangered Species Act / Species Conservation Act
May 16, 2025	Email/ Response	Central Elgin	Lottery License Info
May 16, 2025	Email	Joanne Dowswell	St Annes Festival Donation
May 16, 2025	Email	CRA	Mail
May 17, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Final CO Submission: Bill 5 The Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025 : Special Economic Zones Act

May 17, 2025	Email/ Response	UTRCA	Reminder - Strategic Plan input for the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
May 22, 2025	Email/ Response	City of St Thomas	Yarmouth Yards SWM Facility #3 - CCCA permit application
May 22, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	estimating tariff costs on capital construction projects FW: AMO Policy Update - Modelling Tool
May 23, 2025	Email/ Response	LTC	Determination of Values
May 26, 2025	Email/ Response	Elgin County	Catfish Creek Conservation Lifejacket Lending
May 26, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	MECP re: LEAP modelling
May 26, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	FOR REVIEW & FEEDBACK: Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025: Planning Act Proposals
May 27, 2025	Email/ Response	GRCA	Re: Conservation Ontario Bill 5 Standing Committee Submission
May 28, 2025	Email/ Response	MNO	Employer Contract
May 29, 2025	Email/ Response	CO	Save the Date - 2025 Provincial Flood Forecast and Warning Workshop -September 16th and 17th, 2025
May 29, 2025	Email	CO	Conservation Ontario's Certificate of Approval (Waste Management)
May 30, 2025	Email	LTC	Compressed Work Schedules
May 30, 2025	Email/ Response	City of St Thomas	Re: Yarmouth Yards SWM Facility #3 - CCCA permit application