



Conservation Authorities Work with the Province to Deliver Priorities

July 2015

This chart shows the provincial priorities addressed by Conservation Authority programs and examples of activities that the Conservation Authorities specifically work on with the Province. Future opportunities are also identified.

Climate Change	Great Lakes Basin	Urbanization / Growth	Economy
Flood Management Water Quality Water Supply Stormwater Management GHG Reduction	Water Quality Water Supply Stormwater Management Fisheries Agricultural BMPs	Stormwater Management Flood Management Protect Farmland, Natural Heritage Systems and Water Resources	Sustainable Economy (resilient natural resources support sustainable economic growth) Increasing efficiencies of the environmental management sector i.e. Open for Business

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Policy and Science - Implement provincial natural hazard policy direction such as Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) S.28 regulations and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and shared science to support watershed-based local resource management (i.e. watershed management plans) and to inform local municipal decision-making</p> <p>Climate change adaptation projects with MNR and other partners – includes strategies, carbon offset through afforestation studies, climate change strategies, assisted migration plots</p> <p>Use Partnerships to Leverage Resources - work with other partners to leverage investments for program delivery and benefits</p> <p>Flood Management and Natural Hazards Programs</p> <p>Planning & Regulations Program</p> <p>Technical advisory support - for local municipalities for land use planning with regard to watershed management/water resources, natural heritage systems, fisheries habitat, wetlands</p> <p>Land Management – over 500 Conservation Areas encompassing over 146,000 hectares</p> <p>CA Watershed Report Cards - Conservation Authorities develop and publish watershed report cards on five year cycle</p> <p>Watershed Stewardship - partners in the MNR-Forests Ontario 50 Million Trees Program Trees and applicants under the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Delegated responsibility for Natural Hazards Provincial Policy Statement</p> <p>Flood Management Program</p> <p>Provincial Flood Forecast and Warning Committee</p> <p>Provincial Federal Hydrometric network</p> <p>Participants in the Ontario Imagery Strategy</p> <p>Representation on the Provincial Elevation Strategy Committee</p> <p>Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) committee for funding program</p> <p>Floodplain mapping projects/NDMP committee liaison</p> <p>Regulations (i.e. S.28: Development, Interference and Alteration Regulations; S.29: Conservation Areas Regulations; S.30 Administrative Regulations)</p> <p>Provincial Offences Officer training</p> <p><i>Drainage Act</i> and S.28 Regulations Team (DART)</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder CA Liaison Committee</p> <p>Low Water Response Program</p> <p>Biodiversity Strategy (e.g. representative on Council, involved in Biodiversity offsetting discussions)</p> <p>Partner in projects defining Ecological Good and Services and economic benefits (e.g. Economic Benefits of Wetlands for flood resiliency)</p> <p>Great Lakes Wetland Conservation Partnership</p> <p>Great Lakes Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (previous Annex Advisory Panel)</p> <p>Great Lakes Strategy/COA – local partnership projects re: invasive species, reintroduction of salmon, barrier removal, Remedial Action Plans, etc.</p> <p>Aquatic Resource Management/Federal <i>Fisheries Act</i> liaison</p> <p>Local liaison with Niagara Escarpment Commission office re: development applications for the Niagara Escarpment Plan</p> <p>Applicants under the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund</p> <p>CO and CAs partners in the province/Forests Ontario 50 Million trees program</p> <p>CANOE – Climate Adaptation Network of Ontario</p> <p>Applicants under the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program</p> <p>CA Statistical Survey</p>	<p>Mandate letters: protecting wetlands policy review, managing aggregates</p> <p>Improvements to flood plain mapping and potential transfer of knowledge, training, collaboration on development of Federal NDMP program (e.g. climate change component)</p> <p>Improvements to WECI asset management</p> <p>Improvements to flood management operations and natural hazards policy and technical guidance</p> <p>Improvements to s.28 Regulations' legislative and policy guidance</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls; cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account)</p> <p>Proposed Great Lakes Protection Act (GLPA) wetland targets; tracking wetland loss/gain via watershed report cards</p> <p>Climate Ready Strategy: natural hazard tools; also involved in assisted migration projects</p> <p>Great Lakes COA: e.g. Healthy Shorelines/Coastal Program</p> <p>GLWQA – LAMP partnerships and nearshore framework collaborations (Annex 2)</p> <p>Incentive program delivery (e.g. stewardship programs, public land acquisition, payment for ecological services)</p> <p>Local facilitation and coordination of collaborative stewardship initiatives</p> <p>Adequate and consistent environmental monitoring and reporting e.g. Watershed Report Cards and potential to work on Flood Risk report cards</p>

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Policy and Science - implement provincial policy direction (i.e. PPS, Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine, Growth Plans) along with local science-based information at the watershed scale (i.e. watershed plans) to support informed local municipal decision-making</p> <p>Use Partnerships to Leverage Resources - work with other partners to leverage investments for program delivery and benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ORM Foundation (e.g. CA Moraine Coalition) - Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation (e.g. 2015 Review Summit; funding proposals) <p>Technical advisory support, review, and plan input - for local municipalities for land use planning</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Delegated responsibility for Natural Hazards Provincial Policy Statement</p> <p>Sustainable land use planning and development through PPS and Provincial Plan policies which support watershed management plans and green infrastructure</p> <p>Local plan review and Official Plan input relationship and participation on various provincial committees working on improvements to the Planning Act, PPS, etc</p> <p>Informal liaison re: design of Federal Disaster Mitigation program with MNRF and CAs applied to NDMP</p> <p>Potential applicants for Disaster Relief Funding e.g. Ice storms</p>	<p>Mandate letters: improving land use planning; reviewing Provincial Growth and Greenbelt Plans; reviewing Disaster response</p> <p>Subwatershed plans as Provincial Plan (i.e. ORMCP, GBP, NEC, GGH GP) requirement; and Provincial Plans supported by adequate and consistent environmental monitoring and reporting e.g. Watershed Report Cards; and additional tool development e.g. increased funding for stewardship activities, payment for ecological services, support for public land acquisition</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls e.g. Dev't Charges Act; cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account)</p> <p>Design NDMP in collaboration with MNRF – potentially EMO, Municipalities and others</p>

Ministry Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Policy and Science - implements provincial policy direction (e.g. Clean Water Act, proposed Great Lakes Protection Act) and shared science to support watershed-based local environmental protection (i.e. watershed management plans) and to inform local municipal decision-making</p> <p>Partnerships - work with other partners to leverage investments for program delivery and benefits (e.g. Climate Change, Great Lakes)</p> <p>Source Protection – lead partner in the development and implementation of source protection plans; annual reporting and issues management; liaise with municipalities and other sectors through the Source Protection Committees</p> <p>CAs deliver rural water quality Programs in partnership with Municipalities</p> <p>Information Management – Conservation Authorities partner with MOECC around surface and groundwater monitoring stations, data collection, data storage, and analysis</p> <p>CA Watershed Report Cards - Conservation Authorities develop and publish watershed report cards on five year cycle</p> <p>Technical Advice & Expertise – Conservation Authorities provide local technical advisory support for all levels of government for land use planning with regard to watershed management, water resources, stormwater management and green infrastructure; Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program and associated training, resources</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Source protection plan development; and past Source Protection Stewardship program support and delivery</p> <p>Great Lakes Strategy – utilizing source water science for Great Lakes and Climate Change; green infrastructure/Low Impact Development provincial guidelines</p> <p>Development of standards and guidelines – work with MOECC to develop and hone stormwater management guidelines/bulletins; adjustments to the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) program.</p> <p>Great Lakes Strategy/COA – outreach web project, climate change monitoring stations, local partnership projects re: Guardian Fund, water quality, stormwater management (urban/rural/green infrastructure), bmp/stewardship program delivery, Remedial Action Plans, etc.</p> <p>Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program and associated training, resources</p> <p>Water Monitoring partnerships which indirectly support the ability to deliver Watershed Report Cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network - Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network - Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network <p>Lake Simcoe Protection Act and Plan; partnership projects under Federal funding program</p>	<p>Mandate letters: moving forward on climate change, protecting the Great Lakes</p> <p>Source protection implementation</p> <p>Climate Ready Strategy: natural hazard tools and role of green infrastructure; partnering on research with OCC; review and update of Strategy in 2015</p> <p>Climate change mitigation and carbon pricing system</p> <p>Proposed Great Lakes Protection Act (GLPA) (nutrient targets, watershed approach to Geographically Focused Initiatives, monitoring and reporting, Guardian Council)</p> <p>GLWQA – nutrient management on watershed basis (Annex 4), LAMP partnerships (Annex) and nearshore framework collaborations (Annex 2)</p> <p>Joint water management advisory committee with Quebec for shared water basins (i.e. St. Lawrence River Basin/Ottawa River CAs)</p> <p>Adequate and consistent environmental monitoring and reporting e.g. Watershed Report Cards</p> <p>Incentive program delivery (e.g. stewardship programs, public land acquisition, payment for ecological services, nutrient offsetting/water quality trading initiatives)</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls e.g. Carbon pricing Revenues; cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account)</p> <p>Leverage investment in Source Protection data and expertise by applying these resources toward understanding the effects of Climate Change on the Great Lakes Basin</p>

<p>CAs delivered a number of Showcasing Water Innovation initiatives related to urban and rural stormwater management</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation – development of local strategies and programs (e.g. green infrastructure, rural stormwater management, corporate sustainability, etc.)</p>		
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Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Water & Erosion Control Infrastructure - operation and maintenance of public water and erosion control infrastructure including over 900 dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures with a replacement value of \$2.7 billion in the most highly populated areas of the province</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect life and property from natural hazards (e.g. flood, erosion); prevents more than \$100 million / yr in flood impact costs operation and maintenance of recreational infrastructure (e.g. conservation areas facilities) bring municipal partners and sometimes private sector to help achieve upgrades <p>Outdoor Education Facilities – operate approximately 47 Outdoor Education Facilities with programs for more than 400,000 students annually (serving 50 of the province’s 72 District School Boards)</p> <p>Recreation Facilities (e.g. conservation areas with infrastructure for public use including buildings/washrooms, campgrounds, 2,500 km of trails)</p> <p>Cultural Facilities (e.g. Pioneer/First Nations villages and Forts)</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>\$5 million dollar MNRF Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding program; requires matched municipal funding</p> <p>Federal/Provincial Small Communities Fund e.g. Disaster mitigation category and some local outdoor education and recreational facilities funding</p>	<p>Mandate letters: align capital investment strategies with asset management planning, growth planning, our economic goals, environmental priorities and the needs of Ontarians; public infrastructure investments ensure resiliency to the impact of climate change</p> <p>Improvements to WECI asset management</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls (e.g. local outdoor education and recreational facilities funding); cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account e.g. rural/northern WECI fund</p>

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Policy & Science - Implement provincial policy direction (e.g. Great Lakes Strategy, Greenbelt Plan, etc.) and shared science to support watershed-based local agricultural/environmental best management practices (bmps), rural stormwater management</p> <p>Watershed Stewardship - work with local farmers and provincial agricultural associations in the delivery of various science-based incentive programs</p> <p>Monitoring - undertake monitoring and assessment of various agricultural bmps</p> <p>Training - Includes research and demonstration projects and knowledge transfer, facilitation of local training for producers</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Drainage Act and S.28 Regulations Team (DART)</p> <p>Drainage Investment Group (DIG)</p> <p>proposed 4R Advisory Committee initiative</p> <p>Great Lakes Strategy/COA –local partnership projects re: Guardian Fund, nutrient management, stormwater management (rural/green infrastructure), bmp/stewardship program delivery, Remedial Action Plans, etc.)</p> <p>Research and transferring knowledge and facilitating local training for producers</p>	<p>Mandate letters: sustainability of agriculture and rural economic development</p> <p>Incentive program delivery (e.g. stewardship programs, public land acquisition, payment for ecological services, water quality trading, implementation of domestic strategies Great Lakes especially Agriculture) and facilitators of local delivery with private sector partners identified by Province eg. Certified Crop advisors</p> <p>GLWQA – nutrient management on watershed basis (Annex 4), LAMP partnerships (Annex) and nearshore framework collaborations (Annex 2)</p> <p>Adequate and consistent environmental monitoring and reporting e.g. Watershed Report Cards</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls; cost sharing formula</p>

		that takes local ability to pay into account)
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Ministry of Health: Long Term Care and Wellness (LTC&W)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Healthy Living - conservation areas outdoor activities, events, properties, trails, and facilities connect people to nature and provide opportunities for them to be active.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Hikes province-wide campaign – Conservation Authorities host a provincial campaign in partnership with health and environmental partners (e.g. Public Health Units, Canadian Mental Health Association, David Suzuki Foundation, etc.) Mood Walks province-wide campaign - Conservation Authorities partner with Canadian Mental Health Association on provincial campaign that addresses mental health issues of Ontarians <p>EcoHealth Ontario – Conservation Authorities one of founders of new collaborative that brings together environmental sector, public health, planning, and education to host workshops and develop vision and communication tools to promote ecological and public health connections</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Short term partnership public health projects (e.g. beach monitoring, conservation areas no smoking, etc.) and collaborations</p>	<p>LTC&W mandate letter: build a culture of health and community wellness, including supports and programs, to help people stay healthy</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls; cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account)</p>

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports (MTCS)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Outdoor Recreation / Trails – Conservation Authorities reported that they collectively manage 511 conservation areas across the province (more than half are accessible to the general public). This includes 8,400 campsites and 2,500 km of trails.</p> <p>Visitors: Facilities and events attract just under 7 million visitors per year</p> <p>Cultural / Heritage Centres – A number of Conservation Authorities support Pioneer or First Nation’s Villages and host numerous events at these locations</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee; have provided input to the Ontario Trails Strategy and proposed Trails Act</p> <p>Local partnerships supporting development and promotion of trails, campgrounds, and cultural heritage</p>	<p>Mandate letter: promoting culture, heritage and tourism agencies and attractions</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls (e.g. Trillium Foundation funding); cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account)</p>

Ministry of Education (ME)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Outdoor education programs are offered by more than three quarters of the Conservation Authorities; aligning with and delivering provincial curriculum expectations through approximately 47 Outdoor Education Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 430,000 students; 3,800 schools; serving 50 of the province’s 72 District School Boards <p>Water Festivals –all Conservation Authorities either host or participate</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Specialist High Skills Majors program: opportunities to mentor students in the environmental sector</p>	<p>Mandate letter: working with schools, school boards, guidance counsellors, business and labour in communities to increase experiential learning opportunities and identifying people who can mentor students throughout school toward apprenticeship and successful careers.</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls to areas such as local outdoor education facilities funding, allocated funding for outdoor education;</p>

in local water festivals geared to both elementary and high school students		cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account)
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Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)

Conservation Authority Activities	Ministry Relationship	Opportunities
<p>Northern Conservation Authorities: Conservation Authorities located in northern Ontario and encompassing major population centres (e.g. Thunder Bay, Sault Ste Marie, Timmins, Sudbury and North Bay)</p> <p>Conservation Authorities Geosciences Group</p>	<p>What we do now together:</p> <p>Stream Sediment Monitoring Project: this project is aimed at establishing baseline data for stream sediments in Southern Ontario.</p> <p>Local partnerships in support of ambient groundwater quality monitoring and aquifer mapping.</p> <p>Participation in groundwater information needs and gap analysis workshops.</p> <p>Local partnerships in support of northern development/growth (e.g. Conservation Areas and facilities, cultural heritage sites)</p>	<p>Mandate letter: driving Growth in Northern Ontario (e.g. Growth Plan, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation)</p> <p>Expansion of the stream sediment project to Northern Ontario.</p> <p>Work with MNDM to infill gaps in groundwater knowledge and needs.</p> <p>Improvements to funding relationship (e.g. assess various options to address provincial shortfalls (e.g. Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation??); cost sharing formula that takes local ability to pay into account)</p>

Common Benefits



Conservation Ontario

Kim Gavine, General Manager | kgavine@conservationontario.ca | 905.895.0716
 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3L5
www.conservationontario.ca