



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2026 @ to follow Hearing**  
**Tillsonburg Headoffice**

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**AGENDA**

Agenda Page

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Additional Agenda Items
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:
  - a) Board of Directors Annual General Meeting - March 6, 2026 1-6
6. Business Arising from the previous minutes: None
7. Review of Committee Minutes: None
8. Correspondence:
  - a) Environmental Partners ERO Response 7-11
  - b) Champlain Township ERO Response 12-15
  - c) Retired Conservation Workers ERO response 16-43
  - d) Tom Haskett ERO Response 44-45
  - e) Grant Haven Media – “Province finalizes changes to reduce the number of conservation authorities” 46
  - f) Grant Haven Media – “Jeff Tribe receives LPRCA stewardship recognition” 47
  - g) Minister McCarthy Correspondence re: Next Phase of Conservation Authorities 48-49
9. Planning:
  - a) Section 28 Regulations Approved Permits (L. Mauthe) 50-61
10. New Business:
  - a) General Manager’s Report (J. Maxwell) 62-63
  - a) Extension of Minister’s Direction for Conservation Authorities Regarding Fee Changes – March 10, 2026 (J. Maxwell) 64-74
  - b) Province of Ontario Conservation Authority Amalgamation update (J. Maxwell) 75-77
  - c) Upper Big Creek Flood and Erosion Hazard Mapping (L. Mauthe) 78-80
  - d) Backus Agricultural Land Rental Tender (J. Maxwell) 81-82
  - e) Vehicle Tender (A. LeDuc) 83-84
  - f) Zero Turn Quote (A. Leduc) 85-86
  - g) Septic Disposal Services Tender (A. LeDuc) 87-88
  - h) Competition Funding Report to-follow
11. Closed Session:
  - a) Closed Session Hearing Board Minutes of February 4, 2026
  - b) Closed Session Minutes of February 4, 2026
  - c) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;
  - d) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;
  - e) The security of the property of the Authority
  - f) Adjournment of Closed Session

**Next Meeting:** Source Protection Authority and Board of Directors, May 6, 2026, **6:00pm**



**LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**Board of Directors Annual General Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2026**

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Members in attendance:

Doug Brunton, Chair	Norfolk County
Chris Van Paassen, Vice-Chair	Norfolk County
Dave Beres	Town of Tillsonburg
Robert Chambers	County of Brant
Michael Columbus	Norfolk County
Ed Ketchabaw	Municipality of Bayham/Township of Malahide
Tom Masschaele	Norfolk County
Debera McKeen	Haldimand County
Jim Palmer	Township of Norwich

Regrets:

Peter Ypma	Township of South-West Oxford
Shelley Ann Bentley	Haldimand County

Staff in attendance:

Judy Maxwell, General Manager  
Aaron LeDuc, Manager of Corporate Services  
Leigh-Anne Mauthe, Manager of Watershed Services  
Saifur Rahman, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure  
Jessica King, Social Media and Marketing Associate  
Nicole Sullivan, HR/Coordinator/Executive Assistant

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair, Doug Brunton, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Long Point Region Conservation Authority's 2026 Annual General Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm, Friday, March 6, 2026 in the Tillsonburg Administration Office Boardroom.

**2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

None were declared.

**3. Additional Agenda Items**

There were no additional agenda items.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

**A-32/26**

Moved by T. Masschaele  
Seconded J. Palmer

That the Board of Directors approves the agenda as circulated.

**Carried**

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**FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

## **5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

### **a) Board of Directors Hearing Board Meeting of February 4, 2026**

**A-33/26**

Moved by D. McKeen

Seconded by E. Ketchabaw

That the minutes of the Board of Directors Hearing Board Meeting held February 4, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

### **b) Board of Directors Meeting of February 4, 2026**

**A-34/26**

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by D. Beres

That the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held February 4, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

## **6. Introduction of the Board of Directors and Committees**

The members of the Board and the community members of the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee and the Backus Museum Committee were introduced by Chair Brunton.

## **7. Introduction and Greetings from Special Guests**

Greetings were extended from Councillor Robert Chambers, County of Brant, Mayor Ed Ketchabaw, the Municipality of Bayham, Debera McKeen, Haldimand County, Mayor Jim Palmer, Township of Norwich, Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, Town of Tillsonburg, and Mike Columbus, Norfolk County.

Bonnie Fox, Conservation Ontario Director, Policy and Planning, spoke for Conservation Ontario and its support of Conservation Authorities and on the role of Conservation Ontario.

## **8. Remarks from Bobbi Ann Brady, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk**

Bobbi Ann Brady, MPP Haldimand Norfolk, acknowledged and thanked the Authority for the invitation and how nice it was to be back. MPP Bobbi Ann Brady spoke on the passion and commitment that the Authority staff has for their job and the region and acknowledged that the Authority always finds a way to work positively with the community. MPP Bobbi Ann Brady is happy to stand with Conservation Authorities in the coming year and supports the work carried out by LPRCA as environmental stewards.

## **9. Service Awards Presentation**

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### **FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

The following staff were recognized for reaching service milestones with LPRCA this past year.

10-Year Service Award

Leigh-Anne Mauthe, Manager of Watershed Services  
Sarah Dancey, Norfolk Conservation Area Supervisor

15-Year Service Award

Dave Beres, Board member  
Michael Columbus, Board Member

50-year Special Recognition

Tom Haskett, Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee Chair

**10. Audit and Finance Committee**

The Chair called upon Dave Beres, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, to present the financial statements.

Dave Beres reported that the Committee met on February 20, 2026 and received and reviewed the financial statements in detail. MNP issued a clean opinion of the Authority's 2025 financial reports and found that the financial statements fairly presented the Authority's position.

The Chair introduced the auditors, Ray Mile and Julia Aubertin of MNP, and thanked MNP for their services.

**A-35/26**

Moved by D. McKeen  
Seconded by E. Ketchabaw

THAT the minutes of the LPRCA Audit and Finance Committee's meeting held February 20, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**A-36/26**

Moved by J. Palmer  
Seconded by T. Masschaele

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the LPRCA 2025 Audit Findings Report from MNP, LLP Chartered Professional Accountants as information.

**Carried**

**A-37/26**

Moved by M. Columbus  
Seconded by R. Chambers

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the financial statements for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 audited by MNP, LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants.

**Carried**

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**FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

**A-38/26**

Moved by D. McKeen  
Seconded by J. Palmer

THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the appointment of MNP, LLP Chartered Accountants as LPRCA’s auditors for the 2026 fiscal period.

**Carried**

**11. Notice of Formal Motions**

**a) Designate Signing Officers**

**A-39/26**

Moved by D. Beres  
Seconded by J. Palmer

That the LPRCA Board of Directors approves the Chair, Vice-chair, General Manager, and Manager of Corporate Services as designated signing officers for Authority business for the year 2026.

**Carried**

**b) Borrowing**

**A-40/26**

Moved by T. Masschaele  
Seconded by D. McKeen

That the LPRCA Board of Directors authorizes the Chair or Vice-Chair and the General Manager or Manager of Corporate Services to borrow funds as required for the day-to-day operations of the Authority.

**Carried**

**c) Designate Conservation Ontario Council Representatives**

**A-41/26**

Moved by J. Palmer  
Seconded by R. Chambers

That the LPRCA Board of Directors designates the Authority Chair as the Authority’s representative to Conservation Ontario (CO), with the Vice-Chair designated as alternate,

AND

Further that the General Manager be directed to participate on appropriate committees of CO and be authorized to vote in the absence of the designated representatives.

**Carried**

**12. 2025 Annual Report**

Judy Maxwell presented the 2025 Annual Report and provided an overview of the year’s activities and achievements. Hard copies are available at the head office and the report is available on the LPRCA website; <https://www.lprca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2025-Annual-Report-LPRCA-bleed-compressed.pdf>

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**FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

On behalf of the staff, General Manager, Judy Maxwell, thanked staff, the Board, municipal partners, the various community partners, and customers for their continued support.

**A-42/26**

Moved by M. Columbus

Seconded by J. Palmer

That the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the 2025 Annual Report as information.

**Carried**

**13. Chair's Remarks**

Chair, Doug Brunton, addressed the Board and guests to highlight the successes and accomplishments of Long Point Region Conservation Authority in 2025.

Chair, Doug Brunton, spoke on the announcement of the proposed amalgamations of Conservation Authorities into 7 regional Conservation Authorities and reiterated that the Board of Directors does not support the Regional Conservation Authority consolidation proposal that was outlined in the Environmental Registry of Ontario. Doug Brunton is hopeful that our collective efforts have been heard and the importance of locally driven, watershed-based programs and services will continue into the future.

The Chair then thanked the current and former members of the Board, the Lee Brown Marsh Management Committee, the Backus Museum committee, Norfolk Fibre Arts Guild Volunteers, and the staff for their dedication and support.

**14. Stewardship Award Presentation**

Chair Brunton stated that the Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship award was created to recognize those individuals or groups who have made a commitment to environmental sustainability and conservation.

Jeff Tribe was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Long Point Region Conservation Stewardship Award.

Jeff, a proud resident of Oxford County, is a journalist, photographer, videographer and content creator who is passionate about the environment. Jeff, with the help of Ducks Unlimited Canada, facilitated a wetland restoration project on the Tribe Family Farm resulting in 1.4 acres of newly created wetland, including 2 wetland cells, several smaller water features and 8.9 acres of surrounding upland habitat. Around the wetland, Jeff planted 450 trees and shrubs. Most recently, Jeff planted another 550 trees on the farm through Forests Canada's 50 Million Tree Planting Program facilitated by LPRCA.

A plaque was presented to Jeff Tribe, who spoke briefly in appreciation of the Stewardship Award.

**15. Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

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**FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

Chair Brunton introduced Gregg McLachlan, founder of WorkCabin Films and full-time conservation filmmaker. Gregg is not just the founder of WorkCabin films but also the Cinematographer, Writer, Editor, Executive Producer and handles Post-Production. Gregg has spent more than a decade pursuing his lifelong passion for nature and filmmaking.

**16. Keynote Presentation – Destiny Wild: How Conservation Efforts Are Showing Returns, Gregg McLachlan**

Gregg McLachlan’s presentation included the trailer for his upcoming film Destiny Wild, which follows biologists, conservationists, and community stewards in the Long Point Biosphere region as they document rare wildlife, fragile habitats, and the subtle signals that suggest the land is remembering what it once was.

Gregg McLachlan spoke on his other conservation documentaries, including Saving the Night Caller, which covers the Eastern Whip-poor-will in Walsingham Forest and Norfolk County. The film explores the heart behind conservation science, helping viewers gain a deeper appreciation for the work it takes to ensure these species are still calling through the night for generations to come.

Mr. McLachlan spoke on the importance of Norfolk County’s environment and unique ecosystems and highlighted that through years of conservation effort, starting with the forestry station in 1909, many animals are returning and could return to Norfolk County.

Gregg thanked the Board and the Authority for the opportunity to speak.

Chari Brunton thanked and gave Gregg McLachlan a gift for his presentation.

**14. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

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Doug Brunton  
Chair  
/ns

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Judy Maxwell  
General Manager

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**FULL AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus, Ed Ketchabaw  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

December 17, 2025

Public Input Coordinator,  
Conservation and Source Protection Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
300 Water Street North tower, 5th floor  
Peterborough, ON  
K9J 3C7  
Canada

**Re: [ERO #025-1257](#) – Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities**

We, the 94 undersigned organizations, urge you not to proceed with the amalgamation of Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities as described in [ERO #025-1257](#) and the other changes under [Schedule 3 of Bill 68](#). These proposed changes are the latest in a series of changes that have systematically undermined the independence and decision-making power of conservation authorities to the detriment of community flood resilience, water quality and natural ecosystems in the parts of the province they serve.

Conservation authorities were established as a direct response to [rising concerns about flooding and erosion](#), including the incredible harm caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Unique to Ontario, they holistically regulate development and deliver conservation initiatives at a watershed scale for the benefit of people and the environment. Central to their establishment was the recognition that conservation authorities [must embody local needs and be led by local voices](#).

The proposed amalgamation completely contradicts this principle by concentrating decision-making power in the hands of the province rather than local experts. Specifically, the legislative changes contained within [Bill 68](#) allow the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks to impose directions regarding the new regional conservation authorities’ governance, programs or services.

Even if decision-making processes for the seven proposed regional conservation authorities were allowed to proceed independently, the proposed boundaries are far too sprawling to enable locally relevant decision-making. For example, the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority would combine eight formerly independent conservation authorities into one regional authority responsible for serving 81 municipalities with different local contexts and decision-makers. Furthermore, combining Lakehead Region Conservation Authority on the north shore of Lake Superior with authorities south of Lake Huron ignores the completely different ecology, hydrology and climates of these regions. It is unclear from the proposal and legislative amendments how this consolidation can possibly accelerate decision-making when the amalgamated authorities will need to serve dozens of municipalities with unique local needs and spanning watersheds with distinctly different environmental conditions.

The proposed amalgamation and enabling legislation also foster conditions for decision-makers to be far less connected to the communities they are meant to be serving. In doing so, it becomes far more likely that incredibly important local knowledge will be excluded from key decisions, leaving communities more exposed to the impacts of flooding and broader environmental losses. With flooding being the [costliest natural hazard in Ontario](#) and expected to become an [even greater threat](#) in the coming years, this is a change communities cannot afford.

In addition to the devastating impact the proposed amalgamation could have on community flood resilience, there is no indication that these changes would effectively lead to more housing being built. For instance, while the [Housing Affordability Task Force report](#) outlines 55 expert recommendations on how the province can improve access to housing in Ontario, conservation authorities are never mentioned as a barrier.

Furthermore, the process for proposing this amalgamation and the creation of a centralized agency has been marred by a lack of transparency. ERO #025-1257 does not make any mention of legislative changes passed as part of Bill 68 to create the new centralized oversight agency, leaving no clear pathway for public consultation on these changes. This undermines the [Environmental Bill of Rights](#), which is meant to ensure all Ontarians have meaningful opportunities to comment on decisions affecting the natural environment.

For these reasons, we urge you not to proceed with the proposed amalgamation, which would ultimately undermine conservation authorities' ability to protect communities from floods and natural hazards. Rather, conservation authorities should be meaningfully supported and empowered to do their jobs efficiently and effectively so that people across Ontario can continue to benefit from flood resilient communities, clean water and a healthy natural environment.

Sincerely,

**Tony Morris**  
*Conservation Policy and  
Campaigns Director*  
Ontario Nature

**Robert Roszell**  
*Chair*  
10,000 Trees for the Rouge

**Jessica Lax**  
*Executive Director*  
Algonquin to Adirondacks  
Collaborative

**Deb Crawford**  
*Chair*  
Architectural Conservancy  
Ontario

**Mary Lou Gerow**  
*Secretary*  
Bancroft Field Naturalists

**Cheryl Lewandowski**  
*Chair*  
Bird Friendly Richmond Hill

**David Laing**  
*President*  
Brampton Environmental  
Alliance

**Tom Sitak**  
*President*  
Brant for Nature

**Amy Schnurr**  
*Executive Director*  
BurlingtonGreen  
Environmental Association

**Jennifer Jupp**  
*Senior Director*  
Camp Wenonah and  
Wenonah Outdoors

**Neil Gray**  
*President*  
Garden Field Naturalists

**Derek Coronado**  
*Executive Director*  
Citizens Environmental  
Alliance

**Yvon Duchesne**  
*Board Chairperson*  
Citizens for Marshland  
Conservation

**Bill Cole**  
*Board Chair*  
Clean North

**Michael Douglas**  
*Chair*  
Concerned Citizens of  
Ramara

**Paul Berger**  
*Lead Organizer*  
CUSP – Citizens United for a  
Sustainable Planet

**Erin Roger**  
*Director, Nature*  
David Suzuki Foundation

**Barbara Steinhoff**  
*Executive Director*  
Earthroots

**Jennifer Nantais**  
*Chair*  
Essex County Field  
Naturalists Club

**Michael Mesure**  
*Executive Director*  
FLAP Canada

**Sandra P.T. Diaz**  
*Board Chair*  
Friends of Butternut Creek

**Sharon Boddy**  
*Director*  
Friends of Carlington Woods/  
Friends of Hampton Park

**Michelle Bondy**  
*Vice President*  
Friends of Ojibway Prairie

**Darryl Blazino**  
*Chair*  
Friends of Quetico Park

**Graham Flint**  
*Chairman*  
Friends of Rural  
Communities and the  
Environment (FORCE)

**Susan Moore**  
*President*  
Friends of Salmon River

**Janet Stavinga**  
*President and Co-Founder*  
Friends of Stittsville  
Wetlands

**J. Jerreat**  
*Founding Member*  
Frontenac Citizens for  
Climate Action (FC4CA)

**Lorraine van Vlymen**  
*President*  
Ganaraska Wasaga Beach  
Hiking Club

**Kevin Thomason**  
*Vice-Chair*  
Grand River Environmental  
Network

**Lorraine Green**  
*Co-Chair*  
Grandmothers Act to Save  
the Planet (GASP)

**Peggy Hutchison**  
*Director*  
Grey Association for Better  
Planning Inc.

**Susan Rietschin**  
*Chair*  
Guelph Urban Forest Friends

**Hart Jansson**  
*Co-Founder*  
Halton Action for Climate  
Emergency Now

**Jen Baker**  
*General Manager*  
Hamilton Naturalists' Club

**Robin Jarmer**  
*Chair*  
Headwaters Nature

**Sharon Lovett**  
*Co-Chair*  
High Park Nature

**Peter Krats & Sheila  
Flemming**  
*Co-Presidents*  
Ingersoll District Nature Club

**Eric Davis**  
*President*  
Kawartha Field Naturalists

**Janis Grant**  
*President*  
Kingston Field Naturalists

**Nancy Vidler**  
*Chair*  
Lambton Shores Phragmites  
Community Group

**Kerrie Blaise**  
*Founder and Legal Counsel*  
Legal Advocates for Nature's  
Defence

**Marilyn Murray**  
*Chair*  
Lennox and Addington  
Stewardship Council

**Janet McKay**  
*Executive Director*  
Local Enhancement and  
Appreciation of Forests

**Robert Codd**  
*President*  
Midland-Penetanguishene  
Field Naturalists

**Jaime Kneen**  
*National Program Co-Lead*  
MiningWatch Canada

**Max Hansgen**  
*President*  
National Farmers Union –  
Ontario

**Darren MacTavish**  
*President*  
Nature Barrie

**Judy Brisson**  
*President*  
Nature Guelph

**Jennifer Evans**  
*President*  
Nature London

**Joyce Sankey**  
*Conservation Director*  
Niagara Falls Nature Club

**Linda Lackey**  
*Communications Working  
Group*  
Nith Valley EcoBoosters

**James Kamstra**  
*President*  
North Durham Nature

**Rhonda Kirby**  
*President*  
North Shore Environmental  
Resource Advocates

**Ron McKee**  
*Captain*  
Oakville Climate Hub –  
Climate Reality Canada

**Kathryn Bakos**  
*Chair*  
Ontario Biodiversity Council

**Linda Heron**  
*Chair*  
Ontario Rivers Alliance

**Dennis Paccagnella**  
*President*  
Orillia Naturalists' Club

**Laura Reinsborough**  
*Riverkeeper and CEO*  
Ottawa Riverkeeper

**Kenneth Westcar**  
*Secretary and Treasurer*  
Oxford County Trails Council

**Suzanne Crellin**  
*President*  
Oxford Environmental Action  
Committee

**Glenda Clayton**  
*President*  
Parry Sound Nature

**Cherie Dillen**  
*President*  
Peele Island Centre for  
Butterflies and Nature

**Linda Sunderland**  
*Vice President*  
Peterborough Field  
Naturalists

**John Bacher**  
*Researcher*  
Preservation of Agricultural  
Lands Society

**Gerry Jenkison**  
*President*  
Prince Edward County Field  
Naturalists

**Dr. Elizabeth Churcher**  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
Quinte Field Naturalists

**James Smith**  
*Chair, Stewardship  
Committee*  
Ruthvan Park National  
Historic Site Inc.

**Ron Prickett**  
*President*  
Sault Ste. Marie Naturalists  
of Ontario and Michigan

**Nancy Hurst**  
*Co-Founder*  
Save our Streams Hamilton

**Tylene Appel**  
*Co-Chair, Coordinating  
Committee*  
Seniors for Climate Action  
Now!

**Phyllis Waugh**  
*Chair,*  
Seniors for Climate Action  
Now! Kingston

**Catherine Manson & Elaine  
Gareau**  
*Co-Chairs*  
Simcoe County Kairos

**Ron Corkum**  
*President*  
South Peel Naturalists' Club

**Don McLean**  
*Co-Founder*  
Stop Sprawl HamOnt

**Dr. Peter Beckett**  
*President*  
Sudbury Naturalists

**James Appleyard**  
*President*  
Tallgrass Ontario

**Dorthea Hangaard**  
*Executive Director*  
The Couchiching  
Conservancy

**Lesley Lavender**  
*CEO*  
The Federation of Ontario  
Cottagers' Associations

**Andrew McCammon**  
*Executive Director*  
The Ontario Headwaters  
Institute

**Bryan Smith**  
*Chair*  
The Oxford Coalition for  
Social Justice

**Otto Peter**  
*President*  
Thickson's Woods Land  
Trust

**Ken Thorne**  
*President*  
Thorne's Insect Shoppe Ltd.

**Barbara Yurkoski**  
*Advocacy Lead*  
Thunder Bay Field Naturalists

**John Nishikawa**  
*Director of Conservation*  
Toronto Ornithological Club

**Amelia Rose Khan**  
*Volunteer*  
Toronto350

**Tara Bauer**  
*Director*  
Turtles Kingston

**Dani Lindamood**  
*Campaigns &  
Communications Director*  
Water Watchers

**Rebecca Koroll**  
*President*  
Waterloo Region Nature

**Cathie Coultis**  
*Chairperson*  
West Lake Community  
Association

**Matt Mair**  
*President*  
Willow Beach Field  
Naturalists

**Gloria Marsh**  
*Executive Director*  
York Region Environmental  
Alliance

**Sylvia Bowman**  
*Conservation Director*  
York Simcoe Nature Club

**Jerri Jerreat**  
*Director*  
Youth Imagine the Future

Township of Champlain

Resolution  
Regular Council Meeting

**Agenda Number:** 15.1.  
**Resolution Number** 2026-034  
**Title:** South Nation Conservation - Proposed Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO Posting  
**Date:** January 29, 2026

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**Moved By:** Gérard Miner  
**Seconded By:** Peter Barton

**Whereas** the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers; and

**Whereas** the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs; and

**Whereas** municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years; and

**Whereas** SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements; and

**Whereas** on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring; and

**Whereas** Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management; and

**Whereas** municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the *French Language Services Act*; and

**Whereas** Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures; and

**Whereas** municipalities rely on SNC’s field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure;

**Now therefore be it resolved that** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Champlain urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars; and

**Be it further resolved that** this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations; and

**Be it further resolved that** this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model; and

**Be it further resolved that** a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

**Carried**

Certified True Copy of Resolution

Canton de Champlain  
Résolution  
Réunion régulière du Conseil

**No. du point à l'ordre du jour:** 15.1.  
**No. du point** 2026-034  
**Titre:** Conservation de la Nation Sud - Modification proposée, Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature et à l'Avis au Registre environnemental  
**Date:** le 29 janvier 2026

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**Proposée par :** Gérard Miner

**Appuyée par :** Peter Barton

**Attendu que** la *Loi sur les offices de protection de la nature* (1946) permet aux municipalités de créer des offices de protection de la nature et de nommer des représentants élus localement à leur Conseil d'administration, garantissant ainsi une surveillance directe et une responsabilité municipale pour les programmes financés par les contribuables municipaux ; et

**Attendu que** les municipalités du bassin versant de la rivière Nation Sud ont créé la Conservation de la Nation Sud (CNS) en 1947 afin de protéger les personnes, les biens, les terres agricoles, les ressources en eau et les systèmes naturels grâce à un modèle basé sur le bassin versant qui reflète les besoins géographiques, hydrologiques et communautaires locaux ; et

**Attendu que** les municipalités relevant du territoire de la CNS fournissent actuellement entre 25 % et 50 % du financement total des activités de l'Office de protection de la nature, tandis que le financement provincial a diminué pour atteindre environ 3 % ces dernières années ; et

**Attendu que** la CNS fournit des services essentiels qui soutiennent les responsabilités municipales, notamment :

- l'identification des risques naturels et la délivrance de permis ;
- la planification du bassin versant et l'examen des projets d'aménagement ;
- la prévision des inondations, la gestion des urgences et les interventions en cas de crue ;
- la protection des sources d'eau potable ;
- la surveillance des bassins versants, l'établissement de rapports et les études techniques ;
- les programmes de foresterie durable, de gestion agricole et de restauration ;
- la gestion de plus de 13 000 acres de terres de conservation, y compris les terres données par les résidents et gérées dans le cadre d'ententes de services municipaux ; et

**Attendu que** le 7 novembre 2025, le ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs a publié le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 025-1257 proposant de regrouper les 36 offices de protection de la nature de l'Ontario en sept offices régionaux et de créer une nouvelle agence provinciale de protection de la nature de l'Ontario, après une consultation limitée et sans analyse coûts-avantages ni preuves démontrant la nécessité de cette restructuration ; et

**Attendu que** l'annexe 3 du projet de loi 68 permet à la province d'assumer le pouvoir de gouvernance sur les offices régionaux de protection de la nature, ce qui soulève des inquiétudes quant à la diminution de la représentation municipale, à la perte du pouvoir décisionnel local et à la centralisation de la gestion des bassins

versants ; et

**Attendu que** les municipalités de l'Est de l'Ontario, notamment les comtés unis de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry, ont exprimé leur inquiétude quant au fait que la restructuration pourrait :

- augmenter la bureaucratie et le fardeau administratif ;
- imposer des coûts de transition importants pour les ressources humaines, les technologies de l'information, les transferts fonciers et le réalignement de la gouvernance ;
- diluer la voix des zones rurales au sein des grandes agences régionales dominées par les grands centres urbains ;
- éroder la confiance des donateurs et affecter la gestion de milliers d'hectares de terres données localement ;
- perturber la prestation de services bilingues dans les municipalités désignées régies par la *Loi sur les services en langue française* ; et

**Attendu que** les offices de protection de la nature, y compris la CNS, collaborent déjà à l'échelle régionale grâce à des modèles de services partagés efficaces, des études conjointes sur les bassins versants, la coordination des prévisions d'inondations, des partenariats en matière de gestion agricole, la délivrance de permis numériques et des examens techniques harmonisés, démontrant ainsi que la modernisation et l'efficacité peuvent être réalisées sans démanteler les structures de gouvernance locales ; et

**Attendu que** les municipalités comptent sur l'expertise de terrain de la CNS, son soutien rapide sur place, ses relations avec les propriétaires fonciers et sa connaissance du terrain, autant de services qui risquent d'être affaiblis dans le cadre d'une grande structure régionale centralisée ;

**Il est donc résolu que** le Conseil municipal du Corporation du Canton de Champlain exhorte le gouvernement de l'Ontario à maintenir les offices de protection de la nature locaux, gérés par les municipalités et basés sur les bassins versants, y compris la Conservation de la Nation Sud, afin de garantir une gestion efficace des ressources naturelles et des risques naturels, des services locaux transparents et la responsabilité des fonds municipaux prélevés ; et

**De plus, qu'il soit résolu que** le Conseil ne soutient pas les limites de consolidation proposées dans le document Registre environnemental #025-1257 ni la création d'une nouvelle agence provinciale de conservation sans analyse fondée sur des preuves, consultation transparente et articulation claire des répercussions sur les budgets municipaux, la prestation de services locaux, les terres données et les obligations bilingues ; et

**De plus, qu'il soit résolu que** ce Conseil encourage la province à collaborer avec les municipalités et les offices de protection de la nature afin d'identifier les possibilités d'améliorer la cohérence, la modernisation et les approches de services partagés dans le cadre du modèle actuel de gouvernance des bassins versants ; et

**De plus, qu'il soit résolu que** une copie de cette résolution soit envoyée à :

- le ministre de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs ;
- les députés provinciaux et fédéraux locaux ;
- toutes les municipalités du bassin versant de la Nation Sud ;
- l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario ;
- l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario ;
- Conservation Ontario ; et
- toutes les autorités de conservation de l'Ontario.

The Honourable Doug Ford  
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The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy  
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The Honourable Mike Harris  
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The Honourable Andrea Khanjin  
Minister of Red Tape Reduction  
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The Honourable Lisa M. Thompson  
Minister of Rural Affairs  
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December 22, 2025

Dear Premier Ford and Ministers,

We, the 74 undersigned individuals, have dedicated decades of service to local science-based and integrated water resource management through our efforts with Conservation Authorities (CAs) across Ontario. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities outlined in ERO #025-1257 and further detailed in Schedule 3 of Bill 68, and urge you to proceed with care and caution.

The proposed restructuring appears to lack an evidence-based approach and business case. Its development was without input from those most affected by the changes – the CAs and their member municipalities. To succeed, we believe a transformative initiative of this scale requires the effective and meaningful engagement of all partners throughout the process.

Although this proposal originated within the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the proposed consolidation of Ontario's 36 CAs into 7 regional CAs, as proposed, raises substantial questions that relate to the mandates and the responsibilities of several other

Ontario government ministries. These include Municipal Affairs and Housing, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Natural Resources, Rural Affairs, and Finance.

We remind provincial decision makers that watershed management in Ontario was initiated to address major water challenges like flooding, drought, erosion, and poor water quality. Under the leadership of Premier George Drew, during and immediately after WWII, Ontario's Progressive Conservatives introduced the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 1946. This was a visionary and nonpartisan act as part of the nation-building efforts following WWII. Modelled after the Tennessee Valley Authority and Ohio Conservancy Districts, the act enabled municipalities to voluntarily form watershed partnerships for managing land and water.

The Act was based on three key principles:

1. **Watershed Based Management:** Resource management is most effective when organized by watershed units.
2. **Local Initiative:** Communities within a river basin could form CAs
3. **Provincial-Municipal Partnership:** Municipalities forming CAs could receive provincial funding and technical support.

From 1946 to 1979, 36 conservation authorities were established by municipalities, in large part due to the strong support among subsequent Ontario Progressive Conservative Premiers, including Leslie Frost (1949-61), John Robarts (1961-71) and William Davis (1971-85).

Municipalities contribute financially and make decisions through appointed representatives to the Board. The Board identifies local resource management needs, endorses programs specifically designed to meet these needs, and, through partnerships with all levels of government and others, delivers on-the-ground projects. This governance approach has shown strong results. CAs carry out watershed management initiatives valued at more than \$300 million each year, meeting the priorities of local municipalities and the Ontarians they serve.

Together, CAs continue to:

- Significantly reduce flooding, drought, and erosion through structural and non-structural approaches, including dams and berms, wetland protection and enhancement, land acquisition, reforestation, and regulatory and planning tools. CAs operate and maintain 900 dams, dykes, channels and other erosion control structures along rivers and shorelines valued at \$3.8 billion in 2019 dollars. Water and erosion control infrastructure managed and maintained by CAs helps to avoid more than \$150 million annually (2022 dollars) in damages to properties.<sup>1</sup>
- Improve water quality in Ontario's rivers by operating multi-purpose dams to maintain steady water flow in the summer and help increase Ontario's climate resilience by offering nature-based solutions to rehabilitate degraded landscapes and wetlands.

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<sup>1</sup> 2022. Conservation Ontario. 2022 Provincial Budget Consultation.

- Manage and own 150,000 hectares of natural areas, including forests, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest, recreational lands, natural heritage and cultural sites, and land for flood and erosion control within each of their watersheds. Among these lands are approximately 500 Conservation Areas, with more than 300 publicly accessible. These public treasures make up approximately 80,000 hectares. These lands protect important natural features, provide recreational opportunities for people to enjoy, such as hiking, canoeing, camping, snowshoeing and many other outdoor activities, as well as living classrooms for schools, nature groups, and others to explore and learn about nature. Over six million Ontarians visit these areas each year,<sup>2</sup> contributing to the local economy and tourism.
- Develop a governance framework that allows each authority to design customised decision-making approaches, balancing urban and rural voices while implementing specific initiatives that address their unique watersheds and concerns. This governance model has been internationally recognized, with the Grand River and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authorities both winning the Theiss International River Prize for exemplary river management.<sup>3</sup>

On June 27, 2025, we welcomed the appointment of the province's Chief Conservation Executive. This appointment appears to signal a renewed provincial commitment to Conservation Authorities (CAs) and offers an opportunity to strengthen collaborative and professional relationships between the province, CAs, and member municipalities. Such a partnership recognises the vital role that CAs play in supporting the health and well-being of Ontarians.

Then, on November 6, 2025, further changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, leading to the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), as part of Bill 68, the *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures) 2025*, were made. Through these amendments, the OPCA has the potential to advance the core objectives of the *Conservation Authorities Act* by assuming responsibilities previously managed by the first-ever Conservation Branch, established in 1944. This includes providing policy and technical direction to Conservation Authorities (CAs), thereby promoting greater consistency in addressing resource-related issues across the province – a need that has remained unmet for several decades. Some of the undersigned have served in the Conservation Authorities Branch,<sup>4</sup> and would welcome the opportunity to share relevant historical context and experience with staff at the new agency.

However, we believe that the consolidation plan presents significant risks to the continuity and effectiveness of watershed management practices that have been carefully developed and refined over the past eighty years. We are deeply concerned that the loss of local expertise and

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<sup>2</sup> Conservation Ontario. [Conservation Authorities are Ontario's Second Largest Landowners](#).

<sup>3</sup> International River Foundation. [Theiss International River Prize. 2000 Grand River Conservation Authority and 2009 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority](#).

<sup>4</sup> The Conservation Branch evolved into the Conservation Authorities Branch in 1962 and remained so until 1980.

the reduction of community representation in decision-making processes will undermine Ontario's ability to respond effectively to environmental challenges. Furthermore, the proposed restructuring may adversely impact collaborative relationships with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and local stakeholders, who have played an essential role in shaping sustainable water resource strategies throughout the province.

We seek clarification on the issues the Government of Ontario intends to address through the proposed consolidation of CAs. Should the focus be on the housing crisis, it is essential to acknowledge that this issue arises from a range of complex factors, with CAs being an inconsequential barrier to the issue. In fact, of the fifty-five recommendations cited in the Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force (2022), for improving access to housing in Ontario, CAs are not mentioned as an impediment. Rather, CAs overall have repeatedly shown themselves to be excellent and responsive problem solvers throughout their history.

It is our view that merging CAs will divert senior leadership at these organizations and their member municipalities, requiring significant attention to administrative and logistical matters related to establishing regional entities. This process could hinder the ability of CAs to fulfill essential mandated programs, including flood protection for communities and capacity for local hazard management.

We offer the following 16 recommendations in the spirit of collaboration and enhancement of client service, watershed management, and natural hazard management in Ontario.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

We recommend that the Government of Ontario implement the following:

- 1. Renew a Collaborative and Collegial Governance Relationship with Municipalities and Conservation Authorities.** The creation of the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) provides a unique opportunity to rekindle the relationship with CAs and municipalities. The goal of this renewed relationship is to ensure that future decisions honour the legacy established by Premiers George Drew, Leslie Frost John Robarts and William Davis. These decision makers demonstrated foresight in enabling the formation of CAs through strong municipal-provincial partnerships to address natural resource challenges affecting economic growth and development by promoting restorative conservation initiatives for the people of Ontario.

Resource issues resulting from changing landscapes and climate will continue to emerge. The key to successfully managing outcomes depends on ongoing collaboration among the Ontario government, municipalities, and conservation authorities.

We understand that the OPAC shall consist of at least five and not more than 12 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who shall form the independent Board of Directors for the Agency. This independent Board will oversee the activities of the OPCA. Consequently, it will be important that this Board work

collaboratively with CAs and the Board Members to ensure decisions impacting CAs are based on knowledge of programs and services such that they remain effective and efficient.

2. **Reduce Regulatory Fragmentation.** Both provincial and federal governments have created overlapping, sometimes conflicting legislation, each with its own administrative process. This complexity increases costs and inefficiency and doesn't always achieve the intended results. CAs, as service providers, often sit at the intersection between the public and government and may be mistakenly viewed as part of the problem.
3. **Support Efficient Planning and Permitting by Updating Provincial Technical Guidelines and Shared Service Tools.** Update provincial technical guidelines and shared service tools to foster consistency among CAs, rather than initiating structural amalgamation. The province already has the authority and tools to work directly with CAs. Any effort to regionalize permitting must not create delays or reduced access to technical expertise.
4. **Pause the Approval of the Proposed Regional Consolidation.** The OPCA, in conjunction with municipalities, CAs, and Conservation Ontario, should fully evaluate whether modernization goals could be achieved through enhanced provincial coordination, standardized approaches, and digital integration delivered through the new OPCA, without substantive restructuring of the existing CAs.
5. **Explore Alternative, Right-sized Regional Models.** Work with municipalities, CAs and Conservation Ontario, and other interested parties, through a meaningful and effective engagement process to consider smaller, more focused regional models that improve efficiency while preserving local knowledge and relationships, and effective and fair municipal representation. These discussions should also include voluntary regional collaboration units to ensure policy, practice, fees, and expertise/staffing are shared where needed. Voluntary regional CA collaborations already exist; however, no provincial resources are allocated to facilitate this collaboration.
6. **Conduct a Cost-Benefit Analysis and a Business Case/Feasibility Study.** A cost-benefit analysis and business case/feasibility study should be completed before any amalgamations are proposed. If this was done, it has not been made public. Nor has the province provided any details on how the CA funding model would work with the proposed amalgamation. This review will need to show the optimal size and boundaries of any new regional CAs to maximize cost savings and other potential benefits while minimizing impacts. These studies will also need to examine the relationship with other provincial agencies that have mandated responsibilities for resource management to avoid further fragmentation, inconsistencies, and double standards in program delivery.

It is recommended that if warranted, one region be consolidated first, where the identified need is greatest and interest is high, to ensure implementation is successful.

7. **Preserve Local Municipal Governance and Decision Making.** A single board representing 30 – 80 municipalities will dilute local voices. Any governance model must ensure meaningful local representation that balances rural and urban priorities and interests, so that watershed priorities are focused on priority resource issues and community needs. Further, the scope and meaningfulness of CA Boards should not be diminished by the provincial oversight and authority of the OPCA.
8. **Protect and Empower Local Conservation Efforts.** Centralized decisions may not address local challenges and may inadvertently weaken well-functioning systems through administrative complexity and diluted oversight. It is important to safeguard locally developed services, since adopting a regional model could decrease service quality, cause a loss of specialized knowledge, or limit community access for residents. Local staff best understand their watershed's conditions and needs, making them vital for public safety, environmental protection, and effective community services. Local CA staffing and watershed-specific expertise should be preserved, while maintaining the service improvements achieved since the negotiation of the Memoranda of Understanding between CAs and their member municipalities in 2024.
9. **Adhere to the Principles of Integrated Watershed Management.** Since every watershed differs in hydrology, geology, topography, and land use, each faces distinct challenges. Decisions regarding watershed management should be informed by science, geography, and local hydrological conditions, rather than by broad regional or administrative boundaries. Expansion of boundaries will complicate planning, permitting, emergency management, and municipal collaboration.
10. **Protect and Enhance Local Hazard Management Capacity and Continuity of Infrastructure Operations.** The protection of property and management of natural hazards are intrinsic to many of the multi-disciplinary plans and policies of municipalities across Ontario. CAs operate and maintain 900 dams, dykes, channels, and other erosion control structures along rivers and shorelines valued at \$3.8 billion in 2019 dollars. Water and erosion control infrastructure managed and maintained by CAs helps to avoid more than \$150 million annually in damages to properties.<sup>5</sup> Many of these structures are coming to the end of their design life and will require significant investment to ensure that the infrastructure continues to provide the protections now and into the future, with considerations for climate change.

The management of this infrastructure requires local expertise and knowledge, and 24/7 operational readiness. Further, operation of these structures is supported by municipal levies.

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<sup>5</sup> 2022. Conservation Ontario. 2022 Provincial Budget Consultation.

CAs' regulation of natural hazardous areas is essential for emergency preparedness and prevention, reducing risk to life and property, protecting flood and erosion control infrastructure, and increasing resiliency to climate change.

**11. Enhanced Provincial Investment required to Support Critical Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure.** In 2020/21, the province approved \$10 million in Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding for 68 projects across 21 conservation authorities. Investments in this critical infrastructure recognized the benefit to local communities across the province and ultimately, Ontario's economic recovery.<sup>6</sup> Despite the program being oversubscribed by almost two-fold in 2020/2021, with an estimated total project cost of more than \$19 million for 102 project submissions from 30 CAs across the province in 2020/2021, the funding levels were subsequently returned to \$5M.

Continued and adequate investment in both current and future infrastructure is essential for the effective management of flooding and erosion moving forward. Further, this funding will need to recognize the disparate resources across the province and provide flexibility to meet the state-of-good-repair requirements for this essential infrastructure.

**12. Preserve Locally Acquired Assets** – CAs are responsible for owning or managing 150,000 hectares of natural areas, including forests, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest, recreational lands, natural heritage and cultural sites, and land for flood and erosion control within each of their watersheds. In some cases, thousands of hectares have also been donated to CAs with the expectation of local stewardship. Regionalization risks breaking that trust. Further, agreements will need to be updated or renegotiated with a new entity. Decisions regarding these lands and resources should remain with the local communities who use and maintain them.

This point also applies to the Foundations and Boards of Directors that have been established to secure donations and private endowments for parks, trails, and other stewardship initiatives. The proposed CA amalgamations could easily stifle CAs' ability to raise funds for local initiatives.

Many CAs also have reserve funds that have accumulated over decades through contributions by local municipalities and their taxpayers. It would be inequitable and unfair for these reserves to be distributed using a regional amalgamation model. Financial reserves created over decades through contributions by municipalities to their respective CAs must be retained.

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<sup>6</sup> Letter from Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Committee on the Need for Reallocation of In-Year Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Funds to Kathy Woeller, Director, Integration Branch, Regional Operations Division, MNRF, dated April 23, 2020.

**13. Reinvest Provincial Funding in Conservation Authorities.** The CA model has achieved tremendous successes across Ontario. However, we acknowledge that CAs' ability to deliver relevant programs to address resource challenges may vary in scope and intensity from one watershed to another, influenced by elements such as climate, landscape features, geology, water movement, and patterns of water consumption. Furthermore, the local population, level of municipal support, variability and inequity of the property tax base, provincial funding, and the CA's ability to generate income from fees, land rental, and other sources will also affect the level of programs and services they can deliver.

By restoring and modernizing the annual provincial transfers to CAs that were halved in 2019 and have remained unchanged since that time, the OPCA could improve the capacity of all CAs to provide comparable services and ensure that flood and watershed management tools and infrastructure are repaired, restored, and modernized to meet the challenges of the future.

**14. Preserve Source Water Protection Areas and Regions.** Following the Walkerton inquiry, Justice O'Connor made 121 recommendations on a wide range of areas related to protecting drinking water. These recommendations are the building blocks of Ontario's drinking water protection framework. Justice O'Connor's first recommendation was that drinking water should be protected by developing watershed-based source protection plans. The proposed consolidation splits and/or merges several existing source protection areas. Any proposed amalgamations of CAs must respect this fundamental premise of watershed-based source protection efforts and the governance model for source protection areas.

**15. Fully Fund Transition Costs by the Province.** The consolidation of 36 CAs to 7 regional CAs will result in substantial unfunded costs, including IT integration, HR restructuring, renaming/rebranding, land title work, asset transfers, and legal harmonization. We anticipate that substantial costs will be incurred, and vital conservation initiatives will likely be postponed or discontinued due to a shift in focus. Care must be taken to ensure that this does not happen. Municipalities should not be responsible for the impact or costs of any provincial restructuring efforts.

**16. Fully Fund the Provincial Conservation Agency by the Province.** Bill 68 empowers the OPCA to recover its operational and staffing costs to implement its mandate as described in the legislation. Although not specifically stated, we are concerned that the recovery of these costs and expenses will be borne by CAs through member municipalities and levies. This will further exacerbate the current disparities and the inequities of the existing CA funding model based on property taxes. This will create an excessive financial strain for municipalities and will run counter to the principle of

municipal-provincial partnerships for conservation. Municipalities should not carry the burden of this new agency.

The rationale and concerns that underpin these recommendations are further outlined in the attached Appendix 1.

We highly encourage the Government of Ontario to pause making rapid, drastic, costly, and irreparable changes to the structure of CAs. Rather, we ask that provincial decision makers carefully weigh the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal with input from CAs, municipalities, and other stakeholders. For effective hazard management and conservation improvements in Ontario, major changes must have the backing of those responsible for carrying them out. The safety and well-being of Ontarians must come first.

Yours in conservation,

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Operations and Policy  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
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**Bryan Howard**  
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Lower Trent Region CA  
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**R. John Cottrill**  
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Grey Sauble CA

**David Crombie**  
Former Chair  
Greenbelt Council  
Former MP and Minister of  
National Health and Welfare  
Minister of Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development  
Secretary of State for  
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Former Mayor City of Toronto

**James B. Currier**  
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**Brian Denney**  
Retired CEO  
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**Rob Fox, P.Eng.**  
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**Steve Hounsell**

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Toronto District School Board  
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Interim Chair, Quinte SPC

**Peter Krause**

Past Chair  
Grand River CA and  
Conservation Ontario

**Tom Kurtz**

Member of the South  
Georgian Bay SPC  
Retired Director of  
Shoreline Management with  
the Waterfront  
Regeneration Trust  
Former Assistant Director  
Conservation Authorities  
Branch

**Dale Leadbeater**  
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Principal Consultant and  
Biologist  
SLR Consulting Ltd  
Former Senior Ecologist  
Central Lake Ontario CA

**Pieter Leenhouts, P.Eng.**  
Past Chair  
Rideau Valley CA

**Jim Manicom**  
Retired CAO  
Grey Sauble CA

**Craig Mather**  
Retired CAO  
Toronto and Region CA

**Stan Mathewson**  
Former Resource Manager  
North Bay-Mattawa CA  
Former Provincial Watershed  
Planning Coordinator  
Conservation Authorities and  
Water Management Branch  
MNR

**Andrew McBride**  
Former Resources Manager  
Maitland Valley CA and  
Saugeen Valley CA

**Andy McClellan**  
25 Years of Supporting  
Conservation Authorities  
(1964-1990)

**Jack McFadden**  
Former Director  
Aviation and Forest Fire  
Management Branch  
Former Regional  
Conservation Authority  
Program Coordinator

**Susan E McGregor-Hunter**  
Retired  
Former Executive Director  
Peterborough Green Up  
Former Community Relations  
Coordinator Credit Valley CA  
Former Community Relations  
Coordinator  
Ausable Bayfield CA

**Sonya Meek**  
Retired  
Senior Manager  
Sustainable Neighbourhoods  
Former Manager  
Watershed Planning  
Toronto and Region CA

**Lorrie Minshall**  
Retired Watershed  
Resources Planning Manager  
Grand River CA  
Retired Watershed Services  
Manager  
Long Point Region CA

**Kathleen Morgan**  
Retired  
Policy Advisor  
Office of the Assistant  
Deputy Minister  
MNR

**Jamie Morris**  
Chair  
Bird Friendly Kawartha Lakes  
Member  
Kawartha Lakes  
Environmental Advisory  
Committee

**Bill Mungall**  
Chair  
Advocacy, Issues and Policy  
Committee of Hike Ontario  
Former Resource Manager  
Ausable Bayfield CA

**Gary Murphy**  
Retired  
Director of Planning  
and Development  
Credit Valley Conservation

**Jim Oliver**  
Retired GM  
Long Point Region CA  
Retired Councillor  
Norfolk Count

**Don Pearson**  
Retired General Manager  
Lower Thames Valley CA  
Former GM  
Conservation Ontario  
Former GM  
Upper Thames River CA  
Former CAO, County of Perth

**Richard Pilon**  
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Raisin Region CA

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**Dave Pridham**  
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**Mike Puddister**  
Retired Deputy CAO  
Director of Watershed  
Transformation  
Credit Valley Conservation

**Anne Robinson**  
Former Councillor  
Township of Rideau  
Former Member and Vice-  
Chair (City of Ottawa  
representative)  
Rideau Valley CA  
Former Member  
Secretary and President  
Manotick Culture, Parks and  
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**Elizabeth Rogacki**  
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Advisor to the Management  
Board of Cabinet  
Former Coordinator of  
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MNR

**Paul Sajatovic**  
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GM  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Nickel District  
Conservation Authority  
Sudbury

**Ken Schmidt**  
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General Manager  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Essex Region CA

**Frank Shaw**  
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Hamilton Region CA  
Former Director  
Land Management Branch  
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Former Director  
Niagara Escarpment  
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Former GM  
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Administrator, Federally  
Regulated Pipeline  
Companies  
Former Citizen Member  
Don Watershed Task Force  
Former Instructor  
Applied Ecology  
Fleming College  
Former President  
Ontario Chapter Canadian  
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Snider's Ecological Services

**R. L.(Les) Tervit**  
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Former CAO  
Maitland Valley CA  
Former CAO  
Town of Listowel  
Former CAO  
Municipality of North Perth  
Retired Owner, BTE  
Assembly Ltd. and BTE  
Transport Group Ltd.

**Karen R. Wianecki, M.Pl.**  
Director of Practice  
Planning Solutions Inc.

**William Snodgrass**  
Retired Senior Engineer  
City of Toronto

**Beverley Thorpe**  
Retired  
Source Water Protection  
Project Manager  
Credit Valley-Toronto and  
Region-Central Lake Ontario  
Source Protection Region

**Mike Wong**  
Former Chair  
North America Region of the  
IUCN World Commission of  
Protected Areas

c.c. Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Officer  
Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition, Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario  
John Fraser, Leader, Liberal Party of Ontario  
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
Public Input Coordinator, Conservation and Source Protection Branch, Ministry of the  
Environment, Conservation and Parks

## **Appendix 1 – Our Key Concerns**

## **Our Key Concerns**

### **Uncertainty about the Relationship between OPAC, Municipalities and CAs**

Schedule 3 of Bill 68 states that the OPAC shall consist of at least five and not more than 12 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who shall form the independent Board of Directors for the Agency. This independent Board of Directors will oversee the activities of the OPCA. If OPCA is funded by CAs via their municipalities then how do they retain control of how the agency impacts the work and budget of the CA?

The creation of the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) provides a unique opportunity to rekindle the relationship with CAs and municipalities. However, there is insufficient information to effectively comment on how OPAC and its associated Board of Directors will interact with CAs, their respective Boards and municipalities.

Nevertheless, the unfolding of this relationship will need to be based on the principles of good governance, while fostering collaboration to ensure CAs programs and services continue to be effectively and efficiently delivered.

Resource issues resulting from changing landscapes and climate will continue to emerge. Time will be of the essence to respond swiftly, as it has been frequently in past decades with more climate related flood events. The key to successfully managing outcomes is ongoing collaboration among the Ontario government, municipalities, and conservation authorities.

### **Insufficient Evidence to Support Consolidation**

The proposal to consolidate 36 CAs to 7 regional CAs is not supported by any evidence-based rationale or business case, cost-benefit analysis, business case/feasibility study or transition work and funding plan for the amalgamation. The timeframe provided for such a change is incredibly short, which greatly increases the likelihood of failure.

For decades, the CA model has fostered successful watershed programs which have reduced potential flood, drought, and erosion losses, restored damaged ecosystems, protected drinking water, and improved water quality. The strength of the model lies in the emphasis on local decision making, collaborative partnerships, and on-the-ground programs. While amalgamations have occurred in the past, they have been at the request of municipalities, and there have been shared resource issues within similar watersheds.

This is not the first instance in which the province has suggested the significant consolidation of CAs. In 1989, the Ballinger Report (also referred to as the Ballinger-Hopcroft Report) was submitted to the government by Mr. Bill Ballinger, MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the David Peterson administration. The review was prompted by concerns regarding disparities in the capacity and expertise among Conservation Authorities, inconsistencies in program standards and delivery—particularly in plan review and permitting—as well as varying funding levels across authorities.

Following extensive consultations throughout Ontario, the report put forward a recommendation to reduce the number of CAs from 33 to 19. Further recommendations addressed redefining

core mandates, modernizing governance, and restructuring the provincial-municipal funding relationship. Although there was some provincial support for recommendations related to the core mandate and funding, the report did not ultimately receive provincial approval. The process was stalled by factors such as an impending provincial election and increased recessionary pressures.

Additionally, there was significant opposition from municipal leaders regarding amalgamation, most notably from Wardens and Mayors in eastern and southwestern Ontario, who expressed concerns over potential losses of autonomy and local decision-making authority in watershed management priorities. Similar reactions from the municipal sector may again pose challenges to any proposal advocating for the regionalization or consolidation of CAs.

The proposed amalgamation covers vast areas with different landscapes, water systems and resource management issues and priorities. The proposal creates more questions than answers, such as:

- What specific problems are you trying to solve through the amalgamation, and why is this proposal the only alternative put forward?
- What governance model will regional CAs use? How much influence will each municipality have in decisions?
- What is the process for setting municipal levies? If a CA generates most of its budget through its own revenues, will it be required to support other CAs that are merged with it? How will the haves and the have nots be treated through this process and how will that impact their capacity?
- How will the CA charitable foundations be impacted? Will they need new Letters Patent?
- What are the anticipated costs associated with amalgamation, and which parties are responsible for funding it?
- How will the Source Protection Areas (SPAs) operate, given that the proposed amalgamation splits several SPAs and merges others?

### **Loss of Local Watershed Management Governance and Oversight**

The proposal to move towards a regional watershed-based framework for CAs in Ontario by consolidating 36 CAs to 7 regional CAs runs counter to the founding principles of the *Conservation Authorities Act* in 1946. Specifically, resource management is most effective when organized by watershed units, and communities within a river basin could form CAs with provincial backing if they chose to collaborate. CAs deliver programs and services to address local watershed needs on behalf of municipalities. Municipalities risk losing effective and meaningful control over locally funded assets, dams, conservation lands, and permitting decisions.

While provincial communications maintain that nothing will change – that CAs will retain leadership over local programs and services, and that regional CA Boards will continue to exercise comprehensive governance – including the responsibility to approve budgets – the mandate of the newly established OPCA encompasses a much broader range of authority. Without a blueprint, we remain skeptical of the understanding and true intent of this amalgamation.

The OPCA's mandate includes direct oversight of CA governance, operations, and delivery of programs and services. In practice, this means the Agency will systematically assess the effectiveness of CAs, undertake regular monitoring and evaluation of their financial performance, and play a central role in guiding strategic planning activities. Importantly, the OPCA is empowered to issue binding directives as well as recommended guidance to CAs, thereby shaping both compliance and best practices across the sector.

It is critical to note that the OPCA's jurisdiction is not limited solely to provincially mandated programs such as natural hazard management and source protection. Rather, the scope of its oversight extends to all CA programs and services. This includes initiatives delivered on behalf of municipalities, as well as those programs and services independently developed by local Boards to meet specific watershed challenges and community needs. The wide-ranging nature of this oversight signals a significant and unwarranted expansion of provincial involvement in local watershed management and governance.

While CA Boards may retain governance over CAs, the scope and meaningfulness of their role could be diminished by the provincial oversight and authority of the OPCA. Despite assurances from the province that this will not happen, there is no evidence or any details as to how this local representation will be maintained. This absence of detail about how OPCA, CAs, and municipalities will work together raises questions about transparency and contributes to further uncertainty.

### **Scale of Proposed Regional CAs is Impractical**

The regional CAs, as proposed, are geographically vast, ranging in some cases from 18,500 km<sup>2</sup> to 25,000 km<sup>2</sup>. One of the proposals goes so far as to merge the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) into a new "Huron–Superior Regional Conservation Authority," a region that stretches more than 1,300 kilometres south and includes municipalities as far away as southern Ontario.

Compounding the proposed vast geography, these new regional authorities are proposed to serve anywhere between 28-81 municipalities. We assert that the proposed entities are excessively large to ensure effective and equitable municipal representation or efficient watershed management. Moreover, certain areas possess distinct geographical characteristics and concerns, potentially leading to uneven allocation of resources or efforts across the suggested regions.

## **Larger Regional Bureaucracies Reduce Efficiency Gains**

The proposed amalgamation is likely to disrupt service delivery, potentially hindering the province's progress toward economic development and growth. Based on our experience, the current CA structures are nimble and responsive because they stay informed about initiatives and issues, understand local stakeholders, and resolve problems quickly and efficiently. Large regional organizations may result in longer review times, lower standards of service, and diminished collaboration with developers, lake associations, and local governments. Compounding this regionalization will be another level of oversight created through the OPCA, potentially creating even more bureaucratic barriers.

## **Sacrificing the Key Principle of Integrated Watershed Management**

CAs were designed to align with watershed boundaries, rather than municipal boundaries, so they can address hazards and resource issues specific to each drainage basin. Since every watershed differs in hydrology, geology, topography, and land use, each faces distinct challenges.

CA staff have also developed vital local expertise that informs their work, from flood forecasting and warning to environmental restoration programs, which must be maintained if CAs are consolidated. Consolidation would not automatically harmonize services across regions because watershed needs and priorities vary.

Expansion of boundaries will complicate planning, permitting, emergency management, and municipal collaboration.

## **Challenging the Myth of Inefficiencies**

Despite CAs having responded effectively to the last six years of provincially directed changes, addressing concerns for timeliness and focus on core mandates, the province continues to cite inefficiencies as the primary rationale for amalgamation. We maintain that this assumption should be critically examined, considering the available evidence.

In 2019, to ensure consistency in annual reporting for CA permit reviews, Conservation Ontario implemented a standardized template and framework for monitoring review timelines. Benchmarks were established, setting a standard of 30 days for minor permits and 90 days for major permits, thereby promoting uniform reporting across all CAs. In recent years, CAs have invested substantially in new database software and process enhancements to maintain high-quality development review services.

The 2024 annual report presents data on permits received as of April 1, 2024, in accordance with the updated legislative and regulatory framework. During this period, over 7,180 permits were issued by the 36 CAs. Ninety-six percent (96%) of these permits were issued within the

required timelines.<sup>7</sup> Further, some CAs also have longstanding reciprocal staff-sharing arrangements with other CAs to ensure no interruption in service and no permit delays. There are occasional inefficiencies, as is typical in any agency, but these are now exceptions rather than the standard.

### **Need For Provincial Guidance**

We recognise that there may be inconsistencies in the decisions made by CAs regarding permit applications and related planning matters under the CAA and Ontario Regulation 41/24. However, we believe that the provision of more robust technical guidance at the provincial level would be of greater benefit to achieving consistency among CAs, rather than initiating structural amalgamation.

For instance, the province has been asked over several years for direction on when and how Regional Control facilities should be used to support new development and manage stormwater and flooding. CA's still await guidance on this issue. Similarly, CAs have requested provincial technical and policy guidance regarding flood spill management in existing urban areas and on establishing access standards for flood hazard zones. This guidance has not yet been forthcoming to date and would be very beneficial also in addressing those consistency issues noted elsewhere in this document. These are just two examples of many policy challenges that face CAs around regulating natural hazard areas and managing natural hazards.

### **Regulatory Fragmentation Continues**

Both provincial and federal governments have created overlapping, sometimes conflicting legislation, each with its own administrative process. This complexity increases costs and inefficiency and doesn't always achieve the intended results. New issues are generally met with more laws, adding to regulatory burdens that can hinder the economy and affect landowners. CAs, as service providers, often sit at the intersection between the public and government and may be mistakenly viewed as part of the problem.<sup>8</sup> Red tape reduction needs a true examination of where laws, regulations and policies are conflicting, inconsistent or outdated.

### **Risks to Property and Management of Hazards and Dam Infrastructure**

The protection of property and management of hazards is intrinsic to many of the multi-disciplinary plans and policies of municipalities across Ontario. CAs collectively manage flood and erosion control infrastructure requiring local expertise and knowledge, and 24/7 operational readiness. The work of CAs, in conjunction with their municipal partners, helps our province prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change, ultimately becoming more resilient for

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<sup>7</sup> Conservation Ontario. 2024. Annual Report. Conservation Impact. Valuing Positive Contribution through Conversation. Pg. 11.

<sup>8</sup> Conservation Ontario, 2012. Watershed Management Futures for Ontario. Conservation Ontario Whitepaper.

the future. The proposed consolidation may jeopardize local natural hazard management capacity, locally stationed staff, and continuity of infrastructure operations.

CAs' regulation of natural hazardous areas is essential for emergency preparedness and prevention, reducing risk to life and property, protecting flood and erosion control infrastructure, and increasing resiliency to climate change.

The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario warned in 2022 that more extreme rainfall associated with climate change will continue to increase the risk of flooding, straining public infrastructure expenses. That same year, the Auditor General also warned that the majority of municipalities in Ontario are unable to map urban flood risk due to a lack of data, expertise and funding.

Parts of Southern Ontario are experiencing an increase of two to three more heavy rainfall days per year on average. As floods increase in frequency and intensity, homeowners' insurance costs are rising, creating significant financial challenges for many families.

Flooding is Ontario's costliest natural hazard and is expected to become an even bigger threat in the future. Any recommended changes to CAs should enhance their capacity to reduce flood risks and safeguard both life and property. However, it is unclear how the proposed consolidation would accomplish this goal.

### **Lag in Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Investments**

CAs operate and maintain 900 dams, dykes, channels and other erosion control structures along rivers and shorelines valued at \$3.8 billion in 2019 dollars. Water and erosion control infrastructure managed and maintained by CAs helps to avoid more than \$150 million annually in damages to properties.<sup>9</sup> Many of these structures are coming to the end of their design life and will require significant investment to ensure that the infrastructure continues to provide the protections now and into the future, with considerations for climate change.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) provides financial support to critical Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI). This program provides funding to support up to 50% of project funding for watershed studies, dam and channel maintenance and repairs. The program is delivered through a municipal – provincial – conservation authority partnership. The province provides project funding of \$5M, matched by another \$5M from municipalities, and then implemented by the CAs.

For many years, this funding was capped at \$5 million, yet the program was oversubscribed. In 2020, the WECI Committee, among others, advocated for the province to make further

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<sup>9</sup> 2022. Conservation Ontario. 2022 Provincial Budget Consultation.

investments in this critical infrastructure, given the benefit to local communities across the province, and ultimately, Ontario's economic recovery.<sup>10</sup>

In 2020/21, the province approved \$10 million in WECl funding for 68 projects across 21 CAs. Despite the program being oversubscribed by almost two-fold in 2020/2021, with an estimated total project cost of more than \$19 million for 102 project submissions from 30 CAs across the Province in 2020/2021, the funding levels returned to \$5M. This funding is inadequate for future water and erosion control infrastructure needs.

Continued and adequate investment in both current and future infrastructure is essential for the effective management of flooding and erosion moving forward.

### **Breaking Trust – Risks to Locally Acquired Assets**

Conservation Authorities are responsible for owning or managing 150,000 hectares of natural areas, including forests, wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest, recreational lands, natural heritage and cultural sites, and land for flood and erosion control within each of their watersheds. Of these lands, there are approximately 500 Conservation Areas, with more than 300 that are publicly accessible. These public treasures make up approximately 80,000 hectares. These lands protect important natural features, provide recreational opportunities for people to enjoy, such as hiking, canoeing, camping, snowshoeing and many other outdoor activities, as well as living classrooms for schools, nature groups, and others to explore and learn about nature. Over six million Ontarians visit these areas each year,<sup>11</sup> supporting the local economy and tourism.

In some cases, thousands of these hectares have been donated to CAs with the expectation of local stewardship. Agreements will need to be updated or renegotiated with a new entity. Regionalization risks breaking that trust. Decisions regarding these lands and resources must remain with the local communities who use and maintain them.

This point also applies to the Foundations and Boards of Directors that have been established to secure donations and private endowments for parks, trails and other stewardship initiatives. The proposed CA amalgamations could easily stifle CAs' ability to raise funds for local initiatives. To further complicate matters, each Foundation has its own letter patent and Board of Directors.

Many CAs also have reserve funds that have accumulated over decades through contributions by local municipalities and their taxpayers. It would be inequitable and unfair for these reserves

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<sup>10</sup> Letter from Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Committee on the Need for Reallocation of In-Year Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) Funds to Kathy Woeller, Director, Integration Branch, Regional Operations Division, MNRF, dated April 23, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Conservation Ontario. Conservation Authorities are Ontario's Second Largest Landowners.

to be distributed using a regional amalgamation model. Financial reserves created over decades through contributions by municipalities to their respective CAs must be retained.

### **Continuation of the Disproportionate Funding Model**

The proposed amalgamation materials have been silent on how the regional CA model will be funded. This is an essential piece of the puzzle – without which the full implication of the proposal cannot be evaluated. Today, the typical breakdown of funding sources for Conservation Authorities is as follows<sup>12</sup>:

- Municipal levies – 53%
- Self-generated revenue – 35%
- Provincial grants & Special Projects – 8%
- Federal Grants or Contracts – 4%

However, the actual proportion of funding can differ significantly across the 36 Conservation Authorities. For example:

- Essex Region Conservation Authority relies on non-levy funding for approximately 70 percent of its operating budget, drawing from self-generated revenue, grants, and foundation support.
- Conservation Halton, in its 2025 total budget, indicates that only 2% of the funding is from the province and 19% from municipalities. Self-generated revenue, grants, and other sources minimize the impact on the municipal levy.
- Conservation Sudbury receives just over 20 percent of its budget through provincial and federal transfers and grants, while less than 25 percent is sourced from self-generated revenue.
- Grand River Conservation Authority occupies an intermediate position, with under 40 percent of its funding provided by municipal levies and about 50 percent obtained from self-generated revenue.
- To the east, municipal levies for the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority account for 54% of the funding, with the province contributing 5%. Municipalities within the region of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority fund approximately 68% of the annual operating budget, compared to a combined provincial and federal contribution of 5%.

The CA model has achieved tremendous successes across Ontario. However, we acknowledge that CAs' ability to deliver relevant programs to address resource challenges may vary in scope and intensity from one watershed to another, influenced by elements such as climate, landscape features, geology, water movement, patterns of water consumption as well as the local

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<sup>12</sup> Conservation Ontario. Typical breakdown of funding sources for Conservation Authorities.

population, level of municipal support, and their ability to generate income from fees, land rental, and other sources.

CAs that have a small population base may lack sufficient funding to hire subject matter experts to competently deliver some programs, including programs mandated by the Province of Ontario, such as administering provincial regulations, undertaking hazard modelling and mapping, and undertaking technical watershed studies and analysis.

Historically, provincial funding was initially the primary source of revenue for CAs, including shared funding for infrastructure projects. However, in 1995, under the leadership of Premier Mike Harris, Ontario's Progressive Conservatives drastically reduced provincial funding to CAs as part of its "Common Sense Revolution," slashing the budget for conservation programs from \$50 million to \$8 million annually, and limited it to hazard management. This significant cut severely impacted operations, leading CAs to lay off 20–60% of their staff and making it more difficult to continue the same level of investment and activity, including flood management, stewardship and watershed management. These cuts also disproportionately impacted smaller CAs with more rural municipalities, as the previous funding formula that was in place allowed rural CAs to access a higher proportion of funding for necessary projects from the province, equalizing the playing field.

Ultimately, despite these enormous financial challenges, CAs pivoted to secure alternative local funding sources once the province allowed CAs to start charging fees. This new financial situation also meant that municipalities had to reassess which watershed-based programs to retain. Although many activities were curtailed, programs continued with the assistance of partnership arrangements with local environmental groups or adjacent CAs. Municipalities also became the primary funder of managing natural hazards and many striking agreements with their CAs to support their environmental needs.

Since that time, municipalities have come together through our 36 CAs to address aging dams, manage natural hazards, enhance land conservation, provide water data and flood warnings to landowners, while also delivering on local stewardship programs and outdoor education initiatives.

Without a commitment of additional provincial funds and a shared approach to facilitate program development and the proposed CA amalgamations, plans to strengthen the work of CAs will be at risk.

Through a reinvestment in provincial funding, the OPCA has the opportunity to improve the capacity of all CAs to provide comparable services and ensure that flood and watershed management tools and infrastructure are repaired, restored and modernized to meet the challenges of the future.

## **Achievements of Source Protection Plans at Risk**

In June 2000, following the tragic incident of bacterial contamination of the water supply in Walkerton, Ontario, in May 2000, the Government of Ontario established a public inquiry – known now as the Walkerton Inquiry. Following the Walkerton inquiry, Justice O'Connor made 121 recommendations on a wide range of areas related to protecting drinking water. These recommendations are the building blocks of Ontario's drinking water protection framework. Justice O'Connor's first recommendation was that drinking water should be protected by developing watershed-based source protection plans.<sup>13</sup>

CAs stepped up again to protect Ontarians. Under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, 19 local multi-stakeholder source protection committees were established, guiding source water protection efforts in source protection areas across Ontario. The 38 source protection areas are based on Ontario's 36 CAs, the Severn Sound Environmental Association, and the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. Some of the source protection areas are grouped into larger source protection regions.

The Committees were supported by the Conservation Authorities' Boards of Directors, which, under the *Clean Water Act*, are referred to as "Source Protection Authorities." The Committees, working in collaboration with CAs, gathered science-based technical knowledge on which informed consensus-based decisions were made. Policies were developed in an open and consultative manner that continue to be effective, economical and appropriate for local communities. This supporting role by Conservation Authorities in source water protection continues to this day.

The proposed amalgamation of the 36 CAs to 7 regional CAs does not reference how Source Water Protection Areas (SPAs) and Regions will be maintained. For example, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is currently part of the CTC (Credit Valley, Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario), Source Protection Region (SPR). This proposal would see the Credit Valley Conservation Authority carved off from the CTC SPR and combined with Halton-Hamilton SPR and Niagara SPR. This configuration would cross the boundaries of three existing SPRs, potentially creating administrative and jurisdictional issues and undermining the principal recommendation advanced by Justice O'Connor twenty-five years ago.

Any proposed amalgamations of CAs must respect this fundamental premise of watershed-based source protection efforts and the governance model for source protection areas.

## **Amalgamation Costs to be Transferred to Municipalities**

The amalgamation of 36 CAs to 7 regional CAs will likely result in substantial unfunded costs, including IT integration, HR restructuring, renaming/rebranding, land title work, asset transfers, and legal harmonization. These costs are unknown but have the potential to be substantive (in the hundreds of millions of dollars) when one considers the amalgamation expenses in 2001

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<sup>13</sup> Ontario. Source Protection. Drinking Water Protection Framework

associated with the creation of the new cities of Ottawa, Hamilton and Greater Sudbury with expanded areas and populations.

By February 2001, the province decided that forcing amalgamation was too politically costly; in response to those affected municipalities, the province had to subsequently provide transition funding of \$31 million to Hamilton and \$108 million to Ottawa.<sup>14</sup> The O'Brien report, which recommended the amalgamation of the City of Greater Sudbury, estimated the transition costs would be around \$10 million and suggested the province should cover them.<sup>15</sup> Any proposed amalgamation would also detract from implementing on-the-ground programs.

Although the existing Toronto and Region CA is not proposed to be amalgamated with any other CA, it too will still see substantial transition costs associated with rebranding to its new proposed name, Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – a needless expense.

Municipalities should not be responsible for the impact or costs of any provincial restructuring efforts.

### **New Provincial Agency Will Impose Additional Costs**

Bill 68 empowers the OPCA to recover its operational and staffing costs to implement its mandate as described in the legislation. While not specifically stated, we are concerned that recovery of OPAC's costs will be borne by CAs through municipal levies. This will create an excessive financial strain for municipalities and will run counter to the principle of municipal-provincial partnerships for conservation.

Further, what say would CAs have in the budget and control for the agency? As the OPCA is a provincial agency, its budgetary expenditures should be borne by the provincial government.

The province has also been silent on whether it intends to issue a direction to CAs to reallocate their current funding levies from Conservation Ontario (CO) to this new Agency. Such a direction would place CO in an untenable position. CO was established in 1981 to engage and support Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and to shape effective policy relating to Conservation Authorities. CO is directed by a Council comprised of appointed and/or elected municipal officials from the 36 Conservation Authorities Boards of Directors and Conservation Authorities staff to ensure representation across the range of CAs and their unique circumstances.

To do this, they maintain technical expertise in most of the functions of the CAs and facilitate collaborations and working groups of technical experts in an effort to address consistency and issues across CAs.

How would even as few as 7 regional CAs effectively engage with the agency or other provincial ministries without an umbrella organization? Will the agency assume that role?

As the OPCA is a provincial agency, its budgetary expenditures should be borne by the provincial government.

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<sup>14</sup> CBC News. **Province pays out to ease amalgamation headaches.** February 2001.

<sup>15</sup> Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (1999). **Report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on Local Government Reform for Sudbury.** Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario.



**THOMAS & JOAN HASKETT**

APPLES

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Re: The Province of Ontario Purposed Amalgamation of  
Conservation Authorities in Ontario

Attn: Review Committee

Having been involved in Conservation here in the Long Point Region  
Conservation Authority as a:

- Volunteer
- Employee
- Government Appointee
- Chairman of LPRCA
- Chair of the Lee Brown Marsh Waterfowl Committee
- Officer of the Long Point Foundation for Conservation

I have taken part in a group review of the proposed Agency Takeover, and this has the smell of an Unfriendly (Corporate) Agency Takeover.

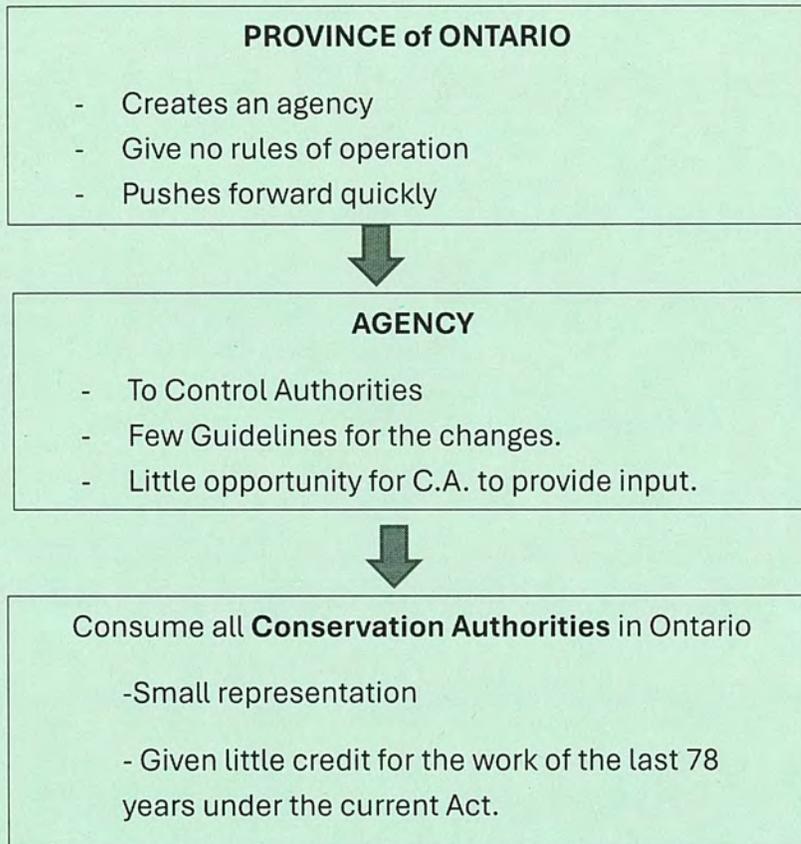
This proposed Agency appears to have been **pushed** forward through third reading and a review process without any consideration as to how we got this far in the present system.

It appears as a hostile takeover by:

1. Establish an agency
2. Push through parliament – get 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
3. Fuddle Duddle a crammed review
4. Give little or no evidence that this is even a minor benefit.
5. Provide diluted Directorship if or when agency is accepted.



## A VAULT TO THE TOP



This looks and smells like an unfriendly, corporate takeover.

Further, many individuals have given **Land in Trust** to Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

### ***Is this now a Land Grab?***

I personally have set with members of our watershed as they made out their Last Will and Testament. They donated their land to the **Long Point Region Conservation Authority**.

We need more time to Review. Stop! Let's Talk.

T. Haskett

5 days ago · 4 min read

## Province finalizes changes to reduce the number of conservation authorities

*Jeff Helsdon, Editor*

Ontario's 36 conservation authorities will be reduced to nine under sweeping changes finalized by the province on March 10. The initial proposal was to reduce the number of conservation authorities to seven. Locally, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) would have been lumped in with other authorities in a new entity that would have stretched from Windsor to Niagara.

The final decision was altered slightly to create an Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority and Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority, while lumping the eastern end of Lake Erie in with the Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority. There will be nine conservation authorities in total and a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Authority. More specifically, this will translate into the amalgamation of LPRCA with Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, and Grand River Conservation Authority.

Details from the province provide a broad outline of the process, including the formation of a transition committee, and that the new conservation authorities would be established in 2027.

The provincial push for the change was to speed permit approval, but the information accompanying the decision states that the changes will also bring improved flood control, electronic permitting, and erosion prevention while maintaining strong environmental protections. A great deal of feedback was received during the consultation process, with 14,000 comments from municipalities, individuals, and organizations. It was taken into consideration when creating watershed councils that will align more closely with the former conservation authorities' boundaries.

The changes will also see responsibility for paying levies and appointing board members move from lower-tier municipalities (Tillsonburg) to upper-tier (Oxford County). There will also be a cap on the number of board members and a possible limit to the number of representatives from each municipality.

Locally, Tillsonburg Deputy Mayor Dave Beres is the former chair of LPRCA during the consultation. He said having nine conservation authorities is better than having seven.

"Nobody likes change, however, this is much better than it looked before," he said, adding LPRCA is more at home with Catfish, Kettle Creek and Grand River Conservation Authorities.

Norfolk Councillor Doug Brunton is the current chair of LPRCA. He pointed out LPRCA had little in common with areas west of London, which are flatter, have many municipal drains, and less forest.

"It's better than what it was," he said of the final arrangement. "It's a little more applicable to where we are. We were originally going all the way down to Windsor."

Beres said there are still many unanswered questions with the new structure.

"There may or may not be elected officials on the boards, that's still to be determined," he said.

"They're going to form these boards, but we don't understand entirely how we fit in," Brunton said.

Beres also had questions about the boundaries and how it will work when a municipality is in multiple jurisdictions. For instance, Oxford County is in both the former LPRCA and Upper Thames Conservation Authority boundaries.

"So how are they going to their municipal partners for funding for a levy if they haven't established this yet," he asked.

In his role as Tillsonburg deputy mayor, Beres had budgetary concerns as well. LPRCA is more economically efficient than many conservation authorities, with two-thirds of its budget generated through user fees and logging operations in its woodlots. Beres believes many conservation authorities rely on municipal levies for up to half their budgets, and questioned if there would be an increased cost locally.

Brunton echoed that concern.

"I haven't seen the books of the other conservation authorities we will amalgamate with," he said. "We're very not reliant on the municipalities as other conservation authorities are. My fear is that reserves will be blended together, and it will be detrimental to the area."

Brunton spoke highly of the tourism potential of the LPRCA-owned campgrounds in Norfolk, and one in Haldimand County, and hopes that is taken into consideration. Pointing to Backus, he mentioned the education centre teaches about conservation and the school programs hosted in the centre.

"To me, if this amalgamation doesn't allow us to continue with the programs at Backus and the campgrounds, it will be detrimental," he said.

Beres pointed to the future of Backus mill itself, the only mill still standing on the north shore of Lake Erie that survived burning by American forces during the War of 1812.

"That's yet to be determined. Are we going to turn that over to the municipalities?" Beres pondered.

One of the questions Beres saw previously was in connection to financial donations to LPRCA and if this could go to another area. Initially, that concern seemed to be addressed, but he wants to see more details on how this and woodlot management will play out.

"This is all about building more homes faster," he said.

Brunton said meetings are scheduled in the near future with Conservation Ontario, the current entity for all the conservation authorities, and he is hopeful that more details will emerge.

5 days ago · 3 min read

## Jeff Tribe receives LPRCA stewardship recognition



Doug Brunton, chair of the LPRCA, on the left, presents the 2025 Stewardship Award to Jeff Tribe on March 6. (Chris Abbott Photo)

**Chris Abbott, Post Correspondent**

It's safe to say Jeff Tribe is not a fan of Ontario consolidating its conservation authorities, first announced in the fall of 2025, and recently amended on March 10.

Tribe is the 2025 recipient of Long Point Region Conservation Authority's Stewardship Award, awarded annually to an individual or group for their contribution to the natural heritage within the Long Point Region watershed.

A journalist, photographer, videographer, content creator and farmer, Tribe is passionate about the environment, said Doug Brunton, chair of the LPRCA board of directors, presenting the award at the LPRCA Annual General Meeting March 6 in Tillsonburg.

With the help of Ducks Unlimited Canada, Tribe facilitated a wetland restoration project on his family farm resulting in 1.4 acres of newly created wetland, including two wetland cells, several smaller water features, and 8.9 acres of surrounding upland habitat.

Around the wetland, 450 trees and shrubs were planted. Most recently, another 550 trees were planted through Forests Canada's 50 Million Tree Planting Program.

"Supporting the conservation of natural resources in the Long Point Region watershed is critical, optimizing and maintaining the health of the watershed," said Brunton. "Thank you for your valuable contributions, Jeff."

"My dad (Harry Tribe) was a tree planter who saw himself as a steward rather than owner of the land," said Tribe, noting the family's 'duck ponds' have been formally named 'The Harry & Jessie Wetland' in honour of his parents.

"Dad spent his lifetime bringing surviving maple saplings along. It's a 'thing' to me that I tapped those trees for the third year on Wednesday, and with help from Harry's great-grandchildren, continue to produce maple syrup from their sap."

Tribe said the family's association with LPRCA is also multi-generational.

"Dad sourced trees to plant a wood break, I can remember hoeing as a small child, somewhere around 60 years ago. The LPRCA planted 500 walnuts and 270 red oak, infilled with white pine... around 40 years ago. More recently, there were the 450 mixed trees and shrubs."

He noted the help of several organizations, including Stewardship Oxford and LPRCA, was important in creating the wetland/tree area.

"The wetland has attracted a variety of ducks and geese... and we have received much enjoyment from the thought a wide range of other wildlife enjoys the habitat – frogs, turtles, fireflies, birds, and even snakes..."

Collaborative partnerships with organizations like the LPRCA help make it happen, he said, "providing consultation, expertise, guidance, and 'boots on the ground.'"

"I would also like to emphasize the importance of long-term relationships with LOCAL representatives like Paul Gagnon. Paul is helpful, knowledgeable and informative. His years of lived conservation experience in this area are a huge benefit to both the CA and the land owners he interacts with."

"It concerns me when I hear there is a plan to consolidate the CAs across Ontario. As a land owner, I don't want to dial 1-800-Rent-a-Parachute-Consultant when we're considering a project for the Tribe Ranch. We want Paul – or other local (staff) we've had the pleasure of dealing with over many generations."

People who live here, Tribe concluded, and people who have a passion for conservation in this area, "create a level of comfort, trust and confidence to move forward."

**Ministry of the Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**

**Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Protection de la nature et des  
Parcs**



Office of the Minister

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357-2026-754

March 10, 2026

Dear Chairs:

I am writing to provide an update as we move into the next phase of improving Ontario's conservation authority system. This spring, the government intends to introduce legislative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) that, if passed, would implement this next phase.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the consultation process. We listened closely, and the feedback we received directly shaped and strengthened our plan. Based on the feedback, we adjusted the planned regional boundaries—from the originally proposed boundaries that would have created seven regional conservation authorities—and optimized to boundaries that create nine new regional conservation authorities. These planned boundaries would accommodate areas with distinct geographies and development contexts, better balance differing priorities across rural, urban and northern areas and improve alignment with watersheds and with source protection regions.

We are also building in clear mechanisms to ensure local knowledge continues to guide decision-making. The plan is for the newly created regional CAs to create one or more Watershed Councils to ensure watershed planning is guided by local insights. Regional CAs will continue to operate as independent public bodies with municipally appointed boards that maintain strong local representation and oversight.

The planned consolidation to regional conservation authorities is targeted to occur in early 2027 and is designed to strengthen the system—not weaken it—by increasing consistency, modernizing standards, and providing better tools and resources to support the frontline work your teams deliver every day. Under this plan, regional conservation authorities will continue to rely on the deep local expertise, knowledge, and relationships that your staff bring to their communities. Those who know the watershed best will remain central to delivering local programs and on-the-ground support, helping to ensure decisions reflect the unique environmental priorities of each area.

...2

This plan to transition to regional conservation authorities marks the beginning of a renewed relationship—one that builds on local strengths while establishing greater consistency and shared capacity across the province. As part of this plan, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) will lead a gradual, carefully managed transition to ensure stability and continuity. Services, programs, and permitting will continue uninterrupted as planning for transition progresses toward early 2027. There will be no cuts to front line jobs. Protecting local service delivery is a guiding principle of this planned transition, and communities will continue to work with the same local teams at conservation authorities they rely on today.

To ensure a smooth and organized transition, the province is providing \$3 million in annual funding, to be administered by OPCA. These resources are planned to be used by OPCA to support conservation authorities throughout the transition period and, in the longer term, will enable regional conservation authorities to achieve program improvements.

Your leadership is vital as we begin this new chapter. I encourage you to share this message with your staff to provide reassurance that their work, expertise, and community relationships remain at the heart of Ontario's conservation system. In the coming weeks, you will be invited to technical briefings to provide further information on the next steps in the planned transition process.

For questions regarding the planned consolidation and the transition process, please contact [CCEO@ontario.ca](mailto:CCEO@ontario.ca). If you have questions about the planned legislative amendments or day-to-day CA business, please reach out to MECP staff at [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment. We look forward to working with you over the next year to make important improvements to Ontario's conservation authority system.

Sincerely,



Todd McCarthy  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, MECP  
Chloe Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Land and Water Division, MECP



## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**File:** 3.3.1

**To:** Chair and Members,  
LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager, LPRCA

**Re:** **Section 28 Regulation Approved Permits**  
Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits (O. Reg. 41/24)

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff approved Section 28 Regulation Approved Permits report as information.**

### **Links to Strategic Plan:**

Strategic Direction # 1 – Protect People and Property from Flooding and Natural Hazards  
Strategic Direction # 2 – Deliver Exceptional Services and Experiences  
Strategic Direction # 4 – Organizational Excellence

### **Background:**

#### **Application# LPRCA-95/25 REVISED**

Plan 190, Lot 120, 324 Cedar Drive, Norfolk County – Charlotteville

- The proposed work – to replace the existing vacation home with a 222.5m<sup>2</sup> (2,395.7ft<sup>2</sup>) vacation home with an attached garage and new septic system,
- The revision includes moving the cottage 0.8 metres (2.6ft) west.
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The residential structure meets the floodproofing standard,
- The top of foundation and first floor elevation is at or above 176.8m (CGVD28),
- No habitable space is proposed below the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),
- All mechanical and the electrical panel are located above the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),
- The proposed septic is designed to be effective when the water table reflects the maximum monthly Lake Erie water level of 175.0m CGVD1928,
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard, and

- As per the July 5, 2017 Board Resolution# A-178/17, the requirement for safe access is deemed to be satisfied.

**Application# LPRCA-216/25 REVISED**

Concession 1, Plan 207, Lot 12 &13, Passmore Avenue, Norfolk County – Port Dover

- The proposed work – To dredge a 5,500m<sup>2</sup> (59,202ft<sup>2</sup>) section of the approach channel to the Port Dover Marina to a maximum depth of 1.8m (5.9ft) via a barge-mounted excavator to allow for safe vessel passage,
- The revisions to the permit include a change from propeller-washing to a barge-mounted excavator as the dredging method,
- A satisfactory site plan and details were submitted in support of the application,
- No fill will be placed on-land as part of the work, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie flooding and erosion hazards and the proposal will not negatively impact the control of flood and/or erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-216/25 REVISED II**

Concession 1, Plan 207, Lot 12 &13, Passmore Avenue, Norfolk County – Port Dover

- The proposed work – To dredge a 5,500m<sup>2</sup> (59,202ft<sup>2</sup>) section of the approach channel to the Port Dover Marina to a maximum depth of 1.8m (5.9ft) via a barge-mounted excavator to allow for safe vessel passage,
- The revisions to the permit include a change to the in-water dredged material deposit location,
- A satisfactory site plan and details were submitted in support of the application,
- No fill will be placed on-land as part of the work, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie flooding and erosion hazards and the proposal will not negatively impact the control of flood and/or erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-1/26**

Plan 133, Lot 83, 173 Ordnance Avenue, Norfolk County – Charlotteville

- The proposed work – to construct a combined boathouse and garage with 95m<sup>2</sup> (1,022 ft<sup>2</sup>) of enclosed floor area,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The structure has an enclosed floor area of less than 100m<sup>2</sup>,
- There is no opportunity for the structure to be converted into habitable space in the future,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created,
- There is no feasible alternative site outside the Lake Erie shoreline flooding or erosion hazard, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-10/26**

Plan 182, Lot 1, Norfolk Street North, Norfolk County – Simcoe

- The proposed work – to replace the superstructure, top of wingwalls, ballasts, and cleats of a bridge situated over the Lynn River as well as replacement of sections of an existing retaining wall that lines the watercourse, and to do concrete patch repair to the bridge substructure,

- Satisfactory, engineered-designed drawings were submitted in support of the application,
- The bridge is situated over the Lynn River and the work will not cause any adverse hydraulic or fluvial impacts on the watercourse, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding and erosion hazards and the proposed development will not have a negative impact on the control of flooding and/or erosion.

Conditions:

The permit is conditional on the following being provided to the satisfaction of LPRCA staff:

1. A detailed erosion and sediment control plan;
2. Detailed dewatering, bypass pumping, cofferdam and/or isolation plans, as applicable;
3. Containment/mitigation measures to prevent debris and/or materials from falling into the river;
4. A restoration plan ensuring the site will be restored to its original condition or better;
5. Confirmation that fuel sources, fueling activities, and material stockpile areas will be at least 30 metres away from the watercourse;
6. Detailed indication of the mitigation measures outlined in 1-5 above must be conveyed through a set of site-specific drawings.

**Application# LPRCA-11/26 REVISED**

Concession 8, Lot 11, Municipal R.O.W., Main Street West (Otterville), Oxford County – Township of Norwich

- The proposed work – to abandon 75m (246ft) of an existing gas main and install 130m (426ft) of new gas main in a new location requiring crossing under a watercourse via horizontal directional drill,
- The revisions to the permit include an additional 15m (49ft) of new gas main to be installed,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details was submitted in support of the application,
- A satisfactory erosion and sediment control plan was submitted with the application,
- The application is within the riverine flooding and erosion hazards and the risk of creating new hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- The application crosses under Big Otter Creek and the watercourse should not be negatively impacted by the proposed work, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding and erosion hazards and the control of flooding and erosion will not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

**Application# LPRCA-14/26**

Concession 13, Lot 1-11, Haldimand County – Hagersville

- The proposed work – to construct three stormwater management outlets to the adjacent quarry pond (Crystal Lake) for approximately 35 new residential lots,

- A satisfactory site plan and engineered construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- A satisfactory sediment and erosion control plan were submitted in support of this application,
- There are no adverse hydraulic or fluvial impacts on the creek, and
- The application is within the riverine erosion and flood hazard, this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-15/26**

Concession 1, Lot 1, 2 &18, 156 Wolven Street, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to propeller-wash a 45m<sup>2</sup> (485ft<sup>2</sup>) section of the entrance channel for a marina by a maximum depth of 2m (6.6 ft) to allow for safe vessel passage,
- A satisfactory site plan and details were submitted in support of the application,
- No sediment will be removed from Lake Erie, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie flooding and erosion hazards and the proposal will not negatively impact the control of flooding and/or erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-16/26**

Plan 182, Lots 4-15, Municipal R.O.W., Head Street North, Norfolk County – Simcoe

- The proposed work – to abandon 150m (492ft) of an existing gas main and install 198m (650ft) of new gas main via trenching,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details was submitted in support of the application,
- The application is within the riverine flooding hazard allowance and the risk of creating new flood hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding hazard allowance and the control of flooding will not be negatively impacted by the proposed development.

**Application# LPRCA-17/26**

Concession 1, Lot 8, 705 Nelson Street West, Norfolk County – Port Dover

- The proposed work – to construct a 23m<sup>2</sup> (256ft<sup>2</sup>) pergola on helical piles,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The existing structure is setback from the top of stable slope and located in the area of least risk,
- Maintenance access is provided to and along the shoreline,
- Susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie Erosion hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-20/26**

Plan 135, Lot 14, 9 Cedar Drive, Norfolk County - Charlotteville

- The proposed work – to replace a 22.6m<sup>2</sup> (243.3ft<sup>2</sup>) covered deck on the side of a vacation home and install new posts for its roof,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details was submitted in support of the application,

- There is no opportunity for conversion into habitable space in the future,
- Susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazards and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of flooding and/or erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-21/26**

Plan 436, Lot 276, 1 Beach Avenue, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to alter the roofline on the south side of the existing garage and construct a 9m<sup>2</sup> (96 ft<sup>2</sup>) second storey deck,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The structure has an enclosed floor area of less than 100m<sup>2</sup>,
- There is no opportunity for the structure to be converted into habitable space in the future,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created,
- There is no feasible alternative site outside the Lake Erie shoreline flooding or erosion hazard, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-22/26**

Plan 182, Lot 13, 50 Bonnie Drive, Norfolk County – Simcoe

- The proposed work – to construct a 106m<sup>2</sup> (1,145 ft<sup>2</sup>) open gazebo structure to replace the existing raised garden,
- A satisfactory site plan and engineered construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The building or structure is securely anchored,
- There is no increased risk of flooding, erosion, or loss of flood storage, and
- The application is within the riverine flood hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-23/26**

Concession 1, Lot 19, 1778 Lakeshore Road, Haldimand County – Rainham

- The proposed work – to replace the existing 4.6m<sup>2</sup> (50ft<sup>2</sup>) front porch and 47m<sup>2</sup> (512ft<sup>2</sup>) rear deck with deck structures of equal size,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The proposed development is located in an area of least (and acceptable) risk,
- Susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding.

**Application# LPRCA-24/26**

Plan 219, Lot 33, 80 Erie Boulevard, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to construct a new septic system,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,

- The septic system is designed to be effective when the water table reflects the maximum monthly Lake Erie water level (175.0m CGVD28), and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding.

**Application# LPRCA-25/26**

Plan 125, Lot 4-5, 504 Ryerse Boulevard, Norfolk County – Woodhouse

- The proposed work – to construct a retaining wall four concrete blocks high at the toe of the slope, located approximately 3.6 metres inland from the sheet pile shoreline protection. The wall and concrete splashpad will extend along the property's length of approximately 40 metres,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created,
- There are no adverse impacts on the natural shoreline processes of Lake Erie,
- The proposed shoreline structure is in accordance with the recommendations of the Shoreline Management Plan, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-27/26**

Concession 4, Lot 12, 866 Concession 4 Walpole, Haldimand County - Walpole

- The proposed work – to stabilize the foundation of a dwelling through the installation of helical piles which will be underpinned to existing concrete footings,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details was submitted in support of the application,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding hazard allowance and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of flooding.

**Application# LPRCA-28/26**

Plan 206, Lots B-D, Erie Boulevard, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to recognize the maintenance of the existing shoreline protection by restacking the armour stone blocks, the addition of sand to the beach and the creation of concrete stairs to the water,
- Satisfactory details and pictures were submitted in support of this application,
- There are no adverse impacts on the natural shoreline processes of Lake Erie,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created,
- The proposed shoreline work is in accordance with the recommendations of the Shoreline Management Plan, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding and erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-29/26**

Concession 6, Lot 12, 2435 Highway 59, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to construct a new septic system and to recognize the construction of a 42m<sup>2</sup> (452ft<sup>2</sup>) single-storey dwelling,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the

application,

- There is no impact on existing or future slope stability,
- The risk of creating new riverine erosion hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- Access into and through the valley is not prevented, and
- The application is within the riverine erosion hazard allowance and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of erosion or slope stability.

#### **Application# LPRCA-30/26**

##### Concession 1, Lot 15, 749 Windham Road 2, Norfolk County - Windham

- The proposed work – to demolish an existing 185.8m<sup>2</sup> (2,000ft<sup>2</sup>) dwelling and construct a new 381.8m<sup>2</sup> (4,110ft<sup>2</sup>) dwelling with an attached garage approximately 14m (45.9ft) from a Provincially Significant Wetland, construct a new septic system, and place up to 132m<sup>3</sup> (4,661.5ft<sup>3</sup>) of gravel to create a new driveway,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings was submitted in support of the application, and
- The application is adjacent to a Provincially Significant Wetland and the hydrological function of the wetland will not be negatively impacted by the development.

#### **Application# LPRCA-31/26**

##### Concession 5, Lot 4, 1655 Windham Road 6, Norfolk County - Windham

- The proposed work – to recognize the emergency replacement of a 4500-litre septic holding tank with a new 4500-litre septic holding tank in the same location, approximately 20m from a Provincially Significant Wetland,
- A satisfactory site plan and details were submitted in support of the application, and
- The application is adjacent to a Provincially Significant Wetland and the hydrological function of the wetland will not be negatively impacted by the development.

#### **Application# LPRCA-32/26**

##### Plan 436, Lot 434, 20 Howey Avenue, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to add an 88m<sup>2</sup> (950ft<sup>2</sup>) second storey addition onto the existing vacation home, renovate the existing main floor and alter the existing basement to create a crawl space,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- No habitable space is proposed below the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),
- The top of foundation and first floor elevation is above 176.8m (CGVD28),
- All mechanical and the electrical panel are located above the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),
- There is no risk of structural failure due to potential hydrostatic/dynamic pressures,
- The application is within the area of interference adjacent to a Provincially Significant Wetland. The hydrologic function of the wetland will not be negatively

impacted by this development,

- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard, and
- As per the July 5, 2017 Board Resolution# A-178/17, the requirement for safe access is deemed to be satisfied.

### **Application# LPRCA-33/26**

#### **Plan 19B, Lots 1-3, 236 Mechanic Street West, Norfolk County – Waterford**

- The proposed work – to construct a proposed 83m<sup>2</sup> (900ft<sup>2</sup>) garage and a breezeway to connect the existing dwelling with the proposed garage,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- There is no impact on existing or future slope stability,
- The risk of creating new riverine erosion hazards or aggravating existing riverine erosion hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- Access into and through the valley for maintenance will not be prevented, and
- The application is within the riverine erosion hazard allowance and this proposal will not negatively affect the slope stability.

### **Application# LPRCA-34/26**

#### **Plan 135, Lot 14, 15 Cedar Drive, Norfolk County – Charlotteville**

- The proposed work – to replace the existing vacation home with a 196m<sup>2</sup> (2,110ft<sup>2</sup>) vacation home, a 65m<sup>2</sup> (708ft<sup>2</sup>) screened front porch, a new septic system and the associated grading,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The residential structure meets the floodproofing standard,
- The top of foundation and first floor elevation is at or above 176.8m (CGVD28),
- No habitable space is proposed below the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),
- All mechanical and the electrical panel are located above the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),
- The proposed septic is designed to be effective when the water table reflects the maximum monthly Lake Erie water level of 175.0m CGVD1928,
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard, and
- As per the July 5, 2017 Board Resolution# A-178/17, the requirement for safe access is deemed to be satisfied.

### **Application# LPRCA-36/26**

#### **Plan 133, Lot 53, 115 Ordnance Drive, Norfolk County – Charlotteville**

- The proposed work – to replace the existing vacation home with a vacation home approximately 208m<sup>2</sup> (2,238ft<sup>2</sup>) of habitable floor area, a new septic system and the addition of fill for grading,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The residential structure meets the floodproofing standard,
- The top of foundation and first floor elevation is at or above 176.8m (CGVD28),
- No habitable space is proposed below the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),

- All mechanical and the electrical panel are located above the floodproofing elevation of 176.8m (CGVD28),
- The proposed septic is designed to be effective when the water table reflects the maximum monthly Lake Erie water level of 175.0m CGVD1928,
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazard,
- As per the July 5, 2017 Board Resolution# A-178/17, the requirement for safe access is deemed to be satisfied.

**Application# LPRCA-37/26**

Plan 436, Lot 529 & 530, 4 Dickinson Avenue, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to replace a 70ft (21.3m) section of an existing 108ft (32.9m) long sheet pile wall,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details was submitted in support of the application,
- There are no adverse impacts on the natural shoreline processes of Lake Erie,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding and erosion hazards and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of flooding and/or erosion.

**Application# LPRCA-38/26**

Concession 2, Lots 43 & 44, 231 Tisdale Side Road – Norfolk County - Delhi

- The proposed work – to install a Class 2 greywater system and renovate an existing barn including new windows, roll-up doors, and minor alteration to its foundation,
- A satisfactory site plan and drawings were submitted in support of the application,
- The development is setback from the top of the slope,
- The risk of creating new riverine erosion hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible,
- Access into and through the valley for maintenance will not be prevented, and
- The application is in proximity to the riverine valley system and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of erosion and/or slope stability.

**Application# LPRCA-40/26**

Plan 251, Lot 77, 205 Hastings Drive, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to remove the existing concrete step and to pour a new concrete surface to improve safety,
- A satisfactory concept plan was submitted in support of this application,
- Susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created,
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding, erosion and dynamic beach hazard, and
- As per the July 5, 2017 Board Resolution# A-173/17, emergency basis shoreline protection is deemed not to impact the neighboring properties and least likely to impact the neighbors or the beach.

**Application# LPRCA-41/26**

Concession 12, Lot 3, 14 Tillson Avenue, Oxford County – Town of Tillsonburg

- The proposed work – to construct a 55.2m<sup>2</sup> (594ft<sup>2</sup>) above-ground pool,

- A satisfactory site plan and details was submitted in support of the application,
- The proposed development is setback from the top of slope,
- Access into and through the valley for maintenance will not be prevented by the development, and
- The application is within the riverine erosion hazard and the risk of creating new riverine erosion hazards or aggravating existing hazards as a result of the development is negligible.

**Application# LPRCA-43/26**

Concession 2, Part Lot 16, 1267 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession Road, Norfolk County – South Walsingham

- The proposed work – to construct a 22.3m<sup>2</sup> (240ft<sup>2</sup>) habitable structure and the associated grading,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction details were submitted in support of the application,
- The development is setback from the top of slope, and
- The application is within the riverine erosion hazard allowance and the risk of creating a new riverine erosion hazard is negligible.

**Application# LPRCA-44/26**

Concession 5, Lot 11, Concession 6 Woodhouse R.O.W. – Norfolk County - Woodhouse

- The proposed work – to replace an existing 700mm-diameter CSP culvert, same size, and remove accumulated sediment near its inlet and outlet,
- A satisfactory site plan and details was submitted in support of the application,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created,
- There is no increase risk of flooding or erosion upstream and downstream, and
- The proposed work should not negatively impact the watercourse.

**Application# LPRCA-45/26**

Plan 128, Lots 75 & 76, 4 Ordnance Avenue, Norfolk County – Charlotteville

- The proposed work – to install a new septic system,
- A satisfactory site plan and construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- The septic system is designed to be effective when the water table reflects the maximum monthly Lake Erie water level (175.0m CGVD28), and
- The application is within the Lake Erie shoreline flooding hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding.

**Application# LPRCA-46/26**

Concession 1, Lot 8, 17 Westmoreland Lane, Haldimand County - Rainham

- The proposed work – to install a 9000-litre concrete holding tank to replace an existing failed holding tank,
- A satisfactory site plan and details was submitted in support of the application,
- Susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within riverine flood hazard allowance and the proposed development will not negatively impact the control of flooding.

**Application# LPRCA-47/26**

Concession 12, Lot 1, Old Highway 24, Norfolk County – Townsend

- The proposed work – to replace the existing concrete culvert with a precast concrete box culvert,
- A satisfactory site plan and engineered construction drawings were submitted in support of this application,
- There is no increased risk of flooding upstream and downstream as specified in the hydrology design brief,
- The susceptibility to natural hazards is not increased or new hazards created, and
- The application is within the riverine flooding hazard and this proposal will not negatively affect the control of flooding.

**Financial Implication:**

N/A

**Prepared by:**

*Isabel Johnson*

Isabel Johnson  
Resource Planner

**Prepared by:**

*Braedan Ristine*

Braedan Ristine  
Resource Planner

**Reviewed by:**

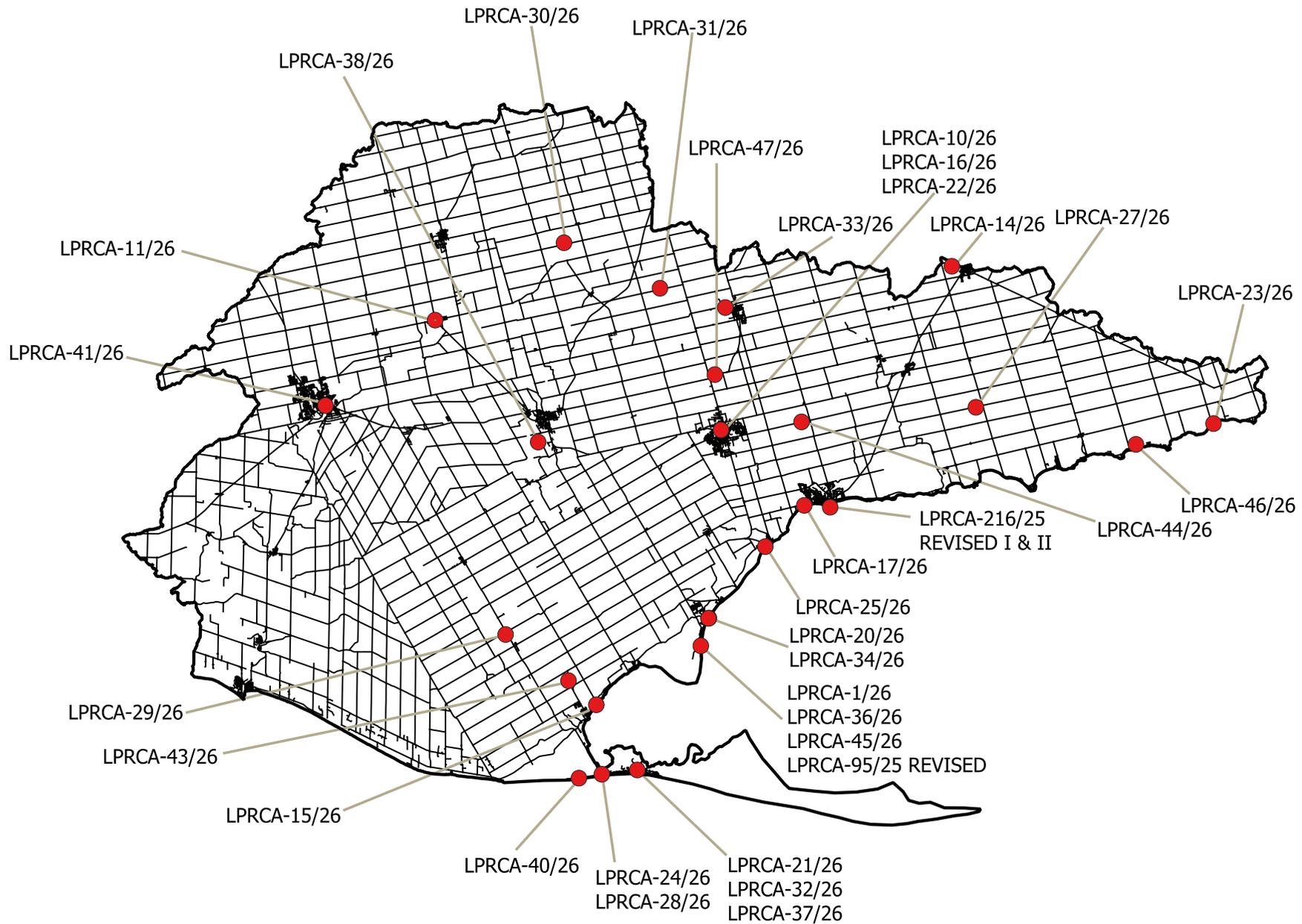
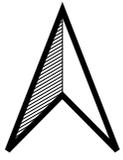
*Leigh-Anne Mauthe*

Leigh-Anne Mauthe, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Watershed Services

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager



LONG POINT REGION  
CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY

Approved Applications  
O. Reg. 41/24

Users of the LPRCA's maps and data are cautioned to consider the provisional nature of the information before using it for decisions that concern personal or public safety or the conduct of business. LPRCA assumes no responsibility for the correctness of the information contained in this map nor liability to any user of such information, regardless of the purpose.



## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** March 26, 2026

**File:** 1.1.2

**To:** Chair and Members, LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager

**Re:** **General Manager's Report – March 2026**

---

### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the General Manager's Report for March 2026 as information.**

### **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction #1 – Protect People and Property from Flooding and Natural Hazards  
Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Services and Experiences  
Strategic Direction #3 – Support and Empower Our People  
Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

### **Background:**

On March 10, 2026, Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, announced that the Province was consolidating 36 CAs into nine to deliver more consistent services, strengthen watershed management and better protect communities. Legislation is expected to soon be introduced to implement this change, with transition to occur in 2026 and the consolidation to take effect in early 2027.

Staff has reviewed 41 permit applications up to March 24, 2026 compared to 44 permit applications for the same time period in 2025. Staff has also reviewed and provided comments this year to municipal staff on 24 *Planning Act* applications and participated in 6 pre-consultations up to March 24, 2026.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Program staff issued 5 messages over the months of February and March. On March 6<sup>th</sup> a Flood Watch for the Big Otter Watershed and a Watershed Conditions Statement for Water Safety for the rest of the watershed was issued. On March 9<sup>th</sup> the Flood Watch was cancelled and the Water Safety was extended for all of the watershed and remained in place until March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Corporate Services staff have been working with the Superintendent of Conservation Areas to recruit and interview summer staff for the campgrounds. Staff will be starting on April 13<sup>th</sup> and preparing the campgrounds for opening on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Corporate Services staff are also processing seasonal camper applications.

Staff have verified and finalized the cover crops with farmers enrolled in the program and there are 733.8 acres eligible for funding of \$42,472 with funding from the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. With funding from the Integrated Conservation Action Plan program there was 717 acres of cover crops supported with \$22,165. With funding LPRCA supported 4 erosion control projects.

On Wednesday, March 4, 2026, two LPRCA staff members, Debbie Thain, Forestry Supervisor and Chris Reinhart, Forestry Technician attended the annual Ontario (Norfolk) Woodlot Owners Association meeting in Delhi. An information booth was set up for community outreach and the focus was on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) and offering landowners traps to deploy in woodlots for monitoring of HWA.

Staff confirmed the presence of HWA at Hay Creek CA. Staff have posted information about HWA and the information from CFIA. The trails will remain open however there will be a period of time in the spring that the trails will be closed for staff to treat the hemlock trees.

Staff has applied for provincial funding that is called Habitat Creation and Enhancement St. Thomas Development Program. The funding is applicable for our entire watershed and an application was submitted for funding of \$640,220 over 2 years for wetland creation, phragmite control, mapping of invasive species and ecological surveys for species at risk in the natural heritage woodlands.

All staff are working hard to deliver our programs and services to the residents of the watershed.

**Prepared and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**



## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**File:** 1.2.1.1

**To:** Chair and Members,  
LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager, LPRCA

**Re:** Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities Regarding Fee Changes

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the staff report regarding the Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities Regarding Fee Changes as information.**

### **Links to Strategic Plan:**

Strategic Direction # 1 – Protect People and Property from Flooding and Natural Hazards  
Strategic Direction # 2 – Deliver Exceptional Services and Experiences  
Strategic Direction # 3 – Support and Empower our People  
Strategic Direction # 4 – Organizational Excellence

### **Background:**

The Province of Ontario on October 25, 2022, introduced Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and it was passed by Legislature and received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. As a result of the comments submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), amendments were made to Bill 23.

The following amendments were made to Bill 23:

1. A new section 21.3 enables the Minister to issue a temporary direction to a Conservation Authority preventing the authority from changing the fee amount for a program or service set out in Section 21.2 (2).

Subsequently, on December 28, 2022, the Minister issued a Minister's Direction to all 36 Conservation Authorities to not change fees associated with planning, development, and permitting effective January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. Subsequent Minister's Directions were issued for the entirety of 2024 and 2025 as well.

**Discussion:**

In preparation for the 2026 Budget, LPRCA staff proposed a 5% increase in fees that had been frozen at the 2022 rates for planning and permitting services. The Board of Directors approved this increase, and it has been in effect since January 8, 2026.

On March 10, 2026, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks issued a direction for all conservation authorities to not change the amount of the fee it charges or the manner in which it determines the fee for any program or services as it relates to reviewing and commenting on planning applications and permits. This direction is in effect until February 28, 2027.

The correspondence from the Province outlining these changes is attached.

**Analysis:**

The LPRCA Board of Directors' approval of the budget and fee schedules took place during a time when there was no Minister's Direction in effect. As such, the LPRCA continues to operate under its approved fee schedules.

**Financial Implication:**

N/A

**Prepared by:**

*Leigh-Anne Mauthe*

Leigh-Anne Mauthe, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Watershed Services

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager



357-2026-736

March 10, 2026

**TO:** Conservation authorities as listed in Appendix A to the Attachment A  
"Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 21.3 of the *Conservation  
Authorities Act*"

**SUBJECT:** Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes  
associated with planning, development, and permitting fees

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I am writing with regards to conservation authority planning, development and permitting fees. Pursuant to my authority under subsection 21.3 (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, I am issuing a new Direction, attached to this letter as Attachment A. This Direction is consistent with the Directions that were previously in place for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 calendar years.

The purpose of this Direction, which is effective from March 10, 2026, to February 28, 2027, is to require a conservation authority not to change the amount of the fee it charges or the manner in which it determines the fee for any program or service related to reviewing and commenting on planning and development related proposals or land use planning policies, or for permits issued by conservation authorities. This Direction is intended to support less costly approvals in order to help increase housing supply and affordability in Ontario.

This Direction applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix A, who are encouraged to make the Direction publicly available on the Governance section of their websites.

If you have any questions regarding this Direction, please contact the ministry at [ca.office@ontario.ca](mailto:ca.office@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Todd McCarthy  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

c: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Minister’s Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 21.3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*  
(this “Direction”)**

**WHEREAS** section 21.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* permits a conservation authority to charge a fee for a program or service if the program or service is included in the Minister’s list of classes of programs and services in respect of which a conservation authority may charge a fee;

**AND WHEREAS** subsections 21.2 (6) and 21.2 (7) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provide that a conservation authority shall adopt a written fee policy that includes a fee schedule listing the programs and services that it provides in respect of which it charges a fee, and the amount of the fee charged for each program or service or the manner in which the fee is determined (a “**Fee Schedule**”);

**AND WHEREAS** subsection 21.2 (10) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provides that a conservation authority may make a change to the list of fees set out in the fee schedule or to the amount of any fee or the manner in which a fee is determined, provided the authority shall give notice of the proposed change to the public in a manner it considers appropriate;

**AND WHEREAS** section 21.3 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* provides the Minister with the authority to give a written direction to an authority directing it not to change the amount of any fee it charges under subsection 21.2 (10), in respect of a program or service set out in the list referred to in subsection 21.2 (2), for the period specified in the direction;

**NOW THEREFORE** pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under section 21.3, the conservation authorities set out under Appendix “A” of this Direction (the “**conservation authorities**” or each, a “**conservation authority**”) are hereby directed as follows:

**Fee Changes Prohibition**

1. Commencing on the Effective Date and for the duration of the Term of this Direction, a conservation authority is prohibited from making a change under subsection 21.2 (10) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* to the amount of any fee or the manner in which a fee is determined in its fee schedule if such a change would have the effect of changing the fee amount for the programs and services described in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Direction.

**Program and Service Fees Impacted**

2. This Direction applies to any fee set out in the Fee Schedule of a conservation authority, including without limitation fees for any mandatory program or service (Category 1), municipal program or service (Category 2), or conservation authority recommended program or service (Category 3) related to reviewing and commenting on planning and

## Attachment A

development related proposals, applications, or land use planning policies, or for conservation authority permitting.

3. For greater certainty, this Direction applies to any fees in respect of the following programs or services provided under the Mandatory Programs and Services regulation ([O. Reg. 686/21](#)):
  - a. Section 6: programs and services related to reviewing applications and proposals under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, *Drainage Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*, for the purpose of commenting on the risks related to natural hazards arising from the proposal,
  - b. Section 7: programs and services related to ensuring that decisions under the *Planning Act* are consistent with the natural hazards policies in the policy statements issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act* and are in conformance with any natural hazard policies included in a provincial plan as defined in section 1 of that Act,
  - c. Section 8: programs and services related to conservation authority duties, functions, and responsibilities to administer and enforce section 28 and its regulations, section 28.0.1, and section 30.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*,
  - d. Paragraph 4 of subsection 13 (3): programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on any proposal made under another Act for the purpose of determining whether the proposal relates to a significant drinking water threat or may impact any drinking water sources protected by a source protection plan, and
  - e. Subparagraph 4 iv of section 15: programs and services related to reviewing and commenting on proposals made under other Acts for the purpose of determining the proposal's impact on the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the Lake Simcoe watershed.

### **Application**

4. This Direction, applies to all conservation authorities in Ontario, listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.
5. For greater certainty, this Direction also applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction when such conservation authorities are meeting as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

### **Effective Date and Term**

6. This Direction is effective from March 10, 2026 (the "**Effective Date**").
7. The term of this Direction is the period from the Effective Date to February 28, 2027 (the "**Term**").

Attachment A

**Amendments**

8. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.

**HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ONTARIO  
as represented by the  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Todd McCarthy  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
March 10, 2026

## APPENDIX A

### LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

#### **Ausable Bayfield CA**

R.R. #3  
71108 Morrison Line  
Exeter ON N0M 1S5  
Davin Heinbuck  
dheinbuck@abca.on.ca

#### **Cataraqui Region CA**

Box 160  
1641 Perth Road  
Glenburnie ON K0H 1S0  
David Ellingwood  
dellingwood@crca.ca

#### **Catfish Creek CA**

R.R. #5  
8079 Springwater Road  
Aylmer ON N5H 2R4  
Dusty Underhill  
generalmanager@catfishcreek.ca

#### **Central Lake Ontario CA**

100 Whiting Avenue  
Oshawa ON L1H 3T3  
Chris Darling  
cdarling@cloca.com

#### **Credit Valley CA**

1255 Old Derry Rd  
Mississauga ON L5N 6R4  
Terri LeRoux  
terri.leroux@cvc.ca

#### **Crowe Valley CA**

Box 416  
70 Hughes Lane  
Marmora ON K0K 2M0  
Janette Loveys Smith  
janette.smith@crowevalley.com

#### **Essex Region CA**

Suite 311  
360 Fairview Ave West  
Essex ON N8M 1Y6  
Tim Byrne  
tbyrne@erca.org

**Ganaraska Region CA**

Box 328  
2216 County Road 28  
Port Hope ON L1A 3V8  
Linda Laliberte  
llaliberte@grca.on.ca

**Grand River CA**

Box 729  
400 Clyde Road  
Cambridge ON N1R 5W6  
Samantha Lawson  
slawson@grandriver.ca

**Grey Sauble CA**

R.R. #4  
237897 Inglis Falls Road  
Owen Sound ON N4K 5N6  
Tim Lanthier  
t.lanthier@greysauble.on.ca

**Halton Region CA**

2596 Britannia Road West  
Burlington ON L7P 0G3  
Chandra Sharma  
csharma@hrca.on.ca

**Hamilton Region CA**

P.O. Box 81067  
838 Mineral Springs Road  
Ancaster ON L9G 4X1  
Lisa Burnside  
lisa.burnside@conservationhamilton.ca

**Kawartha Region CA**

277 Kenrei (Park) Road  
Lindsay ON K9V 4R1  
Mark Majchrowski  
mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com

**Kettle Creek CA**

R.R. #8  
44015 Ferguson Line  
St. Thomas ON N5P 3T3  
Elizabeth VanHooren  
elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca

**Lake Simcoe Region CA**

Box 282  
120 Bayview Parkway  
Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3  
Rob Baldwin  
r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca

**Lakehead Region CA**

Box 10427  
130 Conservation Road  
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T8  
Tammy Cook  
tammy@lakeheadca.com

**Long Point Region CA**

4 Elm Street  
Tillsonburg ON N4G 0C4  
Judy Maxwell  
jmaxwell@lprca.on.ca

**Lower Thames Valley CA**

100 Thames Street  
Chatham ON N7L 2Y8  
Mark Peacock  
mark.peacock@ltvca.ca

**Lower Trent Region CA**

R.R. #1  
714 Murray Street  
Trenton ON K8V 5P4  
Rhonda Bateman  
rhonda.bateman@lrc.on.ca

**Maitland Valley CA**

Box 127  
1093 Marietta Street  
Wroxeter ON N0G 2X0  
Phil Beard  
pbeard@mvca.on.ca

**Mattagami Region CA**

100 Lakeshore Road  
Timmins ON P4N 8R5  
David Vallier  
david.vallier@timmins.ca

**Mississippi Valley CA**

10970 Highway 7  
Carleton Place ON K7C 3P1

Sally McIntyre  
smcintyre@mvc.on.ca

**Niagara Peninsula CA**

250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor  
Welland ON L3C 3W2  
Leilani Lee-Yates  
llee-yates@npca.ca

**Nickel District CA**

199 Larch St  
Suite 401  
Sudbury ON P3E 5P9  
Carl Jorgensen  
carl.jorgensen@conservationsudbury.ca

**North Bay-Mattawa CA**

15 Janey Avenue  
North Bay ON P1C 1N1  
Liza Vandermeer  
[liza.vandermeer@nbmca.ca](mailto:liza.vandermeer@nbmca.ca)

**Nottawasaga Valley CA**

8195 Line 8  
Utopia ON L0M 1T0  
Jennifer Vincent  
jvincent@nvca.on.ca

**Otonabee Region CA**

250 Milroy Drive  
Peterborough ON K9H 7M9  
Janette Loveys Smith  
jsmith@otonabeeconservation.com

**Quinte Region CA**

R.R. #2  
2061 Old Highway #2  
Belleville ON K8N 4Z2  
Brad McNevin  
bmcnevin@quinteconservation.ca

**Raisin Region CA**

PO Box 429  
18045 County Road 2  
Cornwall ON K6H 5T2  
Alison MacDonald  
alison.macdonald@rrca.on.ca

**Rideau Valley CA**

Box 599  
3889 Rideau Valley Dr.  
Manotick ON K4M 1A5  
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson  
sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca

**Saugeen Valley CA**

R.R. #1  
1078 Bruce Road #12, Box #150  
Formosa ON N0G 1W0  
Erik Downing  
e.downing@svca.on.ca

**Sault Ste. Marie Region CA**

1100 Fifth Line East  
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 6J8  
Corrina Barrett  
cbarrett@ssmrca.ca

**South Nation River CA**

38 Victoria Street  
P.O. Box 29  
Finch ON K0C 1K0  
Carl Bickerdike  
cbickerdike@nation.on.ca

**St. Clair Region CA**

205 Mill Pond Crescent  
Strathroy ON N7G 3P9  
Ken Phillips  
kphillips@scrca.on.ca

**Toronto and Region CA**

101 Exchange Avenue  
Vaughan ON L4K 5R6  
John MacKenzie  
john.mackenzie@trca.ca

**Upper Thames River CA**

1424 Clarke Road  
London ON N5V 5B9  
Tracey Annett  
annettt@thamesriver.on.ca



## LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** March 25, 2026

**File:** 1.4.3

**To:** Chair and Members,  
LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager, LPRCA

**Re: Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – ERO #025-1257  
Decision Notice**

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors receives the Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities ERO #025-1257 Decision Notice report as information.**

### **Link to Strategic Plan:**

Strategic Direction #3 – Support and Empower Our People  
Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

### **Purpose:**

To provide members an update on the March 10, 2026 Provincial Announcement regarding the next steps in the regional consolidation of Conservation Authorities and the decision notice for ERO#025-1257.

### **Background:**

- On October 31, 2025, the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) announced “Ontario Creating New Conservation Authority Agency to improve Service Delivery and Protect Communities”.
- On November 6, 2025, Schedule 3 of Bill 68 “Plan to Protect Ontario Act” (Budget Measures) was released and included changes to the Conservation Authorities Act to create the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The Bill passed 3rd reading on November 25, 2025.
- On November 7, 2025, the “Proposed Boundaries for Regional Consolidation of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities” (ERO #025-1257) was posted to the Environmental Registry for a 45-day consultation period. MECP notified Conservation Authorities that comment on the policy proposal was available through the ERO posting. The public was invited to comment on the proposed configuration of 7 regional CAs including the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority which will consist of Long Point Region Conservation Authority and 7 other CAs and 81 municipalities.
- The consultation period closed on December 22, 2025.

**Discussion:**

On March 10, 2026, the Province announced its revised framework for the consolidation of Conservation Authorities (CAs) through a Decision Notice for ERO #025-1257 and a Ministry briefing with CAs and Municipalities.

Over 14,000 responses were submitted to the ERO posting and informed the final decision. All submissions can be viewed here: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257>

As a result of the ERO posting the consolidation of the 36 CA's will increase to 9 regional CA's from the originally proposed 7.

The 9 regional CA's boundaries with the current corresponding CA's are as follows:

Proposed Regional CAs	List of predecessor (i.e., existing) CAs being consolidated
Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Lake Ontario CA</li> <li>• Toronto and Region CA</li> </ul>
Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catfish Creek CA</li> <li>• Grand River CA</li> <li>• Kettle Creek CA</li> <li>• Long Point Region CA</li> </ul>
Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cataraqui Region CA</li> <li>• Crowe Valley CA</li> <li>• Ganaraska Region CA</li> <li>• Kawartha Region CA</li> <li>• Lower Trent Region CA</li> <li>• Otonabee Region CA</li> <li>• Quinte Region CA</li> </ul>
Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ausable Bayfield CA</li> <li>• Grey Sauble CA</li> <li>• Lake Simcoe Region CA</li> <li>• Maitland Valley CA</li> <li>• Nottawasaga Valley CA</li> <li>• Saugeen Valley CA</li> </ul>
Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mattagami Region CA</li> <li>• Nickel District CA</li> <li>• North Bay Mattawa CA</li> <li>• Sault Ste. Marie Region CA</li> </ul>
Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakehead Region CA</li> </ul>
St. Lawrence River Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mississippi Valley CA</li> <li>• Raisin Region CA</li> <li>• Rideau Valley CA</li> <li>• South Nation River CA</li> </ul>
Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex Region CA</li> <li>• Lower Thames Valley CA</li> <li>• St. Clair Region CA</li> <li>• Upper Thames River CA</li> </ul>
Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credit Valley CA</li> <li>• Halton Region CA</li> <li>• Hamilton Region CA</li> <li>• Niagara Peninsula CA</li> </ul>

The consolidations will be outlined as a statutory amalgamation through changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This will provide legal continuation that all the assets, liabilities, agreements and contracts of the predecessor CAs will become those of the new regional CAs. The Province has stressed that staffing, current programs and services and local input will be preserved in the new model.

The province outlined that a key component to ensuring a smooth transition to the new regional model will be the guidance provided by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Authority (OPCA). In addition to the \$20 million allocated for its formation, the OPCA will have \$3 million of annual funding to allocate to Regional CAs as needed during the transition. Post transition, the funding will support CAs to achieve improvements and programs standards as set by OPCA.

Other proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* that were in the Ministry briefing are listed below:

### Transition Plans

- Each region will establish a Transition Committee to include the CAO/GM and one municipality elected official from each predecessor CA (or an alternative if they are not available).
- A project executive will be appointed by the OPCA to chair each Transition Committee and will serve as the Regional CA CAO for up to 24 months following consolidation.
- The Transition Committee will be mandated to develop a transition plan to be implemented by the new Regional CA.
- The Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act will be used to assist with labour relations.

### Minister Powers during the Transition

- The Minister may issue restrictions related to extraordinary financial, asset or employment decisions during transition (i.e. prevent major land dispositions).
- The Minister may issue direction on the budget and apportionment process for 2027 (i.e. direct CAs to complete 2027 budgets by December 31, 2026 and issue apportionment to current participating municipalities).

### Governance

- Participating municipalities will be upper tier and single tier municipalities within a CA's jurisdiction appointing members to the regional Boards following the October municipal elections.
- Each participating upper tier or single tier municipality would be guaranteed one member on the regional CA Board.
- Capping the total number of members on a regional CA board.
- Limiting the number of members that any one municipality could appoint.

### Local Representation

- Each Regional CA will be required to establish one or more watershed councils (composition, functions, powers and duties to be outlined in regulation).

The Province aims to consolidate CAs by February 1, 2027. Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* will be introduced shortly with ongoing briefings expected throughout the transition period.

**Prepared by:**

*Aaron LeDuc*  
**Aaron LeDuc, CPA, CGA**  
**Manager of Corporate Services**

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*  
**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA**  
**General Manager**



# LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**File:** 3.6.9

**To:** Chair and Members,  
LPRCA Board of Directors

**From:** General Manager, LPRCA

**Re:** Upper Big Creek Flood and Erosion Hazard Mapping

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## **Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors direct staff to retain D.M. Wills Associates Limited for engineering services to complete Flood and Erosion Hazard Mapping for Upper Big Creek at a cost of \$64,020.00 exclusive of HST.**

## **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction # 1 – Protect People and Property from Flooding and Natural Hazards  
Strategic Direction # 2 – Deliver Exceptional Services and Experiences  
Strategic Direction # 3 – Support and Empower our People  
Strategic Direction # 4 – Organizational Excellence

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to seek LPRCA Board approval to retain a consultant to prepare new flood and erosion hazard mapping for upper Big Creek in Norfolk, Brant and Oxford Counties.

## **Background:**

LPRCA applied for and received a federal Flood Hazard Information and Mapping Program (FHIMP) grant through the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for 50% of the cost of preparing flood and erosion hazard mapping on the upper portion of Big Creek.

This project will prepare flood and erosion hazard mapping along Big Creek from Windham Road 2 in Norfolk County north through Brant County to New Durham Line, in Norwich Township. There is currently no flood hazard mapping for this area.

The project would provide new digital topographic mapping, river cross-sections, updated computer modeling tools, flood levels for a range of flood events and updated 100-year floodlines. In addition, this project will also determine in areas without confined valleys, the extent of the erosion hazard.

On February 25, 2026, staff released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consulting services on the Bids & Tenders website and on the LPRCA website. Three addenda to the RFP were also posted to answer the clarification questions that prospective consulting firms asked. The RFP closed at 3:00 pm on March 17, 2026.

**Discussion:**

Twelve proposals were received by the March 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. Proposals were reviewed and evaluated by a staff assessment team to determine the strengths and qualifications most advantageous to LPRCA based on the following RFP evaluation criteria:

1. Proposal completeness and quality 10%
2. Qualifications and experience 25%
3. Understanding, approach and methods 40%
4. Schedule 10%
5. Cost 15%.

All 12 proposals met the requirements outlined in the RFP and are listed below:

<b>Consultants</b>	<b>Price (excluding HST)</b>
Ahydtech Geomorphic	\$68,915.00
Aquafor Beech Limited	\$86,060.00
BGC Engineering Inc.	\$89,950.00
CBCL Limited	\$97,743.00
D.M. Wills Associates Limited	\$64,020.00
Delta Science and Engineering Inc.	\$87,060.00
GeoProcess Research Associates Inc.	\$91,210.00
Greck and Associates Limited	\$84,570.00
Greenland International Consulting Ltd.	\$84,446.87
Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd.	\$81,124.00
PG Geotechnical Consultants Corp.	\$89,500.00
Water's Edge Environmental Solutions Team	\$89,997.56

Based on the evaluation of the submitted proposals, staff recommends that the proposal submitted by D.M. Wills Associates Limited be accepted at a cost of \$64,020.00 excluding HST.

D.M. Wills' proposal ranked highest overall in staff's evaluation for proposal completeness and quality, qualifications and experience, and approach and methods. LPRCA staff have experience working with D.M Wills and the project team.

**Financial Implication:**

The approved LPRCA 2026 Capital Budget includes for this project of \$120,000. The approved FHIMP grant will cover 50% of the costs up to a maximum contribution of \$60,000. LPRCA's matching funds were approved from the prior year capital levy in the 2026 Budget.

The proposal from D.M. Wills Associates Limited is \$64,020.00 plus \$1,126.75 for the unrecoverable portion of HST for a total of \$65,146.75. A budget of \$100,000 was allocated for the consultant and \$20,000 for staff related expenses.

**Prepared by:**

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Leigh-Anne Mauthe*

*Judy Maxwell*

**Leigh-Anne Mauthe, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Watershed Services**

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**



**LONG POINT REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
STAFF REPORT**

**Date:** April 1, 2026 **File:** 2.1.C.1.7  
**To:** Chair and Members  
LPRCA Board of Directors  
**From:** General Manager/Secretary Treasurer, LPRCA  
**Re:** Agricultural Land Rental Tender – Backus Heritage CA

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**Recommendation:**

**THAT the LPRCA Board of Directors accepts the tender submitted by Brian Dekeyser of Silverhill Farms for the rental of 32 acres of agricultural land located at Backus Heritage Conservation Area with a submitted bid of \$403.75 per acre, per year, for the contract period April 2, 2026 to March 31, 2029.**

**Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Services and Experiences  
Strategic Direction #3 – Support and Empower Our People  
Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

**Background:**

The agricultural lands at Backus Heritage Conservation Area are located immediately west of the entrance road leading into the park and north of South Walsingham Concession Road 2. The fields are rented on a three-year term and the last contract was with Brad DeCloet, at a rate of \$300.00 per acre, per year plus HST

**Discussion:**

Request for Tender for the land rental was completed and staff advertised the agricultural lands for rent in mid-March, 2026 and the results of the tendering process are listed below:

<b>Bidders</b>	<b>Price per Acre</b>	<b>Total Yearly Contract excluding HST</b>
Brad DeCloet	\$ 355.00	\$ 11,360.00
Brian Dekeyser (Silverhill Farms)	\$ 403.75	\$ 12,920.00

**Financial Implications:**

Revenues derived from land rentals are credited to the Operations Budget. The contract will be a total of \$12,920 plus HST per year for 3 years.

**Prepared and Submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**



	<b>Bidders</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Meets/exceeds RFT Requirements</b>	<b>Price (Excluding HST)</b>
1	Heaslip Ford	Ford F150	✓	\$ 112,673.14
2	Eichenberg Chrysler	Ram 2500	✓	\$ 120,904.00

All vendor bids/models met or exceeded the required tender specifications. It is recommended that the Board award the tender to the low bidder, Heaslip Ford, for the two Ford F150 4x4 Regular Cab model.

**Financial Implications:**

The 2026 Capital Budget was \$118,000 resulting in a positive variance of \$5,326.86 between budget and actual. The difference following aftermarket additions will be transferred to the internally restricted Motor Pool reserve.

**Prepared by:**

*Aaron LeDuc*

**Aaron LeDuc, CPA, CGA  
Manager of Corporate Services**

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**



	<b>Bidders</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Meets/exceeds RFT Requirements</b>	<b>Price (Excluding HST)</b>
1	Norfolk Tractor	ZD1011-3-54	✓	\$ 38,400.00
2	Hyde Park Equipment	ZD1011-3-54	✓	\$ 38,800.00

All vendor bids/models met or exceeded the required quote specifications. It is recommended that the Board award the quote to the low bidder, Norfolk Tractor, for the Kubota ZD1011-3-54 Zero Turn Mower.

**Financial Implications:**

The 2026 Capital Budget was \$39,000 resulting in a positive variance of \$600 between budget and actual. The difference will be transferred to the internally restricted Motor Pool reserve.

**Prepared by:**

*Aaron LeDuc*

**Aaron LeDuc, CPA, CGA  
Manager of Corporate Services**

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**



Conservation Area	Frankie's Pumping	Stealth Environmental	Bayside Septic
Haldimand	\$ 195.00	\$ 221.24	\$ 230.00
Backus Heritage	\$ 245.00	\$ 199.11	\$ 187.00
Deer Creek	\$ 245.00	\$ 199.11	\$ 187.00
Norfolk	\$ 245.00	\$ 199.11	\$ 158.00
Waterford North	\$ 195.00	\$ 199.11	\$ 175.00

It is recommended we award the contracts to the lowest bidder by park:

- Backus Heritage - Bayside Septic Services
- Deer Creek - Bayside Septic Services
- Haldimand – Frankie’s Pumping
- Norfolk – Bayside Septic Services
- WNCA – Bayside Septic Services

**Financial Implications:**

The overall 2026 budget for the five locations septic disposal services is \$95,250 or 10.40% higher than 2025 and the average low bid received was exactly the same as last years low bids, with the only exception being Waterford North which is 3.55% higher than the 2025 approved low bids.

Based on historical average volumes the costs for septic services are projected to be in line with budget.

**Prepared By:**

**Approved and Submitted by:**

*Aaron LeDuc*

*Judy Maxwell*

**Aaron LeDuc, CPA, CGA  
Manager of Corporate Services**

**Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager**