



## News Release

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100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa, ON, L1H 3T3  
(905) 579-0411, fax (905) 579-0994

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### Councillor Gerry Emm Elected Chair of Central Lake Ontario Conservation

At the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's (CLOCA) board meeting on January 16, 2007 in Oshawa, Councillor Gerry Emm of the Town of Whitby was elected to the position of Chair of the Conservation Authority and Councillor Brian Nicholson from the City of Oshawa was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

The meeting started with departing 2006 Authority Chair Jim Schell welcoming new board members and commenting on the accomplishments of Central Lake Ontario Conservation over the past year.

*"Working in partnership for healthy watersheds summarizes the Authority's mandate. When you look over the past year one can see how closely Central Lake Ontario Conservation works with a variety of community stakeholders to achieve local and regional environmental benefits for our constituents.*

*I would like to take a minute to highlight some of the projects and achievements in 2006:*

*The Hampton Pond Restoration Project was officially opened on Earth Day in April and returned a beloved natural feature to Hampton residents. The project consisted of the reconstruction of the pond and wetland to enhance and create wildlife habitat in the area. This included over 400 native trees and shrubs that were planted by the residents of Hampton. An information kiosk was also constructed at the entrance and a walking trail will be added in 2007. Authority staff worked with the Hampton Citizen's Association and Municipality of Clarington to secure funding and provide technical expertise in the design, planning and implementation of the project.*

*The Bowmanville/Westside Marshes Conservation Area was officially opened in June, located at the south end of Clarington. The new Conservation Area hosts various wildlife viewing facilities, two Provincially Significant Wetlands, interpretative signage and 1.5 kilometres of trails. This project would not have been possible without the support of Ducks Unlimited, the Municipality of Clarington, St Marys Cement Company and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and is sure to be a popular site for watershed residents.*

*Working with the Oak Ridges Trail Association, 2.6 kilometres of the Oak Ridges Trail was rerouted through Purple Woods and Rahmani Tract Conservation Areas in the City of Oshawa. The new route increases safety for trail users along with access to spectacular views of the Authority watershed from the top of the Moraine. Currently, over 6 kilometres of the Oak Ridges Trail passes through three Authority Conservation Areas.*

*In May 2006 the Conservation Authorities Generic Regulations came into affect with all 36 Conservation Authorities meeting the deadline. I would like to commend our staff for a job well done as our Central Lake Ontario Conservation was the lead Authority in the Province for this project and the first to have their regulations approved by the peer review committee last February. The new regulation gives more protection to wetlands that are vital to water quality in our watersheds.*

*CLOCA's stewardship and outreach activities continued to grow in 2006. This past year over 40,000 tree seedlings were planted through the Authority's stewardship program and another 18,000 sold to private landowners. Authority staff continued to meet the public by participating in over 15 community events, leading family summer programs, assisting at the International Plowing Match and hosting a public volunteer appreciation evening and community environmental fair. Chief Topleaf was the guest speaker for the evening, thrilling guests of all ages with his look back at the changing landscape.*

*Over 13,000 students from Durham Region participated in CLOCA's environmental education programs including the Durham Children's Groundwater Festival, Creek and Waterways Safety Awareness, Maple Syrup program and day programs in local schools and Conservation Areas. 2007 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Durham Children's Groundwater Festival, launched by the Authority in 1998. CLOCA staff also played a supporting role with new educational initiatives, including the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Farm Connections program in partnership with Durham Region and the Ontario Forestry Association's Envirothon high school competition held at Enniskillen Conservation Area.*

*Land acquisition around CLOCA's holdings on the Oak Ridges Moraine continued in 2006 with approximately 490 acres added to Enniskillen Conservation Area and 120 acres added to Long Sault Conservation Area. Both of these areas are now over 1,000 acres in size. The Authority continues to receive strong support for this initiative from the Region of Durham, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources Ecological Land Acquisition Program.*

*With the passing of the Clean Water Act this past October, Source Water Protection will be a major focus in 2007 with the establishment of source protection areas and regions, source protection committees and the terms of reference for the planning process. The Drinking Water Stewardship Fund announced in September is particularly significant, since it is established in legislation that the province accepts some responsibility for funding implementation of projects to support the Clean Water Act. We are very pleased to have Russ Powell as one of the Conservation Ontario representatives on the advisory panel.*

*In conclusion I would like to thank once again the Board of Directors and staff for your support and hard work. It has been a pleasure to participate in the organization and hold the position of Chair. I wish you all the best in 2007."*

After the Chair's remarks, CAO Russ Powell presented Jim Schell with a plaque and a gift for his work and dedication to Central Lake Ontario Conservation.

### **Councillor Emm Elected Chair**

At the conclusion of the election, Chair Gerry Emm conducted the remainder of the meeting with the opening address.

*"I would like to thank the Directors for their vote of confidence and I look forward to working with them and staff over the coming year. 2007 will be an exciting year for Central Lake Ontario Conservation as we work closely with our municipal partners, Durham Region and the community to protect and enhance the watersheds in which we live.*

*I am very proud of the work achieved by Central Lake Ontario Conservation especially in the areas of children's programs. The Authority's school programs that include events such as the Durham Children's Groundwater Festival and Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival help to foster an appreciation for healthy watersheds in the decision makers of tomorrow."*

**2007 Central Lake Ontario Conservation  
Board of Directors**

**Chair**  
**Councillor Gerry Emm**  
(Town of Whitby)



**Vice-Chair**  
**Councillor Brian Nicholson**  
(City of Oshawa)



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For more information please contact the Authority office at (905) 579-0411 or visit our web site at [www.cloca.com](http://www.cloca.com).

***What we do on the land is mirrored in the water***

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