

NOTICE TO

CLOCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please find enclosed the **agenda** and supporting documents for the **CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting** on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** This meeting will be a **Hybrid meeting**. Members can join either virtual through TEAMS or attend in-person at the Authority's Administrative Office - 100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa

The list below outlines upcoming meetings and events for your information.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
*Tuesday, May 13/25	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, June 17/25	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Friday, June 20/25	9:00 p.m. to 10:40 p.m.	Summer Solstice/Firefly Hike	Purple Woods Conservation Area 38 Coates Road East, Oshawa
Tuesday, July 15/25	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, September 16/25	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, October 21/25	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, November 18/25	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, December 16/25	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting

****Prior Tuesday meeting due to Monday being a statutory holiday***

LATEST NEWS

Check Out our website! www.cloca.com Discover your local Conservation Area.

"Healthy Watersheds for Today and Tomorrow"

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

A G E N D A

AUTHORITY MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - 5:00 P.M.

HYBRID MEETING LOCATION: VIRTUAL THROUGH TEAMS (ACCESS DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED)
OR 100 WHITING AVENUE, OSHAWA, AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, BOARDROOM

Authority Members: Bob Chapman, Chair
Rhonda Mulcahy, Vice Chair
Marilyn Crawford
Sami Elhajjeh
Bruce Garrod
Ron Hooper
Rick Kerr
Tito-Dante Marimpietri
Ian McDougall
John Neal
David Pickles
Elizabeth Roy
Maleeha Shahid
Corinna Traill
Steve Yamada

Authority Staff: C. Darling, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Boardman, Senior Executive/Accounting Administrator
R. Catulli, Director, Corporate Services
J. Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning & Natural Heritage
L. Hastings, Communications Specialist
D. Hipple, Director, Engineering
D. Hope, Director, Land Operations & Education
C. Jones, Director, Planning & Regulation
L. Vaja, Executive Assistant/Health & Safety Administrator/ Recording Secretary
R. Wilmot, Information Management & Technology Manager

Others:

AGENDA ITEM:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

We acknowledge that our watershed is located on the Lands of the Great Mississauga Nations who are signatories to the Williams Treaties. These communities include the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, First Nations of Alderville, Beausoleil, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Chippewas of Georgina Island and Rama. We believe it is important that we learn, and work to reconcile the impact we, and those before us, have had on the original inhabitants. On behalf of CLOCA, we want to thank them for sharing this land and all its resources. At CLOCA, our goal is to respectfully share in the responsibility of the stewardship and protection of these ancestral lands and waters and continue towards truth and reconciliation as we move forward as friends and allies with all First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people.

2. DECLARATIONS of interest by members on any matters herein contained.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES of April 15, 2025

pg. 1

4. PRESENTATIONS – None

5. CORRESPONDENCE – None

6. DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGULATION

(1) Staff Report #5930-25

pg. 4

Re: Permits Issued for Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses – April 1 to 30, 2025

Cont'd

7. DIRECTOR, WATERSHED PLANNING & NATURAL HERITAGE

- (1) Staff Report #5933-25 pg. 6
Re: Provincial Proposal to Repeal the Current Endangered Species Act and Replace it
With a Proposed Species Conservation Act.

- (1) Staff Report #5932-25 pg. 9
Re: 2024 Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program Update - **Staff Presentation**

8. DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING – None

9. DIRECTOR, LAND OPERATIONS & EDUCATION – None

10. DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES

- (1) Staff Report #5934-25 pg. 14
Re: 2025 Budget

11. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- (1) Staff Report #5931-25 pg. 62
Re: Conservation Ontario 2024 Annual Report

12. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

13. ADJOURNMENT

A G E N D A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

MEETING OF:	Authority
DATE:	Tuesday, May 13, 2025
TIME:	5:00 p.m.
LOCATION:	Hybrid – Virtual (TEAMS) or In-person - 100 Whiting Ave, Oshawa

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES NO. 3

AUTHORITY MEETING

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 - 5:00 P.M.

HYBRID MEETING LOCATION: VIRTUAL THROUGH TEAMS (ACCESS DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED)
OR 100 WHITING AVENUE, OSHAWA, AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, BOARDROOM

Authority Members: Bob Chapman, Chair
Rhonda Mulcahy, Vice Chair
Marilyn Crawford
Bruce Garrod
Ron Hooper
Rick Kerr
Ian McDougall
David Pickles
Maleeha Shahid

Authority Staff: C. Darling, Chief Administrative Officer
L. Benham, Senior Water Resources Engineer
B. Boardman, Senior Executive/Accounting Administrator
R. Catulli, Director, Corporate Services
J. Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning & Natural Heritage
L. Hastings, Communications Specialist
D. Hipple, Director, Engineering
D. Hope, Director, Land Operations & Education
C. Jones, Director, Planning & Regulation
L. Vaja, Executive Assistant/Health & Safety Administrator/ Recording Secretary
R. Wilmot, Information Management & Technology Manager
J. Windolf, Water Resources Engineer

Absent: Sami Elhajjeh
Tito-Dante Marimpietri
John Neal
Elizabeth Roy
Corinna Traill
Steve Yamada

Others: Marianne Love, ML Consulting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Chair Chapman recited the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

R. Kerr arrived at 5:08 p.m.

DECLARATIONS of interest by members on any matters herein contained - *None*

ADOPTION OF MINUTES (Agenda pg. 1)

Res. #27 Moved by R. Kerr
Seconded by B. Garrod

THAT the Authority minutes of February 11, 2025, be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS - *None*

CORRESPONDENCE – *None*

DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGULATION

- (1) Staff Report #5924-25 (Agenda pg. 3)
Re: Permits Issued for Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses – February 1 to March 31, 2025

Res. #28 Moved by I. McDougall
Seconded by M. Crawford

THAT Staff Report #5924-25 be received for information.
CARRIED

DIRECTOR, WATERSHED PLANNING & NATURAL HERITAGE

- (1) Staff Report #5926-25 (Agenda pg. 5)
Re: Restoration and Stewardship Program – 2024 In Review

Res. #29 Moved by I. McDougall
Seconded by D. Pickles

THAT Staff Report #5926-25 be received for information.
CARRIED

DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING

- (1) Staff Report #5925-25 (Agenda pg. 9)
Re: Floodplain Mapping for Lynde Creek

Res. #30 Moved by M. Shahid
Seconded by B. Garrod

THAT the Floodplain Mapping for Lynde Creek Study and associated floodplain mapping be endorsed and accepted for implementation with CLOCA regulations and programs.
CARRIED

DIRECTOR, LAND OPERATIONS & EDUCATION

- (1) Staff Report #5928-25 (Agenda pg. 11)
Re: Winter/Spring 2025 – Conservation Areas Update

Res. #31 Moved by R. Hooper
Seconded by I. McDougall

THAT Staff Report #5928-25 be received for information.
CARRIED

R. Hooper inquired about the recent ice storm within our Conservation Areas. C. Darling advised that we fared a lot better than our neighbours to the North, hence very little ice damage.

Councillor McDougall inquired about our syrup targets for 2025 and visitor numbers to the festival. C. Darling advised that it was a slow start due to the weather conditions but our syrup production this year will be around the 1000 litres. In addition, our visitor numbers were lower than average, due to mother nature and unfavourable weather conditions, as we had to cancel a few dates of the festival.

Chair Chapman mentioned that he attended the Sips & Savors event on Saturday, April 12, 2025, with Councillor Kerr and Member Hooper. It was a sold-out event and turned out to be a great night. Well done to the staff.

DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES – None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

(1) Staff Report #5927-25 (Agenda pg. 16)
Re: Strategic Plan 2021-2025 Update

Res. #32 Moved by M. Shahid
Seconded by R. Mulcahy

THAT Staff Report #5927-25 be received for information.
CARRIED

J. Windolf leaves the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

(1) Staff Report #5929-25 (Confidential Agenda pg. 17)
Re: Labour Relations/Employee Negotiations

Res. #33 Moved by R. Kerr
Seconded by B. Garrod

CARRIED

M. Love leaves the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

ADJOURNMENT

Res. #34 Moved by R. Kerr
Seconded by R. Mulcahy

THAT the meeting adjourns.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

BOB CHAPMAN, CHAIR

CHRIS DARLING, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

DATE: May 13, 2025

FILE: RPRG3974

S.R.: 5930-25

APPROVED BY C.A.O.



TO: Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors

FROM: Chris Jones, Director, Planning and Regulation

SUBJECT: **Permits Issued under Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act for development activities, interference with watercourses and wetlands – April 1 to 30, 2025**

Attached are Development, Interference with Watercourse and/or Wetland applications made pursuant to Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24, as approved by staff and presented for the members' information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Staff Report #5930-25 be received for information.

Attach.

PERMITS ISSUED UNDER PART VI OF THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT, FROM APRIL 1 TO 30 2025

Row	Municipality	Owner Applicant	Street Lot Con	Permit No	Description
1	CLARINGTON	MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON / VIANET INC.	BASILINE ROAD / LOT 29-33 / CON BFC & CONCESSION 01	C24-016-BFGHW	EXTENDED - DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
2	CLARINGTON	DURHAM ONENET / VYTAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE	PORT DARLINGTON ROAD / LOT 09 / CON BF	C25-054-H	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CONDUIT INSTALLATION
3	CLARINGTON	TRANS NORTHERN PIPELINES INC. / STANTEC	3567 MAPLE GROVE ROAD / LOT 18 / CON 03	C25-055-W	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH EXCAVATION REQUIRED FOR PIPELINE MAINTENANCE
4	CLARINGTON	TRANS NORTHERN PIPELINES INC. / STANTEC	3343 LAMBS ROAD / LOT 06 / CON 03	C25-056-W	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH EXCAVATION REQUIRED FOR PIPELINE MAINTENANCE
5	CLARINGTON	BELL CANADA / PLANVIEW	REGIONAL ROAD 3 AND LANGMAID ROAD / LOT 33-35 / CON 07 & 08	C25-061-GW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH NEW COMMUNICATION DUCTS
6	CLARINGTON	DURHAM ONENET / PROPERTY OWNER	LIBERTY STREET NORTH (FROM CONCESSION ROAD 4 TO 3375 LIBERTY STREET NORTH) / LOT 10 / CON 03 & 04	C25-063-BFGW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS
7	CLARINGTON	DURHAM ONENET / PROPERTY OWNER	CONCESSION ROAD 4 (FROM LIBERTY STREET NORTH TO 2548 CONCESSION ROAD 4) / LOT 11 & 12 / CON 03 & 04	C25-064-ABFGW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS
8	CLARINGTON	DURHAM ONENET / PROPERTY OWNER	LIBERTY STREET NORTH FROM TAUNTON ROAD TO CONCESSION ROAD 4 / LOT 10 & 11 / CON 03 & 04	C25-066-ABFGW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS
9	CLARINGTON	DURHAM ONENET / VYTAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE	KING STREET WEST & SCUGOG STREET (NEAR 116 KING STREET WEST & 19 SCUGOG STREET) / LOT 12 & 13 / CON 01	C25-072-ABFG	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS
10	OSHAWA	PROPERTY OWNER / ZELINKA PRIMO LTD.	481 GIBB STREET / LOT 14 / CON 01	O25-051-BF	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ERECTION OF A TEMPORARY STRUCTURE FOR SEASONAL GARDENING SUPPLIES
11	OSHAWA	PROPERTY OWNER	811 GLENMANOR DRIVE / LOT 13 / CON 03	O25-052-RH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INTERIOR RENOVATIONS TO AN EXISTING BASEMENT
12	OSHAWA	UMIAK INVESTMENTS LIMITED / D.G. BIDDLE & ASSOCIATES	HARMONY CREEK ALONG GRANDVIEW STREET NORTH / LOT / CON	O25-059-BFGW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: CUT & FILL OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR AND ITS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DRAFT APPROVED PLAN OF SUBDIVISION AND THE APPROVED PLANS.
13	OSHAWA	1001109807 ONTARIO LIMITED / D.G. BIDDLE & ASSOCIATES	1226 KING STREET / LOT 01 / CON 01	O25-060-BGH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH SITE EARTHWORKS, SERVICING, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMERCIAL BUILDING AND ASSOCIATED PARKING AND RESTORATION
14	OSHAWA	PROPERTY OWNER	615 PERRY CRESCENT / LOT 15 / CON 01	O25-062-FR	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INTERIOR ALTERATIONS TO AN EXISTING BASEMENT TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL DWELLING UNIT
15	OSHAWA	DURHAM ONENET / VYTAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE	NEAR 243 KING STREET / LOT 08 / CON 01	O25-069-ABFGW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS
16	OSHAWA	DURHAM ONENET / LYNX PLANNING & ENGINEERING	POPLAR COURT TO HARMONY ROAD SOUTH / LOT 05 / CON 01	O25-070-BFG	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS
17	WHITBY	WINASH DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED	GARDEN STREET / LOT 24 / CON 05	W24-068-GH	EXTENDED - DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH WETLAND CONSTRUCTION/GROUND COVER REMOVAL AND EARTHWORKS
18	WHITBY	PROPERTY OWNER/ MECHWAYS INC.	29 ARMILIA PLACE / LOT 32 / CON 03	W25-053-FR	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CREATING A BASEMENT APARTMENT IN AN EXISTING UNFINISHED BASEMENT
19	WHITBY	TOWN OF WHITBY	301 WATSON STREET WEST / LOT 27 / CON BF	W25-057-BFGS	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STORAGE BUILDING AND APPROXIMATELY SURFACE GRADING
20	WHITBY	PROPERTY OWNER / WEDESIGNBUILD INC.	3 WIMBLEDON COURT / LOT 31 / CON 03	W25-058-R	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CREATING AN ADDITIONAL DWELLING UNIT IN AN EXISTING UNFINISHED BASEMENT
21	WHITBY	TRANS NORTHERN PIPELINES INC. / STANTEC	BETWEEN LAKE RIDGE NORTH AND HALLS ROAD NORTH / LOT 35 / CON 04	W25-065-GW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH REGULAR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES ALONG PIPELINE
22	WHITBY	ENBRIDGE GAS INC.	WINCHESTER ROAD EAST / LOT 23 & 24 / CON 05 & 06	W25-067-ABFG	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH ABANDONING AND INSTALLING A GAS MAIN
23	WHITBY	PROPERTY OWNER	4 LENNON COURT / LOT 32 / CON 02	W25-068-BG	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH A NEW SWIMMING POOL AND DECK
24	WHITBY	PROPERTY OWNER	27 ADANAC DRIVE / LOT 22 / CON 01	W25-071-R	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RENOVATING AN EXISTING BASEMENT TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL DWELLING UNIT AND ENLARGE ONE WINDOW

REPORT

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY


DATE: May 13, 2025

FILE: ASLA30

S.R.: 5933-25

TO: Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors

FROM: Jamie Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning and Natural Heritage
Kathy Luttrell, Senior Natural Heritage Ecologist

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

SUBJECT: Provincial Proposal to Repeal the Current Endangered Species Act and Replace it With a Proposed Species Conservation Act.

Overview

The Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) is the province's primary law for protecting endangered, threatened, and special concern species and their full range of habitat needs. It establishes a science-based process for listing species at risk through the independent Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) and mandates automatic legal protections for listed species and their habitats. The Act requires the development of recovery strategies and government response statements, prohibits harming listed species or damaging their habitat, and encourages stewardship through partnerships and incentives.

The Ontario government has announced plans to repeal the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) and replace it with a new Species Conservation Act as outlined in the governments recently released Bill 5, the Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act. The proposed changes are currently posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #025-0380) for review and comment. This new framework intends to modernize species protection while balancing environmental and economic priorities. This report highlights both the potential benefits and concerns.

Assessment of Proposed Changes

Positive Aspects:

More Strategic Conservation Efforts

The Species Conservation Act emphasizes landscape-scale planning rather than piecemeal, site-specific interventions. Proponents argue that this could lead to more meaningful, coordinated efforts to recover species across entire ecosystems, rather than isolated projects with limited impact.

Improved Regulatory Clarity and Efficiency

The new Act seeks to streamline regulatory processes for permits, authorizations, and approvals, which could reduce administrative delays. This may lead to faster implementation of conservation measures and better alignment between environmental goals and land-use planning.

Negative Aspects:

Delayed Protections for Species and Habitats

The proposed Species Conservation Act allows for delayed listing and delayed habitat protections for newly assessed species. During these delays, critical habitat could be lost, permanently undermining recovery efforts for the most vulnerable species.

Increased Political Discretion

The new framework expands ministerial discretion to override scientific recommendations, postpone protections, or adjust recovery timelines. There is a concern that overriding scientific recommendations could result in politicizing conservation decisions and prioritizing short-term economic gains over long-term ecological sustainability.

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Stronger Emphasis on Science and Risk Assessment

The proposed Act strengthens the role of scientific committees in assessing species status and prioritizing recovery actions. A greater focus on risk-based decision-making could help prioritize resources for species most urgently in need.

Funding for Conservation Actions

A new Species Conservation Program is intended to fund voluntary conservation projects using public tax dollars up to \$20 million per year. This could result in more significant investments in habitat restoration and species recovery than would otherwise be possible under the project-by-project mitigation approach. Conservation Authorities are collectively the second-largest landowner in the Province of Ontario, owning and managing a diverse portfolio of natural landscapes that support, among other objectives, SAR and their habitats. Depending on program eligibility, Conservation Authorities could prioritize activities that protect and conserve SAR and their habitat, while also contributing to species recovery.

Integration with Broader Land-Use Policies

The Act proposes better integration with other provincial planning systems, such as forestry and agriculture policies. This could help ensure species conservation is considered earlier and more systematically in decision-making processes.

Weakening of Mandatory Protections

Unlike the existing ESA, which mandates automatic protections for endangered and threatened species, the proposed Act introduces greater flexibility and potential exemptions, weakening the guaranteed baseline of protections.

New Definition of Habitat Too Narrow

The new Act redefines and narrows the definition of habitat for animals to the specific area they den in, for example, rather than continuing to include broader areas needed for other processes critical to a species survival, including areas they use to travel and find food.

Reduced Public Transparency and Engagement

The new Act could limit opportunities for public consultation on species listings, habitat regulations, and recovery strategies. This undermines public trust and reduces democratic oversight in critical environmental decision-making.

Potential Loss of Site-Specific Protections

A shift toward landscape-level approaches, while beneficial in some contexts, may leave localized populations or rare habitats unprotected, especially those not captured within larger conservation planning zones.

Conclusion

CLOCA supports the connection between species at risk (SAR) protection, ecosystem resilience, and social and economic well-being. The proposed transition from the Endangered Species Act to the Species Conservation Act may offer some opportunities for strategic, science-based conservation and improved coordination with land-use planning. These opportunities could extend to Conservation Authorities, who collectively own and manage a large and diverse portfolio of natural landscapes that could further support management activities that protect and conserve species at risk and their habitat, while also contributing to species recovery.

However, the proposed changes also raise serious concerns about weakened protections, greater political interference on how species are protected, and reduced transparency. If not carefully implemented with strong safeguards, the Species Conservation Act could undermine Ontario's ability to protect, steward and recover its most vulnerable species.

It is important to note that, despite the robustness of the Endangered Species Act, 2007, there was a lack of appropriate investment in administration. For the proposed Species Conservation Act to succeed, effective management and proper resourcing of the permitting process and compliance monitoring will be essential.

To ensure that the Species Conservation Act delivers genuine conservation outcomes, the province should:

- Maintain strong, automatic protections for listed species and their habitats.
- Limit political discretion and prioritize independent scientific advice.
- Ensure transparency and meaningful public engagement.
- Closely monitor the results of the Species Conservation Program to understand and evaluate the success of the program and to prevent unintended harm to Ontario's biodiversity.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority endorse the comments contained in Staff Report #5933-25 and that they be submitted in response to Environmental Registry of Ontario posting #025-0380 (repeal the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA) and replace it with a new Species Conservation Act).

JD/KL/lv
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REPORT

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE: May 13, 2025

FILE: NSSA63

S.R.: 5932-25

TO: Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors

FROM: Jamie Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning and Natural Heritage
Dan Moore, Senior Ecologist, Environmental Monitoring and Ecosystem Science

SUBJECT: **2024 Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program Update**

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

Purpose

This report offers an overview of CLOCA's Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program (IWMP), presenting the findings from the 2024 assessment. Now in its eighth year, the IWMP continues to play a vital role in evaluating the health of streams, forests, and wetlands within the watershed.

Throughout this report, we'll highlight the comprehensive data collected, providing insights into the current state of our natural resources. Additionally, we'll explore the interplay between monitoring efforts, watershed planning, and practical management strategies.

A critical aspect highlighted in the final part of this report is the symbiotic relationship between data-driven decision-making and proactive conservation measures. By leveraging our understanding of watershed conditions, we can strategically identify priority areas for land preservation, conservation, and restoration.

These concerted efforts not only bolster the resilience of our ecological systems but also fortify our communities against the multifaceted challenges posed by urbanization and climate change. Through collaborative initiatives and informed action, we pave the way for a sustainable and thriving future.

Key Takeaways:

- The IWMP was successfully delivered for the 8th year providing updated insights on the health of Forests, Stream, and Wetland Ecosystems across the CLOCA jurisdiction.
- Ecosystem function monitored through the IWMP is tightly interwoven with natural hazard lands, development review, communication and education engagement, and conservation land management.
- Long-term planning for these monitoring programs is essential. Gaps in data can have lasting consequences on data analysis and interpretation.
- CLOCA Monitoring programs not only inform CLOCA programs and services but are also essential components of larger provincial and federal datasets.
- Impacts from environmental changes (e.g., climate-related) and land use change are cumulative – many small changes can have large cumulative impacts over time. However, the reverse is also true – many small restoration actions can lead to significant improvements in watershed health over time.
- Long-term monitoring creates new insights, partnerships, and funding opportunities.

Background

In 2017, as part of our ongoing commitment to advancing watershed science and understanding, CLOCA staff initiated the Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program (IWMP), which remains squarely focused on monitoring the health of the watershed's primary ecosystems: wetlands, forests, and streams.

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The IWMP was strategically developed to address the fundamental question: "How is ecosystem health responding to changes within CLOCA's watershed?" To effectively tackle this query, staff identified three key criteria for selecting the ecosystems: they needed to be prominent features of the landscape, conducive to efficient monitoring, and easily communicable to stakeholders. Consequently, forests, streams, and wetlands emerged as the prime candidates for monitoring as they all met the three key criteria listed above.

To deepen our understanding of these ecosystems, they were further dissected into measurable components known as key ecological attributes (KEAs). These KEAs serve as indicators of ecosystem health, with examples including fish and water quality in streams, and bird populations and vegetation in forests. By meticulously assessing these KEAs, we gain valuable insights into the evolving health of our ecosystems as our watersheds undergo transformations.

To effectively communicate our findings, the data is organized into three distinct zones based on jurisdiction: East, Central, and West Zones (see Table 1). This zoning system allows for a more nuanced analysis and facilitates targeted actions to address specific challenges within each zone.

Table 1: A summary of the watersheds that are included within the Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program Zones

Zone	Watersheds
East	Black, Bowmanville, Farewell, Soper, Tooley, Westside
Central	Harmony, Montgomery, Oshawa
West	Corbett, Lynde, Pringle

Understanding the intricate relationship between local climate, groundwater systems, and the health of our ecosystems is paramount. Seasonal and annual weather patterns play a significant role in shaping the outcomes of our monitoring efforts. Therefore, the collection and analysis of climate and groundwater data by CLOCA are indispensable components of the IWMP. With climate change intensifying and weather patterns becoming increasingly erratic, the importance of this data will only escalate.

Collaboration lies at the heart of CLOCA's monitoring program, reflecting our commitment to fostering partnerships for environmental stewardship. Staff collaborate with a diverse array of stakeholders, including post-secondary institutions, fellow Conservation Authorities, citizen scientist groups, and governmental bodies at both the federal and provincial levels. Each partnership brings unique strengths and resources to the table, enhancing the scope and efficacy of our monitoring endeavors.

Continuous refinement and enhancement of the IWMP underscore CLOCA's dedication to maintaining its status as a trusted repository of environmental knowledge. The wealth of information collected, evaluated, and analyzed through this program serves as a cornerstone for various stakeholders, including partner municipalities, environmental advocacy groups, the development industry, academic institutions, and governmental agencies.

Moreover, the IWMP serves as a linchpin in our integrated watershed management work by enriching our understanding of current environmental conditions, in aligning CLOCA's broader watershed management planning work with accurate field data and analysis, setting strategic goals, and informing data driven decision-making processes. This seamless integration ensures that our efforts remain tightly aligned with the overarching objectives of watershed management and conservation. For more information on the CLOCA IWMP and for up-to-date results, please visit the CLOCA IWMP Story map: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b78bd22aad7c4d7cb8c11d71e3f33ecd> .

2024 Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program Annual Update

Climate

In 2024, temperatures in Oshawa were notably higher than average, with the year being one of the warmest on record—1.2°C above the long-term average of 9.3°C. The year saw a warmer-than-usual winter, an early spring, and consistently warm summer and fall temperatures. The most significant temperature variation, however, occurred during the shoulder seasons, with only two months—August and December—recording temperatures below the historical average. Extreme heat became a key feature of the summer, with numerous heat warnings urging caution for outdoor activities.

Precipitation in 2024 was highly variable, with most months experiencing rainfall significantly below the long-term average. Annual precipitation totaled 842mm, which was 30mm less than the historical average. However, April, May, June, and July saw notably higher rainfall, exceeding historical norms. Despite the increased rainfall during certain months, Lake Ontario's water levels remained low throughout the year, likely a result of the minimal snowpack across the Great Lakes basin, which failed to replenish water levels as expected.

This comprehensive data not only provides a snapshot of current climate trends but also underscores the imperative for proactive adaptation measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change within our watershed.

Forest Health

Forest health is evaluated through three primary ecological indicators: the breeding bird community, tree health and dead wood, and plant communities. Data on bird populations has shown a continued decline in health scores since 2017, prompting close monitoring to determine if and when specific management actions may be required to prevent further deterioration and to assess whether management actions are feasible at the regional scale given the migratory nature of many bird species and environmental clues they rely on to trigger these annual cycles. Across all three zones in CLOCA, health scores remain below the Watershed Goal of 60, with the Central Zone having the lowest score—under 30 and categorized as Poor.

On a positive note, tree health and dead wood scores have remained stable, despite the ongoing challenges posed by non-native diseases and pests affecting forests in Southern Ontario. While plant community scores have seen a slight decline, they continue to hover around the Watershed Plan's target of 60. The East Zone consistently scores the highest, with the West and Central Zones showing slightly lower scores but still staying near the goal. CLOCA has been documenting the loss of Ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer, which continues to have a significant impact on forest ecosystem health. In the 2017 terrestrial monitoring plots, there were 35 living Ash trees recorded, compared to just six in 2024, highlighting the profound effect on both Ash trees and overall forest composition and biodiversity.

The Terrestrial Monitoring Staff have emphasized the influence of climate change and seasonal variability on species and monitoring programs. Warmer temperatures and shifting seasons have altered migration timings and the availability of food for migratory species. Nationally, both long-distance and short-distance migratory bird populations are declining, while resident species are increasing. In CLOCA's monitoring, a consistent decline in long-distance migrants is observed, but there has been a slight increase in short-distance migrants and resident species. This context is crucial for interpreting the health scores within the bird communities. Additionally, it is important to note the importance of adaptability in monitoring programs as temperature variability increases. For example, spring ephemerals—plants that emerge based on temperature cues—are becoming more unpredictable due to climate change. Adjusting monitoring to accommodate these shifting timing patterns will be essential to ensure reliable data across years.

Stream Health

Stream health is assessed through three key ecological indicators: fish and invertebrate communities, and water quality. In 2024, over 3,300 fish were captured across CLOCA streams, representing 28 different species. The most common species were Blacknose Dace and Longnose Dace, followed closely by Mottled Sculpin and Rainbow Trout, both of which are sensitive cold water species.

Cont'd

This highlights the critical role CLOCA streams play in supporting their lifecycle. Fish health scores ranged from 19 to 52 out of 100 (all below the watershed plan goal of 60), with sites in the East Zone showing notably higher scores, likely due to the area's greater natural cover. No significant trends, positive or negative, have emerged in the fish community data thus far.

Benthic invertebrate sampling in 2024 yielded over 12,000 specimens, representing more than 180 species, underscoring the area's considerable biodiversity. Each species plays a unique role in ecosystem services, emphasizing the need to maintain this diversity for future resilience. Invertebrate scores ranged from 40 to 50 out of 100, with the East Zone outperforming the Central and West Zones.

Water quality sampling in 2024 involved 144 samples, with 66% meeting the recommended guidelines, a decrease from 73% in 2023 and 76% in 2022. Parameters such as *E. coli*, Total Phosphorus, Iron, and Aluminum were commonly found to exceed the guidelines, with *E. coli* being of particular concern—exceeding provincial guidelines in 52% of the samples. Water quality scores ranged from 66 to 71, reflecting a decline from the previous year. Conditions were generally better in the East Zone, where slight improvement trends were observed over time across all zones.

Climate change is exacerbating stress on aquatic ecosystems, reducing biodiversity and resilience. This increased vulnerability makes these systems more susceptible to non-native and invasive species. CLOCA has documented the spread of species such as the Rusty Crayfish, Round Goby, and, more recently, the New Zealand Mud Snail. Long-term monitoring programs like the IWMP are essential for detecting these changes and the introduction of new species, allowing for timely management actions before these invasions become a significant financial and logistical burden.

Wetland Health

The health of coastal wetlands is closely monitored through the Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (DRCWMP), which oversees the annual monitoring of 18 wetlands within the Durham Region. This comprehensive program evaluates various factors, including water quality, aquatic vegetation, and the health of fish, bird, and invertebrate communities, to assess the overall condition of these crucial ecosystems.

Monitoring results consistently show that most coastal wetlands are in poor to fair health, falling below the watershed plan's goals for these ecologically significant areas. Positioned at the lower end of the watershed, these wetlands face the cumulative impacts of all of the upstream land-use changes within the region. On a positive note, water quality has shown improvement, particularly in the East and West Zones, where four out of eleven coastal wetlands have recorded higher scores. However, concerns remain regarding parameters such as Chloride and Total Suspended Sediment.

Breeding bird health scores in the East and Central Zones show a positive trend, reflecting improved habitat conditions that are attracting wetland bird species. In 2024, CLOCA's monitoring identified over 1,200 birds from 52 species, including three at-risk species, highlighting the importance of these wetlands as critical bird habitats. Fish community diversity and abundance, however, remain low, with scores continuing to fall within the 35-40 range out of 100. The West Zone is experiencing a decline in fish health scores, a trend that will be closely monitored. Invertebrate community monitoring recorded nearly 5,000 individuals, with steady increases in scores in both the East and West Zones. Although still below watershed plan goals, these improvements are encouraging, as invertebrates are vital food sources for wetland ecosystems. Conversely, the Central Zone continues to see a decline in invertebrate health scores, which will also be monitored closely.

Significant impacts of climate change can be seen on coastal wetland habitats, including the lack of winter ice, more extreme fluctuations in water levels, and increasingly erratic precipitation events. These factors are putting additional strain on wetland ecosystems. In response, CLOCA has partnered with various organizations to develop the Lynde Shores Conservation Area Resilience and Restoration Plan. Drawing from data collected through the coastal wetland monitoring program, this plan aims to protect the ecological, recreational, and cultural services provided by Lynde Shores. With support from external technical teams, strategies have been identified to mitigate future climate change impacts, with the first phase of the plan having been completed in the winter of 2025, followed by the next stage later this year (see S.R. 5904-24 and 5922-25).

Cont'd

Connecting Monitoring to Management

To ensure the ongoing relevance of monitoring programs, they must address key questions that deepen our understanding of ecosystems and provide practical insights for day-to-day operations at CLOCA and in collaboration with our partners. Maintaining robust connections between the IWMP and current management actions has been a top priority since the program's inception. This section highlights these connections and underscores how IWMP data can inform various initiatives across CLOCA programs.

Given the historical impacts and impending challenges posed by landuse change, invasive species and climate change, proactive management is essential to safeguard the functionality and resilience of our ecosystems. CLOCA takes an active stance in identifying and addressing ecological improvements within our protected lands, while also collaborating with municipalities and private landowners to enhance overall ecosystem health. We offer a diverse range of restoration services, including Stream, Wetland, and Grassland Restoration, Afforestation, Invasive Species Management, Urban Stewardship, Agricultural BMPs, and Managed Forest Plans. These services are intricately informed by IWMP data and are aligned with various watershed planning action plans, such as the Riparian Corridors Action Plan and Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. Through this integrated approach, we strive to ensure that our management actions are rooted in sound scientific understanding and contribute to the long-term health and resilience of our watershed ecosystems.

Restoration Highlights in 2024 include the following:

- CLOCA planted 23,040 native at private land stewardship projects through CLOCA's Afforestation Program
- CLOCA worked with members of the community to implement the protection and management of forests on their lands through the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.
- CLOCA continued invasive species management of Dog Strangling Vine, Autumn Olive, Garlic Mustard, and Common Reed (*Phragmites*).
- Expansion of the Grassland Restoration project in Long Sault Conservation Area, adding another 16 acres to this important habitat area.
- CLOCA continues to engage in community tree planting, working in partnership with TD Bank, Trees Canada, Ontario Power Generation, and Scouts Canada to plant 750 native trees on CLOCA lands.
- CLOCA completed stream restoration projects in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Ontario Streams to stabilize habitat, reduce erosion, and improve biodiversity at Lynde Shores and Heber Down Conservation Area.
- CLOCA continues to partner with Canada Water Agency and Ducks Unlimited to advance the Lynde Shores Restoration and Resilience Plan, which will result in significant implementation work in 2025.

It is hopeful that the positive effects of the restoration and stewardship activities being carried out by us, private landowners, municipalities, and other partner organizations will gradually be detected through our IWMP results as an overall improvement in watershed health.

Conclusions

The IWMP continues to provide valuable insight into the health of the CLOCA watershed, giving us the ability to implement programs and services that build resilience in preparation for planned landuse change and future climate change impacts. The results from the IWMP monitoring highlight the importance of continued monitoring to understand our watershed and inform our management actions. With local and large-scale threats impacting these systems, local data allows CLOCA to identify challenges and appropriate restoration and management solutions. Effective management that is driven by local data is the only way that we will be able to maintain a healthy environment where we can not only survive, but thrive within.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Staff Report #5932-25 be received for information.

REPORT

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE: May 13, 2025

FILE: AFNB52

S.R.: 5934-25

TO: Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors

FROM: Rose Catulli, Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: 2025 Budget

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

On November 19, 2024, the Board approved the 2025 Preliminary Budget and Levy Submission to the Region of Durham. Following the Region's approval of CLOCA's Levy Submission, on December 18, 2024, staff have proceeded to finalize the budget (under separate cover) for the Board's consideration. The Region approved a levy operating budget increase of 2.5% over 2024.

The budget is built on the Region's approval as follows:

	2025	2024
Operating:		
General Levy	\$ 4,676,310	\$ 4,562,255
Children's Watershed Festival	59,435	57,985
	<u>4,735,745</u>	<u>4,620,240</u>
Land Management Expenditures	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000
Special Funding:		
Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP)	120,000	120,000
Lynde Shores Restoration & Resilience Project (Year 1 of 4)	100,000	
Electric Vehicle	85,000	
Entrance Enniskillen CA & Russ Powell Nature Centre	50,000 *	120,000
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	20,000 *	30,000 **
FHIMP Lynde Creek Floodplain Mapping		58,900 **
Land Acquisition		
Graham Tract		578,100
Hubble Tract		65,085
Cowan Tract		95,775
Byers Road Tract		140,840
Tomlin Tract		96,325
	<u>375,000</u>	<u>1,305,025</u>
*deferred from 2024		
**deferred from 2023		

Cont'd

The annual land management levy of \$85k that was approved in 2018 by Regional Council is being utilized to address staffing requirements within the field operations department.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks continues to fund CLOCA for source water protection work primarily related to GIS and IT support \$86,400 (2024 - \$161,635).

Other government funding and other grants in the budget is as follows:

Federal Grants			
Canada Summer Jobs	\$	36,120	
Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	\$	110,525	
Environment & Climate Change Canada	\$	1,245,000	
Tree Canada	\$	14,560	
	\$	<u>1,406,205</u>	
Provincial Grants			
Forest Ontario	\$	<u>34,080</u>	
Other Grants			
Canadian Wildlife Federation	\$	10,000	
Greenbelt Foundation	\$	33,700	
	\$	<u>43,700</u>	

Other revenue accounts include funding from the City of Oshawa (\$25k), and the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP) funding received from the Regional Municipalities of York, Peel, Durham, the City of Toronto (\$700k) and Halton Region (\$175k) who joined the program in late December 2020.

The 2025 budgeted reserve transfer of \$132,135 relates to forestry management expenditures within our conservation areas (\$40,000), a Roger's Property transfer to partially fund the culvert replacement (\$64,550), a transfer of interest earned relating to the Schillings Land reserve account (-\$500), a transfer of unused revenue for the Forest Ontario Tree Planting Program (-\$16,315), a transfer for capital improvements at the Lynde Shores CA Quonset Hut roof (\$16,400), and equipment purchases (RTV and wood splitter) (\$28k).

All revenue estimates are based on the fee schedule approved by the Board of Directors on November 19, 2024.

Expenditures by Category

In accordance with the CA Act, the following chart illustrates CLOCA's 2025 budgeted expenditures by category:

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority 2025 Budget Summary						
	2024 Approved Budget	2025 Budget				Total Change
		Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Total	+/-
Corporate Services	2,193,660	2,156,535	54,600		2,211,135	17,475
Watershed Management	1,876,905	3,033,889	67,750	494,266	3,595,905	1,719,000
Environmental Plan Review & Regulation Services	2,256,960	2,075,480			2,075,480	- 181,480
CA Land Management	1,621,805	1,515,710		60,345	1,576,055	- 45,750
Land Acquisition	2,472,710	-	-	-	-	- 2,472,710
Community Services/Education	606,535	41,198		592,293	633,490	26,955
Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP)	1,104,400		1,052,650		1,052,650	- 51,750
Vehicle & Equipment	293,825	364,100			364,100	70,275
Total	12,426,800	9,186,912	1,175,000	1,146,903	11,508,815	-7.39%

Compensation Review

During 2024, CLOCA conducted a review of the current compensation program; specifically, to assess the competitive pay market and the current pay policy (percentile targets), assess internal equity, update pay equity compliance and develop a revised salary grid for implementation in 2025. A revised 2025 salary grid, approved by the Board of Directors on April 15, 2025, was implemented that included job rates that reflected the 55% percentile of the competitive pay market and band placement for positions that reflect internal equity in the Authority.

Conclusion

The recommended 2025 budget reflects an allocation of resources to support CLOCA's programs and services for 2025. The budget will allow the Authority to continue to work towards our mission of advancing watershed health through engagement, science and conservation.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the recommended 2025 budget be approved, as presented;
THAT copies of the 2025 Budget Report, as approved, be circulated to the Region of Durham; and
THAT a copy of the approved budget be posted on the Authority's website.

Attachment: 2025 Budget



2025

BUDGET

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

APPROVED BY AUTH. RES. #00/25, DATED 2025

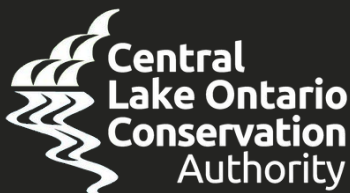


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History

On July 17, 1958, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority was established by an Order-in-Council under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. It was formed by the Ontario Government at the request of the municipalities located within the area of jurisdiction.

As watercourses transcend municipal boundaries, all Conservation Authorities are established on the basis of natural watershed boundaries. A watershed is defined as an area of land that is drained by a river or creek. Similar to the branch of a tree, creeks empty into streams, which then empty into larger streams, eventually forming one main trunk. Within this system, everything is connected to everything else. In other words, actions which take place at the top of the system can and do affect those downstream.

Today, the province's 36 Conservation Authorities are regarded as world leaders in conservation, environmental protection, and flood control. Together Authorities own more than 407,550 acres (165,000 hectares) of land, including areas in the Oak Ridges Moraine, Carolinian zone, as well as Provincially Significant Wetlands and areas protecting important flora and fauna. Conservation Authorities operate in watersheds in which 90 per cent of the provincial population reside. Managing Ontario's watershed resources is a major undertaking that calls upon Conservation Authorities and their staff to work collaboratively with landowners, developers, educators, multi levels of government, professionals, and the general public.

The Central Lake Ontario Watershed

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's (CLOCA's) jurisdiction is based upon the watershed boundaries of four major watercourses draining an area of over 627 sq. km. The four major watercourses which begin with their headwaters in the Oak Ridges Moraine are from west to east Lynde Creek, Oshawa Creek, Black/ Harmony/ Farewell Creeks, and Bowmanville/ Soper Creeks. There are 17 additional watersheds which include Warbler, Cranberry, Whitby Shores, Heyden-shore, Pump House, Corbett Creek, Pringle Creek, McLaughlin Bay, Robinson Creek, Burk, Tooley, Osborne, Darlington, St. Marys, Westside, Bennett Creek and Rickard. The Municipalities within CLOCA's watershed include the Regional Municipality of Durham, City of Pickering, Town of Ajax, Township of Uxbridge, Township of Scugog, Town of Whitby, City of Oshawa, and the Municipality of Clarington.

A diverse landscape exists within CLOCA's jurisdiction which includes urban and rural settlements (hamlets), agriculture and natural areas. For the most part, the highly urbanized area is situated within the southern portion of the watershed, leaving the northern portion dominated by rural land uses and significant undeveloped natural areas.

There are three major physiographic features within CLOCA's watershed being the Lake Ontario waterfront, Lake Iroquois Beach, and the Oak Ridges Moraine. Each of these distinctive landscape features contribute to the overall ecological functions that support healthy watersheds in CLOCA's jurisdiction.

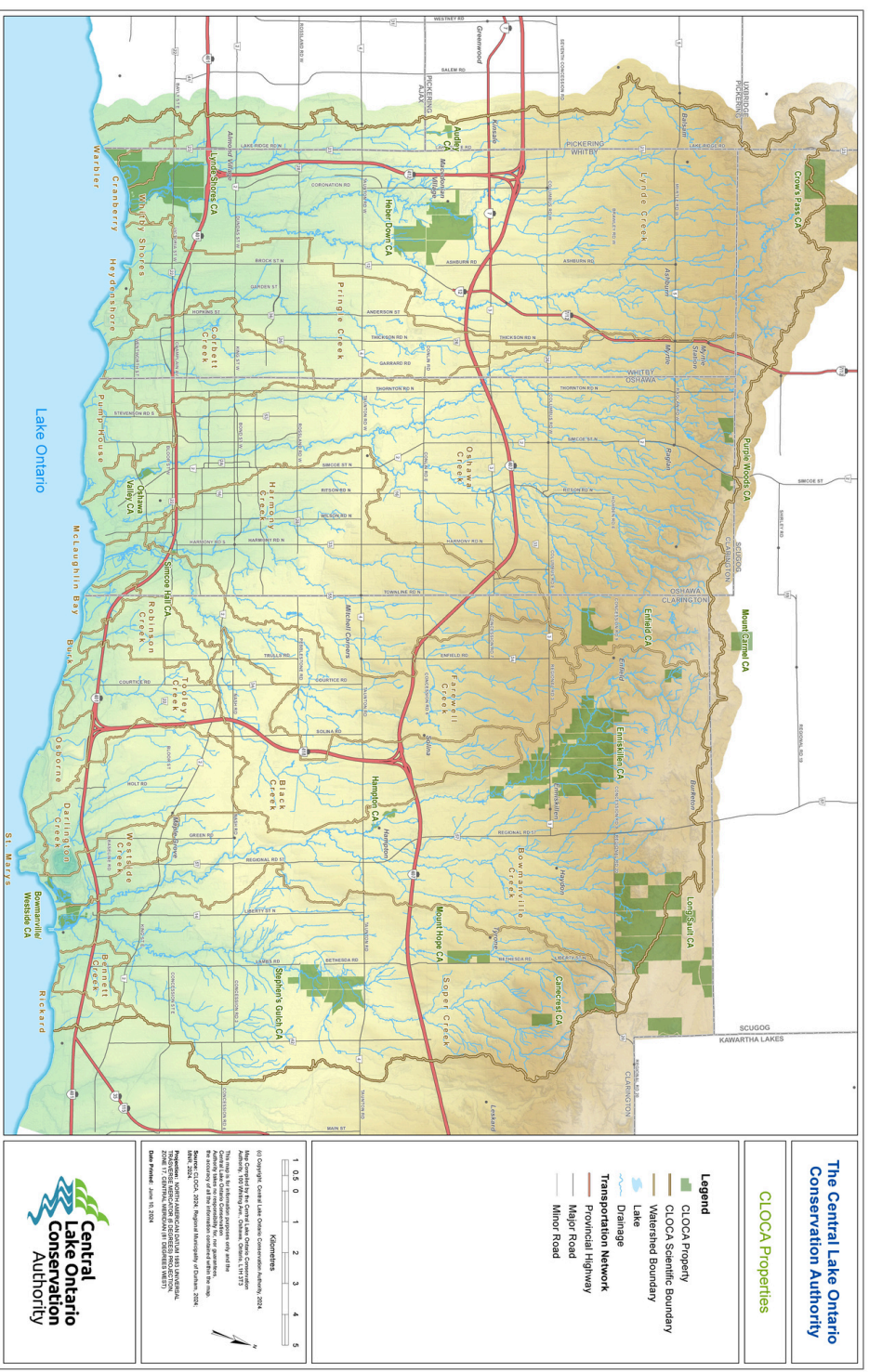
Our Watershed

Region-wide Initiatives

- Coastal Wetlands Monitoring
- Conservation Authorities
- Moraine Coalition
- Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment
- Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program

Watershed-wide Initiatives

- Environmental Planning and Permitting
- Fisheries Management Plans
- Flood Forecasting and Warning System
- Natural Hazard Policy and Mapping
- Groundwater Monitoring Wells
- Natural Heritage Land Securement
- Source Water Protection
- Terrestrial and Wildlife Monitoring
- Watershed Stewardship and Restoration
- Water Quality and Stream Flow Monitoring
- Watershed Planning
- Environmental Education and Community Engagement Programs
- Conservation Areas, that help maintain core natural heritage systems across the region for wildlife viewing and hiking opportunities



Mandate of Conservation Authorities

Established under the *Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O. 1990*, a Conservation Authority's mandate is to establish and undertake programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources in watersheds.

Member Municipalities

Durham Region
Town of Ajax
Municipality of Clarington
City of Oshawa
City of Pickering
Township of Scugog
Township of Uxbridge
Town of Whitby

Watershed Population

Approximately 430,000

Our Business

- Watershed Studies
- Natural Areas Protection
- Municipal Plan Input and Review
- Natural Hazard Management
- Conservation Education
- Source Water Protection
- Floodplain/Valleyland Protection
- Land Management and Operations
- Watershed Stewardship

Our Vision

Healthy watersheds for today and tomorrow.

Our Mission

Advancing watershed health through engagement, science and conservation.



Governance

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of Councillors from the member municipalities, and one resident member, appointed by a municipality. Through the Region of Durham each of the municipalities appoints Councillors to represent their jurisdictions. The number of representatives per municipality is determined by the population of the municipality within the watershed.

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Board of Directors meets monthly at CLOCA's Administrative office at 100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa. The Board considers and approves all projects of the Conservation Authority and makes policy decisions related to the ongoing management, governance, and future direction of the organization.

Member Structure

2025 Board of Directors

Chair
Councillor Bob Chapman
City of Oshawa



Vice-Chair
Councillor Rhonda Mulcahy
Town of Whitby



Marilyn Crawford, Town of Ajax
Sami Elhajjeh, Municipality of Clarington
Bruce Garrod, Township of Uxbridge
Ron Hooper, Resident Representative
Rick Kerr, City of Oshawa
Tito-Dante Marimpietri, City of Oshawa
Ian McDougall, Township of Scugog
John Neal, City of Oshawa
David Pickles, City of Pickering
Elizabeth Roy, Town of Whitby
Maleeha Shahid, Town of Whitby
Corinna Traill, Municipality of Clarington
Steve Yamada, Town of Whitby

Human Resources

Chris Darling, Chief Administrative Officer

Directors

Rose Catulli, Corporate Services

Jamie Davidson, Watershed Planning and Natural Heritage

Chris Jones, Planning and Regulation

Dan Hipple, Engineering and Field Operations

Dan Hope, Land Operations and Education

Staff

Todd Backus, *Resource Technician – Lead Hand*

Lucy Benham, *Senior Water Resources Engineer*

Brandi Boardman, *Senior Executive / Accounting Administrator*

Meagan Breems, *Digital Communications Associate*

Lisa-Beth Bulford, *Development Planning Lead*

Andrew Caky, *Senior Systems Development Specialist*

Eric Cameron, *Infrastructure Planner/Enforcement Officer*

Godofredo Carpio, *Hydrogeologist*

Doris Cheng, *Development Planning Lead*

Alex Cooper, *Resource Technician – Field*

Andrew Cuning, *Financial Services Coordinator*

Ben DeWaal, *Resource Technician – Field*

Erin Dick, *Service, Information and Records Coordinator*

Karen Gaudet, *Payroll/Accounts Payable Administrator*

Cathy Grant, *Education Instructor*

Cara Gregory, *Coordinator, Conservation Education*

Michael Grieve, *Wetland Biologist*

Lisa Hastings, *Communications Specialist*

Musharraf Khan, *Infrastructure and Regulation Planner*

Ian Kelsey, *Aquatic Ecologist*

Erin Kerr, *Terrestrial Biologist*

Dayna Kiriakou, *Service, Information and Records Coordinator*

Alex Kissel, *Terrestrial Biologist*

David Krupicz, *Systems Development Specialist*

Sylvia Kubrak, *Senior GIS Specialist*

Patricia Lowe, *Sustainable Neighbourhoods Coordinator*

Kathy Luttrell, *Senior Natural Heritage Ecologist*

Jason Maas, *Resource Technician - Field*

Annie Miller, *GIS Technician*

Bryan Mistak, *Senior GIS Analyst*

Haruna Monri-Fung, *Senior Water Resources Engineer*

Dan Moore, *Senior Ecologist, Environmental Monitoring and Ecosystem Science*

Roy Mosher, *Restoration Coordinator*

Matthew Murphy, *Resource Technician – Field*

Serem Nejad, *Development Planner*

Jackie Scott, *Wildlife Biologist*

Emily Silk, *Aquatic Monitoring and Restoration Crew Leader*

Savavanan Sivarajah, *Development Planner*

Yvonne Storm, *Festival Planner and Volunteer Facilitator*

Leena Vaja, *Executive Assistant / Health and Safety Administrator*

Holly Whittington, *Environmental Engineering Technician*

Nathan Williams, *Web Application Developer*

Rod Wilmot, *Information Management and Technology Manager*

Jacob Windolf, *Water Resources Engineer*

Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP)

Mike Doughty, *Intermediate Hydrogeologist*

Richard Gerber, *Senior Hydrogeologist*

Steve Holysh, *Senior Hydrogeologist*

Mason Marchildon, *Integrated Groundwater Management Engineer*

Britt Smith, *Groundwater Management Analyst*

Budget Presentation

The Budget format is organized into Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's (CLOCA's) Program Units. Each unit is intended to reflect all associated (direct and measurable) costs and revenues.

Watershed Management and Health Monitoring

Program costs and revenues required to develop and implement the watershed management framework and associated strategies that guide a responsible approach to natural systems protection, restoration, and use. Also included in this unit is the operation and maintenance of the flood forecasting system, watershed planning, monitoring and restoration programs, a number of restoration projects across the watershed supported by federal, provincial and other partner grants, and capital projects that include watershed action plans, source protection planning, various groundwater studies and research and a number of provincial grant contracts administered by CLOCA.

Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP)

As part of an ongoing contribution, CLOCA administers a number of contracts on behalf of a partnership of five municipalities (the Regions of Durham, Peel, York and recently Halton, as well as the City of Toronto) and 10 Conservation Authorities (the nine Conservation Authorities that formerly constituted the Oak Ridges Moraine-focused Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition, plus Conservation Halton (beginning in 2021). Five staff for this initiative are housed in rental offices within the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's office.

Environmental Plan Review and Regulation Services

Program costs and revenues associated with the provision of plan input to municipalities for development applications. Plan input includes the review and analysis of planning applications as these applications may impact on natural hazards and water resources, as well as reviews of project studies under the *Environmental Assessment Act* in relation to natural hazards and water resources. Included in this unit are updates to floodplain mapping and the ongoing identification and associated data management for natural hazards. The Program also includes the implementation of *Ontario Regulation 41/24 (Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses)*, compliance, enforcement, and prosecutions, which are required in order to ensure the integrity of the Authority's natural hazards management program under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the regulations made thereunder. Finally, this program unit includes the development and maintenance of policy and procedural directions for efficient and effective environmental plan review and regulation services, as well as developing policy responses to related provincial directions.

Community Engagement

Stewardship, Outreach and Education programs include the direct costs, revenues and partnerships associated with the development and delivery of a suite of environmental programs that broaden CLOCA's relationships with the community. Outreach events like the Annual Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival and seasonal hikes allow us to showcase our Conservation Areas and establish partnerships with the community. Our education programs target Grades 1 to 12, incorporating curriculum-learning outcomes to ensure we are relevant to the four school boards we service.

Land Management

Program costs and revenues associated with assets owned or managed by CLOCA and provide greenspace for residents of Durham Region. Also includes land acquisition and development of Conservation Areas, land management planning and special projects in Conservation Areas.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services includes corporate communications, management and non-direct program specific costs, governance, head office operations, audit, legal, human resources, health and safety and the costs of GIS/IT support, Information Management Systems, and the continuous improvement of the Enterprise GIS for the dissemination, integration, and analysis of data throughout the organization. Our corporate communication products include managing an active website and ongoing creation and updating of printed, electronic, social media and Conservation Area signage.

Vehicles and Equipment

Costs and revenues associated with new acquisitions and the operation of the motor pool, and equipment required for the on-going work of CLOCA. Internal charges are made to the various projects and programs for the use of vehicles and equipment.

Budget Assumptions

1

Wages and Benefits

- As approved by Board of Directors on April 15, 2025.

2

Regional Operating Levy

- As approved by Durham Region Council on December 18, 2024.

3

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Transfer Payments

- MNRF transfer payments for natural hazard management reported in the budget continue to reflect the 50 per cent reduction in payments which took effect in 2019.

4

Ontario Government Funding

- Will continue the Source Water Protection initiative.



5

User Fees

- CLOCA fees for administration, plan review and regulation, community outreach and Conservation Areas/facility fees are based on a fee schedule approved by the Board of Directors on November 19, 2024.

6

Miscellaneous

- CLOCA supports the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) by providing payroll and administrative services.
- CLOCA utilizes government employment grants wherever feasible.

**Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
Consolidated Statement of Operations**

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue				
General Levy	4,735,745	4,620,240	4,620,240	4,380,990
Municipal Special Levy	460,000	1,470,025	1,335,120	582,684
MNRF Transfer Payment	64,445	64,445	64,445	64,445
Federal Grants	1,406,205	356,900	294,610	84,201
Provincial Grants	34,080	34,825	43,906	43,018
Other Revenue	1,030,075	1,844,545	1,912,655	933,084
Other Grants	43,700	45,680	57,924	51,440
Reserve Transfer	132,135	166,090	(229,789)	(41,566)
Deferred Revenue	-	-	1,882	84,190
Interest Earned	186,870	253,750	309,902	313,173
Administrative Services	63,450	65,300	65,300	50,000
Environmental Plan Review & Regulation Services				
Plan Review Fees	900,000	1,000,000	832,078	1,427,425
Regulations 41/24 Permit	425,000	425,000	572,499	596,777
Property Inquiry Fee	20,000	15,000	22,715	16,940
Map Sales	5,000	10,000	4,140	11,313
Community Engagement				
Education Fees	65,000	48,000	70,021	68,844
Maple Syrup Tours	8,500	8,800	8,689	7,334
Admission Fees - Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival	55,000	58,000	57,018	72,187
Maple Syrup Sales	31,225	30,000	33,071	45,912
Maple Syrup Sales - Office	4,000	4,000	5,213	4,547
Merchandise Sales	8,720	15,000	14,937	17,573
Pancake Sales - CLOCA Days	41,250	49,000	47,494	56,283
Land Management				
Pay & Display	139,000	126,500	143,725	127,600
Seasons Passes	90,000	90,000	90,276	90,143
Donations	129,400	127,900	201,403	188,377
Property Rental	76,080	71,500	73,777	71,383
Facility Rental Fees	81,635	102,450	81,763	40,225
Commercial Rental Signs	7,400	7,200	7,509	7,233
Fill Sites Large Application Fees	50,000	50,000	8,435	48,090
Rental Recovery	162,250	162,250	152,246	151,745
Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program				
Other Revenue	892,000	884,000	901,203	1,011,905
Other Grants		5,000	5,000	29,907
Deferred Revenue	58,000	121,600	(5,132)	(139,564)
Interest Earned	2,650	3,800	3,860	3,358
Website/Portal Access Fee	100,000	90,000	97,401	91,287
	11,508,815	12,426,800	11,905,538	10,592,481

Cost and Expenditures
Salaries & Benefits

Salaries & Wages	5,355,300	5,151,960	4,972,288	4,885,993
Wages - Summer Student Program	13,900	19,100	23,574	13,400
Wages - PWMSF	188,600	167,100	167,637	171,881
Benefits	1,473,000	1,442,420	1,384,677	1,347,851
Future Benefit Expense	-	-	1,656	3,300
Members Per Diems	8,500	8,500	7,900	7,400

Administration

Office Supplies/Postage/Promotion	7,465	7,215	7,485	7,635
Staff Mileage	10,500	7,750	9,917	8,517
Administration Expense	63,450	65,300	65,300	50,000
Course Registration	60,830	50,500	61,667	41,361
Publications & Subscriptions	44,630	45,655	42,159	39,830
Printing	3,500	3,500	3,154	3,182
Software	103,000	92,600	106,855	84,990
Services	2,363,365	947,650	524,339	746,135
Cellular	21,130	23,600	22,821	19,853
Travel	11,650	6,300	12,521	8,619
Payroll Processing Fees	9,900	8,600	9,929	9,396
Legal Fees	160,000	315,000	708,337	467,028
Audit Fees	47,500	46,750	33,590	29,599
Bank Service Charges	29,800	29,700	30,289	29,332
Insurance	130,410	159,925	160,233	166,583
Donation	21,950	23,300	21,620	26,380
Materials & Supplies	191,660	184,665	154,516	139,329
Water Quality Testing	64,400	63,500	50,656	34,251
Uniform Purchases	8,400	9,100	6,194	6,876

Conservation Ontario Levy

	39,000	37,000	37,094	35,548
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Utilities

Telephone	16,775	15,275	16,145	15,060
Hydro	36,500	35,500	32,432	28,622
Alarm	4,010	4,175	3,984	3,984
Water	4,300	4,000	4,240	3,890
Gas	15,000	14,500	11,825	12,747
Property Taxes	59,725	59,950	56,513	51,761

Land Management

Pay & Display Software Monitoring Fees	6,650	6,650	6,566	6,350
Capital Asset/Equipment	530,100	638,110	310,723	566,434
Equipment Rental	14,500	14,325	15,234	13,617
Small Tools	2,000	2,000	494	1,053
Land Acquisition	-	2,323,620	2,363,620	745,000

Vehicle & Equipment

Vehicle Purchases	95,000	115,000	113,409	-
Vehicle Rental	14,200	14,000	12,924	8,325
Fuel	43,900	44,215	36,487	35,881
Licence	2,865	2,540	968	968
Vehicle Recovery	145,500	148,500	137,261	139,518
Equipment Recovery	12,750	13,750	14,985	12,164

Other

Office Services (Rent - ORMGP)	17,300	15,450	12,511	15,459
Transportation (GW Festival)	20,000	15,000	19,454	29,728
Purchases for Resale (PWMS Festival)	14,000	14,000	13,500	13,504
Bulk for Resale (PWMS Festival)	11,600	1,450	6,841	7,424
Pancake Group Expenses (PWMS Festival)	10,300	8,100	7,684	12,365

	11,508,815	12,426,800	11,824,208	10,108,123
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Surplus(Deficit) from Operations

	-	-	81,330	484,358
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Watershed Management and Health Monitoring

Program Operations

Program Operations provides comprehensive watershed health monitoring, watershed planning, and watershed management programs and services that support the development and implementation of overarching strategies for natural heritage system protection, ecological restoration, and land use. Staff with expertise in the fields of environmental engineering, ecology, hydrogeology, aquatics, wetland, wildlife and terrestrial biology, forestry and ecological restoration facilitate the development of programs and plans that prepare our watersheds and communities for anticipated future changes in the jurisdiction and address present day needs, issues, and opportunities in a responsible and relevant fashion.

The organization accomplishes its watershed management objectives through respectful consultation and partnership with private landowners, stakeholders and all levels of government, providing input into the protection and responsible management of natural heritage features, developing planning tools to protect and grow the natural heritage system and protect and understand the water resource system, undertaking a long-term annual monitoring program that assesses changes in watershed health over time, and maintaining current and historical datasets for terrestrial, aquatic, wetland, and wildlife resources.

Low water and base flow surveys are building on an existing information base to ensure the best information is available. Monitoring, data collection and analysis enables trends to be documented and characterized, and indicators of watershed health to be assessed on an ongoing basis.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
Budget 2025

OTHER PROGRAMS

Water Monitoring Network/Forecasting/Flood Warning

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Water Monitoring Network is a collection of stream gauges, rain gauges, air and water temperature probes, groundwater monitoring wells, snow measurement sites and surface water and groundwater quality sites. This Water Monitoring Network and the valuable information collected from it, helps us better understand and predict the impacts of land use activities on water. This knowledge allows us to make informed decisions about the management and protection of our water resource system.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority partners with Water Survey Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the flood forecasting and warning program and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network to reduce duplication and offset program costs. The data is catalogued and analyzed to help us develop effective, watershed-wide management programs and policies such as the Flood Forecasting and Warning System, Low-Water Response and Source Water Protection.

Each year CLOCA reviews the location of monitoring equipment and its effectiveness in recording the required data and replace

outdated and inoperable equipment. Staff from the Engineering and IT/GIS departments also continue to advance several projects related to the Flood Forecasting and Warning program. These projects are improving the automation of data retrieval from the gauge stations, data management, and reporting.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is a member of the Eastern Conservation Authorities Hub for access to the WISKI database for water monitoring data. This system is used provincially and provides efficient and consistent data retrieval and storage of information from our stream and precipitation gauges, groundwater wells, and stream water quality program.

Related information, including gauge data and floodplain information is also being made more accessible to staff, municipal partners, and the general public through improvements to CLOCA's web-based products. Early Warning Systems are in place and will send email alerts to appropriate staff to advise of significant rainfall or water levels nearing flood conditions at various gauging stations, and the public are invited to subscribe to CLOCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning program and receive direct messages.

Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority recently completed a Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy ("Watershed Strategy") in late 2024, as required by regulation, to guide our programs and services. The Watershed Strategy relies heavily on CLOCA's existing planning work, including its Strategy Plan, Watershed Plans and Action Plans and a range of other technical documents.

Our Watershed Strategy will help us continue to protect nature and protect people from flooding and erosion in the communities we serve, and direct where to focus our conservation efforts. We will use the latest scientific data, including climate change projections, to keep our watersheds healthy for the future. Implementation of this Strategy will begin in 2025.

Hazard Studies, Hazard Mapping and the National Disaster Mitigation Program

Between 2019 and 2022, CLOCA received funding through the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) to complete floodplain mapping, flood risk assessments, Lake Ontario shoreline hazard master plan and risk assessment, and flood warning system improvements. At the completion of the NDMP program, Natural Resources Canada initiated the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP). In 2023, CLOCA was awarded FHIMP grant funding for floodplain mapping of Lynde Creek. The current Lynde Creek floodplain mapping has become outdated with the multiple stream crossings of Highway 407, Highway 412 and Highway 401 changes and improvements, Victoria Street crossing, and significant urban development in the watershed. The grant will provide CLOCA with 50 per cent of the project cost and will be completed in 2025.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority anticipates applying for 2025 FHIMP funding for new watershed-wide Lidar topographic mapping (the base mapping for floodplain projects). If successful, the project would receive 50 per cent funding through the grant.

Watershed Planning

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Watershed Plans for Lynde Creek, Oshawa Creek, Black / Harmony / Farewell Creeks, and Bowmanville / Soper Creeks were updated, and Board approved in 2020. These updated plans recognize the recent urban, rural and natural environment conditions present in the watershed, consider potential future growth, planning policy requirements, climate change and present specific recommendations to protect CLOCA's natural watershed resources.

The updated Watershed Plans are being used by CLOCA, municipalities, planning authorities, agencies, and other stakeholders as a definitive tool to guide decisions concerning the effective management of watershed resources in response to a changing environment. As part of these updates, CLOCA implemented a refined, science-based framework for watershed planning. This framework provides a systematic, comprehensive, and consistent process that links actions to results and ultimate outcomes.

Work towards implementation of Watershed Plan recommendations will continue through 2025 with the initiation, completion, or update of a range of Watershed Action Plans, including updating the Restoration Prioritization Tool, continuing to expand the restoration and stewardship program across the jurisdiction, implementing the Invasive Species Management Strategy, developing the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Action Program, developing coastal wetland restoration and resilience plans, and completing stream assessments and focused stream restoration, among others.

Staff also completed the development of a Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy, a Land Inventory, and a Conservation Area Strategy in late 2024. All Conservation Authorities were required to develop these three documents as outlined in the recently updated *Conservation Authorities Act* and associated regulations. Work completed by CLOCA in 2025 will be aligned with these new strategies.

Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program focuses on key indicators of watershed health and provides critical information for many CLOCA programs including natural hazard management, watershed planning, Conservation Area management, restoration and stewardship on public and private lands, education, and communication.

Long-term annual monitoring enables CLOCA to identify changes, whether incidental or persistent, in the quality and condition of the watershed. Together, this information helps to determine current watershed health, and whether indicators of health are trending up or down. Monitoring results are analyzed annually, with updates and historical data made accessible to the public through the Integrated Watershed Monitoring StoryMap on CLOCA's website. The StoryMap provides an excellent overview of watershed health in an easy to digest format by presenting complex monitoring results in a multimedia format that uses maps, text and images.

Work is underway to complete a review of the Program to ensure that indicators and monitoring efforts are still adequately answering the key question of, "How is watershed health changing over time?"

Water quality and aquatic monitoring includes benthos sampling using the Ontario Benthos Bio-monitoring Network (OBBN) protocol, fish sampling in accordance with the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol, seine netting, spring and fall spawning surveys, identification and inventory of in-stream barriers, and the collection of temperature data using portable temperature loggers to evaluate in-stream thermal regime. This monitoring is expected to continue at full capacity in 2025.

Bird, amphibian, forest, and other terrestrial monitoring also provide indications of watershed health and are also integral to the CLOCA Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program. Indicators of coastal wetland health, monitored through the Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (described further below) are also incorporated into the Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program. Long-term monitoring of these standard conservation targets will continue through 2025. Additional baseline monitoring of species, habitats, and parameters are also completed every year at additional monitoring sites beyond the Integrated Watershed Monitoring sites.

This additional data helps to provide greater detail year over year regarding the presence and absence of sensitive, uncommon and species at risk across CLOCA's jurisdiction and provides some indication of habitat change. This information is leveraged on a continuous basis by governments municipalities, consultants and landowners involved in the development process.

Other supplemental monitoring will be undertaken throughout the jurisdiction as opportunities allow. This includes the following, among others:

- The turtle monitoring project will continue in 2025 as resources allow. Data collected through this program will enable CLOCA to assess population trajectories of Painted and Snapping Turtles in particular. This work may also provide insight into movement patterns and population characteristics, survivorship, sex ratios, and range sizes of turtles. The outcome of this monitoring will be the development of management strategies, where possible, that will help local turtle populations persist and thrive within CLOCA's jurisdiction.
- As in past years, work will also continue with invasive species monitoring and programming throughout the jurisdiction, with an emphasis on conducting invasive species management projects within CLOCA Conservation Areas.

- Post-project monitoring will continue at project sites implemented by CLOCA. This monitoring helps to determine project success and informs future project design and implementation.

The monitoring programs and projects outlined above are critical information for watershed planning, which guides the development of detailed action plans. These plans guide and drive the implementation of projects that work to directly improve watershed health. Successful project implementation cannot occur without appropriate monitoring data informing project design.

Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program

Long-term monitoring of 18 coastal wetlands across Durham Region will continue in 2024 at full capacity. The program is coordinated and implemented by CLOCA; however, a range of stakeholders, including Environment and Climate Change Canada, neighbouring Conservation Authorities and local volunteers assist with some aspects of the data collection. The data and information gained through this wetland monitoring provides valuable information to assess watershed and coastal wetland health in Durham Region.

This monitoring program provides feedback on restoration and management actions undertaken in coastal wetlands, like the work at Cranberry Marsh Lynde Creek Marsh and Second Marsh, and provides critical data used in the development of coastal wetland restoration and resilience plans, which are focused on identifying high-value projects that will build climate resilience into these significant natural heritage features over time.

Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority currently maintains 15 wells under the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). This program is now a provincially mandated activity of the Conservation Authority. These monitoring wells provide continuous water level data by the installed level loggers and telemetry equipment that allows for remote retrieval of water level data.

Groundwater well monitoring equipment is checked regularly to ensure proper functioning and data is collected, reviewed, and analyzed quarterly providing input to the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP) shared database, as well as the provincial online database. Through the ORMGP-CAMC (Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition) municipal/Conservation Authority initiative, the data is available to the regional staff and support both municipal Works and Health departments groundwater analyses and programs. Data from monitoring wells support groundwater characterization and water budget modelling activities. Processed data are also provided to the Region in response to private citizen inquiries.

Water quality samples are also collected and analyzed annually from these wells. These analyses were conducted twice a year since the start of the program in 2002 until 2010. In 2011, with this established solid baseline, water quality sampling shifted to once a year. Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells have over 15 years of water level and quality records.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is working to make groundwater data records more accessible and is moving to a standard provincial (WISKI) database that will be accessible to the Conservation Authority partners and the public.

Source Water Protection Plans

The Source Water Protection (SWP) initiative commenced in 2005, following recommendations made by Justice O'Connor after the Walkerton drinking water tragedy in May 2000. Conservation Authorities received funding from the Province of Ontario to complete technical Assessment Reports (ARs) and a SWP Plan based on the findings presented in the AR.

The Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Authority's (CLOSPA) AR was completed and approved by the Province in November of 2011. Work on the SWP Plan started in 2011 and included several rounds of consultation with municipalities and various affected stakeholders. The Source Protection Plan (SPP) was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change on August 14, 2015 and took effect on December 31, 2015. The SPP consists of several policies to manage or eliminate significant threats to drinking water sources that were identified in the provincially approved ARs. Staff of the Credit Valley, Toronto and Region, Central Lake Source Protection Region (CTCSPR) have been working with member municipalities since 2012, consulting on the plan and holding workshops and meetings to assist with the understanding and implementation of the plan.

The CTC and CLOSPA staff are working with municipal personnel to clarify responsibilities under the Source Protection Plan (SPP) and provide the support needed. Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Authority, with assistance from the ORMGP, will complete a Section 36 update to the AR. This update will reflect changes in the region's physical and human characteristics, water quality, and usage, along with water budget, vulnerable areas, and stress assessments, using CLOSPA data and Durham Region's recent Groundwater Modeling update.

Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Authority staff will continue developing the CTC SPR Data Portal and managing records through Microsoft Teams and the Conservation Authorities Content Management System (CACMS), which serves as a central hub for storing, searching, and retrieving all CTC SPR documents, reports, correspondence, and spatial data, while the portal offers mapping capabilities and access to metadata and spatial information.

Climate Change

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is working on several fronts to advance our scientific and adaptation knowledge with respect to climate change. In keeping with recommendations and actions identified through the watershed plan review and update process, CLOCA will be taking a more detailed examination of the impacts of climate change on watershed processes, including identifying climate change adaptation practices that will help lessen these impacts.

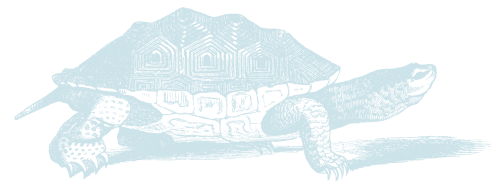
In partnership with Durham Region, CLOCA has been working in a leadership capacity with the flooding and natural heritage sector to advance climate change adaptation work identified in Towards Resilience and its own watershed plans. This work includes understanding and using the results generated through the updated climate change ensemble model for Durham Region, incorporation of climate change considerations into municipal and regional plans, policies, and operational plans, and integrating climate change knowledge into watershed and natural heritage feature, management and restoration planning processes, including those being carried out for critical natural features within CLOCA's Conservation Areas.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has been working closely with Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to undertake detailed restoration and resilience planning within select coastal wetlands across the CLOCA jurisdiction. The results of these planning exercises are helping CLOCA leverage significant federal funding for the implementation of climate resilience restoration projects within coastal wetlands. This includes the recently announced \$2.2 million in funding awarded to the Lynde Shores Conservation Area Restoration and Resilience Project. This project will result in the implementation of a range of restoration projects over the next four years that will be valued in the range of \$4 million when complete.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority staff also continue to participate on provincial initiatives to modernize guidance for both riverine floodplain mapping and shoreline hazard mapping through Technical Guide development. Incorporating climate change into hazard determination is an important component of the provincial guide updates.

The Lynde Creek Floodplain Mapping (to be completed in 2025) will show a climate adjusted regional storm floodline. This practice follows the federal mapping requirements and will be the first climate adjusted floodline mapped in CLOCA's watershed.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will be working closely with Durham Region and other partners to ensure the updated modelling information will inform climate change-related programs and into the future.



Oshawa Second Marsh Management Planning and Implementation

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, as a member of the Second Marsh Steering Committee, continues to provide input and guidance into the management of Oshawa Second Marsh by drawing on its intimate knowledge of the marsh that comes from its annual monitoring and the extensive data sets that have been generated through the Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority staff will also support, and guide restoration activities developed through the steering committee.

In support of this work, CLOCA, with support from the steering committee members, submitted a multi-year funding proposal to the Canada Water Agency's Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative in early 2025, seeking funding for the development of a restoration and resilience plan similar to the one developed by CLOCA for Lynde Shores Conservation Area, and the implementation of recommended actions. CLOCA expects a decision on this funding in mid-2025.

Watershed Restoration Program: Planning and Implementation

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority uses a range of tools and frameworks developed through the watershed planning process to support strategic prioritization of restoration opportunities across its jurisdiction (the CLOCA Natural Heritage System, Restoration Prioritization Plan Mapping Tool, Wildlife Corridor Protection and Enhancement Plan, Conservation Area

management plans, etc.) and ensure restoration projects are designed and implemented in such a way that they achieve measurable gains in watershed health (the Conservation and Restoration Planning Framework).

With these and other important tools and strategies guiding decision-making, CLOCA will continue to work on building its restoration programs and services through 2025. Building on successful implementation of restoration projects on both private lands and CLOCA conservation lands over the last several years, CLOCA will be looking to further enhance its suite of program offerings in 2025 with the addition of other service categories to its Stewardship and Restoration Program guidelines, and is working with municipal partners and other stakeholders to identify restoration opportunities within the urban environment that enhance the resilience of our watersheds and communities to climate change.

Staff are constantly seeking additional external funding sources to help with the implementation of these other service categories so that the financial burden on private and government landowners is minimized. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will continue to support efforts to increase forest cover throughout the jurisdiction, and is already aiming to coordinate the planting of 35,000 trees on private properties in the spring of 2025. It is expected that uptake by private landowners for this and other types of stewardship will continue to grow with dedicated marketing and communications in 2025 and beyond.

The restoration and stewardship programs and services delivered by CLOCA and briefly outlined below, are real examples of its active commitment to achieving the goals and objectives outlined in its watershed plans and corresponding action plans.

Durham Trees: Durham Region – Conservation Authority Collaborative: Tree Planting Program

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has continued to work closely with five Durham Region Conservation Authorities and the Region of Durham to deliver a coordinated and consistent tree-planting program across the Region with a goal to increase the number of trees being planted on both public and private lands. The collaborative is working actively with Durham Region and other stakeholders to see this program continue through 2025 and beyond as Phase 2 of the program.

This program is an example of climate action being achieved through the implementation of nature-based solutions and assists both the Region and Conservation Authorities' efforts to achieve climate change adaptation and watershed health goals and objectives. Funding support for landowner outreach, marketing and communications has been provided in part by the Region, with the remainder of funding secured through external partners. The full suite of marketing and communications tools developed by the collaborative through the project has been put to work by all partners and are generating new relationships with interested landowners and new planting projects.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is now working with all of the partners in this collaborative to develop a Phase 2 work plan for this program that will achieve sustainable funding in 2025 and beyond, fill program gaps, and support local area municipalities with forest cover goals.

Funding for the tree-planting component of the program will continue to be sought by the Conservation Authorities through existing programs, including those delivered by Forests Ontario, Trees for Life, Tree Canada, and other tree-planting funders.

Stewardship

Well Decommissioning Program

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority re-introduced the Well Decommissioning Program in 2017, providing technical and financial assistance to landowners in our jurisdiction.

An abandoned well can allow for surface runoff to flow directly to local and regional aquifers, potentially carrying organic waste, fertilizers, chemical residues including pesticides and petroleum products to groundwater. Uptake for this program has been limited to-date; however with the private land stewardship program generating more contacts with landowners in the jurisdiction, we anticipate more opportunities to offer and promote this program.

Clarington Trees for Rural Roads

The Clarington Trees for Rural Roads program has planted more than 8,000 trees along rural roads in the municipality since it began in 2012. The program has many benefits aside from improving the aesthetics of the rural countryside, it increases tree canopy and provides wildlife habitat.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will continue to partner with the Municipality of Clarington in 2025 to deliver this program with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.

Forest Tending and Management

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority staff completed a review and update of CLOCA's Managed Forest Plan in 2020.

The updated plan was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and guides the management of these forested lands until 2030, while also providing a 75 per cent reduction in property taxes for approved parcels. A five-year Report of Actions will be developed by CLOCA for its own Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)-approved lands as part of its reporting commitments under this program.

Forest management activities on CLOCA lands can include invasive species control, plantation management (competition control, infill planting, scheduled timber harvest and improvement cuts), hazard tree removal, and wildlife habitat establishment among others.

This program, and the associated property tax break, is also available to eligible private landowners. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has developed a new fee-based service to help landowners develop a managed forest plan and submit a MFTIP application to the MNRF. Several landowners benefited from this service in 2024, and staff are in discussions with several more landowners looking to develop plans in 2025.

Invasive Species Management

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority continues to implement its Invasive Species Management Strategy within our conservation land holdings and in partnership with municipalities and stakeholders. With a focus on prevention, detection, response and management, the 2025 work plan will:

- continue implementing the Roger's Tract Invasive Species Management Plan; continue managing, monitoring, and mapping invasive species at Conservation Areas according to priority; continue to implement pilot projects in partnership with watershed stakeholders as opportunities align with funding and priority invasive species; and,
- continue to participate in virtual or in-person outreach initiatives to develop more community engagement and communication products for enhancing invasive species awareness.

Lynde Creek Watershed Stream Habitat Assessment, Enhancement and Restoration Project

Stream restoration is a new stewardship project that was first piloted in 2023 to address impacts in stream health. The project consists of two activities: a watershed stream habitat assessment and stream enhancement/restoration. The watershed assessment is a streamside walking survey that is used to identify and prioritize areas that need restoration. The stream restoration focuses on both riparian and in-stream habitats. The primary stream restoration technique focuses on using locally sourced woody material and holiday trees to build in-stream structures that mimic natural, woody material in these stream environments. These structures help reduce erosion rates and act as sediment traps to improve water quality while also providing important habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

The planting of native trees and shrubs species adjacent to the stream channel is the second restoration technique used to restore riparian buffers. Through this project, CLOCA has developed new partnerships with several organizations, including Ontario Streams, the City of Oshawa, the Town of Whitby, and Miller Compost.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority received \$333,000 of federal funding in 2023 through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) Canadian Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk and will be looking to implement year three of this three-year project in 2025. This funding is focused on the restoration of critical habitat for Redside Dace and American Eel in Lynde Creek, emphasizing CLOCA's commitment to the ecological health of aquatic environments and the conservation of species at risk, which both contribute to achieving overall watershed health.

Lynde Shores Conservation Area Restoration and Resilience Project

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority was approved for \$2,177,000 in funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) for 2024-2028 through The Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. This funding will contribute to the implementation of close to \$4 million in project value over the four-year period and aims to address significant environmental challenges affecting Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health, aligning with Canada's commitments under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

A primary focus is restoring and protecting critical coastal wetlands from climate change impacts. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has used data from long-term monitoring programs to plan for enhanced resilience in these areas and will now work on implementing these plans with the new funding. Wetland interspersions, wetland creation, and transitional habitat creation will be the project focuses in 2025.

Long Sault Conservation Area Grassland Habitat Enhancement Project

The Long Sault Conservation Area Grassland Enhancement Project was approved for funding in 2024-2025 by Wildlife Preservation Canada (\$10,000) and the Greenbelt Foundation (\$33,700), and supported by Hydro One through in-kind work (valued at approximately \$25,000) on the site to address invasive species.

This project will establish 17.5 acres of native grassland by connecting a contiguous, actively managed 60-acre native grassland ecosystem in the Oak Ridges Moraine. Restoring these lands supports CLOCA's long-term regional restoration priorities of enhancing and connecting rare and diverse grassland ecosystems, protecting species at risk and pollinator habitat, and improving climate and ecological resilience of the Greenbelt.

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP)

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, in partnership with the Town of Whitby and the Region of Durham, has been implementing its first Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) in CLOCA's jurisdiction. The Program, also known as SNAP, was originally developed by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to help local municipal partners, public agencies and other organizations respond to the challenges of urban renewal and climate action. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is following this SNAP methodology.

The program is designed to connect participants with new techniques and technology, expertise and skill-building to create a resilient neighbourhood. The goal of SNAP is to accelerate the creation of sustainable neighbourhoods in older urban areas by taking an integrated approach at the neighbourhood scale to overcome urban retrofit and climate change challenges, and address a broad range of objectives with locally tailored solutions.

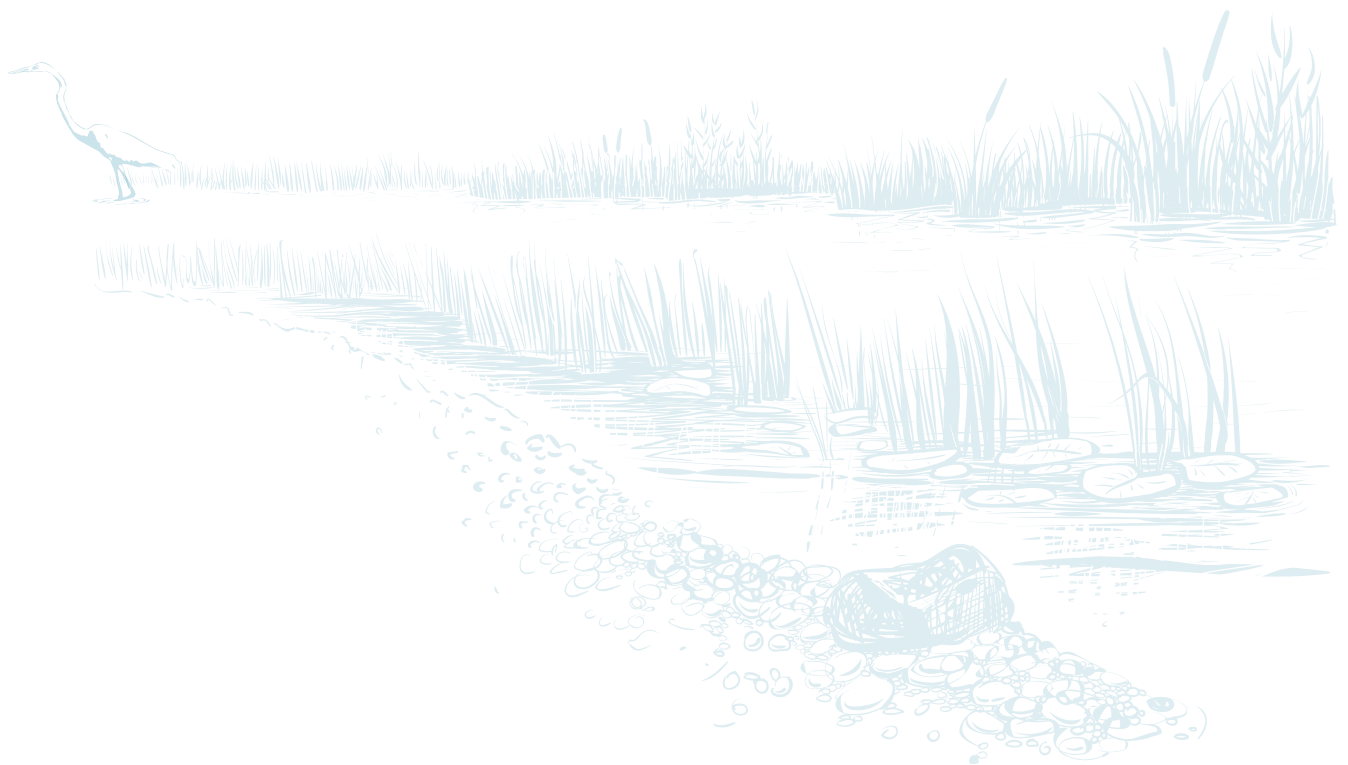
Working with local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and groups, the SNAP team works to advance resilience at the neighbourhood scale, where implementation ultimately happens.

The SNAP introduces a variety of neighbourhood-focused initiatives such as:

- Renewable energy retrofits
- Water and energy conservation programs
- Revitalization of parks, roads, and public spaces
- Stormwater management
- Green and grey infrastructure
- Tower revitalization
- Flood protection
- Local food production
- Health and wellness promotion through connections with nature

In late 2024, Town of Whitby Council approved the selection of West Lynde Neighbourhood as the focus of this first SNAP project following a detailed neighbourhood selection process completed by CLOCA. With the focused neighbourhood now defined, CLOCA will be moving into the neighbourhood engagement and action planning phases in 2025.

The SNAP program received funding from the Ontario Job Creation Partnership to support the hiring of five recent graduates to assist with developing and researching the neighbourhood to further support the creation of a community-based action plan.



Watershed Management

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue				
General Levy	1,249,345	1,092,595	892,720	943,997
Municipal Special Levy	220,000	258,900	217,820	184,805
Grants/Transfer Payments				
MNRF Transfer Payment	28,500	28,500	28,500	28,500
Federal Grants	1,388,145	320,000	287,974	84,201
Provincial Grants	34,080	34,825	33,117	43,000
Other Grants	43,700	-	7,245	1,118
Self-Generated Revenue				
Other Revenue	648,450	159,195	214,536	289,321
Reserve Transfer	(16,315)	(17,110)	(16,393)	(27,741)
Deferred Revenue	-	-	1,882	61,324
Donations	-	-	-	12,997
Secondary School Fees	-	-	-	201
	3,595,905	1,876,905	1,667,400	1,621,725

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Cost and Expenditures				
Salaries & Benefits				
Salaries & Wages	1,079,500	930,800	974,977	856,421
Wages - Summer Student Program	101,900	95,600	88,329	91,249
Benefits	303,500	261,500	262,674	236,775
Operating Expenses				
Travel	1,800	1,450	2,812	1,366
Staff Mileage	3,000	950	4,702	1,891
Administration Expense	2,450	10,300	10,300	-
Course Registration	5,100	5,500	13,209	2,714
Postage	500	250	1,025	1,479
Materials & Supplies	44,660	63,865	39,032	28,025
Publications & Subscriptions	130	530	5,762	7,715
Software	13,200	18,900	13,442	17,923
Services	1,889,065	336,870	94,405	215,953
Cellular	6,200	6,500	9,630	7,363
Fuel	1,400	1,600	1,344	540
Promotion	-	-	56	94
Water Sample Testing	63,800	62,800	50,656	33,966
Uniform Purchases	2,000	1,700	1,537	1,040
Telephone	2,000	2,000	2,092	1,899
Cell Phone Allowance	600	690	600	660
Insurance	1,300	1,400	1,692	1,339
Donation	5,000	-	-	-
Equipment Purchases	24,000	26,400	47,625	70,496
Equipment Rental	-	-	712	509
Vehicle Rental	14,000	14,000	12,924	8,090
Vehicle Recovery	30,800	33,300	27,863	34,218
	3,595,905	1,876,905	1,667,400	1,621,725

Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP)

As part of an ongoing contribution, CLOCA administers a number of contracts on behalf of a partnership of five municipalities (the Regions of Durham, Peel, York, Halton, as well as the City of Toronto) and 10 Conservation Authorities (the nine Conservation Authorities that formerly constituted the Oak Ridges Moraine focused Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition, plus Conservation Halton (beginning in 2021)). Five staff for this initiative are housed in rental offices within the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's office.

Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Study

This 23-year long partnership between the Regions of Durham, York, Peel, the City of Toronto, and their associated Conservation Authorities continues to provide technical hydrogeological support to the 15 agencies partnered in the program, as well as some 20 consulting firms that have signed agreements with ORMGP.

In 2025, work will continue on a number of initiatives related to one of the four current program areas: 1) database, 2) geology, 3) modelling, and/or 4) website. The following reflect some of the new/ongoing initiatives for 2025:

- Continue to provide technical expertise to the partner agencies as requested.
- Continue to build on the metadata available on the website to give users more background information on how different products on the website are produced.
- Work on speeding up the website so that in-person training opportunities can be developed.
- Working with a strategic communications firm to focus on revising the program's website.
- Working to develop additional communication products/opportunities to welcome new website account holders and inform them of the program's products, and to inform existing website account holders of new tools/products available on the website.
- Continued growth of the program database with incorporation of new boreholes and temporal data (water levels, pumping, chemistry, climate data, and stream flow data).
- Assisting partner agencies with numerical modelling studies in Halton, Orangeville, Erin, Springwater, and Barrie.

- Development of a new user interface that will allow for ready-access to the database, replacing outdated software that the ORMGP has been using since the program's inception.
- Finalization of the Oak Ridges-focused Groundwater eBook as the only Canadian contribution to an international effort to make groundwater knowledge more accessible on the Internet.

Continued improvement in the program website with:

- Ongoing work on a revised water budgeting tool for deployment on the website, as well as the testing and comparison of new ORMGP modelling results versus more standard hydrological modelling results.
- Incorporation of additional climate statistics across the study area using interpolated climate data.
- Work will be undertaken to develop an on-line tool to automatically determine the SWP stress for user-delineated watershed areas.
- The addition of more near real-time analyses, so that users can investigate the current state of watersheds with respect to wet/dry conditions; continued addition of consultant borehole logs as readily accessible PDF files; and
- Collection and incorporation of geotechnical and hydrogeological reports and associated high-quality data across the program study area.
- Increase awareness of the program's website with the aim of attracting new partnerships with consultants and other smaller municipalities to foster greater use of the program's data and information.



ORMGP - Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program

Revenue

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Other Revenue	892,000	884,000	901,203	1,011,905
Other Grants	-	5,000	5,000	29,907
Deferred Revenue	58,000	121,600	(5,132)	(139,564)
Interest Earned	2,650	3,800	3,860	3,358
Website/Portal Access Fee	100,000	90,000	97,401	91,287
	1,052,650	1,104,400	1,002,332	996,895

Cost and Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits

Salaries & Wages	669,900	670,600	621,588	608,814
Benefits	162,200	159,400	160,583	155,510
Future Benefit Expense	-	-	1,656	3,300

Operating Expenses

Staff Mileage	1,500	1,500	1,298	1,510
Administration Expense	25,000	22,000	22,000	20,000
Course Registration	6,000	6,000	5,356	3,110
Materials & Supplies	5,000	5,000	3,311	5,072
Publications & Subscriptions	7,000	5,250	7,034	5,248
Software	35,000	35,000	30,225	29,362
Services	82,000	139,100	100,488	98,796
Fuel	4,000	4,000	3,003	3,367
Telephone	3,100	3,100	3,053	3,053
Cellular	3,000	5,400	2,636	2,636
Travel	5,000	2,000	5,245	4,053
Insurance	3,110	3,110	3,110	3,187
Audit Fees	5,500	5,250	5,250	5,000
Bank Service Charges	1,500	900	1,498	939
Licence	540	540	-	-
Payroll Processing Fees	1,000	800	975	801
Office Services	17,300	15,450	12,511	15,459
Equipment Purchases	15,000	20,000	11,512	27,678

	1,052,650	1,104,400	1,002,332	996,895
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Environmental Plan Review and Regulation Services

Program Operations - Municipal Plan Review

The purpose is to promote CLOCA's watershed resource management interests through the provision of technical analysis and comments on land-use planning proposals, development applications, and public infrastructure projects.

Complementary work includes the continuous review and updating of natural hazard limits associated with flood plains, stream erosion, steep slopes, meander belts and Lake Ontario shoreline including associated planning and procedural policy directions.

2025 Program:

- Continuing our partnerships with the watershed municipalities to provide Plan review advice on watershed management, drinking water source protection and natural hazard planning in the context of recent and ongoing changes to the *Planning Act* and the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- Provide policy input and commentary to implement key public safety and watershed protection directions of the Provincial Planning Statement.
- Consistent with previous years, it is anticipated that CLOCA will review and provide comments on over 200 planning applications and supporting technical reports on various scales and locations.
- Implementation of the Fee Schedule for Planning Services including efficient revenue collection and alignment of service needs with staff capacity to maintain quality of service.
- Continued implementation of CLOCA's Policy and Procedural Document for Land Use Planning and Regulations, as recently amended.
- CLOCA staff will continue to support watershed and partner interests through working groups and committees with municipal and development representatives dealing with Official Plan reviews, Master Environmental Servicing Plans, sub-watershed planning, storm water management and environmental issues, including but not limited to:
 - Municipality of Clarington – Clarington Secondary Plans update and implementation.
 - City of Oshawa – Official Plan Update process, Kedron and Northwood Planning Area employment developments, Kedron Planning Area residential developments, and the Columbus Planning Area.
 - Town of Whitby - Brooklin Secondary Plan and Implementing Servicing and subdivision plans and Official Plan Update.
- Integrate climate change considerations into day-to-day review of development applications with an emphasis on promoting resilience through effective flood control, thermal mitigation, and low-impact development stormwater management techniques, landscape design for vegetation protection zones and stream corridor enhancement opportunities.

- Ensure timely responses for application review in line with Ontario Regulation 41/24 and Conservation Ontario guidelines and assess performance against Strategic Plan Implementation performance measures while building staff capacity.
- Transition archived planning files to electronic format accessible through CLOCA's electronic records management platform.

Program Operations - Regulations

The Regulations program is designed to protect both the public and property from flood and erosion hazards, as well as wetlands and watercourses through the review and permitting of applications for Development Activity, and Interference of Watercourses and Wetlands (*Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 41/24).

2025 Program:

- Implement updated regulation policies and procedures, templates, and process in relation to the new legislative requirements that came into effect on April 1, 2024.
- Consistent with previous years, it is anticipated that CLOCA will review and make decisions on over 200 permit applications.
- Implementation of the Fee Schedule for Regulation Services including efficient revenue collection.
- On-going enforcement, court appearances and Ontario Land Tribunal proceedings including relationship building and training with our new partnership with the Region of Durham prosecution service.
- Comprehensive update to the conceptual regulated areas mapping pursuant to the requirements of Section 4 of Ontario Regulation 41/24 including public notice and consultation activities.

- Technical support for implementation of the finalized Provincial Excess Soil Management Framework regulations including liaison with municipal planning and engineering staff.

Studies

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will continue to review and provide comments on a number of special studies and environmental assessments for proposed infrastructure within our watershed to ensure protection of natural resources and address natural hazards.



Environmental Plan Review & Regulation Services

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue				
General Levy	693,255	781,960	1,046,092	274,636
Grants/Transfer Payments				
MNRF Transfer Payment	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Federal Grants (Canada Summer Jobs)	7,225	-	-	-
Self-Generated Revenue				
Map Sales	5,000	10,000	4,140	11,313
Property Inquiry Fee	20,000	15,000	22,715	16,940
Regulations 41/24 Permit	425,000	425,000	572,499	596,777
Plan Review Fees	900,000	1,000,000	832,078	1,427,425
	2,075,480	2,256,960	2,502,525	2,352,090

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Cost and Expenditures				
Salaries & Benefits				
Salaries & Wages	1,435,700	1,435,700	1,352,910	1,402,743
Wages - Summer Student Program	22,600	5,500	4,925	-
Benefits	397,100	407,000	384,701	383,351
Operating Expenses				
Staff Mileage	4,000	3,300	1,936	2,901
Course Registration	6,000	4,000	5,296	4,696
Postage	-	-	6	-
Materials & Supplies	600	600	637	1,112
Publications & Subscriptions	8,000	11,500	7,483	6,262
Software	9,000	6,000	9,666	6,532
Services	3,000	3,000	2,544	3,358
Promotion	-	-	-	74
Uniform Purchases	1,000	1,000	971	412
Cellular	1,880	1,760	1,791	1,777
Travel	1,500	500	1,509	421
Insurance	37,600	56,600	56,581	67,020
Legal Fees	130,000	300,000	656,551	455,435
Bank Service Charges	12,000	13,000	11,267	12,660
Equipment Purchases	5,000	7,000	2,146	2,720
Vehicle Recovery	500	500	1,603	615
	2,075,480	2,256,960	2,502,525	2,352,090

Community Engagement

Education

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has delivered formal and informal education programs to ensure environmental literacy for students and CLOCA's watershed community for over four decades. These education programs are an important deliverable designed to fulfill CLOCA's fourth goal in its Strategic Plan (2021-2025), to create a more knowledgeable and connected watershed through community engagement and education.

In Your Watershed

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's suite of innovative, hands-on, curriculum-based education programs inform and raise awareness about the value of healthy watersheds, educating diverse audiences from Grades K-12 about CLOCA. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority services the Durham, Durham Catholic, Peterborough Victoria Northumberland, Clarington Catholic and Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Boards, various Montessori schools, private schools, home-school families and some Toronto District School Board schools.

Since returning to in-person field trips in the fall of 2022, CLOCA has reached thousands of students through programs delivered in its Conservation Areas and in other natural areas within the watershed through its 'In Your Backyard' program. Over 9,300 students were reached in the 2023/2024 school year! The option of virtual programs remains available for teachers and students in the virtual classroom.

New topographic maps were created to replace the orthophoto maps, and two primary orienteering courses were developed.

Navigational skills are key to the exploration of natural areas, and maps provide a birds-eye view of the important natural features of CLOCA's watershed. Two new Specialist High School Major (SHSM) certification programs were created: GPS and a Turtle Conservation ICE SHSM, for Secondary School Students, and are in the process of developing a Bird ID and Tree ID SHSM to be available for booking in the upcoming 2025/2026 school year.

Great Lakes Student Conference (GLSC)

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority was selected for a \$20,000 Great Lakes Student Conference (GLSC) Grant awarded by the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP). Replicating a model that was developed by the Ministry of Education and the MECP, the GLSC provides a unique opportunity for students to collaborate with their peers while learning about Great Lakes' connections.

As part of this grant, on November 15, 2024, CLOCA lead a guided tour of the watershed in order to highlight the work CLOCA performs, and the experiential learning opportunities that teachers can access in their school communities. This tour provided teachers a chance to explore how the Great Lakes can anchor the curriculum in engaging and impactful lessons.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, with support from the MECP, hosted a one-day learning event on April 25, 2025 to introduce secondary school students to the Great Lakes through engaging, experiential activities led by CLOCA staff and a variety of local leaders and professionals.

Bring Back the Salmon

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority participated in the Bring Back the Salmon program again in the 2023/2024 school year and plans to continue to participate annually.

This successful education event is done in partnership with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). The delivery of CLOCA's new Watershed Wishes program to 60 Grade 3 students from Vincent Massey Public School was a success and will be delivered to the school selected for the program again in the 2024/2025 school year. Other activities lead by CLOCA education staff for this program include an Earth Day garbage clean-up/watershed walk, and a salmon fry release into the Bowmanville Creek.

Durham Children's Watershed Festival

The goal of the Durham Children's Watershed Festival (DCWF) is to provide Grade Four students with a day of fun, hands-on learning at over 35 curriculum-connected learning centres, aimed at increasing their awareness about the importance of water conservation and the ecology of their watershed. It is the hope that with this knowledge, they will become good water stewards in their home, classroom and community.

The Region of Durham continues as a festival event sponsor, providing core funding to cover operational costs associated with delivery since 2014. Other sponsors included Cargill Ltd., Clarington Community Fund, Ontario Power Generation, TC Energy, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation Maada'ookii Committee. This week-long Festival at Camp Samac in Oshawa was held the last week of September 2024, and will continue to take place annually during this week.

Sarah MacLeod-Beaver, an Anishinaabe and member of Alderville First Nation, provided words and phrases for the Festival representing both Sarah's personal knowledge of Eastern and Southwestern Ojibwe (Anishinaabemowin) and online resources.

The Anishinaabemowin words were incorporated into the activity stations (a list of the words and a pronunciation guide was also created and accessible to teachers via CLOCA's website). A StoryWalk of the book *The Water Walker* by Joanne Roberstson was placed along the road between learning areas for participants to read.

The event was a great success, with 38 schools, 3,015 students and 473 teachers and adult leaders participating. Over 320 high school student volunteers ran the learning stations, and 10 other community members volunteered as well. Since CLOCA's first Festival in 1998, over 89,480 Grade 4 students, 9,700 high school students and 11,670 teachers and parent volunteers have participated from across the Region of Durham.

Summer Programs

Since 2016, the YMCA of Greater Toronto has delivered a summer camp from the Russ Powell Nature Centre at Enniskillen Conservation Area. The camp operates for nine weeks during July and August. Revenues generated through this program assist CLOCA in maintaining and upgrading the building and the facility.

In 2024, the YMCA expanded with an additional summer camp at Purple Woods Conservation Area. Education staff plan on offering delivery of programming to summer camps in natural areas within CLOCA's watershed, close to their location, in summer 2025 in addition to that offered at Heber Down Conservation Area.



Community Engagement

Conservation Area Trail Stewards (CATS)

The Conservation Area Trail Stewardship (CATS) Program was initiated at Lynde Shores Conservation Area in 2020 with 11 volunteers completing their onsite and online training. Since then, it has expanded to include all eight of CLOCA's Conservation areas with 87 CATS volunteers. The program has been steadily increasing in popularity and provides CLOCA with 'eyes and ears' in the Conservation Areas, often when they are at their busiest.

The CATS program received the Innovation Award at the 2024 Conservation Areas Workshop. This award is presented to a Conservation Area program or practice that demonstrates the most leadership, excellence, and impact in innovation, and was awarded by the Conservation Areas Workshop Committee at the fall 2024 annual conference.

Conservation Areas' Library Program

In partnership with the Clarington Public Library, CLOCA staff continue to install StoryWalks along the trails in Conservation Areas located in the Municipality of Clarington. Education staff continue to deliver interactive presentations on the importance of wetlands in our watershed at Clarington, Oshawa and Whitby public libraries, as well as a new presentation for the Oshawa Public Library on adaptation of watershed animals and plants to winter. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Education animal ambassadors, a Midland Painted Turtle and Eastern Gartersnake, were a highlight of these presentations. Approximately 110 community members have participated in these presentations (summer 2023/winter 2024).

The Conservation Areas' Library Program initiative continues to provide Back2Nature backpack kits, complete with wildlife and plant identification guides, and snowshoes to add to the borrowing programs in Whitby, Oshawa, and Clarington.

This complements the free Conservation Area parking passes currently offered by these same libraries.

A Weather Watch and Water Watch citizen science program was created in 2022 and continues to be delivered. Engaged volunteers collect data on water quality and actively take an interest in local weather conditions as part of an effort to prepare CLOCA's watershed community in adapting to climate change. Education staff delivered a presentation to a homeschool group of approximately 60 participants at an Oshawa Public Library, after which all backpacks were signed out for use.

Community Outreach

In addition to CLOCA's community partnership with local libraries, CLOCA participated in a Scout's Earth Day event at Camp Samac, local school events promoting ecologically sustainable practices, wellness through outdoor experiences, and Indigenous ways of knowing (Darlington Provincial Park), as well as Mapfest in downtown Bowmanville. A total of approximately 528 community members were reached during these events. In fall 2024 CLOCA participated in the OPG Community Power Expo—which hosted 3,200 participants—the Durham Climate Roundtable Fall forum and the Heros for Wildlife event at the Children's Arena in Oshawa.

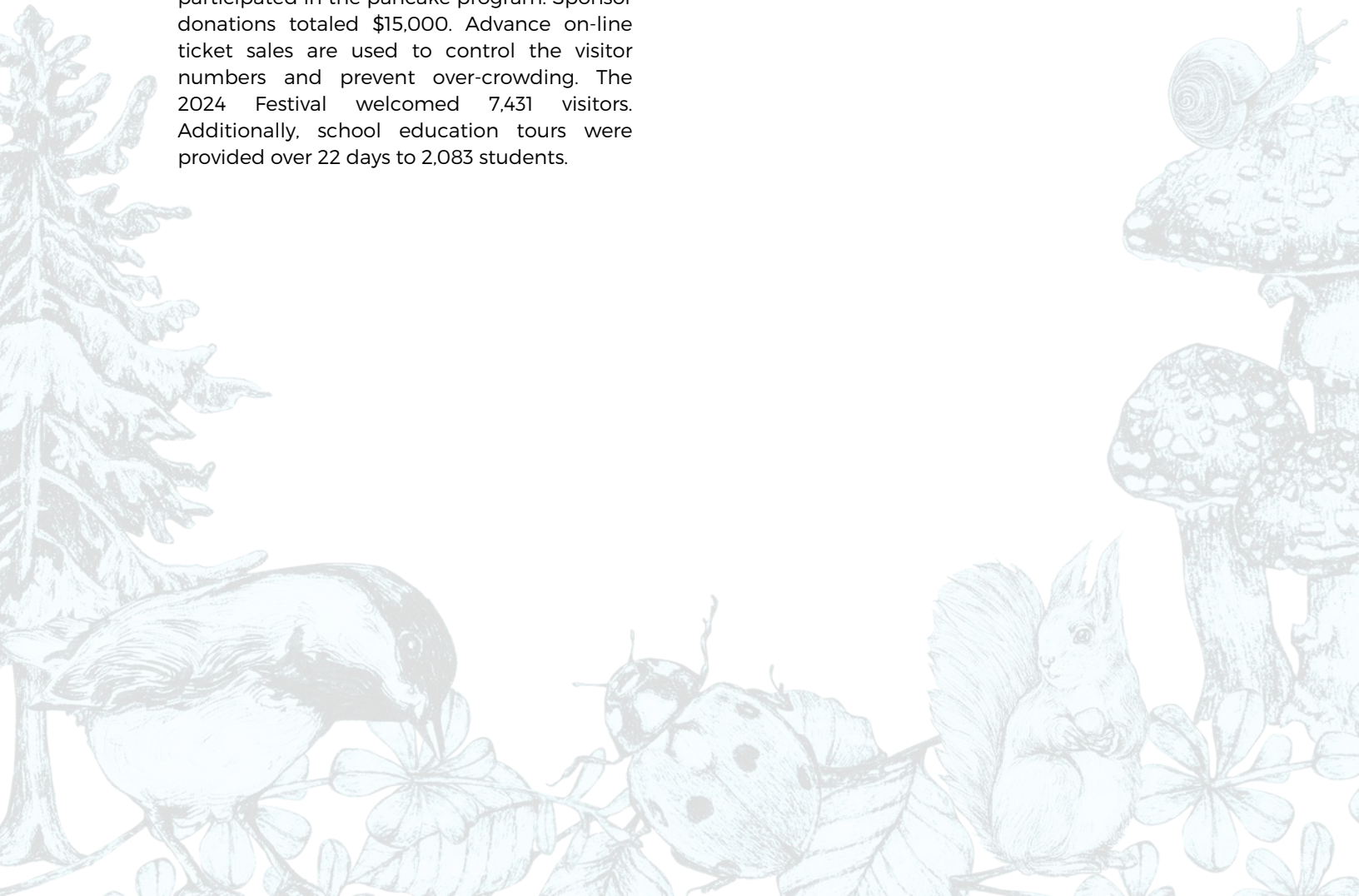
Education Events for the General Public

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Education staff host numerous events for community residents including family snowshoe hikes, evening Lantern Hike, Earth Day events, Mother's Day Hike and Tea, and Firefly Hike. A Bird Count for Kids will be hosted at Enniskillen Conservation Area this fall, promoting community science, and will include a presentation from a local falconer. These events provide members of the local community the opportunity to have a fun and informative experience in a CLOCA Conservation Area delivered by Education staff. Watershed connections made and learned through the programming help promote good watershed stewardship within the community.

Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival and Sugar Bush

This annual traditional Festival returned for 12 days in the spring with the Heritage Store open once again for the purchase of CLOCA's fresh maple syrup and maple syrup products.

Pancakes with syrup made from maple sap collected from the Purple Woods sugar bush, horse-drawn wagon rides, and displays of traditional and current methods of maple syrup and sugar production were provided for visitors to enjoy as they hiked through the sugar bush property. Twelve seasonal staff were employed, and 62 high school and community members contributed 1,032 community hours. Seven community groups participated in the pancake program. Sponsor donations totaled \$15,000. Advance on-line ticket sales are used to control the visitor numbers and prevent over-crowding. The 2024 Festival welcomed 7,431 visitors. Additionally, school education tours were provided over 22 days to 2,083 students.



Community Engagement

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue				
General Levy	289,360	277,850	262,712	254,290
General Levy - Children's Watershed Festival	59,435	57,985	57,985	56,570
Other Revenue	6,600	-	6,889	2,624
Other Grants	-	-	5,000	-
Reserve Transfer	-	-	-	(15,748)
Deferred Revenue	-	-	-	22,866
Self-Generate Revenue				
Education Fees Elementary	65,000	48,000	70,021	68,643
Maple Syrup Tours	8,500	8,800	8,689	7,334
Admissions - PWMSF	55,000	58,000	57,018	72,187
Maple Syrup Sales	31,225	30,000	33,071	45,912
Maple Syrup Sales - Office	4,000	4,000	5,213	4,547
Merchandise Sales	8,720	15,000	14,820	17,533
Donations	64,400	57,900	58,653	99,670
Pancake Sales	41,250	49,000	47,494	56,283
	633,490	606,535	627,565	692,710

	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Cost and Expenditures				
Salaries & Wages				
Salaries & Wages	350,600	334,300	339,054	363,621
Wages - PWMSF	13,900	19,100	23,574	13,400
Benefits	98,100	95,500	96,548	98,876
Operating Expenses				
Office Supplies	-	-	-	48
Staff Mileage/Travel	400	515	637	468
Course Registration	2,000	1,000	3,249	2,063
Postage	-	-	47	-
Materials & Supplies	20,300	14,000	20,715	16,171
Publications & Subscriptions	5,000	3,875	4,437	4,656
Services	54,900	61,100	45,168	84,680
Promotion	165	165	664	505
Transportation	20,000	15,000	19,454	29,728
Uniform Purchases	500	1,000	336	1,182
Cellular	860	760	597	730
Insurance	1,390	1,445	1,444	1,977
Bank Service Charges	4,600	4,100	4,630	4,368
Licence	325	-	-	-
Donation	15,950	22,900	19,020	26,180
Purchases for Resale	14,000	14,000	13,500	13,504
Equipment Purchases	100	100	12,456	3,422
Equipment Rental	500	325	321	214
Vehicle Rental	200	-	-	235
Vehicle Recovery	7,300	6,300	5,836	4,916
Equipment Recovery	500	1,500	1,354	1,979
Bulk for Resale	11,600	1,450	6,841	7,424
Pancake Group Expenses	10,300	8,100	7,684	12,365
	633,490	606,535	627,565	692,710

Land Management

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority owns over 2,900 hectares of land within its watershed jurisdiction that includes valley lands, provincially significant wetlands, natural areas, forests, as well as flood plain lands. The natural value of these properties, and the public investment in these lands, is protected through CLOCA's Land Management Program.

Program Operations

Program operational costs include inspections following CLOCA's Conservation Areas Risk Management Policy; facility repair, trail maintenance, and hazard tree work required to maintain public infrastructure for eight public Conservation Areas and 60 kilometers of trails. Inspections and hazard tree management will continue for all public use portions of CLOCA's landholdings.

Conservation Area Development

Russ Powell Nature Centre – Washroom Improvements (\$60,000)

The Russ Powell Nature Centre is the home of CLOCA's outdoor education programs and is based in the Enniskillen Conservation Area. The existing boys' and girls' washrooms will be renovated and updated to better meet accessibility and gender requirements.

Equipment storage building – Enniskillen Conservation Area Workshop (\$70,000)

An equipment storage building will be erected to provide cover for trailers and equipment that is currently stored outside.

The building is needed to add to the longevity of equipment and implements. The building will include a concrete pad and large open building with multiple garage bay doors.

Lynde Shores Conservation Area – Trail work (\$35,000)

Trails at Lynde Shores Conservation Area are surfaced with limestone screenings, but over the years the trail has settled and water now pools on the trails during wet weather. Aggregate will be imported, spread on the trails, and compacted to lift the trail elevation above the surrounding ground height and eliminate the ponding.

Lynde Shores Conservation Area – Quonset hut roof repairs (\$25,000)

The upper level of the existing Quonset building is used for equipment storage, and the lower level is rented out. The steel roof has developed leaks and will be patched and painted to eliminate the leaks and protect the building interior.

Roger's Tract Culvert Replacement and Wetland Naturalization Project

Part of the Crow's Pass Conservation Area land assembly, the Rogers Tract is located within the extreme headwaters of the Nonquon River watershed. The cold-water tributaries on this property support sensitive aquatic species like Brook Trout. Starting in 2020, CLOCA has been systematically completing a series of fish passage improvements and stream naturalization projects around the property.

Assessments of the control structures and berm integrity of the "House" ponds are ongoing, with plans to remove habitat and liability risks associated with these structures in 2025.

Post-construction monitoring of the two new culverts installed in 2023 will continue in 2025. Staff will be exploring partnerships with university researchers to undertake a more detailed assessment of fish passage through these upgraded features.

Invasive species monitoring and priority control work will continue through 2025. Invasive species control within plantations will continue in 2025 to ensure aggressive species are kept in check following the 2021 forest management work.

Property Management

Costs and revenues associated with ownership of land or buildings, taxes, insurance, maintenance and servicing of landholdings and facilities.

Acquisition Opportunities

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority continues to pursue land acquisition opportunities and funding opportunities in accordance with CLOCA's Land Acquisition Strategy, with an emphasis on implementing the Lake Iroquois Beach Securement Strategy and completing acquisition in important gaps within its Conservation Areas.

Staff were active in 2024 with the closing of five new parcels, for a total of 327 acres, including:

- Graham Tract (Long Sault Conservation Area) – 150 acres
- Hubble Tract (Long Sault Conservation Area) – 28.6 acres
- Cowan Tract (Long Sault Conservation Area) – 42.5 acres
- Byers Road Tract (Mount Carmel Conservation Area) – 65 acres
- Tomlin Tract (Long Sault Conservation Area) – 41 acres

Sixty per cent of the acquisition costs have been secured from Environment Climate Change Canada with the remaining funds being approved by the Region of Durham from their Greenspace Acquisition. Some additional work related to acquisition of these parcels and funding commitments will continue into 2025.

Final reporting to the Federal funders of these acquisition projects will be completed in 2025.

Storoshchuk Restoration

Restoration of the abandoned aggregate pit on the Storoshchuk Tract in Enniskillen Conservation Area will continue throughout 2025. The purpose of this restoration project is to restore this former aggregate pit area and return the terrain to its original form. Clean fill will continue to be imported by a local contractor and monitored by CLOCA.

Conservation Area Land Inventory

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Land Inventory was completed in late 2024, as required by regulation, and identifies every parcel of land that CLOCA owns and includes some basic information for each parcel, such as location, acquisition date, method, and land use category, among others. The Land Inventory will continue to be reviewed and updated annually as needed.

Conservation Area Strategy

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's lands support and help to sustain Durham Region's critical natural resources including water, aquatic, terrestrial and wildlife habitats. These are the same areas that Durham residents visit to enjoy and experience nature.

Continued increases in population will increase the number of visitors to CLOCA's Conservation Areas. The infrastructure and development necessary to support this growth will significantly impact CLOCA's watershed resources. As such, CLOCA must be confident that its Conservation Areas continue to protect the Region's most critical natural resources and that these areas can continue to provide appropriate recreational and educational needs. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority completed the development of the Conservation Area Strategy in late 2024 to guide what programs and services CLOCA offers on land that it owns and/or manages.

The Conservation Area Strategy will help to ensure that CLOCA continues to lead in the protection and enhancement of its Conservation Areas and greenspaces. The Strategy provides guidance for current and future decisions with respect to land and management needs over the long-term and guides the preparation of individual Conservation Area management plans. The Strategy also outlines a number of actions and deliverables that will support the long-term management of its Conservation Areas over time. Initiating some of the recommended planning work will begin in 2025.



CA Land Management

Revenue	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
General Levy	623,530	720,160	690,875	895,210
Municipal Special Levy	135,000	1,181,125	1,117,300	397,878
Federal Grants	10,835	2,300	4,318	-
Provincial Grants				18
Other Revenue	171,125	1,592,350	1,589,971	553,622
Reserve Transfer	120,450	61,200	(213,396)	1,923
Interest Earned	6,000	8,750	8,730	7,596
Pay & Display	139,000	126,500	143,725	127,600
Seasons Passes	90,000	90,000	90,276	90,143
Donations	65,000	70,000	142,750	75,710
Fill Sites Large Application Fees	50,000	50,000	8,435	48,090
Property Rental	76,080	71,500	73,778	71,382
Facility Rental Fees	81,635	102,450	81,718	40,225
Commerical Rent Signs	7,400	7,200	7,510	7,233
	1,576,055	4,083,535	3,745,990	2,316,630

Cost and Expenditures	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Salaries & Benefits				
Salaries & Wages	507,900	533,200	509,248	499,211
Wages - Summer Student Program	64,100	49,100	58,819	51,543
Benefits	150,400	155,200	147,496	142,366
Operating Expenses				
Staff Mileage	250	250	-	18
Administration Expense	36,000	33,000	33,000	30,000
Course Registration	5,000	5,000	3,047	4,808
Postage	-	-	132	1,034
Materials & Supplies	80,100	78,200	59,455	63,778
Publications & Subscriptions	100	100	224	55
Services	203,250	247,030	167,758	196,523
Fuel	-	-	-	-
Promotion	-	-	265	41
Small Tools	-	-	-	-
Water Sample Testing	600	700	-	284
Uniform Purchases	3,500	3,500	3,046	3,471
Telephone	1,875	1,875	1,266	1,828
Hydro	16,500	15,500	13,554	11,749
Alarm	1,360	1,375	1,340	1,340
Gas	7,500	7,000	5,566	4,709
Cellular	5,350	5,250	4,653	4,113
Travel	2,000	1,000	2,171	1,542
Property Taxes	50,325	51,450	47,798	43,467
Insurance	18,345	17,955	17,905	15,433
Legal Fees	-	-	-	-
Audit Fees	4,000	3,500	2,722	2,597
Bank Service Charges	9,700	9,700	11,089	9,294
Interest Expense	-	-	-	-
Land Acquisition	-	2,323,620	2,363,620	745,000
Pay & Display Monitoring Fees	6,650	6,650	6,566	6,350
Equipment Purchases	286,000	417,630	172,489	369,667
Equipment Rental	-	-	71	-
Vehicle Recovery	103,500	105,000	99,632	96,620
Equipment Recovery	11,750	10,750	13,058	9,790
	1,576,055	4,083,535	3,745,990	2,316,630

Vehicles and Equipment

Usage of CLOCA vehicles and equipment are charged back to projects and programs at a rate intended to cover the cost of operations.

Vehicle and Equipment Purchases

Planned vehicle replacements include two Conservation Areas work trucks. Both vehicles are 8-9 years old with over 240,000 km. A new heavy-duty, 30-tonne wood splitter will be purchased in 2025 to replace a smaller, older unit. A Recreational Terrain Vehicle (RTV) is also scheduled for replacement in 2025. Electric vehicle charging stations are progressing into 2025. The addition of electric / hybrid fleet vehicles will be prioritized in 2025-2026 starting with the addition of an electric / hybrid vehicle for the office fleet.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is participating with the Region of Durham and have received approval from Natural Resources Canada for grant funding for the installation of electrical vehicle charging stations. The Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program will fund 50 per cent of the cost. Based on feasibility assessments completed in 2023, level 2 charging stations will be installed for the corporate fleet in the garage at the Administrative Office and Conservation Areas Workshop.

Vehicle & Equipment				
Revenue	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
General Levy	48,850	31,575	58,855	(32,259)
Municipal Special Levy	105,000	30,000	-	-
Federal Grants	-	30,000	-	-
Other Revenue	20,000	-	4,272	-
Reserve Transfer	28,000	40,000	-	-
Rental Recovery	162,250	162,250	152,246	151,745
	364,100	293,825	215,375	119,485
Cost and Expenditures	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Salaries & Wages	5,200	6,300	3,187	7,628
Benefits	1,600	1,900	934	2,129
Materials & Supplies	3,800	3,300	5,247	4,651
Services	30,000	30,000	30,090	32,528
Fuel	38,500	38,500	32,140	31,975
Promotion	-	-	-	-
Small Tools	2,000	2,000	494	1,053
Travel	-	-	-	-
Insurance	15,500	19,325	19,244	19,300
Bank Service Charges	-	-	-	-
Licence	2,000	2,000	968	968
Equipment Purchases	169,000	74,000	8,795	18,385
Vehicle Purchases	95,000	115,000	113,409	-
Vehicle/Equipment Recovery	1,500	1,500	866	869
	364,100	293,825	215,375	119,485

Corporate Services

Program Operations

Corporate Services includes general direction, coordination, and implementation of all approved CLOCA programs and policies, member services, governance, financial management and reporting, budgets, corporate records, Geomatics and Information Management Systems, health and safety, human resources, payroll and administration support for all programs.

Desktop Hardware and Software Upgrades and Maintenance

This includes the costs for ongoing licensing of software suites of Microsoft 365, Microsoft Teams Calling and endpoint security solutions. Hardware costs are related to replacing and maintaining end-user workstation infrastructure such as laptops, desktops, monitors, and peripheral devices.

Server/Network Infrastructure Upgrades and Maintenance

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has a heavy operational dependency on Information Technology. Information Technology focuses on innovative, reliable, responsive and secure information technology planning, management, service delivery, support, and maintenance to enable CLOCA's services and drive efficiency. This includes all systems, applications, computers, networks, data, internet access, security and policies critical to the delivery of CLOCA's services seven days a week, 365 days a year. In 2025, CLOCA will continue to plan, maintain, enhance and secure its hybrid cloud information technology infrastructure.

Conservation Authority's Application Development Shared Services Agreement

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority and Conservation Halton, Mississippi Valley, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha Region, Otonabee Region and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority have implemented a coordinated shared services application development program. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has been the lead agency providing planning, development, operation, and maintenance support for the Conservation Authority Content Management System. The shared services agreement helps to standardize application development and business processes amongst the participating Conservation Authorities and ensure sustainability. In 2025, Hamilton Conservation Authority will be onboarding into the system.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Data Portal

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority uses technology to enable easy and convenient access to its core datasets, as such CLOCA will continue to maintain, enhance, and secure its data portal and tool development for staff, partners, and the public to provide a gateway for exploring and retrieving information about CLOCA's watersheds. This portal directs you to various interactive mapping, reporting, and data download tools to help partners and the public find the information they need.

The data portal leverages the information stored in the Water Information System and CLOCA's spatial data repository. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Open Data community is where users can explore and download data, use, and build innovative apps to solve important local issues, and analyze information to share with the community.

Migration to Water Information System (WISKI)

Enhancing CLOCA's water and climate monitoring system (WISKI) to gain efficiencies in data collection, manipulation, and interpretation will continue in 2025. The system will maintain expansion to incorporate other business areas to facilitate data maintenance, analysis, and dissemination of CLOCA's monitoring information network.

Office Environmental Monitoring

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority continues to work through environmental site monitoring and risk assessments for contaminated land surrounding its administration office. An Environmental Risk Assessment is being completed over a period of three years to satisfy both the *Environmental Protection Act* and the Public Sector Accounting requirements.

- servicing the communication needs of all CLOCA departments with branding, editing and publication services;
- supporting external community programs and projects with partners and stakeholders; and
- CLOCA representation on partner / stakeholder board, projects, councils.

In 2025, a focus will be on completing a Conservation Areas' guide, combining all current guides into one resource (print and digital); updating CLOCA's Conservation Areas' entrance signage and new parking instructional signage. The updated kiosk panels, trail markers and trailhead signage were completed at all eight Conservation Areas including, easy-to-read trail maps, which can also be found on the Avenza Maps app, where users can download trail maps of CLOCA's Conservation Areas (at no cost). Once downloaded, these maps can be used offline and will track visitors' location on the trails using their device's GPS. Offline location helps visitors stay on track, on the trail, and out of restricted areas.

Communications will continue to lead the marketing efforts of the Durham TREES program on behalf of the five participating Conservation Authorities and the Region of Durham in 2025.

Communication and outreach to watershed residents will take place in 2025 as part of the process to update CLOCA's Strategic Plan for 2026-2030.

Seasonal e-Newsletter

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority continued to deliver the quarterly e-newsletter for each season to an opted-in database of over 4,400 individuals. The e-newsletters are well received and offer CLOCA another tool to engage a broad audience in showcasing the work CLOCA performs throughout the watershed, across all departments. The e-newsletter maintains a significant open rate of over 40 per cent (vs an industry average successful open rate of 10 per cent).

Corporate Communications

This includes the operating costs associated with communications, to ensure the public and partners are informed about CLOCA's programs and services.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation's 2025 communications' products continue to build community awareness and engagement and media relations which includes:

- marketing CLOCA's corporate services, accomplishments, and new products;
- developing Conservation Area signage;
- design and production of corporate publications, brochures, reports, and fact sheets;
- producing the CLOCA Annual Report;
- maintaining and updating CLOCA's website, ensuring AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005) compliance;
- social media communications;
- developing new online services/tools

Main Office Capital Improvements

Engineering and Operations Office

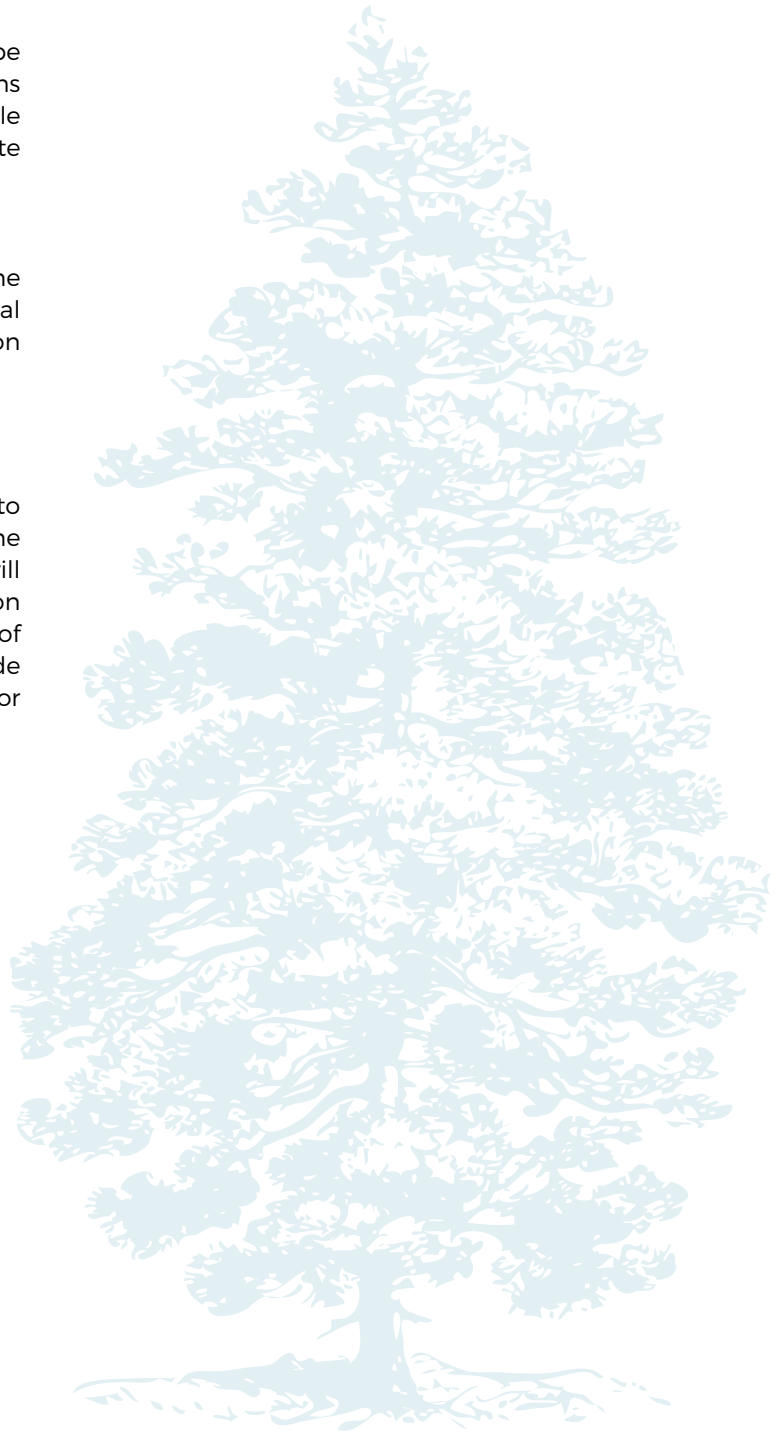
Aged washrooms and kitchenette will be improved in the Engineering and Operations office by replacing deteriorating vinyl tile flooring and upgrading the kitchenette cupboards, countertop and sink.

Administration Office Interior Walls

A small interior renovation is planned for the Administration Office to create an additional divider and security for the Information Technology computer center.

Administration Office Asbestos Abatement Study

A qualified professional will be retained to produce an asbestos survey report for the Administration office. The report will summarize findings from a visual inspection of all rooms within the office and sampling of building materials. The report will provide recommendations for any further actions or monitoring to ensure a safe workplace.



Corporate Services

Revenue	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
General Levy	1,771,970	1,729,135	1,529,669	1,504,190
MNRF Transfer Payment	10,945	10,945	10,945	10,945
Federal Grants	-	4,600	2,319	-
Provincial Grants	-	-	10,789	-
Other Revenue	183,900	93,000	96,988	87,516
Other Grants	-	45,680	45,679	50,321
Interest Earned	180,870	245,000	301,172	305,578
Administrative Services	63,450	65,300	65,300	50,000
Merchandise Sales	-	-	117	40
Facility Rental Fees	-	-	44	-
	2,211,135	2,193,660	2,063,022	2,008,590

Cost and Expenditures	2025 Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Salaries & Benefits				
Salaries & Wages	1,306,500	1,241,060	1,171,324	1,155,673
Wages - Summer Student Program	-	16,900	15,564	20,970
Benefits	360,100	361,920	331,740	328,843
Members Per Diems	8,500	8,500	7,900	7,400
Operating Expenses				
Office Supplies	2,000	2,000	2,502	2,067
Postage	3,000	3,000	2,429	2,181
Printing	3,500	3,500	3,154	3,182
Promotion	1,800	1,800	359	107
Uniform Purchases	1,400	1,900	305	772
Travel	2,700	2,700	2,129	2,966
Cellular	3,240	3,240	2,914	2,575
Course Registration	36,730	29,000	31,509	23,970
Bank Service Charges	2,000	2,000	1,806	2,072
Payroll Processing Fees	8,900	7,800	8,954	8,595
Publications & Subscriptions	24,400	24,400	17,219	15,893
Services	101,150	130,550	83,886	114,298
Materials & Supplies	37,200	19,700	26,118	20,527
Software	45,800	32,700	53,522	31,174
Equipment Rental	14,000	14,000	14,130	12,895
Capital Asses/Equipment	31,000	83,000	55,701	74,068
Property Taxes	9,400	8,500	8,715	8,295
Utilities	44,250	42,600	41,754	39,725
Insurance	53,165	60,090	60,256	58,326
Legal Fees	30,000	15,000	51,786	11,593
Audit Fees	38,000	38,000	25,618	22,002
Donation	1,000	400	2,600	200
ACAO Levy	39,000	37,000	37,094	35,548
Vehicle/Equipment Recovery	2,400	2,400	2,035	2,675
	2,211,135	2,193,660	2,063,022	2,008,590



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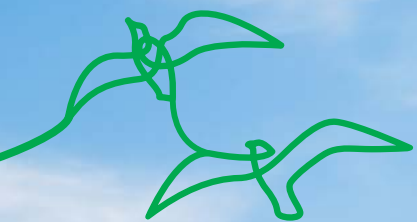
DATE: May 13, 2025
FILE: ACAF16 **APPROVED BY C.A.O.** _____
S.R.: 5931-25
TO: Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors
FROM: Chris Darling, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Conservation Ontario 2024 Annual Report**

Enclosed please find the Conservation Ontario 2024 Annual Report which details the initiatives carried out by Conservation Ontario on behalf of the Conservation Authority network. The report provides accounts of the organization's performance through program updates and a summary of its financial health.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Staff Report #5931-25 be received for information.

Attach.



Annual Report



Conservation
ONTARIO

2024

CONSERVATION IMPACT
Valuing positive contribution
through conversation



📍 Baxter (Rideau Valley CA)

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Cover photo: 📍 Bognor Marsh (Grey Sauble CA)

Message from the

Chair and General Manager



Chair Chris White
Conservation Ontario
Board of Directors



Angela Coleman
General Manager,
Conservation Ontario

Storytelling connects, inspires, and bridges gaps between individuals, communities, and generations. Today, collaboration is vital, and the need to build bridges is greater than ever.

In 2024, Conservation Ontario (CO) reflected on Conservation Authorities (CAs) nearly 80-year history of leadership in watershed management in Ontario. For decades, municipalities and Ontarians have relied on CAs to safeguard communities and support sustainable growth. These partnerships, grounded in local watershed science, are essential in shaping decisions that protect the environment and enhance community well-being.

Ontario’s watershed model fosters healthy, resilient communities. CAs were established in the 1940s to address deteriorating watershed conditions and rising flood risks. Over time, we have developed initiatives and hazard land acquisitions to protect water quality, reduce flooding, and improve watershed health. Our regulatory role in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954 is crucial in preventing development in hazardous flood-prone and erosion-sensitive areas.

The legacy of this work is a watershed-based approach to natural hazard management, avoiding billions of dollars in losses from disasters. We encourage you to engage and share this collective conservation story, as we did in 2024, bringing together partners to create meaningful impact.

The stories featured in this report highlight the incredible work of our staff, partners, and collaborators. We are proud of the partnerships cultivated and the progress made through our collective conservation efforts.



Panel moderated by Angela Coleman, general manager of Conservation Ontario, at the Climate Proof Canada National Climate Adaptation Summit in Ottawa.

COLLABORATION IN ACTION:

- We participated in a joint opening panel session on Agricultural Water Management with the Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario and the Drainage Superintendents of Ontario. This session, titled *Common Problems, Collaborative Solutions*, brought together over 300 delegates from various sectors and levels of government to address complex issues in agriculture water management. At this event, we had dinner with the Minister of Agriculture, Lisa Thompson, and guests receiving special recognition.
- At the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference, we partnered with the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to launch a shared advocacy approach for funding Great Lakes shoreline priorities. The Minister of Natural Resources, Graydon Smith, attended our celebration alongside partner municipalities.
- Board Chair Chris White and staff presented at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Ontario Regional Meeting in Collingwood. At the Bi-National Conference in Montreal, we presented watershed governance in Ontario with government representatives from Canada and the United States.
- We met Minister Graydon Smith at Queen’s Park to discuss conservation priorities and opened the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop with provincial, federal, and CA partners.
- We attended *Nature on the Hill* in Ottawa, engaging with partners and federal members of Parliament to emphasize the importance of protecting nature and biodiversity.
- We hosted a federal media event at the Rogers Reservoir Conservation Area to celebrate our multi-million-dollar federal land conservation and acquisition program.

- We hosted our first-ever social mixer at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in Ottawa.
- Throughout the year, we participated in various local events, including stewardship funding announcements, trail expansions, land donations, and milestone celebrations with several CAs. These events showcased the success and commitment of conservation efforts at the community level.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Women Leaders in Conservation Panel at the Latornell Conservation Symposium: Moderating this panel, we had the privilege of facilitating an open and honest conversation with four leading conservation executives from Conservation Halton, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Forests Canada, and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. Their personal stories of leadership left a lasting impact on all who attended.

Fireside Chat at the Climate Proof Canada National Climate Adaptation Summit: A key moment was posing challenging questions about progress and measurables on the National Adaptation Strategy to The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and engaging with Mayor Richard Ireland of Jasper during a sensitive discussion on the impact of the wildfires that devastated his home and community and deeply underscored the human element of our conservation work and its profound impact on real lives.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2024, we are reminded of the power of collaboration, shared purpose, and the lasting impact of collective action through conversation. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work collectively towards a sustainable and vibrant future for all.

Chair Chris White

Conservation Ontario Board of Directors

Angela Coleman

General Manager, Conservation Ontario



Conservation Authorities Act

Commitment to Positive Change

On February 16, 2024, Conservation Ontario (CO) and Conservation Authorities (CAs) learned of amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CA Act) and regulations, which came into effect on April 1, 2024. In response, CO and the CAs quickly adapted to meet new requirements to minimize service disruptions and maintain efficient service delivery. One change was the introduction of a new, single regulation to replace all previous CA “development, interference, and alterations” regulations.

With support from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), CO developed and updated comprehensive guidance documents, including transition guidance, to assist with local implementation of the amended CA Act. These documents provided valuable resources and reference materials to ensure consistency as CAs updated their local development review policies and procedures. Additionally, CO delivered multiple training sessions to ensure staff were well-prepared to navigate changes.

Proactively, CO facilitated weekly meetings with CA general managers and senior staff to discuss implementation challenges, prioritize actions, and share new CO guidance. CO and the CAs also participated in a technical webinar hosted by MNR to deepen understanding of legislative and regulatory changes.

Collaboration Through Strong Partnerships

In 2024, Conservation Ontario (CO) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) collaborated to share valuable information with Conservation Authorities (CAs) and municipal staff. On June 14, both organizations hosted the *Conservation Authorities and Municipalities Working Together* webinar, which focused on the vital role of CAs in land use planning and development, as well as opportunities for greater collaboration with municipalities. These key messages were further emphasized during the CO and AMO panel session, *Adapting to Changing Roles in Environmental Management*, at the 2024 AMO Conference.

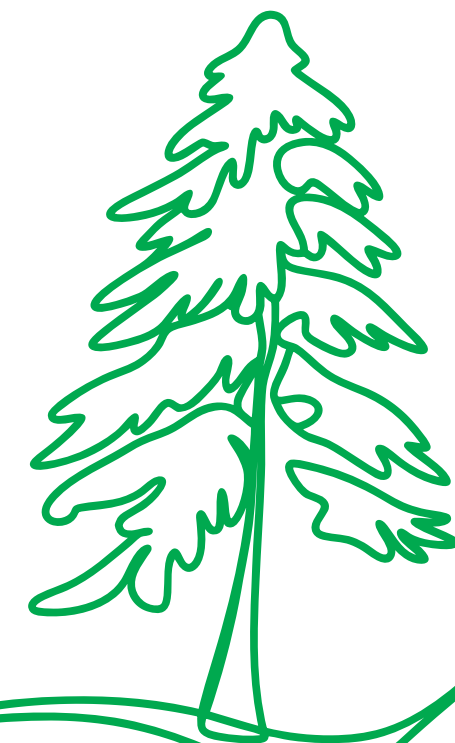
Governance, Accountability, and Transparency

Conservation Ontario (CO) and Conservation Authorities (CAs) continue to support the provincial government’s commitment to governance, accountability, and transparency. In 2024, all 36 CAs adhered to the provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act* concerning the chair and vice-chair roles, ensuring these positions are not held for more than two consecutive terms except further to a granted Minister’s exception. All 36 CAs maintained updated governance webpages, supported by CO as needed, to provide access to governance materials in accordance with Ontario Regulation 400/22 (Information Requirements).

Successful Completion of Mandatory Deliverables

In 2024, Conservation Authorities (CAs) focused on meeting key provincial deliverables by the December 31, 2024, deadline. These included the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy, Conservation Area Strategy, Conservation Land Inventory, and Natural Hazard Infrastructure Asset Management Plans. To support public consultation requirements for select deliverables, Conservation Ontario (CO) hosted a general managers and CA leads session in February 2024, where best practices and CA strategies for effective public engagement were shared.

By navigating regulatory changes and fostering collaboration, CO and CAs demonstrated an ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, good governance, and continuous improvement in service delivery.



Provincial and Federal Consultations

Conserving Natural Resources and Protecting Public Health and Safety

Conservation Ontario (CO) plays a critical role coordinating Conservation Authority (CA) reviews of policy proposals and consultations, ensuring CA perspectives are shared for the development of provincial and federal policy and legislation.

In 2024, 15 CAs actively contributed to the creation of 11 CO submissions that addressed a broad range of policy proposals impacting mandatory CA programs and services. These submissions covered various areas, including provincial planning (e.g., the *Planning Act*, *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*, *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the Provincial Planning Statement), flooding and emergency management (e.g., the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*), conservation areas (e.g., built environment standards under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*), and regulatory matters under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (e.g., Minister's Permit and Review powers).

In January 2024, CO submitted the annual report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) detailing CO's Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects. CO works closely with MECP to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Class Environmental Assessment process, ensuring that it remains responsive to the evolving needs of CAs and the communities they serve.



Client Service and Streamlining Initiative

Service Excellence: Improving customer service and streamlining to support safe and sustainable growth

Conservation Authorities (CAs) support safe and sustainable planning and development, ensuring that people, property, and infrastructure are protected from the impacts of natural hazards. Early 2024 amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)* and related regulations refined the role of CAs, emphasizing a more consistent regulatory approach. Conservation Ontario (CO) and CAs quickly adapted to these changes to maintain high levels of client service, identify opportunities to streamline local processes, and invest in tools to support more timely review and approvals.

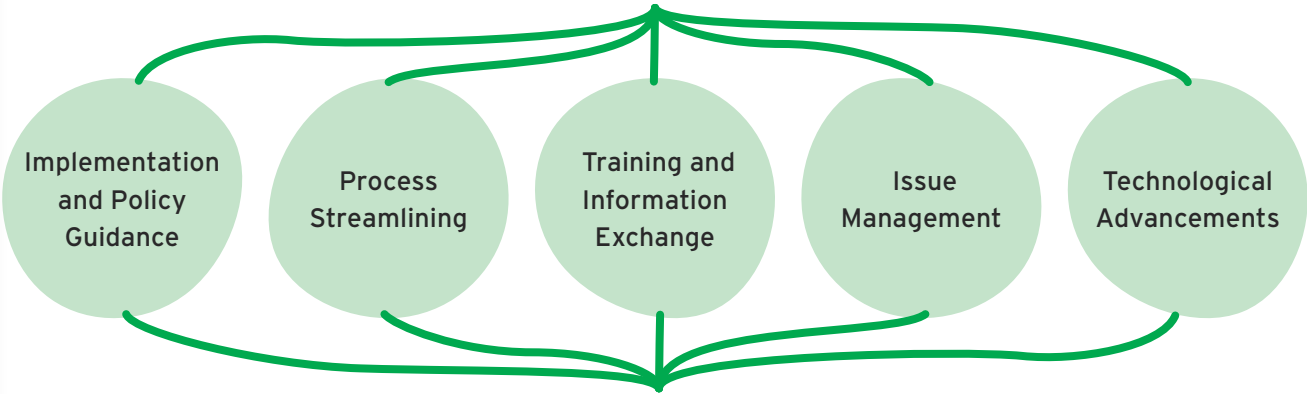
To promote consistent annual reporting for CA permit reviews, CO introduced a standardized template and framework to track review timelines. The established benchmarks set a standard of 30 days for minor permits and 90 days for major permits, ensuring comparable reporting across all CAs. In recent years, CAs made significant investments in new database software and other process improvements to continue providing exceptional development review services. This annual report includes data on permits received as of April 1, 2024, under the new legislative and regulatory framework.

Ontario's 36 CAs play key roles to protect growing housing and infrastructure from the potential impacts of natural hazards. CO facilitates excellence in CA development review programs through issue management, sharing of best practices, and ongoing guidance and training, while continuously identifying opportunities for process and policy improvements.

DID YOU KNOW?

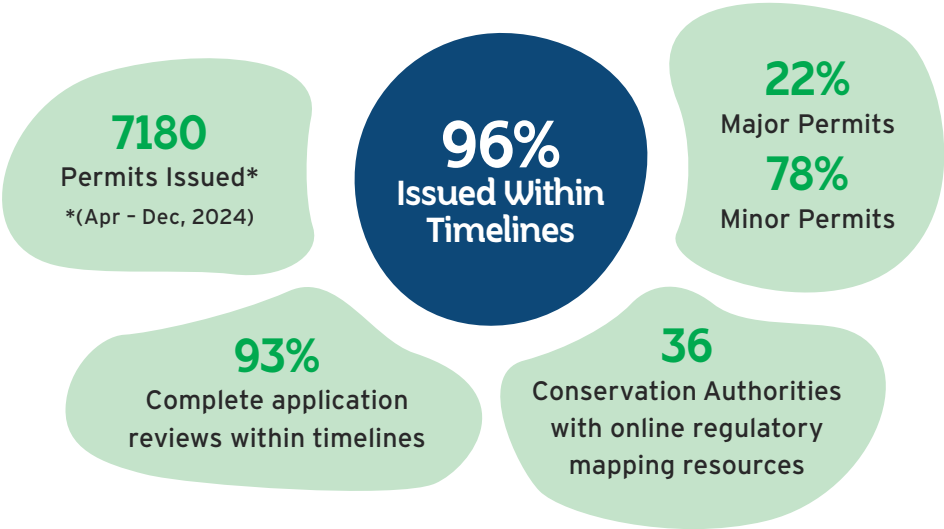
According to the Canadian Climate Institute's report, *Close to Home: How to Build More Housing in a Changing Climate*, Ontario's strong land use policies have reduced flood hazard risks to existing housing compared to other provinces. The report emphasizes the successful collaboration between Conservation Authorities, the province, and local governments in prohibiting development in high-flood risk areas, effectively minimizing flood risks to housing.

ELEMENTS OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

April 1 – December 31, 2024



"The Conservation Authority Content Management System is innovating how we manage permitting processes. By centralizing timeline tracking, KPI monitoring, and plan review workflows, we're enabling Conservation Authorities to collaborate and operate more efficiently and effectively, ensuring better service delivery for our communities."

Rod Wilmot, Information Management and Technology Manager, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

"The adoption of the Conservation Authority Content Management System by eight Conservation Authorities is a testament to our impact on improving operational efficiency. This collaborative effort is streamlining permitting management and enhancing reporting, allowing Conservation Authorities to provide faster, more accurate service. The system is Conservation Halton's 'one-stop shop' for planning and permitting activities, providing us with valuable process insights for our board, partners, and staff."

Charles Priddle, Senior Manager, Regulations and Coastal Management Programs, Conservation Halton

Flooding

Reflecting on our legacy, focusing on our future

CLIMATE PROOF CANADA COALITION NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION SUMMIT

On October 22, 2024, Conservation Ontario (CO) staff, Conservation Authority (CA) leadership, and government and agency partners gathered to bring attention to the urgent need to advance disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation actions. Discussions focused on practical solutions to strengthen economic and climate resilience, including the development of resilient infrastructure and communities, as well as enhancing disaster resilience nationwide.

Angela Coleman, CO's general manager, moderated a panel discussion featuring Minister Steven Guilbeault (*Environment and Climate Change Canada*), Mayor Richard Ireland (*Jasper, Alberta*), Celyeste Power (*Insurance Bureau of Canada*), and Patricia Fuller (*International Institute for Sustainable Development*). Throughout the event, CO and CA staff shared valuable insights on collaborative efforts between CAs, all levels of government, and various partners. Together, these efforts are working to enhance watershed resilience, mitigate risks, and protect communities, properties, and infrastructure from natural hazards such as flooding.



Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authority representatives at the Climate Proof Canada National Climate Adaptation Summit in Ottawa.



Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop.

Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop (October 1-2)

Conservation Authority (CA) staff, along with provincial and national practitioners, gathered at the workshop to exchange best practices, explore new methodologies, and highlight technological innovations. The program marked the 70th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel, reflecting on seven decades of progress in flood forecasting and warning systems.

The workshop brought together over 170 professionals and featured presentations from a diverse range of experts, including staff from CAs, municipal, provincial, and federal governments. A key highlight was a presentation by Senior Climatologist David Phillips from Environment and Climate Change Canada, offering valuable insights into the evolving challenges and strategies in climate and disaster risk management.



Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop committee members, Jo-Anne Rzadki (Conservation Ontario) and Rhianydd Phillips (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), alongside David Phillips (Environment and Climate Change Canada).

DID YOU KNOW?

Following the National Climate Adaptation Summit, Climate Proof Canada issued key recommendations to build climate-resilient infrastructure and communities. The top recommendation emphasized the importance of avoiding new housing development in high-risk flood areas and ensuring public access to mapping that discloses these areas.

In Ontario, Conservation Authorities (CAs) are advancing this recommendation through their regulatory responsibilities, working to safeguard people, property, and infrastructure from the impacts of natural hazards. All 36 CAs maintain publicly accessible regulatory mapping that delineates natural hazard areas, supporting informed decision-making within the regulatory program and helping to protect communities from flood risks.

Great Lakes

Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes

In 2024, Conservation Ontario's *Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes Project* secured funding through Natural Resources Canada's Climate Resilient Coastal Communities Program. This funding supports three Conservation Authority-led pilot projects. The funding proposal was endorsed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, recognizing its alignment with the Ontario Flooding Strategy and the value of enhancing the capacity of Conservation Authorities (CAs) to manage coastal hazards and protect people, property, and infrastructure.

These four-year pilot projects will assist municipalities and local communities mitigate and adapt to the impacts of flooding, erosion and other coastal hazards to help prevent socio-economic and environmental losses that can impact communities in different ways. The projects will identify hazardous flood and erosion areas on the coast through technical studies, assessing the vulnerability and risk of private and public infrastructure, to develop regional coastal resilience plans. These action-based plans will equip municipalities and communities with needed tools developed through input from collaborators.

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is partnering on this project to increase municipal awareness through the championing of Mayors. This strengthens Ontario's community buy-in to act and adapt.

Additionally, 2024 saw the formation of the Conservation Authorities Coastal Network, which brings together all CAs responsible for the Great Lakes coastline. This network fosters collaboration among staff from diverse program areas, including planning, regulations, engineering, restoration, stewardship, and watershed resource management. In November, 24 of the 26 coastal CAs participated in a workshop to share information, discuss challenges, exchange lessons learned, and explore shared services, such as the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's in-house Content Management System for tracking permit timelines. The workshop aimed to support the development of best practices and enhance the overall capacity of the network.



"Since signing our Memorandum of Collaboration with Conservation Ontario in January 2024 to support our Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience, we have had several positive collaborations. These include the current Adapting to Coastal Hazards project, additional funding proposals to enhance water quality and climate resilience in the Great Lakes, and Conservation Ontario's active participation in the Cities Initiative's Waterfront Transformation Working Group."

Phil Murphy-Rhéaume,
Chief Development Officer,
Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

"The South Lake Huron Pilot Project is a local collaboration to mitigate the impacts of coastal erosion where three-quarters of a billion dollars in public and private assets are assessed within known hazardous areas; an additional \$1.25 billion is estimated. Collaborating with the other pilot projects and sharing knowledge within the Conservation Authority Coastal Network reinforces the need for and importance of this work across the Great Lakes region."

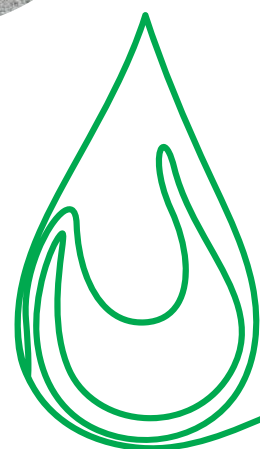
Patrick Huber-Kidby,
Planning and Regulations Supervisor,
Flood and Erosion Safety Services,
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority





Conservation Authority Source Water Protection staff attend a project managers' meeting in Peterborough.

Drinking Water Source Protection



Protecting Our Drinking Water: A Commitment to our Present and Future

The Drinking Water Source Protection Program, established under the *Clean Water Act*, 2006, is designed to safeguard current and future sources of municipal drinking water on a watershed basis. Conservation Ontario (CO) provides coordination and support services to Conservation Authorities (CAs), enabling them to fulfill their legislative responsibilities and excel in program delivery through strong partnerships with the province, municipalities, and other collaborators.

The success of these programs relies on ongoing collaboration between CAs, provincial and municipal staff, elected officials, residents, and industry partners. By fostering and valuing these conversations, CO has empowered CAs to uphold and enhance robust protections for our drinking water sources.

Partnerships

- CO organizes quarterly meetings with CA project managers and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to strengthen relationships and facilitate the exchange of information, ensuring the effective operation of the program.
- CO hosts monthly office hours to encourage the sharing of best practices among CA project managers.
- In collaboration with the province, CO has facilitated more in-person meetings to improve communication, including a two-day session in June and a one-day session in December.
- CO also organizes the Source Water Seminar Series for risk management officials, inspectors, and CA project managers, bringing together professionals from municipalities, consulting fields, and provincial and CA staff to exchange knowledge and expertise.



Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks staff discuss key topics to support the Drinking Water Source Protection program.

Creating Awareness

Conservation Ontario is actively raising awareness about the importance of protecting our drinking water sources through targeted social media campaigns. These messages are further amplified through partnerships, with collaborators sharing these campaigns to reach broader audiences and engage communities in the critical conversation around source water protection.

"Conservation impact means creating lasting change for our environment and communities. It's about protecting natural resources today and ensuring they're sustainable for our future. The Drinking Water Wise webinars highlight how critical clean drinking water is for our health and ecosystems through discussions with experts across Ontario. Conservation Authorities play a valuable role in educating communities to make informed choices and to protect our most valuable resources. By supporting Conservation Authorities and engaging with programs like these webinars, we empower communities to take action, safeguard drinking water sources, and build a healthier, more resilient future for generations to come."

Natasha Mathieu,
Source Water Protection Technical Assistant, Quinte Conservation Authority and **Marika Livingston,** Project Manager, Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region

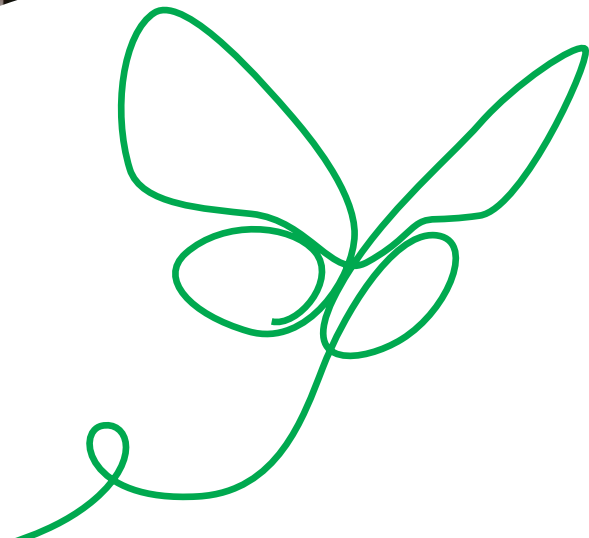
Partnerships

Protecting Nature: Canada's Ecological Gifts Program and its Lasting Legacy

In collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada, Conservation Ontario hosted three regional in-person workshops to provide training and education on the federal Ecological Gifts Program. Designed for property stewards and land managers from Ontario's Conservation Authorities and land trusts, these workshops aimed to maximize the program's benefits while clarifying compliance responsibilities.



Laura Kucey from Environment and Climate Change Canada shares insights on the federal Ecological Gifts Program at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation in Utopia.



Nature-Based Climate Solutions

Since 2021, Conservation Ontario (CO) and 26 Conservation Authorities (CAs) have partnered with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund and the Canada Nature Fund to implement projects that protect and restore wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and other ecosystems aimed at reducing GHG emissions and sequestering carbon.

These efforts have resulted in leveraging \$35.2 million from municipal, local, regional, and watershed partners, alongside \$23.6 million in federal funding. As a result, over 2,400 hectares of environmentally sensitive land have been protected, and more than 22,500 hectares of critical habitat for at-risk species in Ontario have been restored.

These newly protected and restored areas contribute to Canada's goal of conserving 30 per cent of our land and water by 2030 and offer a range of co-benefits, including enhanced flood risk reduction, improved drinking water quality, and strengthened climate, economic, and watershed resilience for Ontario residents.

In 2024, CO celebrated these achievements at two events alongside ECCC and local representatives. Moving forward, CO staff will continue to cultivate and strengthen partnerships to advance nature-based climate solutions, supporting the capacity of CAs and their many watershed partners in delivering impactful, on-the-ground projects.

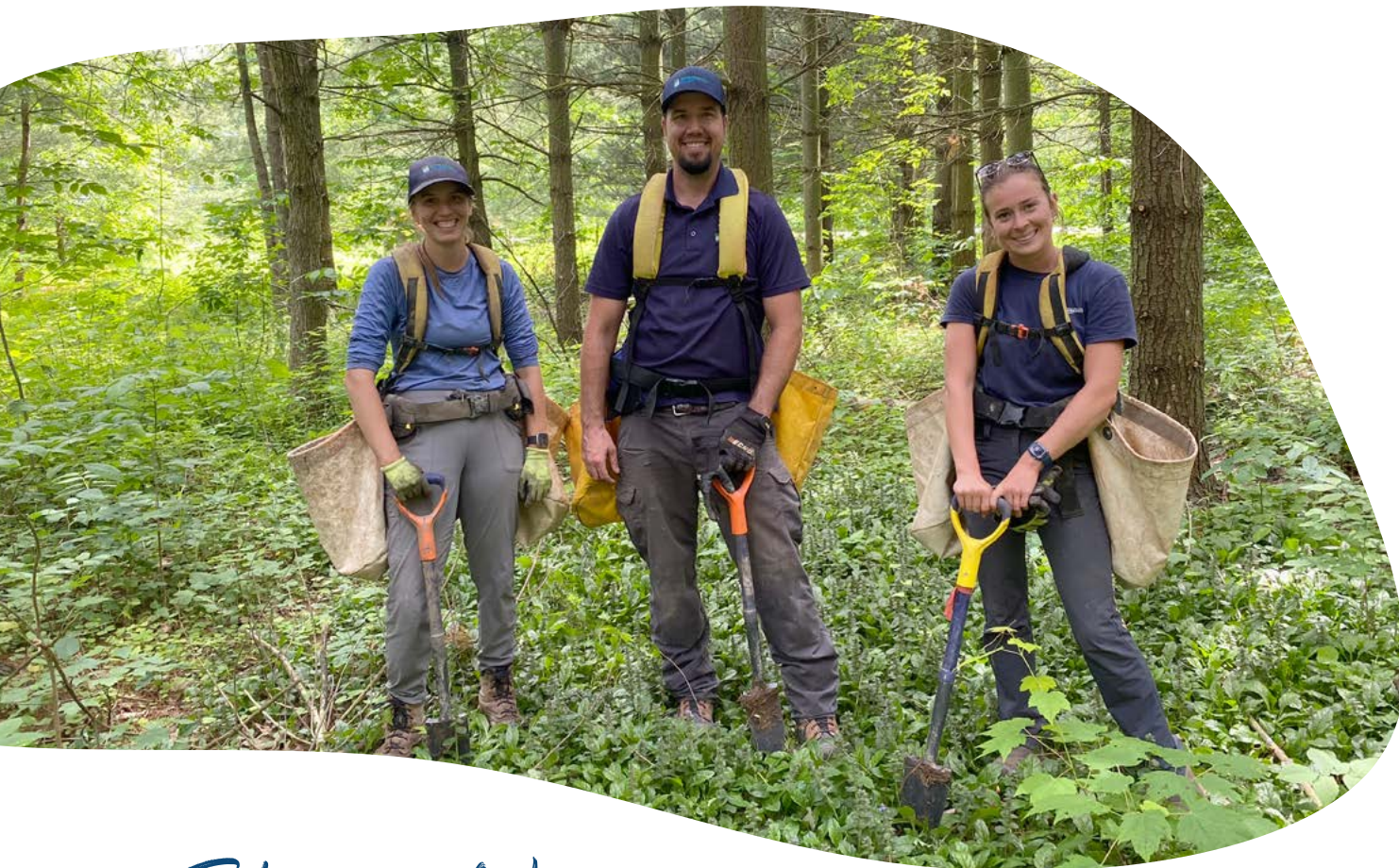


Canada Nature Fund announcement at Rogers Reservoir in Newmarket.



Nature Smart Climate Solutions, Ecosystem Protection and Climate Mitigation Fund announcement in Peterborough.





Stewardship

Supporting Natural Asset Management

A dedicated team of Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authority (CA) staff are leading discussions and initiatives focused on enhancing CA capacity in natural asset management. The team includes staff from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, and South Nation Conservation.

This working group is actively identifying and implementing actions to strengthen CA capacity in the following areas:

- ✔ Integrating natural asset management into CA corporate asset management practices;
- ✔ Supporting municipalities in complying with Ontario Regulation 588/17; and
- ✔ Promoting a watershed-based approach to natural asset management to foster regional collaboration.



Conservation Authorities plant over 2,000,000 trees throughout Ontario with support from incredible partners

Conservation Authorities (CAs) are instrumental in Ontario's tree planting efforts, working collaboratively with a wide range of organizations and municipalities to plant trees across the province. With the support of key partners, CAs have planted over two million trees each year, contributing to the 20 million trees planted over the past decade.

These initiatives support various environmental goals, such as afforestation, reforestation, riparian and wetland plantings, windbreaks, and understory plantings. These efforts are crucial for enhancing species diversity, reducing soil erosion, and promoting the well-being of local communities.

The importance of collaboration is at the heart of these tree planting efforts. Conservation Ontario (CO) continues to strengthen partnerships with organizations such as Forests Canada, Tree Canada, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), Maple Leaves Forever, and the Ontario Woodlot Association. By working together, we address challenges and find innovative solutions to improve tree planting and forest management across the province. These partnerships are essential for tackling the complexities of large-scale reforestation and ensuring the success of Ontario's long-term environmental goals.

In 2024, a partnership between CO, Tree Canada, and 10 CAs planted over 103,000 trees and shrubs across 49 sites, spanning 70 hectares of both public and private land. The diverse plantings included 80 different species, such as Eastern Hemlock, White Cedar, Hackberry, and Tamarack. The collective effort will continue through 2025 and 2026.

Collaborative tree planting initiatives help restore ecosystems and contribute to the success of the federal government's 2 Billion Trees Program. This ambitious program aims to plant two billion trees by 2030, supporting Ontario's efforts to combat climate change, enhance biodiversity, and improve air and water quality. By working together with partners, CAs and collaborators are playing a crucial role in achieving this goal and ensuring a greener, more sustainable future for the province and their watersheds.



Bulk Purchase

Enhancing Efficiency and Savings through Partnerships

Conservation Ontario (CO) delivered significant cost savings and operational efficiencies for its members by facilitating bulk purchases and providing access to shared tools and services. Notably, CO advanced the third year of a three-year Enterprise Agreement with Esri Canada, ensuring Conservation Authorities (CAs) received discounted access to cutting-edge Geographic Information System technologies, comprehensive training, and valuable services.

In addition, the organization maintained bulk purchasing arrangements with key partners, including Teranet for single sign-on access to the Geowarehouse, OnBoard for meeting and board management software, and KnowBe4 for discounted cyber risk management solutions tailored to CAs. Further bulk purchase agreements were also established for group benefits, insurance, and communication tools, reinforcing Conservation Ontario's commitment to optimizing resources and enhancing the operational capacity of its members.

"Since 2011, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority has participated in the CAMaps program through Conservation Ontario. This collaborative service provides us with access to advanced web mapping technology at a significantly reduced cost compared to self-hosting. It allows us to securely offer information services to our municipal members and the public via a web browser."

Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer,
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

"Conservation Ontario manages a multi-year Enterprise GIS software maintenance program in collaboration with Esri Canada. Through this bulk purchasing initiative, Credit Valley Conservation, along with the other 35 Conservation Authorities, gains access to the latest GIS technology, ongoing support, and training—resulting in significant cost savings."

Kamal Paudel, Manager,
Information Management,
Credit Valley Conservation

Information Management

Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program Enhancing the Flood Mapping Metadata Application

Conservation Ontario has successfully digitized floodplain mapping metadata records collected from Conservation Authorities (CAs) and consolidated them into a new online application. This platform enables CA staff to easily edit and update the status of their flood mapping as new flood studies are completed. Additionally, a public-facing application was developed, allowing authorized CA staff to manage the visibility of flood study records for public access.

The project also included the creation of a comprehensive user guide and over 75 CA staff participated in training that equipped them with the skills to effectively use the new system. As a result, more than 175 individual flood studies have been added to the database, enhancing the visibility of floodplain mapping across Ontario.

Conservation Authority Collaborative Information Sessions Conference (June 18-19)

The 16th annual Conservation Authority Collaborative Information Sessions (CACIS) Conference was hosted at Trent University.

Over 90 participants attended the two-day event, which featured two concurrent streams and more than 30 presentations from a range of speakers and organizations, including Conservation Authorities (CAs), Conservation Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Natural Resources Canada, vendors and sponsors, and partner organizations.

The conference kicked off with a welcome address by Angela Coleman, general manager of Conservation Ontario, and a keynote presentation by Chris North, senior strategist and GIS advocate with 43 North GIS Consulting Inc. The conference showcased a variety of innovative topics, including digital transformation, flood mapping advancements, cyber risk management, AI feature extraction, and data asset management, with valuable contributions from CA staff and partners.



Jeff Lamb from Esri Canada at the Conservation Authority Collaborative Information Sessions Conference at Trent University in Peterborough.



The Women Leaders in Conservation panel featured Alison Howson (*Executive Director, Ontario Land Trust Alliance*), Jessica Kaknevicus (*CEO, Forests Canada*), Marie-Paule Godin (*Manager of Provincial Operations - Ontario, Ducks Unlimited Canada*), and Chandra Sharma (*President and CEO, Conservation Halton*), with Angela Coleman (*General Manager, Conservation Ontario*) moderating.

Events

Latornell Conservation Symposium (October 8-9)

The 2024 Latornell Conservation Symposium was a highly engaging and impactful event that brought together over 500 delegates. Hosted by Conservation Ontario and the University of Guelph, the symposium offered a rich program of thought-provoking sessions, inspiring speakers, and valuable networking opportunities, energizing the conservation community.

The theme, *Collaboration: The Future of Conservation is Collaborative*, was brought to life through an impressive lineup of sessions. Highlights included an impactful Indigenous opening by Gimaa Stacey Laforme and a keynote address by Julius Lindsay, director of sustainable communities at the David Suzuki Foundation. The symposium hosted its first-ever Women Leaders in Conservation panel, moderated by Angela Coleman, general manager of Conservation Ontario.

Delegates had the opportunity to participate in three focused streams—People, Land, and Water—along with interactive workshops and a student poster competition that highlighted fresh ideas and innovation. The symposium was a resounding success, generating excitement and momentum for the future of conservation in Ontario.



The opening ceremony was led by Gimaa Stacey Laforme of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.



The keynote address was delivered by Julius Lindsay, director of sustainable communities at the David Suzuki Foundation.



Glencairn
(Nottawasaga Valley CA)

Step Into Nature at the Outdoor Adventure Show (February 23-25)

As a first-time exhibitor at the Outdoor Adventure Show, Conservation Ontario (CO) had the opportunity to connect with thousands of outdoor enthusiasts from across Ontario, including campers, hikers, canoeists, and cyclists. Over the course of the three-day event, staff engaged with hundreds of visitors, offering valuable insights into the wide range of activities, attractions, and amenities available at Ontario's more than 300 Conservation Areas.

With enthusiasm and expertise, the team showcased these natural treasures through the Conservation Areas website and printed guide, helping attendees discover new ways to connect with nature in their local watersheds.



Conservation Ontario's exhibit booth at the 2024 Outdoor Adventure Show.

Healthy Hikes and Mood Walks

PROMOTING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH CMHA-ONTARIO

The Step Into Nature Healthy Hikes campaign encouraged Ontarians to explore Conservation Areas and experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature.

The "Nature Everywhere" theme was introduced during Mental Health Week, with Conservation Ontario sharing nature-focused graphics that highlighted how spending time in nature can reduce stress, improve mood, enhance cognitive function, increase physical activity, and foster connection and mindfulness.

Conservation Ontario participated in the relaunch of Mood Walks.

Mood Walks is led by the Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario, in collaboration with Hike Ontario and Conservation Ontario. The program is designed to encourage and support the mental and physical health of participants by exposing them to the healing effects of nature, being physically active, and engaging with community.



Step Into Nature App

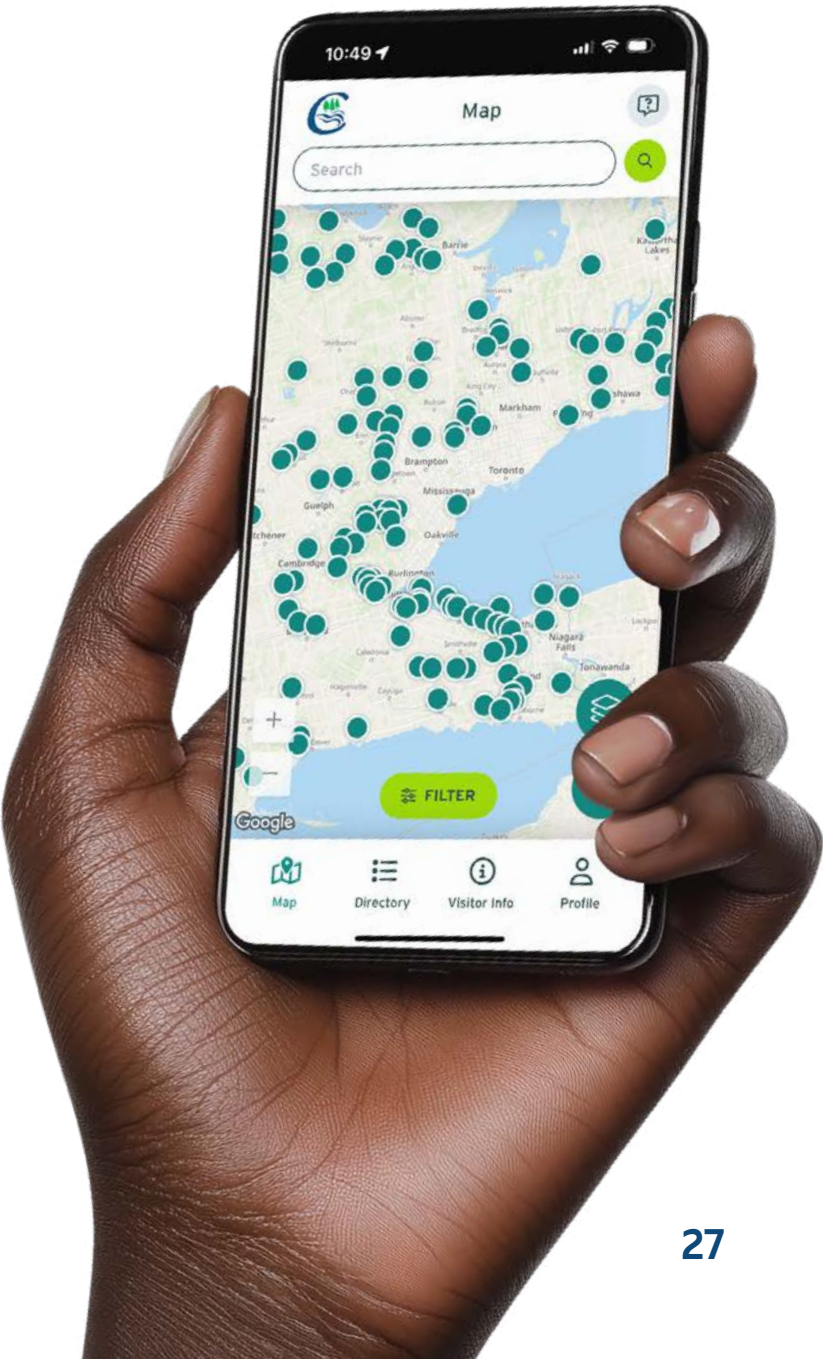
NEW STEP INTO NATURE APP LAUNCHED ON IOS AND ANDROID

Conservation Ontario (CO) has always been passionate about connecting people with nature, and its social media presence is key in reaching new audiences. Through engaging posts, stunning imagery, and informative content, CO has built a vibrant online community of outdoor enthusiasts, nature lovers, and environmental advocates. CO's social media platforms offer tips on conservation, highlights of Ontario's 300+ Conservation Areas, and stories that inspire others to explore and protect the environment.

CO took a bold step forward in enhancing its digital engagement with the launch of the Step Into Nature App. Designed to help users discover and explore Ontario's Conservation Areas, the app also provides interactive maps and recommendations based on interests and location. This innovation allows outdoor adventurers to access detailed information right at their fingertips, making it easier to plan visits and discover hidden gems across the province.

The app's launch was met with excitement across CO's social media channels during a two-month campaign. With the Step Into Nature App, CO is making it easier for people to immerse themselves in nature, fostering a deeper connection with the outdoors at Conservation Areas in their watershed and beyond.

Download the Step Into Nature App on iOS and Android today!



Education and Training

2024 WORKSHOPS

DWSP Project Managers Meeting

📅 January 29
🌱 21 CA staff; 19 CAs represented

RMO/RMI Source Water Seminar Series

📅 February 13
🌱 32 CA staff; 21 CAs represented

Conservation Authorities Act 101 & Associated Regulations

📅 February 21
🌱 12 CA staff; 12 CAs represented

Flood Mapping Metadata Application Training Workshop

📅 February 23, 27-29
🌱 49 CA staff; 36 CAs represented

Co-Developing Private Water Well Best Management Practice Awareness and Education Materials

📅 March 4
🌱 20 CA staff; 17 CAs represented

Ontario Ombudsman GM session

📅 March 18
🌱 44 CA staff; 29 CAs represented

Level 1 Provincial Offences Officer Training

📅 April 2-15
🌱 25 CA staff; 16 CAs represented

CAU: Module 3 - Public Administration II

📅 April 16-17
🌱 36 CA staff; 25 CAs represented

Canada Water Resources Association - Flooding Workshop: Knowledge Transfer, Innovation, Collaboration and Communication

📅 April 24-25
🌱 62 CA staff; 21 CAs represented

CA Planning Leads Meeting - Proposed PPS & Bill 185

📅 April 26
🌱 70 CA staff; 35 CAs represented

WECI Application Information Session

📅 May 17
🌱 47 CA staff; 32 CAs represented

Conservation Authority staff participated in the Planning and Regulations Pre-Latornell Conservation Symposium Workshop.



DWSP Project Managers Meeting

📅 June 3-4
🌱 21 CA staff; 18 CAs represented

CAU: Module 4 - Conservation Authority Business Areas

📅 June 20-21
🌱 36 CA staff; 25 CAs represented

DWSP Project Managers Meeting

📅 September 25
🌱 21 CA staff; 19 CAs represented

Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop

📅 October 1-2
🌱 108 CA staff; 34 CAs represented

Planning and Regulations Pre-Latornell Workshop

📅 October 7
🌱 90 CA staff; 31 CAs represented

Natural Asset Management Workshop - Collaborating to support CA and partners' knowledge and capacity

📅 October 8
🌱 23 CA staff; 17 CAs represented



RMO/RMI Source Water Seminar Series

📅 October 29
🌱 37 CA staff; 20 CAs represented

Ecological Gifts Program Workshops

📅 November 5, 21; December 5
🌱 55 attendees; 17 CAs represented

Conservation Authorities Annual Communications Meeting

📅 November 14
🌱 50 CA staff; 28 CAs represented

Coastal Conservation Authorities Network Workshop

📅 November 18
🌱 60 CA staff; 24 Coastal CAs represented

DWSP Project Managers Meeting

📅 December 4
🌱 18 CA staff; 16 CAs represented



Attendees at the general managers' retreat in King City.

2024 WEBINARS

CA Communications Meetings

- 📅 February 1, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, September 11, December 4
- 🌿 60 CA staff; 36 CAs represented

Legislative Changes and Next Steps (Reg 41/24)

- 📅 February 20
- 🌿 131 CA staff; 35 CAs represented

GM and CA Leads Meeting: Public Consultation for the 2024 Mandatory Deliverables

- 📅 February 26
- 🌿 170 CA staff; 36 CAs represented

CA Briefing Webinar on Recent Changes to the CO Class Environmental Assessment

- 📅 June 6
- 🌿 59 CA staff; 28 CAs represented

Conservation Authorities and Municipalities Working Together (CO-AMO Webinar)

- 📅 June 14
- 🌿 200+ CA staff

Proposed Administrative Review Guidance

- 📅 August 27
- 🌿 88 CA staff; 35 CAs represented

Tree Canada - Conservation Ontario Partnership

- 📅 November 6
- 🌿 44 CA staff; 22 CAs represented

Standard Operating Procedures and Stop Orders

- 📅 December 3
- 🌿 125 CA staff; 36 CAs represented

Annual Permit Timelines Reporting (CO Guidance and Template)

- 📅 December 10
- 🌿 116 CA staff; 36 CAs represented





📍 Laurier Woods
(North Bay-Mattawa CA)

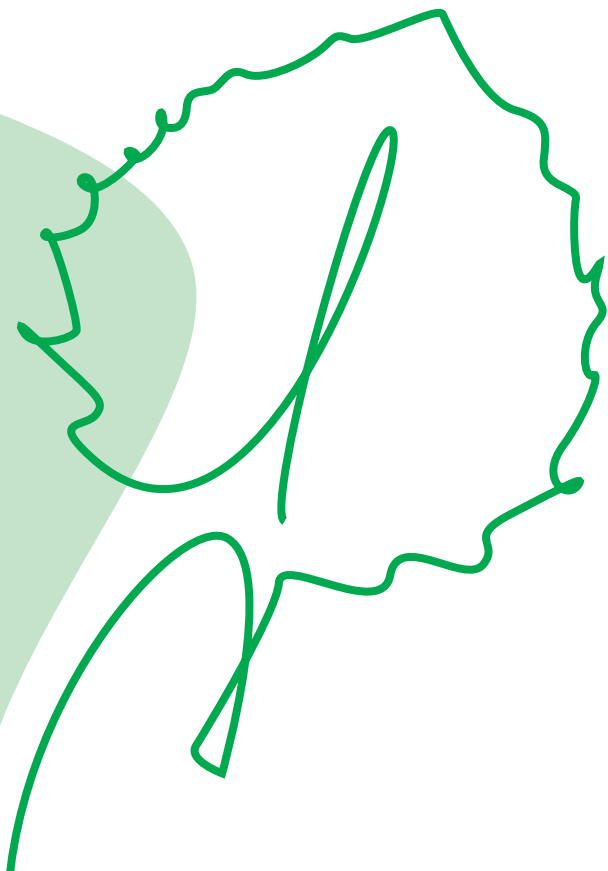
What We Do

Conservation Ontario represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs) on issues of common interest to positively influence policy decisions that affect the environment.

CAs are community-based watershed management agencies that implement programs focused on watershed management to safeguard people and property from flooding and other natural hazards. Additionally, they work towards conserving natural resources to promote economic, social, and environmental benefits. CAs operate under the legislative framework of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, 1946.

Conservation Ontario's Business Functions

- 🍃 Policy and Program Development
- 🍃 Government Relations
- 🍃 Business Development and Partnerships
- 🍃 Education and Training
- 🍃 Communications
- 🍃 Corporate Services
- 🍃 Information Management and Research



How We Work

Reunion of past Conservation Authority general managers and chief administrative officers at Conservation Halton.

Vision

Conservation Ontario will engage Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and to shape effective policies relating to Conservation Authorities.

Mission

To promote and continually strengthen a watershed-based conservation coalition in Ontario.

"As stewards of Ontario's land and water, we recognize that the impact of our conservation efforts extends far beyond the preservation of our landscapes. It shapes the resilience of our ecosystems, the well-being of our communities, and the future of our province. Conservation is not just a responsibility but an investment in the health of the environment, the economy, and future generations. Conservation Ontario and Conservation Authorities have made significant progress in ensuring our efforts leave a lasting, positive impact for all Ontarians."

Chris White
Chair, Conservation Ontario Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Chair, Chris White
Grand River
Conservation Authority

Vice Chair, Jonathan Scott
Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

Vice Chair, Pat Warren
Kawartha Conservation

Director, Rob Baldwin
Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority

Director, Brad McNevin
Quinte Conservation

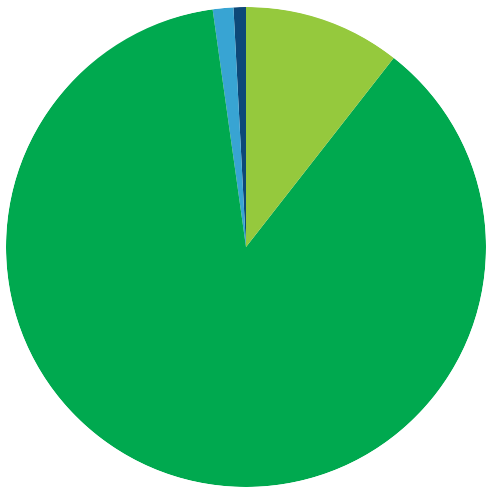
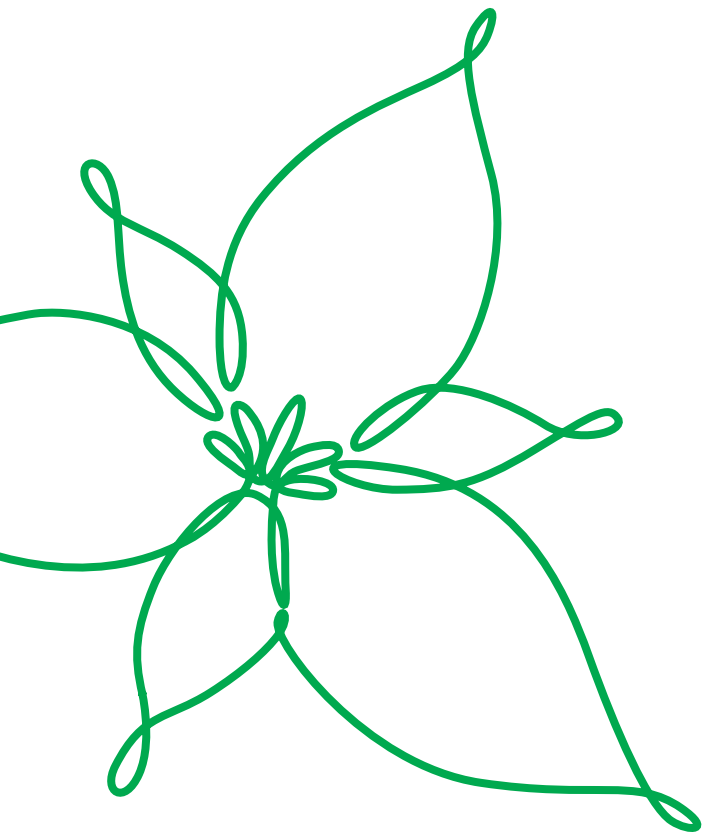
Director, Chandra Sharma
Conservation Halton

Financials

Conservation Ontario 2024 Financial Summary

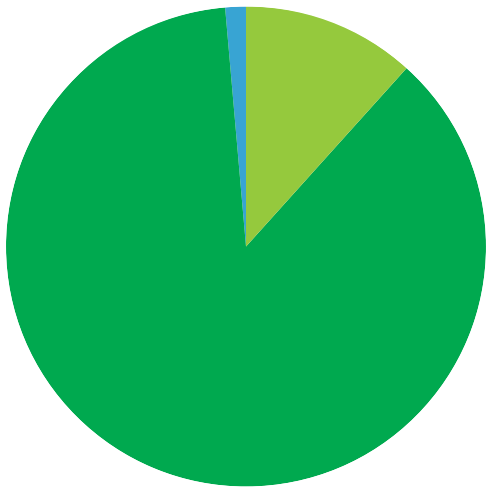
In 2024, Conservation Ontario generated total revenues of \$13,437,044, with income derived from membership fees and special projects funded by federal and provincial governments, and non-governmental agencies.

After a comprehensive review of all expenses, Conservation Ontario achieved a revenue surplus of \$165,399, reflecting prudent financial management and a commitment to operational efficiency.



REVENUES

Membership Fees	\$1,420,000
Special Projects	\$11,742,439
Source Water Protection	\$179,385
Other	\$95,220



EXPENDITURES

Operations	\$1,536,714
Special Projects	\$11,555,606
Source Water Protection	\$179,325

Surplus of revenue over expenditures \$165,399



Wainfleet Quarry (Niagara Peninsula CA)



Conservation ONTARIO

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📘 Ontario's Conservation Areas / Conservation Ontario
✂ conont 📷 con_ont 🔗 Conservation Ontario

