REPORT
CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

DATE: October 20, 2026

FILE: AFNB54

APPROVED BY C.A.O. CD

S.R.: 6004-26

TO: Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors

FROM: Rose Catulli, Director, Corporate Services

SUBJECT: **2027 Draft Budget**

The formulation of the 2027 draft budget involved the consideration of the current budget, programming requirements, alignment with CLOCA's Strategic Plan and, the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

The recommended 2027 Draft Budget is summarized as follows:

	2027	2026	
Operating:			
General Levy	$ 4,913,049	$ 4,793,218	
Children's Watershed Festival	62,443	60,920	
	4,975,492	4,854,138	
Land Management Expenditures	$ 85,000	$ 85,000	
Special Funding:			
Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP)	$ 120,000	$ 120,000	
Lynde Shores Restoration & Resilience Project (Year 3 of 4)	100,000	100,000	
Enniskillen Maintenance Building Upgrades	450,000		
Electric Vehicle		85,000	*
Bowmanville Creek & Soper Creek -			
FHIMP Floodplain Modelling & Mapping		158,200	
	670,000	463,200	
Special Funding: CA Collaborative			
RALP-Resilient Agriculture Landscape Program	$ 78,500	$ 78,500	
CLOCA - $65,325			
KRCA - $6,260			
GRCA - $2,035			
LSRCA - $1,485			
TRCA - $3,395			
*deferred from 2025			

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 continue to fund CLOCA for source water protection work primarily related to GIS and IT support $78,100 (2026 YTD - $40k).

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

Federal Grants	
Canada Summer Jobs	$ 14,765
Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO)	$ 99,800
Canada Water Agency *(Lynde Shores CA Restoration & Resilience)*	$ 260,000
Canada Water Agency *(Second Marsh Restoration)*	$ 484,250
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	$ 45,560
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)	$ 20,425
	$ 924,800
Provincial Grants	
Experience Ontario - Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming	**$ 27,300**
Other Grants	
Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA)	**$ 5,000**

Other revenue accounts include funding from the City of Oshawa ($25k), and the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP) funding received ($925,000) from the Regional Municipalities of York, Peel, Durham, the City of Toronto, and Halton Region who joined the program in late December 2020.

Revenue (Attachment 1):
The plan review and regulation fee schedules are intended to support and build our staff capacity to maintain service standards for streamlined development review. The property inquiry fee, permit fees and plan review fees are on target pursuant to the 2026 budget estimates. We are currently estimating similar results for 2027.

On December 28, 2022, the Minister of Natural Resources issued a "Minister's Direction" pursuant to Section 21.3 of the Conservation Authorities Act prohibiting any change in conservation authority-imposed fees between the period of January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for plan review and regulation services. The Direction has been extended for several years with the latest fee freeze in effect until February 28, 2027. Subject to any further extension of the fee freeze, adjustments to the planning and permitting fees will be considered following the Feb 28, 2027 date.

2027 Reserve Transfers include $350 of GIC interest for the Schillings investment, $40k from the Forestry Reserve to manage hazard tree removal, a transfer of $13,350 for the Metrolinx Bat Monitoring Project, a transfer of $93,295 for the Metrolinx/OPG Tree Planting Project at the LSCA. The net result for 2027 is $66,995.

Cost and Expenditures (Attachment 2):
Salaries and wages budgeted for 2027 assume that a full compliment of seasonal staff will be employed during the Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival and for the summer field operations. We applied to Canada Summer Jobs for 12 summer positions in 2026 and were approved for 7 positions resulting in revenue totalling $16,460. CLOCA will continue to apply for the Federal Canada Summer Jobs Grants.

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In accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the following chart illustrates CLOCA's 2027 budgeted expenditures by category:

	2026 Approved Budget	2027 Proposed Budget				Total Change
		Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Total	+/-
Corporate Services	2,318,041	2,204,460	27,300		2,231,760	- 86,281
Watershed Management	3,263,470	2,834,051	54,650	624,654	3,513,355	249,885
Environmental Plan Review & Regulation Services	2,094,680	2,262,480			2,262,480	167,800
CA Land Management	2,011,525	1,806,245		51,600	1,857,845	- 153,680
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Services/Education	721,870	65,378		641,223	706,600	- 15,270
Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP)	1,286,200		1,220,450		1,220,450	- 65,750
Vehicle & Equipment	317,250	175,250			175,250	- 142,000
Total	**12,013,036**	**9,347,864**	**1,302,400**	**1,317,476**	**11,967,740**	**-0.38%**

Special Levy Funding Submission (Attachment 3)
Four Special Levy Funding Project are included in the 2026 budget submission to the Region: Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP), the Lynde Shores Restoration and Resilience Project, the Enniskillen Conservation Area – Maintenance Building Renovation and a CA collaborative funding request for the Resilient Agriculture Landscape Program in partnership with the following Conservation Authorities: Kawartha Region Conservation Authority (KRCA), Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA), Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

Attachment 3 provides details of the funding requests.

A final budget report will be brought forward in late 2026 to the Board.

Conclusion
The 2027 draft budget reflects an allocation of resources to support CLOCA's programs and services for 2027. The budget will allow the Authority to continue to work towards our mission of advancing watershed health through engagement, science. and conservation.

CLOCA's Draft 2027 Budget has been prepared in accordance with the budgetary processes set out in O. Reg. 402/22: "Budget and Apportionment". The budget reflects CLOCA's inventory of programs and services approved by the Board of Directors in February 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:
THAT the 2027 Draft Budget, including the Special Funding Request for the Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan (SNAP) totalling $120,000, the Lynde Shores Restoration and Resilience Project totalling $100,000, the Enniskillen Conservation Area – Maintenance Building Renovation totalling $450,000, and the CA Collaborative Resilient Agriculture Landscape Program totalling $78,500 be approved for circulation to the Region of Durham:

Further THAT the 2027 Draft Budget be made available on the Conservation Authority's website.

Attach.

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Attachment 1

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	% Change	Budget Variance Note	2026 Actual 30-Sep-26	2025 Actual
Revenue						
General Levy	4,975,492	4,854,138	2.50%		2,427,069	4,735,745
Municipal Special Levy	820,325	613,523	**33.71%**	**A**	42,500	376,960
MNR Transfer Payment	64,445	64,445	0.00%		-	64,445
Federal Grants	924,800	1,022,160	-9.52%		720,109	1,039,638
Provincial Grants	27,300	107,200	**-74.53%**	**B**	36,950	110,277
Other Revenue	2,412,545	1,431,770	**68.50%**	**C**	1,017,004	1,607,506
Other Grants	5,000	12,880	**-61.18%**	**D**	48,979	117,027
Reserve Transfer	(66,995)	770,145	**-108.70%**	**E**	-	(187,935)
Deferred Revenue	83,700	413,450	**-79.76%**	**F**	-	-
Interest Earned	166,900	172,205	-3.08%		109,229	233,535
Administrative Services	79,450	79,450	0.00%		33,000	63,450
Maple Syrup Sales	32,600	32,600	0.00%		36,851	35,478
Merchandise Sales	21,800	21,800	0.00%		22,029	22,524
Maple Syrup Sales Office	7,000	7,000	0.00%		4,461	7,037
Pay & Display	158,000	156,000	1.28%		104,892	162,145
Seasons Passes	100,000	100,000	0.00%		73,327	99,977
Gate Fees	67,700	67,700	0.00%		67,746	54,337
Registration Fees	-	-			1,229	1,087
Donations	162,600	162,600	0.00%		57,315	156,734
Pancake sales	52,500	52,500	0.00%		52,864	45,164
Property Rental	81,520	80,520	1.24%		63,041	80,474
Facility Rental Fees	77,800	67,800	**14.75%**	**G**	76,560	74,440
Commercial Rent Signs	7,500	7,400	1.35%		5,352	7,785
Education Fees Elementary	75,000	75,000	0.00%		29,404	75,688
Maple Syrup Tours	7,510	7,500	0.13%		7,812	7,202
Map Sales	6,000	6,000	0.00%		6,561	6,189
Property Inquiry Fee	15,000	15,000	0.00%		15,170	16,170
Website/Portal Access Fee	110,000	110,000	0.00%		123,488	99,411
Regulations 42/06 Permit	400,000	400,000	0.00%		288,775	381,815
Plan Review Fees	900,000	900,000	0.00%		744,312	898,720
Fill Sites Large Application Fee	30,000	40,000	**-25.00%**	**H**	34,388	51,788
Rental Recovery	162,250	162,250	0.00%		79,534	146,480
	11,967,740	**12,013,036**			**6,329,953**	**10,591,292**

Budget Variance Notes

A	Municipal Special Levy	The 2027 Municipal Special Levy includes a $450k request for upgrades to the Enniskillen Conservation Area maintenance building.
B	Provincial Grants	The 2026 Provincial Grants included a $20k Greenbelt Foundation Grant for the Long Sault CA grassland habitat enhancement project and a $67k Forest Ontario Grant; the 2027 Forest Ontario grant is yet to be determined.
C	Other Revenue	The 2027 budget includes $290k from Metrolinx for a tree planting compensation project at the LSCA, $200k from Ducks Unlimited and $380k from the City of Oshawa for the Second Marsh Restoration Project, and $100k from Ducks Unlimited for the Lynde Shores Restoration & Resilience Project.
D	Other Grants	The 2026 budget included an $8k grant from the Invasive Species Centre for the Lynde Shores phragmites management program.
E	Reserve Transfer	2027 Reserve Transfers include $350 of GIC interest for the Schillings investment, $40k from the Forestry Reserve to manage hazard tree removal, a transfer of excess funds for the Metrolinx Bat Monitoring project ($13,350) and a transfer of excess funds for the Metrolinx/OPG Tree Planting Project ($93,295).
F	Deferred Revenue	Included in the 2027 budget is the transfer of funds relating to the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program $83,700 for the main groundwater program.
G	Facility Rental Fees	2026 facility rental fee budget has been adjusted to reflect the increase in usage at our conservation areas.
H	Fill Site Fees	Large fill site revenue for the Storoshchuk pit fill is anticipated to decrease over the next year with completion expected in 2027.

Attachment 2

	2027 Budget	2026 Budget	% Change	Budget Variance Note	2026 Actual 30-Sep-26	2025 Actual
Cost and Expenditures						
Salaries & Wages	6,066,900	5,645,441	7.47%		3,550,659	5,294,499
Wages Seasonal (PWMSF)	16,300	16,200	0.62%		16,169	30,834
Wages Summer Students	208,500	177,000	17.80%	I	211,692	164,024
Benefits	1,631,000	1,574,700	3.58%		1,054,829	1,452,874
Office Supplies	2,000	2,000	0.00%		1,175	1,553
Staff Mileage	5,300	9,100	-41.76%		3,283	7,244
Administration Expense	76,250	79,450	-4.03%		33,000	63,450
Course Registration	51,175	57,100	-10.38%		38,599	45,363
Members Per Diems	8,500	8,500	0.00%		4,000	7,100
ACAO Levy	41,000	40,115	2.21%		40,115	38,276
Postage	3,600	3,600	0.00%		1,743	6,416
Materials & Supplies	182,635	398,890	-54.21%	J	89,942	215,015
Publications & Subscriptions	50,430	70,430	-28.40%	K	43,458	39,466
Printing	3,800	3,800	0.00%		3,840	3,774
Software	132,300	125,300	5.59%		100,832	132,000
Services	1,803,430	1,761,050	2.41%		2,229,348	1,463,142
Fuel	48,450	45,450	6.60%		21,465	31,021
Promotion	465	465	0.00%		351	300
Transportation	25,000	23,000	8.70%		-	22,977
Small Tools	2,250	2,250	0.00%		356	889
Water Sample Testing	64,700	64,700	0.00%		31,817	56,688
Uniform Purchases	7,300	7,900	-7.59%		2,051	7,075
Telephone	17,625	18,275	-3.56%		10,593	16,921
Hydro	36,100	36,200	-0.28%		26,064	33,467
Alarm	4,010	4,010	0.00%		2,815	3,984
Water	4,500	4,500	0.00%		3,767	4,519
Gas	14,500	15,000	-3.33%		8,664	12,318
Cellular	23,590	23,540	0.21%		16,658	22,905
Travel	12,400	12,200	1.64%		13,872	12,704
Cell Phone Allowance	2,280	2,400	-5.00%		-	2,280
Taxes	58,990	56,950	3.58%		59,400	53,899
Insurance	115,185	114,295	0.78%		117,095	129,413
Legal Fees	145,000	160,000	-9.38%		121,956	180,515
Audit Fees	48,700	48,250	0.93%		-	33,743
Bank Service Charges	34,200	34,600	-1.16%		22,546	39,091
Licence	1,925	1,925	0.00%		1,192	375
Donation	19,300	20,000	-3.50%		20,169	15,509
Payroll Processing Fees	10,200	9,900	3.03%		7,149	10,984
Pay & Display Software Monito	16,800	16,800	0.00%		12,228	7,911
Office Services	17,300	17,300	0.00%		-	17,299
Purchases for Resale	11,000	11,000	0.00%		10,984	9,775
Equipment	670,600	946,600	-29.16%	L	622,404	430,466
Vehicle Purchases	50,000	125,000	-60.00%	M	76,657	134,389
Equipment Rental	15,000	15,000	0.00%		11,370	15,464
Vehicle Rental	26,500	20,600	28.64%	N	14,451	13,391
Recovery	144,000	145,500	-1.03%		72,355	134,329
Equipment Recovery	12,750	12,750	0.00%		7,179	12,150
Bulk for Resale	13,000	13,000	0.00%		9,530	15,367
Pancake Group Expenses	11,000	11,000	0.00%		10,964	11,547
	11,967,740	**12,013,036**			**8,758,785**	**10,458,696**
Surplus(Deficit) from Operations	**(0)**	**0**			**(2,428,832)**	**132,596**

Budget Variance Notes

I	Wages Summer Students	Additional summer students are included in the 2027 salary budget to assist in the tree planting project at the LSCA funded through the Metrolinx compensation program.
J	Materials & Supplies	In 2026, an additional $165k was budgeted for the Lynde Shores Restoration & Resilience Project and an additional $43,600 for Forest Ontario tree planting.
K	Publications & Subscriptions	An additional $20k in advertising was included in the 2026 Budget for the FCM Tree Planting Collaborative with the Region of Durham, KRCA, GRCA, LSRCA, and TRCA.
L	Equipment	Additional expenses were in incurred during 2026 relating to network upgrades ($160k), Quonset Hut roof replacement ($25k), Stephen's Gulch culvert replacement ($50k), and the replacement of the roof on the LSCA Victoria Street washroom ($30k).
M	Vehicle Purchases	An additional EV Truck was purchased during 2026 funded by a Special Municipal Levy from the Region of Durham
N	Vehicle Rental	An additional vehicle is required for the Metrolinx tree planting project at the LSCA.

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan Project (SNAP)

The conservation, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources, together with building climate resilience, remain priorities for CLOCA and its municipal partners. Although recent planning and environmental standards better address these priorities in new development, many established neighbourhoods were built before today's consideration for climate resilient design, stormwater management, energy efficiency, and natural heritage conservation. In 2024, in partnership with the Town of Whitby and the Region of Durham, CLOCA launched Whitby's first Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) in the West Lynde neighbourhood. What began as a pilot has progressed through neighbourhood selection, detailed characterization, sustained community engagement, action planning, and early implementation, providing a practical neighbourhood scale model for coordinated climate action and urban renewal.

Working with residents, schools, businesses, community organizations and government partners, the West Lynde SNAP has demonstrated the value of combining technical analysis with neighbourhood level engagement and early, visible action. CLOCA and its partners have compiled and mapped environmental, social and infrastructure information; engaged neighbourhood stakeholders through surveys, interviews, workshops, school programs, open houses and community events; and implemented or advanced quick-start projects that support stormwater management, habitat enhancement, urban forestry, pollinator habitat, food security, environmental education and community stewardship. These experiences informed the West Lynde SNAP Action Plan (2026) and strengthened CLOCA's organizational capacity to coordinate multi-partner governance, pursue external funding, tailor engagement to different neighbourhood groups, and translate community priorities into specific projects, programs, and measurable outcomes.

The West Lynde experience has also confirmed that successful SNAP delivery requires dedicated coordination, sustained municipal leadership, access to CLOCA's watershed science and technical expertise, and active collaboration among municipal departments, community partners, and residents. CLOCA now has a tested foundation that includes neighbourhood screening methods, governance and partnership tools, engagement approaches, characterization and vulnerability analysis, action-planning processes, implementation experience, and communications resources. Maintaining appropriate staff and financial resources will be necessary to continue supporting certain components of implementation outlined in the West Lynde Action Plan, while transferring these lessons efficiently to future SNAP neighbourhoods.

Lynde Shores Restoration and Resilience Project (Year 3 of 4)

This project aims to support and encourage local action to strengthen the resilience of the Lynde Shores coastal wetland system against climate change impacts. CLOCA and ECCC has identified this wetland as sensitive and vulnerable to future climate changes. Our approach includes restoring wetland structure and diversity, enhancing habitat connectivity within the broader Lynde Creek system, and increasing the wetland's adaptive capacity to handle various stresses, including those brought by a changing climate. Additionally, we will model and optimize new climate-resilient protective barrier features to shield the Lynde Shores wetland from extreme water levels and storm events.

Rationale / Details

The habitats within these Lynde Shores coastal wetlands are invaluable for many species, as a wildlife refuge, for its ecosystem services, and social and cultural values. Annually, over 200,000 individuals visit the area, in addition to those who experience it through the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail Network. Despite its location within the Greater Toronto Area and significant human usage, Lynde Shores Conservation Area supports a rich biodiversity of habitats and species.

Recent studies have shown that the Lynde Shores coastal wetlands are subject to climate change pressures that will potentially cause a loss in biodiversity, resilience, and water quality through the migration of emergent marsh, losses of submerged aquatic vegetation, meadow marsh, and swamp habitat. Additionally, the increasingly variable water levels and more frequent high-water levels are causing risk to wetland interspersion, thermal refuge, water quality, protective wetland features, and low biodiversity.

This project will restore and enhance Great Lakes habitat and native species populations and help to promote the implementation of actions with the Great Lakes community on priorities and strategies for enhancing coastal wetlands resilience.

By strengthening the Lynde Shores wetlands, this project will help secure these natural assets for people today and for future generations. Healthier, climate-resilient wetlands benefit both nature and the community, supporting wildlife, cleaner water, and accessible green spaces that enrich lives now and will continue to do so for years to come.

Key Project Activities

- Restore the ratio of open water to marsh vegetation (interspersion) with new channels and open-water pools for a total of 3.6 hectares of restored wetland
- Create over 5 ha of wetland refugia to allow for the wetland to migrate based on water level inundation, which will improve connectivity between the west and east branches of Lynde Creek
- Restoration of an additional 4 hectares of wetland climate change refugia to maximize vegetation transitions (accommodation space) to cope with extremes.
- A new design and cost-effective solution to stabilize, enhance, and sustain the barrier-protective beach feature for long-term coastal wetland protection.

Table 1: A summary of the total project cashflow for the Lynde Shores Restoration and Resilience Plan. This is based on the agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada that extends from June 15, 2024, to March 31, 2028.

Project Cashflow – All years totals – June 15, 2024 – March 31, 2028			
Contributor	Cash	In-Kind	All Funding
ECCC	$ 2,177,000.00	$ -	$ 2,177,000.00
DUC	$ -	$ 89,200.00	$ 89,200.00
CLOCA	$ 18,500.00	$ 470,750.00	$ 889,250.00
Durham Region	$ 400,000.00	$ -	$ 400,000.00
OPG	$ 500,000.00	$ -	$ 500,000.00
Total	$ 3,095,500.00	$ 559,950.00	$ 3,655,450.00

Enniskillen Conservation Area – Maintenance Building Renovation

Architectural design work is underway in 2026 to address much needed renovations to our Operations Centre known as the Enniskillen Conservation Area (ECA), Enniskillen Maintenance Building. Renovation work is being planned for 2027 construction.

The ECA serves as our home base for Areas / Operations staff who report to work at the Enniskillen Maintenance Building. The Enniskillen Maintenance Building is currently equipped with a two-bay garage, one washroom and offices for operations staff. This location is central to the watershed and connected to Regional Roads, as well as in near proximity to Highway 407. The building serves as the central meeting space for much of the good work that goes into maintaining and protecting our natural spaces. The Enniskillen Maintenance Building and maintenance yard is gated / secured and offers ample room for parking, storage of construction materials/ equipment, trucks, trailers, tractors, RTV's, lawn mowers, wood splitters etc.

The Maintenance Building was originally designed and constructed between 1978 – 1979 as an 1800 square foot, maintenance building with three bay doors. The building has undergone minor renovations over the years to create a small office space (i.e. under 200sq ft) and one shared washroom. In 2011 renovations to the building were completed to the exterior of the building that included insulation, new exterior steel siding, new windows and sofit / fascia / trough. Lands & Operations currently have six permanent staff sharing approximately 200 square feet of office space. During the summer months we have approximately 10 seasonal staff / students sharing space in the Maintenance Building. Water is currently piped into the building from the Russ Powell Nature Centre, and all staff share one washroom.

Our operational responsibilities and requirements have expanded significantly over the past decade. Additional heated office space is required to provide adequate and safe workspace for staff.

The building expansion is being proposed to provide a minimum of the following:

- Provide office space for both permanent and seasonal staff
- I/T renovation work and security system upgrades
- Create a central meeting space for staff
- Construct universal washroom spaces that are equipped with shower(s)
- Improve natural light/lighting throughout the building
- Install a new drilled well that services the Maintenance Building

Projected Budget

Project administration, tender and management	$10,000
Startup / mobilization	$15,000
Layout, excavation, compaction	$20,000
Forming and foundation	$20,000
Framing, trusses, insulation	$60,000
Offices and seasonal workspace	$25,000
Central meeting space (equipped with I/T)	$25,000
Universal washrooms, lockers, changerooms etc.	$100,000
Lighting improvements	$10,000
Drilled well, water treatment system	$35,000
Electrical, mechanical, plumbing, I/T renovations	$70,000
Roofing, siding	$40,000
Windows, doors	$20,000
TOTAL	**$450,000**

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP)

The conservation, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources and climate resiliency are integral to the sustainability of Durham Region's agricultural community. In collaboration with the Region of Durham and the five partner Conservation Authorities, CLOCA has developed the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) — a three-year initiative supported by $300,000 in funding from Conservation Ontario. The program aims to assist local agricultural producers in implementing on-farm Best Management Practices (BMPs) that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and climate resilience across the Region.

Durham's agricultural sector produces over $300 million annually and supports more than 1,400 farm families. Yet, farmland in the Region continues to decline, from 373,611 acres in 1981 to 297,709 acres in 2011, heightening the need to maximize agricultural output in environmentally responsible ways. RALP responds to these pressures by helping farmers improve the productivity of existing lands through environmentally responsible practices that also generate ecological goods and services such as carbon sequestration, improved water quality, and enhanced habitat.

Rationale / Details

The RALP is designed to target marginal lands—areas within active farms that are less productive but hold potential for ecological restoration. By focusing stewardship efforts on these lands, the program directly supports regional climate goals while benefiting agricultural operations. The collaborative delivery model builds on the successful Durham TREES partnership, ensuring consistent regional implementation and leveraging local expertise. CLOCA continues to act as the administrative coordinator/lead for this project on behalf of all of the partner conservation authorities.

Key Program Eligible Activities

- Strip planting: Establish vegetated buffers to reduce erosion and retain soil moisture.
- Native grassland establishment: Convert marginal land to native habitats that support pollinators, birds, and beneficial wildlife.
- Riparian buffer planting: Stabilize streambanks, filter runoff, and improve aquatic habitat.
- Windbreaks and shelterbelts: Reduce wind damage, improve soil moisture, and protect crops and livestock.
- Wetland restoration: Enhance water quality, provide flood storage, and sequester carbon.

Outcomes and Benefits

Through collaborative delivery by Durham's Conservation Authorities, including CLOCA, Toronto Region, Lake Simcoe Region, Ganaraska Region, and Kawartha, RALP will continue to assist landowners in restoring marginal farmland across Durham Region. The program will strengthen partnerships with the farming community, while contributing to regional climate adaptation, biodiversity, and agricultural sustainability.

By supporting the adoption of practical on-farm solutions, the RALP will help ensure that Durham's agricultural landscapes remain productive, resilient, and ecologically diverse for generations to come.