

# NOTICE TO

## CLOCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please find enclosed the **agenda** and supporting documents for the **CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting** on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.** This meeting will be a **Hybrid meeting**. Members can join either virtual through zoom or attend in-person at the Authority's Administrative Office - 100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa. Please advise if you will be joining virtually through zoom.

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

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Tuesday, May 16/23	5:00 p.m.	CLOC Fund Board of Director's Meeting (CLOCF)	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, May 16/23	Immediately following the CLOCF Board of Director's Meeting	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, June 20/23	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, July 18/23	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, September 19/23	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, October 17/23	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, November 21/23	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting
Tuesday, December 19/23	5:00 p.m.	CLOCA Board of Directors Meeting	Hybrid Meeting

### **LATEST NEWS**

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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 16, 2023 - 5:00 P.M.

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

#### CIRCULATION LIST

<b>Authority</b>	Elizabeth Roy, Chair	<b>Authority</b>	C. Darling, Chief Administrative Officer
<b>Members:</b>	Bob Chapman, Vice Chair	<b>Staff:</b>	B. Boardman, Executive/Accounting Administrator
	Marilyn Crawford		R. Catulli, Director, Corporate Services
	Sami Elhajjeh		J. Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning & Natural Heritage
	Bruce Garrod		L. Hastings, Communications Specialist
	Ron Hooper		D. Hope, Conservation Lands & Education Manager
	Rick Kerr		C. Jones, Director, Planning & Regulation
	Chris Leahy		P. Sisson, Director, Engineering, Field Operations & Education
	Tito-Dante Marimpietri		L.Vaja, Executive Assistant/Health & Safety Administrator/ Recording Secretary
	Ian McDougall		R. Wilmot, Information Management & Technology Manager
	Rhonda Mulcahy		
	John Neal		
	David Pickles		
	Corinna Traill	<b>Others:</b>	Nigel Allen, BDO
	Steve Yamada		Adam Delle Cese, BDO

#### 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 18, 2023

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#### 4. PRESENTATIONS – None

#### 5. CORRESPONDENCE – None

#### 6. DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGULATION

(1) Staff Report #5828-23

Re: Permits Issued for Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses – April 1 to 30, 2023

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Cont'd

**6. DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGULATION (Cont'd)**

- (2) Staff Report #5829-23 pg. 5  
Re: Provincial Consultation on Replacing Provincial Policy Statement and Growth Plan

**7. DIRECTOR, WATERSHED PLANNING & NATURAL HERITAGE**

- (1) Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program Update (staff presentation)
- (2) Staff Report #5831-23 pg. 78  
Re: Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program Update
- (3) Staff Report #5832-23 pg. 83  
Re: CLOCA 2023 Earth Day Event: Bowmanville Westside Marshes

**8. DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING, FIELD OPERATIONS & EDUCATION**

- (1) Staff Report #5830-23 pg. 86  
Re: Winter / Spring 2023 – Conservation Areas Update

**9. DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES**

- (1) Staff Report #5833-23 pg. 91  
Re: 2023 Budget
- (2) Staff Report #5834-23 pg. 136  
Re: Draft 2022 Audited Financial Statements

**10. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER – None**

**11. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS – None**

**12. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**A G E N D A**  
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

**MEETING OF:** Authority

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 16, 2023

**TIME:** 5:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Hybrid – Virtual through Zoom  
or 100 Whiting Avenue,  
Oshawa

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**MINUTES NO. 3**

**AUTHORITY MEETING**

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 5:00 P.M.

MEETING LOCATION: HYBRID – Virtual through Zoom and/or in person at 100 Whiting Avenue, Oshawa

**Authority Members:** Elizabeth Roy – Chair  
Bob Chapman – Vice Chair  
Marilyn Crawford  
Sami Elhajjeh  
Bruce Garrod  
Rick Kerr  
Chris Leahy  
Tito-Dante Marimpietri  
Ian McDougall  
Rhonda Mulcahy  
Steve Yamada

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

**Absent:** Ron Hooper  
John Neal  
David Pickles  
Corinna Trill

**Others:**

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Chair Roy recited the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (Agenda pg. 1)

Res. #30 Moved by M. Crawford  
Seconded by S. Elhajjeh

***THAT the Authority minutes of March 18, 2023, be adopted as circulated.***  
**CARRIED**

**PRESENTATIONS** - *None*

**CORRESPONDENCE** – *None*

**DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGULATION**

(1) Staff Report #5824-23 (Agenda pg. 4)  
Re: Permits Issued for Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines  
and Watercourses – March 1 to 31, 2023

Res. #31 Moved by B. Chapman  
Seconded by S. Yamada

***THAT Staff Report #5824-23 be received for information.***  
**CARRIED**

Cont'd

**DIRECTOR, WATERSHED PLANNING & NATURAL HERITAGE**

(1) Staff Report #5826-23 (Agenda pg. 6)  
Re: CLOCA Conservation Areas Meet Pan-Canadian Standards for Protected Areas  
And Are Now Included in the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD)

Res. #32 Moved by C. Leahy  
Seconded by R. Mulcahy

***THAT Staff Report #5826-23 be received for information.***  
**CARRIED**

**DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS**

(1) Staff Report #5825-23 (Agenda pg. 10)  
Re: Lynde Creek Floodplain Mapping – Award of Contract

Res. #33 Moved by B. Chapman  
Seconded by R. Mulcahy

***THAT the Board of Directors approve the proposal and contracting of AECOM for the completion of the Lynde Creek Floodplain Mapping project.***  
**CARRIED**

R. Kerr arrived at 5:02 p.m.

**DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES – None**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

(1) Staff Report #5827-23 (Agenda pg. 11)  
Re: Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Watershed Report Card 2023

Res. #34 Moved by R. Mulcahy  
Seconded by S. Elhajjeh

***THAT Staff Report #5827-23 be received for information***  
**CARRIED**

**CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS – None**

**NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**


**ADJOURNMENT**

Res. #35 Moved by R. Mulcahy  
Seconded by C. Leahy

***THAT the meeting adjourns.***  
**CARRIED**

**The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.**

**DATE:** May 16, 2023  
**FILE:** RPRG3974  
**S.R.:** 5828-23  
**TO:** Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chris Jones, Director, Planning & Regulation  
**SUBJECT:** **Permits Issued for Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses – April 1 to 30, 2023**

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

Attached are Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses applications, pursuant to Ontario Regulation 42/06, as approved by staff and presented for the members' information.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***THAT Staff Report #5828-23 be received for information.***

**Attach.**

## PERMITS TO BE RATIFIED, FROM APRIL 1 TO 30, 2023


Row	Municipality	Owner Applicant	Street Lot Con	Permit No	Description
1	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	PROPERTY OWNER / ENBRIDGE	MEARNS AVENUE / LOT 08 & 09 / CON 04	C23-064-WG	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH A PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE DIG WITHIN THE ENBRIDGE PIPELINES RIGHT OF WAY
2	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS	TRULLS ROAD, ADELAIDE ROAD / LOT 31 / CON 03	C23-057-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: DIRECTIONAL BORE AND INSTALLATION OF CONDUIT
3	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS	TOWNLINE ROAD & TAUNTON ROAD EAST / LOT 35 / CON 04 & 05	C23-058-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: DIRECTIONAL BORE AND INSTALLATION OF CONDUITS
4	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS	TAUNTON ROAD EAST & TOOLEY ROAD / LOT 32, 33 / CON 05	C23-059-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: DIRECTIONAL BORE AND INSTALLATION OF CONDUIT
5	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS	TRULLS ROAD & TAUNTON ROAD EAST / LOT 30 & 31 / CON 05	C23-060-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: DIRECTIONAL BORE AND INSTALLATION OF CONDUIT
6	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	ROGERS COMMUNICATIONS	TAUNTON ROAD & OLD SCUGOG ROAD / LOT 16 & 17 / CON 04	C23-056-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RE: OPEN TRENCH/DIRECTIONAL BORE & INSTALLATION OF CONDUIT
7	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	PROPERTY OWNER	35 VIRTUE COURT / LOT 19 / CON 08	C23-062-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF REAR YARD AMENITIES
8	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	PROPERTY OWNER	4584 TRULLS ROAD / LOT 31 / CON 04	C23-063-GH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION/CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DRIVEWAY
9	CLARINGTON DARLINGTON	BELL CANADA	VARIOUS LOCATIONS / LOT / CON	C23-065-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH DIRECTIONAL DRILL TO PLACE DUCTWORK AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
10	OSHAWA	ENBRIDGE GAS INC.	SOUTH SIDE OF THOMAS STREET / LOT 10 / CON BFC	O23-055-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED GAS SERVICE
11	WHITBY	DREAM INDUSTRIAL LP / BOUSFIELDS INC	220 WATER STREET / LOT 25 & 26 / CON BFC	W23-054-GBHW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH REDEVELOPMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL SITE WITH TWO SINGLE STORY WAREHOUSE BUILDINGS.
12	WHITBY	PROPERTY OWNER	6700 CORONATION ROAD / LOT 33 / CON 06	W23-061-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DWELLING, SEPTIC AND ASSOCIATED GRADING
13	WHITBY	TRANS NORTHERN PIPELINES INC. / STANTEC	GARRARD ROAD / LOT 18 / CON 04	W23-066-GW	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH PIPELINE INTEGRITY DIG
14	WHITBY	NOVO DRAFTING	45 STATION ROAD / LOT 20 / CON 09	W23-067-GBH	DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL ADDITION



# REPORT

## CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**DATE:** May 16, 2023  
**FILE:** PGDP27  
**S.R.:** 5829-23  
**TO:** Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Chris Jones, Director, Planning and Regulation  
**SUBJECT:** **Provincial Consultation on Replacing Provincial Policy Statement and Growth Plan**

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on a provincial land use planning policy consultation and provide commentary regarding a new proposed “Provincial Planning Statement” for submission to the province under the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry.

### Background: Continued Provincial Consultation on Replacing the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2020* and *A Place to Grow, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* with a new “*Provincial Planning Statement*”.

On April 6, 2023, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) posted a notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario releasing a proposed integrated province-wide land use planning policy document: the “*Provincial Planning Statement*” (PPS). The PPS would replace the current *Provincial Policy Statement, 2020* (PPS 2020) and *A Place to Grow*, a regional provincial plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, with one set of policies that apply province-wide with the stated intention of supporting “achievement of housing objectives.”

CLOCA commented on the initial proposal last fall via Staff Report # 5804-22, which was endorsed by the Board of Directors at its meeting of November 22, 2022. **Attachment No. 3** to this Report contains the previous CLOCA detailed comments. **Attachment No. 4** contains the registry posting for full details on the current proposal. Comments are due back to the province by June 5, 2023.

### The Current Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS)

The current PPS is a comprehensive statement of the Ontario government’s policies on land use planning and is issued under section 3 of the Planning Act. It applies province-wide and sets out critical basic provincial policy direction to achieve sustainable and positive outcomes from development in relation to the following policy areas for which CLOCA has a watershed-related policy or regulatory interest:

- **Protecting the environment and resources** including farmland, natural resources (e.g., wetlands and woodlands) and water; and
- **Protecting people and property** by directing development away from natural hazards – such as flood prone areas.

Municipal Councils must ensure that their decisions that affect planning matters are consistent with the PPS. CLOCA, as public commenting body, must also ensure that its comments on planning matters are consistent with the PPS within its role under the Conservation Authorities Act, as amended.

Cont’d

### A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan)

The Growth Plan is a provincial land use plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region issued under the *Places to Grow Act, 2005*. It works with the provincial *Greenbelt Plan*, *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*, and the *Niagara Escarpment Plan* to provide a more detailed land use policy framework than the provincial-scale PPS for where and how growth should be accommodated in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Critically, for the CLOCA watershed and municipalities, the Growth Plan provides essential environmental protection directions for our quickly urbanizing region. These currently include:

- managing growth including intensification targets, minimum densities for new development, integration with watershed planning and hazard management;
- water resource system and natural heritage system identification and planning;
- strong protections for key hydrologic features (i.e. wetlands and watercourses) and key natural heritage features (i.e. woodlands and Valleylands) for portions of the countryside that do not have Greenbelt Plan protections; and
- Climate Change.

### Consultation Proposal

The government is proposing to replace the PPS and Growth Plan into a new “Provincial Planning Statement,” for public review and feedback, which retains *some* policy direction from the current PPS, 2020 and Growth Plan. Proposed policies are grouped under five “pillars”:

- Generate an appropriate housing supply;
- Make land available for development;
- Provide infrastructure to support development;
- Balance housing with [resource management and environmental protection]; and
- Implementation.

It is important to note that environmental protection policies related to natural heritage have not been released but are to be released under a separate registry posting. Staff intend to report on these vital policy directions, which relate directly to watershed health and safety, when they are released. The proposed policy text, with CLOCA-proposed modifications, is included in **Attachment No. 2** to this report.

### Consultation Questions

To structure a response to the proposal, the ministry has set out six (6) consultation questions. The questions and staff's analysis and recommended response are included as **Attachment No. 1** to this report.

### Summary Analysis and Conclusion

CLOCA's response to the consultation questions includes the following:

- Recognize the Region of Durham as a Large and Fast-Growing Municipality and allow the regional planning function to continue within the proposed PPS;
- Retention of existing natural hazard policy is vital and welcome;
- Improvements to certain stormwater management, water, watershed planning, climate change, and coordination policies could be made to improve the proposed document; and,

Cont'd

- Policies which would allow up to three additional residential lots on each existing lot in Prime Agricultural lands has negative implications for protection of agricultural lands, natural heritage, watershed health and source water protection while likely not supporting affordable forms of housing; and,
- The province needs to provide implementation guidance, technical support, and commit to no further changes to planning policy for the next decade to provide implementation space for local planning.

**Attachment No. 2** to this report contains a copy of the proposed PPS text with proposed changes by CLOCA shown.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***THAT the Commentary in Staff Report #5829-23 and attachments be endorsed and submitted to the Province of Ontario and Conservation Ontario as CLOCA's comments regarding Environmental Registry Posting 019-6813; THAT Staff Report #5829-23 be circulated to Members of Provincial Parliament, Members of Parliament, Conservation Ontario and adjacent Conservation Authorities for their information.***

Attachment 1 – CLOCA Response to Consultation Questions

Attachment 2 – Proposed Provincial Planning Statement with CLOCA-Proposed Revised Text

Attachment 3 – Previous (Fall 2022) CLOCA Response to Consultation Questions

Attachment 4 – Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting 019-6813

## Attachment No. 1

### Proposed Provincial Planning Policy Instrument (Provincial Planning Statement) Consultation Questions, CLOCA Responses:

#### **What are your thoughts on the policies that have been included from the PPS and A Place to Grow in the proposed policy document, including the proposed approach to implementation?**

Continued Support for Regional Municipal Planning in Durham Region:

CLOCA supports the continuation of the regional planning function in Durham Region. Regional planning is important in order to: (1) plan for the watershed scale including protections from adverse downstream impacts from flooding and erosion; (2) regional structure and urban growth boundaries for efficient development patterns and protection of watershed health in the absence of a provincial-level regional plan; (3) regional-scale natural heritage systems including regional-scale natural heritage and water resource system protections. These three core elements of regional planning should be carried forward through the Durham Region Official Plan. Accordingly, we recommend that the Regional Municipality of Durham be included as part of the proposed policy direction for Large and Fast-Growing Municipalities.

Regarding Proposed Natural Hazards Policies:

- The retention of natural hazard policy direction from PPS, 2020 is vital and supported.
- Policy 5.2.2 is a new natural hazard policy and is supported: “Planning authorities shall identify hazardous lands and hazardous sites and manage development in these areas, in accordance with provincial guidance.” However, this policy should be strengthened with a relevant reference to conservation authorities. See attached proposed text modifications.
- The new defined term “wave effects” is supported.

Regarding Proposed Stormwater Management Policies:

- Policy 2.9.1 should carry forward an existing direction from PPS, 2020 to “maximize vegetation within settlement areas, where feasible.”
- A critical element of stormwater management planning is minimizing stormwater volumes, which is recognized in PPS, 2020. Policy 3.6.8 c) should include this concept and direction. See attached proposed text modifications.

Regarding Proposed Water, Watershed Planning and Climate Change Policies:

- The Watershed Planning policy direction at policy 4.2.3 and associated defined terms are welcome and supported. The policy should be strengthened by: requiring Large and fast-growing municipalities to undertake watershed planning; directly referencing that a purpose of watershed planning is to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate in the policy and definition of watershed planning; and, including references to partnerships with conservation authorities. See attached proposed text modifications.

Regarding Coordination Policy

- We recommend that policy 6.2.1 contain a direct reference to conservation authorities. See attached proposed text modifications.

### **What are your thoughts on the proposed policy direction for large and fast-growing municipalities and other municipalities?**

- The existing policy in the Growth Plan to verify the feasibility of Settlement Area Boundary Expansions with respect to avoidance of potential negative impacts on downstream natural hazards, public safety and watershed conditions is critical for safe and orderly growth for large and fast-growing municipalities (Growth Plan Policy 2.2.8.3).
- Directions that large-scale development will be supported by a stormwater management plan that is informed by a subwatershed plan or equivalent should be retained for large and fast-growing municipalities.

### **What are your thoughts regarding the proposed policies to generate housing supply, including an appropriate range and mix of housing options?**

Not directly applicable to CLOCA's role and mandate.

### **What are your thoughts on the proposed policies regarding the conservation of agriculture, aggregates, natural and cultural heritage resources?**

Natural heritage policy is currently outstanding. These comments can only be considered as preliminary without the ability to view the full comprehensive set of proposed policies. Protection of prime agricultural land (and likely adjacent natural heritage features and areas) will be eroded through new policy direction that allows for the creation of up to 3 new residential lots on existing parcels of land in prime agricultural areas. An assessment of the potential negative impacts for source water protection, and watershed health across the province should be clearly understood before proceeding with this type of change. The proposed policy will likely not provide for appropriate affordable housing typologies. This proposal should be reconsidered and new lot creation for residential purposes should be directed to settlement areas which are properly serviced in order to conserve prime agricultural lands in the province.

### **What are your thoughts on the proposed policies regarding planning for employment?**

Not directly applicable to CLOCA's role and mandate.

### **Are there any other barriers to, or opportunities for, accelerating development and construction (e.g., federal regulations, infrastructure planning and approvals, private/public partnerships for servicing, provincial permitting, urban design guidelines, technical standards, zoning, etc.)?**

- Provision of comprehensive and detailed implementation guidance is a necessity and should be provided at the time the new policy document comes into force. Draft guidance should also be subject to a consultation process prior to finalization.
- Further to the previous comment, and for example: via ERO posting no. 019-4978 from 2022, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks identified that "Provincial guidance for integrating watershed and subwatershed planning into land use planning is out of date, current guidance is from 1993." CLOCA supports the proposed watershed planning policy directions and definitions, with modification to include subwatershed planning, as discussed above. Effective

subwatershed planning with clear, direct and updated provincial guidance would support streamlining planning processes and reducing duplication and delays by providing clarity on local development process and opportunities as well as facilitating complete communities, as noted in draft provincial guidance from 2022.

- Ongoing technical support and policy implementation support specific to provincial policy directions is foundational for effective and efficient implementation. Relevant ministries should establish a system of regular information circulars and case study examples for practitioners specific to provincial policy implementation.
- Provincial technical support from ministries for policy interpretation and application should be available to the Ontario Land Tribunal as an established practice in the Tribunal's procedures and proceedings. The burden of articulating and defending provincial policy should rest with the province.
- The province should commit to no further changes to provincial land use planning policy for the next decade to provide certainty, stability, and implementation space for local land use planning to take place.

# PROPOSED PROVINCIAL PLANNING STATEMENT

With CLOCA Edits Shown thusly

April 6, 2023

Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting # 019-6813

**PROPOSED  
PROVINCIAL PLANNING STATEMENT  
APRIL 2023**

Environmental Registry of Ontario  
Posting # 019-681



## Preface

### Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

**April 2023**

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is seeking input on proposed policies for an integrated province-wide land use planning policy document. This proposed Provincial Planning Statement takes policies from both A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 to support the achievement of housing objectives across Ontario.

The Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 is issued under the *Planning Act* and is the primary provincial land use planning policy document, applying across Ontario. A Place to Grow is a growth plan issued under the *Places to Grow Act, 2005*. The Province is now seeking input on a proposed Provincial Planning Statement that would replace the existing Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow.

Should the government adopt the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, the government would consequentially revoke the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 and A Place to Grow, as well as amend regulations (O. Reg. 416/05 and O. Reg. 311/06) under the Places to Grow Act, 2005.

#### Seeking Feedback

Please submit written comments or questions on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) (ERO) in response to posting [#019-6813](#). The deadline for written comments is June 6, 2023.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

### Preamble

The proposed Provincial Planning Statement (or “Policy Statement”) provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. As a key part of Ontario’s policy-led planning system, this Policy Statement sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. It also supports the provincial goal to enhance the quality of life for all Ontarians.

The proposed Provincial Planning Statement provides for appropriate development while protecting resources of provincial interest, public health and safety, and the quality of the natural and built environment. This Policy Statement supports improved land use planning and management, which contributes to a more effective and efficient land use planning system.

The proposed Provincial Planning Statement also provides policy direction on matters applying only to Ontario’s largest and fastest growing municipalities with the greatest need for housing. *Large and fast-growing municipalities* is a defined term and the list of these municipalities is identified in Schedule 1 of this Policy Statement.

The policies of this Policy Statement may be complemented by provincial plans or by locally-generated policies regarding matters of municipal interest. Provincial plans and municipal official plans provide a framework for comprehensive, integrated, place-based and long-term planning that supports and integrates the principles of strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and economic growth, for the long term.

Municipal official plans are the most important vehicle for implementation of this Policy Statement and for achieving comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning. Official plans should coordinate cross-boundary matters to complement the actions of other planning authorities and promote mutually beneficial solutions.

Zoning and development permit by-laws are also important for the implementation of this Policy Statement. Zoning and development permit by-laws should be forward-looking and facilitate opportunities for an appropriate range and mix of *housing options* for all Ontarians.

Land use planning is only one of the tools for implementing provincial interests. A wide range of legislation, regulations, policies and programs may apply to decisions with respect to *Planning Act* applications and affect planning matters, and assist in implementing these interests.

Within the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin, there may be circumstances where planning authorities should consider agreements related to the protection or restoration of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin. Examples of these agreements include Great Lakes agreements between Ontario and Canada, between Ontario and Quebec and the Great Lakes States of the United States of America, and between Canada and the United States of America.

The Province’s rich cultural diversity is one of its distinctive and defining features. Indigenous communities have a unique relationship with the land and its resources, which continues to shape the history and economy of the Province today. Ontario recognizes the unique role Indigenous communities have in land use planning and development, and the contribution of

Indigenous communities' perspectives and traditional knowledge to land use planning decisions. The Province recognizes the importance of consulting with Aboriginal communities on planning matters that may affect their section 35 Aboriginal or treaty rights.

## Legislative Authority

The proposed Provincial Planning Statement is issued under the authority of section 3 of the *Planning Act* and came into effect on [effective date]. This Policy Statement applies to all decisions in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter made on or after [effective date].

In respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter, section 3 of the *Planning Act* requires that decisions affecting planning matters shall be consistent with policy statements issued under the Act.

Comments, submissions or advice that affect a planning matter that are provided by the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister or ministry, board, commission or agency of the government shall be consistent with this Policy Statement.

## How to Read this Policy Statement

The provincial policy-led planning system recognizes and addresses the complex inter-relationships among environmental, economic and social factors in land use planning. This Policy Statement supports a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to planning, and recognizes linkages among policy areas.

### Read the Entire Policy Statement

This Policy Statement is more than a set of individual policies. It is to be read in its entirety and the relevant policies are to be applied to each situation. When more than one policy is relevant, a decision-maker should consider all of the relevant policies to understand how they work together. The language of each policy, including the Implementation and Interpretation policies, will assist decision-makers in understanding how the policies are to be implemented.

While specific policies sometimes refer to other policies for ease of use, these cross-references do not take away from the need to read this Policy Statement as a whole.

There is no implied priority in the order in which the policies appear.

### Consider Specific Policy Language

When applying this Policy Statement it is important to consider the specific language of the policies. Each policy provides direction on how it is to be implemented, how it is situated within the broader Policy Statement, and how it relates to other policies.

Some policies set out positive directives, such as "settlement areas shall be the focus of growth and development." Other policies set out limitations and prohibitions, such as "development and site alteration shall not be permitted." Other policies use enabling or supportive language, such as "should," "promote" and "encourage."

The choice of language is intended to distinguish between the types of policies and the nature of implementation. There is some discretion when applying a policy with enabling or supportive language in contrast to a policy with a directive, limitation or prohibition.

## **Geographic Scale of Policies**

This Policy Statement recognizes the diversity of Ontario and that local context is important. Policies are outcome-oriented, and some policies provide flexibility in their implementation provided that provincial interests are upheld.

While this Policy Statement is to be read as a whole, not all policies will be applicable to every site, feature or area. This Policy Statement applies at a range of geographic scales.

Some of the policies refer to specific areas or features and can only be applied where these features or areas exist. Other policies refer to planning objectives that need to be considered in the context of the municipality or planning area as a whole, and are not necessarily applicable to a specific site or development proposal.

## **Policies Represent Minimum Standards**

The policies of this Policy Statement represent minimum standards.

Within the framework of the provincial policy-led planning system, planning authorities and decision-makers may go beyond these minimum standards to address matters of importance to a specific community, unless doing so would conflict with any policy of this Policy Statement.

## **Defined Terms and Meanings**

Except for references to legislation which are italicized, other italicized terms in this Policy Statement are defined in the Definitions chapter. For non-italicized terms, the normal meaning of the word applies. Terms may be italicized only in specific policies; for these terms, the defined meaning applies where they are italicized and the normal meaning applies where they are not italicized. Defined terms in the Definitions chapter are intended to capture both singular and plural forms of these terms in the policies.

## **Provincial Guidance**

Provincial guidance, including guidance material, guidelines and technical criteria may be issued from time to time to assist planning authorities and decision-makers with implementing the policies of this Policy Statement. Information, technical criteria and approaches outlined in provincial guidance are meant to support implementation but not add to or detract from the policies of this Policy Statement.

## **Relationship with Provincial Plans**

This Policy Statement provides overall policy directions on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development in Ontario, and applies province-wide, except where this policy statement or another provincial plan provides otherwise.

Provincial plans, such as the Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, build upon the policy foundation provided by this Policy Statement. They provide additional land use

planning policies to address issues facing specific geographic areas in Ontario.

Provincial plans are to be read in conjunction with this Policy Statement. They take precedence over the policies of this Policy Statement to the extent of any conflict, except where the relevant legislation provides otherwise.

Where the policies of provincial plans address the same, similar, related, or overlapping matters as the policies of this Policy Statement, applying the more specific policies of the provincial plan satisfies the more general requirements of this Policy Statement. In contrast, where matters addressed in this Policy Statement do not overlap with policies in provincial plans, the policies in this Policy Statement must be independently satisfied.

Land use planning decisions made by municipalities, planning boards, the Province, or a commission or agency of the government must be consistent with this Policy Statement. Where provincial plans are in effect, planning decisions must conform or not conflict with them, as the case may be.

## Vision

Ontario is a vast province with a diversity of urban, rural and northern communities that is distinguished by different populations, economic activity, pace of growth, and physical and natural conditions.

The long-term prosperity and social well-being of Ontario depends on celebrating these differences and planning for complete communities for people of all ages, abilities and incomes. More than anything, a prosperous Ontario will see the building of more homes for all Ontarians. In addition, a prosperous Ontario will support a strong and competitive economy, and a clean and healthy environment.

Ontario will increase the supply and mix of housing options and address the full range of housing affordability needs. Every community will build homes that respond to changing market needs, and local needs and demand. Providing a sufficient supply with the necessary range and mix of housing options will support a diverse and growing population and workforce, now, and for many years to come.

A successful Ontario will also be one with a competitive advantage of being investment-ready and celebrated for its influence, innovation and cultural diversity. The Ontario economy will continue to mature into a centre of industry and commerce of global significance. Central to this success will be the people who live and work in this Province.

Ontario's land use planning framework, and the decisions that are made, shape how our communities grow and prosper. While progress has been made, equity-deserving groups still face a complex range of challenges. Municipalities will work with the Province to design complete communities with increased access to housing, employment, schools, transportation options, recreation and public spaces, and services that are equitable and sustainable for all Ontarians.

Land use will be managed to accommodate appropriate development to meet the full range of current and future needs. Efficient land use and development patterns will contribute to achieving equitable outcomes for all Ontarians by design. Downtowns, main streets and rural

areas will be vital and viable. Cultural heritage and archaeology in Ontario will provide people with a sense of place. Prioritizing compact and transit-supportive design, where locally appropriate, and optimizing investments in infrastructure and public service facilities will support convenient access to housing, quality employment, services and recreation for all Ontarians.

Housing must be built in the right places so that Ontario's vibrant agricultural sector and sensitive areas will continue to form part of the Province's economic prosperity and overall identity. Growth and development will be focused within urban and rural settlements that will, in turn, support and protect the long-term viability of rural areas, local food production and the agri-food network.

The wise use and management of resources will be encouraged including natural areas, agricultural lands and the Great Lakes while providing attention to appropriate housing supply and public health and safety. Potential risks to public health or safety or of property damage from natural hazards and human-made hazards, including the risks associated with the impacts of climate change will be mitigated. This will require the Province, planning authorities, and conservation authorities to work together.

Across rural Ontario, local circumstances vary by region. Northern Ontario's natural environment and vast geography offer different opportunities than the predominately agricultural areas of the southern regions of the Province. The Province will continue to ensure northern communities are supported and economic growth is promoted so that the region remains strong, while protecting its natural features.

Ontario will continue to recognize the unique role Indigenous communities have in land use planning and development, and the contribution of Indigenous communities' perspectives and traditional knowledge to land use planning decisions. Meaningful early engagement and constructive, cooperative relationship-building between planning authorities and Indigenous communities will facilitate knowledge-sharing and inform decision-making in land use planning.

Above all, Ontario will continue to be a great place to live, work and visit where all Ontarians enjoy a high standard of living and an exceptional quality of life.

## Chapter 2: Building Homes, Sustaining Strong and Competitive Communities

### 2.1 Planning for People and Homes

1. At the time of each official plan update, sufficient land shall be made available to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of land uses to meet projected needs for a time horizon of at least 25 years, informed by provincial guidance. Planning for *infrastructure, public service facilities, strategic growth areas* and *employment areas* may extend beyond this time horizon.

Where the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has made a zoning order, the resulting development potential shall be in addition to projected needs over the planning horizon established in the official plan. At the time of the municipality's next official plan update, this additional growth shall be incorporated into the official plan and related infrastructure plans.

2. To provide for an appropriate range and mix of *housing options* and densities required to meet projected requirements of current and future residents of the *regional market area*, planning authorities shall:
  - a) maintain at all times the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 15 years through lands which are *designated and available* for residential development; and
  - b) maintain at all times where new development is to occur, land with servicing capacity sufficient to provide at least a three-year supply of residential units available through lands suitably zoned, including units in draft approved or registered plans.
3. Where planning is conducted by an upper-tier municipality, the land and unit supply maintained by the lower-tier municipality identified in policy 2.1.2 shall be based on and reflect the allocation of population and units by the upper-tier municipality.
4. Planning authorities should support the achievement of *complete communities* by:
  - a) accommodating an appropriate range and mix of land uses, *housing options*, transportation options with *multimodal* access, employment, *public service facilities* and other institutional uses (including, schools and associated child care facilities, long-term care facilities, places of worship and cemeteries), recreation, parks and open space, and other uses to meet long-term needs;
  - b) improving accessibility for people of all ages and abilities by addressing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society; and
  - c) improving social equity and overall quality of life for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes, including equity-deserving groups.



## 2.2 Housing

1. Planning authorities shall provide for an appropriate range and mix of *housing options* and densities to meet projected needs of current and future residents of the *regional market area* by:
  - a) coordinating land use planning and planning for housing with Service Managers to address the full range of *housing options* including housing affordability needs;
  - b) permitting and facilitating:
    1. all *housing options* required to meet the social, health, economic and well-being requirements of current and future residents, including *additional needs housing* and needs arising from demographic changes and employment opportunities; and
    2. all types of *residential intensification*, including the conversion of existing commercial and institutional buildings for residential use, development and introduction of new *housing options* within previously developed areas, and *redevelopment* which results in a net increase in residential units in accordance with policy 2.3.3;
  - c) promoting densities for new housing which efficiently use land, resources, *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*, and support the use of *active transportation*; and
  - d) requiring *transit-supportive* development and prioritizing *intensification*, including potential air rights development, in proximity to transit, including corridors and stations.

## 2.3 Settlement Areas and Settlement Area Boundary Expansions

1. *Settlement areas* shall be the focus of growth and development. Within *settlement areas*, growth should be focused in, where applicable, *strategic growth areas*, including *major transit station areas*.
2. Land use patterns within *settlement areas* should be based on densities and a mix of land uses which:
  - a) efficiently use land and resources;
  - b) optimize existing and planned *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*;
  - c) support *active transportation*;
  - d) are *transit-supportive*, as appropriate; and
  - e) are *freight-supportive*.
3. Planning authorities should support general *intensification* and *redevelopment* to support the achievement of *complete communities*, including by planning for a range and mix of *housing options* and prioritizing planning and investment in the necessary *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*.

4. In identifying a new *settlement area* or allowing a *settlement area* boundary expansion, planning authorities should consider the following:
  - a) that there is sufficient capacity in existing or planned *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*;
  - b) the applicable lands do not comprise *specialty crop areas*;
  - c) the new or expanded *settlement area* complies with the *minimum distance separation formulae*;
  - d) impacts on agricultural lands and operations which are adjacent or close to the *settlement area* are avoided, or where avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated to the extent feasible as determined through an *agricultural impact assessment* or equivalent analysis, based on provincial guidance; and
  - e) the new or expanded *settlement area* provides for the phased progression of urban development.
5. Planning authorities are encouraged to establish density targets for new *settlement areas* or *settlement area* expansion lands, as appropriate, based on local conditions. *Large and fast-growing municipalities* are encouraged to plan for a minimum density target of 50 residents and jobs per gross hectare.

## 2.4 Strategic Growth Areas

### 2.4.1 General Policies for Strategic Growth Areas

1. To support the achievement of *complete communities*, a range and mix of *housing options*, *intensification* and more mixed-use development, planning authorities may, and *large and fast-growing municipalities* shall, identify and focus growth and development in *strategic growth areas* by:
  - a) identifying an appropriate minimum density target for each *strategic growth area*; and
  - b) identifying the appropriate type and scale of development in *strategic growth areas* and transition of built form to adjacent areas.
2. Any reduction in the size or change in the location of *urban growth centres* identified in an in effect official plan as of [effective date] may only occur through a new official plan or official plan amendment adopted under section 26 of the *Planning Act*.

### 2.4.2 Major Transit Station Areas

1. *Large and fast-growing municipalities* shall delineate the boundaries of *major transit station areas* on *higher order transit* corridors through a new official plan or official plan amendment adopted under section 26 of the *Planning Act*. The delineation shall define an area within a 500 to 800 metre radius of a transit station and that maximizes the number of potential transit users that are within walking distance of the station.
2. Within *major transit station areas* on *higher order transit* corridors, *large and fast-growing municipalities* shall plan for a minimum density target of:

- a) 200 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by subways;
  - b) 160 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by light rail or bus rapid transit; or
  - c) 150 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by commuter or regional inter-city rail.
3. For any particular *major transit station area*, *large and fast-growing municipalities* may request the Minister to approve an official plan or official plan amendment with a target that is lower than the applicable target established in policy 2.4.2.2, where it has been demonstrated that this target cannot be achieved because:
- a) *development* is prohibited by provincial policy or severely restricted on a significant portion of the lands within the delineated area; or
  - b) there are a limited number of residents and jobs associated with the built form, but a *major trip generator* or feeder service will sustain high ridership at the station or stop.
4. Planning authorities that are not *large and fast-growing municipalities* may plan for *major transit station areas* on *higher order transit* corridors by delineating boundaries and establishing minimum density targets.
5. Planning authorities may plan for *major transit station areas* that are not on *higher order transit* corridors by delineating boundaries and establishing minimum density targets.
6. All *major transit station areas* should be planned and designed to be *transit-supportive* and to achieve *multimodal* access to stations and connections to nearby *major trip generators* by providing, where feasible:
- a) connections to local and regional transit services to support *transit service integration*;
  - b) *infrastructure* that accommodates a range of mobility needs and supports *active transportation*, including sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and secure bicycle parking; and
  - c) commuter pick-up/drop-off areas.

## 2.5 Rural Areas in Municipalities

1. Healthy, integrated and viable *rural areas* should be supported by:
  - a) building upon rural character, and leveraging rural amenities and assets;
  - b) promoting regeneration, including the *redevelopment* of *brownfield sites*;
  - c) accommodating an appropriate range and mix of housing in rural *settlement areas*;
  - d) using rural *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* efficiently;
  - e) promoting diversification of the economic base and employment opportunities through goods and services, including value-added products and the sustainable management or use of resources;
  - f) providing opportunities for sustainable and diversified tourism, including leveraging historical, cultural, and natural assets;

- g) conserving biodiversity and considering the ecological benefits provided by nature; and
  - h) providing opportunities for economic activities in *prime agricultural areas*, in accordance with policy 4.3.
2. When directing development in rural *settlement areas* in accordance with policy 2.3, planning authorities shall give consideration to locally appropriate rural characteristics, the scale of development and the provision of appropriate service levels.

Growth and development may be directed to *rural lands* in accordance with policy 2.6, including where a municipality does not have a *settlement area*.

## 2.6 Rural Lands in Municipalities

1. On *rural lands* located in municipalities, permitted uses are:
- a) the management or use of resources;
  - b) resource-based recreational uses (including recreational dwellings not intended as permanent residences);
  - c) residential development, including lot creation and multi-lot residential development, where site conditions are suitable for the provision of appropriate *sewage and water services*;
  - d) *agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses, on-farm diversified uses and normal farm practices*, in accordance with provincial standards;
  - e) home occupations and home industries;
  - f) cemeteries; and
  - g) other rural land uses.
2. Development that can be sustained by rural service levels should be promoted.
3. Development shall be appropriate to the *infrastructure* which is planned or available, and avoid the need for the uneconomical expansion of this *infrastructure*.
4. Opportunities to support a diversified rural economy should be promoted by protecting agricultural and other resource-related uses and directing non-related development to areas where it will minimize constraints on these uses.
5. New land uses, including the creation of lots, and new or expanding livestock facilities, shall comply with the *minimum distance separation formulae*.

## 2.7 Territory Without Municipal Organization

1. On *rural lands* located in territory without municipal organization, the focus of development activity shall be related to the sustainable management or use of resources and resource-based recreational uses (including recreational dwellings not intended as permanent residences).
2. Development shall be appropriate to the *infrastructure* which is planned or available, and avoid the need for the unjustified and/or uneconomical expansion of this *infrastructure*.

3. The establishment of new permanent townsites shall not be permitted.
4. In areas adjacent to and surrounding municipalities, only development that is related to the sustainable management or use of resources and resource-based recreational uses (including recreational dwellings not intended as permanent residences) shall be permitted. Other uses may only be permitted if:
  - a) the area forms part of a planning area;
  - b) the necessary *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* are planned or available to support the development and are financially viable over their life cycle; and
  - c) it has been determined that the impacts of development will not place an undue strain on the *public service facilities* and *infrastructure* provided by adjacent municipalities, regions and/or the Province.

## 2.8 Employment

### 2.8.1 Supporting a Modern Economy

1. Planning authorities shall promote economic development and competitiveness by:
  - a) providing for an appropriate mix and range of employment, institutional, and broader mixed uses to meet long-term needs;
  - b) providing opportunities for a diversified economic base, including maintaining a range and choice of suitable sites for employment uses which support a wide range of economic activities and ancillary uses, and take into account the needs of existing and future businesses;
  - c) identifying strategic sites for investment, monitoring the availability and suitability of employment sites, including market-ready sites, and seeking to address potential barriers to investment; and
  - d) encouraging *intensification* of employment uses and compact, mixed-use development that incorporates compatible employment uses such as office, retail, industrial, manufacturing and warehousing, to support the achievement *complete communities*.
2. Industrial, manufacturing and small-scale warehousing uses that could be located adjacent to *sensitive land uses* without *adverse effects* are encouraged in *strategic growth areas* and other mixed-use areas where *frequent transit* service is available, outside of *employment areas*.
3. On lands for employment outside of *employment areas*, and taking into account the transition of uses to prevent *adverse effects*, a diverse mix of land uses, including residential, employment, *public service facilities* and other institutional uses shall be permitted to support the achievement of *complete communities*.
4. Official plans and zoning by-laws shall not contain provisions that are more restrictive than policy 2.8.1.3 except for purposes of public health and safety.
5. Major office and major institutional development should be directed to *major transit station areas* or other *strategic growth areas* where *frequent transit* service is available.

## 2.8.2 Employment Areas

1. Planning authorities shall plan for, protect and preserve *employment areas*:
  - a) for current and future uses and ensure that the necessary *infrastructure* is provided to support current and projected needs; and
  - b) that are located in proximity to *major goods movement facilities and corridors*, including facilities and corridors identified in provincial transportation plans, for the *employment area* uses that require those locations.
2. Planning authorities shall designate, protect and plan for all *employment areas* in *settlement areas* by:
  - a) planning for *employment area* uses over the long-term that require those locations including manufacturing, research and development in connection with manufacturing, warehousing and goods movement, and associated retail and office uses and ancillary facilities;
  - b) prohibiting residential uses, commercial uses, *public service facilities* and other institutional uses;
  - c) prohibiting retail and office uses that are not associated with the primary employment use;
  - d) prohibiting other *sensitive land uses* that are not ancillary to the primary employment use; and
  - e) including an appropriate transition to adjacent non-*employment areas* to ensure land use compatibility.
3. Planning authorities shall assess and update *employment areas* identified in official plans to ensure that this designation is appropriate to the planned function of *employment areas*.
4. Planning authorities may remove lands from *employment areas* only where it has been demonstrated that:
  - a) there is an identified need for the removal and the land is not required for *employment area* uses over the long term;
  - b) the proposed uses would not negatively impact the overall viability of the *employment area* by:
    1. avoiding, or where avoidance is not possible, minimizing and mitigating potential impacts to existing or planned *employment area* uses in accordance with policy 3.5; and
    2. maintaining access to *major goods movement facilities and corridors*;
  - c) existing or planned *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* are available to accommodate the proposed uses.

## 2.9 Energy Conservation, Air Quality and Climate Change

1. Planning authorities shall plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the *impacts of a changing climate* through approaches that:
  - a) support the achievement of compact, *transit-supportive*, and *complete communities*;
  - b) incorporate climate change considerations in planning for and the development of *infrastructure*, including stormwater management systems, and *public service facilities*;
  - c) support energy conservation and efficiency;
  - d) promote *green infrastructure*, *low impact development*, and *active transportation*, protect the environment, maximize vegetation within settlement areas, where feasible, and improve air quality; and
  - e) take into consideration any additional approaches that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build community resilience to the *impacts of a changing climate*.





## Chapter 3: Infrastructure and Facilities

### 3.1 General Policies for Infrastructure and Public Service Facilities

1. *Infrastructure* and *public service facilities* shall be provided in an efficient manner while accommodating projected needs.

Planning for *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* shall be coordinated and integrated with land use planning and growth management so that they:

- a) are financially viable over their life cycle, which may be demonstrated through asset management planning;
  - b) leverage the capacity of development proponents, where appropriate; and
  - c) are available to meet current and projected needs.
2. Planning and investments in *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* should be prioritized to support *strategic growth areas* as focal areas for growth and development.
  3. Before consideration is given to developing new *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*:
    - a) the use of existing *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* should be optimized; and
    - b) opportunities for adaptive re-use should be considered, wherever feasible.
  4. *Infrastructure* and *public service facilities* should be strategically located to support the effective and efficient delivery of emergency management services, and to ensure the protection of public health and safety in accordance with the policies in Chapter 5: Protecting Public Health and Safety.
  5. *Public service facilities* should be co-located to promote cost-effectiveness and facilitate service integration, access to transit and *active transportation*.
  6. Planning authorities, in consultation with school boards, should consider and encourage innovative approaches in the design of schools and associated child care facilities, such as schools integrated in high-rise developments, in *strategic growth areas*, and other areas with a *compact built form*.

### 3.2 Transportation Systems

1. *Transportation systems* should be provided which are safe, energy efficient, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and are appropriate to address projected needs.
2. Efficient use should be made of existing and planned *infrastructure*, including through the use of *transportation demand management* strategies, where feasible.
3. As part of a *multimodal* transportation system, connectivity within and among *transportation systems* and modes should be maintained and, where possible, improved including connections which cross jurisdictional boundaries.

### 3.3 Transportation and Infrastructure Corridors

1. Planning authorities shall plan for and protect corridors and rights-of-way for *infrastructure*, including transportation, transit and electricity generation facilities and transmission systems to meet current and projected needs.
2. *Major goods movement facilities and corridors* shall be protected for the long term.
3. Planning authorities shall not permit *development* in *planned corridors* that could preclude or negatively affect the use of the corridor for the purpose(s) for which it was identified.

New *development* proposed on *adjacent lands* to existing or *planned corridors* and transportation facilities should be compatible with, and supportive of, the long-term purposes of the corridor and should be designed to avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate negative impacts on and from the corridor and transportation facilities.

4. The preservation and reuse of abandoned corridors for purposes that maintain the corridor's integrity and continuous linear characteristics should be encouraged, wherever feasible.
5. The co-location of linear *infrastructure* should be promoted, where appropriate.

### 3.4 Airports, Rail and Marine Facilities

1. Planning for land uses in the vicinity of *airports*, *rail facilities* and *marine facilities* shall be undertaken so that:
  - a) their long-term operation and economic role is protected; and
  - b) *airports*, *rail facilities* and *marine facilities* and *sensitive land uses* are appropriately designed, buffered and/or separated from each other, in accordance with policy 3.5.
2. *Airports* shall be protected from incompatible land uses and development by:
  - a) prohibiting new residential *development* and other sensitive land uses in areas near *airports* above 30 NEF/NEP;
  - b) considering redevelopment of existing residential uses and other sensitive land uses or infilling of residential and other sensitive land uses in areas above 30 NEF/NEP only if it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the long-term function of the *airport*; and
  - c) discouraging land uses which may cause a potential aviation safety hazard.

### 3.5 Land Use Compatibility

1. *Major facilities* and *sensitive land uses* shall be planned and developed to avoid, or if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate any potential *adverse effects* from odour, noise and other contaminants, minimize risk to public health and safety, and to ensure the long-term operational and economic viability of *major facilities* in accordance with provincial guidelines, standards and procedures.

2. Where avoidance is not possible in accordance with policy 3.5.1, planning authorities shall protect the long-term viability of existing or planned industrial, manufacturing or other *major facilities* that are vulnerable to encroachment by ensuring that proposed adjacent *sensitive land uses* are only permitted if potential impacts to industrial, manufacturing or other *major facilities* are minimized and mitigated in accordance with provincial guidelines, standards and procedures.

## 3.6 Sewage, Water and Stormwater

1. Planning for *sewage and water services* shall:
  - a) accommodate forecasted growth in a manner that promotes the efficient use and optimization of existing *municipal sewage services* and *municipal water services* and existing *private communal sewage services* and *private communal water services*;
  - b) ensure that these services are provided in a manner that:
    1. can be sustained by the water resources upon which such services rely;
    2. is feasible and financially viable over their life cycle;
    3. protects human health and safety, and the natural environment, including the *quality and quantity of water*; and
    4. considers comprehensive municipal planning for these services, where applicable.
  - c) promote water and energy conservation and efficiency;
  - d) integrate servicing and land use considerations at all stages of the planning process;
  - e) be in accordance with the servicing options outlined through policies 3.6.2, 3.6.3, 3.6.4 and 3.6.5; and
  - f) integrate with source protection planning.
2. *Municipal sewage services* and *municipal water services* are the preferred form of servicing for *settlement areas* to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety. For clarity, *municipal sewage services* and *municipal water services* include both centralized servicing systems and decentralized servicing systems.
3. Where *municipal sewage services* and *municipal water services* are not available, planned or feasible, *private communal sewage services* and *private communal water services* are the preferred form of servicing for multi-unit/lot *development* to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety.
4. Where *municipal sewage services* and *municipal water services* or *private communal sewage services* and *private communal water services* are not available, planned or feasible, *individual on-site sewage services* and *individual on-site water services* may be used provided that site conditions are suitable for the long-term provision of such services with no *negative impacts*.

At the time of the official plan review or update, planning authorities should assess the long-term impacts of *individual on-site sewage services* and *individual on-site water services* on environmental health and the financial viability or feasibility of other forms of servicing set out in policies 3.6.2 and 3.6.3.

5. *Partial services* shall only be permitted in the following circumstances:
  - a) where they are necessary to address failed *individual on-site sewage services* and *individual on-site water services* in existing development; or
  - b) within *settlement areas*, to allow for infilling and minor rounding out of existing development on *partial services* provided that site conditions are suitable for the long-term provision of such services with no *negative impacts*.
6. In rural areas, where *partial services* have been provided to address failed services in accordance with policy 3.6.5 (a), infilling on existing lots of record may be permitted where this would represent a logical and financially viable connection to the existing *partial service* and provided that site conditions are suitable for the long-term provision of such services with no *negative impacts*.
7. Planning authorities may allow lot creation where there is confirmation of sufficient *reserve sewage system capacity* and *reserve water system capacity*.
8. Planning for stormwater management shall:
  - a) be integrated with planning for *sewage and water services* and ensure that systems are optimized, retrofitted as appropriate, feasible and financially viable over their full life cycle;
  - b) minimize, or, where possible, prevent increases in contaminant loads;
  - c) minimize **stormwater volumes**, erosion and changes in water balance including through the use of *green infrastructure*;
  - d) mitigate risks to human health, safety, property and the environment;
  - e) maximize the extent and function of vegetative and pervious surfaces;
  - f) promote best practices, including stormwater attenuation and re-use, water conservation and efficiency, and *low impact development*; and
  - g) align with any comprehensive municipal plans for stormwater management that consider cumulative impacts of stormwater from development on a *watershed* scale.

## 3.7 Waste Management

1. *Waste management systems* need to be planned for and provided that are of an appropriate size, type, and location to accommodate present and future requirements, and facilitate integrated waste management.

## 3.8 Energy Supply

1. Planning authorities should provide opportunities for the development of energy supply including electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems, district energy, and *renewable energy systems* and *alternative energy systems*, to accommodate current and projected needs.

## 3.9 Public Spaces, Recreation, Parks, Trails and Open Space

1. Healthy, active, and inclusive communities should be promoted by:
  - a) planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of persons of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate *active transportation* and community connectivity;
  - b) planning and providing for the needs of persons of all ages and abilities in the distribution of a full range of publicly-accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and, where practical, water-based resources;
  - c) providing opportunities for public access to shorelines; and
  - d) recognizing provincial parks, conservation reserves, and other protected areas, and minimizing negative impacts on these areas.

## Chapter 4: Wise Use and Management of Resources

### 4.1 Natural Heritage

As of April 6, 2023, natural heritage policies and related definitions remain under consideration by the government. Once proposed policies and definitions are ready for review and input, they will be made available through a separate posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. ERO# 019-6813 will be updated with a link to the relevant posting once it is available.

### 4.2 Water

1. Planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the *quality and quantity of water* by:
  - a) using the *watershed* as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning, which can be a foundation for considering cumulative impacts of development;
  - b) minimizing potential *negative impacts*, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-*watershed* impacts;
  - c) identifying *water resource systems*;
  - d) maintaining linkages and functions of *water resource systems*;
  - e) implementing necessary restrictions on *development* and *site alteration* to:
    1. protect drinking water supplies and *designated vulnerable areas*; and
    2. protect, improve or restore *vulnerable* surface and ground water, and their *hydrologic functions*;
  - f) planning for efficient and sustainable use of water resources, through practices for water conservation and sustaining water quality; and
  - g) ensuring consideration of environmental lake capacity, where applicable.
2. *Development* and *site alteration* shall be restricted in or near *sensitive surface water features* and *sensitive ground water features* such that these features and their related *hydrologic functions* will be protected, improved or restored, which may require mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches.
3. Large and fast-growing municipalities are required, whereas municipalities are encouraged to undertake watershed planning, partnering with conservation authorities as appropriate, to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, inform planning for *sewage and water services* and stormwater management, including *low impact development*, and the protection, improvement or restoration of the *quality and quantity of water*.

## 4.3 Agriculture

### 4.3.1 General Policies for Agriculture

1. Planning authorities are encouraged to use an *agricultural system* approach, based on provincial guidance, to maintain and enhance a geographically continuous agricultural land base and support and foster the long-term economic prosperity and productive capacity of the *agri-food network*.
2. As part of the agricultural land base, *prime agricultural areas*, including *specialty crop areas*, shall be designated and protected for long-term use for agriculture.
3. *Specialty crop areas* shall be given the highest priority for protection, followed by Canada Land Inventory Class 1, 2, and 3 lands, and any associated Class 4 through 7 lands within the *prime agricultural area*, in this order of priority.

### 4.3.2 Permitted Uses

1. In *prime agricultural areas*, permitted uses and activities are: *agricultural uses*, *agriculture-related uses* and *on-farm diversified uses* based on provincial guidance.

Proposed *agriculture-related uses* and *on-farm diversified uses* shall be compatible with, and shall not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations. Criteria for these uses may be based on provincial guidance or municipal approaches, as set out in municipal planning documents, which achieve the same objectives.

2. In *prime agricultural areas*, all types, sizes and intensities of *agricultural uses* and *normal farm practices* shall be promoted and protected in accordance with provincial standards.
3. New land uses in *prime agricultural areas*, including the creation of lots and new or expanding livestock facilities, shall comply with the *minimum distance separation formulae*.
4. A principal dwelling associated with an agricultural operation may be permitted in *prime agricultural areas* as an agricultural use, in accordance with provincial guidance, except where prohibited in accordance with policy 4.3.3.1 b).
5. Subordinate to the principal dwelling, up to two additional residential units may be permitted in *prime agricultural areas*, provided that:
  - a) any additional residential units are within, attached to, or in close proximity to the principal dwelling;
  - b) any additional residential unit complies with the *minimum distance separation formulae*;
  - c) any additional residential unit is compatible with, and would not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations; and
  - d) appropriate *sewage and water services* will be provided.

The additional residential units may only be severed from the lot containing the principal dwelling in accordance with policy 4.3.3.1.

## 4.3.3 Lot Creation and Lot Adjustments

1. Residential lot creation in *prime agricultural areas* is only permitted in accordance with provincial guidance for:
  - a) new residential lots created from a lot or parcel of land that existed on January 1, 2023, provided that:
    1. agriculture is the principal use of the existing lot or parcel of land;
    2. the total number of lots created from a lot or parcel of land as it existed on January 1, 2023 does not exceed three;
    3. any residential use is compatible with, and would not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations; and
    4. any new lot:
      - i. is located outside of a *specialty crop area*;
      - ii. complies with the *minimum distance separation formulae*;
      - iii. will be limited to the minimum size needed to accommodate the use while still ensuring appropriate *sewage and water services*;
      - iv. has existing access on a public road, with appropriate frontage for ingress and egress; and
      - v. is adjacent to existing non-agricultural land uses or consists primarily of lower-priority agricultural lands.
  - b) a *residence surplus to an agricultural operation* as a result of farm consolidation, provided that:
    1. the new lot will be limited to a minimum size needed to accommodate the use while still ensuring appropriate *sewage and water services*; and
    2. the planning authority ensures that new residential dwellings are prohibited on any remnant parcel of farmland created by the severance. The approach used to ensure that no new residential dwellings are permitted on the remnant parcel may be recommended by the Province, or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objective.
2. Official plans and zoning by-laws shall not contain provisions that are more restrictive than policy 4.3.3.1 (a) except to address public health or safety concerns.
3. Non-residential lot creation in *prime agricultural areas* is discouraged and may only be permitted, in accordance with provincial guidance, for:
  - a) *agricultural uses*, provided that the lots are of a size appropriate for the type of agricultural use(s) common in the area and are sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operations;
  - b) *agriculture-related uses*, provided that any new lot will be limited to a minimum size needed to accommodate the use while still ensuring appropriate *sewage and water services*; and
  - c) *infrastructure*, where the facility or corridor cannot be accommodated through the use of easements or rights-of-way.
4. Lot adjustments in *prime agricultural areas* may be permitted for *legal or technical reasons*.



## 4.3.4 Removal of Land from Prime Agricultural Areas

1. Planning authorities may only exclude land from *prime agricultural areas* for expansions of or identification of *settlement areas* in accordance with policy 2.3.4.

## 4.3.5 Non-Agricultural Uses in Prime Agricultural Areas

1. Planning authorities may only permit non-agricultural uses in *prime agricultural areas* for:
  - a) extraction of *minerals, petroleum resources* and *mineral aggregate resources*; or
  - b) limited non-residential uses, provided that all of the following are demonstrated:
    1. the land does not comprise a *specialty crop area*;
    2. the proposed use complies with the *minimum distance separation formulae*;
    3. there is an identified need within the planning horizon provided for in policy 2.1.1 for additional land to accommodate the proposed use; and
    4. alternative locations have been evaluated, and
      - i. there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid *prime agricultural areas*; and
      - ii. there are no reasonable alternative locations in *prime agricultural areas* with lower priority agricultural lands.
2. Impacts from any new or expanding non-agricultural uses on surrounding agricultural lands and operations are to be avoided, or where avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated as determined through an *agricultural impact assessment* or equivalent analysis, based on provincial guidance.

## 4.4 Minerals and Petroleum

### 4.4.1 General Policies for Minerals and Petroleum

1. *Minerals* and *petroleum resources* shall be protected for long-term use.

### 4.4.2 Protection of Long-Term Resource Supply

1. *Mineral mining operations* and *petroleum resource operations* shall be identified and protected from *development* and activities that would preclude or hinder their expansion or continued use or which would be incompatible for reasons of public health, public safety or environmental impact.
2. Known *mineral deposits*, known *petroleum resources* and *significant areas of mineral potential* shall be identified and *development* and activities in these resources or on *adjacent lands* which would preclude or hinder the establishment of new operations or access to the resources shall only be permitted if:
  - a) resource use would not be feasible; or
  - b) the proposed land use or development serves a greater long-term public interest; and
  - c) issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.

## 4.4.3 Rehabilitation

1. Rehabilitation to accommodate subsequent land uses shall be required after extraction and other related activities have ceased. Progressive rehabilitation should be undertaken wherever feasible.

## 4.4.4 Extraction in Prime Agricultural Areas

1. Extraction of *minerals* and *petroleum resources* is permitted in *prime agricultural areas* provided that the site will be rehabilitated.

## 4.5 Mineral Aggregate Resources

### 4.5.1 General Policies for Mineral Aggregate Resources

1. *Mineral aggregate resources* shall be protected for long-term use and, where provincial information is available, *deposits of mineral aggregate resources* shall be identified.

### 4.5.2 Protection of Long-Term Resource Supply

1. As much of the *mineral aggregate resources* as is realistically possible shall be made available as close to markets as possible.

Demonstration of need for *mineral aggregate resources*, including any type of supply/demand analysis, shall not be required, notwithstanding the availability, designation or licensing for extraction of *mineral aggregate resources* locally or elsewhere.

2. Extraction shall be undertaken in a manner which minimizes social, economic and environmental impacts.
3. *Mineral aggregate resource conservation* shall be undertaken, including through the use of accessory aggregate recycling facilities within operations, wherever feasible.
4. *Mineral aggregate operations* shall be protected from *development* and activities that would preclude or hinder their expansion or continued use or which would be incompatible for reasons of public health, public safety or environmental impact. Existing *mineral aggregate operations* shall be permitted to continue without the need for official plan amendment, rezoning or development permit under the *Planning Act*. Where the *Aggregate Resources Act* applies, only processes under the *Aggregate Resources Act* shall address the depth of extraction of new or existing *mineral aggregate operations*. When a license for extraction or operation ceases to exist, policy 4.5.2.5 continues to apply.
5. In known *deposits of mineral aggregate resources* and on *adjacent lands*, *development* and activities which would preclude or hinder the establishment of new operations or access to the resources shall only be permitted if:
  - a) resource use would not be feasible; or
  - b) the proposed land use or development serves a greater long-term public interest; and
  - c) issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.

## 4.5.3 Rehabilitation

1. Progressive and final rehabilitation shall be required to accommodate subsequent land uses, to promote land use compatibility, to recognize the interim nature of extraction, and to mitigate negative impacts to the extent possible. Final rehabilitation shall take surrounding land use and approved land use designations into consideration.
2. *Comprehensive rehabilitation* planning is encouraged where there is a concentration of mineral aggregate operations.
3. In parts of the Province not designated under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, rehabilitation standards that are compatible with those under the Act should be adopted for extraction operations on private lands.

## 4.5.4 Extraction in Prime Agricultural Areas

1. In *prime agricultural areas*, on *prime agricultural land*, extraction of *mineral aggregate resources* is permitted as an interim use provided that:
  - a) impacts to the *prime agricultural areas* are addressed, in accordance with policy 4.3.5.2; and
  - b) the site will be rehabilitated back to an *agricultural condition*.
2. Despite policy 4.5.4.1 (b), complete rehabilitation to an *agricultural condition* is not required if:
  - a) the depth of planned extraction makes restoration of pre-extraction agricultural capability unfeasible; and
  - b) agricultural rehabilitation in remaining areas is maximized.

## 4.5.5 Wayside Pits and Quarries, Portable Asphalt Plants and Portable Concrete Plants

1. *Wayside pits and quarries*, *portable asphalt plants* and *portable concrete plants* used on public authority contracts shall be permitted, without the need for an official plan amendment, rezoning, or development permit under the *Planning Act* in all areas, except those areas of existing development or particular environmental sensitivity which have been determined to be incompatible with extraction and associated activities.

## 4.6 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

1. *Protected heritage property*, which may contain *built heritage resources* or *cultural heritage landscapes*, shall be *conserved*.
2. Planning authorities shall not permit *development* and *site alteration* on lands containing *archaeological resources* or *areas of archaeological potential* unless the *archaeological resources* have been *conserved*.
3. Planning authorities shall not permit *development* and *site alteration* on *adjacent lands* to *protected heritage property* unless the *heritage attributes* of the *protected heritage property* will be *conserved*.

4. Planning authorities are encouraged to develop and implement:
  - a) archaeological management plans for conserving *archaeological resources*; and
  - b) proactive strategies for identifying properties for evaluation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
5. Planning authorities shall engage early with Indigenous communities and ensure their interests are considered when identifying, protecting and managing *archaeological resources*, *built heritage resources* and *cultural heritage landscapes*.

## Chapter 5: Protecting Public Health and Safety

### 5.1 General Policies for Natural and Human-Made Hazards

1. Development shall be directed away from areas of natural or human-made hazards where there is an unacceptable risk to public health or safety or of property damage, and not create new or aggravate existing hazards.

### 5.2 Natural Hazards

1. Planning authorities shall identify *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites* and manage development in these areas, in collaboration with Conservation Authorities, where they exist, and in accordance with provincial guidance.
2. Development shall generally be directed to areas outside of:
  - a) *hazardous lands* adjacent to the shorelines of the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System* and *large inland lakes* which are impacted by *flooding hazards, erosion hazards* and/or *dynamic beach hazards*;
  - b) *hazardous lands* adjacent to *river, stream and small inland lake systems* which are impacted by *flooding hazards* and/or *erosion hazards*; and
  - c) *hazardous sites*.
3. *Development* and *site alteration* shall not be permitted within:
  - a) the *dynamic beach hazard*;
  - b) *defined portions of the flooding hazard along connecting channels* (the St. Marys, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers);
  - c) areas that would be rendered inaccessible to people and vehicles during times of *flooding hazards, erosion hazards* and/or *dynamic beach hazards*, unless it has been demonstrated that the site has safe access appropriate for the nature of the *development* and the natural hazard; and
  - d) a *floodway* regardless of whether the area of inundation contains high points of land not subject to flooding.
4. Planning authorities shall prepare for the *impacts of a changing climate* that may increase the risk associated with natural hazards.
5. Despite policy 5.2.3, *development* and *site alteration* may be permitted in certain areas associated with the *flooding hazard* along *river, stream and small inland lake systems*:
  - a) in those exceptional situations where a *Special Policy Area* has been approved. The designation of a *Special Policy Area*, and any change or modification to the official plan policies, land use designations or boundaries applying to *Special Policy Area* lands, must be approved by the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Natural Resources and Forestry prior to the approval authority approving such changes or modifications; or
  - b) where the *development* is limited to uses which by their nature must locate within the *floodway*, including flood and/or erosion control works or minor

additions or passive non-structural uses which do not affect flood flows.

6. *Development* shall not be permitted to locate in *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites* where the use is:
  - a) an *institutional use* including hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, pre-schools, school nurseries, day cares and schools;
  - b) an *essential emergency service* such as that provided by fire, police and ambulance stations and electrical substations; or
  - c) uses associated with the disposal, manufacture, treatment or storage of *hazardous substances*.
7. Where the *two zone concept* for *flood plains* is applied, *development* and *site alteration* may be permitted in the *flood fringe*, subject to appropriate floodproofing to the *flooding hazard* elevation or another *flooding hazard* standard approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.
8. Further to policy 5.2.7, and except as prohibited in policies 5.2.3 and 5.2.6, *development* and *site alteration* may be permitted in those portions of *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites* where the effects and risk to public safety are minor, could be mitigated in accordance with provincial standards, and where all of the following are demonstrated and achieved:
  - a) *development* and *site alteration* is carried out in accordance with *floodproofing standards*, *protection works standards*, and *access standards*;
  - b) vehicles and people have a way of safely entering and exiting the area during times of flooding, erosion and other emergencies;
  - c) new hazards are not created and existing hazards are not aggravated; and
  - d) no adverse environmental impacts will result.
9. *Development* shall generally be directed to areas outside of lands that are unsafe for development due to the presence of *hazardous forest types for wildland fire*.

*Development* may however be permitted in lands with *hazardous forest types for wildland fire* where the risk is mitigated in accordance with *wildland fire assessment and mitigation standards*.

### 5.3 Human-Made Hazards

1. Development on, abutting or adjacent to lands affected by *mine hazards*; *oil, gas and salt hazards*; or former *mineral mining operations*, *mineral aggregate operations* or *petroleum resource operations* may be permitted only if rehabilitation or other measures to address and mitigate known or suspected hazards are under way or have been completed.
2. Sites with contaminants in land or water shall be assessed and remediated as necessary prior to any activity on the site associated with the proposed use such that there will be no *adverse effects*.

## Chapter 6: Implementation and Interpretation

### 6.1 General Policies for Implementation and Interpretation

1. This Policy Statement shall be read in its entirety and all relevant policies are to be applied to each situation.
2. This Policy Statement shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the recognition and affirmation of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
3. This Policy Statement shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
4. When implementing this Policy Statement, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may make decisions that take into account other considerations to balance government priorities.
5. Official plans shall identify provincial interests and set out appropriate land use designations and policies. Official plans shall provide clear, reasonable and attainable policies to protect provincial interests and facilitate development in suitable areas.

In order to protect provincial interests, planning authorities shall keep their official plans up-to-date with this Policy Statement. The policies of this Policy Statement continue to apply after adoption and approval of an official plan.

6. Planning authorities shall keep their zoning and development permit by-laws up-to-date with their official plans and this Policy Statement by establishing permitted uses, minimum densities, heights and other development standards to accommodate growth and development.
7. Where a planning authority must decide on a planning matter before their official plan has been updated to be consistent with this Policy Statement, or before other applicable planning instruments have been updated accordingly, it must still make a decision that is consistent with this Policy Statement.
8. In addition to land use approvals under the *Planning Act*, *infrastructure* may also have requirements under other legislation and regulations. For example, an environmental assessment process may be required for new *infrastructure* and modifications to existing *infrastructure* under applicable legislation.

Wherever possible and practical, approvals under the *Planning Act* and other legislation or regulations should be integrated provided the intent and requirements of both processes are met.

9. To assess progress on implementation of this Policy Statement, the Province may:
  - a) identify key indicators to measure the outcomes, relevance and efficiency of the policies in this Policy Statement in consultation with municipalities, Indigenous communities, other public bodies and stakeholders;
  - b) monitor and assess the implementation of this Policy Statement through the

- collection and analysis of data under each indicator; and
- c) consider the resulting assessment in each review of this Policy Statement.
10. Municipalities are encouraged to monitor and report on the implementation of the policies in their official plans, in accordance with any requirements for reporting planning information to the Province, and data standards and including through any other guidelines that may be issued by the Minister.
11. *Strategic growth areas* are not land use designations and their delineation does not confer any new land use designations, nor alter existing land use designations. Any development on lands within the boundary of these identified areas is still subject to the relevant provincial and municipal land use planning policies and approval processes.

## 6.2 Coordination

1. A coordinated, integrated and comprehensive approach should be used when dealing with planning matters within municipalities, across lower, single and/or upper-tier municipal boundaries, and with other orders of government, agencies, boards, **conservation authorities** and Service Managers including:
- managing and/or promoting growth and development that is integrated with planning for *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*, including schools and associated child care facilities;
  - economic development strategies;
  - managing natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral, and cultural heritage and archaeological resources;
  - infrastructure, multimodal* transportation systems, *public service facilities* and *waste management systems*;
  - ecosystem, shoreline, watershed, and Great Lakes related issues;
  - natural and human-made hazards;
  - population, housing and employment projections, based on *regional market areas*, as appropriate; and
  - addressing housing needs in accordance with provincial housing policies and plans, including those that address homelessness.
2. Planning authorities shall undertake early engagement with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters to facilitate knowledge-sharing, support consideration of Indigenous interests in land use decision-making and support the identification of potential impacts of decisions on the exercise of Aboriginal or treaty rights.
3. Planning authorities are encouraged to engage the public and stakeholders early in local efforts to implement this Policy Statement, and to provide the necessary information to ensure the informed involvement of local citizens, including equity-deserving groups.
4. Planning authorities and school boards shall collaborate to facilitate early and integrated planning for schools and associated child care facilities to meet current and future needs.
5. Planning authorities should coordinate emergency management and other economic, environmental and social planning considerations to support efficient and resilient



communities.

6. Municipalities, the Province, and other appropriate stakeholders are encouraged to undertake a coordinated approach to planning for large areas with high concentrations of employment uses that cross municipal boundaries.
7. Where planning is conducted by an upper-tier municipality, the upper-tier municipality in consultation with lower-tier municipalities shall:
  - a) identify and allocate population, housing and employment projections for lower-tier municipalities;
  - b) identify areas where growth and development will be focused, including *strategic growth areas*, and establish any applicable minimum density targets;
  - c) identify minimum density targets for growth and development taking place in new or expanded *settlement areas*, where applicable; and
  - d) provide policy direction for the lower-tier municipalities on matters that cross municipal boundaries.
8. Where there is no upper-tier municipality or where planning is not conducted by an upper-tier municipality, planning authorities shall ensure that policy 6.2.7 is addressed as part of the planning process, and should coordinate these matters with adjacent planning authorities.

## 7: Definitions

**Access standards:** means methods or procedures to ensure safe vehicular and pedestrian movement, and access for the maintenance and repair of protection works, during times of *flooding hazards, erosion hazards and/or other water-related hazards*.

**Active transportation:** means human-powered travel, including but not limited to, walking, cycling, inline skating and travel with the use of mobility aids, including motorized wheelchairs and other power-assisted devices moving at a comparable speed.

**Additional needs housing:** means any housing, including dedicated facilities, in whole or in part, that is used by people who have specific needs beyond economic needs, including but not limited to, needs such as mobility requirements or support functions required for daily living. Examples of *additional needs housing* may include, but are not limited to long-term care homes, adaptable and accessible housing, and housing for persons with disabilities such as physical, sensory or mental health disabilities, and housing for older persons.

**Adjacent lands:** means

- a) for the purposes of policy 3.3.3, those lands contiguous to existing or *planned corridors* and transportation facilities where *development* would have a negative impact on the corridor or facility. The extent of the *adjacent lands* may be recommended in provincial guidance or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives;
- b) for the purposes of policies 4.4.2.2 and 4.5.2.5, those lands contiguous to lands on the surface of known *petroleum resources, mineral deposits, or deposits of mineral aggregate resources* where it is likely that *development* would constrain future access to the resources. The extent of the *adjacent lands* may be recommended by the Province; and
- c) for the purposes of policy 4.6.3, those lands contiguous to a *protected heritage property*.

**Adverse effect:** as defined in the *Environmental Protection Act*, means one or more of:

- a) impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it;
- b) injury or damage to property or plant or animal life;
- c) harm or material discomfort to any person;
- d) an adverse effect on the health of any person;
- e) impairment of the safety of any person;
- f) rendering any property or plant or animal life unfit for human use;
- g) loss of enjoyment of normal use of property; and
- h) interference with normal conduct of business.

**Agricultural condition:** means

- a) in regard to *specialty crop areas*, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored, the same range and productivity of specialty crops common in the area can be achieved, and, where applicable, the microclimate on which the site and surrounding area may be dependent for specialty crop production will be maintained, restored or enhanced; and
- b) in regard to *prime agricultural land* outside of *specialty crop areas*, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture will be maintained, restored or enhanced.

**Agricultural impact assessment:** means the evaluation of potential impacts of non-*agricultural uses* on agricultural lands and operations and, where applicable, the *agricultural system*. An assessment recommends ways to avoid or if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts.



**Agricultural system:** A system comprised of a group of inter-connected elements that collectively create a viable, thriving agri-food sector. It has two components:

- a) An agricultural land base, based on mapping provided by the Province where mapping is available and requested, comprised of *prime agricultural areas*, including *specialty crop areas*, and *rural lands* that together create a continuous productive land base for agriculture; and
- b) An *agri-food network* which includes *infrastructure*, services, and assets important to the viability of the agri-food sector.

**Agricultural uses:** means the growing of crops, including nursery, biomass, and horticultural crops; raising of livestock; raising of other animals for food, fur or fibre, including poultry and fish; aquaculture; apiaries; agro-forestry; maple syrup production; and associated on-farm buildings and structures, including, but not limited to livestock facilities, manure storages, value-retaining facilities, and housing for farm workers, when the size and nature of the operation requires additional employment.

**Agri-food network:** Within the *agricultural system*, a network that includes elements important to the viability of the agri-food sector such as regional *infrastructure* and transportation networks; on-farm buildings and infrastructure; agricultural services, farm markets, distributors, and primary processing; and vibrant, agriculture-supportive communities.

**Agri-tourism uses:** means those farm-related tourism uses, including limited accommodation such as a bed and breakfast, that promote the enjoyment, education or activities related to the farm operation.

**Agriculture-related uses:** means those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are directly related to farm operations in the area, support agriculture, benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations, and provide direct products and/or services to farm operations as a primary activity.

**Airports:** means all Ontario airports, including designated lands for future airports, with Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF)/Noise Exposure Projection (NEP) mapping.

**Alternative energy system:** means a system that uses sources of energy or energy conversion processes to produce power, heat and/or cooling that significantly reduces the amount of harmful emissions to the environment (air, earth and water) when compared to conventional energy systems.

**Archaeological resources:** includes artifacts, archaeological sites and marine archaeological sites, as defined under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The identification and evaluation of such resources are based upon archaeological assessments carried out by archaeologists licensed under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

**Areas of archaeological potential:** means areas with the likelihood to contain *archaeological resources*, as evaluated using the processes and criteria that are established under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

**Areas of mineral potential:** means areas favourable to the discovery of *mineral deposits* due to geology, the presence of known *mineral deposits* or other technical evidence.

**Areas of natural and scientific interest:** means areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education.

**Brownfield sites:** means undeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant.

**Built heritage resource:** means a building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured or constructed part or remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including an Indigenous community.

**Compact built form:** means a land use pattern that encourages the efficient use of land, walkable neighbourhoods, mixed land uses (residential, retail, workplace, and institutional) all within one neighbourhood, proximity to transit and reduced need for *infrastructure*. *Compact built form* can include detached and semi-detached houses on small lots as well as townhouses, duplexes, triplexes and walk-up apartments, multi-storey commercial developments, and apartments or offices above retail. Walkable neighbourhoods can be characterized by roads laid out in a well-connected network, destinations that are easily accessible by transit and *active transportation*, sidewalks with minimal interruptions for vehicle access, and a pedestrian-friendly environment along roads.

**Comprehensive rehabilitation:** means rehabilitation of land from which *mineral aggregate resources* have been extracted that is coordinated and complementary, to the extent possible, with the rehabilitation of other sites in an area where there is a high concentration of *mineral aggregate operations*.

**Complete communities:** means places such as mixed-use neighbourhoods or other areas within cities, towns, and *settlement areas* that offer and support opportunities for equitable access to many necessities for daily living for people of all ages and abilities, including an appropriate mix of jobs, a full range of housing, transportation options, *public service facilities*, local stores and services. *Complete communities* are inclusive and may take different shapes and forms appropriate to their contexts to meet the diverse needs of their populations.

**Conserved:** means the identification, protection, management and use of *built heritage resources*, *cultural heritage landscapes* and *archaeological resources* in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value or interest is retained. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment that has been approved, accepted or adopted by the relevant planning authority and/or decision-maker.

Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches should be included in these plans and assessments.

**Cultural heritage landscape:** means a defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association.

**Defined portions of the flooding hazard along connecting channels:** means those areas which are critical to the conveyance of the flows associated with the *one hundred year flood level* along the St. Marys, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, where *development* or *site alteration* will create *flooding hazards*, cause updrift and/or downdrift impacts and/or cause adverse environmental impacts.

**Deposits of mineral aggregate resources:** means an area of identified *mineral aggregate resources*, as delineated in Aggregate Resource Inventory Papers or comprehensive studies prepared using provincial guidance for surficial and bedrock resources, as amended from time to time, that has a sufficient quantity and quality to warrant present or future extraction.

**Designated and available:** means lands designated in the official plan for urban residential use. For municipalities where more detailed official plan policies (e.g. secondary plans) are required before development applications can be considered for approval, only lands that have commenced the more detailed planning process are considered to be *designated and available* for the purposes of this definition.

**Designated vulnerable area:** means areas defined as vulnerable, in accordance with provincial standards, by virtue of their importance as a drinking water source.

**Development:** means the creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings and structures requiring approval under the *Planning Act*, but does not include:

- a) activities that create or maintain *infrastructure* authorized under an environmental assessment process; or
- b) works subject to the *Drainage Act*.

**Dynamic beach hazard:** means areas of inherently unstable accumulations of shoreline sediments along the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System* and *large inland lakes*, as identified by provincial standards, as amended from time to time. The *dynamic beach hazard* limit consists of the *floodings hazard* limit plus a dynamic beach allowance.

**Employment area:** means those areas designated in an official plan for clusters of business and economic activities including manufacturing, research and development in connection with manufacturing, warehousing, goods movement, associated retail and office, and ancillary facilities. Uses that are excluded from *employment areas* are institutional and commercial, including retail and office not associated with the primary employment use listed above.

**Erosion hazard:** means the loss of land, due to human or natural processes, that poses a threat to life and property. The *erosion hazard* limit is determined using considerations that include the 100 year erosion rate (the average annual rate of recession extended over a one hundred year time span), an allowance for slope stability, and an erosion/erosion access allowance.

**Essential emergency service:** means services which would be impaired during an emergency as a result of flooding, the failure of floodproofing measures and/or protection works, and/or erosion.

**Flood fringe:** for *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means the outer portion of the *flood plain* between the *floodway* and the *floodings hazard* limit. Depths and velocities of flooding are generally less severe in the *flood fringe* than those experienced in the *floodway*.

**Flood plain:** for *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means the area, usually low lands adjoining a watercourse, which has been or may be subject to *floodings hazards*.

**Floodings hazard:** means the inundation, under the conditions specified below, of areas adjacent to a shoreline or a river or stream system and not ordinarily covered by water:

- a) along the shorelines of the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System* and *large inland lakes*, the *floodings hazard* limit is based on the *one hundred year flood level* plus an allowance for *wave effects* and *other water-related hazards*;
- b) along *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, the *floodings hazard* limit is the greater of:

1. the flood resulting from the rainfall actually experienced during a major storm such as the Hurricane Hazel storm (1954) or the Timmins storm (1961), transposed over a specific watershed and combined with the local conditions, where evidence suggests that the storm event could have potentially occurred over watersheds in the general area;
2. the *one hundred year flood*; and
3. a flood which is greater than 1. or 2. which was actually experienced in a particular watershed or portion thereof, for example, as a result of ice jams and which has been approved as the standard for that specific area by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry;

except where the use of the *one hundred year flood* or the actually experienced event has been approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry as the standard for a specific watershed (where the past history of flooding supports the lowering of the standard).

**Floodproofing standard:** means the combination of measures incorporated into the basic design and/or construction of buildings, structures, or properties to reduce or eliminate *floodings hazards*, *wave effects* and other water-related hazards along the shorelines of the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System*

and *large inland lakes*, and *flooding hazards* along *river, stream and small inland lake systems*.

**Floodway:** for *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means the portion of the *flood plain* where *development* and *site alteration* would cause a danger to public health and safety or property damage.

Where the one zone concept is applied, the *floodway* is the entire contiguous *flood plain*.

Where the *two zone concept* is applied, the *floodway* is the contiguous inner portion of the *flood plain*, representing that area required for the safe passage of flood flow and/or that area where flood depths and/or velocities are considered to be such that they pose a potential threat to life and/or property damage. Where the *two zone concept* applies, the outer portion of the *flood plain* is called the *flood fringe*.

**Freight-supportive:** in regard to land use patterns, means transportation systems and facilities that facilitate the movement of goods. This includes policies or programs intended to support efficient freight movement through the planning, design and operation of land use and transportation systems. Approaches may be recommended in provincial guidance or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives.

**Frequent transit:** means a public transit service that runs at least every 15 minutes in both directions throughout the day and into the evening every day of the week.

**Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System:** means the major water system consisting of Lakes Superior, Huron, St. Clair, Erie and Ontario and their connecting channels, and the St. Lawrence River within the boundaries of the Province of Ontario.

**Green infrastructure:** means natural and human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes. *Green infrastructure* can include components such as natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels,

permeable surfaces, and green roofs.

**Ground water feature:** means water-related features in the earth's subsurface, including recharge/discharge areas, water tables, aquifers and unsaturated zones that can be defined by surface and subsurface hydrogeologic investigations.

**Hazardous forest types for wildland fire:** means forest types assessed as being associated with the risk of high to extreme wildland fire using risk assessment tools established by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time.

**Hazardous lands:** means property or lands that could be unsafe for development due to naturally occurring processes. Along the shorelines of the *Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System*, this means the land, including that covered by water, between the international boundary, where applicable, and the furthest landward limit of the *flooding hazard, erosion hazard or dynamic beach hazard* limits. Along the shorelines of *large inland lakes*, this means the land, including that covered by water, between a defined offshore distance or depth and the furthest landward limit of the *flooding hazard, erosion hazard or dynamic beach hazard* limits. Along *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, this means the land, including that covered by water, to the furthest landward limit of the *flooding hazard or erosion hazard* limits.

**Hazardous sites:** means property or lands that could be unsafe for *development* and *site alteration* due to naturally occurring hazards. These may include unstable soils (sensitive marine clays [leda], organic soils) or unstable bedrock (karst topography).

**Hazardous substances:** means substances which, individually, or in combination with other substances, are normally considered to pose a danger to public health, safety and the environment. These substances generally include a wide array of materials that are toxic, ignitable, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or pathological.

**Heritage attributes:** means, as defined under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, in relation to real property, and to the buildings and structures on the real property, the attributes of the property, buildings and structures that contribute to their cultural heritage value or interest.

**Higher order transit:** means transit that generally operates in partially or completely dedicated rights-of-way, outside of mixed traffic, and therefore can achieve levels of speed and reliability greater than mixed-traffic transit. *Higher order transit* can include heavy rail (such as subways, elevated or surface rail, and commuter or regional inter-city rail), light rail, and buses in dedicated rights-of-way.

**Housing options:** means a range of housing types such as, but not limited to single-detached, semi-detached, rowhouses, townhouses, stacked townhouses, multiplexes, additional residential units, tiny homes, laneway housing, garden suites, rooming houses, multi-residential buildings, including low- and mid-rise apartments. The term can also refer to a variety of housing arrangements and forms such as, but not limited to, life lease housing, co-ownership housing, co-operative housing, community land trusts, land lease community homes, *additional needs housing*, multi-generational housing, student housing, farm worker housing, culturally appropriate housing, supportive, community and transitional housing and housing related to employment, educational, or *institutional uses*, such as long-term care homes.

**Hydrologic function:** means the functions of the hydrological cycle that include the occurrence, circulation, distribution and chemical and physical properties of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, and water's interaction with the environment including its relation to living things.

**Impacts of a changing climate:** means the present and future consequences from changes in weather patterns at local and regional levels including extreme weather events and increased climate variability.

**Individual on-site sewage services:** means sewage systems, as defined in O. Reg. 332/12 under the *Building Code Act, 1992*, that are owned, operated and managed by the owner of the property upon which the system is located.

**Individual on-site water services:** means individual, autonomous water supply systems that are owned, operated and managed by the owner of the property upon which the system is located.

**Infrastructure:** means physical structures (facilities and corridors) that form the foundation for development. *Infrastructure* includes: sewage and water systems, septage treatment systems, stormwater management systems, waste management systems, electricity generation facilities, electricity transmission and distribution systems, communications/telecommunications, transit and transportation corridors and facilities, *active transportation* systems, oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.

**Institutional use:** for the purposes of policy 5.1.6, means land uses where there is a threat to the safe evacuation of vulnerable populations such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and those who are sick or young, during an emergency as a result of flooding, failure of floodproofing measures or protection works, or erosion.

**Intensification:** means the development of a property, site or area at a higher density than currently exists through:

- a) *redevelopment*, including the reuse of *brownfield sites*;
- b) the development of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas;
- c) infill development; and
- d) the expansion or conversion of existing buildings.

**Large and fast-growing municipalities:** means municipalities identified in Schedule 1.



**Large inland lakes:** means those waterbodies having a surface area of equal to or greater than 100 square kilometres where there is not a measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event.

**Legal or technical reasons:** means severances for purposes such as easements, corrections of deeds, quit claims, and minor boundary adjustments, which do not result in the creation of a new lot.

**Low impact development:** means an approach to stormwater management that seeks to manage rain and other precipitation as close as possible to where it falls to mitigate the impacts of increased runoff and stormwater pollution. It typically includes a set of site design strategies and distributed, small-scale structural practices to mimic the natural hydrology to the greatest extent possible through infiltration, evapotranspiration, harvesting, filtration, and detention of stormwater. *Low impact development* can include, for example: bio-swales, vegetated areas at the edge of paved surfaces, permeable pavement, rain gardens, green roofs, and exfiltration systems.

**Major facilities:** means facilities which may require separation from *sensitive land uses*, including but not limited to airports, manufacturing uses, transportation *infrastructure* and corridors, *rail facilities*, *marine facilities*, sewage treatment facilities, *waste management systems*, oil and gas pipelines, industries, energy generation facilities and transmission systems, and resource extraction activities.

**Major goods movement facilities and corridors:** means transportation facilities, corridors and networks associated with the inter- and intra-provincial movement of goods. Examples include: inter-modal facilities, ports, *airports*, *rail facilities*, truck terminals, freight corridors, freight facilities, and haul routes, primary transportation corridors used for the movement of goods and those identified in provincial transportation plans. Approaches that are *freight-supportive* may be recommended in provincial guidance or based on municipal approaches that achieve the

same objectives.

**Major transit station area:** means the area including and around any existing or planned *higher order transit* station or stop within a settlement area; or the area including and around a major bus depot in an urban core. *Major transit station areas* generally are defined as the area within an approximate 500 to 800 metre radius of a transit station, representing about a 10-minute walk.

**Major trip generators:** means origins and destinations with high population densities or concentrated activities which generate many trips (e.g., *strategic growth areas*, major office and office parks, major retail, *employment areas*, community hubs, large parks and recreational destinations, *public service facilities*, and other mixed-use areas).

**Marine facilities:** means ferries, harbours, ports, ferry terminals, canals and associated uses, including designated lands for future *marine facilities*.

**Mine hazard:** means any feature of a mine as defined under the *Mining Act*, or any related disturbance of the ground that has not been rehabilitated.

**Minerals:** means metallic minerals and non-metallic minerals as herein defined, but does not include *mineral aggregate resources* or *petroleum resources*.

Metallic minerals means those minerals from which metals (e.g. copper, nickel, gold) are derived.

Non-metallic minerals means those minerals that are of value for intrinsic properties of the minerals themselves and not as a source of metal. They are generally synonymous with industrial minerals (e.g. asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, and wollastonite).

**Mineral aggregate operation:** means

- a) lands under license or permit, other than for *wayside pits and quarries*, issued in accordance with the *Aggregate Resources Act*;

- b) for lands not designated under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, established pits and quarries that are not in contravention of municipal zoning by-laws and including adjacent land under agreement with or owned by the operator, to permit continuation of the operation; and
- c) associated facilities used in extraction, transport, beneficiation, processing or recycling of *mineral aggregate resources* and derived products such as asphalt and concrete, or the production of secondary related products.

**Mineral aggregate resources:** means gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite, rock or other material prescribed under the *Aggregate Resources Act* suitable for construction, industrial, manufacturing and maintenance purposes but does not include metallic ores, asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, wollastonite, mine tailings or other material prescribed under the *Mining Act*.

**Mineral aggregate resource conservation:** means

- a) the recovery and recycling of manufactured materials derived from mineral aggregates (e.g. glass, porcelain, brick, concrete, asphalt, slag, etc.), for re-use in construction, manufacturing, industrial or maintenance projects as a substitute for new mineral aggregates; and
- b) the wise use of mineral aggregates including utilization or extraction of on-site *mineral aggregate resources* prior to development occurring.

**Mineral deposits:** means areas of identified *minerals* that have sufficient quantity and quality based on specific geological evidence to warrant present or future extraction.

**Mineral mining operation:** means mining operations and associated facilities, or, past producing mines with remaining mineral development potential that have not been permanently rehabilitated to another use.

**Minimum distance separation formulae:** means formulae and guidelines developed by

the Province, as amended from time to time, to separate uses so as to reduce incompatibility concerns about odour from livestock facilities.

**Multimodal:** means relating to the availability or use of more than one form of transportation, such as automobiles, walking, cycling, buses, rapid transit, rail (such as commuter and freight), trucks, air, and marine.

**Municipal sewage services:** means a sewage works within the meaning of section 1 of the *Ontario Water Resources Act* that is owned or operated by a municipality.

**Municipal water services:** means a municipal drinking-water system within the meaning of section 2 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

**Negative impacts:** means

- a) in regard to policy 3.6.4 and 3.6.5, potential risks to human health and safety and degradation to the *quality and quantity of water*, sensitive *surface water features* and sensitive *ground water features*, and their related *hydrologic functions*, due to single, multiple or successive *development*. *Negative impacts* should be assessed through environmental studies including hydrogeological or water quality impact assessments, in accordance with provincial standards;
- b) in regard to policy 4.2, degradation to the *quality and quantity of water*, sensitive *surface water features* and sensitive *ground water features*, and their related *hydrologic functions*, due to single, multiple or successive *development* or *site alteration* activities; and
- c) in regard to policy 3.3.3, any *development* or *site alteration* that would compromise or conflict with the planned or existing function, capacity to accommodate future needs, and cost of implementation of the corridor.

**Normal farm practices:** means a practice, as defined in the *Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998*, that is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances; or makes use of



innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices. *Normal farm practices* shall be consistent with the *Nutrient Management Act, 2002* and regulations made under that Act.

**Oil, gas and salt hazards:** means any feature of a well or work as defined under the *Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act*, or any related disturbance of the ground that has not been rehabilitated.

**On-farm diversified uses:** means uses that are secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property, and are limited in area. *On-farm diversified uses* include, but are not limited to, home occupations, home industries, *agri-tourism uses*, and uses that produce value-added agricultural products. Land-extensive energy facilities, such as ground-mounted solar or battery storage are permitted in *prime agricultural areas*, including *specialty crop areas*, only as *on-farm diversified uses*.

**One hundred year flood:** for *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means that flood, based on an analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period of 100 years on average, or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year.

**One hundred year flood level:** means

- a) for the shorelines of the Great Lakes, the peak instantaneous stillwater level, resulting from combinations of mean monthly lake levels and wind setups, which has a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year;
- b) in the connecting channels (St. Marys, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers), the peak instantaneous stillwater level which has a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year; and
- c) for *large inland lakes*, lake levels and wind setups that have a 1% chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year, except that, where sufficient water level records do not exist, the *one hundred year flood level* is based on the highest known water level and wind setups.

**Other water-related hazards:** means water-associated phenomena other than *flooding hazards* and *wave effects* which act on shorelines. This includes, but is not limited to ship-generated waves, ice piling and ice jamming.

**Partial services:** means

- a) *municipal sewage services* or *private communal sewage services* combined with *individual on-site water services*; or
- b) *municipal water services* or *private communal water services* combined with *individual on-site sewage services*.

**Petroleum resource operations:** means oil, gas and salt wells and associated facilities and other drilling operations, oil field fluid disposal wells and associated facilities, and wells and facilities for the underground storage of natural gas, other hydrocarbons, and compressed air energy storage.

**Petroleum resources:** means oil, gas, and salt (extracted by solution mining method) and formation water resources which have been identified through exploration and verified by preliminary drilling or other forms of investigation. This may include sites of former operations where resources are still present or former sites that may be converted to underground storage for natural gas, other hydrocarbons, or compressed air energy storage.

**Planned corridors:** means corridors or future corridors which are required to meet projected needs, and are identified through provincial transportation plans, preferred alignment(s) determined through the *Environmental Assessment Act* process, or identified through planning studies where the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Metrolinx, Ontario Ministry of Energy, Ontario Northland, Ministry of Northern Development or Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) or any successor to those ministries or entities is actively pursuing, or has completed, the identification of a corridor.

Approaches for the protection of *planned corridors* may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province.

**Portable asphalt plant:** means a facility

- a) with equipment designed to heat and dry aggregate and to mix aggregate with bituminous asphalt to produce asphalt paving material, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project.

**Portable concrete plant:** means a building or structure

- a) with equipment designed to mix cementing materials, aggregate, water and admixtures to produce concrete, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is designed to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project.

**Prime agricultural area:** means areas where *prime agricultural lands* predominate. This includes areas of *prime agricultural lands* and associated Canada Land Inventory Class 4 through 7 lands, and additional areas with a local concentration of farms which exhibit characteristics of ongoing agriculture. *Prime agricultural areas* may be identified by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, or by a planning authority based on provincial guidance.

**Prime agricultural land:** means *specialty crop areas* and/or Canada Land Inventory Class 1, 2, and 3 lands, as amended from time to time, in this order of priority for protection.

**Private communal sewage services:** means a sewage works within the meaning of section 1 of the *Ontario Water Resources Act* that serves six or more lots or private residences and is not owned by a municipality.

**Private communal water services:** means a non-municipal drinking-water system within the meaning of section 2 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* that serves six or more lots or private residences.

**Protected heritage property:** means

- property designated under Part IV or VI of

the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

- property included in an area designated as a heritage conservation district under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;
- property subject to a heritage conservation easement or covenant under Part II or IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;
- property identified by a provincial ministry or a prescribed public body as a property having cultural heritage value or interest under Part III.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the heritage standards and guidelines;
- property with known *archaeological resources* in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;
- property protected under federal heritage legislation; and
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

**Protection works standards:** means the combination of non-structural or structural works and allowances for slope stability and flooding/erosion to reduce the damage caused by *flooding hazards*, *erosion hazards* and *other water-related hazards*, and to allow access for their maintenance and repair.

**Public service facilities:** means land, buildings and structures, including but not limited to schools, hospitals and community recreation facilities, for the provision of programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other body, such as social assistance, recreation, police and fire protection, health, child care and educational programs, including elementary, secondary, post-secondary, long-term care services, and cultural services.

*Public service facilities* do not include *infrastructure*.

**Quality and quantity of water:** is measured by indicators associated with *hydrologic function* such as minimum base flow, depth to water table, aquifer pressure, oxygen levels, suspended solids, temperature, bacteria, nutrients and hazardous contaminants, and hydrologic regime.

**Rail facilities:** means rail corridors, rail sidings, train stations, inter-modal facilities, rail yards and associated uses, including designated lands

for future *rail facilities*.

**Redevelopment:** means the creation of new units, uses or lots on previously developed land in existing communities, including *brownfield sites*.

**Regional market area:** refers to an area that has a high degree of social and economic interaction. The upper or single-tier municipality, or planning area, will normally serve as the *regional market area*. However, where a *regional market area* extends significantly beyond these boundaries, then the *regional market area* may be based on the larger market area. Where *regional market areas* are very large and sparsely populated, a smaller area, if defined in an official plan, may be utilized.

**Renewable energy source:** means an energy source that is renewed by natural processes and includes wind, water, biomass, biogas, biofuel, solar energy, geothermal energy and tidal forces.

**Renewable energy system:** means a system that generates electricity, heat and/or cooling from a *renewable energy source*.

**Reserve sewage system capacity:** means design or planned capacity in a waste water treatment facility, within *municipal sewage services* or *private communal sewage services*, which is not yet committed to existing or approved development. For lot creation using *private communal sewage services* and *individual on-site sewage services*, *reserve sewage system capacity* includes approved capacity to treat and land-apply, treat and dispose of, or dispose of, hauled sewage in accordance with applicable legislation but not by land-applying untreated, hauled sewage. Treatment of hauled sewage can include, for example, a sewage treatment plant, anaerobic digestion, composting or other waste processing.

**Reserve water system capacity:** means design or planned capacity in a water treatment facility which is not yet committed to existing or approved development. *Reserve water system capacity* applies to *municipal water*

*services* or *private communal water services*, and not *individual on-site water services*.

**Residence surplus to an agricultural operation:** means an existing habitable farm residence that is rendered surplus as a result of farm consolidation (the acquisition of additional farm parcels to be operated as one farm operation).

**River, stream and small inland lake systems:** means all watercourses, rivers, streams, and small inland lakes or waterbodies that have a measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event.

**Rural areas:** means a system of lands within municipalities that may include rural *settlement areas*, *rural lands*, *prime agricultural areas*, natural heritage features and areas, and resource areas.

**Rural lands:** means lands which are located outside *settlement areas* and which are outside *prime agricultural areas*.

**Sensitive:** in regard to *surface water features* and *ground water features*, means features that are particularly susceptible to impacts from activities or events including, but not limited to, water withdrawals, and additions of pollutants.

**Sensitive land uses:** means buildings, amenity areas, or outdoor spaces where routine or normal activities occurring at reasonably expected times would experience one or more *adverse effects* from contaminant discharges generated by a nearby major facility. *Sensitive land uses* may be a part of the natural or built environment. Examples may include, but are not limited to: residences, day care centres, and educational and health facilities.

**Settlement areas:** means urban areas and rural settlement areas within municipalities (such as cities, towns, villages and hamlets). Ontario's settlement areas vary significantly in terms of size, density, population, economic activity, diversity and intensity of land uses, service levels, and types of infrastructure available.

Settlement areas are:

- a) built-up areas where development is

concentrated and which have a mix of land uses; and

- b) lands which have been designated in an official plan for development over the long term.

**Sewage and water services:** includes *municipal sewage services* and *municipal water services*, *private communal sewage services* and *private communal water services*, *individual on-site sewage services* and *individual on-site water services*, and *partial services*.

**Significant:** means in regard to mineral potential, an area identified as provincially significant through provincial guidance, such as the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential Index.

Criteria for determining significance is provided in provincial guidance, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.

While some significant resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.

**Site alteration:** means activities, such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.

**Special Policy Area:** means an area within a community that has historically existed in the *flood plain* and where site-specific policies, approved by both the Ministers of Natural Resources and Forestry and Municipal Affairs and Housing, are intended to provide for the continued viability of existing uses (which are generally on a small scale) and address the significant social and economic hardships to the community that would result from strict adherence to provincial policies concerning *development*. The criteria for designation and procedures for approval are established by the Province.

A *Special Policy Area* is not intended to allow for new or intensified *development* and *site alteration*, if a community has feasible opportunities for *development* outside the *flood plain*.

**Specialty crop area:** means areas within the agricultural land base designated based on provincial guidance. In these areas, specialty crops are predominantly grown such as tender fruits (peaches, cherries, plums), grapes, other fruit crops, vegetable crops, greenhouse crops, and crops from agriculturally developed organic soil, usually resulting from:

- a) soils that have suitability to produce specialty crops, or lands that are subject to special climatic conditions, or a combination of both;
- b) farmers skilled in the production of specialty crops; and
- c) a long-term investment of capital in areas such as crops, drainage, infrastructure and related facilities and services to produce, store, or process specialty crops.

**Strategic growth areas:** means within *settlement areas*, nodes, corridors, and other areas that have been identified by municipalities to be the focus for accommodating *intensification* and higher-density mixed uses in a more *compact built form*.

Strategic growth areas include *major transit station areas*, *urban growth centres* and other areas where growth or development will be focused, that may include infill, *redevelopment*, *brownfield sites*, the expansion or conversion of existing buildings, or greyfields. Lands along major roads, arterials, or other areas with existing or planned *frequent transit* service or *higher order transit* corridors may also be identified as *strategic growth areas*.

**Surface water feature:** means water-related features on the earth's surface, including headwaters, rivers, permanent and intermittent streams, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs, wetlands, and associated riparian lands that can be defined by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation or topographic characteristics.

**Transit service integration:** means the coordinated planning or operation of transit service between two or more agencies or services that contributes to the goal of seamless service for riders and could include considerations of service schedules, service

routes, information, fare policy, and fare payment.

**Transit-supportive:** in regard to land use patterns, means development that makes transit viable, optimizes investments in transit infrastructure, and improves the quality of the experience of using transit. It often refers to compact, mixed-use development that has a high level of employment and residential densities, including air rights development, in proximity to transit stations, corridors and associated elements within the *transportation system*.

**Transportation demand management:** means a set of strategies that result in more efficient use of the *transportation system* by influencing travel behaviour by mode, time of day, frequency, trip length, regulation, route, or cost.

**Transportation system:** means a system consisting of facilities, corridors and rights-of-way for the movement of people and goods, and associated transportation facilities including transit stops and stations, sidewalks, cycle lanes, bus lanes, high occupancy vehicle lanes, *rail facilities*, parking facilities, park'n'ride lots, service centres, rest stops, vehicle inspection stations, inter-modal facilities, harbours, *airports*, *marine facilities*, ferries, canals and associated facilities such as storage and maintenance.

**Two zone concept:** means an approach to *flood plain* management where the *flood plain* is differentiated in two parts: the *floodway* and the *flood fringe*.

**Urban growth centres:** means areas originally delineated in the official plan in effect as of [effective date] that were required to be identified as a result of the urban growth centre policies of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019. It is anticipated that no new *urban growth centres* will be identified.

**Vulnerable:** means surface and/or ground water that can be easily changed or impacted.

**Waste management system:** means sites and facilities to accommodate solid waste from one

or more municipalities and includes recycling facilities, transfer stations, processing sites and disposal sites.

**Watershed:** means an area that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

**Watershed planning:** means planning that provides a framework for establishing comprehensive and integrated goals, objectives, and direction for the protection, enhancement, or restoration of water resources, including the *quality and quantity of water*, within a *watershed*, *consideration of the impacts of a changing climate and severe weather events* and for the assessment of cumulative, cross-jurisdictional, and cross-*watershed* impacts. It may inform the identification of *water resource systems*.

**Water resource systems:** means a system consisting of *ground water features* and areas, *surface water features* (including shoreline areas), natural heritage features and areas, and *hydrologic functions*, which are necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the *watershed*.

**Wave effects:** means the movement of water up onto a shoreline or structure following the breaking of a wave, including wave uprush, wave set up and water overtopping or spray; the limit of *wave effects* is the point of furthest landward horizontal movement of water onto the shoreline.

**Wayside pits and quarries:** means a temporary pit or quarry opened and used by or for a public authority solely for the purpose of a particular project or contract of road construction and not located on the road right-of-way.

**Wildland fire assessment and mitigation standards:** means the combination of risk assessment tools and environmentally appropriate mitigation measures identified by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to be incorporated into the design, construction and/or modification of buildings, structures, properties and/or communities to reduce the risk to public safety, infrastructure and property from wildland fire.



## 8: Appendix – Schedule 1: List of Large and Fast Municipalities

Town of Ajax	City of Mississauga
City of Barrie	Town of Newmarket
City of Brampton	City of Niagara Falls
City of Brantford	Town of Oakville
City of Burlington	City of Oshawa
Town of Caledon	City of Ottawa
City of Cambridge	City of Pickering
Municipality of Clarington	City of Richmond Hill
City of Guelph	City of St. Catharines
City of Hamilton	City of Toronto
City of Kingston	City of Vaughan
City of Kitchener	City of Waterloo
City of London	Town of Whitby
City of Markham	City of Windsor
Town of Milton	

## Attachment No. 3: Fall 2022 Provincial Consultation Questions and CLOCA Responses

1. What are your thoughts on the **proposed core elements** to be included in a streamlined province-wide land use planning policy instrument?

### CLOCA Response:

#### ***Carry-forward Critical Elements of Regional and Watershed-Scale Planning***

The proposed core elements must be understood in the context of the significant policy shift that would be imposed on Durham Region whereby both the longstanding and effective regional municipal planning function is to be abolished and the provincial Greater Golden Horseshoe-scale Growth Plan is to be removed and replaced with one provincial-scale set of policies. The proposed core elements must retain key elements of regional planning including: (1) planning for the watershed scale including protections from adverse downstream impacts from flooding and erosion; (2) urban growth boundaries; (3) regional-scale natural heritage systems including regional-scale natural heritage and water resource system protections. To ensure housing supply objectives do not undermine the fundamental goal of complete and livable communities, these three core elements of regional planning, for Durham Region and the CLOCA watershed, must be carried forward in a future province-wide land use planning policy instrument.

#### ***Carry-forward Provincial Natural Heritage and Water Policy***

The current Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) recognizes that: *"Ontario's long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being depend on conserving biodiversity, protecting the health of the Great Lakes, and protecting natural heritage, water, agricultural, ... resources for their economic, environmental and social benefits."* This statement remains extremely valid for present and future generations. Accordingly, there must continue to be specific policy direction in a future planning policy instrument that will achieve essential conservation and protection objectives in relation to natural heritage and water. Further, essential natural heritage and water conservation policies for our present and future health are not barriers to the supply of housing.

The current PPS contains streamlined and basic natural heritage protections that must be carried forward. These include: a requirement to identify natural heritage systems in southern Ontario; prohibiting development and site alteration in **"significant wetlands," "significant coastal wetlands," "significant woodlands," "significant valleylands," "significant wildlife habitat," "significant areas of natural and scientific interest," "coastal wetlands," "fish habitat,"** and **"habitat of endangered species and threatened species."** A requirement to evaluate adjacent lands prior to development and site alteration taking place must also be

carried forward to maintain the basic integrity of natural heritage systems and features planning.

Regarding water, existing basic directions to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water are essential and must be carried forward. These include: “using the **watershed** as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning ... [and] considering **cumulative impacts** of development,” “evaluating and preparing for the **impacts of a changing climate** to water resource systems at the watershed level,” “identifying **water resource systems**” and “maintaining **linkages**... among ... features,” “... restrictions on development and site alteration to **protect all municipal drinking water supplies** and designated vulnerable areas...” “ensuring stormwater management practices **minimize stormwater volumes** and contaminant loads and maintain or increase the extent of vegetative and pervious surfaces.”

Regarding the Growth Plan, key environmental protections for Greater Golden Horseshoe Water Resource Systems, including requirements for **watershed planning**, Natural Heritage Systems, Key Hydrologic Features and Areas, and Key Natural Heritage Features, including adjacent lands, and Climate Change should be retained, especially in the proposed absence of regional municipal planning by the Region of Durham.

### ***Carry-forward Provincial Natural Hazard Policy***

The current Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) recognizes that: *“Ontario’s long-term prosperity, environmental health and social well-being depend on reducing the potential for public cost or risk to Ontario’s residents from natural ... hazards.”* And further: *“Development shall be directed away from areas of natural ... hazards where there is an unacceptable risk to public health or safety or of property damage, and not create new or aggravate existing hazards.”* And finally that: *“Mitigating potential risk to public health or safety or of property damage from natural hazards, including the risks that may be associated with the impacts of a changing climate, will require the Province, planning authorities, and conservation authorities to work together.”*

Nothing in the preceding statements should be viewed as optional, discretionary, or disposable in today’s Ontario. They are vital aspects of public policy that protect people’s lives, their safety and their property and are not in any way barriers to the supply of safe housing. Accordingly, there must continue to be specific policy direction in a future policy instrument that will reduce risk to people from natural hazards, direct development away from hazards, not create new, or aggravate existing, hazards and address the increased risks presented by the climate crisis.

The current PPS contains streamlined and basic natural hazard policy directions that must be carried forward. These include: in accordance with provincial technical guidance, **directing development to areas outside of hazardous lands** adjacent to the shorelines of the Great Lakes with flooding, erosion and/or dynamic beach

hazards and adjacent to river and stream systems with flooding and/or erosion hazards.

Specific policy concepts such as the “**floodway**,” and the “**one-zone**” and “**two-zone**” flood plain based on the **regulatory storm** event must continue. Given the ongoing climate crisis, directions to “prepare for the **impacts of a changing climate** that may increase the risk associated with natural hazards” must be kept in current form or strengthened.

### ***Retain Key Long-Range Integrated Infrastructure Planning Directions***

The current PPS recognizes that “*Efficient land use and development patterns support sustainability by promoting strong, liveable, healthy and resilient communities, protecting the environment and public health and safety, and facilitating economic growth.*”

Current PPS implementing policy direction directs that “an **integrated and comprehensive approach** should be used when dealing with planning matters within municipalities, across ... municipal boundaries and with other ... agencies and boards [such as conservation authorities] including: ... development that is integrated with infrastructure planning ... **managing natural heritage, water... ecosystem, shoreline, watershed and Great Lakes related issues, natural hazards...**” These directions should continue along with specific infrastructure policies that currently exist directing that: “infrastructure ... shall be provided ... that prepares for the **impacts of a changing climate...** promote[s] **green infrastructure...**” Specific direction for **planning for stormwater management** contained in PPS Policy 1.6.6.7 should be retained.

Long-term economic prosperity directions to “**[minimize] negative impacts from a changing climate** and [consider] the ecological benefits provided by nature” along with climate change direction to develop in a manner that will “**maximize vegetation** within settlement areas, where feasible” should be retained.

Regarding the Growth Plan, the policy direction to **verify the feasibility of Settlement Area Boundary Expansions** with respect to **avoidance of potential negative impacts on watershed conditions** is critical for safe and orderly growth (Growth Plan Policy 2.2.8.3). Further, precise stormwater management directions should be carried forward to a new planning policy instrument, including directions that large-scale development will be supported by a stormwater management plan that is informed by a **subwatershed plan** or equivalent especially in the proposed absence of regional municipal planning in Durham Region.

### ***Balance Flexibility and Support Speed with Policy Certainty and Precision***

It is understood that the province is seeking to introduce new flexibility and facilitate speedier decisions with a new provincial planning policy instrument. Both objectives could be reasonably supported by providing more certainty and precision with respect to provincial policy directions.

The current PPS, 2020 is just over 24 months old and was introduced as part of a *Housing Supply Action Plan*. Previously, the province had indicated that the PPS would only be under review after a 10-year period to allow for stability and an ability to monitor and evaluate implementation. The current Growth Plan was issued in August 2020 following previous significant revisions in 2019 and 2017. Now both the PPS and Growth Plan are proposed to be replaced by another planning policy instrument. These frequent revisions and issuances of provincial land use planning policy have eroded certainty regarding land use planning policy direction and require implementing bodies to continually revise their workplans for effective local implementation. The province should commit to policy certainty for a defined period of time following the issuance of the new planning policy instrument to allow municipalities and others the ability to focus on implementation with certainty.

Clear, precise policy language and, most importantly for implementation, up-to-date implementation guidance would facilitate both flexibility and speed. For example, the province should define minimum vegetation protection zones or buffers for all significant natural heritage features. Regarding environmental policy, the province has neglected to provide timely updates to the *Natural Heritage Reference Manual* and related guidance (there is no manual to support the 2020, PPS, for example) or with respect to *Natural Hazards* (current information supports the 1996/7 PPS and is from 2001 era). Both up-to-date guidance and continual implementation support would provide more of a return than a policy re-write. If, as proposed, a new provincial planning policy instrument is issued, comprehensive, and precise implementing guidance must be provided concurrently with the issuance of the new instrument. If the government is unable to provide implementing guidance upon the release of a new policy instrument, it should not issue a new policy until it is ready to articulate, with precision, how that policy is to be implemented in various contexts.

Finally, to aid local implementation, the province should maintain the principle that both provincial policy and guidance represent “minimums” upon which local decision-makers may build upon to suit their local conditions and needs.

### ***Honour 10-year Commitments Regarding Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Plans***

Further to the commentary in the preceding paragraphs regarding certainty, there is a statutory 10-year review of the Greenbelt Plan pursuant to section 10 of the Greenbelt Act, 2005 and related legislation. The current *Greenbelt Plan, 2017* represents the culmination of the 10-year review that began on the 10-year anniversary of the Greenbelt Plan in 2015. Areas of Protected Countryside should not be open to removal outside of the 10-year review, which should not take place until 2027. Opening up the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plans in advance of the 10-year review does not provide the policy consistency necessary to undertake rational planning and growth management decisions. The statutory 10-

year review of the Greenbelt Plan should be honoured for any proposals to remove lands from the Protected Countryside.

2. What **land use planning policies should the government use to increase the supply of housing** and support a diversity of housing types?

## **CLOCA Response:**

Minimum affordable housing targets combined with a program to finance the construction affordable housing units directly, minimum densities, intensification targets, infrastructure investments, urban form shaping policies such as Urban Growth Centres, and Major Transit Station Areas are all valuable to both minimize land consumption and focus housing supply where infrastructure exists or will be efficiently built in the future with no, or minimal loss, of existing natural heritage or expansion into CLOCA watershed headwaters. However, CLOCA defers any detailed response to this question to our municipal partners at the Region of Durham and watershed municipalities.

3. How should the government **further streamline land use planning policy** to increase the supply of housing?

## **CLOCA Response:**

Comprehensive up-to-date implementation guidance with ongoing implementation support would further streamline land use planning policy. Regarding environmental policy, the province has neglected to provide timely updates to the Natural Heritage Reference Manual and related guidance (there is no manual to support the 2020, PPS, for example) or with respect to Natural Hazards (current information supports the 1996/7 PPS and was last published in 2001 but dates from the 1980's/early 1990's era). Both up-to-date guidance and continual implementation support would provide more of a return than a policy re-write. If, as proposed, a new provincial planning policy instrument is issued, comprehensive, and precise implementing guidance must be provided concurrently with the issuance of the new policy instrument. If the government is unable to provide implementing guidance upon the release of a new policy instrument, it should not issue a new policy until it is ready to articulate, with precision, how that policy is to be implemented in various contexts. Finally, policy certainty is needed: the province should stop frequently changing high-level provincial policy directions but should rather focus on implementation through guidance and timely and accessible support from all relevant ministries, including the Ontario Land Tribunal.

4. What **policy concepts** from the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow are helpful for ensuring there is a sufficient supply and mix of housing and **should be included in the new policy document**?

## **CLOCA Response:**

Policies that effectively manage growth and structure urban form to provide efficient development patterns that optimize the use of land to reduce further horizontal urbanization should be retained. More efficient development patterns that are compact and appropriately dense also promote a mix of housing while also addressing conservation objectives.

Within the PPS, the hierarchy of accommodating residential growth for a minimum of 15 years first through residential intensification and redevelopment as a priority and then only in newly designated growth areas should be retained or strengthened (1.4.1). Establishing and implementing minimum targets for housing which is affordable to low and moderate income households should be retained or strengthened (1.4.3). Policies encouraging transit-supportive development and residential intensification should also be retained or strengthened (1.8.1 e)).

The planning horizon, which was recently extended to 25 years from 20, should not be extended further.

Within the Growth Plan, minimum greenfield densities and intensification targets should be retained and increased to provide more supply and make more efficient use of land. The concept of urban growth centres and major transit station areas with related policy directions should also be retained and strengthened.

5. What **policy concepts** in the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow should be **streamlined or not included** in the new policy document?

## **CLOCA Response:**

The current PPS contains basic and essential provincial policy concepts to build strong and healthy communities, the wise use and management of resources, and protection of public health and safety in the province. The Growth Plan provides essential growth management, infrastructure and environmental protection direction for the Greater Golden Horseshoe region. As noted above, another suite of policy changes to foundational and basic land use policy at the provincial level will likely not have a great return on the supply of housing but will create more uncertainty over the short-term and will cause delay. What is needed is timely, accurate and capable implementation support from the province's land use ministries.

Comprehensive up-to-date implementation guidance with ongoing implementation support would further streamline land use planning policy. If, as proposed, a new provincial planning policy instrument is issued, comprehensive and precise implementing guidance must be provided concurrently with the issuance of the new policy instrument. If the government is unable to provide implementing guidance upon the release of a new policy instrument, it should not issue a new policy until it is ready to articulate, with precision, how that policy is to be implemented in various contexts.

Once issued, ongoing support through a program of on-going guidance memoranda and timely and accessible support from all relevant ministries, including at the Ontario Land Tribunal, if necessary, will be required. The province should focus on its technical support capabilities to maintain the research behind guidance materials and provide implementation support, as opposed to the frequent use of higher-level policy changes, as has been practiced in recent years.





## Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument.

ERO.(Environmental Registry.of.Ontario) number	019-6813
Notice type	Policy
Act	Places to Grow Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	April 6, 2023
Comment period	April 6, 2023 - June 5, 2023 (60 days) Open
Last updated	April 6, 2023

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m. on:

**June 5, 2023**

### Proposal summary

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is consulting on proposed policies for an integrated province-wide land use planning policy document. MMAH (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) is seeking input on a proposed Provincial Planning Statement that takes policies from A Place to Grow and the Provincial Policy Statement to support the achievement of housing objectives.

### Proposal details

#### Context

The Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS) and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (A Place to Grow) 2019 both provide comprehensive, integrated, whole-of-government policy direction on land use planning matters including:

- Growth management, housing and economic development;
- Infrastructure planning, including sewage, water and stormwater management services, transportation, transit, energy supply and corridor protection;
- Protection and management of resources, including prime agricultural areas, aggregates, natural heritage, water, and cultural heritage; and
- Protection of public health and safety, such as mitigating potential risks due to natural and human-made hazards.

Both policy documents aim to support the achievement of liveable communities, a thriving economy, a clean and healthy environment and social equity, improving the quality of life for all Ontarians.

The ~~PPS (Provincial Policy Statement)~~ is issued under the *Planning Act* and is the primary provincial land use planning policy document, applying across Ontario. A Place to Grow is a growth plan issued under the *Places to Grow Act, 2005*. It provides a more detailed framework for where and how growth should be accommodated in the Greater Golden Horseshoe and it works with the Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. The Provincial plans build upon the policy foundation of the ~~PPS (Provincial Policy Statement)~~, providing additional land use policy direction to address issues facing specific geographic areas of Ontario. All provincial plans are to be read in conjunction with the ~~PPS (Provincial Policy Statement)~~.

Under the *Planning Act*, planning decisions shall be consistent with policy statements such as the ~~PPS (Provincial Policy Statement)~~ and shall conform with provincial plans like A Place to Grow.

Given the importance of the ~~PPS (Provincial Policy Statement)~~ and A Place to Grow in guiding land use planning decisions in Ontario, ensuring that the policy framework is housing-supportive is integral to the implementation of the Housing Supply Action Plan and meeting the target to construct 1.5 million new homes by 2031.

In 2022, the government initiated a review on approaches for leveraging the housing supportive policies of both documents, removing barriers and continuing to protect the environment through a streamlined province-wide land use planning policy framework.

The government received feedback on the following six themes:

- Residential land supply.
- Attainable housing supply and mix
- Growth management
- Environment and natural resources
- Community infrastructure
- Streamlined planning framework

The input and recommendations received from Indigenous communities, the public, municipalities and stakeholders helped shaped the development of streamlined and housing-focused, land use planning policies. ERQ.# (Environmental Registry of Ontario number) 019-6177 (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6177>) provides an overview of issues raised.

The Province is now seeking input on a proposed Provincial Planning Statement, that would replace the existing Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

## Proposal

Based on what the government has heard, the Province has combined the elements of A Place to Grow and the PPS (Provincial Policy Statement) into a new land use policy document that the Province is proposing for public feedback. Through this proposed new Provincial Planning Statement, the government is proposing policies grouped under five pillars:

- Generate an appropriate housing supply
- Make land available for development
- Provide infrastructure to support development
- Balance housing with resources
- Implementation

### 1. Generate an appropriate housing supply

The proposed policies would:

- Identify large/fast-growing municipalities, with specific directions to plan strategically for growth:
  - Establish and meet minimum density targets for: major transit station areas, other strategic growth area (e.g. (for example), nodes and corridors), urban growth centres (transitioned from A Place to Grow)
  - Encourage to plan for transit-supportive greenfield density targets

- Require municipalities to provide a range and mix of housing options with an expanded definition to include multi-unit types (laneway, garden suites, low and mid-rise apartments) and typologies (multi-generational, student)
- Require all municipalities to implement intensification policies
- Provide flexibility for municipalities to allow for more residential development in rural settlements and multi-lot residential development on rural lands, including more servicing flexibility (e.g. (for example), leveraging capacity in the private sector servicing
- Require municipalities to permit more housing on farms, including residential lot creation subject to criteria, additional residential units and housing for farm workers
- Require municipalities to align land use planning policies with housing policies, including addressing homelessness and facilitating development of a full range of housing options and affordability levels to meet local needs

## 2. Make land available for development

The proposed policies would:

- Provide flexibility for municipalities to use government or municipally established forecasts (at minimum), with a transition phase for municipalities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe
- Require municipalities to plan for a minimum 25-year horizon, maintain a 15-year residential land supply and maintain land with servicing capacity for a 3-year supply of residential units
- Provide a simplified and flexible approach for municipalities to undertake settlement area boundary expansions. Municipalities would be allowed to create new Settlement Areas and would not be required to demonstrate the need for expansion
- Require municipalities to plan for and protect industrial and manufacturing uses that are unsuitable for mixed use areas, using a more narrowly scoped definition of “area of employment” limited to these uses and preserving large, contiguous areas of land
- Encourage municipalities to preserve employment areas close to goods movement corridors, coordinating across administrative boundaries and consider opportunities to densify
- Provide municipalities with greater control over employment area conversions to support the forms of development and job creation that

suit the local context

### 3. Provide infrastructure to support development

The proposed policies would:

- Require municipalities to plan for stormwater management, water and wastewater infrastructure, and waste management systems to accommodate growth
- Require municipalities to protect corridors for major infrastructure, such as highways, transit, transmission systems and encourage municipalities to provide opportunities for the development of energy supply to accommodate current and projected needs
- Require the integration of land use planning and transportation with encouragement for freight-supportive and transit-supportive development to move goods and people
- Require municipalities and school boards to integrate planning for schools and growth

### 4. Balance housing with resources

The proposed policies would:

- Require municipalities to designate specialty crop areas and prime agricultural areas, eliminating the requirement to use the provincially-mapped Agricultural System
- Require municipalities to protect specialty crop areas and maintain minimum separation distances between livestock operations and houses, and promote an agricultural systems approach to support the agri-food network
- Require municipalities to facilitate access to aggregate resources close to market and to protect minerals, petroleum and mineral aggregate resources
- Require municipalities to protect water resources and features and encourage watershed planning
- Update the cultural heritage policies to align with *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) amendments through Bill 108 and Bill 23, with a focus on conserving protected heritage properties
- Require municipalities to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate and develop approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality

- Require municipalities to direct development outside of hazardous lands and sites
- As of April 6, 2023, natural heritage policies and related definitions remain under consideration by the government. Once proposed policies and definitions are ready for review and input, they will be made available through a separate posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. This posting (ERO.#.(Environmental.Registry.of.Ontario.number) **019-6813** (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6813>)) will be updated with a link to the relevant posting once it is available.

## 5. Implementation

The proposed policies would:

- Align with recent legislative amendments
- Require municipalities to undertake early engagement with Indigenous communities and coordinate with them on land use planning matters to facilitate knowledge-sharing, support consideration of Indigenous interests in land use decision-making and support the identification of potential impacts of decisions on the exercise of Aboriginal or treaty rights
- Affirm that efficient land-use patterns contribute to increased equitable access to housing, employment, parks and transportation, and encourage municipalities to apply an equity lens on planning matters and engage stakeholders early in the process.
- Encourage coordination, particularly on intermunicipal topics

The government is also proposing an approach to implementation of the new document, if approved. These include the proposed approach to the following:

- Effective date and transition
- Timing for official plan updates
- Various matters specific to the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Should the government adopt the policies, the government would consequentially revoke the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 and A Place to Grow, as well as amend regulations (*O. Reg. (Ontario Regulation) 416/05* and *O. Reg. (Ontario Regulation) 311/06*) under the Places to Grow Act, 2005.

# Attachment 4

The government welcomes your feedback on the proposed policy concepts and proposed wording in the land use policy document. When reviewing the document, some questions for consideration may include:

1. What are your thoughts on the policies that have been included from the PPS.(Provincial Policy Statement) and A Place to Grow in the proposed policy document, including the proposed approach to implementation?
2. What are your thoughts on the proposed policy direction for large and fast-growing municipalities and other municipalities?
3. What are your thoughts regarding the proposed policies to generate housing supply, including an appropriate range and mix of housing options?
4. What are your thoughts on the proposed policies regarding the conservation of agriculture, aggregates, natural and cultural heritage resources?
5. What are your thoughts on the proposed policies regarding planning for employment?
6. Are there any other barriers to, or opportunities for, accelerating development and construction (e.g. (for example), federal regulations, infrastructure planning and approvals, private/public partnerships for servicing, provincial permitting, urban design guidelines, technical standards, zoning, etc. (et.cetera))?

## Relationship to Greenbelt Plan (2017)

The government is proposing an administrative and housing keeping amendment to the Greenbelt Plan so that that policies in the current Greenbelt Plan are maintained should the PPS.(Provincial Policy Statement), 2020 and A Place to Grow be revoked.

This scoped policy change would maintain the existing Greenbelt Plan standards and clarifies that the existing policy connections in the Greenbelt Plan (2017) to the PPS.(Provincial Policy Statement), 2020 and A Place to Grow remain in effect.

Supporting  
materials

Related files

[Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, April 6](https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2023-04/Proposed%20Provincial%20Planning%20Statement,%20April%206,%202023%20-%20EN.pdf) (<https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2023-04/Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, April 6, 2023 - EN.pdf>)  
pdf.(Portable.Document.Format.file) 672.14 KB

[Proposed Approach to Implementation of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement](https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2023-04/Proposed%20Approach%20to%20Implementation,%20April%206,%202023%20-%20EN.pdf) (<https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2023-04/Proposed Approach to Implementation, April 6, 2023 - EN.pdf>)  
pdf.(Portable.Document.Format.file) 175.92 KB

## Related links

[More Homes, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan \(2019\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/more-homes-more-choice-ontarios-housing-supply-action-plan)  
(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/more-homes-more-choice-ontarios-housing-supply-action-plan>)

[More Homes, Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022–2023](https://www.ontario.ca/page/more-homes-built-faster) (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/more-homes-built-faster>)

[Planning Act](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>)

[Provincial Policy Statement, 2020](https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020)  
(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020>)

[Places to Grow Act, 2005](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05p13) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05p13>)

[A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2019](https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe)  
(<https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe>)

[Greenbelt Plan \(2017\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017) (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>)

## View materials in person

Some supporting materials may not be available online. If this is the case, you can request to view the materials in person.

Get in touch with the office listed below to find out if materials are available.



## Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies. \(/page/commenting-privacy\)](/page/commenting-privacy)

## Submit by mail


growthplanning@ontario.ca  
Provincial Land Use Plans Branch  
13th Flr, 777 Bay St  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3  
Canada

## Connect with us

### Contact

growthplanning@ontario.ca

**DATE:** May 16, 2023  
**FILE:** NSSA63  
**S.R.:** 5831-23  
**TO:** Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jamie Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning & Natural Heritage  
Dan Moore, Aquatic Biologist

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

**SUBJECT: Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program Update**

### Purpose

This report provides a review of CLOCA's Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program (IWMP) and an update on the results from 2022. The IWMP completed its sixth year of sampling, and this report will summarize the health of streams, forests, and wetlands. In order to continue to build healthy and resilient watersheds capable of withstanding current and future pressures, the final chapter highlights the connections between monitoring, watershed planning, and on-the-ground management. By understanding the conditions of our watershed, we can develop priority areas for land securement, protection, and restoration. Together, these watershed programs build resilience in key areas so that our ecological communities are better prepared for large-scale impacts like urban expansion and climate change.

### Key Takeaways:

- The IWMP was successfully run for the 6th year providing updated results on CLOCA Forests, Stream, and Wetland Ecosystems.
- 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 and partnership opportunities.

### Background

As part of our commitment to continued advancement in watershed science and knowledge, CLOCA staff launched CLOCA's IWMP in 2017 and continues to monitor the health of three main ecosystems across the watershed – wetlands, forests, and streams. The IWMP program was designed to answer the question 'How is ecosystem health responding as changes in CLOCA's watershed occur? To answer this question, three ecosystems were selected that are recognizable and dominant on the landscape, are cost-effective to monitor, and easy to communicate. Forest, streams, and wetlands were chosen for these reasons. To understand these systems better, each ecosystem was broken down further into more measurable components called key ecological attributes (KEA). Examples of KEAs include fish and water quality in streams and birds and vegetation in forests.

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By measuring these KEAs, we can infer the health of our ecosystems to understand how ecosystem health is changing as our watersheds evolve. To report on these results, data is summarized by three zones that break up the jurisdiction; East, Central, and West Zones (Table 1).

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

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

Each of these ecosystems is impacted by the local climate and groundwater systems, making it critical to understand how seasonal and annual weather patterns relate to our results. Climate and groundwater data collected by CLOCA is an integral part of the IWMP, and this will only increase as climate change impacts become more severe and make weather patterns more extreme and less predictable.

Collaboration and partnerships are integral components of CLOCA's monitoring program. As such, CLOCA partners with post-secondary institutions, other Conservation Authorities, local citizen scientist groups, and Federal and Provincial governments. Each of these partnerships contributes in different ways to the development and improvement of the program, including conducting additional fieldwork.

Constant development and improvement of CLOCA's IWMP enable the Authority to continue to be the trusted source of environmental knowledge and scientific information for the watershed. The information collected, evaluated, and analyzed contributes to all of CLOCA's programs and is used by watershed stakeholders, partner municipalities, environmental and stewardship groups, the development industry, academic organizations, and provincial and federal agencies. The IWMP connects directly with the CLOCA Watershed Plans to contribute to our understanding of current conditions, set goals, and guide decisions.

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>.

## **2022 Integrated Watershed Monitoring Update**

### **Climate**

CLOCA collects precipitation, air temperature, wind speed and direction, and barometric pressure data to track and understand climate trends in our jurisdiction. Comparing our local data to historical normal data provides context to our current conditions and how they are changing over time.

The CLOCA average daily temperature was, for the most part, higher than the normal average daily temperature by up to 3.5°C. The exception was in January, September, and October, which were up to 3°C cooler. Snow surveys completed in the winter of 2021/2022 had highly variable results. Early winter snow storms showed very high volumes initially, but warm weather made it so that snow was not observed again until mid-January.

Snowpack from January to the 2nd week of March was higher than historical averages, but then milder temperatures started the spring freshet, resulting in a rapid snowpack loss. Overall, total precipitation in 2022 was 619 mm, well below the historical average of 872 mm. Low Water Conditions – Level 1 was released in July. Between May and July, the watershed received below 80% of the normal precipitation for that time of year. It wasn't until January that there was enough precipitation to roll back Low Water Conditions. This data continues to be consistent with Durham Region Climate modelling that predicts greater variation in conditions throughout the year and increased temperatures.

### **Forest Health**

Forest health is measured through three ecological attributes; breeding bird community, tree health and dead wood, and plant communities. This update will focus on the breeding bird community results. Conditions in each zone decreased slightly from previous years and, in all cases, were below the long-term average. Health scores for all three zones appear to be decreasing slightly with time. Although not a significant drop in annual health scores, the continued downward trend towards poorer health is cause for concern and should be monitored closely. The zone with the highest scores was the East Zone (Fair Health). It is slightly below the watershed plan goals. The West and Central Zones scored well below the Watershed Plan goal of Good Health.

The Terrestrial Monitoring Staff highlighted the impact the Derecho storm (May 2022) had on the forest communities. The high-intensity storm impacted the condition of many forested areas in the CLOCA jurisdiction. The storm altered forest habitat enough at a number of monitoring sites that the change could be detected in the forest health scores. Bird communities, in particular, changed because the altered habitat (e.g. many downed trees scattered across the forest floor) was no longer suitable for certain bird species, specifically ground-nesting birds. Staff also emphasized the importance of long-term resilience to the increased intensity of storms. Larger, less fragmented forest patches will be more resilient to these storms in the future and should be encouraged, restored, and protected whenever possible.

### **Stream Health**

Stream health is measured through three ecological attributes, fish and invertebrate communities, and water quality. For 2022 stream sampling, over 4600 fish were caught, representing 27 different species. Blacknose Dace and Longnose Dace were the two most common species captured. Rainbow Trout, a sensitive cold-water species, was the third most common species highlighting the important role CLOCA streams play in the lifecycle of this species. Overall fish health scores ranged from 15 to 50 out of 100. Sites in the East Zone were considerably higher than those in the Central and West Zone. The higher amounts of land with natural cover in the East Zone contribute to better water quality and habitat. To date, there are no significant positive or negative trends in the fish community data through the IWMP. For 2022 benthic invertebrate sampling, 11,745 inverts were captured and sent off for ID. At this time, the final data is not available yet but will be updated on CLOCA's story map soon. For Water Quality sampling, 576 water samples were collected in 2022. Of these samples, 73% were within recommended guidelines. Parameters most likely to exceed guidelines were Chloride, E.coli, Sulphate, and Total Phosphorus. E.coli continues to be a concern, with 40% of the samples exceeding the provincial guidelines. Given its impact on human and wildlife health, it will be an important parameter to continue monitoring. Water Quality Scores ranged from 58 to 78, which fall into the Fair Health and Good Health categories. Conditions in the East Zone are better, with West and Central Zones being similarly lower. Trend data shows a slight improvement over time in water quality conditions in all zones. This is in part due to the poor scores in 2017. Since then, water quality scores have remained relatively stable in the Good and Fair categories.

An Aquatic Monitoring Site in the south part of the Town of Bowmanville was the focus of the Monitoring Site Highlights. This site is located near Baseline Road on Bowmanville Creek. It is a unique site because of the high diversity of cold and warm water fishes. Lake, Wetland, And Creek species all utilize this area for different parts of their life cycle.

There have been 26 different species of fish and 76 species of invertebrates that have been identified at this site. This site does face some challenges, given its location in the watershed and with the impacts of invasive species and climate change. Water temperature is close to unsuitable for important cold-water species. Improving riparian cover, reducing erosion, and improving water quality will be important for the long-term resilience of this creek.

### **Wetland Health**

Coastal Wetland health is monitored through the Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (DRCWMP). This program monitors 18 coastal wetlands within Durham Region. It uses water quality, aquatic vegetation, fish, bird, and invertebrate community data to understand their health.

Most of the sampling continues to find the coastal wetlands to be in poor to fair health and below the watershed plan goals for these ecologically important ecosystems. Being at the lower end of the watersheds, they experience the largest cumulative impacts from changes in our watershed's land use. This has led to numerous challenges in their community composition and health. Coastal wetlands have also experienced a lot of change because of the climate. 2017 and 2019 were two of the highest water levels recorded in Lake Ontario and 2020/2021/2022 were below-average water level years. This variation presents opportunities and challenges for many wetland species. A positive trend is a continued increase in water quality. Four of eleven coastal wetlands are showing increases in this score. This is in part due to the high Lake Ontario water levels causing large amounts of mixing with the wetland. Cranberry Marsh continues to have the highest Water Quality Scores, likely partly because it has a much smaller watershed impacting the habitat. The improvement in water quality has likely contributed to improvements in submerged aquatic vegetation. This, in turn, provides better habitat for wetland-dependent species. The data shows a continued increase in Breeding Bird Health Scores, as wetland birds are taking advantage of better habitat conditions. Fish and Invertebrate Community data remain largely in the Poor and Fair Health categories. Further improvements in water quality and overall habitat conditions will need to be a priority to improve health and resilience to future impacts.

Bowmanville Marsh was the focus of the Monitoring Site Highlights. It is located in the Bowmanville/Westside Marshes Conservation Area. It is surrounded by a community that includes residential properties, the Port of Darlington Harbour, industrial activities, municipal parkland, and railways. Bowmanville Marsh supports a diverse community of wildlife. It provides critical habitat for spawning fish, nesting birds, and nursery habitat for many species. Bowmanville Marsh does have a number of stressors that impact the quality of habitat that is present and limit its resilience to future impacts. Upstream water quality impacts, Lake Ontario Water Level Regulation, invasion of non-native species, and climate change will need to be considered and mitigated through restoration planning to ensure health and resilience long-term.

### **Connecting Monitoring to Management**

To keep monitoring programs relevant, they need to be answering questions that help us understand our ecosystems better and be useful for day-to-day programs at CLOCA and with our partners. Maintaining multiple lines of connection between the IWMP and current management actions was a high priority from the initial development of the program. This section helps to highlight the connections and how we can utilize IWMP data in other CLOCA programs.

Historical impacts and future challenges, such as invasive species and climate change, require an active approach to management to ensure a functioning and resilient ecosystem. CLOCA actively identifies and acts on ecological improvements within our protected lands and works with municipalities and private landowners to ensure improvements in health. CLOCA offers many different types of Restoration services, including but not limited to: Stream, Wetland, and Grassland Restoration, Afforestation, Invasive Species Management, Urban Stewardship, Agricultural BMP's, and Managed Forest Plans.

These services are guided by our IWMP data and various watershed planning action plans, such as the Riparian Corridors Action Plan and Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. Restoration Highlights In 2022 include the following:

- CLOCA planted 27,650 native species at ten different private land stewardship projects and re-established 35 acres of forest.
- CLOCA worked with several members of the community to implement the protection and management of forests through the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program.
- CLOCA, in partnership with GRCA and the Town of Clarington, facilitated the donation of 210 native trees through the Trees for Rural Roads Program.
- CLOCA continued invasive species management at the Rogers Tract property. The management of Dog Strangling Vine has been successful enough to allow 300 native tree seedlings to be planted where the non-native species used to thrive.
- CLOCA, in partnership with the Highway of Heros Tree Planting Campaign, completed phase 2 of the tree planting at Lynde Shores. 3000 trees were planted in 2022, bringing the total to over 7000 trees planted in the last two years at this site.
- CLOCA continued management of the non-native Autumn Olive at the Bowmanville/Westside Marshes Conservation Area.
- CLOCA planted 300 trees at Cranberry Marsh to help protect the wetland barrier beach from increased erosion.
- CLOCA, in partnership with Trees Canada and Ontario Power Generation, planted 300 native trees at Bowmanville/Westside Marshes Conservation Area.
- CLOCA, in partnership with Scouts Canada, planted 200 native trees in Enniskillen Conservation Authority.
- CLOCA, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, restored wetland and stream habitat in Rogers Tract property to improve and protect critical and rare habitat in the CLOCA jurisdiction.

CLOCA 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 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 # 5831-23 be received for information.***

# REPORT

## CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**DATE:** May 16, 2023  
**FILE:** AGRD4  
**S.R.:** 5832-23  
**TO:** Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Jamie Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning & Natural Heritage  
Heather Pankhurst, Wetland Biologist  
**SUBJECT:** CLOCA 2023 Earth Day Event: Bowmanville Westside Marshes

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

### Background

CLOCA staff have been working on the development of a Conservation and Restoration Plan for Bowmanville Marsh as a logical next step in the delivery of the CLOCA Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program (DRCWMP). This will be a collaborative plan that includes the knowledge and input of community members such as local residents and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers. To initiate community engagement, staff recently hosted an open house event at the Bowmanville/Westside Marshes Conservation Area (BWMCA). As the timing aligned well, Earth Day was chosen as a suitable day and CLOCA staff came together to create an inclusive event with many activities. Heather Pankhurst (Wetland Biologist and coordinator of the DRCWMP) coordinated the event with support from Yvonne Storm (Special Events Coordinator). Various partners from across Durham Region and beyond came together to support the event that began with an Indigenous-led opening, followed by children's activities, tree planting, engaging with CLOCA technical experts at natural heritage learning stations, information booths, and garbage clean-up.

Community partners supporting this event included Angela Duckworth, Janet Dugan, Joe Pitawanakwat, Ontario Power Generation, Municipality of Clarington, Clarington Public Library, Durham Region Waste, Aviva Canada volunteers and CLOCA's Conservation Area Trail Steward (CATS) program volunteers. CLOCA staff engaged the attendees through a Discovery Passport where participants were encouraged to tour around the conservation area to plant trees and visit natural heritage learning stations on aquatics, birds, forest plants, invasive species, coastal wetlands, and reptiles and amphibians. The event was well attended by many families and children, despite the cold and rainy weather, and all gave very positive feedback.

### Welcome/Opening

CLOCA staff welcomed the morning attendees and introduced Angela Duckworth who led a beautiful opening smudging and Nibi (water) song to start the day in a good way.

### Activities/Information booths

Various community partners came together to provide environmentally themed information and activities for families and people of all ages. This included:

- Beading activity - Janet Dugan, Indigenous Artisan, Changing Sky Designs, provided the opportunity for children to create their own snake made from beads.
- Library card registration and children's activity - Clarington Public Library staff provided information on their programming and an opportunity to sign up for a library card.
- Plant medicines and medicinal tea - Joe Pitawanakwat, Creator's Garden, provided information about plant medicines and showcased several examples. He also provided bearberry tea for attendees to sample.

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- Children's activity – Durham Waste Management staff led a water protectors' activity.
- Tree Planting - Roy Mosher, CLOCA Restoration Coordinator, provided visitors with an opportunity to plant cedar trees as part of ongoing restoration efforts at the Conservation Area.
- Storywalk - Clarington Public Library installed the StoryWalk™: "We Are Water Protectors", by Carole Lindstrom and Michaela Goade, to engage and educate attendees as they walked the trail. Their story is meant to remind us that we must safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption – a fitting theme on Earth Day.

### **Discovery Passport and Natural Heritage Learning Stations**

Ontario Power Generation staff greeted attendees as they arrived and handed out Discovery Passports. The passports included a map to various stations where attendees could engage with CLOCA's technical experts, explore the tools and techniques we use to monitor and manage our watersheds, and learn more about the coastal wetlands and habitats that surround them and the plants and animals that call them home. Natural heritage learning stations included:

- Aquatics Station – Michael Grieve, CLOCA Aquatic Resource Technician, provided an opportunity for visitors to learn about the fish monitoring work we do as part of the Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Project. The electrofishing boat was on site for visitors to see and learn about.
- Birds Station – Jackie Scott, CLOCA Wildlife Biologist, provided information on the bird communities that utilize the habitats found in the Conservation Area. Visitors had an opportunity to observe birds through binoculars and learn their calls.
- Forest Plants Station - Erin Kerr, CLOCA Terrestrial Biologist, showed visitors the various trees and spring ephemeral plants coming up in the forest community and demonstrated how we measure forest health through our Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program.
- Invasive Species Station – Brandon Johnson, CLOCA Natural Heritage Assistant, provided visitors with information on the various invasive plant species found in this conservation area and talked about the important work we are doing to manage invasives to protect natural spaces.
- Reptiles and Amphibians Station - Cara Gregory, CLOCA Conservation Education Co-ordinator, provided visitors with information about the reptiles and amphibians that are found in the Bowmanville/Westside Marshes Conservation Area and how we can protect them. Visitors had an opportunity to hold and touch CLOCA's live painted turtle and garter snake.
- Coastal Wetlands Station – Heather Pankhurst, CLOCA Wetland Biologist, provided visitors with information about coastal wetlands and the important features of the Bowmanville and Westside Marshes in particular. She provided an opportunity to test water of different clarity and explained how poor water clarity impacts the plants and animals in the marshes.
- Clean-Up Station – Aviva Canada and CATS volunteers provided visitors with clean up supplies and assisted in the litter clean up activity. Eight large bags of garbage were collected from the waterfront trail area.

### **Funding and In-kind Support**

Ontario Power Generation generously provided funding for the tree planting and Indigenous engagement portions of the event. They also provided four tents to cover the information booths. Aviva Canada provided five volunteers who assisted with the litter clean up and an associated volunteer grant. The Municipality of Clarington provided tents and supplies for the litter clean up.

### **Conclusion**

CLOCA was fortunate to have the support of so many community partners for its first Earth Day event since the pandemic. The event set a foundation for community engagement in the formulation of the Conservation and Restoration Plan for Bowmanville Marsh. We hope to continue to build on these relationships for future events and projects.

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The event provided an important opportunity for the community to meet and engage with some of the CLOCA technical experts who are working daily, often behind the scenes, to monitor, manage, and restore our watersheds. This event was also a vital step towards learning from and building relationships with the Indigenous community, recognizing that we occupy their land for our benefit, and a step towards working in collaboration through Two-Eyed Seeing principles. Two-eyed seeing refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledge's and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledge's and ways of knowing and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

We will continue to look for new opportunities to engage with the broader community so that we can share our ecological knowledge and expertise in a meaningful and interactive way. We hope that the success of this collaboration can serve as a template for future engagement and outreach events.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***THAT Staff Report # 5832-23 be received for information.***

# REPORT

## CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**DATE:** May 16, 2023

**FILE:** LALC1

**S.R.:** 5830-23

**TO:** Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors

**FROM:** R. Perry Sisson, Director, Engineering, Field Operations & Education  
Dan Hope, Conservations Lands & Education Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Winter / Spring 2023 – Conservation Areas Update**

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

### **Purpose:**

The following report is intended to inform and update the members of land management and field operation activities within our Conservation Areas during the winter / spring of 2022/2023.

### **Winter Operations:**

Winter maintenance activities commenced in November 2022 and were completed throughout CLOCA's Conservation Areas and Main Administrative Office, to clear snow and treat laneways / parking lots / walkways. Primary locations included the Main Administrative Office, Lynde Shores Conservation Area, Heber Down Conservation Area (Cochrane Street entrance only), Enniskillen Conservation Area, Long Sault Conservation Area, Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area and Bowmanville Westside Conservation Area. Purple Woods snow removal and ice treatment - related activities commenced in February 2023, in preparation for the Annual Maple Syrup Festival.

From an operations perspective, we have experienced milder conditions in our Region throughout the past few winter seasons with spells of unseasonably warm temperatures. Winter snowfall events are becoming quite extreme, with fewer but more significant snowfall accumulations. Milder temperatures throughout the winter months are also creating winter conditions that result in more freezing rain, sleet and ice treatment.



### **Purple Woods Conservation Area**

We were ecstatic with our return to the in-person Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival in 2023. Early numbers on the 2023 Maple Syrup Festival indicate that we had almost 10,000 visitors, and through our education programming (i.e. school groups) accommodated 1733 students!

As members will recall, the May 2022 “Derecho” event caused significant damage to the Purple Woods Sugar Bush and sap line collection equipment. Hazard tree removal work was completed, logs and firewood were harvested / recycled and CLOCA Areas staff worked diligently throughout the late Fall / Winter, resurrecting our sap line distribution equipment at Purple Woods. We completed Phase 1 of our sap line restoration work and installed enough sap lines to tap approximately 300 sugar maples and 500 taps. Phase 2 will be completed in November 2023 and will get us back to full capacity. The sap line replacement work has allowed staff to re-structure our sap line collection system, which should streamline sap collection and increase sap yields.

With the unusually warm temperatures in February, tapping activities were completed by February 14, 2023. We installed approximately 500 taps from approximately 300 trees. We had a decent flush of sap in February and enough to thoroughly purge and clean sap line collection equipment. This season the majority of maple syrup was produced in the latter portion of March and into April, which set us up extremely well for education programming and school tours.

Our maple syrup production for the 2022-23 season resulted in a total of 491 L (almost 1L per tap) of fresh maple syrup. Grading of the syrup was mostly Amber and Dark. Special thanks to CLOCA Areas /Operations, Education and Festival staff for their efforts.

### **Conservation Area Inspection Work**

In accordance with our Board approved policy, “we have a duty of care to provide reasonably safe lands for the public to enjoy. This policy is our commitment to this duty of care and provides staff with the direction necessary for Conservation Area inspections.” Inspections in our Conservation Areas are crucial to the preservation of due diligence / risk management and offering a natural environment that is reasonably safe and enjoyable for our visitors. The Conservation Area Inspection Policy is subject to its 5 – Year review and will be brought back to members for approval this fall.

Spring has been wet! Areas / Operations staff shifted their focus from maple syrup production and festival cleanup to our Conservation Areas and Conservation Area inspection work. Conservation Area inspections have been completed in accordance with our Conservation Areas Inspection Policy. All primary areas including Lynde Shores CA, Heber Down CA, Purple Woods CA, Bowmanville Westside CA, Stephen’s Gulch CA, Enniskillen CA, and Long Sault CA have been completed. Staff flagged a number of action items and have been working diligently to complete repairs. Remedial works in our Conservation Areas included re-grading of driveways, parking lot repair work. hazard tree / limb removals, trail repairs, minor infrastructure repairs (i.e. bridges and stairs) trail signage replacement, removal of unsanctioned shelters, cleanup of garbage / debris etc.

The majority of Conservation Area remedial work continues to revolve around hazard tree and hazard limb removal adjacent to our infrastructure in our Conservation Areas. We look closely at Conservation Area infrastructure such as trails, entrance laneways, parking lots, buildings, bridges, overhead hydro lines etc. This season has been quite challenging as we continue to experience compromised trees and limbs that were most likely damaged by the May 2022 “Derecho” high wind event.

The following photos represent a few examples of items that are discovered and rectified / repaired when Conservation Area inspections are completed:



Hazard tree limb hanging over trail



Hazard tree across trail

### **Purple Woods Conservation Area (PWCA) and Long Sault (LSCA) – Cleanup Update**

In November 2022, staff reported information to the Board regarding the May 21, 2022 “Derecho” event.

“CLOCA’s Conservation Areas were significantly impacted by the storm, with the hardest hit being Purple Woods Conservation Area (PWCA) and the Long Sault Conservation Area (LSCA). Within approximately 2-3 weeks of the event, the vast majority of CLOCA infrastructure (ie. trails, entrance laneways, parking lots, buildings, fences etc.) were rough cleared, deemed safe and re-opened for regular use. Portions of the PWCA and LSCA were hit extremely hard and in a few locations pine plantations were almost completely downed (see photos) and some trails within LSCA were covered with masses of tangled and broken trees. Given the extent of damages to PWCA and LSCA, land management staff retained a contractor that is more appropriately equipped with mechanical forestry harvesting machinery. CLOCA retained Eng’s Wood Products to complete clean-up efforts at both the LSCA and PWCA with a special focus on removing downed timber / hazard trees from the trails and plantations and salvaging wind damaged timber.”

Purple Woods – Downed timber has been harvested, recycled and predominantly removed from the site by the wood recyclers. CLOCA staff will continue to complete cleanup efforts in the Sugar Bush and recycle as much material as we reasonably can for use in the maple syrup production process. This work will be completed in 2023 as part of Phase 2 of the maple sap line restorative works.

Long Sault – The vast majority of the wood harvesting and recycling work has been completed on site by Eng’s Wood Recycling. There were several different areas in the north end of Long Sault that were hit extremely hard by the high wind event. The contractor worked on site for months with a focus on felling and harvesting trees that were either already down or compromised by high winds. The contractor is waiting on the ground to firm up to ship out the last few log piles that remain on site.

In April / May, CLOCA staff completed formal inspection and follow up work on site. Over the past two weeks alone, staff removed 114 hazard trees and limbs from Conservation Area infrastructure at the Long Sault CA.

The following trails remain affected:

Porcupine Trail - At the north end of the Deer Trail (now known as the Porcupine Trail), a large area of forest was completely blown over. This area has been cleared and has now been replanted with native trees (oak, cherry, pine, etc.).

Turkey and Barred Owl Trails – Tree removal and recycling work has been completed. The north end of both trails was hit extremely hard. Mechanical harvesting equipment (i.e. harvester on steel tracks and a rubber-tired forwarder) had to utilize trail corridors to carry logs out of these areas. They left heavily rutted areas along the trails and wood debris. Staff have contracted “Sustainable Trails” to bring in small construction equipment to rehabilitate and repair these heavily impacted areas.



Unsafe trail conditions



Debris on trails after cleanup

Areas / Operations staff aim to have these impacted trails fully re-opened by the end of May 2023.

**Small Drinking Water Systems Regulation (SDWS)**

The Authority continues to maintain and operate two licensed small drinking water systems. They are located at the Enniskillen Conservation Area (Education Centre) and the Purple Woods Heritage Hall. The Purple Woods SDWS was again shut down between November and February this past year (seasonal shut down). Maintenance inspections are completed at regular frequencies on both of these certified Small Drinking Water Systems and we continue to operate in accordance with Ontario Regulation 319/08 (Small Drinking Water Systems Regulation). CLOCA operations staff work continue to work closely with drinking water inspectors at the Regional Municipality of Durham to ensure conformance with drinking water regulations.


**RECOMMENDATION:**

***THAT Staff Report # 5830-23 be received for information.***

# REPORT

## CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**DATE:** May 16, 2023  
**FILE:** AFNB50  
**S.R.:** 5833-23  
**TO:** Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Rose Catulli, Director, Corporate Services  
**SUBJECT:** **2023 Budget**

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

On November 23, 2022, the Board approved the 2023 Preliminary Budget and Levy Submission to the Region of Durham. Following the Region's approval of CLOCA's Levy Submission, on March 29, 2023, 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 2022.

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Operating:</b>		
General Levy	\$ 4,324,420	\$ 4,218,945
Children's Watershed Festival	56,570	55,190
	<u>4,380,990</u>	<u>4,274,135</u>
<b>Special Funding:</b>		
Land Management Expenditures	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000
Environmental Restoration Project (Year 5 of 5)	150,000	150,000
Main Office HVAC Project		40,000
Lynde Shores CA Main Entrance Redevelopment		60,000
Enniskillen & Long Sault CA Washroom Facilities	130,000	
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	30,000	
FHIMP Lynde Creek Floodplain Mapping	110,000	
Land Acquisition (Long Sault CA)	314,500	
	<u>819,500</u>	<u>335,000</u>

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 \$60,400 (2022 - \$74,870).

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

<b>Federal Grants</b>			
Canada Summer Jobs		\$	25,200.00
FHIMP - ( <i>Lynde Creek Flood Hazard Information &amp; Mapping Program</i> )		\$	110,000.00
<i>DFO Whitby Harbour</i>		\$	23,865.00
Natural Resources Canada		\$	30,000.00
	<i>(Electric Vehicle Charging Stations)</i>		
		\$	<u>189,065.00</u>
<b>Provincial Grants</b>			
Forest Ontario		\$	<u>50,000.00</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 2023 budgeted reserve transfer of \$207,565 relates to forestry management expenditures within our conservation areas (\$40,000), a Roger's Property transfer to partially fund the new driveway (\$21,200), a transfer of interest earned relating to the Schillings Land reserve account (-\$635), and a transfer for capital improvements at the Lynde Shores CA (\$40k), the Stephens Gulch CA (\$25k), and the Enniskillen CA grounds (\$82k). The CA capital improvements were budgeted for in 2022 but are expected to be completed in 2023.

All revenue estimates are based on the fee schedule approved by the Board of Directors on November 23, 2022. Estimates for plan review and regulation fees have increased which reflects the high demand for planning services and the new fee structure that was put in place in December 2015 and the annual inflationary increases since then.

Demand for planning services in 2022 increased over 2021 based on the readiness of large-scale residential development projects to proceed across the watershed. Permit revenue was ahead of budget \$83k based on high demand for approvals related to personal property improvements.

The Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival returned to "in-person" and ran March/April 2023; accordingly, self-generated revenue has increased compared to 2022 budget and actuals.

The Region of Durham continues as the Festival Event Sponsor for the Children's Watershed Festival in 2023, providing core funding to cover operational costs associated with delivery since 2014. This program is returning to its usual format as a week-long festival at Camp Samac for Grade 4 students. It will be held in the Spring this year, instead of the Fall and will run from May 29 to June 2, 2023. Funding was secured in 2021 to incorporate Indigenous teachings, programs, and story telling that will continued to be offered in person in 2023.

A full compliment of summer students has been hired this year. CLOCA has applied for Canada Summer Jobs federal grants to assist in funding student wages.

Cont'd



### **Land Acquisition**

CLOCA acquired a 72-acre property (\$780k) contiguous with Long Sault Conservation Area. Staff successfully secured 50% of the acquisition costs through Federal Grants (Environment Climate Change Canada – Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund) applied for by Conservation Ontario and as such, the grant is recorded in Other Revenue. Funding from the Region of Durham through their Conservation Authority Land Securement Policy is \$314,500.

### **Compensation Review**

During 2018, 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 2019. A revised 2019 salary grid was implemented that included job rates that reflected the 50% percentile of the competitive pay market and band placement for positions that reflect internal equity in the Authority.

As per the Salary Administration Policy a market review of all positions will be completed in 2023 including pay equity maintenance, to ensure that CLOCA salaries remain competitive.

### **Budget Challenges**

The 2023 Budget was developed largely based on a Durham Region Levy increase of 2.5% and self-generated fees. Despite continued consideration of cost efficiencies and leveraging funding from other partners, staff foresee the need to adjust base costs as the levy increase does not cover inflation or the need to fund important programs and services. Continuing to fund increases below the rate of inflation beyond 2023 is not a sustainable strategy for the Conservation Authority. Program needs relating to ecological restoration and corporate health and safety staff resources will need to be considered in the 2024 budget. It should be noted that in 2024 all levy requests will be impacted by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry) changes with Bill 229. Staff developed the 2023 budget with an awareness of possible Ministry changes with Bill 229 that will impact future budgets; however, these changes from the Ministry review will not be reflected until the 2024 budget.

A Minister's Regulation was filed under the Conservation Authorities Act and in accordance with Bill 23, More Homes build Faster Act, 2022 in December 2022. Impacts to Conservation Authority finances are anticipated, but it is not possible at this time for them to be identified and quantified. It is important to note that to date any adjustment to revenue would be in the fee-based programs only, which are not supported by levy. Staff will continue to track and assess any financial impacts of Bill 23 and will bring any concerns back to the Board as information becomes available. Currently available information was provided to the Board in November 2022 through Staff Report No. 5805-22.

### **Conclusion**

The recommended 2023 budget reflects an allocation of resources to support CLOCA's programs and services for 2023. 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 2023 budget be approved, as presented;  
THAT copies of the 2023 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.***

**ATTACH.**



2023

# BUDGET

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

Approved by Auth. Res. #00/00. Dated \



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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 380,000

## 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

### 2023 Board of Directors

**Chair**

**Mayor Elizabeth Roy**

Town of Whitby



**Vice-Chair**

**Councillor Bob Chapman**

City of Oshawa



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

# Human Resources

**Chris Darling**, Chief Administrative Officer

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## Directors

**Rose Catulli**, Corporate Services

**Jamie Davidson**, Watershed Planning and Natural Heritage

**Chris Jones**, Planning and Regulation

**Perry Sisson**, Engineering and Field Operations

## Staff

Todd Backus, *Resource Technician – Lead Hand*

Lucy Benham, *Senior Water Resources Engineer*

Brandi Boardman, *Executive/Accounting Administrator*

Meagan Breems, *Digital Communications Associate*

Lisa-Beth Bulford, *Development Planning Lead*

Jeff Burgess, *Water Resources Engineer*

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*

Breanna Hall, *Education Associate*

Lisa Hastings, *Communications Specialist*

John Hetherington, *Regulation and Provincial Offences Officer*

Dan Hope, *Land Management and Operations Supervisor*

Louie Jakupi, *Senior Water Resources Engineer*

Ian Kelsey, *Aquatic Ecologist*

Erin Kerr, *Terrestrial Biologist*

Alex Kissel, *Terrestrial Biologist*

David Krupicz, *Systems Development Specialist*

Sylwia Kubrak, *Senior GIS Specialist*

Kathy Luttrell, *Natural Heritage Ecologist*

Jason Maas, *Resource Technician - Field*

Annie Miller, *GIS Technician*

Bryan Mistak, *Senior GIS Analyst*

Dan Moore, *Aquatic Biologist*

Roy Mosher, *Restoration Coordinator*

Matthew Murphy, *Resource Technician – Field*

Serem Nejad, *Development Planner*

Heather Pankhurst, *Wetland Biologist*

Jackie Scott, *Wildlife Biologist*

Yvonne Storm, *Community Events Coordinator*

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*

### **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. Our Stewardship programs focus on public and private lands, contributing to improving watershed health and function.

## **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 42/06 (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 November 16, 2021.

## 2

### Regional Operating Levy

- As approved by Durham Region Council on March 29, 2023.

## 3

### Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Transfer Payments

- MNR 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 23, 2022.

## 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**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>
General Levy	4,380,990	4,274,135	4,274,135	4,169,890
Municipal Special Levy	819,500	930,000	881,467	405,269
MNRF Transfer Payment	64,445	64,445	64,445	64,445
Federal Grants	189,065	73,100	118,130	88,712
Provincial Grants	50,000	150,000	176,182	35,000
Other Revenue	804,300	1,097,860	1,239,503	1,109,064
Other Grants	-	50,000	51,000	50,000
Reserve Transfer	207,565	(70,460)	(65,679)	(16,877)
Deferred Revenue	37,000	-	54,758	(45,729)
Interest Earned	131,775	20,850	119,342	14,443
Administrative Services	50,000	44,750	44,750	40,847
<b>Environmental Plan Review &amp; Regulation Services</b>				
Plan Review Fees	1,000,000	925,000	898,007	789,904
Regulations 42/06 Permit	425,000	425,000	508,018	502,885
Property Inquiry Fee	30,000	30,000	29,260	44,095
Map Sales	10,000	10,000	12,010	10,420
<b>Community Engagement</b>				
Education Fees	50,000	66,000	7,553	500
Maple Syrup Tours	7,000	-	-	-
Admission Fees - Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival	72,000	-	-	-
Maple Syrup Sales	45,000	13,300	13,335	-
Maple Syrup Sales - Office	4,000	7,000	4,291	8,756
Product Sales	18,000	4,170	4,202	1,049
CLOCA Days Pancake Sales	52,185	-	-	-
<b>Land Management</b>				
Pay & Display	157,000	226,000	169,313	305,090
Seasons Passes	100,000	75,000	101,546	99,145
Donations	109,600	113,000	62,440	94,226
Property Rental	72,085	71,640	72,566	84,712
Facility Rental Fees	29,000	-	26,526	1,156
Commercial Rent Signs	7,200	7,200	7,233	7,235
Rental Recovery	156,850	137,250	147,312	114,856
<b>Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program</b>				
Federal Grant			5,000	
Other Revenue	875,000	875,000	897,400	875,035
Website/Portal Access Fee HST Included	80,000	60,000	77,184	79,740
Deferred Revenue	49,850		(87,410)	(105,890)
Interest Earned	3,300		1,095	253
	<b>10,087,710</b>	<b>9,680,240</b>	<b>9,914,915</b>	<b>8,828,230</b>

Cost and Expenditures	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Salaries, Wages &amp; Benefits</b>				
Salary & Wages	4,967,800	4,597,150	4,551,391	4,375,865
Wages -PWMSF	15,000	-	-	-
Wages Summer Student Program	171,900	104,100	112,279	31,689
Benefits	1,335,700	1,247,815	1,163,744	1,162,627
Future Benefit Expense	3,300	-	-	-
Members Per Diems	8,500	8,500	7,400	7,950
<b>Administration</b>				
Office Supplies/Postage/Promotion	7,265	7,970	8,612	5,578
Staff Mileage	9,550	12,800	4,623	5,760
Administration Expense	50,000	44,750	44,750	40,000
Course Registration	56,600	44,200	26,639	10,749
Publications & Subscriptions	53,080	36,750	42,834	25,302
Printing	3,500	5,000	2,657	1,684
Software	91,100	85,825	87,473	88,232
Services	802,645	571,865	531,722	705,444
Cellular	20,100	16,570	19,287	16,382
Travel	5,450	4,605	3,858	1,677
Payroll Processing Fees	8,700	7,600	8,202	7,237
Legal Fees	175,000	95,000	239,484	92,894
Audit Fees	44,500	32,000	39,633	30,413
Bank Service Charges	23,350	24,600	23,754	25,679
Insurance	168,845	168,545	168,260	129,330
Donation	20,000	400	200	600
Materials & Supplies	147,725	314,900	222,598	241,355
Water Quality Testing	36,700	36,700	30,029	25,536
Uniform Purchases	8,700	7,100	6,642	7,509
Consultant	-	-	-	204
<b>Conservation Ontario Levy</b>	35,550	34,160	34,059	33,606
<b>Utilities</b>				
Telephone	15,750	15,875	14,903	14,690
Hydro	34,700	33,200	27,996	24,402
Alarm	4,175	4,175	4,576	3,953
Water	4,000	4,600	3,885	3,840
Gas	14,500	12,500	11,993	9,102
Property Taxes	63,150	53,885	52,534	38,546
<b>Land Management</b>				
Pay & Display Software Monitoring Fees	6,550	6,000	6,482	5,953
Equipment Rental	14,000	15,100	14,382	13,994
Capital Assets/Equipment	641,040	546,110	664,234	932,996
Small Tools	2,000	2,000	2,260	501
Land Acquisition	745,000	1,180,000	1,184,070	-
<b>Vehicles &amp; Equipment</b>				
Vehicle Purchases	-	75,000	74,039	69,175
Vehicle Rental	9,000	5,500	5,755	-
Fuel	44,215	41,100	38,404	30,112
Licence	2,250	2,240	2,163	2,163
Vehicle Recovery	144,600	125,000	138,238	105,940
Equipment Recovery	12,250	12,250	9,062	8,915
<b>Other</b>				
Office Services (Rent-ORMGP)	16,600	16,600	16,600	16,540
Transportation (GW Festival)	7,500	15,500	-	-
Purchases for Resale (PWMS Festival)	14,000	3,500	3,175	764
Bulk for Resale (PWMS Festival)	7,570	1,200	(680)	1,656
Pancake Group Expenses	14,300	-	-	-
	<b>10,087,710</b>	<b>9,680,240</b>	<b>9,654,200</b>	<b>8,356,550</b>
Surplus(Deficit) from Operations	(0)	(0)	260,713	471,680

# Watershed Management and Health Monitoring

## Program Operations

Program Operations provides comprehensive watershed health monitoring, watershed planning, and watershed management programs and service that support the development and implementation of overarching strategies for natural heritage system protection, restoration, and use. Staff with expertise in the fields of environmental engineering, ecology, hydrogeology, aquatics, wetland and wildlife biology, and forestry 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 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.

## 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 like the Flood Forecasting and Warning System, Low Water Response and Source Water Protection.

Each year we review 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 gaugestations, data management, and reporting.

In 2019, CLOCA joined the Eastern Conservation Authorities Hub and gained 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 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 our flood forecasting and warning program and receive direct messages.

## **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. Although the NDMP program is now finished, CLOCA has been accepted for grant funding through the new federal Flood Hazard Information and Mapping Program for floodplain mapping study of the Lynde Creek. The current Lynde Creek floodplain mapping has become outdated with the multiple stream crossings of the Highway 407, Highway 412, 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

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will also be working with the Municipality of Clarington to complete a flood study for portions of the Robinson and Tooley Creek watersheds. The floodplains of these watersheds are complicated by railway and highway crossings that create flood spill zones. Detailed modelling will be required to determine the most appropriate flood limits and regulation limits for future development applications.

# 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, education, and communication.

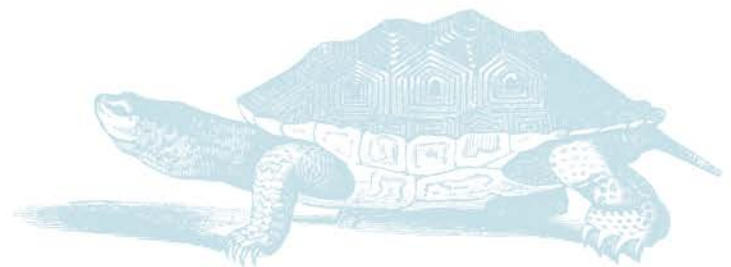
Long-term annual monitoring enables CLOCA to identify changes, whether incidental or persistent, in the quality and condition of the health of the watershed. Monitoring results are analyzed annually, with updates and historical data made accessible to the public through the Watershed Monitoring StoryMap 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.

The year 2023 marks five years since the redesigned Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program was initiated. Work is underway to complete a five-year review of the program to ensure that indicators and monitoring efforts are still adequately answer 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 2023.

The turtle monitoring project initiated in 2019 will continue in 2023 as resources allow. This multi-year project will provide greater detail regarding the presence and absence of these species at risk across CLOCA's jurisdiction. 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.

Other supplemental monitoring will be undertaken throughout the jurisdiction as opportunities allow. Bird, amphibian, forest, and other terrestrial monitoring also provide indications of watershed health and are also integral to the CLOCA Integrated Watershed Monitoring Program. Long-term monitoring of these conservation targets will continue through 2023. 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. This invasive species management work is one example of monitoring informing watershed planning, which in turn results in the implementation of projects that work to directly improve watershed health.





## Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network

Groundwater well monitoring equipment is checked regularly to ensure proper functioning and data is collected, reviewed, and analyzed quarterly providing input to the 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.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority currently maintains 15 wells under the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN).

These monitoring wells provide continuous water level data recorded hourly by the installed level loggers.

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.

In 2023, MECP will provide CLOCA with telemetry equipment for one well monitoring site. This technology will allow for remote retrieval of water level data and more accessible data monitoring.

## Durham Region Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program

Long-term monitoring of 18 coastal wetlands across Durham Region will continue in 2023 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 information and data gained through monitoring of these wetlands provides valuable information to assess watershed and coastal wetland health in Durham Region. This monitoring program provides feedback on restoration and management actions undertaken, like the work at Cranberry Marsh and Second Marsh, and provides significant data from which projects such as the McLaughlin Bay Restoration Strategy, Lynde Shores and Bowmanville Marsh restoration plans rely upon.

To continue the momentum in this program work, CLOCA is collaborating with Federal and Provincial ministries and other stakeholders to develop management strategies for a number of these coastal wetlands, and it is expected that community consultation will likely be a major component of the 2023 work plan for these planning documents.

These reports document and synthesize monitoring information collected to date, providing an assessment of wetland health to help direct future management recommendations.

## 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 2023 with the initiation, completion, or update of a number of Watershed Action Plans, including Wildlife Corridor Protection and Enhancement Plan, Restoration Prioritization Tool, implementation of a restoration and stewardship program across the jurisdiction, and a Natural Heritage System Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment among others.

Staff will also initiate the development of a Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy, a Land Inventory, and a Conservation Area Strategy. These three documents must be developed by all Conservation Authorities prior to the end of 2024, as required by the recently updated *Conservation Authorities Act* and associated regulations.

## Source Water Protection Plans

The Source Water Protection (SWP) initiative commenced in 2005, following recommendations made by Justice O'Connor after the Walkerton drinkingwater 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 Assessment Reports. 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 will continue during the implementation period to work with municipal and other personnel to ensure they fully understand their responsibilities under the SPP and to provide support and tools, as necessary. The CTC and CLOSPA staff will continue their work on the CTC SPR Data Portal with the migration of content from Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority to CLOCA's cloud-based content management system.

The portal will provide a centralized location to house, search and retrieve all of the CTC SPR's related documents, reports, correspondence, and spatial information. In addition, the portal will provide mapping and access to metadata and spatial information.

## Climate Change

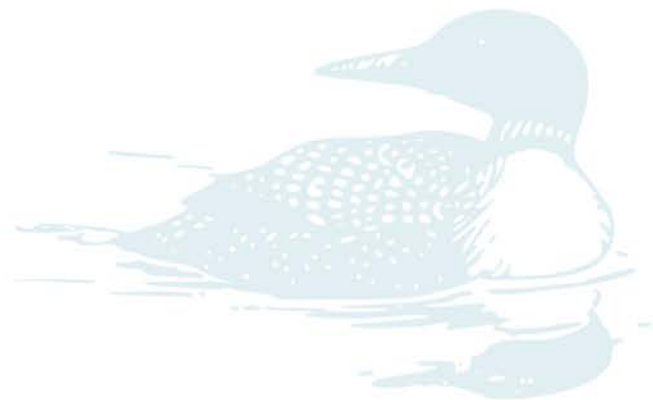
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is working on several fronts to advance our scientific and adaptation knowledge with respect to climate change. In keeping with recommendations and actions identified through the watershed plan review and update process, CLOCA will be taking a more detailed 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. 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 initiating the development of a climate resilient natural heritage system by understanding climate impacts on natural features and functions and addressing them accordingly.

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority and the Region of Durham continue to work with University of Toronto to research the impact of climate change on rainfall and design parameters for stormwater infrastructure and floodplain mapping.

A report with research findings and recommendations for incorporating climate change into our business will be provided in 2023. 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. Incorporating climate change into hazard determination is an important component of the provincial guide updates.

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 throughout 2023 and into the future.



## Oshawa Second Marsh Management Planning and Implementation

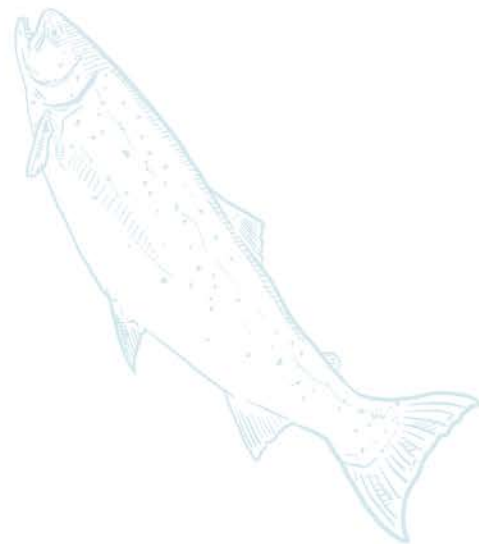
Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, as a member of the Second Marsh Steering Committee, continues to provide input and guidance into the management of Oshawa Second Marsh by drawing on its intimate knowledge of the marsh that comes from its annual monitoring and the extensive data sets generated 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.

## 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 be working to further build its restoration program through 2023. Building on successful implementation of restoration projects on both private lands and CLOCA conservation lands in 2022, CLOCA will be looking to further enhance its suite of program offerings in 2023 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 sites 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 already is aiming to coordinate the planting of 20,000 trees on private properties in the spring of 2023. 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 2023 and beyond.



## 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 through to 2024. 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 is being provided in part by the Region, with the remainder of funding being sought from external partners. The full suite of marketing and communications tools developed by the collaborative through the project have been put to work by all partners, and are generating new relationships with interested landowners and new planting projects.

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, and other tree-planting funders.

## Stewardship

### RBC SMART Watersheds

Funded by RBC's Tech for Nature program, CLOCA's enhancing our existing water monitoring program, creating a technology-based ecosystem in areas of our watershed that we require more data information. The program has enhanced our data collection, providing more defensible information to guide our decisions around water quality and quantity.

In 2021, CLOCA implemented year two of the program, establishing nine creek monitoring stations within the designated community hubs. All monitoring stations are located in areas with suitable public access infrastructure. All creek monitoring stations are integrated in the SMART Watersheds Portal for visualization and data entry. In 2022, CLOCA worked with our municipal partners to facilitate public access and signage and aim to have this completed in 2023. The nine water quality monitoring kits are ready for deployment and pilot community engagement program once public access has been facilitated.

As part of the program, a total of six weather stations were installed within the community hubs and the data is available through the SMART Watersheds Portal. The Weather Watch program was launched on CLOCA's website, and a full complement of pilot community engagement activities were developed and delivered in 2021. Program funding will continue into 2022 and 2023.



### 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.

We continued to partner with the Municipality of Clarington in 2022 to deliver this program with the Ganaraska Conservation Authority. In 2022, CLOCA approved 18 projects. Landowner pick-up returned to in person in 2022 follow pandemic restrictions over the last couple of years. Applications from eligible landowners are now being accepted for the 2023 program.

### 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 and guides the management of these forested lands until 2030, while also providing a 75 per cent reduction in properties taxes for approved parcels.

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. CLOCA 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 2022, and staff are in discussions with several more landowners in 2023.

### 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 2023 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.

### Watershed Management

	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>				
General Levy	998,280	1,059,885	912,191	899,300
Municipal Special Levy	260,000	150,000	112,386	50,269
<b>Grants/Transfer Payments</b>				
MNRF Transfer Payment	28,500	28,500	28,500	28,500
Federal Grants	148,565	14,700	111,462	80,450
Provincial Grants	50,000	-	-	-
Other Grants	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Self-Generated</b>				
Other Revenue	211,400	218,010	353,299	223,875
Deferred Revenue	37,000	-	(1,978)	(62,634)
Donations				12,500
	<b>1,733,745</b>	<b>1,521,095</b>	<b>1,565,860</b>	<b>1,282,260</b>

	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Cost and Expenditures</b>				
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	823,500	851,550	880,934	804,540
Wages - Summer Student Program	100,200	75,100	70,975	11,597
Benefits	227,700	230,800	232,098	212,654
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Travel	1,400	1,950	904	191
Staff Mileage	2,250	3,000	1,046	1,337
Course Registration	6,000	5,500	3,370	1,146
Postage	200	200	1,048	367
Materials & Supplies	31,950	41,500	24,308	23,512
Publications & Subscriptions	10,680	4,050	13,435	576
Software	20,400	18,550	17,381	14,865
Services	344,145	124,600	110,300	124,758
Cellular	7,230	4,360	6,776	6,245
Uniform Purchases	2,300	2,000	1,270	-
Telephone	2,100	2,100	1,840	1,790
Insurance	1,350	1,125	1,123	965
Water Sample Testing	36,000	36,000	29,970	25,005
Equipment Purchases	76,840	86,110	134,420	37,700
Fuel	1,600	1,000	1,485	-
Vehicle Rental	9,000	5,500	5,755	-
Vehicle Recovery	28,900	26,100	27,424	15,012
	<b>1,733,745</b>	<b>1,521,095</b>	<b>1,565,860</b>	<b>1,282,260</b>

# 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.**

## ORM Groundwater Study

This 22-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 2023, 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 2023:

- Continue to provide technical expertise to the partner agencies as requested.
- Increasing the metadata available on the website to give users more background information on how different products on the website were produced.
- Generate additional training opportunities, both through video links and in-person sessions.
- Continued growth of the program database with incorporation of new boreholes and temporal data (water levels, pumping, chemistry, climate data, streamflow data).
- Continued development of the Delft Forecasting and Early Warning System (FEWS), allowing for more effective storage and use of large grid-based data.
- Expansion of the Dynamic Database Snapshot maps for posting on website – these will provide dynamic maps of specific data exports that can be viewed offline and explored for valuable insights into the flow systems across the study area (e.g., summary of baseflow analyses for SW stations in the study area).
- 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 work on the Areas of Concern mapping with work scheduled for Whitchurch-Stouffville and Uxbridge.



- Continued improvement in the program website with:
  - new/updated mapping (e.g., updated water budget mapping using the Delft-FEWS system; mapping of losing and gaining stream reaches, integrated planning focused mapping, groundwater variability mapping);
  - continued additions of consultant borehole logs as accessible PDF files; and,
  - improvement of analysis tools (e.g., work continues on improving hydrograph analyses; improved chemistry data graphing, linking groundwater levels to climate and pumping records, characterizing / grouping monitoring locations in terms of their hydrogeological setting and water level responses).
- Work on incorporating temporal data to Halton Region and other municipal wells.
- Continue the adjustments and re-interpretation of the geology and hydrogeology across the ORMGP study area by incorporating new data and updated information from external studies (e.g., Ontario Geological Survey study in Simcoe County).
- 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 an 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	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Federal Grants	-	-	5,000	-
Provincial Grants	-	-	-	35,000
Other Revenue	875,000	875,000	897,401	875,035
Deferred Revenue	49,850	-	(87,410)	(105,890)
Interest Earned	3,300	-	1,095	255
Website/Portal Access Fee	80,000	60,000	77,184	79,740
	<b>1,008,150</b>	<b>935,000</b>	<b>893,270</b>	<b>884,140</b>

Cost and Expenditures	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Salaries & Wages	641,000	614,000	593,449	597,988
Benefits	144,300	143,000	143,086	148,427
Future Benefit Expense	3,300	-	-	-
Staff Mileage	2,000	2,000	1,113	1,155
Administration Expense	20,000	17,000	17,000	15,000
Course Registration	15,000	3,000	283	1,172
Postage	-	35	-	27
Materials & Supplies	-	-	430	462
Publications & Subscriptions	4,000	4,000	4,743	4,069
Software	35,000	35,000	31,725	34,577
Services	84,000	60,000	54,327	20,190
Fuel	4,000	4,000	1,534	1,204
Telephone	3,500	3,500	3,053	3,055
Cellular	3,500	3,500	4,024	2,843
Travel	2,000	-	824	358
Insurance	3,200	4,000	3,667	3,504
Audit Fees	5,000	4,000	4,000	3,600
Bank Service Charges	500	225	854	204
Licence	250	240	-	-
Payroll Processing Fees	1,000	900	793	837
Office Services	16,600	16,600	16,600	16,540
Equipment Purchases	20,000	20,000	11,764	28,928
	<b>1,008,150</b>	<b>935,000</b>	<b>893,270</b>	<b>884,140</b>

# 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.

### 2023 Program:

- Renewing the partnership with the Region of Durham and other watershed municipalities to provide Plan review advice on watershed management, and natural hazard planning and the implementation of the 'One-Window' MOU with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding hazard lands in response to *Bill 23*.
- Provide policy input and commentary in relation to the anticipated changes to the *Provincial Policy Statement*, the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* and draft implementing regulations anticipated from the province.
- Consistent with previous years, it is anticipated that CLOCA will review and provide comments on over 200 planning applications and supporting technical reports of various scales and locations.

- Implementation of the updated Fee Schedule for Planning Services including efficient revenue collection and alignment of service needs with staff capacity to maintain quality of service.
- Subject to the timing of provincial policy changes, update CLOCA's Policy and Procedural Document for Regulation and Plan Review to update policy directions, streamline and add clarity wherever possible.
- CLOCA staff will continue to support watershed and partner interests through working groups/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 Comprehensive Zoning By-law review and Secondary Plans.
  - City of Oshawa - Northwood Planning Area, Kedron Planning Area, and Columbus Sub-watershed Study and Part II Planning Study.
  - Town of Whitby - Brooklin Secondary Plan and Implementing Servicing and subdivision plans.
  - Region of Durham Official Plan Update and Provincial Plan Conformity.

- 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 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.

- On-going review and maintenance of guidelines to provide consistent standards for the administration of Conservation Authority's Regulation, *Ontario Regulation 42/06*.
- Support implementation of the finalized Provincial Excess Soil Management Framework regulations including liaison with municipal planning and engineering staff.

## 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, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses (*Conservation Authorities Act - Ontario Regulation 42/06*).

### 2023 Program:

- Provide policy input and commentary in relation to the anticipated changes to the *Section 28* development regulation from the province.
- Consistent with previous years, it is anticipated that CLOCA will review and make decisions on over 200 permit applications.
- Implementation of the updated Fee Schedule for Regulation Services including efficient revenue collection.
- On-going enforcement and court appearances.

## 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

	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>				
General Levy	623,140	369,640	382,815	277,380
<b>Grants/Transfer Payments</b>				
MNRF Transfer Payment	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Map Sales	10,000	10,000	12,010	10,420
Property Inquiry Fee	30,000	30,000	29,260	44,095
Regulations 42/06 Permit	425,000	425,000	508,018	502,885
Plan Review Fees	1,000,000	925,000	898,007	789,905
	<b>2,113,140</b>	<b>1,784,640</b>	<b>1,855,110</b>	<b>1,649,685</b>

	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Cost and Expenditures</b>				
<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>				
Salaries & Wages	1,449,300	1,232,000	1,207,370	1,165,157
Benefits	388,200	344,000	296,052	325,844
<b>Office Administration</b>				
Travel	500	500	-	20
Staff Mileage	3,300	5,500	1,698	2,287
Course Registration	4,000	4,000	890	554
Postage	-	-	16	183
Materials & Supplies	600	600	925	31
Publications & Subscriptions	10,000	12,000	4,179	5,761
Software	4,000	4,000	3,931	4,870
Services	3,000	500	5,006	9,686
Uniform Purchases	1,000	1,000	808	-
Cellular	1,640	1,640	1,704	1,518
Insurance	67,100	72,400	72,360	47,702
Legal Fees	160,000	80,000	233,720	70,960
Bank Service Charges	10,000	10,000	9,616	8,789
Equipment Purchases	10,000	10,000	16,672	6,290
Vehicle Recovery	500	6,500	162	33
	<b>2,113,140</b>	<b>1,784,640</b>	<b>1,855,110</b>	<b>1,649,685</b>

# Community Engagement

## Education

For the past 34 years, CLOCA has delivered formal and informal education programs to ensure environmental literacy for students and CLOCA's watershed community.

### 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. We were happy to begin offering in-person field trips again in the Fall of 2022, in addition to our 'In Your Backyard' program and were pleased to have reached over 600 students. The option of virtual programs remains available for teachers and students in the virtual classroom.

Spring 2023 programming will see the addition of several new primary/junior curriculum-based programs related to watershed health. We will also be introducing Specialist High School Major Certification programs for a \$35 per student fee. The construction of a nature-based, free-play space at Enniskillen Conservation Area was completed in the Fall of 2022 and is available for teachers to book for their visiting class.

### Bring Back the Salmon

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority initiated a program with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to deliver the Stream of Dreams program to schools within our watershed. After a programming pause due to the pandemic, CLOCA's education team is moving forward with this program in partnership with OPG and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) for the Bring Back the Salmon Program. Conservation education staff will be delivering the Stream of Dreams program to a Grade 5/6 class from Central Public School in Bowmanville and will also be partnering to help with activities on the day of the salmon release into the Bowmanville Creek.

### Durham Children's Watershed Festival

The Region of Durham continues as the Festival Event Sponsor in 2023, providing core funding to cover operational costs associated with delivery since 2014. This program is returning to its usual format as a week-long festival at Camp Samac for Grade 4 students. It will be held in the Spring this year, instead of the Fall, and will run from May 29 to June 2, 2023. Funding was secured in 2021 to incorporate Indigenous teachings, programs, and story-telling that will continued to be offered in person in 2023.

### Summer Programs

Since 2016, the YMCA of Greater Toronto has delivered a summer camp from the Education 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.

# 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 our Conservation areas with 50 new CATS volunteers in the Fall of 2021, and intakes offered again in the Fall of 2022. The program has been steadily increasing in popularity and provides us with 'eyes and ears' in our Conservation Areas often when they are at their busiest.

## Conservation Areas' Library Program

The Conservation Areas' Library Program initiated in 2018 continued to expand in 2021 with the development of 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 parking passes currently offered by these same libraries. CLOCA also continues to deliver StoryWalks™ in our Conservation Areas in partnership with local libraries.

A Weather Watch and Water Watch citizen science program was created in 2022 and will be delivered in 2023, to engage volunteers in collecting data on water quality and actively take an interest in local weather conditions as part of an effort to prepare our community in adapting to climate change. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Conservation Education staff gave an interactive presentation on the importance of wetlands in your watershed and the many animals and plants that they provide a home for. Participants enjoyed a close up and personal and/or hands-on experience with our two education animals; a Midland Painted Turtle and an Eastern Garter Snake.

## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Awareness and Engagement Workshop (Dec. 3, 2022 and Jan. 19, 2023)

With support from the Invasive Species Centre through their Invasive Species Microgrant, CLOCA was able to raise public awareness of an invasive insect threatening Ontario's forests; the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. The workshop was split into two parts, an in-person event and a virtual event. There were 17 community members registered for this event.

## Evening Snowshoe (February 17, 2023)

This event provided members of the local community the opportunity to experience snowshoeing on the trails of Enniskillen Conservation Area at night, guided by candlelight. Those who did not have their own snowshoes, had the opportunity to borrow a pair from CLOCA.

## Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival and Sugar Bush

The Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival returned to an 'in-person' event and ran in March/April 2023. The Heritage Store was open once again for the purchase of CLOCA's fresh maple syrup and maple syrup products. Wagon Rides, maple taffy, traditional Indigenous methods and CLOCA's methods of sugar-making and a pioneer station were just a few of the stops enjoyed by participants. Registration for the maple syrup education program was welcomed back and quickly sold out.



## Community Engagement

	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>				
General Levy	207,975	321,865	465,600	453,490
General Levy - Children's Watershed Festival	56,570	55,190	55,190	53,845
Deferred Revenue	-	-	(22,866)	16,905
Donations				2,550
Donations - Children's Watershed Festival	30,000	40,000	-	29,175
<b>Self-Generated Revenue</b>				
Education Fees	50,000	66,000	7,553	500
Maple Syrup Tours	7,000	-	-	-
Admission/PWMSF	72,000	-	-	-
Maple Syrup Sales	45,000	13,300	13,335	-
Maple Syrup Sales - Office	4,000	7,000	4,291	8,756
Pancake Sales	19,600	-	2,438	-
Product Sales/PWMSF	18,000	4,170	4,168	1,049
CLOCA Days Pancake Sales	52,185	-	-	-
Other Revenue	-	-	20,305	9,430
Other Grants	-	-	1,000	-
Administrative Services	-	-	-	850
	<b>562,330</b>	<b>507,525</b>	<b>551,015</b>	<b>576,550</b>

	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Cost and Expenditures</b>				
Salaries & Wages	317,000	318,500	380,710	401,460
Wages - Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival	15,000	-	-	-
Benefits	81,700	92,500	101,279	114,645
<b>Office Administration</b>				
Office Supplies/Postage/Printing	75	100	220	175
Materials & Supplies	1,350	6,700	15,213	30,335
Staff Mileage	400	600	-	35
Uniform Purchases	-	500	643	-
Promotion	165	100	2,262	380
Travel	-	100	70	15
Cellular	540	550	347	475
Publications & Subscriptions	200	2,850	5,692	2,581
Equipment/Capital Assets	1,450	-	2,180	1,490
Services	12,850	850	9,613	3,739
Donation	19,600	-	-	-
Software	-	500	73	500
Course Registration	1,000	1,100	1,780	55
Insurance	580	1,255	-	980
Bank Service Charges	-	-	35	865
Vehicle/Equipment Recovery	1,500	7,400	1,513	3,165
<b>Purple Woods Maple Syrup Festival</b>	<b>54,920</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>17,885</b>	<b>5,975</b>
<b>Durham Children's Watershed Festival</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>56,820</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>9,680</b>
	<b>562,330</b>	<b>507,525</b>	<b>551,015</b>	<b>576,550</b>



# Land Management

**Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority owns over 2,700 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 45 kilometers of trail. Inspections and hazard tree management will continue for all public use portions of our landholdings.

### Conservation Area Development

In 2023, Conservation Area development will focus on replacement of failing washroom facilities at Enniskillen Conservation Area and Long Sault Conservation Area.

Hazard tree removal and trail restoration will also continue at Long Sault Conservation Area, where extensive forest wind damage has necessitated trail closures.

### 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 improvement and naturalization projects around the property.

Staff worked with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to complete a wetland naturalization project on the Roger's Tract in 2022. This property includes a rare and provincially significant bog and fen wetland. The project resulted in the removal of a water-level control structure and associated berm that was installed by DUC in partnership with the previous owners of the property approximately 25 years ago. Wetland monitoring data collected by CLOCA over the last several years suggests the wetland's health is being compromised by the water-level control.

The goal of the project was to restore natural hydrology to the wetland feature, restore fish passage to the wetland, and reduce negative thermal impacts to the downstream cold-water tributary. This project was funded wholly by DUC with provincial grants; however, CLOCA supplied significant technical support and guidance to ensure the project goals were met within the appropriate construction timing windows. Post construction monitoring in 2023 and beyond will determine if additional restoration work is required in this wetland feature.

The main driveway into the Rogers Tract provides access to the two rental houses on the property and is the primary entrance for the maintenance activities that are carried out across the rest of the property. This driveway has deteriorated in recent years and is now at its end of life. The driveway will be resurfaced in 2023 to ensure good access to the property and its tenants. Ongoing upkeep of the rental houses will be considered in 2023, subject to budget availability.

Invasive species monitoring and some control work will be continued through 2023. Invasive species control within plantations will continue in 2023 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 our Conservation Areas.

In 2022, CLOCA acquired a 102-acre property contiguous with Stephen's Gulch Conservation Area. Staff successfully secured over 50 per cent of the acquisition costs through federal grants, with most remaining costs being approved for funding through the Region of Durham. Staff also initiated the acquisition of another parcel contiguous with Long Sault Conservation Area in the fall of 2022. Fifty per cent of the acquisition costs have been secured from Environment Climate Change Canada, with the remaining funds approved being approved by Region of Durham from their Greenspace Acquisition reserve and from CLOCA's acquisitions reserve. This parcel is expected to close in March 2023.

### Purple Woods

The Derecho windstorm of May 2022 caused extensive damage to the Purple Woods forest and maple syrup infrastructure, and a significant effort was made to restore the system for operation before the 2023 Maple Syrup Festival. The Maple Syrup Festival facilities have been greatly improved over recent years, and staff continue to replace and extend the tap lines with modern collection tubing in the sugar maple bush.

### Storoshchuk Restoration

Restoration of the abandoned aggregate pit on the Storoshchuk Tract in Enniskillen Conservation Area will continue throughout 2023. The purpose of this restoration project is to restore the valley wall and return the terrain to its original form, eliminating the hazards associated with the eroding slopes, improving vegetation communities and habitat connectivity. This work will continue to be undertaken by a local contractor and monitored by CLOCA.

### Conservation Area Strategy Development

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 result in an increase in the number of visitors to CLOCA's Conservation Areas. The infrastructure and development necessary to support this growth will significantly impact our watershed resources. As such, CLOCA must be confident that our Conservation Areas adequately protect the Region's critical natural resources and that these areas can continue to provide appropriate recreational and educational needs. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority staff have been working on development of a Conservation Area Strategy. This Plan will provide general guidance to current and future decisions with respect to land needs and management needs for the next 50 years and guidance to the preparation of individual Conservation Area management plans.

While this Conservation Area planning process was initiated a few years ago, its development was temporarily paused in anticipation of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and associated regulations. Development of a Conservation Area Strategy and a Land Inventory are now mandatory requirements for all Conservation Authorities by the end of 2024, and so CLOCA's process is being reorganized and aligned to comply with these requirements.



## CA Land Management

Revenue	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
General Levy	712,915	753,720	666,785	574,653
Municipal Special Levy	529,500	740,000	729,081	315,000
Other Grants Federal	6,300	56,300	4,568	8,262
Other Grants Provincial	-	150,000	176,182	-
Other Revenue	492,500	811,150	771,721	796,795
Reserve Transfer	207,565	(70,460)	13,021	(16,877)
Deferred Revenue	-	-	79,600	-
Interest Earned	7,635	850	2,440	515
Pay & Display	157,000	226,000	169,313	305,090
Seasons Passes	100,000	75,000	101,546	99,146
Donations	60,000	73,000	60,000	50,000
Property Rental	72,085	71,640	72,566	84,712
Facility Rental Fees	29,000	-	26,459	1,156
Commercial Rent Signs	7,200	7,200	7,233	7,233
	<b>2,381,700</b>	<b>2,894,400</b>	<b>2,880,515</b>	<b>2,225,685</b>

Cost and Expenditures	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Salaries & Wages	536,600	559,800	508,473	498,827
Wages - Summer Student Program	41,700	29,000	41,304	20,091
Benefits	151,000	158,700	136,514	137,014
Staff Mileage	250	700	532	841
Administration Expense	30,000	27,750	27,750	25,000
Course Registration	4,000	4,000	2,089	-
Postage	-	-	15	107
Materials & Supplies	84,225	234,300	151,064	175,572
Publications & Subscriptions	600	600	52	196
Software	-	1,775	-	1,771
Services	165,950	210,915	238,608	458,014
Water Sample Testing	700	700	59	532
Uniform Purchases	3,500	2,500	3,468	-
Telephone	1,850	1,775	1,804	1,643
Hydro	14,700	13,200	12,170	9,257
Alarm	1,375	1,375	1,365	1,178
Gas	7,000	6,000	5,105	3,684
Cellular	3,850	3,600	3,803	2,713
Travel	700	700	1,659	906
Property Taxes	54,650	47,885	44,510	35,269
Insurance	15,450	14,250	14,206	11,828
Audit Fees	3,500	2,000	3,049	2,579
Bank Service Charges	9,850	9,225	10,286	10,988
Land Acquisition	745,000	1,180,000	1,184,070	-
Permit/Approval Fees	-	-	300	-
Pay & Display Software Monitoring	6,550	6,000	6,482	5,953
Equipment	381,250	292,500	368,489	727,281
Equipment Rental	-	100	380	-
Vehicle Recovery	106,700	74,300	104,136	85,958
Equipment Recovery	10,750	10,750	8,772	8,485
	<b>2,381,700</b>	<b>2,894,400</b>	<b>2,880,515</b>	<b>2,225,686</b>

# 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.

## 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 at the CLOCA main office. The Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program will fund 50 per cent of the cost, with CLOCA proposing to install charging stations for the corporate fleet in the garage and vehicle compound.

Vehicles and Equipment				
	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>				
General Levy	(38,650)	62,400	40,335	60,710
Municipal Special Levy	30,000	-	-	-
Federal Grants	30,000	-	-	-
Other Revenue	-	-	4,070	-
Rental Recovery	156,850	137,250	147,312	114,855
	<b>178,200</b>	<b>199,650</b>	<b>191,717</b>	<b>175,565</b>
<b>Cost and Expenditures</b>				
Salaries & Wages	5,400	11,500	5,668	9,440
Benefits	1,600	3,400	1,625	2,632
Materials & Supplies	3,300	3,300	1,828	2,069
Services	27,000	27,000	28,717	22,626
Fuel	38,500	36,000	35,386	28,908
Small Tools	2,000	2,000	2,242	500
Insurance	21,900	21,750	21,855	21,880
Licence	2,000	2,000	1,663	1,664
Equipment Purchases	75,000	15,000	17,534	14,888
Vehicle Purchases	-	75,000	74,039	69,175
Vehicle Recovery	1,500	2,700	1,161	1,783
	<b>178,200</b>	<b>199,650</b>	<b>191,717</b>	<b>175,565</b>

# 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.

### Governance

**With the recent changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and associated regulations, in 2022 staff will be making some procedural changes to increase transparency and accountability such as posting of additional information on our website, changes to our budgetary procedural, amendments to our Administrative Procedural By-law and submitting quarterly progress reports to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.**

### Desktop Hardware and Software Upgrades and Maintenance

This includes the costs for ongoing licensing of software and the purchase of hardware to replace aging/outdated components.

### Server/Network Infrastructure Upgrades and Maintenance

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has a heavy operational dependency on Information Technology, including Wide and Local Area Networks (WANs and LANs), database servers, Intranet, Internet, and email. The potential loss of operational control of essential IT services has the potential to have a negative impact on the flow of information

and data that staff, and stakeholders depend on daily. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will continue work on the development and implementation of its hybrid cloud business continuity plan to lay the foundation for future expansion of the information technology infrastructure. In 2023, specific network infrastructure and licensing acquisitions are planned to secure the availability of all applications and services to users.

### Conservation Authority's Application Development Shared Services Agreement

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, along with Conservation Halton, Mississippi Valley, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha Region and Otonabee Region Conservation Authorities have implemented a coordinated shared services application development program. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority has been acting as the lead agency providing planning, development, operation, and maintenance support for the Conservation Authority Content Management System (CACMS), Reference Library, Vehicle Bookings, and their future applications. The shared services agreement helps to standardize application development and business processes amongst the participating Conservation Authorities and ensure sustainability. In 2023, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority will be onboarding into the system.

### Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Data Portal

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will continue its work on the 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)

Continuation to enhance CLOCA's water and climate monitoring system (WISKI) to gain efficiencies in data collection, manipulation, and interpretation. The system will continue to expand to incorporate other business areas to facilitate data maintenance, analysis, and dissemination of CLOCA's monitoring information network. Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority is participating in the Ontario Job Creation Partnership program in 2023 to help augment staff resources and assist in the migration to the WISKI platform.

### Office Environmental Monitoring

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority continues to work through environmental site monitoring and risk assessments for contaminated land surrounding the 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.

## 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 2023 communications' products continue to build media relations, 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; social media postings; developing new online services; servicing the communication needs of all CLOCA departments with branding, editing and publication services; supporting external community environmentally themed programs and projects with partners and stakeholders.

In 2023 a focus will be on developing a Conservation Areas' guide, combining all current guides into one resource (print and digital); updating CLOCA's Conservation Areas' kiosk signage panels, trail markers and trailheads in compliance with AODA requirements. The kiosk panels will feature updated, 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.

In 2023, CLOCA will have finalized and launched an updated corporate website, brought into AODA compliance to ensure CLOCA resources and corporate information are accessible to all.

### 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 4,000 individuals. The e-newsletters are well received and offer CLOCA another tool to engage a broad audience in showcasing the work CLOCA performs across all departments.

## Main Office Capital Improvements

### Engineering and Operations Gate Repair

Gates for the vehicle compound will be altered to provide greater gate spans and improve access for vehicles.

### Exterior Lighting

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority will replace an aged parking lot security light on a deteriorating wood pole with energy efficient security lighting for the office and parking area.



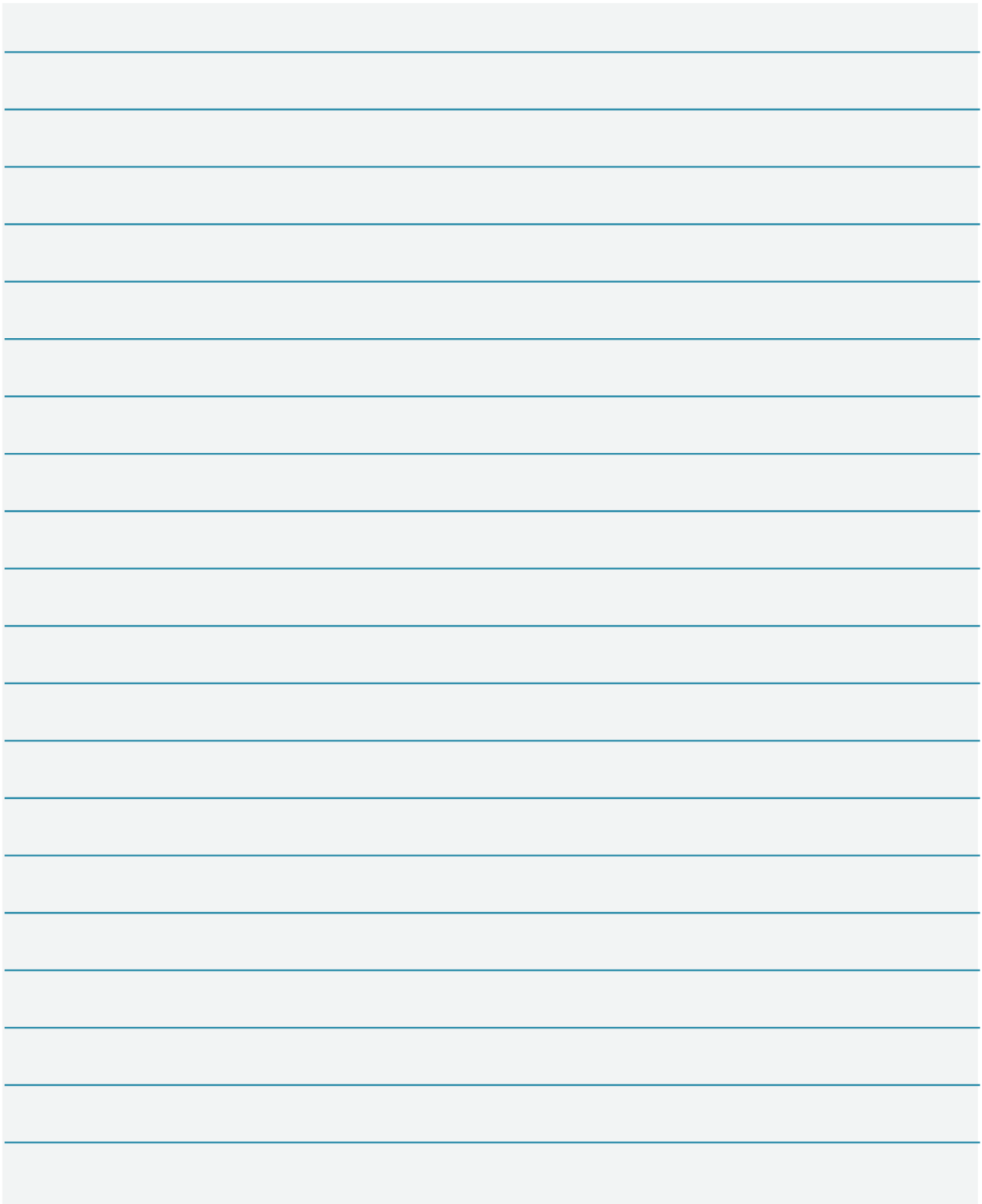


## Corporate Services

Revenue	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
General Levy	1,820,760	1,651,435	1,411,694	1,378,830
Municipal Special Levy	-	40,000	40,000	40,000
MNRF Transfer Payment	10,945	10,945	10,945	10,945
Other Grants Federal	4,200	2,100	2,100	
Other Revenue	100,400	68,700	90,209	78,962
Interest Earned	124,140	20,000	116,902	13,928
Administrative Services	50,000	44,750	44,750	40,000
	<b>2,110,445</b>	<b>1,837,930</b>	<b>1,716,600</b>	<b>1,562,665</b>

Cost and Expenditures	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Salaries & Wages	1,225,000	1,009,800	974,786	898,450
Benefits	341,200	275,415	252,978	221,411
Members Per Diems	8,500	8,500	7,400	7,950
Office Supplies	2,000	4,785	1,534	2,125
Postage	3,000	2,525	2,847	2,628
Printing	3,500	5,000	2,438	1,520
Promotion	1,800	225	407	(245)
Uniform Purchases	1,900	1,100	452	7,509
Travel	2,200	2,355	634	292
Cellular	3,120	2,700	2,514	2,589
Course Registration	26,500	26,500	18,090	7,557
Bank Service Charges	2,000	5,000	1,898	4,833
Payroll Processing Fees	7,700	6,700	7,409	6,400
Publications & Subscriptions	24,400	12,900	13,905	11,371
Services	121,500	113,000	81,546	58,095
Materials & Supplies	17,700	17,200	13,345	6,805
Equipment Rental	14,000	15,000	14,002	13,994
Capital Assets/Equipment	75,000	116,000	113,196	116,417
Property Taxes	8,500	6,000	8,024	3,276
Utilities	42,600	42,400	38,017	35,383
Insurance	58,175	53,765	53,794	42,363
Legal Fees	15,000	15,000	5,763	21,934
Audit Fees	36,000	26,000	32,585	24,233
Software	31,700	26,000	34,364	31,646
Donation	400	400	200	100
Vehicle/Equipment Recovery	1,500	9,500	413	422
Conservation Ontario Levy	35,550	34,160	34,059	33,606
	<b>2,110,445</b>	<b>1,837,930</b>	<b>1,716,600</b>	<b>1,562,665</b>

# Notations





**ADMIN OFFICE**

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**WEBSITE**

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# REPORT

## CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**DATE:** May 16, 2023  
**FILE:** AFNA41  
**S.R.:** 5834-23  
**TO:** Chair and Members, CLOCA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Rose Catulli, Director, Corporate Services  
**SUBJECT:** **Draft 2022 Audited Financial Statements**

APPROVED BY C.A.O. 

The purpose of this Staff Report is to seek the Board of Directors approval of the Authority's 2022 Draft Audited Statements.

Under separate cover are the Authority's 2022 Financial Statements, prepared by staff and audited by BDO Canada, the Auditor's letter to the Board of Directors and the Management letter.

The accumulated surplus of \$37,117,049 (2021 – \$35,164,162) is made up of investments in tangible capital assets \$31,892,729 (2021 - \$30,533,271) and reserves \$5,224,319 (2021 - \$4,630,891). The reserve number is net of encumbrances for employee future benefits and vacation pay liability.

The Statement of Operations shows an Annual Surplus of \$1,952,887 (2021 - \$1,316,699) which accounts for all reserve transactions approved by the Board, encumbrances for Employee Future Benefits and Vacation Pay Liability and additions, disposals, and amortization of tangible capital assets.

Demand for planning services in 2022 increased over 2021 based on the readiness of large-scale residential development projects to proceed across the watershed. Permit revenue was ahead of budget \$83k based on high demand for approvals related to personal property improvements.

Deferred plan review fees are at \$1,625,561 (2021 - \$1,262,189); this is attributed to a large volume of planning applications for which the majority of CLOCA technical review will be required in subsequent years.

The Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations expenses have been adjusted to reflect the capitalization of all tangible assets during the year and as such have decreased the 2022 budget accordingly (\$1.8M). Corporate Services expenses include year-end adjustments for Employee Future Benefits (\$32k), sick leave entitlements (\$7k) and vacation pay liability (-\$8k) totalling \$32,125. C.A. land management expenses include the final phase of the LSCA main entrance development (\$69k), the completion of the Heber Down Reside Dace compensation work (\$75k) and the St. Marys' land acquisition (\$1.2M).

CLOCA ended the year with an operational surplus (exclusive of any Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board for financial statement presentation purposes) of \$260,713 (2021 - \$471,680); additional entries totalling \$32,122 representing employee future benefits decreased the operation surplus to \$228,590.

In the Auditor's Report, the following matter has been identified:

1. The Authority exercises control over the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Fund and as such, the financial statements have been prepared on a non-consolidated basis, which constitutes a departure from Canadian public sector accounting standards.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

***THAT the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, be approved as presented;  
THAT a copy of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements be posted on the Authority's website and forwarded to the Region of Durham; and  
THAT BDO Canada be appointed as CLOCA Auditors for the year ending December 31, 2023.***

ATTACH.

**Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority**  
**Non-Consolidated Financial Statements**  
For the year ended December 31, 2022

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## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (the "Authority") are the responsibility of the Authority's management and have been prepared in compliance with legislation, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of The Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. A summary of the significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The Authority's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by Management.

Members meet with Management and the external auditors to review the financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by BDO Canada LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the Authority. The accompanying Independent Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Authority's financial statements.

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Chair  
Elizabeth Roy

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Vice Chair  
Bob Chapman

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## Independent Auditor's Report

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To the Members of Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the non-consolidated financial statements of Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (the Authority), which comprise the non-consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the non-consolidated statements of operations, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and notes to the non-consolidated financial statements.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying non-consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the non-consolidated financial position of the Authority as at December 31, 2022, and its non-consolidated results of operations, non-consolidated changes in net financial assets and its non-consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### Basis for Qualified Opinion

As explained in Note 9 to the non-consolidated financial statements, the Authority exercises control over Central Lake Ontario Conservation Fund. These financial statements have been prepared on a non-consolidated basis, which constitutes a departure from Canadian public sector accounting standards. This is a result of a decision taken by management in a prior year. If these financial statements had been prepared on a consolidated basis, cash would have been increased by \$273,686 (2021 - \$224,414), temporary investments would have been increased by \$1,630,688 (2021 - \$2,122,065), accounts receivable would have been increased by \$171, accounts payable would have been increased by \$5,628 (2021 - \$2,579), deferred revenue would have been increased by \$23,301 (2021 - \$23,099), deferred contributions would have been increased by \$382,055 (2021 - \$825,015), accumulated surplus would have been increased by \$1,493,562 (2021 - \$1,495,787), revenue would have been increased by \$60,849 (2021 - \$50,000) and expenses would have been increased by \$63,074 (2021 - \$51,105). Our opinion on the non-consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 was modified accordingly because of the effects of this departure from Canadian public sector accounting standards.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the non-consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the non-consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the non-consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of non-consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the non-consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Authority or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Authority's financial reporting process.



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## Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

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### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the non-consolidated Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the non-consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these non-consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the non-consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the non-consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the non-consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the non-consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Barrie, Ontario  
May 16, 2023

## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2022	2021
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash and temporary investments (Note 2)	\$ 3,053,405	\$ 6,522,899
Short-term investments (Note 3)	3,749,760	-
Accounts receivable		
Government grants and projects	1,568,284	1,474,223
Other	693,658	396,478
	<b>9,065,107</b>	<b>8,393,600</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	659,812	946,425
Vehicle loan	9,988	16,620
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	1,890,374	1,584,844
Employee future benefits payable	870,833	838,932
Vacation pay liability	122,848	130,451
Sick leave entitlements (Note 6)	375,986	368,162
	<b>3,929,841</b>	<b>3,885,434</b>
<b>Net Financial Assets</b>	<b>5,135,266</b>	<b>4,508,166</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Prepaid expenses	89,054	122,725
Tangible capital assets (Note 12)	31,861,886	30,473,785
Construction in progress	30,843	59,486
	<b>31,981,783</b>	<b>30,655,996</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus (Note 7)</b>	<b>\$ 37,117,049</b>	<b>\$ 35,164,162</b>

On behalf of the Board:

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

\_\_\_\_\_ Director

## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	2022 Budget (Note 8)	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>			
Government grants			
Municipal levy	\$ 4,274,135	\$ 4,274,135	\$ 4,169,890
Special regional levy	930,000	881,467	405,269
Federal	73,100	123,130	88,712
Transfer payments	64,445	64,445	64,445
Other grants	50,000	51,000	50,000
Provincial other	150,000	176,182	35,000
Authority generated	4,138,560	4,537,242	4,165,121
Gain on disposition of tangible capital assets	-	15,710	9,667
	<u>9,680,240</u>	<u>10,123,311</u>	<u>8,988,104</u>
<b>Expenses (Note 13)</b>			
C.A. land management	1,531,550	1,584,330	1,788,748
Environmental plan review and regulations	1,774,640	1,838,950	1,645,385
Corporate services	1,721,930	1,798,897	1,544,927
Watershed management and monitoring	1,435,485	1,515,974	1,257,937
Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program	915,000	883,350	859,310
Community engagement	500,525	548,923	575,098
	<u>7,879,130</u>	<u>8,170,424</u>	<u>7,671,405</u>
<b>Annual surplus</b>	<u>\$ 1,801,110</u>	<u>\$ 1,952,887</u>	<u>\$ 1,316,699</u>
<b>Accumulated surplus, beginning of year</b>		<u>\$ 35,164,162</u>	<u>\$ 33,847,463</u>
<b>Accumulated surplus, end of year</b>		<u>\$ 37,117,049</u>	<u>\$ 35,164,162</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

**Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority  
Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets**

<b>For the year ended December 31</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	Budget (Note 8)	Actual	Actual
<b>Annual Surplus</b>	\$ 1,801,110	\$ 1,952,887	\$ 1,316,699
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,801,110)	(1,841,049)	(785,370)
Amortization	-	447,798	391,888
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	20,860	9,667
Gain on disposition of tangible capital assets	-	(15,710)	(9,667)
Construction in progress	-	28,643	(58,672)
	(1,801,110)	(1,359,458)	(452,154)
Change in prepaid expenses	-	33,671	(49,693)
<b>Change in net financial assets</b>	-	627,100	814,852
<b>Net financial assets, beginning of year</b>	4,508,166	4,508,166	3,693,314
<b>Net financial assets, end of year</b>	\$ 4,508,166	\$ 5,135,266	\$ 4,508,166

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2022	2021
<b>Cash provided by (used in)</b>		
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Annual surplus	\$ 1,952,887	\$ 1,316,699
Items not involving cash		
Amortization	447,798	391,888
Gain on disposition of tangible capital assets	(15,710)	(9,667)
Changes in non-cash operating balances		
Accounts receivable		
Government grants and projects	(94,061)	(894,783)
Other	(297,180)	338,025
Prepaid expenses	33,671	(49,693)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(286,613)	444,896
Deferred revenue	305,530	575,992
Employee future benefits payable	31,901	29,829
Vacation pay liability	(7,603)	(7,195)
Sick leave entitlements	7,824	(68,208)
	2,078,444	2,067,783
<b>Capital transactions</b>		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,841,049)	(785,370)
Proceeds on disposition of tangible capital assets	20,860	9,667
Construction in progress	28,643	(58,672)
	(1,791,546)	(834,375)
<b>Cash flows from investing activity</b>		
Purchase of investments	(3,749,760)	-
<b>Cash flows from financing activity</b>		
Repayment of vehicle loan	(6,632)	(6,631)
<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(3,469,494)</b>	<b>1,226,777</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	6,522,899	5,296,122
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 3,053,405</b>	<b>\$ 6,522,899</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,053,405	\$ 3,793,563
Short-term deposits with maturities of three months or less (Note 1)	2,000,000	2,729,336
	<b>\$ 3,053,405</b>	<b>\$ 6,522,899</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these non-consolidated financial statements.

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# Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

## Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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### 1. Significant Accounting Policies

#### Management Responsibility and Basis of Presentation

The non-consolidated financial statements of the entity are the responsibility of management. They have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards established by the Public Sector Accounting Board.

#### Nature of Business

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority was established on July 17, 1958 by Order-in-Council No. 2389/58 in accordance with the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario. The objects of the Authority as stated by the Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O. 1990 are "to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals".

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand, bank balances and investments in commercial paper from chartered banks with maturities of three months or less.

#### Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Cost includes all costs directly attributable to acquisition or construction of tangible capital assets. Contributed tangible capital assets are recorded at fair value at the time of the donation, with a corresponding amount recorded as revenue. Amortization is recorded on a straight-line basis over the estimated life of the tangible capital asset as follows:

Land improvements	5 - 50 years
Building and building improvements	5 - 50 years
Infrastructure	8 - 50 years
Machinery and equipment	3 - 25 years
Computer hardware and software	3 - 10 years
Vehicles	5 - 15 years
Furniture and fixtures	10 years

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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

**December 31, 2022**

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### 1. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

<b>Reserves</b>	Certain amounts, as approved by the Board of Directors, are set aside in reserves for future operating and capital purposes. Transfers to and/or from reserves are an adjustment to the respective reserve when approved.
<b>Revenue Recognition</b>	Municipal revenues are recognized in the year they are levied to member municipalities. Authority generated revenues and other revenues are recognized when they are invoiced and collection is reasonably assured.
<b>Government Transfers</b>	Government transfers are recognized as revenue in the financial statements when the transfer is authorized and any eligibility criteria are met, except to the extent that transfer stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability. Transfers are recognized as deferred revenue when transfer stipulations give rise to a liability. Transfer revenue is recognized in the statement of operations as the stipulation liabilities are settled.
<b>Use of Estimates</b>	The preparation of non-consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the year. The principal estimates and judgments used in the preparation of these non-consolidated financial statements are the estimated useful life of tangible capital assets, impairment of tangible capital assets and the estimates involved in employee future benefits and sick leave entitlements. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

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# Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

## Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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### 1. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### Employee Future Benefits

The Authority provides defined retirement and other future benefits to specified employee groups. These benefits include pension, life insurance and health care benefits for retirees. The Authority has adopted the following policies with respect to accounting for these employee benefits:

(i) The costs of employee future benefit plans are actuarially determined using their professional estimate of salary escalation, insurance and health care cost trends, long-term inflation rates and discount rates.

For employee future benefits that vest or accumulate over the periods of service provided by employees, such as life insurance and health benefits for retirees, the cost is actuarially determined using the projected benefit method prorated on service. Under this method, the benefit costs are recognized over the expected average service life of the employee group.

(ii) The Authority is an employer member of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS), which is a multi-employer, defined benefit pension plan. The Board of Trustees, representing plan members and employers, is responsible for overseeing the management of the pension plan, including investment of the assets and administration of the benefits. The Authority has adopted defined contribution plan accounting principles for this Plan because insufficient information is available to apply defined benefit plan accounting principles. The Authority records as pension expense the current service cost, amortization of past service costs and interest costs related to the future employer contributions to the Plan for past employee service.



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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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### 2. Temporary Investments

Temporary investments are comprised of Guaranteed Investment Certificates from chartered banks with effective interest rate between 3.85% - 4.06% and which mature in less than three months from year end.

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### 3. Short-term Investments

Guaranteed investment certificates held at December 31, 2022 mature within a year from the current year end. They bear stated fixed rates of interest ranging between 4.24% - 4.33% and expire between May and December 2023.

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Draft - Subject to Change

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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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#### 4. Deferred Revenue

Effective for 2014 onwards, all grants previously deferred, which do not have an explicit stipulation, have been recognized as revenue. At the year end, the Authority had received but not earned revenue in the amount of \$1,890,374.

	2022	2021
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,584,844	\$ 1,008,852
Contributions received	1,009,174	1,176,952
Amounts recognized to revenue	(703,644)	(600,960)
	<b>\$ 1,890,374</b>	<b>\$ 1,584,844</b>

Year end balances consist of the following:

	2022	2021
Facility fees and deposits	\$ 3,822	\$ 3,288
Fill Sites	167,565	167,565
YPDT - CTC	56,649	11,489
Plan review fees	1,625,561	1,262,189
Other	36,777	140,313
	<b>\$ 1,890,374</b>	<b>\$ 1,584,844</b>

Fill sites are defined as the importation of excess soil that has been excavated or removed, mainly during construction activities, that must be moved off site. Revenue is recognized as excess soil is placed throughout the watershed.

Plan review fees are received by the Authority as part of the land use planning system in partnership with local municipalities and the Region of Durham. The Authority reviews land use plans to provide formal comments that address environmental and public safety considerations. These amounts are recognized as revenue as directly related expenses are incurred.

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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

### 5. Employee Future Benefits Payable

At December 31, 2022, the Authority's accrued benefit liability relating to post retirement benefit plans is as follows:

	2022	2021
Accrued benefit liability, beginning of year	\$ 838,932	\$ 809,103
Current service costs	49,020	42,623
Interest cost on obligation	19,108	15,569
Employer contribution	(21,472)	(18,006)
Amortized gains and losses	(14,755)	(10,357)
	<b>\$ 870,833</b>	<b>\$ 838,932</b>

#### (i) Retirement Life Insurance and Health Care Benefits

The Authority continues to provide life insurance (reduced by 50% for early retirees), dental and health care benefits to certain employee groups after retirement for 5 years or age 65, whichever comes first. The Authority provides these benefits through an unfunded defined benefit plan. The benefit costs and liabilities related to this plan are based on an actuarial valuation prepared by an independent firm. The date of the last actuarial valuation was as at December 31, 2022.

These actuarial valuations were based on assumptions about future events. The economic assumptions used in these valuations are the Authority's best estimates of expected rates of:

	2022	2021
Salary escalation (*)	3.50%	3.50%
Insurance and health care costs escalation	4.00-6.50%	4.00-6.50%
Discount on accrued benefit obligations	2.75-5.00%	2.25-2.75%

(\*) Salary escalation is based on long-term projections for inflation, real wages and increases for merit. Actual salaries are paid according to a payroll grid. The overall grid rates increased by 1.75% (2021 - 1.50%) over the prior year.

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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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### 5. Employee Future Benefits Payable (continued)

#### (ii) Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS)

The Authority makes contributions to the Ontario Municipal Employees' Retirement System ("OMERS"), which is a multi-employer plan, on behalf of all full-time members of its staff. The plan is a defined benefit plan, which specifies that amount of the retirement benefit to be received by the employees based on the length of service and rates of pay. The Board of Trustees, representing plan members and employers, is responsible for overseeing the management of the pension plan, including the investment of assets and administration of benefits. OMERS provides pension services to more than 500,000 active and retired members and approximately 1,000 employees.

Each year an independent actuary determines the status of OMERS Primary Pension Plan (the Plan) by comparing the actuarial value of invested assets to the estimated present value of all pension benefits that members have earned to date. The most recent actuarial valuation of the Plan was conducted at December 31, 2022. The results of this valuation disclosed total actuarial liabilities of \$130.3 billion in respect of benefits accrued for service with actuarial assets at that date of \$123.6 billion indicating an actuarial deficit of \$6.7 billion. Because OMERS is a multi-employer plan, any pension plan surpluses or deficits are a joint responsibility of Ontario municipal organizations and their employees. As a result, the Authority does not recognize any share of the OMERS pension surplus or deficit. Contributions made by the Authority to OMERS for 2022 were \$467,339 (2021 - \$455,456).

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### 6. Sick Leave Entitlements

The Authority provides permanent employees with sick leave credits of 1.5 days per month of service, which accumulates if unused and is available for use in the event that the employee becomes ill. No benefits are payable on retirement or termination of employment. The sick leave entitlement estimates the use of accumulated sick leave prior to retirement.

At December 31, 2022, the Authority's accrued sick leave entitlement is as follows:

	2022	2021
<b>Sick leave entitlements, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$ 368,162</b>	<b>\$ 436,370</b>
Current service costs	18,775	29,615
Interest cost on obligation	8,104	7,265
Benefits paid during the year	(11,866)	(98,770)
Amortized gains and losses	(7,189)	(6,318)
	<b>\$ 375,986</b>	<b>\$ 368,162</b>

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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

### 7. Accumulated Surplus

The Authority segregates its accumulated surplus in the following categories:

	2022	2021
Surplus - investment in tangible capital assets (a)	\$ 31,861,886	\$ 30,473,785
Surplus - investment in asset under construction	30,843	59,486
	<b>31,892,729</b>	<b>30,533,271</b>
Reserve funds:		
Working capital (b)	3,612,187	3,244,439
Vehicles and equipment (c)	798,778	708,778
Land operations (d)	367,735	297,735
Land acquisition (e)	54,070	54,070
Forest management (f)	124,497	124,497
Rogers capital project (g)	173,910	187,141
Schillings land acquisition (h)	14,442	14,231
Natural heritage (i)	78,700	-
	<b>5,224,319</b>	<b>4,630,891</b>
Total reserves	<b>5,224,319</b>	<b>4,630,891</b>
Accumulated surplus	<b>\$ 37,117,048</b>	<b>\$ 35,164,162</b>

#### a) Investment in Tangible Capital Assets

The investment in tangible capital assets represents amounts already spent and invested in infrastructure and other non-financial assets.

#### b) Reserve for Working Capital

This reserve was established to provide operating funds. No provincial funds are included in this reserve.

#### c) Reserve for Replacement of Vehicles and Equipment

This reserve was established for the purchase and replacement of vehicles and equipment. No provincial funds are included in this reserve.

#### d) Reserve for Land Operations

This reserve was established from the surplus from construction contracts. The funds will be used towards future land operations. There are no provincial funds included in this reserve.

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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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### 7. Accumulated Surplus (continued)

#### e) Reserve for Land Acquisition

This reserve was established from the sale of properties in the Municipality of Clarington. No provincial funds are included in this reserve.

#### f) Forest Management Reserve

The reserve was established from the net revenue from timber sales on Authority properties for future management costs relating to Authority forest properties.

#### g) Reserve for Rogers Capital Project

The reserve was established from the surplus from the Rogers project. The funds will be used towards future capital improvements to the Rogers project.

#### h) Reserve for Schillings Land Acquisition

A condition of the Nature Conservancy of Canada/OQO funding agreement requires CLOCA to establish an endowment fund for the property equivalent to 15% of the land value (\$13,500). The endowment fund is to be invested in such a way as to produce an investment return in the capital which will be used for stewardship of the land.

#### i) Reserve for Natural Heritage

This reserve was established from the administration fee/net surplus from natural heritage, stewardship, and restoration projects. The funds will be used to support future watershed health improvement programs, projects and services.

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### 8. Budget Figures (Unaudited)

The 2022 budget amounts approved by the Board of Directors on May 10, 2022 were not prepared on a basis consistent with that used to report actual results under Public Sector Accounting Standards. The budget was prepared on a modified accrual basis while Public Sector Accounting Standards now require full accrual basis. The budget figures anticipated use of surpluses accumulated in previous years to reduce current year expenditures in excess of current revenues to \$Nil. In addition, the budget expensed all tangible capital expenditures rather than including amortization expense. As a result, the budget figures presented in the statement of operations and changes in net financial assets represent the budget adopted by the Authority on May 10, 2022 adjusted for the acquisition of tangible capital assets of \$1,801,110.

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## Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2022

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### 9. Reporting Entity

The Authority exercises control over the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Fund (the "Fund") by virtue of its common board members. The Fund was established to raise funds and obtain resources for the exclusive use of the Authority. The Fund is incorporated without share capital and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. Included in accounts receivable at December 31, 2022 is \$3,048 (2021 - \$2,579) owing from the Fund.

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### 10. Segmented Reporting

The Public Sector Accounting Handbook Section PS 2700, Segment Disclosures, establishes standards on defining and disclosing segments in a government's financial statements. Government organizations that apply these standards are encouraged to provide the disclosures established by this section when their operations are diverse enough to warrant such disclosures. The Authority's operations are not diverse enough to warrant these disclosures.

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### 11. Comparative Figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.

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**Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority  
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements**

December 31, 2022

**12. Tangible Capital Assets**

									2022
	Land	Land Improvements	Building & Building Improvements	Infrastructure	Machinery & Equipment	Computer Hardware & Software	Vehicles	Furniture & Fixtures	Total
Cost, beginning of year	\$24,278,784	\$ 1,588,348	\$ 5,924,217	\$ 1,639,428	\$1,043,556	\$ 615,229	\$ 569,624	\$ 122,301	\$ 35,781,487
Additions	1,210,352	-	106,451	271,985	144,016	35,977	72,268	-	1,841,049
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(11,707)	-	(29,742)	-	(41,449)
Cost, end of year	<u>25,489,136</u>	<u>1,588,348</u>	<u>6,030,668</u>	<u>1,911,413</u>	<u>1,175,865</u>	<u>651,206</u>	<u>612,150</u>	<u>122,301</u>	<u>37,581,087</u>
Accumulated amortization, beginning of year	-	1,017,968	1,924,313	749,249	696,798	487,346	314,223	117,805	5,307,702
Amortization	-	61,593	131,146	71,758	62,418	44,101	75,912	870	447,798
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(11,707)	-	(24,592)	-	(36,299)
Accumulated amortization, end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>1,079,561</u>	<u>2,055,459</u>	<u>821,007</u>	<u>747,509</u>	<u>531,447</u>	<u>365,543</u>	<u>118,675</u>	<u>5,719,201</u>
Net carrying amount, end of year	<u>\$25,489,136</u>	<u>\$ 508,787</u>	<u>\$ 3,975,209</u>	<u>\$ 1,090,406</u>	<u>\$ 428,356</u>	<u>\$ 119,759</u>	<u>\$ 246,607</u>	<u>\$ 3,626</u>	<u>\$ 31,861,886</u>



**Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority  
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements**

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**12. Tangible Capital Assets (continued)**

									2021
	Land	Land Improvements	Building & Building Improvements	Infrastructure	Machinery & Equipment	Computer Hardware & Software	Vehicles	Furniture & Fixtures	Total
Cost, beginning of year	\$24,278,784	\$ 1,516,778	\$ 5,924,217	\$ 1,152,061	\$ 955,724	\$ 565,155	\$ 564,512	\$ 122,301	\$35,079,532
Additions		71,570	-	517,367	87,832	50,074	58,527	-	785,370
Disposals	-	-	-	(30,000)	-	-	(53,415)	-	(83,415)
Cost, end of year	<u>24,278,784</u>	<u>1,588,348</u>	<u>5,924,217</u>	<u>1,639,428</u>	<u>1,043,556</u>	<u>615,229</u>	<u>569,624</u>	<u>122,301</u>	<u>35,781,487</u>
Accumulated amortization, beginning of year	-	962,269	1,792,801	735,073	641,704	445,415	305,032	116,935	4,999,229
Amortization	-	55,699	131,512	44,176	55,094	41,931	62,606	870	391,888
Disposals	-	-	-	(30,000)	-	-	(53,415)	-	(83,415)
Accumulated amortization, end of year	-	<u>1,017,968</u>	<u>1,924,313</u>	<u>749,249</u>	<u>696,798</u>	<u>487,346</u>	<u>314,223</u>	<u>117,805</u>	<u>5,307,702</u>
Net carrying amount, end of year	<u>\$24,278,784</u>	<u>\$ 570,380</u>	<u>\$ 3,999,904</u>	<u>\$ 890,179</u>	<u>\$ 346,758</u>	<u>\$ 127,883</u>	<u>\$ 255,401</u>	<u>\$ 4,496</u>	<u>\$30,473,785</u>

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**Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority  
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**13. Expenses by Object**

	2022	2021
Wages and benefits	\$ 5,859,392	\$ 5,524,451
Program related expenses	585,578	448,996
Amortization	447,798	391,888
Conservation area maintenance and planning	152,367	564,636
Professional fees and insurance	531,898	322,467
Property management	301,110	200,219
Head office utilities and office maintenance	103,379	69,647
Vehicle and equipment	84,312	59,175
Computer and geomatics	50,197	57,261
Office equipment and supplies	26,489	23,261
Corporate communications	19,862	10,825
Members' expense	8,042	8,246
	\$ 8,170,424	\$ 7,681,072

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Draft - Subject to Change