



LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

714 Murray Street, R.R. 1, Trenton, Ontario K8V 0N1

■ Tel: 613-394-4829 ■ Fax: 613-394-5226 ■ Website: www.ltc.on.ca ■ Email: information@ltc.on.ca

Registered Charitable Organization No. 107646598RR0001

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors refers to the General Membership as set out in the Lower Trent Conservation Administrative By-Law No. 2023-01

Administration Office, 714 Murray Street, Trenton
Virtually [Join Meeting HERE](#)
Thursday, April 9, 2026
Time: 3:15 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

4. Approval of the Agenda

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

5. Closed Session

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Board go in to Closed Session under Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* regarding Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including (municipal) employees.

6. Delegations

There are no requests for delegations received for this meeting.

7. Public Input (3 minutes per speaker)

8. Adoption of the Minutes:

a. Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes March 12, 2026

Page # 4

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Regular and Closed Session Meeting minutes of March 12, 2026 be adopted.

9. Business arising from these minutes

Letter to ALTO regarding the Board resolution

CORRESPONDENCE

10. Correspondence – Rhonda Bateman, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Page # 9

- a) 2026-03-23 – Lower Trent Conservation Letter to ALTO
- b) 2026-03-30 – NPCA Resolution FA-31-2026 Correspondence

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the correspondence as provided in the agenda package be received as information.

STAFF REPORTS

11. List of Monthly Payments Issued – Chitra Gowda

Page # 23

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the list of payments issued in the total amount of \$326,084.15 for the month of March 2026 be received as information.

12. Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Update – Scott Robertson, Development and Regulations Lead

Page # 24

- a) Summary of Permits for Period February 28 – March 27, 2026
- b) Planning and Regulations
- c) Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW) and Ontario Low Water Response (OLWR)

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Update be received as information.

13. 2025 LTC Annual Report – Rhonda Bateman

Page # 29

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Lower Trent Conservation 2025 Annual Report be received as information; and
THAT the audited financials be added to the 2025 Annual Report; and
THAT the 2025 Annual Report then be circulated to LTC's member municipalities.

14. Conservation Lands Report - March 31, 2026 – Chris McLeod, Conservation Lands Supervisor

RECOMMENDED:

Page # 41

THAT the Conservation Lands Report for the period January 1 – March 31, 2026 be received as information.

15. Education and Outreach Activities Report – March 31, 2026 – Anne Anderson, Manager, Community Outreach and Special Projects

RECOMMENDED:

Page # 43

THAT the Summary of Education and Outreach Activities Report for the period January 1 – March 31, 2026 be received as information.

- 16. Summary of Risk Management Official Activity Report – March 31, 2026** – Anne Anderson and Marcus Rice, Risk Management Official/Inspector Page # 46

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Risk Management Official Activity Report pursuant to Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* report for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2026 be received as information.

- 17. Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Program** – Anne Anderson Page # 48

- a. March 2026 Newsletter
- b. BQRAP Annual Report Year Ending March 31, 2026

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Newsletter for March 2026 be received as information.

- 18. CAO's Report** – Rhonda Bateman Page # 69

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the CAO's Report be received as information.

- 19. Members Inquiries/Other Business**

- 20. Adjournment**

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

Chitra Gowda 613-394-3915 ext. #215 chitra.gowda@lrc.on.ca



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors refers to the General Membership as set out in the Lower Trent Conservation Administrative By-Law No. 2023-01

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING # 2026-02

DATE: March 12, 2026

TIME: 12:59 PM

LOCATION: Administration Office, 714 Murray Street, Trenton / Virtually

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

ON SITE		REMOTE SITE
Sherry Hamilton (Chair)	Jeff Wheeldon (Vice-Chair)	Lynda Reid
Eugene (Gene) Brahaney	Eric Sandford	
Bob Mullin	Jim Alyea	
Bobbi Wright	Rick English	
Mike Ainsworth		

ABSENT/REGRETS: None

STAFF: Rhonda Bateman, Chitra Gowda, Scott Robertson, Anne Anderson, Corinne Ross

GUESTS: Dan Coleman, Welch LLP

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hamilton at 12:59 p.m.

2. First Nations Acknowledgement

"This land is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnabek, Huron-Wendat, and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) peoples. We acknowledge our shared responsibilities and obligations to preserve and protect the land, air and water. We are grateful to have the privilege to meet, explore, and connect here on these shared lands. In the spirit of friendship, peace and respect, we extend our thanks to all the generations that came before us and cared for these lands - for time immemorial."

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

4. Approval of the Agenda as amendedRES: G23/26

Moved by: Bobbi Wright

Seconded by: Lynda Reid

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations received for this meeting.

6. Public Input (3 minutes per speaker)

There was no public input at this meeting.

7. Adoption of the Minutes:RES: G24/26

Moved by: Jim Alyea

Seconded by: Eric Sandford

THAT the Annual General Meeting minutes of February 12, 2026 be adopted.

Carried**8. Business arising from these minutes**

None.

CORRESPONDENCE**9. Correspondence**RES: G25/26

Moved by: Bob Mullin

Seconded by: Bobbi Wright

THAT the correspondence as provided in the agenda package be received as information.

Carried**2025 BUSINESS****10. Management of Cheques - January 2026**

Director Alyea noted that Canada Post mailboxes could be vandalised and asked if the cheques were dropped off to a mailbox. Chitra Gowda, Manager Corporate Services and Water Resources, responded that staff had hand delivered the cheques to a staff person at the Canada Post outlet in Shoppers Drug Mart, Trenton. Director Mullin asked if the cleaning company had completed extra cleaning. Chitra Gowda and Rhonda Bateman, CAO, responded that the replacement cheque consolidated multiple payments.

RES: G26/26

Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon

Seconded by: Gene Brahaney

THAT the Management of Cheques - January 2026 staff report be received as information.

11. List of Monthly Payments IssuedRES: G27/26

Moved by: Bobbi Wright

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the list of payments issued in the total amount of \$230,299.56 for the month of February 2026 be received as information.

Carried**12. Audit Report to the Board for Year Ending December 31, 2025**

Dan Coleman (Welch LLP) presented the draft audited financial statement and report for the year ending December 31, 2025. Director Ainsworth asked about the adjusting entry for OMERS. Dan Coleman and Rhonda Bateman responded that the first biweekly payroll of 2026

spanned December 2025 into just a few days of January 2026 and is allocated to employees based on their salaries.

RES: G28/26

Moved by: Eric Sandford

Seconded by: Mike Ainsworth

THAT the Audit Report to the Board, including the Draft Lower Trent Conservation Financial Statements for the period ended December 31, 2025 as prepared and presented by Welch LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants be adopted and circulated.

Carried

13. Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Update

RES: G29/26

Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon

Seconded by: Rick English

THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations Update be received as information.

Carried

14. Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Program

RES: G30/26

Moved by: Eric Sandford

Seconded by: Bob Mullin

THAT the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Newsletter for February 2026 be received as information.

Carried

15. CAO's Report

Rhonda Bateman summarized the letter received from the Minister directing that fees remain frozen at 2022 levels. She also provided an update on the ALTO high speed train proposal related meetings and discussions: she attended the Peterborough roundtable discussion, open house in Madoc, and is planning to attend another open house in Stirling in two weeks. LTC has started to receive phone calls from the public about the proposed high speed train. LTC will send environmental data and information to ALTO including LTC properties, provincially significant wetlands (PSW), wetlands, areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI), karst, etc. Multiple LTC properties would be affected by the proposed south route. The board members discussed the matter in great detail and amended the resolution to reflect the consensus.

Rhonda Bateman also updated the members about the proposed consolidation information from the recent press release and a separate information session that was attended by Chair Hamilton and herself. The number of regions proposed is 9 (previously was 7). The proposed eastern Lake Ontario region now includes Cataraqui and excludes CLOCA. Transition committees will be established comprised of existing CA GMs/CAOs and a board member. The consolidation will be in effect from February 2027 at which time the committees will cease to exist. The Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) received \$20 million start up funds, and will receive \$3 million per year to help conservation authorities transition. Lower tier municipalities will no longer be participating municipalities. Rhonda Bateman added that the LTC capital asset management plan charts a path for the responsible use of funds towards capital assets. The members amended the resolution to support the participation of Chair Hamilton alongside CAO Rhonda Bateman on the proposed transition committee. Chair Hamilton indicated that she appreciated the support of the Board.

RES: G31/26 Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon Seconded by: Rick English
 THAT Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) staff circulate correspondence to ALTO indicating that the LTC Board of Directors does not support the proposed southern route for the high-speed train, in consideration for the potential of negative impacts to agricultural lands, environmentally sensitive lands, roads, and emergency services;

AND THAT ALTO consider the existing railway corridor for the proposed high-speed train, if it is demonstrated to be financially viable;

AND THAT LTC staff share environmental data and information to ALTO.

Carried

RES: G32/26 Moved by: Rick English Seconded by: Bobbi Wright
 THAT the CAO's Report be received as information;

AND THAT Chair Sherry Hamiton be appointed as a member on the Transition Committee.

Carried

16. Closed Session

RES: G33/26 Moved by: Jeff Wheeldon Seconded by: Lynda Reid
 THAT the Board go in to Closed Session under Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, 2001 regarding Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including (municipal) employees.

Carried

Time: 2:31 p.m.

RES: G34/26 Moved by: Lynda Reid Seconded by: Jim Alyea
 THAT the Lower Trent Conservation Board of Directors return to the regular meeting session.

Carried

Time: 2:47 p.m.

RES: G35/26 Moved by: Eric Sandford Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon
 THAT the Lower Trent Conservation Board of Directors receive the report and direct staff to implement it immediately.

Carried

17. Members Inquiries/Other Business

Director Wheeldon raised awareness about Bill 60, with respect to water and wastewater public corporations providing water and sewage services on behalf of some lower-tier municipalities.

Rhonda Bateman shared the good news that the Section 36 amendment to the Source Protection Plan was approved by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. A Source Protection Authority meeting will be held in April 2026.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RES: G36/26

Moved by: Rick English

Seconded by: Jeff Wheeldon

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Time: 2:48 p.m.

Sherry Hamilton, Chair

Rhonda Bateman, CAO/ST

DRAFT



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Public Consultation
ALTO High Speed Rail Corridor

March 23, 2026

RE: Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority Resolution

The Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors passed a resolution at its March 12, 2026 meeting regarding the ALTO High Speed Rail Corridor. The resolution as stated below has many concerns with the proposed southern route of the project bisecting the Lower Trent watershed region.

"THAT Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) staff circulate correspondence to ALTO indicating that the LTC Board of Directors does not support the proposed southern route for the high-speed train, in consideration for the potential of negative impacts to agricultural lands, environmentally sensitive lands, roads, and emergency services;

AND THAT ALTO consider the existing railway corridor for the proposed high-speed train, if it is demonstrated to be financially viable;

AND THAT LTC staff share environmental data and information with ALTO."

The Board of Directors is committed to making available our environmental data for use by ALTO to ensure awareness of provincially significant wetlands and Areas of Scientific Interest within the proposed corridors.

We ask that ALTO contact the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer to initiate the data sharing process.

Regards,

Rhonda Bateman, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority
rhonda.bateman@ltc.on.ca
613-394-3915 ext. 212

Working with Local Communities to Protect our Natural Environment



Member of Conservation Ontario
Representing Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities



3350 Merrittville Hwy. Unit 9
 Thorold Ontario L2V 4Y6
 905.788.3135 | info@npca.ca | npca.ca

March 30, 2026

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Provincial Announcement – Next Steps to Improve Ontario’s Conservation Authority System

Please be advised that at the NPCA’s Full Authority Meeting held on March 27, 2026, the following resolution pertaining to Report FA-02-26 RE: Provincial Announcement – Next Steps to Improve Ontario’s Conservation Authority System was passed:

Resolution No. FA-31-2026

Moved by: Stew Beattie

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

WHEREAS on October 31, 2025, the provincial government announced a proposal to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to lead the implementation of a new regional conservation authority framework;

AND WHEREAS on November 6, 2025, Bill 68, *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No.2)* was introduced in the Ontario Legislature, which proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish OPCA, and on November 27, 2025, Bill 68 received Royal Assent;

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the provincial government posted a policy proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #025-1257) to consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and provided a 45-day commenting period on proposed boundaries and the criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries;

AND WHEREAS on December 5, 2025, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Directors passed Resolution No. FA-131-2025, that stated the Board does not support the “Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models;

AND WHEREAS NPCA’s participating municipalities of Niagara Region, City of Hamilton and Haldimand County, and several watershed lower-tier municipalities passed Council resolutions and submitted comments to the provincial government demonstrating support for the position of the NPCA Board of Directors;

AND WHEREAS on March 10, 2025, the provincial government announced their decision on the boundaries for Ontario’s new nine regional conservation authorities, with the “Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundaries remaining unchanged, and provided further information related to governance and the transition process;



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 Thorold Ontario L2V 4Y6
 905.788.3135 | info@npca.ca | npca.ca

March 30, 2026

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

AND WHEREAS amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and implementing Regulations will be required to facilitate the statutory amalgamation of regional conservation authorities;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

THAT Report No. FA-02-26 RE: Provincial Announcement – Next Steps to Improve Ontario’s Conservation Authority System **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT the NPCA Board of Directors reaffirms their position stated through Resolution No. FA-131-2025;

AND THAT should the provincial government proceed with implementing the proposed regional conservation authority framework and “Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority”, the NPCA will be committed to working constructively with OPCA, local area MPPs, neighbouring conservation authorities, municipalities, sector partners and interested partners to ensure local voices, municipal representations, and unique watershed characteristics continue to guide decisions;

AND THAT the Board requests that OPCA engages meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, conservation authorities, and local First Nations before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation;

AND THAT this resolution and Report No. FA-02-26 be forwarded to Niagara Region; the lower-tier municipalities within Niagara Region; City of Hamilton; Haldimand County; Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; Six Nations of the Grand River; Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee; Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; Ontario’s Chief Conservation Executive; local area MPPs; Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); Conservation Ontario; and all conservation authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED

A copy of Report No. FA-02-26 has been attached for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Melanie Davis
 Manager, Office of the CAO & Board
 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority



3350 Merrittville Hwy. Unit 9
Thorold Ontario L2V 4Y6
905.788.3135 | info@npca.ca | npca.ca

March 30, 2026

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

cc: Leilani Lee-Yates, CAO/Secretary – Treasurer
Regional Municipality of Niagara
Local Area Municipalities
City of Hamilton
Haldimand County
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
Six Nations of the Grand River
Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive
Hon. Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West MPP
Hon. Donna Skelly, Flamborough – Glanbrook MPP
Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines MPP
Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls MPP
Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre MPP
Bobbi-Ann Brady, Haldimand – Norfolk MPP
Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Conservation Authorities in Ontario

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Provincial Announcement – Next Steps to Improve Ontario’s Conservation Authority System

Report No: FA-02-26

Date: March 27, 2026

Recommendation:

WHEREAS on October 31, 2025, the provincial government announced a proposal to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to lead the implementation of a new regional conservation authority framework;

AND WHEREAS on November 6, 2025, Bill 68, *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No.2)* was introduced in the Ontario Legislature, which proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish OPCA, and on November 27, 2025, Bill 68 received Royal Assent;

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the provincial government posted a policy proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #025-1257) to consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and provided a 45-day commenting period on proposed boundaries and the criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries;

AND WHEREAS on December 5, 2025, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Directors passed Resolution No. FA-131-2025, that stated the Board does not support the “Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models;

AND WHEREAS NPCA’s participating municipalities of Niagara Region, City of Hamilton and Haldimand County, and several watershed lower-tier municipalities passed Council resolutions and submitted comments to the provincial government demonstrating support for the position of the NPCA Board of Directors;

AND WHEREAS on March 10, 2025, the provincial government announced their decision on the boundaries for Ontario’s new nine regional conservation authorities, with the “Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundaries remaining unchanged, and provided further information related to governance and the transition process;

AND WHEREAS amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and implementing Regulations will be required to facilitate the statutory amalgamation of regional conservation authorities;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

THAT Report No. FA-02-26 RE: Provincial Announcement – Next Steps to Improve Ontario’s Conservation Authority System **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT the NPCA Board of Directors reaffirms their position stated through Resolution No. FA-131-2025;

AND THAT should the provincial government proceed with implementing the proposed regional conservation authority framework and “Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority”, the NPCA will be committed to working constructively with OPCA, neighbouring conservation authorities, municipalities, sector partners and interested partners to ensure local voices, municipal representations, and unique watershed characteristics continue to guide decisions;

AND THAT the Board requests that OPCA engages meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, conservation authorities, and local First Nations before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation;

AND THAT this resolution and Report No. FA-02-26 be forwarded to Niagara Region; the lower-tier municipalities within Niagara Region; City of Hamilton; Haldimand County; Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation; Six Nations of the Grand River; Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Committee; Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; Ontario’s Chief Conservation Executive; local area MPPs; Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); Conservation Ontario; and all conservation authorities in Ontario.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the decision notice in relation to ERO #025-1257 and next steps proposed by the Province of Ontario for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities.

Background:

On November 7, 2025, the Province posted a policy proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #025-1257) to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs) into seven Regional Conservation Authorities (RCAs) and provided a 45-day commenting period on proposed boundaries and the criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries.

Under this proposal, NPCA would fall under the Western Lake Ontario RCA, along with Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA), Conservation Halton (CH), and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC). The boundaries of the Western Lake Ontario RCA extend along the western Lake Ontario shoreline from Niagara through Halton and Peel, encompassing urban and rural watersheds that support the Greater Toronto-Hamilton corridor.

The Western Lake Ontario RCA is primarily based on the western portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed. The RCA would also include the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area, Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region, and Credit Valley Source Protection Area (which is part of Credit Valley – Toronto and Region – Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Region).

On November 27, 2025, Bill 68, *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No.2)* received Royal Assent and the amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* allow for the establishment of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to implement a new regional conservation authority framework.

On December 5, 2025, NPCA held a Special Meeting of the Full Authority Board to review the ERO comment submission (Report No. FA-59-25) and passed Resolution No. FA-131-2025, that stated the Board does not support the "Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models.

On March 10, 2026, Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Chief Conservation Executive, Mr. Hassaan Basit announced [next steps for the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities](#), including the decision to proceed with a total of nine (9) RCAs. NPCA remains part of the Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority with HCA, CH, and CVC. [Decision details pertaining to ERO #025-1257](#) were posted for review later that day. Over 14,000 comment submissions were received by the provincial government.

Further, on March 10, 2026, the Chairs of the current 36 CAs received a letter from Minister McCarthy regarding next steps for the planned consolidation of regional conservation authorities.

Discussion:

The decision of the provincial government to consolidate the current 36 CAs into nine RCAs was based on feedback received through the ERO consultation process as a part of the government's plan to improve Ontario's conservation authority systems, to ensure CAs have the tools required to protect the communities they serve, supporting economic prosperity while balancing environmental protection and development needs.

The final boundaries were adjusted based on the feedback that the proposed boundaries were too large, did not align with watersheds and covered areas of differing environmental needs. Adjustments were made to accommodate areas with distinct geographies and development contexts, better balance differing priorities across rural, urban, and northern areas and improve alignment with watersheds and with source protection regions.

The new nine RCAs are:

- Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority
- Eastern Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority
- Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority
- Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority
- Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority
- Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority
- St. Lawrence River Regional Conservation Authority
- Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority
- Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Maps of the planned boundaries for the nine RCA's can be viewed on the [OPCA website](#). This spring, the government plans to introduce amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* that, if passed, will enable the consolidation of Ontario's CAs through statutory amalgamation.

Statutory Amalgamation

To address concerns raised around service continuity for communities, the provincial government is proposing statutory amalgamation that intends to avoid disruptions to existing partnerships and agreements with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other partners. On the transition date to occur in early 2027, or a later date prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the former CAs would be amalgamated creating the RCA, and legal continuation is provided for:

- Ensuring all rights, obligations, assets and liabilities from the CAs would become those of the new RCAs.
- Providing for the continuation of all existing agreements, contracts, permitting or other actions underway.

- Ensuring the current jurisdiction of the individual CAs are combined to become the jurisdiction of the consolidated RCA.
- Specifying that the provisions of the *Public Sector Labour Relations Transition Act* would apply to the consolidation of CAs.

The assets, liabilities and agreements of the predecessor CAs would become those of the new RCA. The province indicated that residents would continue to work with the same local teams who know their watershed, understand local issues and provide on-the-ground support.

Transition to Consolidated Conservation Authorities

The transition process will be led by OPCA, providing the tools and resources to coordinate the transition over the next year with the target date of early 2027. The province also announced \$20 million in initial funding to support OPCA in leading the transition and implementation, with an additional \$3 million this year and every following year to be administered by OPCA to support RCAs with program improvements and service delivery.

The Ministry plans to propose amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to facilitate the transition process that would:

- Suspend existing provisions in the *Conservation Authorities Act* allowing for the establishment, enlargement, amalgamation, and dissolution of CAs during the transition period.
- Enable the Minister to issue immediate temporary restrictions on certain activities by CAs, to facilitate the planned consolidation. The intent is to restrict activities related to extraordinary financial, asset, or employment decisions to mitigate risk and ensure a stable transition to the new regional structure. These directions would expire upon consolidation, at the latest.
- Require OPCA to:
 - Establish Transition Committees for each RCA to include the CAO/General Manager and one municipally elected board member from each of the current CAs, and any other members as appointed by OPCA.
 - Appoint Project Executives who will chair the Transition Committees, and upon regional consolidation would serve as inaugural CAO of the RCA for up to 24 months. Following this period, the Board members of the RCA will assume responsibility for long-term CAO decisions.
- Mandate Transition Committees to develop a transition plan to prepare for the consolidation subject to OPCA's review. Project Executives will be able to request information from CAs as needed to support the development of the transition plan.
- Require Board members of RCAs to be selected by the participating municipalities prior to the date of consolidation.

- Require new RCAs to implement the transition plan, with the opportunity to make revisions subject to OPCA's approval, and report on progress of implementation to OPCA.

Governance of Consolidated Conservation Authorities

The RCAs would continue to be municipally governed organizations. The provincial government's plan would make participating municipalities those that are at the upper and single-tier levels, which is already the case for the NPCA. The number of members appointed to each RCA would be streamlined with around 15-20 members, with population-based representation. Each participating municipality would be guaranteed a member, and limitations would be placed on the number of members appointed by any one municipality to ensure fairness and balance.

Participating municipalities for the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority would include the City of Hamilton, Dufferin County, Haldimand County, Halton Region, Niagara Region, Peel Region, and Wellington County.

The Ministry plans to propose further amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* that would:

- Enable the Minister to issue directions regarding the budget and apportionment process for 2027 CA budgets that occurs during 2026.
- Update the CA governance structure for RCAs with participating municipalities being the upper-tier and single-tier municipalities within a CA's area of jurisdiction.
- Set out that the method for determining the number of Board members that each participating municipality appoints to the RCA would be prescribed in regulation based on each participating municipality's proportion of the population in the RCA's jurisdiction; each participating municipality would be guaranteed at least one member. The maximum number of members appointed by all participating municipalities of a CA (maximum board size), and the maximum number of members that any one municipality could appoint are to be established through regulations if legislative amendments are passed, to ensure fairness and balance.
- Update other governance provisions including removing the requirement that 70 per cent of appointments of members to the CA by a participating municipality be elected officials and that the positions of chair and vice chair be filled on a rotating basis between participating municipalities.
- Add that certain knowledge and experience must be considered by municipalities when appointing members to the CA who do not sit on municipal council.

- Update that chairs and vice-chairs may be appointed for two-year terms, and up to a maximum of eight total years served.

Establishing Local Watershed Councils

In response to feedback that emphasized the need for RCAs to continue to rely on the deep local expertise, knowledge and relationships built, the province plans to mandate that each RCA would be required to establish at least one watershed council to ensure local interests are considered and that watershed planning continues to be guided by local knowledge and input. These advisory councils would enable diverse participation from lower-tier municipalities, Indigenous communities and other interested parties that aim to ensure local voices and on-the-ground insights are considered in regional decision-making.

The Ministry plans to propose amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* that would require one or more watershed councils for each RCA and create regulation-making authority to the Minister to outline the number, composition, functions, powers, duties, activities and procedures of watershed councils.

NPCA's Commitment to Continuous Process Improvement and Modernization

While the NPCA supports the proposed provincial investments in technology, standardization and modernization, concerns remain regarding the uncertainties and potential risks associated with regional consolidation including risk to local representation and decision-making, potential loss of local expertise including staff subject matter expertise, and the continued ability to deliver high quality programs and services specific to unique watersheds and communities including natural hazard management.

Should the provincial government move forward with implementing the proposed regional conservation authority framework and Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority, the NPCA will be committed to working constructively with OPCA, neighbouring conservation authorities, municipalities, sector partners and interested partners to ensure local voices, municipal representations, and unique watershed characteristics continue to guide decisions.

NPCA will also ensure that as part of the proposed Transition Committee, our successes and strengths in process improvements and modernization are underscored as best management practices.. Over the last several years, the NPCA has undertaken tremendous work to improve governance, operations, policies, and processes to strengthen the delivery of programs and services. NPCA has implemented all 20 recommendations within the 2018 Auditor General report and is focused on continuous improvements through updating planning and permitting policies, updating corporate policies, developing new guiding strategies, enhancing procedures, and implementing other modernization initiatives, including investments in software and data management.

Since 2014, the NPCA has invested over \$3 million on GIS data; regulation mapping updates (including floodplain mapping); planning policy and procedural updates; dam safety reviews; IT support improvements; and corporate enterprise resource software to support planning and permitting, human resources, budgeting, asset inventory management, and capital planning. This long-term investment has included:

- **CityView** – First launched in 2016, it is the main filing system for all development application activity in the Planning and Development Division. By 2021, CityView has been storing/processing an average of 1,404 file types per year. In addition to providing a consistent workflow for application reviews, CityView query functionality tracks a wide range of metrics for application review times and staff efficiency. During 2026, the NPCA will be implementing several improvements to CityView including additional data fields for metrics tracking, an online Permit application intake portal, and a new module for our Compliance and Enforcement Department. As a significant capital investment for the NPCA, CityView is a powerful system to help provide timely permit approvals and planning application reviews.
- **CityWide and FMW** – NPCA’s enterprise system used for asset management, corporate operating and capital budgeting, and financial reporting, providing a centralized platform to track Authority-owned assets, support annual budget development and financial planning. The system improves data accuracy, consistency, and accountability by standardizing asset and financial information across the organization. Investment includes software licensing and vendor support, with staff time concentrated around the annual budget cycle and ongoing effort for system administration and data maintenance.
- **ArcGIS** – NPCA’s enterprise geographic information system, supporting mapping, spatial analysis, and decision-making related to watershed management, planning, and operations. The platform enables both internal analysis and public-facing maps and applications that improve transparency and access to conservation authority information. Investment includes software licensing, infrastructure, and specialized staff resources to maintain data, systems, and public-facing services.
- **Laserfiche** – NPCA’s enterprise records management system, used to store, manage, and retrieve official corporate records in a secure and compliant manner. It supports improved information governance, efficient retrieval, and reduced reliance on shared drives and paper records. Investment includes licensing and ongoing support, with staff time required for system administration, records structure maintenance, and user onboarding.

NPCA has set an example for how CAs can implement best management practices and we remain committed to continuously improving the delivery of our programs and services for the health and well-being of our local watersheds and communities.

Financial Implications:

Any consolidation of the NPCA with other CAs would require closer examination to determine financial implications with respect to items such as operating and capital budgets, asset management, salaries and benefits for both union and non-union roles, changes to fee schedules, and cost apportionment to the OPCA.

Although not mentioned as part of the proposed regional consolidation of CAs, many CAs, including the NPCA, have a Foundation. Any consolidation of NPCA with other CAs will need to examine financial and governance implications for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 4.1 – Strengthen government relations toward collective outcomes and impact

Related Reports and Appendices:

Report No. FA-59-25 RE: Draft Comments Pertaining to ERO #025-1257 Regarding Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Report No. FA-56-25 RE: Proposed Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

David Decluce, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Agenda item #11.

**Lower Trent Conservation
Payments LOG - MARCH 2026**

CHEQUE # / EFT #	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
	Staff Payroll	Mar/26 Payroll Period #5 and #6	141,175.58
EFT 82749808	OMERS	Mar/26 Pension Contributions	24,926.24
EFT 82721839	Nesda Technologies Ltd	Monthly IT services, project and tickets fees	1,660.54
EFT 82721842	Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada	Apr/26 Group Benefits Premium	9,608.10
EFT 82749846	Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB)	Mar/26 WSIB Premium	4,432.68
EFT 82749917	CIBC VISA	Mar/26 Payment	8,737.29
17511	City of Quinte West	2026 Quinte West interim property taxes	23,805.35
17512	Minister of Finance	2025 EHT Annual Return Balance due	106.63
17513	B&T Sales	Janitorial supplies	101.67
17514	Vern Bastable	Staff expenses - travel - reimbursed	138.32
17515	Brighton Springs	Drinking water for admin building	89.55
17516	City of Quinte West	Utilities - water/sewer - workshop	84.08
17517	Conservation Ontario	2026 ESRI products (GIS) - 1st quarter installment	912.19
17518	Environmental 360 Solutions (Ontario) Ltd.	Waste services - conservation lands	65.87
17519	Emerald Cleaners	Cleaning services - admin building and workshop	1,378.60
17520	Ferguson Tree Nursery	2026 NPS seedling stock - deposit	3,319.66
17521	Free Flow Petroleum	Monthly vehicle and equipment fuel	559.20
17522	Hydro One Networks Inc.	Utilities - hydro - admin building and workshop	1,063.94
17523	OT Group - DCB Business Systems Group Inc	Monthly photocopier usage service fees	249.29
17524	Pesce & Associates Inc.	Organizational and salary review	3,616.00
17525	Renshaw Power Products	Equipment maintenance supplies	341.77
17526	Snap360 Ltd.	LTC annual website, security and wordpress (Apr/26-Mar/27)	1,418.15
17527	Terry Sprague	BQRAP webinar - guest speaker	250.00
17528	Staples Commercial	Office chair	485.89
17529	Telizon Inc	Monthly telephone lines	565.50
17530	Welch LLP	Audit 2025 - completion of field work	12,430.00
17531	Township of Stirling-Rawdon	2026 interim property taxes	361.37
17532	Trenton Home Hardware Building Centre	Property maintenance supplies	488.65
17533	Township of Asphodel-Norwood	Community Centre hall rental for SPC meeting Mar19/26	280.25
17534	Kawartha Region Conservation Authority	SPA invoice 6 of 10 (DWSP 2024-2027)	18,804.45
17535	Otonabee Region Conservation Authority	SPA invoice 6 of 10 (DWSP 2024-2027)	20,643.67
17536	Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority	SPA invoice 6 of 10 (DWSP 2024-2027)	26,523.48
17537	Crowe Valley Conservation	SPA invoice 6 of 10 (DWSP 2024-2027)	17,460.19
		Total of Payments	<u>326,084.15</u>

Agenda item #12a.

<p style="text-align: center;">Summary of Permits Approved by Staff <i>Part VI of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits</i> Prepared by: Scott Robertson, Development and Regulations Lead, Planning and Regulations For Period: February 28, 2026 to March 27, 2026</p>								
Permit #	Municipality	Ward	Geographic Township	Concession	Lot	Street Address	Regulated Area	Permitted Activity
RP-25-241	Brighton	Brighton Town	Cramahe	2	2	96 Sanford Street	Proctor (Butler) Creek valley lands (allowance), Proctor (Butler) Creek floodplain (allowance) & Unevaluated wetlands (allowance)	To Construct a Single-family Dwelling and Install an Entrance
RP-26-006	Trent Hills	Seymour	Seymour	12	14	72 Lakeview Drive	Trent River floodplain	To Conduct Shoreline Restoration Works
RP-26-016	Stirling-Rawdon	Stirling Village	Sidney	9	23	80 John Street	Rawdon Creek floodplain (allowance)	To Construct an approximately 38m ² (416 sq ft) Deck Expansion on the rear of the Existing Dwelling
RP-26-021 (minor)	Cramahe	Colborne Village	Cramahe	1	29-32	King Street East	Colborne Creek; Colborne Creek floodplain; Unevaluated and field verified wetlands	To Conduct Vegetation and Deadfall Removal from Colborne Creek within the Municipal Road allowance on portions of King Street East and Ontario Street
RP-26-022	Alnwick/Haldimand	Alnwick	Alnwick	1	2	2-7214 County Road 18	Rice Lake flood hazard	To Conduct Shoreline Restoration Works
RP-26-028 (minor)	Cramahe	Cramahe Township	Cramahe	5	32	1291 County Road 25	Cold Creek, Cold Creek Wetland Complex PSW, Unevaluated Wetlands	To Conduct Brushing Works associated with the annual Pipeline Right-of-way Brushing Program
RP-26-029 (minor)	Brighton	Murray	Murray	4	35	122 Brooks Crescent	Unevaluated wetlands	To Conduct Brushing Works associated with the annual Pipeline Right-of-way Brushing Program
RP-26-031	Alnwick/Haldimand	Haldimand	Haldimand	1	27	412 Barnum House Road	Barnum House Creek floodplain (allowance)	To Demolish an existing Woodshed and Construct a 20' x 24' Garage
RP-26-032 (minor)	Trent Hills	Seymour	Murray	10	22	115 Hickory Bay Road	Trent River floodplain	To Construct a Roof Extension over an Existing Concrete Patio
RP-26-033	Quinte West	Frankford	Sidney	5	3	37 South Trent Street	Trent River floodplain (allowance)	To add a Secondary Dwelling unit through internal renovations to the Existing Dwelling
RP-26-034 (minor)	Brighton	Brighton Township	Murray	C	25-26	529 Stoney Point Road South	Lake Ontario flood hazard, Boat Harbour Wetland PSW	To Conduct Directional Drilling to Install new Hydro Servicing
AMENDMENTS								
RP-24-270	Quinte West	Sidney	Sidney	8	17-18	1538 Frankford Stirling Rd	Rawdon Creek floodplain; Unevaluated wetlands	Original permit issued to undergo bank stabilization works; amended to include the updated site plan and scope of works on multiple locations along Rawdon Creek

Agenda Item #12b.



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 27, 2026
To: LTC Board of Directors
Re: Planning and Regulations UPDATE
Prepared by: Scott Robertson, Development & Regulations Lead,
 Planning and Regulations

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations update be accepted as information.

BY THE NUMBERS:

Here are the numbers for new files and deliverables in 2026 and compared to similar numbers for previous years. Highlighted boxes indicate that 2026 has MORE files to date than previous years.

Table 1. File review – New files and deliverables in 2026 versus previous years

	# Files for 2026 (as of March 27, 2026)	Dates for Similar Number for Previous Years (Total for Year)			
		2025	2024	2023	2022
Permits	42	Mar 13 (246)	Feb 29 (283)	Feb 23 (320)	Feb 28 (398)
Planning	41	Mar 10 (188)	Feb 20 (204)	Mar 15 (213)	Mar 10 (310)
Complaints	7	Feb 25 (90)	Jan 15 (96)	Jan 12 (74)	Mar 15 (66)
Enforcement	2	Jan 28 (38)	Jan 5 (39)	Jan 11 (39)	Jan 5 (63)
Online Inquiries	204	Mar 18 (1162)	Feb 26 (1435)	April 26 (1003)	Mar 29 (738)
Legal Requests	5	Feb 6(29)	Jan 8 (49)	April 11 (58)	Mar 22 (36)
Clearance Letters	11	Mar 7(61)	April 18 (102)	May 30 (52)	May 17 (25)
Site Visits	9	Jan 14 (287)	Jan 26 (303)	Jan 18 (246)	Jan 26 (363)

Online Inquiries

Since the last reporting period, staff have received and actioned **86** inquiry submissions and inquiries are continuing to be received at a steady pace. Several complex files and properties are appearing, and these files are taking staff long periods of time to manage as many of the properties are regulated and development may be restricted or require further review from staff. As usual, to ensure a timely response time, we are asking that people continue to use our online inquiry service and avoid directly contacting staff unless they are following up on a pre-existing file.

Permitting:

Ongoing Permit files:

- Staff have issued **11** permits and **1** permit amendment since the previous reporting period.
- Staff are currently reviewing and commenting on **15** open 2026 permit files and **41** files from previous years as well.

Agenda Item #12b.Planning:

- LTC Staff reviewed and commented on **21** Subdivision and Condominium Files in 2026 (new and ongoing). Since the last reporting period, LTC Staff reviewed and commented on **12** Subdivision and Condominium files. Many of these files are ongoing and staff expect to work on these continuously throughout the year.
- Since the last reporting period, LTC Staff reviewed and commented on **9** Planning Act Applications (Severances, Zoning By-law amendments, Official Plan amendments, Site Plan Control applications and/or Minor Variances). There are currently **8** technical reports in the queue for review.

Lastly, a kind reminder to let your Municipal staff know that LTC is here to assist our Municipal partners where possible. LTC Staff can walk landowners through our permitting process, the planning process and other procedures/processes that may be applicable to their proposal or inquiries. LTC Staff are incredibly knowledgeable, and we are here to help the residents of our Watershed.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Staff recommends to the Board of Directors that the Planning and Regulations Update be accepted as information.

Agenda Item #12c.



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 27, 2026
To: LTC Board of Directors
Re: Flood Forecasting and Warning UPDATE
Prepared by: Scott Robertson, Development & Regulations Lead

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Flood Forecasting and Warning Update be accepted as information.

BY THE NUMBERS:

Here are the number of flood communications issued and compared to the total number of statements issued in previous years.

Table 1. Number of flood communications issued by Staff.

Statements	Flood Communications Issued (as of March 27, 2026)	Total Number for Previous Years						
		2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019*
Water Safety	1	3	5	4	2	2	3	8
Flood Outlook	1	3	2	8	4	4	5	5
Flood Watch	1	3	2	2	0	0	3	6
Flood Warning	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	13
Total (System)	4	13	9	15	6	6	11	32

*Lake Ontario water levels were highly elevated during 2019, which led to a high volume of flood warning statements and updates.

Summary of Current Conditions (since last report)

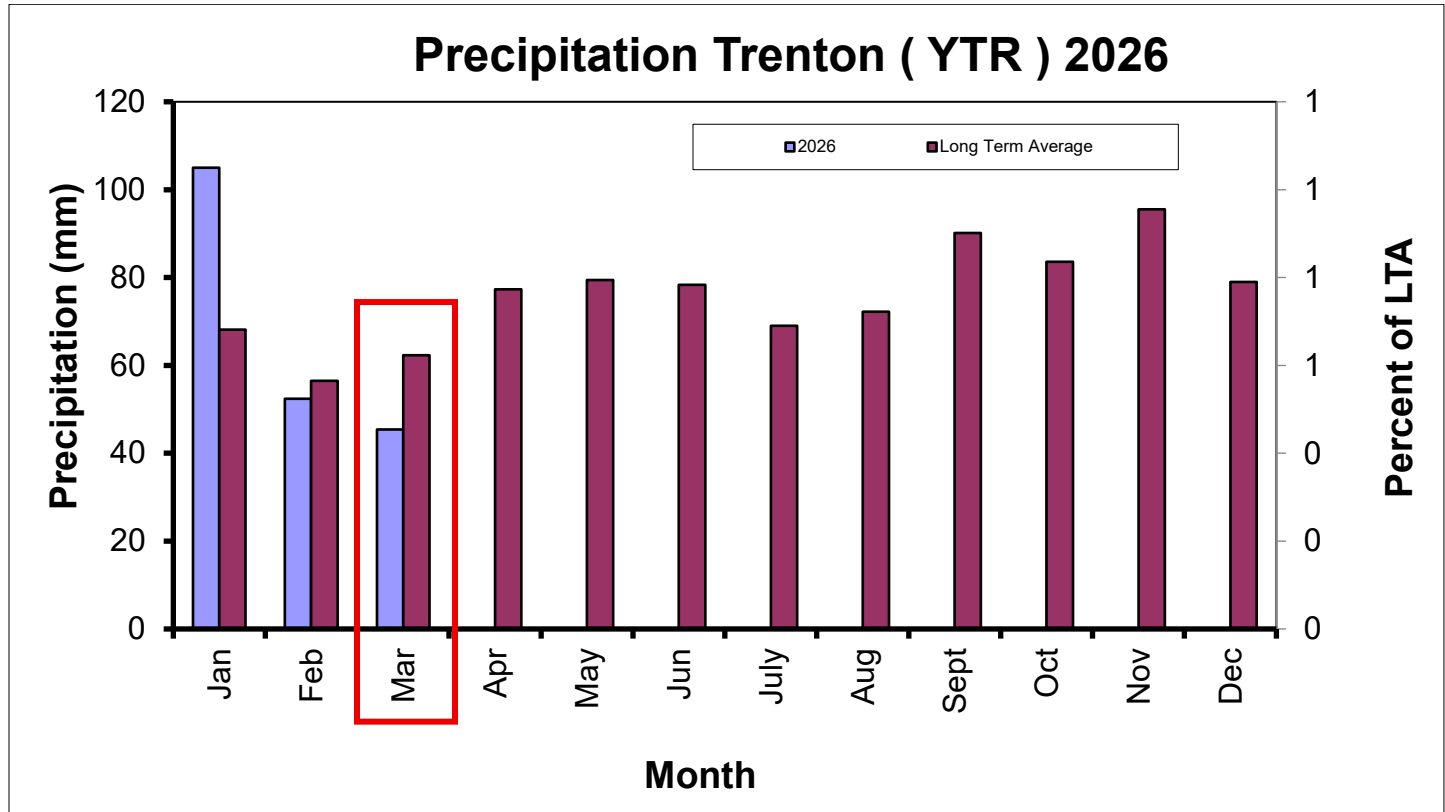
Although the month of March has had several precipitation events, recorded volumes have fallen below the established long-term average (LTA). Specifically, the month of March has currently recorded 45.4 mm of precipitation (72.9% of the long-term average). Heading into the end of March and early April, the long-term forecast shows that April is expected to warm up, with most days above freezing temperatures. During mid-March there was still a considerable amount of snowpack throughout the watershed. As the temperature shifts, the remaining snowpack within the Lower Trent watershed and throughout the Trent River system will start to melt and could lead to increased runoff into our local waterways as well as the Trent River. LTC staff will continue meeting with Parks Canada on a regular basis to ensure that we are prepared for any sudden changes in the Trent River system.

A monthly comparison of the precipitation volumes observed in 2026 can be seen in Table 2.

LTC staff will continue to review the weather and stream conditions to report further if there appears to be any potential flood or drought issues.

Agenda Item #12c.

Table 2. Observed Monthly Precipitation (mm) in 2026 compared to the monthly long-term average.



Local Creeks

Due to the warmer temperatures and precipitation events experienced throughout March, three flood communication statements were issued for LTC's local creeks and streams. A number of creeks reached 2-year flows and peaked in early March. Since then, the creeks have receded and are back to the seasonal average for streamflow and water levels for this time of year. With potential warmer temperatures forecast, increased flows may occur in the next few weeks. Staff will continue to review the conditions and forecast updates to ensure the safety of our municipal stakeholders and the general public.

Trent River

Due to the warming temperatures and snowmelt throughout LTC and the greater Trent River system, Trent River flows are currently quite high while being managed by Parks Canada. The Trent River is being maintained at an elevated level to mitigate potential flooding throughout the system. LTC staff will continue to monitor the system closely while staff work with Parks Canada staff on any expected changes or messaging.

If there are any concerns or issues with the water levels on the Trent River system, owners are advised to contact Parks Canada-Trent Severn Waterway.

Lake Ontario

Lake Ontario Water levels remain below average for this time of year. Staff are continuing to review weather conditions for any high wind events that may result in storm surges with waves exceeding 1 metre.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Flood Forecasting and Warning Update be received as information.



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Member of



**Conservation
ONTARIO**
Natural Champions

Message from the CAO and Chair



Rhonda Bateman, CAO



Gene Brahaney, Chair

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC) accomplished several milestones over the course of 2025, many of which were associated with technological improvements that strengthen our overall operations.

LTC has taken proactive steps to achieve our key priorities, as recommended under the Information Technology and Operations Review. One of our highest priorities was to move our Information Management into a cloud-based file sharing and storage system, which have been successfully completed and met our Information Management and Document Retention Policy.

Another key technology advancement was the establishment of an online reporting application as part of our River Watch program. Field reports are now uploaded in real time and accessible by the flood forecasting and warning staff. The use of this software tool will assist in monitoring flood conditions, assist in documenting flood events and will enhance public safety through faster information sharing.

The initial success of our Trail Stewards Program was built upon this past year through modernization of reporting. Notifications are now received through online reporting system which has allowed faster response times from our staff. Trail stewards are members of the public who are trained to identify hazard situations or areas of concern within our conservation areas. These reports are used by our conservation lands staff to prioritize operations based on public health and safety.

The update of our Capital Asset Management Plan was completed and approved by the Board of Directors in December 2025. This plan provides a clear direction for our conservation authority over the next decade, identifying capitol project priorities and spending that supports our programs and services.

Our public engagement and outreach efforts continue to grow with our community partners and local schools. Our education program has been enhanced with the purchase of the Biinaagami Great Lakes map, a large interactive teaching aid that beautifully illustrates water flows, watersheds, special natural areas and First Nations in Ontario.

The final two months of 2025 focussed on the provincial proposal to consolidate conservation authorities into regional authorities. LTC and Board of Directors do not support this initiative and participated in roundtable discussions and submitted an opposition letter through the ERO process. LTC takes pride in delivering programs and services effectively and efficiently, exploring opportunities to streamline processes. We have the capacity to adapt to provincial changes without consolidation and believe that local decision-making is critical to ensuring programs remain responsive to the unique needs of our watershed communities.

We would like to thank our municipal partners and volunteers for the continued support for programs and services that enhance the well-being of all residents of our watershed.

Board of Directors 2025

Municipalities located within the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region appoint representatives to the Board of Directors.

The 11-member Board representing the seven municipalities and one appointed agricultural representative, located either entirely or partially within the watershed region, oversee the activities of the Conservation Authority and report back to their respective municipal councils.

Township of Alnwick/ Haldimand

Mike Ainsworth

Municipality of Brighton

Jeff Wheeldon
Bobbi Wright

Municipality of Centre Hastings

Eric Sandford

Township of Cramahe

Sherry Hamilton (Vice-Chair)

City of Quinte West

Jim Alyea
Lynda Reid

Township of Stirling- Rawdon

Bob Mullin (Chair)

Municipality of Trent Hills

Rick English
Gene Brahaney (Chair)

Agricultural Rep

Vacant

About Us

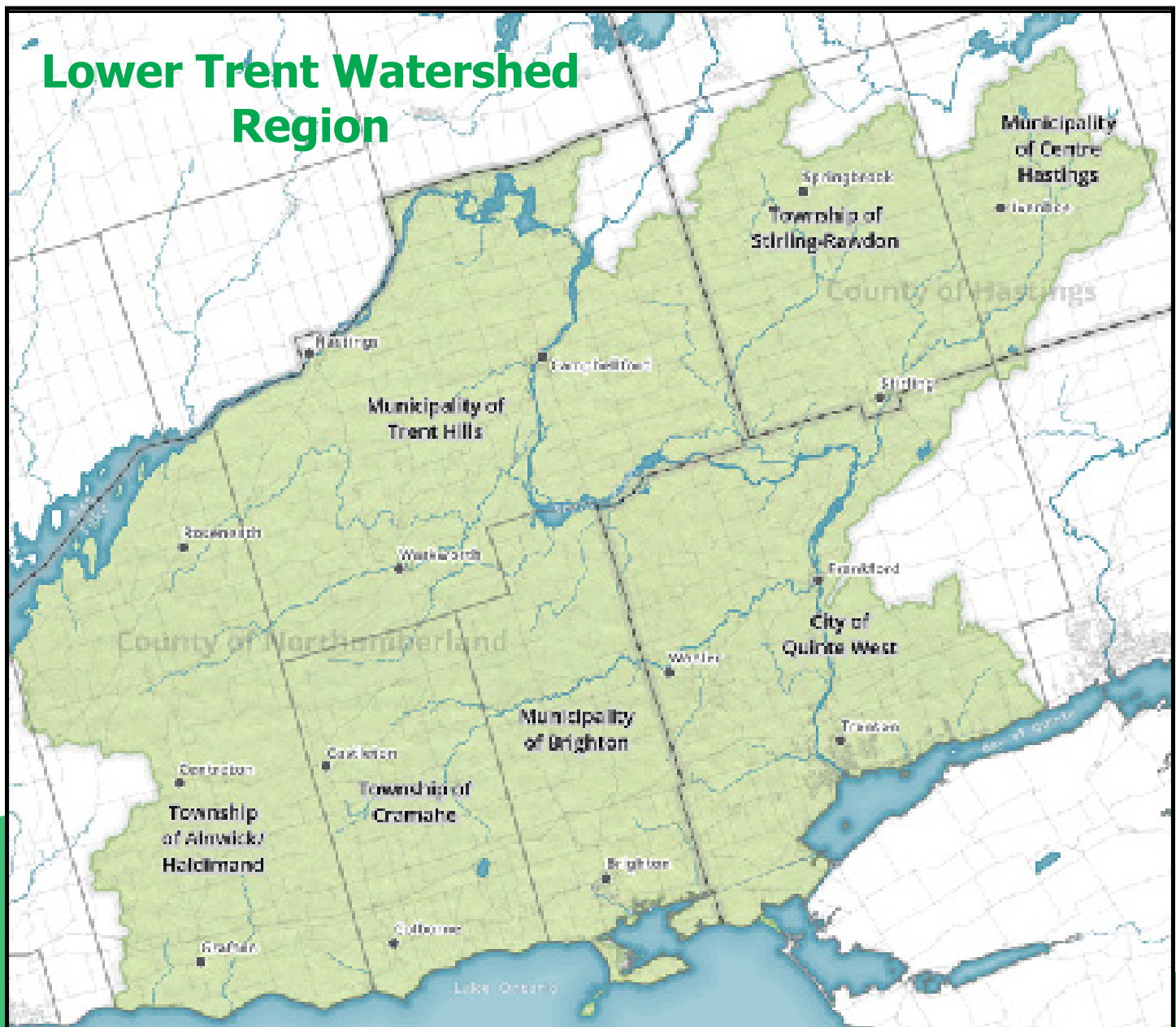
Lower Trent Conservation is a community-based, non-profit environmental protection organization dedicated to protecting, restoring, and managing natural resources across the Lower Trent watershed region.

Established by the provincial government and our municipal partners in 1968, under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Lower Trent Conservation is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario, and a member of Conservation Ontario.

Lower Trent Conservation works in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, businesses, community organizations and the general public to deliver locally-based environmental programs.



Lower Trent Conservation's watershed jurisdiction covers 2,070 square kilometres including the Trent River and the watersheds of eight main tributaries, as well as areas that flow directly into Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte between Grafton and Quinte West.



Watershed Science & Services

Environmental Planning and Regulations and Risk Management services

Development activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, shorelines, streams, and rivers can damage the environment or pose a threat to public safety. Lower Trent Conservation offers advice to municipalities, developers, and landowners to help them meet provincial policy requirements and to ensure compliance with government legislation. These services also ensure environmental integrity and protect people and property from flooding and erosion hazards.

Regulation of construction activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, shorelines, and waterways

2025 Highlights

- Provided comments to local municipalities on 188 *Planning Act* applications (severances, minor variances, official plans, zoning by-laws, etc.).
- Provided ongoing review and input to 42 subdivision and condominium proposals.
- Participated in 4 legal court cases regarding Section 28 regulations.
- Received applications for 246 permits for development activities under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Ontario Regulation 41/24 Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) and approved 236 permits.
- Identified 38 new violations; Conducted enforcement investigations related to 88 violations (new and ongoing); Resolved 29 Violations Files.
- Investigated 90 complaints.
- Responded to 1,162 online property inquiries and provided comments regarding property specific development constraints and environmental conditions for 414 new general development inquiries and 29 legal requests.
- Conducted 287 site inspections to assist with the environmental review of municipal planning and permit applications.
- Delivered risk management services as part of the implementation of the Trent Source Protection Plan: completed 6 risk management plans addressing 9 significant drinking water threats, conducted 12 risk management plan compliance inspections, amended 4 risk management plans, and issued 17 restricted land use notices.



Watershed Science & Services

Flood Forecasting and Watershed Monitoring Programs

Lower Trent Conservation, in cooperation with local municipalities and the provincial government, plays a key role in reducing the risk of property damage and loss of life from natural hazards such as flooding.

Weather forecasts and conditions along the region's waterways are monitored daily, as part of a flood forecasting and warning system, in order to provide the earliest possible notification to municipalities and the public of the potential for flooding.

In addition, 10 flood control structures, including a dam, flood walls, berms, weirs, and overflow channels, have been constructed to help protect existing development in flood susceptible areas from potential damages resulting from a flood. The structures were constructed with the aid of the Province of Ontario and local municipalities on a cost-sharing basis.

2025 Highlights

- Issued 13 bulletins regarding high water levels on local water systems: 3 water safety statements, 3 flood outlook statements, and 3 flood watches and 4 flood warning were issued.
- Issued 5 Low Water Condition Statements.
- Conducted daily risk assessments for flood forecasting including monitoring weather forecasts, water levels/flows at 13 stations, and precipitation at 13 stations; carried out 8 snow surveys at 4 snow sampling sites.
- Conducted annual inspections of 10 flood control structures.
- Seasonal operation of the Warkworth Dam: Logs In (May 14, 2025) and Logs Out (November 20, 2025).



Environmental Monitoring and Reporting

Watershed monitoring activities focus on collecting data to evaluate and report on existing conditions within the watershed. LTC works in partnership with our municipalities on water monitoring programs to support local initiatives as well as provincial monitoring networks.

- Monthly provincial surface water quality monitoring was completed at 9 sites, as well as monthly LTC surfacewater quality sampling at 9 additional sites, with E. coli sampled at all 18 sites across the watershed. A total of 144 surface water quality samples were collected from March to October.
- Annual groundwater quality monitoring was undertaken on a rotating basis, with samples collected from 1 sampling well in the spring, which included a separate sample for pesticide contamination, and 5 wells sampled in the Fall. Ongoing water level monitoring continued at 11 wells, with repairs occurring on telemetry equipment at the 1 active telemetry station to allow for real-time data collection.
- As of July 2025, LTC is the lead for the Lower Trent Phragmites Management Area, coordinating mapping and management of invasive phragmites in the Lower Trent watershed. This also gives access to funding to allow for specialized projects to improve management throughout the watershed and coordinate with program partners.



Watershed Science & Services

Education, Outreach and Stewardship

Education and outreach are critically important for engaging residents in environmentally sustainable behaviours and drawing attention to conservation issues. Special events, workshops, and landowner stewardship activities provide opportunities for people to learn about and get involved in the protection of natural resources within the watershed region. Lower Trent Conservation also recognizes that the students of today are the environmental champions of tomorrow. Through a variety of educational activities, young people learn about the importance of our natural environment and are inspired to care for our precious environment. Lower Trent Conservation's youth environmental education initiatives are made possible through grants and donations from local industry, business, service clubs, and private individual supporters.

2025 Highlights

- Hosted the 2024 Tri-County Children's Water Festival at Batawa Ski Hill bringing in 1,110 students from all four school boards within our watershed.
- Attended outreach events throughout the watershed, including Incredible Edibles, the Hastings Waterfront Festival, Quinte West pop-up events, and the Hastings County Plowing Match, as well as participating in Doors Open Quinte West in October, collectively engaging approximately 1,000 people.
- Hosted Farewell to Frost and Summer Fest, free family-friendly events at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area, welcoming approximately 60 participants from across the watershed, fostering community connection and engagement with our conservation lands.
- Delivered a range of engaging educational programs across the watershed in partnership with local libraries, schools, camps, and community organizations, providing interactive outreach for children and youth in communities including Batawa, Quinte West, Trent Hills, Brighton, and surrounding areas.
- Partnered with community groups to support commemorative planting initiatives, including planting Eastern Redbud at Proctor Park Conservation Area with the Brighton Garden Club to celebrate their 100-year anniversary, and establishing a Miyawaki-style little forest at Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area in collaboration with Trenton United Church to mark the United Church's 100-year anniversary.
- Conducted restoration and stewardship activities as part of an Invasive Species Grant, including volunteer and staff tree planting at Seymour Conservation Area and Proctor Park Conservation Area, where over 540 trees were planted in forest understory areas impacted by Emerald Ash Borer. A volunteer invasive species removal event was also hosted at Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area, targeting Dog Strangling Vine to protect native vegetation and support long-term ecosystem recovery. In addition, 1,222 Common Buckthorn were treated and the mechanical removal of 30 Wild Parsnip at Sager Conservation Area.
- Provided support for cover cropping to 20 landowners covering 1,171 acres of agricultural land. 8 agricultural landowners participated in soil sampling over 660 acres of land.
- Native Plant Sale received 215 orders provided 7,700 tree and shrub seedlings, 305 potted tree saplings, 64 wildflower and 6 Little Forest kits.



Tri-County Children's Water Festival

Conservation Lands

Lower Trent Conservation owns 1,540 hectares of natural open space. These forests, valleys, meadows, and wetlands form part of a regional system of protected landscapes that depict the natural diversity of the region. They are special places in the watershed that are protected from development, where the natural world comes first.

There are 17 properties that range in size from small parkettes to over 650 hectares. Ten properties are classified as Conservation Areas and provide venues for healthy, active lifestyles such as hiking, mountain biking, fishing, canoeing, and other outdoor recreational activities. These properties feature over 27 kilometres of trails, and other facilities such as parking lots, privies, boat launches, picnic shelters, and the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Centre. In addition, seven Natural Habitat Areas, while open to the public, are left in a natural state with no maintained trails or recreational facilities.

2025 Highlights

- Developed a mobile phone application linked to GPS for Lower Trent Conservation's Trail Stewardship reporting program, enabling volunteers to submit 165 tickets that supported Conservation Lands staff in identifying and addressing site needs, including hazard trees, broken branches, litter, vandalism, and "all clear" conditions.
- In early April, the watershed and surrounding areas were impacted by a severe ice storm that resulted in extensive tree damage and widespread power outages. Lower Trent Conservation trails were temporarily closed while staff undertook significant cleanup and hazard tree removal operations, with the final trail reopening approximately seven weeks after the event. The storm alone resulted in 228 hazard trees requiring removal along trail systems. In total, 288 hazard trees were removed from Conservation Area trails in 2025 by LTC staff, with an additional 40 trees removed by contractors to ensure public safety and restore access.
- Installed digital donation signage at each Conservation Area to enhance visitor engagement and support contributions toward conservation and stewardship initiatives.
- Retrofitted and upgraded the bridge access at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area to improve safety and ensure reliable access for the thousands of school children who use the site annually.
- Installed a permanent dog waste bag dispenser station at Seymour to support responsible pet ownership and maintain our conservation areas.
- Continued solarization efforts to reduce the wild parsnip seed bank and prevent the spread of wild parsnip at the Warkworth Dam, including the application of additional solarizing materials to suppress existing plants.



Staff planting day at Proctor Park Conservation Area



Volunteer Invasive Species Pull Day

Corporate Services

Corporate Services is an important part of day-to-day operations, providing support to all Lower Trent Conservation programs. These include: financial and human resource management; administrative and IT support; program planning and development; customer relations; partnership building; information management; GIS (mapping); and marketing and communications.

2025 Highlights

- Completed the new Capital Asset Management Plan to support public safety, maintain required service levels of LTC capital assets, and optimize investments.
- Established the CA-municipal Proctor Park Working Group to collaboratively develop a new community gathering space, developed design concepts, provided project management.
- Streamlined budget development process to enhance efficiencies, supported financial progress reporting and projections for multiple externally funded programs and projects.
- Developed new Project and Budget Management tools and templates, provided training to project managers.
- Modernized orientation process for new and returning employees, implemented new legislative updates including Employment Information Statements/Forms.
- Provided human resource support for the hiring of 9 staff members and 3 interns, which included drafting job descriptions, posting vacancies on relevant platforms, supporting interview processes, developing employment agreements.
- Enhanced internal document management and records keeping by adopting web-based services and forms, while decommissioning legacy on-site servers and transitioning to cloud-hosted backup and disaster recovery systems.



Financial Summary

2025 Operations and Capital Expenditures =

2025 Operations and Capital Revenue Sources =

- Financial Summary does not include partnership funded programs (Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan and Drinking Water Source Protection), administered by Lower Trent Conservation.
- Audited Financial Statements are available on www.LTC.on.ca

Partnership Programs

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan



Lower Trent Conservation coordinates the local administration of the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, co-chairs the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council, and provides communications and technical support aimed at rehabilitating the Bay. In 2024, significant progress was made in addressing environmental health issues identified for the Bay of Quinte. Of the eleven concerns identified, three remain to be addressed: restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, eutrophication or undesirable algae, and degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations.

A Phosphorus Management Plan is currently under development to sustainably maintain the Bay's health by reducing the risk of harmful algae blooms while ensuring a sustainable fishery. The plan addresses necessary reductions in phosphorus levels from sewage treatment plants, urban stormwater, and agriculture. Additionally, a long-term monitoring plan for the phosphorus management plan is in development.

Stewardship programs were also delivered to assist landowners in implementing recommendations outlined in the phosphorus management plan.



Bay of Quinte

Drinking Water Source Protection

Lower Trent Conservation serves as the lead Source Protection Authority for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region, which is the largest Source Protection Region in the Province. Regional staff provides technical and administrative support to the Source Protection Committee and Crowe Valley, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha-Haliburton, Lower Trent, and Otonabee-Peterborough Source Protection Authorities. Source Protection Plan policies are in effect across this vast region to protect sources of drinking water for 52 municipal drinking water systems (34 groundwater wells and 18 surface water Partnership Programs Drinking Water Source Protection intakes). The Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report is going through an amendment process to address new Technical Rules and to improve the effectiveness of some policies. Regional staff completed the amendment package in 2025 which included successfully negotiating with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks a viable solution to improve how the Ministry manages drinking water threats through their approval processes. The final amendment package was submitted in July 2025 and is expected to be approved in early 2026.



Our 2025 Staff

Rhonda Bateman, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Corporate Services

Chitra Gowda, Manager, Corporate Services

Corinne Ross, Communications Specialist

Anna Morgan, Finance and Information Technician

Jeffrey Meyer, GIS and Information Technology Specialist

Watershed Science & Services

Anne Anderson, Manager, Community Outreach and Special Projects

Gage Comeau, Manager, Watershed Management, Planning and Regulations

Kim Stephens, Planning Ecologist

Marcus Rice, Source Protection Risk Management Official/Inspector

Nicholas Reynolds, Environmental Education Technician

Scott Robertson, Development Officer

Amanda Dixon, Administrative and Client Services Technician

Toby Farrell, Regulation and Enforcement Officer

Massimo Narini, Watershed Services Specialist

Sarah Glasser, Education and Outreach Assistant+

Addison Baldwin, Invasive Species Outreach Specialist+

Noah Kim, Assistant Watershed Monitoring Technician+

Kathy Wang, Assistant Watershed Monitoring Technician+

Conservation Lands

Chris McLeod, Conservation Lands Supervisor

John Mahoney, Conservation Lands Technician

Vern Bastable, Ecology Technician (Aug)

Nicholas Peat, Conservation Lands Maintenance Assistant*

Colton Cooper, Conservation Lands Field Assistant+

Erich Stephens, Conservation Lands Field Assistant+

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

Sarah Midlane-Jones, Community Outreach Specialist

Shan Mugalingam, Technical Specialist (Jan - Sept)

Raven Chartrand, Environmental Stewardship Technician* (Apr)

Drinking Water Source Protection

Keith Taylor, Program Coordinator*

Trent Bos, Program Assistant*

* Contract/Seasonal Position

+ Summer Staff Position



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

 **@LowerTrent**

 **/LowerTrentConservation**

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LTC.on.ca



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 31, 2026
To: Board of Directors
Re: Conservation Lands Update for the period January 1 to March 31, 2026
Prepared by: Chris McLeod, Supervisor, Conservation Lands

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Conservation Lands Update for the period January 1 – March 31, 2026, be received as information.

MAINTENANCE/ACTIVITIES:

The following list of maintenance and activities are items beyond the regular vehicle, building and property maintenance (mowing grass, clearing back brush on trails, garbage collection, cleaning, painting, drinking water sampling and system management at Goodrich-Loomis Centre and main office).

During the Winter of 2026:

- Cleaned and maintained kiosks
- Removed garbage from conservation areas
- Maintained trail systems and removed downed trees (where needed)
- Monitored icy and hazardous trail conditions
- Sager Conservation Area closed for winter season due to no winter maintenance of parking lot or property.
- Interacted with Conservation Lands visitors and responded to inquiries, complaints, and requests from members of the public and neighbours of Conservation Areas
- Coordinated maintenance of fleet vehicles inspections over the winter
- Facilitated the plowing of parking lots at Seymour CA and performed plowing at workshop
- Finished annual winter maintenance on all field equipment and painted and installed additional protective armour on the John Deere Gator in preparation for field season
- All fire extinguishers underwent annual inspections and maintenance at the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Centre, the Administration office, and the Wall St. workshop
- Winter storm clean up of trails
- Following a large storm, the Loop D' Loop Trail at Goodrich-Loomis was closed on February 19th due to many hazardous trees overhanging the trail. The trail remains closed at this time until the cleanup is complete

SPECIAL PROJECTS & PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS:

- Assisted in the coordination and implementation of the Farewell to Frost event held during the March Break at the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area
- Met with local business that is developing a Buckthorn removal tool that is allowing LTC to field demo the product this spring.
- New Fire Safety Plan developed for the Administrative office

Agenda Item #14.

- Repaired winter damage to eaves at the Goodrich-Loomis building
- Began the recruitment process for two Conservation Lands Field Assistants

SPECIAL EVENT PROPERTY RENTALS:

LTC-owned properties and facilities are able to be rented for special activities (weddings, celebration of life, fun run events, large family picnics, Cadet training). The number of special event rental occurrences during this review period:

- Goodrich-Loomis = 7

Note: This list does not include regular occurring rentals such as youth groups or day camps or LTC hosted events.

HAZARD TREE REMOVAL:

As per LTC's Hazard Tree Removal Policy, we inspect, document, and remove hazard trees in various LTC-owned properties. All trees (unless otherwise stated) were removed by LTC staff.

- Proctor Park = 10
- Goodrich-Loomis = 2
- Seymour = 6

CONSERVATION LANDS VANDALISM:

- 'Beware of Cliff' sign was removed at the quarry in Seymour CA
- Aside from some isolated garbage dumping, vandalism and misuse of the properties has been low during the winter months

CONSERVATION LANDS ENFORCEMENT:

No Section 29 tickets were issued during this period, however, increased phone calls were received for dogs off leash at Conservation Areas when staff were not present.



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 31, 2026
To: Board of Directors
Re: Summary of Education and Outreach Activities January 1- March 31, 2026
Prepared by: Anne Anderson, Manager of Community Outreach and Special Projects; Nicholas Reynolds, Environmental Education Technician and Corinne Ross, Communications Outreach and Stewardship Lead

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THAT the Summary of Education and Outreach Activities for the period of January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 be received as information.

RECENT EDUCATION & OUTREACH EVENTS

Date	Event	Approximate Attendance
January 27-28	Youth Education: St. Peter's Catholic School – Giant Floor Map - Nicholas Reynolds, Corinne Ross, Anne Anderson	120
February 7	Special Event: Twilight in the Woods, Goodrich-Loomis - Nicholas Reynolds, Raven Chartrand	7
February 10	Special Event: Loyalist College Career Fair - Nicholas Reynolds, Anne Anderson	25
February 12	Special Event: Fleming College Career Fair - Massimo Narini, Corinne Ross	75
February 26	Youth Education: Brighton Home School Group, Brighton Library - Nicholas Reynolds	16
March 3	Youth Education: Madoc Sparks and Embers - Nicholas Reynolds	25
March 5	Youth Education: East Northumberland Secondary School - Nicholas Reynolds	17
March 9	Special Event: BQRAP Marsh Monitoring Webinar - Sarah Midlane-Jones	20
March 11	Special Event: Forest Wellness - Raven Chartrand, Nicholas Reynolds	Cancelled
March 17	Youth Education: CFB Trenton Day Camp - Nicholas Reynolds	22
March 19	Special Event: Farewell Frost at Goodrich-Loomis - Nicholas Reynolds, Corinne Ross, Chris McLeod, John Mahoney, Vern Bastable, Raven Chartrand, Marcus Rice, Anne Anderson	80
March 21	Guest Speaker: Cold Creek Fly Fishers Symposium - Massimo Narini	27
March 25	Youth Education: Brighton Beavers - Nicholas Reynolds	18

March 30- 31	Youth Education: St. Peter's Catholic School – Giant Floor Map - Nicholas Reynolds	126
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SOCIAL MEDIA

Date	Item	No. of Views
January 14	Employment Opportunity: Planning Ecologist	8,845
January 16	Low Water Status Lifted	977
January 19	Forest Wellness Series	786
January 20	Province Consolidation	2,414
January 23	Forest Wellness Series: Twilight in the Woods	23,620
January 27	Conservation Lands Trails	958
January 30	Conservation Lands Trail Maintenance	2,255
February 3	Employment Opportunity: Summer Students	4,258
February 4	Drinking Water Source Protection: Road Salt Campaign	430
February 6	OFAH ISAP Technician	422
February 11	Drinking Water Source Protection: Road Salt Campaign	221
February 11	Tri-County Children's Water Festival: Registration	855
February 13	Board Chair and Vice – Chair Announcement	823
February 18	Drinking Water Source Protection: Road Salt Campaign	470
February 24	Forest Wellness Series: Gentle Mindfulness	1,949
February 25	Drinking Water Source Protection: Road Salt Campaign	662
March 3	Conservation Lands: Dogs on Leash	903
March 4	Drinking Water Source Protection: Road Salt Campaign	324
March 5	Water Safety Statement: Local Creeks	12,788
March 6	OFAH ISAP Technician	405
March 6	Forest Wellness Series: Gentle Mindfulness	1,467
March 6	Flood Outlook Statement: Local Creeks	572
March 10	Flood Warning: Local Creeks	2,824
March 11	Section 35 Amendment Approvals	438
March 11	Drinking Water Source Protection: Road Salt Campaign	354
March 11	Event: Farewell to Frost	1,777
March 13	Event: Farewell to Frost	9,841
March 16	Event: Farewell to Frost	1,805
March 17	Event: Farewell to Frost	1,801
March 18	Event: Farewell to Frost	727
March 18	Drinking Water Source Protection: Road Salt Campaign	380
March 19	Event: Farewell to Frost	321
March 19	Flood Watch Statement: Trent River	6,435

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1	St. Peter's Catholic School
April 7	7 Wonders of the Lower Trent Watershed – Campbellford Historical Society
April 8 and 9	Trent River Public School
April 14	Camp Silver Heights
April 15	St. Peter's Catholic School

April 17	Cramahe Library
April 22	Trail Stewards Open House
April 25	Rotary Club – Brighton and Trenton Volunteer Event
May 9	A Walk of Appreciation – Goodrich-Loomis
May 13-14	Tri-County Children’s Water Festival
May 19	What to see at Seymour
May 21	Invasive Thursday – Buckthorn Pull Bleasdell Boulder
June 11	Invasive Thursday – Buckthorn Pull Bleasdell Boulder
June 16	Colborne Garden Club
June 20	Guided Hike Goodrich-Loomis North Loop Trail
July 2	Invasive Thursday – Dog-Strangling Vine Pull Bleasdell Boulder
July 9	Invasive Thursday – Dog-Strangling Vine Pull Glen Miller
July 11	Incredible Edibles Campbellford



LOWER TRENT
CONSERVATION

STAFF REPORT

Date: March 27, 2026

To: Board of Directors

Re: Summary of Risk Management Official Activity Pursuant to Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* - Period of January 1 – March 31, 2026

Prepared by: Marcus Rice, Risk Management Official
Anne Anderson, Risk Management Official

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Risk Management Official Activity Report pursuant to Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* for the period of January 1 – March 31, 2026, be received as information.

BACKGROUND:

This report summarizes work completed by the Risk Management Official (RMO) to implement Part IV policies in the Trent Source Protection Plan for the review period **January 1 to March 31, 2026**

SITE VISITS

The following site visits were completed during the review period.

Location	Property Identifier	Purpose	Date
Warkworth	1222, 6972	Discuss application of pesticides. Verify no threats	Jan 21 st
Warkworth	6975	Discuss business operations to determine significant drinking water threats.	Jan 28 th
Campbellford	6974	Discuss business operations to determine significant drinking water threats.	Jan 29 th
Stirling	6976	Discuss building permit and section 59 application.	Feb 11 th
Stirling	1549, 1555, 1582, 6546, 6749	Reviewed program under new property ownership and Amended Risk Management Plan measures.	Feb 12 th
Stirling	1594	Met and discussed significant drinking water threats.	March 3 rd
Stirling	1549, 1555, 1582, 6546, 6749	Reviewed program under new property ownership with pasturing/ grazing in new field.	March 10 th

Agenda Item #16

RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS (RMP)

No new Risk Management Plans have been established during this reporting period.

AMENDED RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS (RMP)

No Risk Management Plans have been Amended during this reporting period.

NOTICES

The following table details Notices issued for the review period.

Type of Notice*	Notice #	Location	Threat Subcategory
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-911	Stirling	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-910	Stirling	Planning Application
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-909	Stirling	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-908	Hastings	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-907	Stirling	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-906	Stirling	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-905	Campbellford	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-904	Campbellford	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-903	Stirling	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-902	Stirling	Building Permit
s. 59(2)(a)	N-26-901	Stirling	Planning Application

***Types of Notices**

58(6) - Risk Management Official's Notice of Agreement on a Risk Management Plan

58(13) - Risk Management Official's Notice of Agreement on an Amendment to Risk Management Plan

59(2)(a)-Restricted Land Use Notice: neither section 57(Prohibition) nor section 58 (Risk Management Plans) applies.

S.59(2)(b) Restricted Land Use Notice: RMP Required

INSPECTIONS

The following table details Risk Management Inspections which occurred during the review period.

Location	RMP #	Purpose or Activity	Inspection Date
Stirling	RMP-16-004	Grazing and Pasturing	Feb 19 th
Hastings	RMP-19-002	Grazing and pasturing	Feb 26 th

Types of Inspections

Risk Management Plans Compliance (Section 58)

Prohibition (Section 57)

Exemption Letter



Waterlogs - March 2026

Today, the Bay of Quinte is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.
Now, we must focus on keeping it this way

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

☆ ⋮

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

Annual Report 2025

**The health of our waters is the principle measure
of how we live on the land. — Luna Leopold**

March 17, 2026

Well, 2025 was a busy year. The final three environmental challenges all needed technical reviews on their data and the composition of draft final reports. Both urban and rural stewardship programs had high interest, keeping our techs on a hectic schedule until freeze up. Also, we were out in the community talking to people about the Bay of Quinte. Emphasizing, now the bay is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem, and we must maintain its excellent water quality and biodiversity.

A great deal of time, money, and effort has gone into rehabilitating the bay. Now, we can't let it backslide, so a plan must be in place for when the Remedial Action Plan is finished. The Phosphorus Management Plan is the designed to address legacy sediment phosphorus concerns and future stressors to the bay's water quality like, population increases and development, and climate change.

Annual Report

www.bqrap.ca

In partnership locally with Lower Trent Conservation and Quinte Conservation

SPRING WATER LEVELS



Here are some links to help shoreline residents understand water levels, who is responsible for what, and how to protect your property.

Water Level Information

It's important to understand that water levels on the Bay of Quinte are influenced by Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte water levels are primarily determined by rain, snow, wind, and other natural factors. The Moses- Saunders Dam at Cornwall, provides some limited control over water levels and flows.

Lake Ontario water levels and flows are managed under Plan 2014.

Plan 2014 is designed to provide for more natural variations in water levels, which are needed to restore ecosystem health. The Plan moderates extreme high and low levels, to better maintain system-wide levels. Regulating levels and flows has provided benefits to various uses and interests by allowing for hydropower production; improving conditions for commercial navigation, recreational boating and water intakes; and reducing the flooding and erosion of shoreline communities.

You can find additional information on the IJC and Plan 2014 at these links.

www.ijc.org/en/loslr/b/watershed/water-levels

www.ijc.org/sites/default/files/Plan2014FactSheet_EN.pdf

Current and forecast Lake Ontario water information

For a more in-depth understanding of the system's hydrologic conditions, water levels and outflows, including graphics and photos, visit the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board's [web site](#).

Your local Conservation Authorities do not control Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte water levels.

Conservation Authorities do maintain a flood forecasting and warning system to provide early warning of possible risks to people and property from flooding. They provide local municipalities, other agencies and the public with advance notice, information and advice so that they can respond to potential flooding and flood-related emergencies.

Protecting your property from water damage

High water levels can cause flooded basements, erosion issues, and contaminated wells. For flooded basements ensure your sump pump is working and elevate items off the floor. If your well has been impacted by flood waters – do not drink the well water - have it tested before using it.

www.hpepublichealth.ca/well-water

If you have erosion issues contact your local Conservation Authority.

Work along shorelines may require a permit from your local Conservation Authority and from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Your local Conservation Authority can provide you with options to protect your shoreline, and help with the permitting process.

Lower Trent Conservation - www.ltc.on.ca

Quinte Conservation - www.quinteconservation.ca

Cataraqui Conservation - www.cataraquiconservation.ca



● Livestock Fencing

- Install fencing to restrict livestock access to a waterway or wetland.
- Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$7,500**

● Alternate Watering Source

- To be eligible for funding, livestock must be fenced out of a waterway or wetland
- Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$7,500**

● Marginal Lands Buffer Strips

- Got marginal lands along a watercourse establish a riparian buffer strip.
- Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$7,500**

● Water Quality Improvement

- Stream bank stabilization • barnyard runoff control • manure storage improvements • constructed wetlands • erosion control structures
- Grant rate - 75% - maximum up to \$7,500**

Prioritize Your Soil Health, Starting Today!

Free Soil Testing

Knowing what's going on with your soil is the first step in creating high yielding sustainable agriculture. **Book your site visit, Today.**

Cover Crops

We offer a cover crop seed grant of \$30.00 per acre - **Grant maximum up to \$2,500.**



www.bqrap.ca

Raven Chartrand
Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Lower Trent Conservation
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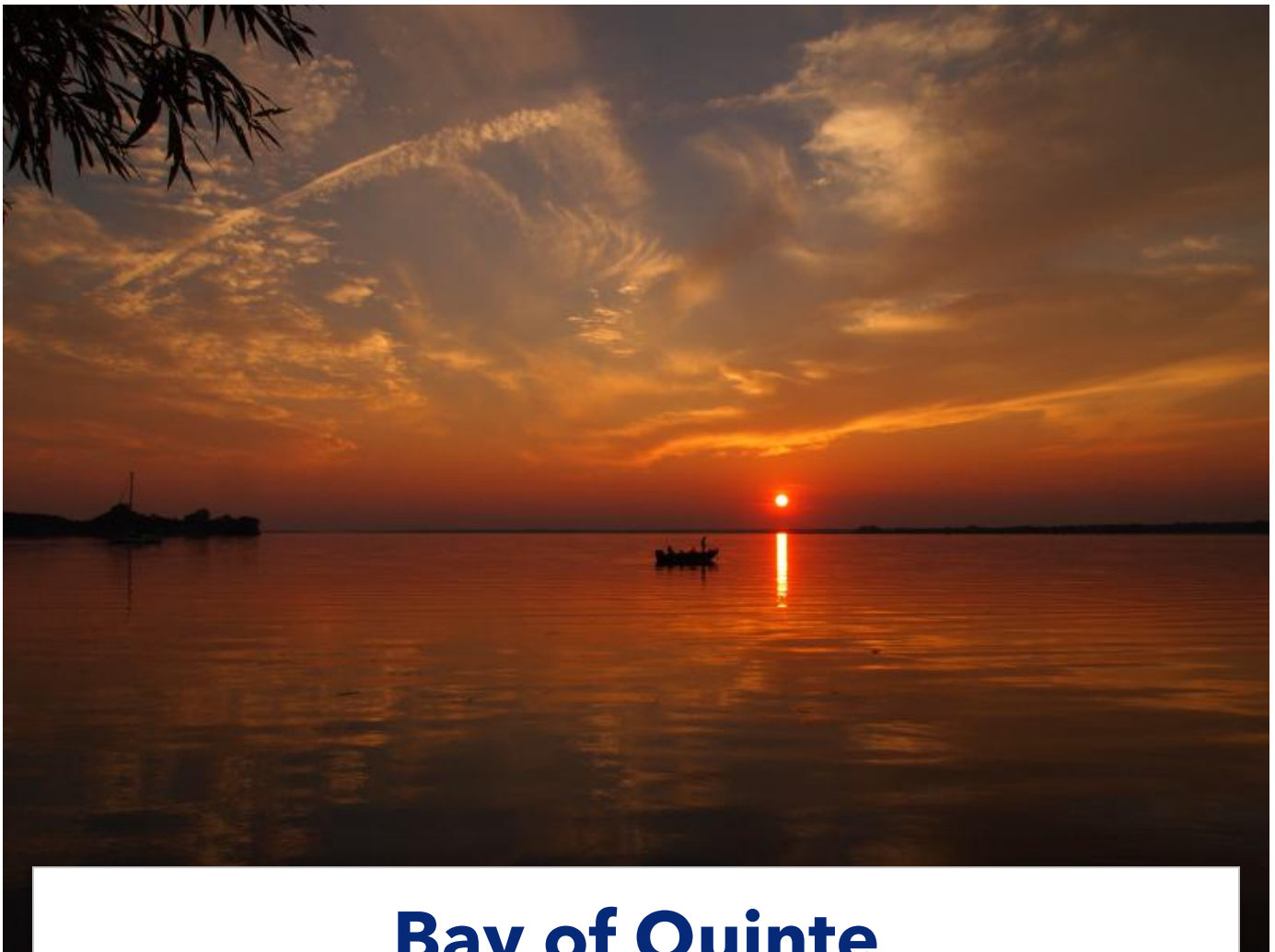
Time to start planning those spring projects. Contact our stewardship techs to get the process underway. Book your free site visit, Today

Rural Stewardship Program

Agenda item #17b.



Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan



Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

Annual Report 2025

**The health of our waters is the principle measure
of how we live on the land. — Luna Leopold**

March 17, 2026

What's an AOC?



Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Areas of Concern (AOC) are communities, bays and rivers on the Great Lakes system where human activities severely damaged the quality of the environment. Each AOC must develop a **Remedial Action Plan** to address the environmental issues identified for the area.

The Bay of Quinte was designated an Area of Concern in 1985. Since, that time a great deal of work has gone into rehabilitating the bay. Over the past 40 years, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (RAP) partners have worked hard to implement the recommendations in the Plan to restore the Bay of Quinte's water quality.

Scientists have spent decades monitoring, researching, and analyzing all aspects of the Bay's unique ecosystems. Today, the bay is a healthy and vibrant waterbody, full of biodiversity and the crowning jewel of the area.

Environmental Challenges

RESTORED ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- *Degradation of fish and wildlife populations - 2018*
- *Fish tumours and other deformities - 2017*
- *Degradation of benthos - 2018*
(underwater bugs)
- *Restrictions on dredging activities - 2017*
- *Restrictions on drinking water consumption or taste and odour problems - 2020*
- *Beach closings - 2019*
- *Degradation of aesthetics - 2022*
- *Loss of fish and wildlife habitat - 2018*



What's remaining?

REMAINING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- **Restriction on fish and wildlife consumption**
Final analysis of scientific data underway
- **Eutrophication or undesirable algae**
Final report in editing phase
- **Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations**
Final report in editing phase



This year, work continued on the three remaining environmental

challenges. Each one required review and consultation with technical experts, as the assessment reports are being developed and refined.

Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption

Over the past year, a group of technical experts has been meeting to assess the extensive data set collected for Bay of Quinte fishery. Wildlife consumption was never identified as impaired. A thorough analysis, was completed and a final assessment report is under development. You can find the criteria for this environmental challenge [here](#). Once, the report is complete it will be reviewed by the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council. If they agree with the recommendations in the report then it will be presented to the public for their input. Stay tuned we're going to ask for your thoughts on the Bay of Quinte fishery.

In 2024/2025, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan conducted a Fish Consumption Survey to collect data on what people catch and eat from the Bay of Quinte. The survey said.... The top 3 species to catch were Walleye, Perch, and Largemouth Bass. The favourite fish to eat was Walleye.

Fishing Zones Merger



Guide to Eating Ontario Fish

FISHING ZONE UPDATE

Lake Ontario (Eastern Basin)

from east of Colborne to Kingston (including Bay of Quinte) (43°46'54"N 76°51'59"W)

Consumption advisories in the tables below represent the maximum number of meals per month recommended for each species/size range indicated.

Walleye

Length (cm)	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	>75
Length (in) +	6-8	8-10	10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-20	20-22	22-24	24-26	26-28	28-30	>30
General population	32	32	16	16	16	16	16	12	8	4	4	2	0
Sensitive population*	32	32	16	16	16	12	8	4	0	0	0	0	0

In 2024, when the new Guide to Eating Ontario Fish was published. One of the major changes for the Bay of Quinte was the merger of fishing zones. The Bay used to include zones 9 (Upper Bay), 9a (Trenton Nearshore), 9b (Belleville Nearshore), and 10 (Middle Bay). Now, zones 9a and 9b remain identified in the bay, as they are areas with historical industrial activities. Zones 9 and 10 are now included in the Lake Ontario (Eastern Basin zone). The zone includes an area from east of Colborne to Kingston (including Bay of Quinte).

The rationale for the merging of zones was the movements of migratory fish makes them resident of all these zones at different points throughout the year. Fish consumption advisories for Lake Ontario (Eastern Basin) are based on the most restrictive advisory applicable to all the former zones.

The advisory link for the Lake Ontario (Eastern Basin) zone is located in Lake Ontario. See image.



Guide to Eating Ontario Fish

The **Guide to Eating Ontario Fish** provides consumption advisories for 2,700 locations throughout the province including the Bay of Quinte. While eating fish is part of a healthy diet, fish can sometimes contain harmful contaminants from natural sources or human activities.

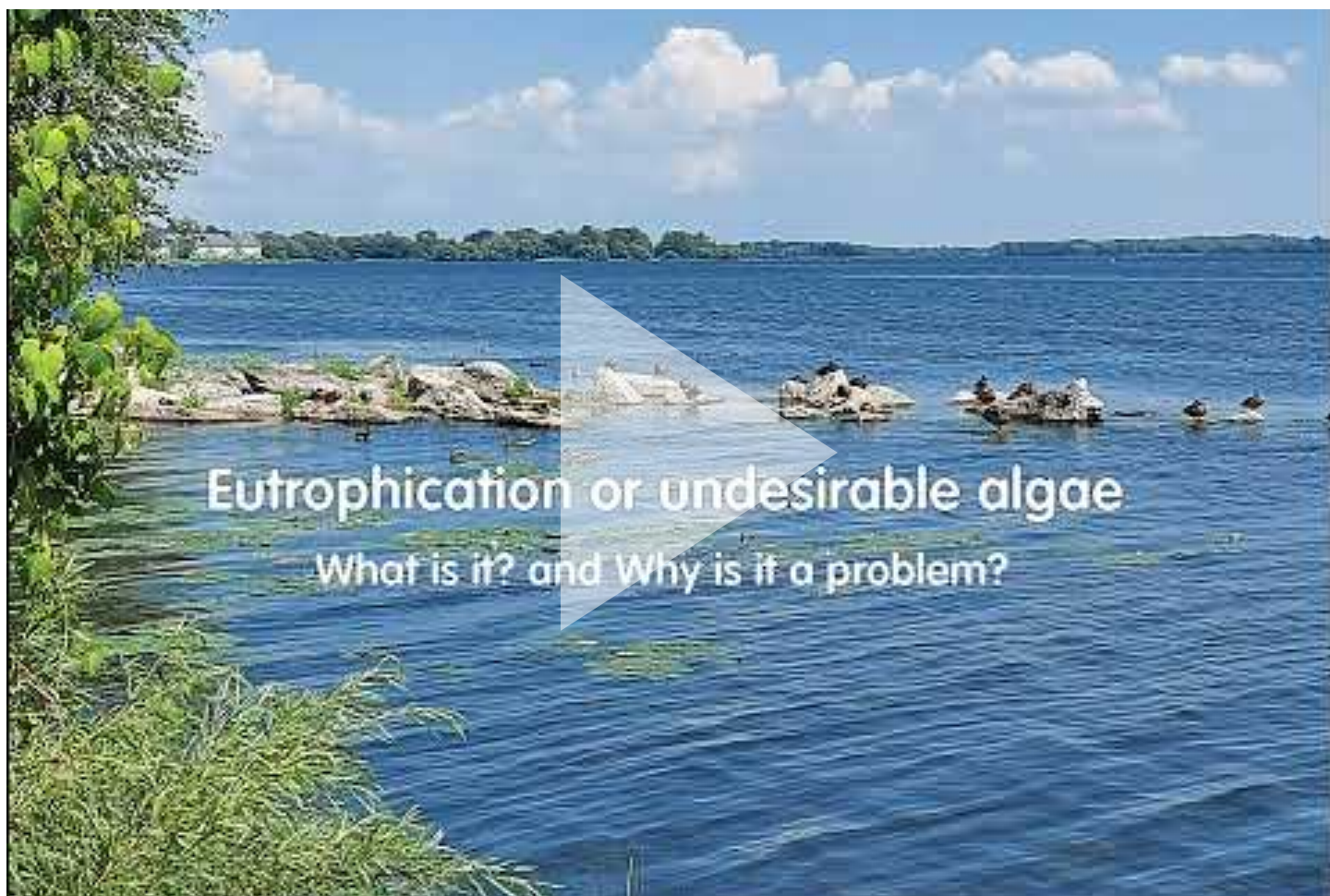
Based on their size, type and location, certain fish may be more suitable to eat than others.

This guide provides easy-to-use information to help the general population and sensitive populations (for example, children under 15 years old and anyone who is pregnant or may become pregnant) choose fish caught from Ontario lakes and rivers to eat, while minimizing exposure to toxins.

Eutrophication or undesirable algae, degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton, and the Phosphorus Management Plan

Currently, the Bay of Quinte is meeting the phosphorus targets outlined in its Remedial Action Plan. Those targets were set in 1993, using the scientific understanding at the time. However, current modelling studies recommend lower phosphorus targets are needed to protect the bay's water quality in the long term.

The development of this Phosphorus Management Plan is linked with the environmental challenges eutrophication or undesirable algae and degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations. These environmental challenges and the management actions to address them are highly interconnected.



Eutrophication or undesirable algae

This has always been the main issue with the bay. Excess phosphorus in the bay comes from urban stormwater, sewage treatment plants and agricultural sources. Over the years, there have been huge reduction in inputs from all areas. But, phosphorus is still a major concern. In the 1970s, the bay was hyper-eutrophic, so much phosphorus was entering the bay it looked like pea soup. A lot of the phosphorus sank and was absorbed into the sediment but eventually the sediment became overloaded and started to be a source of phosphorus instead of a storehouse.

Reducing external phosphorus input to the bay should correspondingly reduce in water phosphorus levels. This in turn will lead to increased flushing of the legacy phosphorus stored in the sediments of the bay.

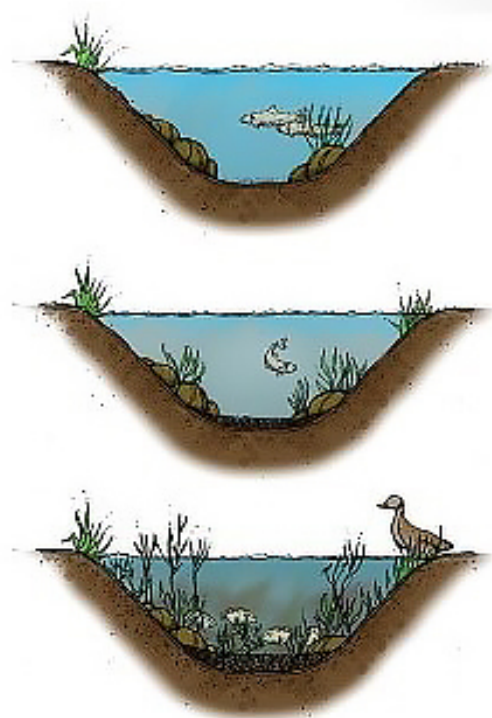
Reduction of phosphorus levels in the sediment and the resulting decrease in

the sediment phosphorus reflux to the bay in late summer/early fall will:

- reduce the risk of algal blooms in the bay; including harmful algal blooms
- during this critical period.

Trophic Classification of Aquatic Ecosystems

- Oligotrophic – Low levels of organic matter – tend to be deep and clear, oxygen rich bottom supports cold water fish such as trout, Phosphorus is limiting
- Mesotrophic – more organic matter, oxygen level in lake bottom is low
- Eutrophic– High levels of organic matter – abundant plant growth, poor clarity, stratified with oxygen poor bottoms
- A dead zone is an area where oxygen levels fall below 2 ppm



Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton

The management actions required to address this environmental challenge are basically the same as the Eutrophication or undesirable algae challenge. The reduction in phosphorus levels will address the phytoplankton and zooplankton moving back into the main stream food web processes. Currently, there is evidence in Bay of Quinte, that invasive species such as zebra/quagga mussels and round gobies sustain the upper sports fish in a significant way by providing an alternate pathway for food/energy transfer.



Phosphorus Management Plan

Now, there needs to be a long-term vision for maintaining water quality in the bay, reducing harmful algae blooms and keeping the fishery sustainable. It's important to understand that achieving the criteria and targets for the environmental challenges doesn't mean the work on the bay's water quality is finished. Along with the need to continue to reduce of the legacy phosphorus available from the sediments. There will be added pressures from population increases, urban and rural development, and climate change. The area is growing; new developments are adding more impervious surfaces, increasing stormwater runoff and additional volume to sewage treatment plants. Waterfront living is more popular than ever these days, impacting shorelines and wetlands; climate change - will affect water quantity and quality.

In the next year or so, the RAP process will be complete. The **Phosphorus Management Plan** that is being developed for the Bay

will take over from the RAP.

**research and monitoring have been happening since the 1970s.
Today, the bay is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.**



**WATER CHEMISTRY, FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, VEGETATION, FISH
POPULATION, URBAN AND RURAL CONTAMINANTS, SEDIMENTS,
PHYTOPLANKTON/ZOOPLANKTON, EXCESS NUTRIENTS (PHOSPHORUS),
COASTAL WETLANDS, FOOD WEB DYNAMICS, UNDERWATER BUGS,
NEARSHORE/OFFSHORE INTERACTIONS, WATERSHED MODELLING STUDIES, SOIL
NUTRIENTS, BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT,
UNDERWATER PLANTS, SATELLITE IMAGERY,**



Living Lab

The Bay of Quinte has been a Living Lab for the past 50 + years.

today, the bay is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem.



Water Quality Monitoring

The Bay of Quinte Long-Term Monitoring Program is implemented by Quinte Conservation. It monitors nine sites around the Bay for phosphorus levels, water chemistry, and algae species and their concentrations.



Fisheries Monitoring

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) ensures Bay of Quinte fish populations remain healthy by monitoring fish species diversity and abundance throughout the bay.



Coastal Wetlands Monitoring

BQRAP staff and Quinte Conservation monitor 15 coastal wetlands for: water quality, underwater bugs, fish and wildlife, and vegetation.



Fish Contaminants Monitoring

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has monitored fish contaminants for over 50 years to assess environmental health and provide safety advice. The program analyzes over 300 contaminants—including mercury, PCBs, and PFAS—in 50+ fish species to produce the annual [Guide to Eating Ontario Fish](#).



Rural Stewardship

Another great year for the Rural Stewardship Program. If you are interested in our stewardship programs click on the green links.

Cover Crops : 19 participants, 1171 acres covered

Healthy Soils : 8 participants, 658 acres sampled

Waterway Planting : 1 completed project

Be Septic Savvy: 2 participants

Working with the Community

Marsh Monitoring Program

Every year, the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan needs volunteer citizen scientists to survey local marshes to collect data on wetland birds and frogs. The survey information helps track long-term trends in species diversity, and abundance. The information collected tells us about the presence and abundance of both species in coastal and inland marshes and contributes to our understanding of these species and their habitat needs.”

We has 72 registrants for the event.

Citizen scientists needed to survey marshes in the Bay of Quinte Region for wetlands birds and frogs.

Quinte area naturalist, Terry Sprague will explain how you can participate in **FrogWatch Ontario** and/or the **Marsh Monitoring Program** and help us understand about the health of local marshes by surveying for birds and frogs.

This is a free online presentation.

Monday, March 3, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Register on Eventbrite to receive the link.
<https://marshmonitoring2025.eventbrite.ca>

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
 Healthy Bay • Healthy Community

BIRDS CANADA OISEAUX CANADA

smidlanejones@bqrap.ca
 613-394-3915 ext 214
www.bqrap.ca

Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show



plowing match 2025

It's always a great couple of days at the Hastings County Plowing

Match and Farm Show. We look forward to connecting with the agricultural community every year.

Restoration Council

The Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan is working towards a healthier Bay of Quinte ecosystem. Work to clean up the Bay of Quinte, which was identified in 1985 as an “Area of Concern” by the International Joint Commission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, is directed by the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council.

This Council includes:

- Lower Trent Conservation
- Quinte Conservation
- Canada Water Agency
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
- Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
- Municipal representatives
- Public representatives
- CFB Trenton

Staff

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Agenda Item #18.



CAO REPORT

Date: March 30, 2026
To: Board of Directors
Prepared by: Rhonda Bateman, Chief Administrative Officer

ALTO

The letter to ALTO with the resolution passed at the last Board meeting was sent on March 23, 2026.

MPP MEETINGS

Member Eric Sandford, Vice-Chair Wheeldon, Member Bob Mullin, Centre Hastings CAO Typhany Chouinard and I attended a meeting with MPP Bresee on Monday March 16th at the MPP's Madoc Constituency Office. The meeting was a discussion of the issues with the consolidation raised by the Board of Directors. The meeting included discussions of municipal representation and the loss of voice of small rural municipalities through County representation, Hastings County's municipal coverage of conservation authorities, funding options whether municipal or regional, inconsistency in regulation application between CAs and the introduction of modernization tools. It was noted by our Board members that LTC is following the regulatory requirements and meeting designated targets and should be viewed as a shining example of good business practices and good governance.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MP Chris Malette met with Anne Anderson, Sarah Midlane-Jones, Mary Gunning (Quinte Conservation) and I. Discussions were focussed on the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP). MP Malette was supportive of the program and offered to provide assistance if required on federally sponsored programs. Following that meeting staff provided a summary of BQRAP status and identified potential issues moving forward.

STAFFING

We had interviews for a Planning Ecologist position to complement the planning and regulations team and the preferred candidate has been contacted.

AROUND THE WATERSHED

I attended the Community Economic Development event in Cramahe Township on March 25th with several members of our Board. It was a good informational and interactive session. Although it was mainly focussed on Northumberland County, it is easy to see application for partnership initiatives across the watershed.

I attended the Quinte West Agricultural Advisory Committee on March 17th. I provided an overview of the status of the consolidation known to date and the Board resolution for ALTO.

Member Bobbi Wright and I attended a virtual consultation session hosted by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to develop recommendations to the Clean Water Agency on the Freshwater Action Plan. Most of the attendees were municipal representatives. The format of the session presented some challenges. I am hoping that the recommendations from the session are shared.

EASTERN ONTARIO REGION CAs

The new Eastern Lake Ontario Region CA general managers met virtually Monday March 30th to discuss Bill 97 - the provincial budget bill and next steps.

The full Eastern Region CAs continue to meet via teleconference monthly to share information and best practices. There is an in-person meeting being proposed for April 10th in Kingston. This will be the first meeting including all members of the Central Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence Regional CAs.

CONSERVATION ONTARIO

There was a General Managers meeting held virtually on March 30th to discuss the Budget Bill. Conservation Ontario is holding weekly virtual meetings for general managers to have an open forum for discussion and share ideas.

The Annual General Meeting of CO Council will be held on April 27th.