



NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: August 20, 2026

TIME: 4:00 pm

LOCATION: Hybrid Meeting

AGENDA

MEETING:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMBERS:

Randy Barber, Mark Lovshin, Vicki Mink, Miriam Mutton, Lance Nachoff, Tracy Richardson, Adam Pearson, Joan Stover, Willie Woo, Margaret Zwart

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

Land Acknowledgement

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga's and Chippewa's of the Anishinabek, known today as the Williams Treaties First Nations. Our work on these lands acknowledges their resilience and their longstanding contribution to the area. We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
3. Minutes of Last Meeting – **June 18, 2026 – attached**
4. Adoption of the Agenda

5. Business Arising from Minutes:
None.
6. Delegations:
None.
7. Presentations:
None.
8. Correspondence: (some previously circulated via email)
03/26 Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks re: Minister's Direction re: temporary restrictions – **note and file**
04/26 Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks re: Minister's Direction with respect to budget and apportionment matters– **note and file**
05/26 City of Kawartha Lakes re: 2027 Budget – **note and file**
06/26 Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency re: Appointment of Project Executives – **note and file**
07/26 Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks re: Minister's Direction re: Ontario Regulatory Registry posting #026-0740 – **note and file**
08/26 Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency re: Members of the Transition Committees – **note and file**
09/26 Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency – re: Transition Committee Introduction from Alison McDonald, Project Executive – **note and file**
9. Applications under Ontario Regulation 168/06:
Permits approved by Executive - **schedule attached**

Permit applications requiring Board of Directors discussion:
None
10. Committee Reports:
None.
11. New Business:
 - a) 2027 Preliminary Budget and Municipal Levy – **staff report attached**
 - b) Garden Hill Dam Update – **staff report attached**
 - c) Ganaraska Forest Centre Auxiliary Building Update - **staff report attached**
 - d) Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities – **staff report attached**
12. Other Business:
None.
13. Public Question Period - **Agenda Items Only**
- All questions are to be submitted the day before by 4:00 pm in advance of the Board of Directors meeting in order to allow staff to prepare the answers to the questions. The Chair has discretion for questions on the day of the meeting.

- A maximum of 10 minutes will be allotted for the Question Period. More time can be allocated at the discretion of the Chair.
- Persons wishing to ask a question must state their name and address for the record.
- Questions will be restricted to only those items listed on the agenda.
- Questions cannot be asked on "In Camera" items.
- Questions cannot be asked with respect to minutes of Board of Directors meetings or committee meetings.
- All persons will speak respectfully when asking the question.
- The Chair may conclude the Question Period prior to the ten (10) minute time limit, where attendees are disobeying the Rules of Order, or a decision of the Chair, or where there are no questions.

14. In Camera:
None.

15. Adjourn

GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 18, 2026 (Hybrid)

GRCA 03/26

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Call to Order

The Chair called the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Mink, Chair - Municipality of Port Hope
Randy Barber, Vice-Chair - Town of Cobourg
Miriam Mutton - Town of Cobourg
Lance Nachoff - Township of Cavan Monaghan
Adam Pearson - Municipality of Port Hope
Joan Stover - Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
Willie Woo - Municipality of Clarington

ALSO PRESENT: Linda Laliberte, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Cory Harris, Watershed Services Coordinator
Ken Thajer, Planning and Regulations Coordinator

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mark Lovshin - Township of Hamilton
Tracy Richardson - City of Kawartha Lakes

ALSO ABSENT: Margaret Zwart - Municipality of Clarington

Land Acknowledgement

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga's and Chippewa's of the Anishinabek, known today as the Williams Treaties First Nations. Our work on these lands acknowledges their resilience and their longstanding contribution to the area. We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

GRCA 17/26

MOVED BY: Randy Barber

SECONDED BY: Joan Stover

THAT the Gananaska Region Conservation Authority approve the minutes of the April 16, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

GRCA 18/26

MOVED BY: Adam Pearson

SECONDED BY: Willie Woo

THAT the Gananaska Region Conservation Authority adopt the agenda.

CARRIED.

5. Business Arising from Minutes:

None.

6. Delegations

None.

7. Presentations

a) Clean Water – Healthy Land Stewardship Program 2026 Update

Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator, provided an update to the Board of Directors on the Clean Water-Healthy Land program. The Board thanked staff for the presentation.

GRCA 19/26

MOVED BY: Miriam Mutton

SECONDED BY: Adam Pearson

THAT the Gananaska Region Conservation Authority receives the Clean Water – Healthy Land Stewardship Program, 2026 Update presentation for information.

CARRIED.

b) Gananaska Forest Update

Pam Lancaster, Conservation Lands Coordinator, provided an update to the Board of Directors on the Gananaska Forest and that forest memberships have increased over the past year. Randy Barber asked about misquotes. Joan Stover asked about the volunteers and how to apply.

GRCA 20/26

MOVED BY: Joan Stover

SECONDED BY: Randy Barber

THAT the Gananaska Region Conservation Authority adopt the agenda.

CARRIED.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Applications under Ontario Regulation 41/24 and Conservation Authorities Act:

Permits approved by Executive:

GRCA 21/26

MOVED BY: Willie Woo

SECONDED BY: Joan Stover

THAT the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receive the permits for information.
CARRIED.

Permit Application requiring Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors discussion:

None.

Adam Pearson left the meeting.

10. Committee Reports:

a) Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee Minutes

GRCA 22/26

MOVED BY: Randy Barber

SECONDED BY: Lance Nachoff

THAT the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receive the minutes of June 4, 2026, for information.

CARRIED.

11. New Business:

a) Recreational Users Committee Terms of Reference

GRCA 23/26

MOVED BY: Willie Woo

SECONDED BY: Joan Stover

THAT the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority approve the updates to the Recreational Users Committee Terms of Reference.

CARRIED.

b) 2027 Budget Criteria

There was a discussion with regards to the October meeting and if the members would be able to vote or would their council be "lame ducks." The CAO/Secretary-Treasurer stated that conservation authorities are to follow the direction set by the Province which is to have the 2027 budgets passed prior to December 31, 2026.

GRCA 24/26

MOVED BY: Lance Nachoff

SECONDED BY: Miriam Mutton

THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to prepare the 2027 preliminary budget based on the criteria contained in the staff report dated June 18, 2026, and the preliminary budget be prepared for the August 20, 2026 meeting.

CARRIED.

c) Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

The CAO/Secretary-Treasurer presented the staff report on the recent update. The Board members voiced concerns with the process and the lack of information on how the process will be carried forward.

GRCA 25/26

MOVED BY: Randy Barber

SECONDED BY: Lance Nachoff

THAT the Board of Directors receive the staff report for information.

CARRIED.

d) Garden Hill Dam Update

GRCA 26/26

MOVED BY: Joan Stover

SECONDED BY: Willie Woo

THAT the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receive the Garden Hill Dam Update report for information.

CARRIED.

12. Other Business

The members acknowledged Goerge Elgear's retirement after 49 years of service.

13. Public Question Period

None.

14. In Camera

None.

15. Adjourn

GRCA 27/26

MOVED BY: Willie Woo

THAT the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

CARRIED.

CHAIR


CAO/SECRETARY-TREASURER

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 314-6790

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 314-6790



357-2026-1281

May 1, 2026

TO: Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities

SUBJECT: Minister's direction under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
(re: temporary restrictions)

I am writing with regards to the transition of Ontario's conservation authority system to a consolidated regional model. The *Plan to Protect Ontario Act* (Budget Measures), 2026 received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026 and pursuant to my authority under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), I am issuing a direction to conservation authorities – please see attached to this letter as Attachment A (the "Direction").

The intention of this Direction, which is effective from May 1, 2026 to the transition date under the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations), is to apply temporary restrictions on significant financial, asset or employment decisions to mitigate risk and ensure a stable transition to the new regional structure.

This Direction applies to certain conservation authority decisions related to: governance, organizational or staffing changes; the acquisition and disposition of lands; significant capital transactions; and the provision or acquisition of goods or services. For the decisions specified in this Direction, conservation authorities will be required to seek authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (or the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks if the chief executive officer has not yet been appointed), before the authority can make the decision. This Direction applies to all current conservation authorities, as listed in Appendix A to the attachment. Further guidance on the process to obtain authorization is set out in Appendix B to the attachment. The CAA provides that if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

...2

03/26

Page 2.

These measures are not intended to interfere with the regular day-to-day business and operations of conservation authorities. If you are contemplating whether or not this Direction applies to a conservation authority decision under consideration, if you have any questions regarding this Direction, or if you are looking to request authorization for a conservation authority decision that may be covered under this Direction, please contact the Chief Conservation Executive at CCEO@ontario.ca and copy the Conservation Authorities Section at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Continuity for communities is a core principle of this transition. These time-limited measures are intended to ensure there aren't any service disruptions during transition and to ensure that the transition to consolidation is smooth and successful with minimal disruptions to conservation authorities' governance, programs and services. Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration as we work to improve the conservation authority system in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long, sweeping underline.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Attachment A

Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (this "Direction")

Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act provides the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks with the authority to issue a direction to a conservation authority in relation to various matters for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities. The types of directions that can be issued by the Minister are set out in clauses 1.14 (1) (a) to (d):

- (a) prohibiting the authority from making a decision in relation to its exercise of any of its powers under this Act or any other Act in the circumstances specified in the direction and subject to any specified conditions;
- (b) requiring the authority to give notice, in accordance with the direction, of a decision that it has made;
- (c) requiring the authority to send notices under subsection 25 (2), 27 (3) or 27.2 (3) by the date specified in the direction;
- (d) governing budgetary and apportionment matters relating to the authority that are otherwise addressed in a regulation made under clause 40 (1) (c), (e) or (f) or clause 40 (3) (k).

Section 1.14 further provides that an authority that receives such a direction shall comply with the direction within the time specified in the direction.

If an authority makes decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under clauses 1.14 (1) (a) and (b), the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" to this Direction (the "**authorities**" or each, an "**authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

Decisions prohibited unless authorization obtained (direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a))

1. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, an authority is prohibited from making a decision to do any of the following unless the authority obtains written authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency ("OPCA CEO") in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 4:

- i. Amending an authority's by-laws made under section 19.1 of the CAA, unless the amendment is administrative in nature and does not affect the substance or legal effect of the by-law (e.g. updating references, dates, and terminology; name or title changes; and making obvious corrections where the intended meaning is clear).
- ii. Any of the following related to employment:
 - a. Terminating the employment of a permanent or temporary employee who serves in a senior leadership position, including the authority's chief administrative officer or general manager, its secretary treasurer, and any departmental directors if applicable.
 - b. Filling a vacancy for (i.e. temporarily or permanently) or making any changes to the terms and conditions of employment for any senior leadership position as referred to in sub-subparagraph a.
 - c. Terminating the employment of any employee who serves in a leadership position related to or who are essential to the provision of the following mandatory programs and services described in the following provisions of O. Reg. 686/21 made under the CAA: flood forecasting and warning (section 2), ice management (section 4), infrastructure (section 5), plan reviews (sections 6 and 7) and the administration and enforcement of Parts VI and VII of the CAA (section 8).
 - d. Increasing the total number of employees of the authority unless the increase was already included in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year.
- iii. Changing the organizational structure of the employees of the authority, including creating, merging, or eliminating departments.
- iv. Acquiring, by purchase, lease or otherwise, any land or to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any land owned by the authority.
- v. Acquiring services from a person or body where:
 - a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length,
or
 - b. the total cost of the service exceeds the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's operating expenses, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This does not include a decision to renew or extend an agreement for a service that a person or body was providing to the authority prior to the Effective Date.

vi. Providing a service to a person or body where:

- a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length,
or
- b. the total amount to be charged for the service exceeds the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's revenues, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This does not include a decision to, renew or extend an agreement for a service that the authority was providing to the person or body prior to the Effective Date.

vii. Incurring a capital cost in connection with a project or purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:

- a. in the case of a lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
- b. the total amount of the capital cost or purchase, lease or other acquisition would exceed the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This direction does not apply if the capital cost or acquisition is contemplated for a particular program or service identified in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year and the total capital cost or acquisition amount is within the budgeted amount for the program or service.

viii. Selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of or dealing with personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:

- a. in the case of the lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
- b. the total amount of the lease or other disposition or dealing would exceed the lesser of \$500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

2. Despite paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs 1. v to viii do not apply to a decision of an authority that is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

3. For greater certainty, paragraph 1 does not apply to a decision of an authority to execute an agreement that has the effect of implementing a decision made by the authority before the Effective Date.
4. The following conditions must be satisfied before an authority is authorized to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1:
 - i. The authority must request authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision, in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Direction.
 - ii. The authority must receive written authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision. If authorization for the request is granted only in part, the authority must ensure that its decision does not exceed the scope of the authorization.
5. For the purposes of paragraph 4, the authority must request authorization to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 by submitting the following information to the OPCA CEO:
 - i. A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1.
 - ii. A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
 - iii. An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
 - iv. Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.
6. The authority must provide any additional information about the request to the OPCA CEO at the OPCA CEO's request.

**Notice of a decision that an authority has made to address an emergency
(direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (b))**

7. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, where the authority makes a decision that is not subject to paragraph 1 by reason that the decision is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the authority must give notice to OPCA CEO within 3 business days after making the decision.
8. The notice mentioned in paragraph 7 must describe the decision that was made and explain how the decision that was made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

General

9. In this Direction, a reference to the OPCA CEO means the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if a chief executive officer of OPCA has not yet been appointed.
10. In this Direction, a reference to an authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year means the authority's final budget for the 2026 calendar year that was approved prior to the Effective Date. For greater certainty, if an authority has not yet approved its final budget for the 2026 calendar year prior to the Effective Date, the authority does not have an approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year for the purposes of this Direction.
11. The authority must ensure that any employee of the authority who is responsible for or involved in making a decision that is subject to this Direction is made aware of this Direction, and the authority must require these employees to take all steps necessary to ensure the authority complies with this Direction.
12. This Direction applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.
13. For greater certainty, this Direction also applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction when such conservation authorities are meeting as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.
14. This Direction is effective from May 1, 2026 (the "**Effective Date**") to the transition date, within the meaning of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations).
15. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.



Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
May 1, 2026

Appendix A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA	Lower Trent Region CA
Cataraqui Region CA	Maitland Valley CA
Catfish Creek CA	Mattagami Region CA
Central Lake Ontario CA	Mississippi Valley CA
Credit Valley CA	Niagara Peninsula CA
Crowe Valley CA	Nickel District CA
Essex Region CA	North Bay-Mattawa CA
Ganaraska Region CA	Nottawasaga Valley CA
Grand River CA	Otonabee Region CA
Grey Sauble CA	Quinte Region CA
Halton Region CA	Raisin Region CA
Hamilton Region CA	Rideau Valley CA
Kawartha Region CA	Saugeen Valley CA
Kettle Creek CA	Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
Lake Simcoe Region CA	South Nation River CA
Lakehead Region CA	St. Clair Region CA
Long Point Region CA	Toronto and Region CA
Lower Thames Valley CA	Upper Thames River CA

Appendix B

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THE MINISTER'S DIRECTION ISSUED UNDER SECTION 1.14 OF THE CAA

The following sets out additional information and guidance for authorities in relation to the Minister's Direction issued May 1, 2026 under s. 1.14 of the CAA.

The ministry strongly encourages conservation authorities to contact the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) at CCEO@ontario.ca if an authority is uncertain about the scope, application or requirements of this direction. OPCA can help clarify whether a proposed decision is subject to this Direction and how the authority can ensure it complies with this Direction.

As paragraph 11 of the Direction provides, if any decisions covered by the Direction are made by employees of the authority, the authority has the obligation to ensure that their employees are aware of this Direction and that the authority seeks prior authorization in accordance with the Direction before the decision is made.

The CAA provides that, if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Request and OPCA CEO Decision Process

Making a Request

After a conservation authority determines that a proposed decision requires authorization from the OPCA CEO, the authority may make a request for authorization via email to CCEO@ontario.ca containing the following required information:

- A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 of the Direction.
- A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
- An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
- Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.

Any notices of decisions required to be given to OPCA CEO under paragraph 7 of the Direction should also be sent via email to CCEO@ontario.ca.

Confirmation of Receipt

Once the OPCA (or Office of the Chief Conservation Executive (OCCE) if the OPCA CEO has not yet been appointed), receives a request from the authority that includes the required information, the authority will be notified by OPCA that the request has been received and the timeline for a decision. The OPCA will also inform the Ministry's Conservation Authorities Section (CAS) (via ca.office@ontario.ca) that a request for written authorization has been received. In addition, if the authority provides notice under paragraph 7 of the Direction of a decision made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the OPCA will inform the CAS.

If, upon review by the OPCA CEO, it is determined that a decision is not subject to the requirement for prior written authorization, the authority will be notified as soon as possible that the decision is not subject to this Direction.

Consideration of Request

The OPCA CEO will endeavour to make a decision on the request in a timely manner and not more than 30 calendar days from the day of receiving the request that is accompanied with the required information. Where the complexity of the request or the need for additional information necessitates, written notice will be provided to the authority by the OPCA of any additional time needed to issue a decision.

The OPCA CEO may consult on an authority's request with the relevant transition committee and project executive that has been appointed by OPCA for that authority. . The OPCA CEO may also require the authority to provide additional information if needed to support their consideration of the request.

Decision

The OPCA CEO may make the following types of decisions on a request for written authorization:

- Grant authorization to the authority to proceed with making the decision that was the subject of the request, in whole or in part (i.e., authorize the authority to proceed in a more limited manner than what was requested).
- Deny authorization, including in circumstances where, in the opinion of the OPCA CEO, the decision would not be in the best interest of the future regional conservation authority, or it would be more appropriate to defer the decision to the future regional conservation authority.

The decision of the OPCA CEO on the request will be given in writing to the authority and will include a rationale for the decision if the decision is to deny authorization or only grant authorization in part. The Ministry's CAS will also be notified of the OPCA CEO's decision.

Where an authority's proposed decision is authorized by the OPCA CEO, or where the proposed decision has been authorized but only in part, this in no way compels the authority to proceed with the decision. In all cases, the authority retains the sole power to determine whether to proceed with any decision that has been authorized by the OPCA CEO.

Reconsideration

There is no process for reconsideration of an OPCA CEO decision on a request for authorization under the Direction.

An authority whose request for authorization is denied or granted only in part may request authorization again in accordance with the Direction at a later date if the circumstances have changed and the authority believes that these changes in circumstances would support the granting of authorization.

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 314-6790

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél.: 416 314-6790



357-2026-1745

June 26, 2026

TO: Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities

SUBJECT: Minister's direction under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* with respect to budget and apportionment matters

I am writing with regards to the transition of Ontario's conservation authority system to a consolidated regional model. Pursuant to my authority under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), I am issuing a direction ("Direction") to conservation authorities on budget and apportionment matters leading up to the transition date – please see attached Direction.

The purpose of this Direction, effective from June 26, 2026 to the transition date under the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027, or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations), is to require conservation authorities to complete the budgetary process for the 2027 calendar year budget before the transition date, and in accordance with the CAA and applicable budget and apportionment regulations.

This Direction establishes deadlines for key budget process milestones, including the holding of meetings to approve apportionment amounts and final budgets, and the sending of notices of apportionment to participating municipalities. Conservation authorities are also required to notify the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) as certain steps of the budget process are completed. This Direction applies to all conservation authorities listed in Appendix A, with additional guidance set out in Appendix B of the attachment.

The Direction is intended to ensure that the transition to consolidation is successful with minimal disruptions to conservation authorities' governance, programs and services.

If you have any questions regarding this Direction, please contact the Conservation Authorities Section of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at ca.office@ontario.ca.

...2

04/26

Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities
Page 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

ATTACHMENT A

Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (this "Direction")

Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) provides the Minister with the authority to issue a direction to a conservation authority in relation to various matters for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities. The types of directions that can be issued by the Minister are set out in clauses 1.14(1)(a) to (d):

- (a) prohibiting the authority from making a decision in relation to its exercise of any of its powers under this Act or any other Act in the circumstances specified in the direction and subject to any specified conditions;
- (b) requiring the authority to give notice, in accordance with the direction, of a decision that it has made;
- (c) requiring the authority to send notices under subsection 25 (2), 27 (3) or 27.2 (3) by the date specified in the direction;
- (d) governing budgetary and apportionment matters relating to the authority that are otherwise addressed in a regulation made under clause 40 (1) (c), (e) or (f) or clause 40 (3) (k).

Section 1.14 further provides that an authority that receives such a direction shall comply with the direction within the time specified in the direction.

Pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under clauses 1.14(1)(c) and (d), the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" of this Direction (the "**authorities**" or each, an "**authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

1. Each authority shall take all necessary steps to develop and approve its budget for the 2027 calendar year, in accordance with the CAA, to ensure that the authority complies with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Direction.
2. No later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the transition date, each authority shall:
 - i. Hold a meeting to approve apportionment amounts for its participating and specified municipalities as required by section 16 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - ii. Hold a meeting to approve a final budget as required by section 22 of O. Reg. 402/22.
3. Prior to the transition date, each authority shall:
 - i. Provide a copy of its final budget to the Minister and each of its participating and specified municipalities in accordance with section 24 of O. Reg. 402/22, and in addition, provide a copy of the approved final budget to the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
 - ii. Send notices to the authority's participating and specified municipalities in accordance with subsections 25(2) (notices of apportionment of capital

costs), 27(3) (notices of apportionment of operating expenses) and 27.2(3) (notices of amounts owed by specified municipalities) of the CAA.

4. Upon completion of each of the following steps, each authority shall provide written notice of the completion of the step to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks and the OPCA:
 - i. Approval of a draft budget for consultation purposes in accordance with section 14 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - ii. Approval of apportionment amounts for participating and specified municipalities in accordance with section 18 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - iii. Approval of a final budget in accordance with section 23 of O. Reg. 402/22.
 - iv. Sending of notices to participating and specified municipalities in accordance with subsections 25 (2), 27(3) and 27.2(3) of the CAA.

General

5. This Direction applies to the authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.
6. This Direction is effective from the date of its issuance to the transition date, within the meaning of the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations).
7. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.



Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
[June 26, 2026]

APPENDIX A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA	Lower Trent Region CA
Cataraqui Region CA	Maitland Valley CA
Catfish Creek CA	Mattagami Region CA
Central Lake Ontario CA	Mississippi Valley CA
Credit Valley CA	Niagara Peninsula CA
Crowe Valley CA	Nickel District CA
Essex Region CA	North Bay-Mattawa CA
Ganaraska Region CA	Nottawasaga Valley CA
Grand River CA	Otonabee Region CA
Grey Sauble CA	Quinte Region CA
Halton Region CA	Raisin Region CA
Hamilton Region CA	Rideau Valley CA
Kawartha Region CA	Saugeen Valley CA
Kettle Creek CA	Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
Lake Simcoe Region CA	South Nation River CA
Long Point Region CA	St. Clair Region CA
Lower Thames Valley CA	Toronto and Region CA
	Upper Thames River CA

APPENDIX B

Guidance document for the Minister's Direction issued under section 1.14 of the CAA with respect to budget and apportionment matters

The Minister's Direction issued June 26, 2026 under s.1.14 of the CAA aims to preserve operational and budget process continuity through the transition to a regional governance model for conservation authorities.

While Ontario Regulation 402/22 (Budget and Apportionment) does not set out specific dates or deadlines for the completion of the various phases of the budget and apportionment process, this Direction sets the following timing requirements and additional notification requirements:

Item/Task	Deadline
i. Holding of meeting to approve apportionment amounts for participating and specified municipalities (s. 16 of O. Reg. 402/22)	No later than 30 calendar days before the transition date
ii. Holding of meeting to approve final budget (s. 22 of O. Reg. 402/22)	
i. Providing copies of the approved final budget (s. 24 of O. Reg. 402/22)	Prior to the transition date
ii. Sending of notices to participating and specified municipalities (s. 25(2), 27(3), and 27.2(3) of the CAA)	
i. Providing a notice to the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) and Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) when each of the following steps is completed:	Upon completion of each step
a. Approval of a draft budget for consultation purposes	
b. Approval of apportionment amounts	
c. Approval of the final budget	
d. Sending of notices to participating and specified municipalities	

With respect to any documents and notice required to be given to the MECP and OPCA (e.g., approved final budget and notice of completion of various steps), please send those documents and notices to MECP at ca.office@ontario.ca and OPCA at CCEO@ontario.ca.

2027 Annual Budget

Conservation authorities will carry out the 2027 calendar year budget process in accordance with Ministers Directions, the CAA and its regulations. The determination of revenue, expenses and costs under Section 5 of O. Reg. 402/22 and determination of reduced amounts to be apportioned under Section 6 of O. Reg. 402/22 should reflect continuity of normal operations of an authority according to current organization's

governance, financial structures, and programs and services. Any anticipated impacts from regional consolidation should not be considered or incorporated into the preparation of the budget for the 2027 calendar year under this direction.

Municipal Consultation

Current participating and specified municipalities are to be consulted on the draft budget for the 2027 calendar year, in accordance with existing legislative/regulatory requirements.

Voting

Budget-related votes are conducted using current authority membership and existing governance rules and in accordance with regulations, where that is set out.

Final Approval and Posting

Authorities approve, post, and provide copies of the final budget for the 2027 calendar year in accordance with existing requirements and the Minister's Direction.

Municipal Apportionment

The approach to municipal apportionment will not change for 2027 calendar year budgets and will follow the existing methods set out in O. Reg. 402/22 and O. Reg. 401/22 (Determination of Amounts Under Subsection 27.2 (2) of the Act) and apply to the current participating and specified municipalities of each authority per the apportionment percentages distributed by the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks.

Once apportioned amounts are determined and approved by authorities, notices of apportionment are sent to each participating municipality and notices setting out amounts owing are sent to each specified municipality. Each municipality shall be required to pay the amount apportioned to it even after the transition date under the CAA, at which point the payment will be due to the regional conservation authority.

Future Annual Budget

Budget alignment across regional conservation authorities will occur following the transition date.

The ministry will assess whether any changes need to be made to the budgeting process as set out in the budget and apportionment regulations as a result of the regional consolidation of authorities and will consider amendments to those regulations in Fall 2026, where appropriate.



Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
P.O. Box 9000, 26 Francis Street
Lindsay, ON K9V 5R8
(705) 324-9411, ext. 1296
www.kawarthalakes.ca

July 3, 2026

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
2216 Northumberland County Road 28
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V8
llaliberte@grca.on.ca

Attention: Linda Laliberte, CAO / Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Linda,

Re: 2027 Budget

The City has commenced its 2027 budget process. Following the municipal election, the incoming Mayor is required to propose 2027 budgets no later than February 1, 2027. It is expected that proposed budgets will be publicly available, deliberated and approved in Q1 of 2027.

All City budgets are being prepared in alignment with the City's Long Term Financial Plan forecasts and assumptions. This equates to a maximum target increase of 4% for operating budgets.

With that direction in mind, we respectfully request that your organization submit your formal 2027 budget request in writing to the Office of the CAO no later than Friday, August 21, 2026. Requests should include all relevant supporting information, including, but not limited to:

- Outline of request, particularly funding from the City
- Indication of whether requested funding is one-time or multi-year
- Impact of receiving request
- Impact of not receiving request
- How you will track and monitor spending
- How you will report to the City on spending

05/26



Organizations will have the opportunity to present their 2027 requests to the CAO, Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer in late September or early October. Please advise Brett Pettigrew (bpettigrew@kawarthalakes.ca) if you wish to present, and he will schedule a date/time and provide a Microsoft PowerPoint template for your presentation. We ask that presentations be limited to 30 minutes or less.

If you require assistance or wish to discuss the 2027 budget process in advance, please feel free to contact myself (rtaylor@kawarthalakes.ca) or Brett Pettigrew, Executive Assistant to the Director of Corporate Services (bpettigrew@kawarthalakes.ca).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Taylor", is positioned above the printed name.

Ron Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Director of Corporate Services
EA to Director of Corporate Services
Chief Financial Officer
Supervisor of Budget and Financial Planning

Ontario Provincial
Conservation Agency

l'Agence ontarienne de
protection de la nature

July 15, 2026

Dear GMs/CAOs:

I am writing to share an important update on transition planning for regional consolidation. In May, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency launched an expedited external recruitment process to identify Project Executives who will chair Transition Committees and subsequently serve as inaugural Chief Administrative Officers of the new Regional Conservation Authorities (RCA) for terms of up to two years.

The opportunity was circulated broadly across the conservation and municipal sectors and the recruitment process generated over 50 applications, and more than 20 interviews were conducted with a diverse range of candidates, including current CAOs/GMs, senior municipal leaders, and experienced public-sector executives.

We have now completed the recruitment for the role and are pleased to announce the appointment of eight new Project Executives:

- Davin Heinbuck – Western Lake Erie RCA
- Samantha Lawson – Eastern Lake Erie RCA
- Sommer Casgrain-Robertson – St. Lawrence River RCA
- Alison McDonald – Eastern Lake Ontario RCA
- Don Goodyear – Lake Huron RCA
- Tim Commisso – Northeastern Ontario RCA
- Jacqueline Johnson – Western Lake Ontario RCA
- Robert Baldwin – Central Lake Ontario RCA

While a Project Executive will not be appointed for the Northwestern RCA, the region will continue to be fully engaged and closely integrated in transition planning. Tammy Cook will continue to lead this work in her current capacity as CAO, ensuring continuity and collaboration as transition activities progress.

The appointment of the Project Executives is a critical step in ensuring experienced, stable leadership to support a successful transition, with continuity and clear accountability both before and after consolidation.

06/24

I would also like to thank all those who indicated interest in the Project Executive role and participated in the recruitment process.

Please join me in welcoming the successful Project Executives to these transformative and challenging roles. I have no doubt that you will extend your full support and professional collaboration as leaders of your respective Conservation Authority to achieve successful consolidation.

Thank you as always for your continued commitment and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hassaan', with a stylized, flowing script.

Hassaan Basit
CEO
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

From: ca.office (MECP) <ca.office@ontario.ca>
Sent: July 29, 2026 3:52 PM
To: ca.office (MECP)
Subject: Consultation on Two Proposed Regulations Under the Conservation Authorities Act

Greetings,

We are writing to notify you of a proposal notice posting regarding two proposed regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), available for comment on the [Ontario Regulatory Registry](#), and the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) at [posting #026-0740](#) for 45 days, closing September 14, 2026.

These proposals include:

1. Proposed regulation setting out the method for determining the number of members appointed to regional conservation authorities:

- The ministry is proposing a Tiered Allocation Formula to determine how many members each participating municipality appoints to their regional conservation authority (CA) based on its share of the regional CA's total population.
- In April 2026, the *Conservation Authorities Act* was amended to provide for the regional consolidation of conservation authorities. To support implementation, the Act sets out that the number of members each participating municipality appoints to the regional conservation authorities are to be determined by a method prescribed in regulation ([s. 1.5](#) and [s. 14](#)).
- For a more detailed and visual depiction of the application of the Tiered Allocation Formula for each of the planned nine regional CAs, please review the proposal notice posting and the supplemental document attached to the proposal notice posting.

2. Proposed regulation for Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency board member ineligibility:

- The ministry is also proposing additional ineligibility criteria for appointments to the board of directors of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
- In November 2025, the *Conservation Authorities Act* was amended to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency; the Act sets out that members of Parliament or the Assembly are not eligible to be appointed to the board of directors of the Agency and that a person who satisfies any other criteria prescribed in regulation would also be ineligible to be appointed ([s. 35.6 \(2\)](#)).
- The ministry is proposing that a regulation be made to prescribe that if an individual is a registered lobbyist under Ontario's *Lobbyists Registration Act*, a current member of the CA, or an individual currently employed as a CA officer or senior staff member of the CA, the individual would be ineligible to be appointed to the board of directors of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency.

These regulatory proposals are part of broader action that Ontario is taking to improve the conservation authority system to reduce duplicative costs, free-up resources, and better align the work of conservation authorities with provincial priorities on housing, infrastructure, the economy and climate resilience.

For more information on these proposals, **the ministry will be holding virtual Information Sessions on August 5 and August 12, please click on the links below to register:**

- August 5th session 1:30pm – 3:00pm: [Info Session Registration - August 5, 2026](#)
- August 12th session 10:30am – 12:00pm: [Info Session Registration – August 12, 2026](#)

We look forward to receiving any feedback you may have on the proposals by submitting comments on the RR or ERO posting, or by email to ca.office@ontario.ca

Best regards,

Kirsten Service
Director, Conservation Branch, Conservation and Parks Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ontario 

Ontario Provincial
Conservation Agency

l'Agence ontarienne de
protection de la nature

July 30, 2026

Dear Conservation Authority CAOs, General Managers, Board Chairs, Mayors and Heads of Council:

I am writing to announce the members of the transition committees that will support the implementation of regional conservation authority consolidation.

As you may recall, transition committees will provide advice and operational expertise to support transition activities, including the development of transition plans for each new regional conservation authority.

Committee membership includes the current CAO or General Manager and one board member from each existing conservation authority participating in a regional consolidation.

Each committee will be chaired by a dedicated project executive who will oversee transition activities and provide continuity by serving as the first Chief Administrative Officer of the new regional conservation authority for up to two years. Project executives were recently appointed.

Following a brief orientation period, project executives will convene their transition committees and begin transition planning activities in the coming weeks.

Please find below the membership of the transition committees for each of the eight new regional conservation authorities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership as we work together to establish strong, effective regional conservation authorities.

Sincerely,



Hassaan Basit
CEO
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

08/26

Regional Conservation Authority	Transition Committee Members
Central Lake Ontario Project Executive: Robert Baldwin	Dave Barton, Toronto and Region Conservation John MacKenzie, Toronto and Region Conservation Bob Chapman, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Chris Darling, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
Eastern Lake Ontario Project Executive: Alison McDonald	Brad McNevin, Quinte Conservation Kathryn Brown, Quinte Conservation Rhonda Bateman, Lower Trent Conservation Authority Sherry Hamilton, Lower Trent Conservation Authority Linda Laliberte, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Vicki Mink, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Mark Majchrowski, Kawartha Conservation Authority Pat Warren, Acting, Kawartha Conservation Authority David Ellingwood, Cataraqui Conservation Authority Paul Proderick, Cataraqui Conservation Authority Janette Loveys Smith, Otonabee Region, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority Michael Metcalf, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
Western Lake Ontario Project Executive: Jacqueline Johnson	Lisa Burnside, Hamilton Conservation Authority Brad Clark, Hamilton Conservation Authority Leilani Lee-Yates, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Robert Foster, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Chandra Sharma, Conservation Halton Gerry Smallegange, Conservation Halton Terri LeRoux, Credit Valley Conservation Authority Michael Palleschi, Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Lake Huron	Jonathan Scott, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Project Executive: Don Goodyear	Jennifer Vincent, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Raymond Chartrand, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Nathan Schoelier, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Erik Downing, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Tom Hutchinson, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Phil Beard, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Ed McGugan, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Mark Critch, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Clare Riepma, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Tim Lanthier, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Jennifer Shaw, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
St. Lawrence River Project Executive: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson	Sally McIntyre, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Roy Huet, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Glen McDonald, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Gary Waterfield, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Lisa Van de Ligt, Raisin Region Conservation Authority Andrew Guindon, Raisin Region Conservation Authority Carl Bickerdike, South Nation River Conservation Authority Isabelle Skalski, South Nation River Conservation Authority
Eastern Lake Erie Project Executive: Samantha Lawson	Judy Maxwell, Long Point Region Conservation Authority Doug Brunton, Long Point Region Conservation Authority Elizabeth VanHooren, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority Sharron McMillan, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority John Challinor II, Grand River Conservation Authority Karen Armstrong, Grand River Conservation Authority

	Dusty Underhill, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority Morgaine Griffin, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority
Western Lake Erie Project Executive: Davin Heinbuck	Tim Byrne, Essex Region Conservation Authority Molly Allaire, Essex Region Conservation Authority Tracy Annett, Upper Thames Conservation Authority Brian Petrie, Upper Thames Conservation Authority Mark Peacock, Lower Thames Conservation Authority Sarah Bod, Lower Thames Conservation Authority Ken Phillips, St Clair Region Conservation Authority Greg Grimes, St Clair Region Conservation Authority
Northeastern Project Executive: Tim Commisso	Mark Signoretti, Nickel District Conservation Authority Carl Jorgensen, Nickel District Conservation Authority Liza Vandermer, North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority Lana Mitchell, North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority Corrina Barrett, Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority Sandra Hollingsworth, Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority David Vallier, Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Andrew Marks, Mattagami Region Conservation Authority

Ontario Provincial
Conservation Agency

l'Agence ontarienne de
protection de la nature

August 13, 2026

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to introduce myself as the Project Executive for the Eastern Lake Ontario Region and the incoming Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the regional authority.

In this role, I will lead transition planning activities for our region, chair the Transition Committee, and, upon consolidation in February 2027, serve as the first CAO of the regional authority. My focus will be on ensuring a smooth and successful transition by fostering collaboration, supporting informed decision-making, and helping establish the foundation for a strong and effective regional authority.

Over the course of my career, I have gained significant experience leading Conservation Authorities, working as a County Planner, and serving as a municipal councillor. My leadership approach emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and accountability by fostering strong professional relationships.

Our committee brings together CAOs/General Managers and Board members from the originating conservation authorities that will form the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority. Over the coming months, we will work collaboratively to guide the transition process and support the establishment of our new regional authority.

Beginning in September, the Transition Committee will meet regularly to develop and oversee a comprehensive transition plan that will position us for operational readiness ahead of consolidation in 2027. Together, we will address key governance, operational, financial, and organizational matters to ensure a smooth transition.

You can expect to receive additional information in the coming weeks, including meeting schedules, materials, and details regarding committee activities.

Thank you in advance for your commitment, collaboration, and leadership throughout this important process. I look forward to working with all of you as we build the foundation for the future success of the Eastern Lake Ontario Region.

Sincerely,



Alison McDonald
Project Executive, Eastern Lake Ontario Region
Incoming Chief Administrative Officer

09/26

STAFF REPORT – August 20, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

RE: 2027 Preliminary Budget and Municipal Levy

At the June Board of Directors meeting, the staff report outlining the 2027 budget criteria was approved. Staff has prepared the attached preliminary budget based on those criteria. The municipalities require a minimum 30 days' notice to consider the proposed municipal levies. The levy vote will take place at the October 15, 2026 Board of Directors meeting. Over the next few months, staff of the Conservation Authority will be contacting the municipalities to review the proposed capital projects.

As a result of the approved criteria, the base levy was increased by 3.0% to \$17,986.07 and the overall levy was increased by 3.0% to \$1,398,532.09. An allowance has been built into the preliminary budget for a 3.0% increase in the salary grid to be effective January 1, 2027.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has provided the adjustments to the current value assessments (CVA). The apportionment percentages provided are as follows:

	2026 CVA	2027 CVA	
Municipality of Clarington	51.9379	51.94	↑
Town of Cobourg	20.4329	20.47	↑
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand	0.9469	0.94	↓
Township of Hamilton	10.3308	10.35	↑
Municipality of Port Hope	16.0773	16.01	↓
Township of Cavan Monaghan	0.1982	0.20	↑
City of Kawartha Lakes	0.0860	0.09	↑

The above percentages were calculated from current value assessment data provided by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and further revised based on the CA Levy Regulation (Ontario Regulation 670/2000 under the CA Act). The spreadsheets, which include population data, are provided to the Conservation Authorities by MPAC and apportioned based on the percentage of the area of each municipality within the CA jurisdiction.

The preliminary budget is not normally reviewed in a line-by-line presentation at the board meeting. The capital projects within the budget will be discussed with staff of the partnering municipalities and included within the final budget when the budget is presented for approval in October. Board members are encouraged to contact the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer to answer any questions in advance of the meeting. If a more in-depth review of the budget or levy process and calculations is requested, a meeting to review the document prior to the board meeting can be arranged.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors receive the 2027 Preliminary Budget for information and,

FURTHER THAT the budget be forwarded to the watershed municipalities, indicating in the cover letter, that the vote to approve the 2027 levy will be taken at the October 15, 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

Prepared by:



Linda J. Laliberte, CPA, CGA
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Celebrating 80 Years of Conservation **1946–2026**



GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET



Clean Water, Healthy Land For Healthy Communities

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Introduction	3	Environmental Advisory Services	17
• Organization Structure		• Revenues & Expenditures	18
Vision, Mission & Committees	4	Watershed Stewardship	19
The Budget Process	5	• Revenues & Expenditures	20
2027 Budget Presentation Format	6	Conservation Land Management	22
• Conservation Authorities Act Regulations		• Revenues	23
• Categorization of Programs & Services as per Regulation 687/21		• Expenditures	24
2027 Budget Summary Revenues	7	Corporate Services	25
2027 Budget Summary Expenditures	9	• Revenues & Expenditures	26
Watershed Management & Health Monitoring	10	GRCA Reserves	27
• Revenues	11	GRCA General Levy	28
• Expenditures	12	Programs & Services Inventory	29

GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Established 1946

The objects of an Authority are to provide, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs and services designed for the purpose of furthering the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watershed(s).

Watershed Municipalities

The watershed covers an area of 935 square-kilometres and has a population of 76,399.

Municipality of Clarington
Township of Hamilton

Town of Cobourg
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
Township of Cavan Monaghan

Municipality of Port Hope
City of Kawartha Lakes

2026/2027 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors usually meets the 3rd Thursday of every month or at the call of the Chair.

Municipality of Port Hope – Vicki Mink*

Town of Cobourg – Randy Barber**

Municipality of Clarington – Willie Woo

Town of Cobourg – Miriam Mutton

Township of Alnwick/Haldimand – Joan Stover

Township of Hamilton – Mark Lovshin

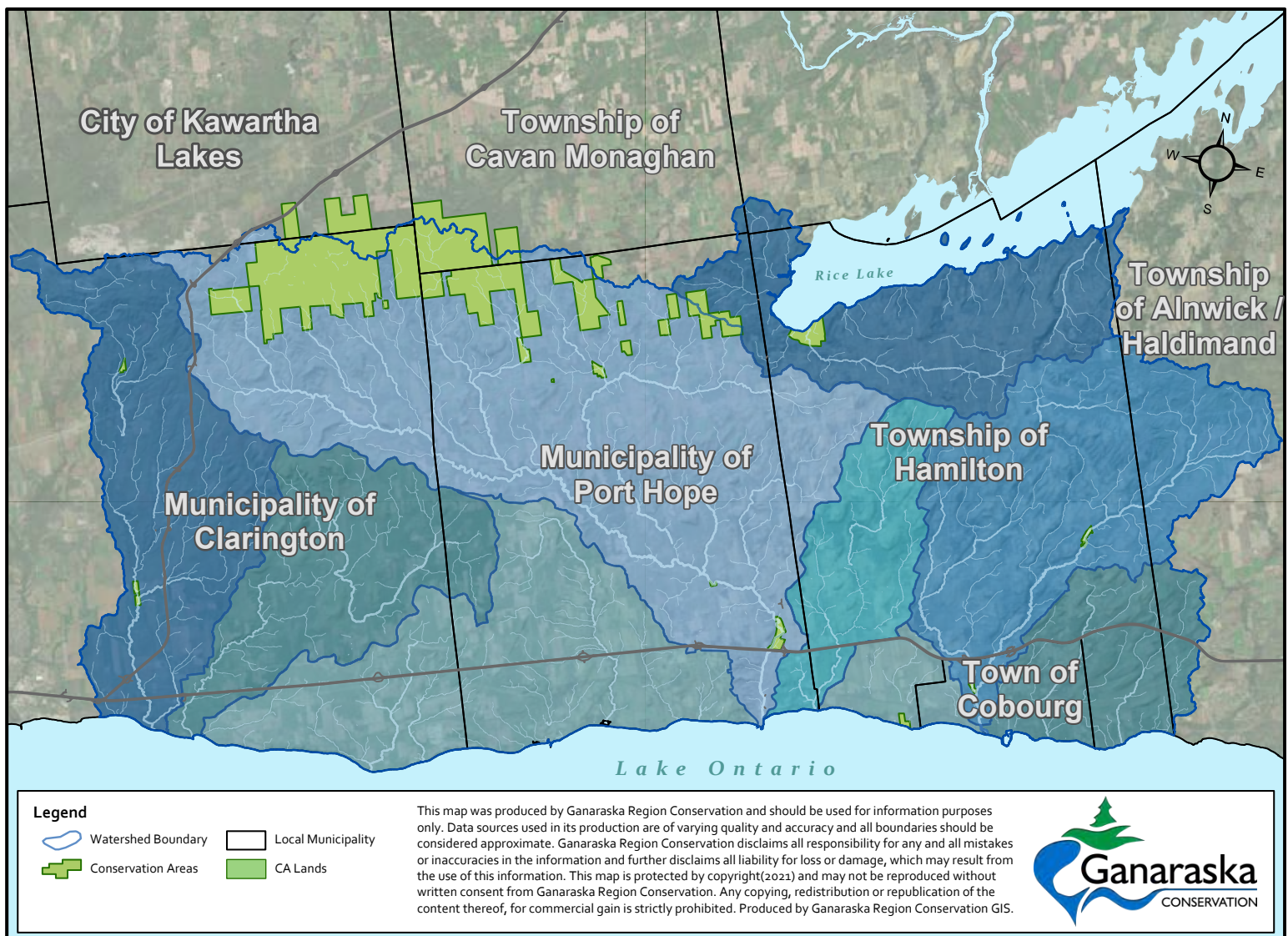
Township of Cavan Monaghan – Lance Nachoff

Municipality of Port Hope – Adam Pearson

Municipality of Clarington – Margaret Zwart

City of Kawartha Lakes – Tracy Richardson

*Denotes Chair **Denotes Vice Chair



The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority's Shared Vision:
Clean Water, Healthy Land For Healthy Communities



The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority's mission is to enhance and conserve across the Ganaraska Region Watershed by serving, educating, informing and engaging.

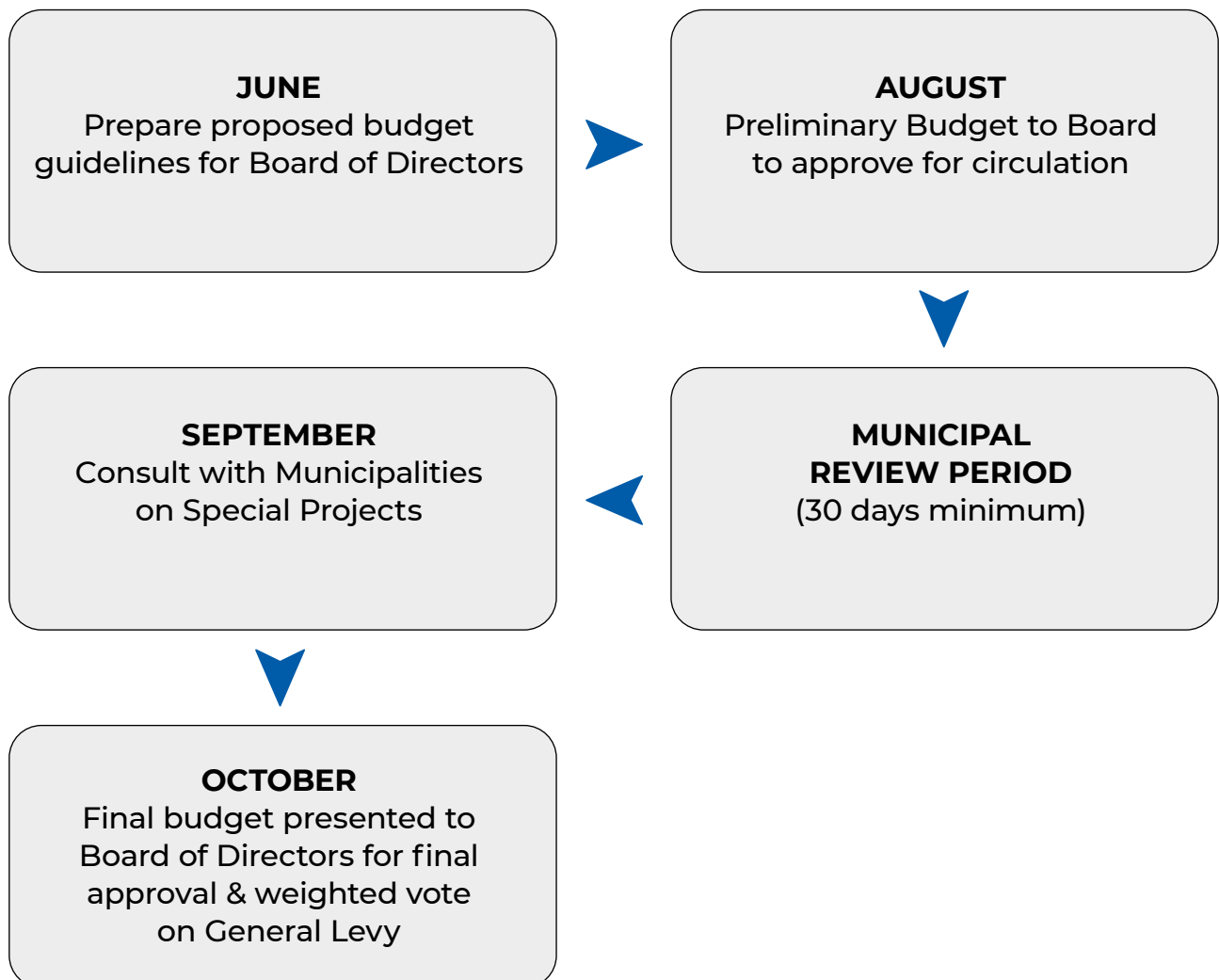
Our Shared Values

To Explore is to Value Knowledge
To Learn is to Value Collaboration
To Lead is to Value Excellence
To Evolve is to Value Innovation

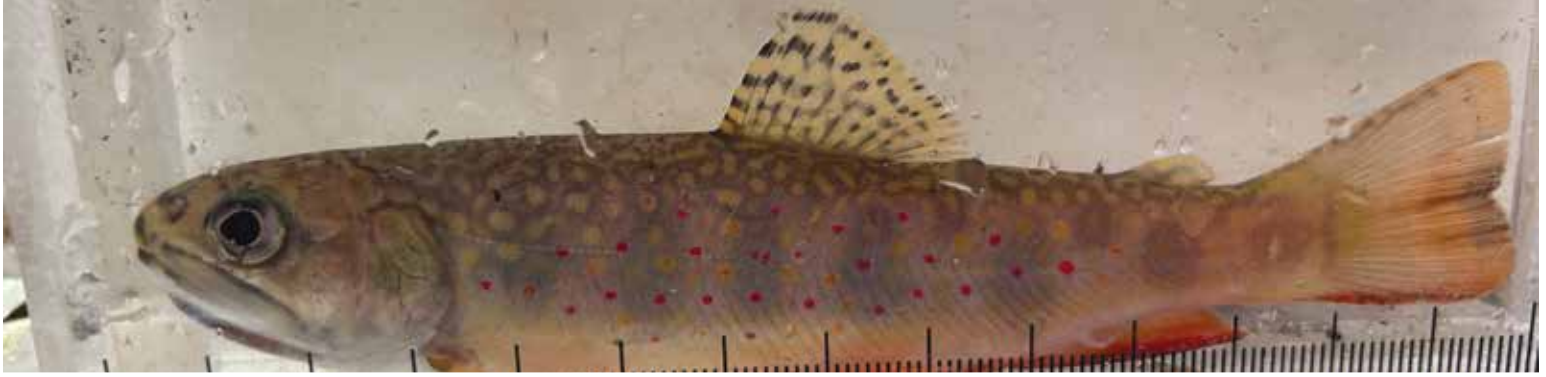
GRCA 2026/2027 Committees

Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee
Bob Gallagher (2026 Chair), Matthew Robbins, Jim Pearson,
Matt Mair, Lisa Thompson, Shawn Marshall, Peter Innes,
Rick Trumper, Alex Schmidt, Carolyn Richards, Peter Wood,
Paul Kravis, Steve Brownell, Maureen MacDonald,
Lance Nachoff (*Board Representation*)

THE BUDGET PROCESS



2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PRESENTATION FORMAT



The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) has 5 program and service departments:

- Watershed Management and Health Monitoring
- Environmental Advisory Services
- Watershed Stewardship
- Conservation Lands Management
- Corporate Services

The departments are further reported in accordance with the categorization as required by the **Regulation 687/21** as explained below.

The budget columns report on the dollar amounts for the previous budget figure and the proposed preliminary budget figure for the current year. As with previous budgets, the budget figures may have been adjusted throughout the year to reflect unexpected decreases/increases in the funding revenues.

In cases where the funding received for a capital project is not spent, those funds are carried forward as deferred revenue.

Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) Regulations

In October, 2021, the Province of Ontario released Phase 1 regulations designed to implement amendments to the CA Act.

- *Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services*
- *Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services*
- *Ontario Regulation 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas*

The Phase 2 Regulations were finalized under the *Conservation Authorities Act* in April 2022.

The programs of the GRCA are classified into 5 areas. The budget format reflects the program areas into categories 1, 2 and 3, which are reflected in the *Programs and Services Inventory* and has been attached at the end of the budget. This inventory was finalized and approved by the Board of Directors at the September 21, 2023 meeting.

Categorization of Programs and Services as per Regulation 687/21:

1. Mandatory programs and services

Defined in regulation; where municipal levy could be used without any agreement.

2. Municipal programs and services

Programs and services at the request of a municipality (with municipal funding through an MOU/agreement).

3. Other programs and services

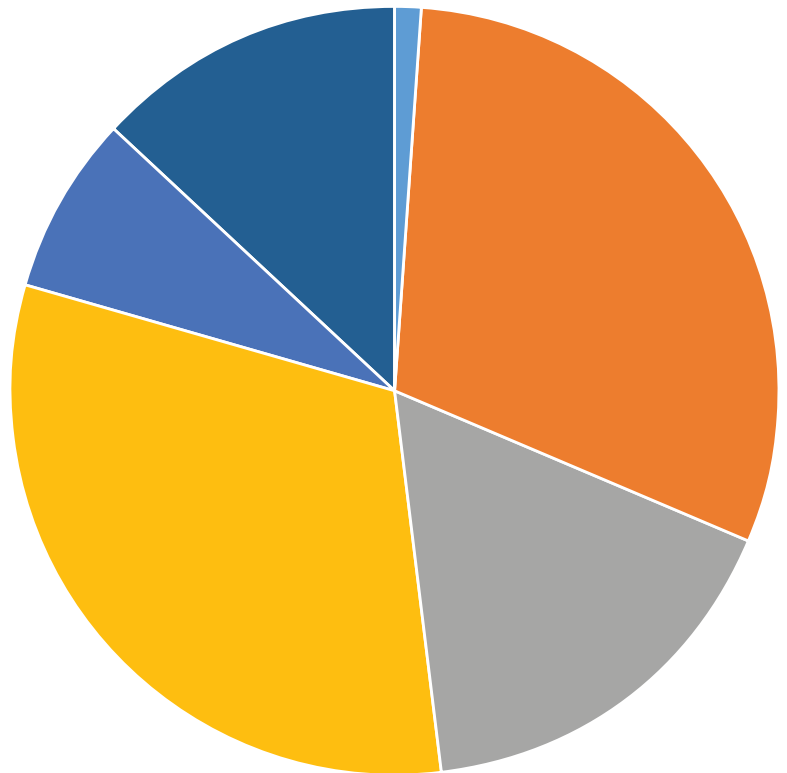
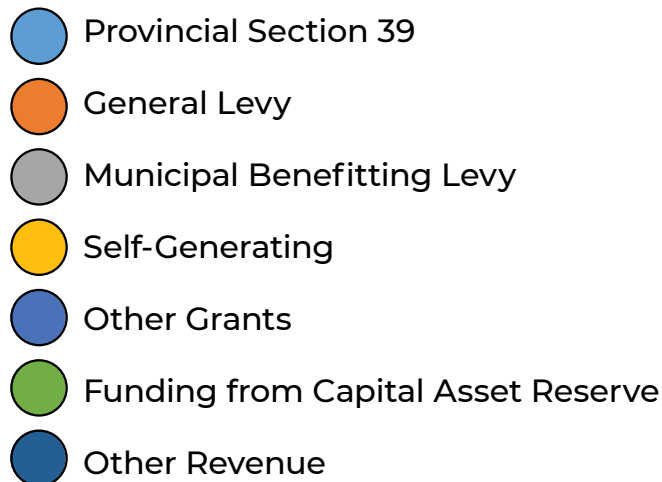
Programs and services an Authority determines are advisable (use of municipal levy requires an MOU/agreement with participating municipalities).

2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY

Ganaraska Conservation's proposed preliminary operating budget for 2027 is \$4,593,945. The following pages provide some explanation on the revenues and expenditures, a budget breakdown, as well as a breakdown of the levy for each watershed municipality.

2027 REVENUES

- Provincial Section 39 funding of \$51,863.
- The General Levy proposed increase is 3.0% and includes a minimum levy of \$17,985 for a total General Levy of \$1,398,532.
- Municipal Benefitting Levy totals \$768,499.
- Self-Generating Revenue totals \$1,441,500.
- Other Grants of \$337,300.
- Other Revenue totals \$596,251.
- Total Revenue \$4,593,945.



2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY

SOURCES OF REVENUE

Provincial Section 39 funding

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provides funding to the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and it is expected the 2027 funding will remain in the amount of \$51,863. This amount is approximately 50% of the funding that was provided for over the last 20 years and has remained at this reduced amount since 2019. This funding supports the mandated flood forecasting and warning programs.

Municipal General Levy

The municipal general levy is funding provided by municipalities to support Category 1 programs and services such as enabling services of corporate services, low water response, environmental monitoring and conservation land expenses for recreational uses.

Municipal Benefitting Levy

Municipal benefitting levy is funding that supports benefitting or special projects which are projects carried out for specific watershed municipalities. Such projects are normally capital projects and may be shared by two or more municipalities within the conservation authority jurisdiction.

Self-Generating Revenue

Self generating revenue include user fees for planning services and are set to recover but not exceed the costs associated with administering and delivering there services on a program basis can include site inspections and legal inquiries.

Ganaraska Forest membership and day passes, as well as bookings at the Forest Centre for education, weddings and camping. Special events, leasing lands, tree planting program revenues and timber management are also included.

Other Grants

Other grants include employment programs.

Funding from Capital Asset Reserve

Funding is set aside each year, \$210,973 in 2027, from the associated program areas and placed in a reserve that is to be utilized to fund the replacement of the physical assets of the GRCA.

Other Revenue

Other revenue includes funding of projects that Ganaraska Conservation partners on with other conservation authorities, municipalities and counties that are outside of the GRCA jurisdiction as well as deferred funding.

Administration fees which are fees charged for payroll costs and overhead against a program or project, are also reported.

2027 PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURES



Watershed Management and Health Monitoring

Costs required to develop the framework and management strategy to provide a rational approach to natural systems protection, restoration and use.

Environmental Advisory Services

Costs associated with providing environmental review of development proposals submitted by municipalities, general public and developers.

Watershed Stewardship

Costs associated with providing services and/or assistance to watershed residents and municipalities on sound environmental practices that will enhance, restore or protect properties.

Conservation Land Management

Costs associated with land or buildings either owned or managed by the Authority and may have active programming on conservation lands.

Corporate Services

Costs associated with the management and programs delivery.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & HEALTH MONITORING

Watershed Management and Health Monitoring Program costs are those required to develop the framework and management strategy to provide a rational approach to natural systems protection, restoration and use. Programs within this area are in Category 1 and 2.

Flood Protection Services fall within this department, which include costs associated with providing watershed residents with an effective and efficient system that will reduce their exposure to the threat of flood damage and loss of life.

FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICES

Flood Forecasting and Warning – Category 1: Procedures, undertaken by the Conservation Authority, required to reduce the risk of loss and property damage due to flooding through the forecasting of flood events and issuing of flood warnings, alerts and advisories to prepare those who must respond to the flood event. This is currently funded about 35% by the province and 65% by general levy.

Flood/Erosion Control Structures – Category 1: Preventative maintenance to the flood and erosion control structures throughout the watershed.

Floodplain Regulations – Category 1: Includes costs associated with implementing the fill and floodplain regulations required ensuring the integrity of the watershed floodplain management system.

Floodplain Mapping & Flood Mitigation Projects – Category 1: Floodplain mapping improves flood management response and assists municipalities to understand their flood risk. Includes partnership projects funded by the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP).

GIS Services & Remote Sensing – Category 2: GRCA staff continue with these partnerships.

Resource Inventory and Environmental Monitoring – Category 1: The groundwater program, funded by the Region of Durham, Municipality of Port Hope and the Township of Hamilton is also reflected under this area.

Category 2: The Municipality of Clarington, with Port Hope, Cobourg and Hamilton are funding watershed monitoring.

Natural Heritage Mapping – Category 2: Natural heritage mapping for the watershed is continuing using funds from the Municipality of Clarington.

Source Protection Planning – Category 1: GRCA is part of the *Trent Conservation Coalition (TCC) Source Protection Program*, protecting the sources of water (rivers, lakes, aquifers) used for municipal drinking water systems.

Watershed Plans & Strategies – Category 2: Projects undertaken by the Conservation Authority to provide a broad understanding of ecosystem function and status and to make recommendations for appropriate environmental resource management, land use change, land management change, or redevelopment and restoration, on a watershed basis.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & HEALTH MONITORING



Revenues

Revenue Sources	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Section 39 Provincial Funding	51,863	51,863
General Levy	202,308	210,479
Municipal Benefitting Levy	779,316	689,779
Self-Generating Revenue	60,000	55,000
Other Grants	477,800	318,800
Funding From Capital Asset Reserve	0	0
Other Revenue	352,362	178,949
Totals	1,923,649	1,504,870

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & HEALTH MONITORING

Expenditures

FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICES Category 1 - Mandatory Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Flood Forecasting & Warning		
Staffing	112,821	118,030
Expenses	32,400	30,800
Capital Asset Replacement	14,221	15,380
TOTAL	159,442	164,210
Flood Control Structures		
Staffing	13,500	13,500
Expenses	14,200	14,200
Capital Asset Replacement	3,932	4,253
TOTAL	31,632	31,953
Erosion Control Structures		
Staffing	1,000	1,000
Expenses	0	0
TOTAL	1,000	1,000
Floodplain Regulations		
Staffing	99,050	96,850
Expenses	3,340	2,840
Capital Asset Replacement	1,648	1,782
TOTAL	104,038	101,472
Dam Safety		
Capital Asset Replacement	7,934	8,582
TOTAL	7,934	8,582
Natural Hazard Mapping: <i>Clarington Floodline Update</i>		
Staffing	16,510	20,006
Expenses	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	18,510	22,006

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & HEALTH MONITORING



Expenditures

Category 2 - Municipal Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Graham Creek Jetties		
Staffing	7,000	
Expenses	500	
TOTAL	7,500	
Cobourg Floodplain Mapping (FHIMP)		
Staffing	84,650	80,050
Expenses	75,150	48,224
TOTAL	159,800	128,274
Hamilton Township Floodplain Mapping (FHIMP)		
Staffing	112,150	60,195
Expenses	61,050	34,655
TOTAL	173,200	94,850
Port Hope Floodplain Mapping (FHIMP)		
Staffing	194,768	131,000
Expenses	105,930	61,416
TOTAL	300,698	192,416
Bears & Riverview Creeks Floodplain Mapping		
Staffing	27,165	5,575
Expenses	10,000	0
TOTAL	37,165	5,575
Port Hope to Cobourg Wetlands Project		
Staffing		22,277
Expenses		3,600
TOTAL		25,877

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & HEALTH MONITORING

Expenditures

GIS SERVICES & REMOTE SENSING Category 2 - Municipal Services		2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Storm Sewer Asset Management			
Staffing		4,500	4,500
Expenses		0	0
Capital Asset Replacement		0	0
TOTAL		4,500	4,500
GIS SERVICES : Other CA's & Partners			
Staffing		28,000	32,500
Expenses		6,000	3,000
TOTAL		34,000	35,500
Peterborough DEM			
Staffing			
Expenses		7,000	
TOTAL		7,000	
Port Hope Centre Pier			
Staffing			
TOTAL			
GeoAI Land Cover			
Staffing		191,660	203,660
Expenses		277,340	106,340
TOTAL		469,000	310,000
Northbay Mattawa CA GIS Support			
Staffing		15,700	
Expenses		9,500	
TOTAL		25,200	
RESOURCE INVENTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING Category 1 - Mandatory Services		2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Groundwater			
Staffing		65,564	60,485
Expenses		14,800	17,195
Capital Asset Replacement		759	820
TOTAL		81,100	78,500
Water Quality Sampling (PWQMN)			
Staffing		6,050	6,050
Expenses		50	50
TOTAL		6,100	6,100

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & HEALTH MONITORING



Expenditures

RESOURCE INVENTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING		
Category 1 - Mandatory Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Low Water Response		
Staffing	4,025	4,025
Expenses	0	0
TOTAL	4,025	4,025
RESOURCE INVENTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING		
Category 2 - Municipal Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Watershed Monitoring		
Staffing	53,648	51,030
Expenses	24,690	27,920
Capital Asset Replacement	16,112	17,425
TOTAL	94,450	96,375
Natural Heritage Mapping		
Staffing	39,500	43,558
Expenses	3,758	3,000
TOTAL	43,258	46,558
SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING		
Category 1 - Mandatory Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Source Protection Planning - TCC		
Staffing	76,975	76,975
Expenses	11,122	11,122
TOTAL	88,097	88,097

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT & HEALTH MONITORING



Expenditures

WATERSHED PLANS & STRATEGIES

Category 2 - Municipal Services - Risks of Natural Hazards

2026 Budget

2027 Preliminary Budget

Climate Change Strategy

Staffing

42,200

35,200

Expenses

4,800

4,800

TOTAL

47,000

40,000

Watershed Report Card Update

Staffing

17,300

17,300

Expenses

1,700

1,700

TOTAL

19,000

19,000

**TOTAL WATER MANAGEMENT
& HEALTH MONITORING**

1,923,649

1,504,870

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The *Environmental Advisory Services Program* costs are those associated with providing environmental review of development proposals submitted by

municipalities, general public and developers. General levy and plan review fees for stormwater management fund this service area.

Municipal/Public Plan Input & Review – Category 1: Includes municipal/public official plan review, comprehensive zoning bylaws, secondary plan review and general planning studies.

land division review, site plans and zoning bylaws and variances. Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority also provides engineering services to neighbouring conservation authorities on a fee for service basis.

Development Plan Input & Review – Category 1: Includes development driven review of plans of subdivision and condos, official plan amendments,

Watershed Ecology – Category 2: Includes the ecological program of the Authority.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Revenues

Revenue Sources	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Section 39 Provincial Funding	0	0
General Levy	96,736	97,094
Municipal Benefitting Levy	46,784	47,720
Self-Generating Revenue	126,000	130,000
Other Grants	0	0
Funding From Capital Asset Reserve	0	0
Other Revenue	6,000	6,000
Totals	275,520	280,814

Expenditures

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICES		
Category 1 - Mandatory Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Municipal/Public Plan Input & Review		
Staffing	92,350	92,160
Expenses	2,136	2,500
Capital Asset Replacement	2,250	2,434
TOTAL	96,736	97,094
Development Plan Review		
Staffing	102,250	106,540
Expenses	21,500	21,026
Capital Asset Replacement	2,250	2,434
TOTAL	126,000	130,000
Category 2 - Municipal Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Watershed Ecology		
Staffing	45,000	45,500
Expenses	7,559	7,976
Capital Asset Replacement	225	244
TOTAL	52,784	53,720
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICES	275,520	280,814

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

The *Watershed Stewardship Program* costs are those associated with providing and/or assistance to watershed residents on sound environmental

practices that will enhance, restore or protect their properties. *Watershed Stewardship* is classified as Category 2 & 3 in the *Programs and Services Inventory*.

LAND STEWARDSHIP

Clean Water - Healthy Land

The *Clean Water-Healthy Land Program* is a stewardship program funded for Durham Region landowners, within the region, as well as being offered by the Municipality of Port Hope and the Township of Hamilton for landowners within the municipalities and in partnership with the Conservation Authority.

Partner Projects include the partnership with the *Greater Golden Horseshoe Conservation Authorities Coalition (GGH CAC)*.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP



Revenues

Revenue Sources	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Section 39 Provincial Funding	0	0
General Levy	0	0
Municipal Benefitting Levy	33,500	31,000
Self-Generating Revenue	62,500	62,500
Other Grants	8,500	8,500
Funding From Capital Asset Reserve	0	0
Other Revenue	218,475	218,475
Totals	322,975	320,475

Expenditures

LAND STEWARDSHIP		
Category 2 - Municipal Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Durham Collaborative Tree Program		
Staffing	21,000	23,000
Expenses	21,000	19,000
TOTAL	42,000	42,000
Partner Projects		
OPG Projects	17,760	17,760
GGH CAC	2,500	0
TOTAL	20,260	17,760

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP



Expenditures

CLEAN WATER - HEALTHY LAND	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Financial Assistance Program		
Expenses	15,000	16,000
Landowner Program Projects	115,415	114,415
TOTAL	130,415	130,415
Category 3 - Non-Mandatory Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Tree Plant		
Staffing	25,000	25,000
Expenses	62,915	62,868
Capital Asset Replacement	585	632
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>88,500</i>	<i>88,500</i>
TOTAL	218,915	218,915
Fisheries Review		
Staffing	14,339	14,320
Expenses	26,972	26,951
Capital Asset Replacement	489	529
TOTAL	41,800	41,800
TOTAL WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP	322,975	320,475

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT

This program area includes all expenses associated with land or buildings either owned or managed by

the Authority. This area is divided into passive recreation and programmed recreation.

Passive Recreation – Category 1: The costs associated with lands and buildings that do not have active programming. The expenses included are the costs for owning or managing the land.

Programmed Recreation – The direct costs associated with delivering active programming on Conservation Authority lands. This includes the Ganaraska Forest Centre and the Ganaraska Forest.

Ganaraska Forest Centre – Category 3: For over forty years, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority has provided a unique outdoor education experience to elementary and secondary students at the Ganaraska Forest Centre. The outdoor education facility offers both day and overnight education programming.

Such programming offered includes: map reading, orienteering, forest studies and stream and pond study. As well, the facility is rented out to Scouts and Girl Guides for weekend use.

Ganaraska Forest – Category 1 & 3: On April 1st, 1997, the Conservation Authority took back management of the Ganaraska Forest from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Revenue from the forest comes from the sale of timber and membership fees. For 2027, the revenue from timber contracts are estimated at \$320,000.

The partnership with Treetop Trekking continues and revenues are estimated at \$20,000.

CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT



Revenues

Revenue Sources	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Section 39 Provincial Funding	0	0
General Levy	549,168	562,519
Municipal Benefitting Levy	0	0
Self-Generating Revenue	1,144,000	1,194,000
Other Grants	10,000	10,000
Funding From Capital Asset Reserve	35,000	0
Other Revenue	133,712	87,827
Totals	1,871,880	1,854,346

CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT



Expenditures

PASSIVE RECREATION		
Category 1 - Mandatory Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Staffing	205,670	210,695
Expenses	71,531	72,531
Capital Asset Replacement	31,592	17,944
TOTAL	308,793	301,170
PROGRAMMED RECREATION: GANARASKA FOREST & TRAIL HEAD CENTRE		
Category 1 - Mandatory Services (Forest Recreation)		
Category 3 - Non-Mandatory Services (Timber Management)	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Staffing	604,760	584,150
Expenses	406,155	291,900
Capital Asset Replacement	51,715	34,299
TOTAL	1,062,630	910,349
GANARASKA FOREST CENTRE		
Category 3 - Non-Mandatory Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Staffing	419,085	420,230
Expenses	173,040	173,294
Capital Asset Replacement	45,587	49,303
TOTAL	637,712	642,827
TOTAL PROGRAMMED RECREATION	1,700,342	1,553,176
TOTAL CONSERVATION LAND MGMT	2,009,135	1,854,346

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



CORPORATE SERVICES

This budget area provides the leadership and management in the delivery of all programs and services. It is composed of the wages and benefits of staff of the Conservation Authority, whose main function is to provide coordination, support and

services to all programs rather than specific programs. All expenses associated with the Board of Directors are directed to this area. As well, expenses associated with the operations of the administration building.

Programs and Services Inventory:

Corporate Services is classified as supporting services under **Category 1**. Capital Asset Replacement costs are also classified as supporting services and charged throughout the Category 1 programs and services.

Program Description: Key assistance provided to all departments of the conservation authority, board of directors, member municipalities and the general public to enable Ganaraska Conservation to operate in an accountable, transparent, efficient and effective manner.

Specific items include:

Corporate/Finance Management - includes all administrative and financial staff wages, benefits and expenses, general membership expenses as well as corporate expenses for the Conservation Authority, which includes the levy to Conservation Ontario

Office Services – includes all wages and benefits for IT staff, as well as expenses, supplies, equipment, computer services, maintenance and utilities for the main administrative building for the various program areas.

Corporate Communications – includes wages and benefits for staff working on communication projects, as well as community and public relations expenses, website maintenance and any information costs.

Special Project in 2026/27 – GFC Auxiliary Building will be constructed to replace the space lost with the demolition of the quonset building in December 2024. Project completion is anticipated by early 2027.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Revenues

Revenue Sources	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
Section 39 Provincial Funding	0	0
General Levy	509,586	528,440
Municipal Benefitting Levy	0	0
Self-Generating Revenue	0	0
Other Grants	0	0
Funding From Capital Asset Reserve	0	0
Other Revenue	212,930	105,000
Totals	722,516	633,440

Expenditures

Category 1 - Mandatory Services - Enabling Services	2026 Budget	2027 Preliminary Budget
CORPORATE/FINANCE MANAGEMENT		
Staffing	301,770	301,770
Expenses	75,613	71,511
TOTAL	377,383	373,281
OFFICE SERVICES		
Staffing	26,000	23,000
Expenses	198,466	117,216
Capital Asset Replacement	49,567	53,607
TOTAL	274,033	193,823
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS		
Staffing	60,600	56,000
Expenses	10,050	9,850
Capital Asset Replacement	450	486
TOTAL	71,100	66,336
TOTAL CORPORATE SERVICES	722,516	633,440
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	5,253,795	4,593,945

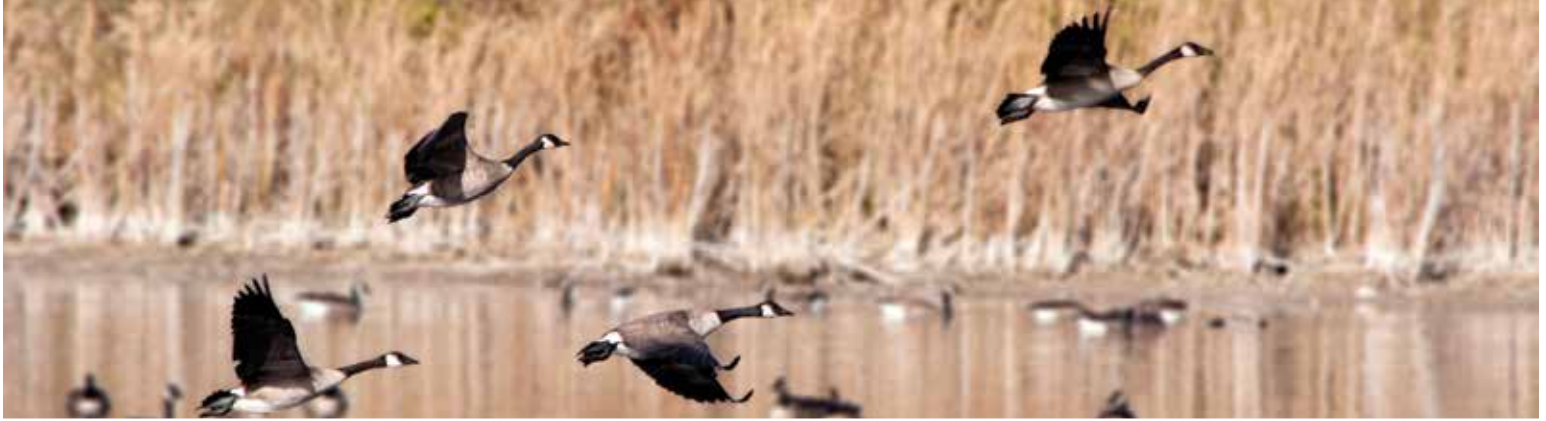
PROJECT OUTSIDE OPERATING BUDGET – GFC Auxiliary Building

REVENUE:

Other Revenue	2,100,000	200,000
TOTAL	2,100,000	200,000

Building Costs & Expenses	2,100,000	200,000
TOTAL	2,100,000	200,000

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



GRCA RESERVES

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority has six reserves.

Capital Asset Replacement Reserve

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority developed a *Capital Asset Replacement Plan* in 2016. The goal of every capital asset management plan is to define the use of assets in order to streamline productivity and delivery with minimal loss of capital.

Previously established in 1992, this reserve is allocated to major maintenance and replacement of GRCA capital assets. This reserve is an essential part of the GRCA's ongoing fiscal responsibility framework, as it guides the purchase, maintenance and disposal of every asset GRCA needs in order to conduct business.

Forest Land Purchase Reserve

This reserve was established in 2001 with a \$10,000 donation by the Township of Cavan Monaghan to be used for costs associated with a land purchase. In 2024, a bequeath of \$320,625 was received for the purchase of lands.

Forest Centre Reserve

The original reserve was established in 1986. Upon completion of the Forest Centre rebuild in 2009, the reserve was redirected to be used if there was a shortfall in the revenues due to strikes by schools or other situations when the revenues are not able to cover the expenses.

Monies are transferred into the reserve from the Forest Centre revenues when appropriate and the revenues exceed the expenses in any given year at the end of the year prior to the completion of the financial statements.

Barbara Young Bequest

In 2015, the Authority received a bequest from the estate of Barbara Young. The total amount received was \$57,981. Although the amount was not externally restricted, the Authority has elected to spend the funds on a new Trappers and Traders program.

Save the Ganaraska Again

This reserve was set up in 2018 with funds received from the *Save the Ganaraska Again* organization. The funds are to be used to subsidize students who cannot afford to attend the outdoor education programs.

Ganaraska Forest Reserve

This reserve was set up in 2024 to be utilized if there was a shortfall in the revenues due to reduced timber sales in any given year when the revenues are not able to cover the expenses. Monies are deposited into the reserve from the Ganaraska Forest revenues if the total revenues exceed the expenses in any given year at the end of the year prior to the completion of the financial statements.

GRCA 2027 PROPOSED GENERAL LEVY



Municipal Partner	2026 Levy	2027 Preliminary Levy
Municipality of Clarington	698,636.95	719,625.04
Town of Cobourg	276,364.10	285,167.21
Municipality of Port Hope	217,984.43	223,594.86
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand	15,052.21	15,546.57
Township of Hamilton	140,962.03	145,455.95
Township of Cavan Monaghan	5,151.15	5,330.53
City of Kawartha Lakes	3,647.29	3,811.93

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY

Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Support Services <i>Program Description: Key assistance provided to all departments of the conservation authority, board of directors, member municipalities and the general public to support Ganaraska Conservation to operate in an accountable, transparent, efficient and effective manner.</i>			
CS	Corporate Services	Administrative, human resources, operating and capital costs which are not directly related to the delivery of any specific program or service, but are the overhead and support costs of a conservation authority. Includes health and safety program, overseeing programs and policies.	1
CS	Financial Management	Annual budget, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, financial analysis, financial audit, administration of reserves and investments, financial reports for funding agencies, preparing and submitting reports to CRA, benefits program administration.	1
CS	Legal Expenses	Costs related to agreements/contracts, HR, etc.	1
CS	Governance	Supporting CA Boards, Advisory Committees, Office of CAO/ST	1
CS	Communications & Outreach	Public awareness-natural hazards, flood forecasting and warning, permitting requirements, natural hazard identification, mitigation, readiness and response, governance, policy, municipal and public relations and engagement, conservation lands.	1
CS	Administration Buildings	Administrative office and Millennium Building used to support staff, programs, and services. Includes utilities, routine and major maintenance, property taxes. Included is a charge out for capital asset replacement.	1
CS	Information Technology Management/ GIS	Data management, records retention. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide spatial geographical representations of data. Included is a charge out for capital asset replacement.	1

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY

Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Natural Hazard Management Program <i>Program Description: Conservation Authorities (CAs) are the lead provincial agencies on Natural Hazard issues. The goal is to protect life and property from flooding and erosion. This watershed-wide, comprehensive program includes development applications and permits, municipal plan input and review, environmental planning and policy, flood forecast and warning, flood and erosion control infrastructure, technical studies, ice management, education and public awareness.</i>			
WMHM	Section 28 Permit Administration	Reviewing and processing permit applications, associated technical reports, site inspections, communication with applicants, agents, and consultants and legal costs. Violations also fall under this category.	1
EAS	Municipal Plan Input & Plan Review	Technical information and advice to municipalities on circulated municipal land use planning applications (Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, Subdivisions, Consents, Minor Variances). Input to municipal land-use planning documents (OP, Comprehensive ZB, Secondary plans) related to natural hazards, on behalf of Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), delegated to CAs (1983). Input to the review, approval processes under other applicable law, with comments related to natural hazards, wetlands, watercourses, and Sec. 28 permit requirements.	1
WMHM	Flood Forecasting & Warning	Daily data collection and monitoring of weather forecasts, provincial and local water level forecasts, watershed conditions, snow surveys, flood event forecasting, flood warning, communications and response and equipment maintenance.	1
WMHM	Flood & Erosion Control Infrastructure Operation & Management	Water and erosion control infrastructure operations and management. Includes all water management structures (flood control, dams and channels, berms, erosion control, etc.) that are annually inspected and routine maintenance work completed. Included is a charge out for capital asset replacement.	1

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY

Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Natural Hazard Management Program			
WMHM	Flood & Erosion Control Infrastructure Operation & Management	Major maintenance on flood and erosion control structures as required. Projects are dependent on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding from the province and support from our municipal partners.	1
WMHM	Low Water Response	Conditions monitoring and analysis. Technical and administrative support to the Water Response Team representing major water users and decision makers, who recommend drought response actions.	1
WMHM	Information Management	Data collection, mapping, data sets, watershed photography. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide spatial geographical representations of data. This includes our Geographical Information Systems and support.	1
WMHM	Technical Studies & Policy Review	Studies and projects to inform <i>Natural Hazards Management Programs</i> , including floodplain management, watershed hydrology, regulations areas mapping update, flood forecasting system assessment, floodplain policy, <i>Lake Ontario Shoreline Management</i> . These projects often occur for a specific number of years and are distributed over time as human resources and funding is available.	1
CL	Natural Hazards Communications, Outreach & Education	Promoting public awareness of natural hazards, including flooding, drought and erosion. Attending public events, supplying materials. Social media services. Media relations. Educate elementary school students through the <i>Spring Water Awareness Program</i> about the danger of floodwaters, dangers of dams, etc.	1

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY



Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Provincial Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring <i>Program Description: Ganaraska Conservation, in partnership with Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Parks (MECP), has established long term sites to monitor surface and ground water conditions, as well as an investment into long-term monitoring of climate change trends.</i>			
WMHM	Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)	CA/MECP partnership for stream water quality monitoring at 9 sites. Staff take water samples and MECP does lab analysis and data management. Information is used for <i>Watershed Report Cards</i> and stewardship project prioritization.	1
WMHM	Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)	A long-standing CA/MECP partnership for groundwater level and quality monitoring at 17 stations. Costs include sampling, data collection, analysis, data management and reporting. MECP funded network installation and continues to fund equipment replacements. Data collected supports groundwater monitoring, low water response and water quality monitoring.	1
Local Water Quality Monitoring <i>Program Description: Ganaraska Conservation, in partnership with community organizations, municipalities, and federal and provincial agencies has established sites to monitor surface water quality and quantity as well as many other parameters to support a healthy ecosystem.</i>			
WMHM	Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program	Surface water quality monitoring at 18 surface water sites (in addition to PWQMN), water quantity measurements at 80 baseflow sites and water quality samples collected at 4 auto sampler sites supporting Lake Ontario nearshore water monitoring. Costs include sampling, analysis, equipment maintenance and reporting.	2

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY

Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Drinking Water Source Protection <i>Program Description: The protection of municipal drinking water supplies in the Trent Conservation Coalition (TCC) Region and the Ganaraska Region Source Protection Area through the development and implementation of TCC Source Protection Plans. Ganaraska Conservation is a member of the TCC which is a complex regional grouping of five Source Protection Areas, including Ganaraska, Crowe, Otonabee, Kawartha and Lower Trent Authorities.</i>			
WMHM	Local Source Protection Area DWSP	Source Protection Authority reports, meetings and governance. Delivery of the activities required by the <i>Clean Water Act</i> and regulations, as per <i>Clean Water Act</i> .	1
WMHM	DWSP Risk Management Official	Carrying out Part IV duties of the <i>Clean Water Act</i> on behalf of municipalities through service agreements.	2
Core Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy <i>Program Description: The purpose of a watershed plan is to understand the current conditions of the watershed and identify measures to protect, enhance and restore the health of the watershed. Watershed strategies provide a management framework to provide recommendations which consists of goals, objectives, indicators and management recommendations. This addresses existing issues in the watershed and mitigate impacts from potential future land uses, while recommending appropriate actions to protect, enhance and restore the watershed.</i>			
NEW	Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy Development	New Project: Collate/compile existing resource management plans, watershed plans, studies and data. Strategy development, implementation and annual reporting. This project builds on previous <i>Watershed Management Strategies</i> . To be completed on or before December 31, 2024 , per requirements of Regulation.	1
Sub-watershed Plans and Projects <i>Program Description: Watershed strategies provide a management framework to provide recommendations which consists of goals, objectives, indicators and recommendations. This addresses existing issues in the watershed and mitigate impacts from potential future land uses, while recommending appropriate actions to protect, enhance and restore the watershed.</i>			
WMHM	Natural Heritage Mapping	Ganaraska Conservation incorporates natural heritage information, particularly around wetlands, to develop planning and regulatory strategies to mitigate downstream natural hazards. Data is also used in hydrologic and hydraulic models.	2
EAS	Watershed Ecology	Ganaraska Conservation provides watershed ecology services to specific watershed municipalities.	2

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY

Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas <i>Program Description: Ganaraska Conservation owns over 11,000 acres of land, which includes conservation areas, the Ganaraska Forest, significant wetlands and flood control structures and surrounding land. Ganaraska Conservation property is essential to watershed management, environmental protection, helps implement the Watershed Management Strategy and provides areas for passive recreation.</i>			
CL	Section 29 Enforcement and Compliance	Conservation Areas / Ganaraska Forest / regulation enforcement and compliance. Ganaraska Conservation staff and a contracted company patrol the 11,000 acres Ganaraska Forest and conservation areas to ensure that the regulations are being adhered to by the users.	1
CL	Ganaraska Forest	Category 1 - Ganaraska Conservation owns and maintains the 11,000 acre Ganaraska Forest. The forest has 100's of kilometers of multi-use trails that require maintenance year round. This Includes recreation, forest management, risk management program, hazard tree management, gates, fencing, signage, communications, pedestrian bridges, trails, parking lots, picnic shelters, road, restoration, ecological monitoring, carrying costs such as taxes and insurance. The <i>Ganaraska Forest Management Plan</i> guides the management of the forest. The plan's primary goal is "to conserve, enhance and, where feasible, restore the Forest ecosystem to reflect the native biodiversity of the Ganaraska Forest, while at the same time embracing recreational, educational and social activities that support the health and sustainability of the Forest." Category 3 – GRCA also performs timber management within the Forest. The <i>Forest Management Plan</i> lists principles by which the forest is managed and the last principle states that "the Ganaraska Forest provides a sustainable economic benefit to the GRCA, without compromising the ecological health of the Ganaraska Forest." The revenues vary from year to year based on the plan. Expenses are matched with those revenues.	1, 3

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY

Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Conservation Authority Lands and Conservation Areas			
CL	Conservation Areas	The GRCA is responsible for the management and maintenance of 9 conservation areas, as well as other lands that are not formal conservation areas. This includes passive recreation, forest management, risk management program, hazard tree management, gates, fencing, signage, communications, pedestrian bridges, trails, parking lots, picnic shelters, road, restoration, ecological monitoring, carrying costs such as taxes, insurance and capital asset replacement.	1
CL	Conservation Area Major Maintenance	Major maintenance and capital improvements to support public access, safety and environmental protection, such as pedestrian bridges, boardwalks, pavilions, trails. These expenses are covered by the capital asset reserve in most cases.	1
CL	Land Acquisition	Strategic acquisition of environmentally significant properties.	2, 3
NEW	Inventory of Conservation Authority Lands	New Project: The land inventory will include the following information: location, date obtained, method and purpose of acquisition, land use. Project updates as inventory changes. To be completed on or before December 31, 2024 per requirements of Regulation.	1
NEW	Strategy for CA owned or controlled lands and management plans	New Project: A strategy to guide the management and use of CA-owned or controlled properties, including guiding principles, objectives, land use, natural heritage, classifications of lands, mapping, identification of programs and services on the lands, public consultation, publish on website. Updates of existing conservation area management plans. To be completed on or before December 31, 2024 per requirements of Regulation.	1
NEW	Land Acquisition and Disposition Strategy	Update current policy to guide the acquisition and disposition of land to fulfill the objects of the Authority. To be completed on or before December 31, 2024 per requirements of Regulation.	1

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY

Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Watershed Stewardship <i>Program Description: The watershed stewardship program includes a fisheries component, a program funded by municipalities which provides funding for landowners for projects and the landowner tree planting program.</i>			
WS	Private Landowner Stewardship Program	Clean Water-Healthy Land – Financial Assistance Program: In partnership with some of the watershed municipalities, Ganaraska Conservation offers environmental, technical and financial assistance, tools and information to any resident, business, school or service club within its jurisdiction and within the participating municipality.	3
WS	Tree Planting Services	Clean Water-Healthy Land – Tree Planting <i>GRCA Tree Seedling Program</i> allows property owners to purchase bare root native tree and shrub seedlings at a minimal cost. GRCA also provides full service tree planting to landowners.	3
WS	Fisheries Services	In partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ganaraska Conservation staff are responsible for the <i>Sea Lamprey Monitoring Program</i> on Cobourg Creek, which captures and samples many different species, records the results and submits data. Fish surveys are also done with other partners, such as OPG and Hydro One through agreements.	3
WS	Stewardship Partner Projects	Ganaraska Conservation's stewardship program partners with various organizations to deliver environmental programs and projects. These programs are for a limited time period. Examples include the Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign tree planting partnership, Forests Ontario and the Durham Collaborative Tree Program.	3

PROGRAMS & SERVICES INVENTORY



Program Area	Program/Service & Sub-services	Description	Category (1,2,3)
Other Program Areas <i>Program Description: Ganaraska Conservation delivers other programs that are not part of the mandatory programs and services as outlined in O. Reg. 686/21. All of the programs are funded without municipal general levy. All of the programs influence and enhance the health and watershed management of the GRCA and are part of a larger integrated watershed management model.</i>			
CL	Outdoor Education	The Ganaraska Forest Centre, located in the heart of the Ganaraska Forest, is home to the <i>Outdoor Education Program</i> of the GRCA where thousands of students visit for a day or overnight to learn about their environmental footprint and become familiar with the natural world around them. Taught by Ontario-certified teaching staff, the GFC offers curriculum-based education programs for elementary and secondary students. These programs focus on local watersheds, ecosystems and environmental issues. Programs can also take place at schools (indoors and outdoors) or through online learning.	3
NEW	Other	Opportunities for new projects or programs that benefit the watershed and its municipal partners can occur anytime and can have varying durations. These projects may require matching funding or be self-sustaining. New projects may require municipal participation and/or funding.	3

LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississauga's and Chippewa's of the Anishinabek, known today as the Williams Treaties First Nations.

Our work on these lands acknowledges their resilience and their longstanding contributions to the area. We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.



GANARASKA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

2216 County Rd. 28,
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V8

Phone: 905.885.8173
Fax: 905.885.9824

GANARASKA FOREST CENTRE

10585 Cold Springs Camp Rd.,
Campbellcroft, ON L0A 1B0

Fax: 905.797.2545

INFO@GRCA.ON.CA | GRCA.ON.CA

STAFF REPORT – August 20, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

RE: Garden Hill Dam Update

Release of the Request for Proposal (RFP)

Further to the last update in June 2026, GRCA staff prepared a request for proposal (RFP) for the Garden Hill Dam Class EA project and posted it on the GRCA website as well as a procurement site in order to obtain proposals from consultants. The posting was launched on June 27th and closed on July 22nd and the submitted proposals were reviewed. The following consultant has been selected:

CIMA+ with subconsultants GEO Morphix and Matrix Heritage

Background materials have been shared with the consultant and the start up meeting will be held August 18th. Staff have been corresponding with staff from the Municipality of Port Hope to keep respective team members informed of the status of the RFP process. It is anticipated that a 'notice of study commencement' will be released shortly and a communications plan will be prepared to guide the public consultation activities for the study.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority receive the 'Garden Hill Dam Update' report for information.

Prepared by:



Cory Harris, P.Eng.
Watershed Services Coordinator

Recommended by:



Linda J. Laliberte, CPA, CGA
CAO / Secretary-Treasurer

STAFF REPORT – August 20, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

Re: Ganaraska Forest Centre Auxiliary Building Update

Background:

In November 2024, staff presented a report to the Board of Directors regarding the demolition of the Quonset hut, which had previously provided assembly space and storage for the Ganaraska Forest Centre's outdoor education programs. Staff proposed replacing these facilities with a new 4,000-square-foot auxiliary building to accommodate these same uses.

The Board of Directors subsequently passed a motion authorizing staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the building design, with the requirement to report back to the Board. In April 2025, the RFP was issued as a design competition for the Ganaraska Forest Centre Auxiliary Building. At the September 18, 2025 Board of Directors meeting, Board authorized the staff to move forward with awarding of the building design and construction oversight to CIMA+/C² Architecture.

Process to Date:

Over the past 10 months, staff and the Chair worked with CIMA+/C² Architecture to finalize the building design. More recently, staff pre-qualified nine construction companies. Leslie Benson, Ganaraska Conservation Watershed Engineer, is leading the auxiliary building project. The tender package was sent to the nine pre-qualified companies on Friday, July 31, 2026 with a due date of Wednesday, August 26, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors receive the Ganaraska Forest Centre Auxiliary Building Update staff report for information, and,

FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors authorized the Chair to award the contract to the successful candidate after full review of the tenders submitted.

Prepared by:



Linda J. Laliberte, CPA, CGA
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

STAFF REPORT – August 20, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors

RE: Update on Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

As the members will recall, there was a discussion at the June board meeting with regards to board members voting on the 2027 municipal levy and budget. The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks sent out a directive which requires conservation authorities to complete the budgetary process for 2027 prior to December 31, 2026. The directive is attached under correspondence as item 04/26 for the members' information.

On July 15, 2026, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency announced the Project Executives (PE) that will chair the Transition Committees and serve as the inarguable Chief Administrative Officers on the new Regional Conservation Authorities for up to two years. I notified the Board Members on the same day that Alison McDonald, General Manager at Raisin Region Conservation Authority has been selected as the Project Executive of the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority.

Since the announcement, I have had a virtual meeting with Alison and she visited the administrative office of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority on Thursday, August 6, 2026, as well as touring the facilities at the Ganaraska Forest Centre. Alison met with many of the staff to introduce herself as well as meeting Chair, Vicki Mink. There are still many details of the transition that are unknown. A meeting is set for the CAO/General Managers of the Conservation Authorities that will make up the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (ELORCA) on Thursday, August 27, 2026. This will be a good introductory meeting to discuss moving forward with the transition committee. The meeting will also include discussions with regards to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting #026-0740, which sets out the method to determine the number of members for the new Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors. Correspondence item 07/26 provides information on the ERO posting. Also, the listing of the members of all the transition committee can be found included in correspondence item 08/26.

A further update will be provided at the September 17, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board of Directors receive the staff report for information.

Recommended by:



Linda J. Laliberte, CPA, CGA
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer