



Executive Committee - Notice of Meeting

February 12, 2026 ~10:15 a.m. (following Nominating Committee Meeting),
SCRCA Administration Office, 205 Millpond Cres., Strathroy N7G 3P9
Or Remote Via Zoom

**Members: Al Broad, Pat Brown, Terry Burrell, Greg Grimes, Rhonda Jubenville,
Frank Kennes, Don McCabe, Steve Miller, Kristen Rodrigues**

Tentative Agenda

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests
5. Minutes
 - 5.1 Jan 8, 2026 Flood Action Committee Draft Minutes
6. Business Arising from Last Meeting
7. Finance
 - 7.1 Draft Auditor's Report & Year End Adjustments, Reserves and Reserve Adjustments - MNP Chartered Professional Accountants, LLP will make a presentation (to be reviewed during meeting)
 - 7.2 December 2025 Disbursements
 - 7.3 2025 Municipal General Levy
 - 7.4 2025 Director's Expenses
 - 7.5 Investment Statements
8. Correspondence
 - 8.1 Acceptance of Correspondence re Bill 68
 - 8.1.1 Lower Thames Valley CA Board Resolution
 - 8.1.2 Ausable Bayfield CA ERO Response
 - 8.1.3 Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Counties Resolution
 - 8.1.4 Municipality of Neebing Resolution
 - 8.1.5 Conservation Sudbury Resolution
 - 8.1.6 Township of Dorion Resolution
 - 8.1.7 Mattagami Region CA Resolution
 - 8.1.8 Letter from Simone Tranter
 - 8.1.9 Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Resolution
 - 8.1.10 Municipality of Meaford Resolution
 - 8.1.11 Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority ERO Response
 - 8.1.12 Township of Blue Mountains Letter to MECP
 - 8.1.13 Municipality of South Nation Resolution

- 8.1.14 Township of Zorra Resolution
 - 8.1.15 Township of Georgian Bluffs Resolution
 - 8.1.16 Heavy Construction Association of Windsor letter to MECP
 - 8.1.17 Municipality of Chatham-Kent Resolution
 - 8.1.18 Municipality of West Elgin Resolution
 - 8.1.19 Municipality of South Huron Resolution
 - 8.1.20 Township of Amaranth Resolution
 - 8.1.21 Town of Saugeen Shores Resolution
 - 8.1.22 Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group ERO Response
 - 8.1.23 United Counties of Prescott Russell Resolution
- 9. New Business
 - 10. Adjournment

Please contact Ashley Fletcher (e-mail Afletcher@scrca.on.ca; call 245-3710 ext. 200 or 1-866-505-3710 ext. 200 at the Administration Office if you do not plan to attend.

7.5 Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Executive Committee acknowledges the investment statements to
December 31, 2025

8. Correspondence

8.1 Moved by: Seconded by:
That the Executive Committee receive for information the correspondence
items 8.1.1 – 8.1.23 as information in response to Bill 68 and the
consolidation of Ontario Conservation Authorities.

9. New Business

10. Moved by: Seconded by:
That the meeting be adjourned.



Flood Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Remote via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Pat Brown, St. Clair Township/SCRCA Director; Ryan Brown, Chatham-Kent; Dennis Chepeka, Chatham-Kent; Greg Grimes, Point Edward/SCRCA Chair; Aaron Hall, Chatham-Kent/SCRCA Director; Carmen McGregor, Chatham-Kent; Steve Miller, St. Clair Township/SCRCA Director

Regrets: David Clark, Warwick/Plympton-Wyoming; Rhonda Jubenville, Chatham-Kent/SCRCA Director; Jamie McGrail, Chatham-Kent; Kristen Rodrigues, Plympton-Wyoming/SCRCA Vice Chair

SCRCA Staff Present: Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist/Interim Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/Board Coordinator; Andrew McIntyre, Water Resources Technician; Ken Phillips, General Manager;

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was requested that each committee member declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within this agenda in that a member may have pecuniary interest.

Minutes of the Flood Action Committee meeting held January 9, 2025 were reviewed.

FAC-26-01

Hall – Brown

“That the minutes of the Flood Action Committee meeting, held January 9, 2025 be accepted.”

CARRIED

A presentation was provided by Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist/Interim Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator on the current watershed conditions, flood threat and recent flooding events.

FAC-26-02

Miller – Hall

“That the Flood Action Committee acknowledges the verbal presentation and status report on Current Watershed Conditions and Flood Threat, dated January 8, 2026 as well as the most recent reports on Great Lakes levels and low water levels across the region.

CARRIED

The 2026 draft Flood Warning & Flood Contingency Plan was reviewed.

FAC-26-03

Hall – Brown

“That the Flood Action Committee acknowledges the updated 2026 Draft Flood Warning and Flood Contingency plan. The committee further acknowledges the intent to circulate the approved final document with appropriate updates to all municipalities in the Authority in early 2026.”

CARRIED

Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist/Interim Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator provided a verbal presentation on the current standard roles and responsibilities of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and member Municipalities during flood warning and flood advisory conditions, as established by Provincial policy.

FAC-26-04

Hall – Miller

“That the Flood Action Committee acknowledges and concurs with the report on the current standard roles and responsibilities of the Authority and municipalities during flood warning and flood advisory conditions in the Lower Sydenham River, as established by Provincial Policy, and accepts the update provided for the Flood Warning Plan.”

CARRIED

The draft 2026 Ice Management and Contingency Plan was reviewed as part of the Flood Warning Plan.

FAC-26-05

Hall – Brown

“That the Flood Action Committee acknowledges the Draft 2026 Ice Management and Contingency plan (included as part of Flood Warning Plan). The committee further acknowledges the intent to circulate the approved final document with appropriate updates to all municipalities in the Authority in early 2026.”

CARRIED

Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Specialist/Interim Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator delivered a verbal overview of the 2026 Ice Breaking Plan.

FAC-26-06

Miller - Hall

“That the Flood Action Committee acknowledges the verbal presentation on the 2026 Ice Breaking Plan, dated January 8, 2026.”

CARRIED

Draft correspondence to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding the Ice Breaking Program for 2026 was reviewed.

FAC-26-07

Hall – Brown

“That the Flood Action Committee acknowledges the correspondence to Chatham-Kent dated January 8, 2026, regarding support for the Ice Breaking Program for 2026.”

CARRIED

FAC-26-08

Hall – Miller

“That the Flood Action Committee acknowledges the Authority’s responsibility and liability for the flood warning system and McKeough Dam operation and the municipality’s responsibility for ice breaking and further acknowledges the required coordinated effort of these factors for maximum flood protection.”

CARRIED

FAC-26-09

Brown – Miller

“That this meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

Pat Brown
Chair



Ken Phillips
General Manager

Meeting Date: February 12, 2026 **Item 6.1**
Report Date: January 26, 2026
Submitted by: Ashley Fletcher, Board Coordinator

Subject: Business Arising

Regarding BD-24-62

Report to be provided at a future meeting

Directors request that a report be provided exploring the options and costs associated with providing an electric vehicle (EV) charging station within campground parking lots. It is also suggested that campground rules and regulations be proactively updated to prohibit EV charging on camp sites.

Regarding BD-25-74

Report to be provided at a future meeting

Director's request a report to the board with expected timelines for the replenishment of land reserves and further that future budgets consider and reflect the potential failure of septic systems at all 3 campgrounds.

ST. CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Cheques issued November-December 2025

CHQ. #	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
124809	2025-11-07	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	GLFEI grant - Traxler Dr stepped pools to reduce erosion	\$ 5,000.00
124817	2025-11-07	UULawn Care & Landscaping	Grass cutting	\$ 6,905.17
124823	2025-11-12	Minuteman Press London South	GLFEI & OMAFA COA newsletter	\$ 5,220.59
124825	2025-11-12	PSD Citywide Inc.	Asset management software annual renewal	\$ 11,644.37
124835	2025-11-21	City of Sarnia	WECI shoreline grant - Ferry Dock Hill	\$ 240,000.00
124838	2025-11-21	Gary Falconer Transport Ltd.	Coldstream CA outhouse removal	\$ 7,853.50
124841	2025-11-21	Heyland Farms Ltd.	OMAFAs COA grant - Property 101/Demo Farm - lime, leveling, planting	\$ 11,052.71
124848	2025-11-21	Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority	50% of compensation review contract - Pesce & Associates	\$ 18,984.00
124851	2025-11-21	Podolinsky Farm Equipment	John Deere Turf Gators & lawn mower	\$ 22,785.83
124856	2025-11-21	Scott Petrie LLP	Legal fees	\$ 9,537.20
124864	2025-12-03	Acorn Tree Service	Campground hazard tree removal + trimming of hydro corridor	\$ 13,085.40
124865	2025-12-03	BF Environmental Consultants	McCallum Line property clean up + snake hibernaculum	\$ 15,249.35
124866	2025-12-03	Crump Enterprises Ltd.	Erosion control structures + erosion control technique demo	\$ 34,314.71
124869	2025-12-03	Gary Falconer Transport Ltd.	Peers Wetland entrance relocation	\$ 9,040.00
124872	2025-12-03	KT Excavating	Install storm drain, catch basins, tree holes	\$ 12,176.88
124878	2025-12-03	Township of Adelaide Metcalfe	Toothill Drain erosion mitigation	\$ 25,000.00
124882	2025-12-03	H.E. Zavitz Electrical & Heating Inc.	Replacement of 2 panels - equipment, materials, labour	\$ 7,715.05
124884	2025-12-09	Hubert Aerts	SPRI grant - alternative Phosphorus application BMP - banding of dry P	\$ 5,500.00
124887	2025-12-09	Crump Enterprises Ltd.	Supply & install culvert gate, remove berm - carp exclusion	\$ 8,169.88
124896	2025-12-09	Mark Vandamme	SPRI grant - reduced tillage equipment purchase/modification	\$ 20,000.00
124897	2025-12-09	Jonathan Westerhof	SPRI grant - nutrient application equipment purchase/modification	\$ 5,781.99
124908	2025-12-17	Zackary Jackson	Grant - cover crops	\$ 6,500.00
124920	2025-12-17	Monteith & Sutherland Ltd.	McKeough land - research title, field survey, reference plan	\$ 7,571.00
124924	2025-12-17	Doug Rogers	Grant - cover crops	\$ 6,000.00
124932	2025-12-17	Van Gorp Construction Inc.	Office desk removal & replacement	\$ 9,746.25
TOTAL CHEQUE DISBURSEMENTS -				\$ 524,833.88

Internet banking payments for November-December 2025

TRANS #	DATE	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
11028	2025-11-30	Hydro One Networks Inc.	Electricity	\$ 8,381.24
11029	2025-11-30	Libro Credit Union - Visa	Employee expenses	\$ 20,395.27
11031	2025-11-30	OMERS	Employee pension plan	\$ 49,363.16
11032	2025-11-30	Ontario Minister of Finance	Employer Health Tax	\$ 5,163.83
11035	2025-11-30	Receiver General	Payroll source deductions	\$ 68,484.67
11037	2025-11-30	RWAM Insurance Administrators Inc.	Employee group benefits	\$ 20,216.28
11047	2025-12-31	FundScrip	Holiday gift cards	\$ 5,210.00
11050	2025-12-31	MNP LLP	Interim audit	\$ 8,898.75
11051	2025-12-31	OMERS	Employee pension plan	\$ 46,927.16
11052	2025-12-31	Ontario Minister of Finance	Employer Health Tax	\$ 5,142.62
11055	2025-12-31	Receiver General	Payroll source deductions	\$ 94,097.35
11057	2025-12-31	RWAM Insurance Administrators Inc.	Employee group benefits	\$ 20,578.10
11059	2025-12-31	Libro Credit Union - Visa	Employee expenses	\$ 27,416.00
TOTAL INTERNET BANKING DISBURSEMENTS -				\$ 380,274.43

Major Visa purchases:

Maple Leaf Ropes - rope railing for trails	\$ 1,191.66
Omniview Tech - drone calibration plate	\$ 960.50
Trailer decal deposit	\$ 1,900.00
Trailer decal final payment	\$ 2,049.35
Lume Creative Inc. - turtle program branding	\$ 1,779.75
OPFA annual membership	\$ 715.00
Bahn Mi - catering for board meeting	\$ 674.04
Flywire/Fanshawe College - fall tuition	\$ 668.12
Legion - St Clair River Eve rental	\$ 771.25
Just Direct Promotions - tick keys	\$ 938.92
OneHourSiteFix - annual site security	\$ 943.80
Ontario Professional Forester Association - annual fees	\$ 715.00
Delta Hotels - Indspire conference	\$ 1,083.64
4Imprint	\$ 517.14
Drainage conference	\$ 565.00
Heatline - heat trace	\$ 1,165.26
Canadian Tire - waders	\$ 903.95
Lume Creative Inc. - turtle program branding	\$ 1,779.75
Kisters - WISKI site license	\$ 4,770.90
Kisters - biological water quality	\$ 862.60
Kisters - WISKI	\$ 941.04
TechSoup - Windows servers license	\$ 6,242.12
Chatham- Kent - permit & damage deposit	\$ 1,177.12

PAYROLL RUNS

Payroll No. 23	\$ 95,513.24
Payroll No. 24	\$ 91,947.35
Payroll No. 25	\$ 93,161.17
Payroll No. 26	\$ 103,965.51
TOTAL PAYROLL RUNS -	\$ 384,587.27



2025 GENERAL LEVY REPORT

MUNICIPALITY	GROSS LEVY	PAID TO DATE	OUTSTANDING
Adelaide Metcalfe Tp	\$ 32,760.80	\$ 32,760.80	\$ -
Brooke-Alvinston Tp	\$ 29,048.29	\$ 29,048.29	\$ -
Chatham-Kent Mn	\$ 219,146.98	\$ 219,146.98	\$ -
Dawn-Euphemia Tp	\$ 43,791.86	\$ 43,791.86	\$ -
Enniskillen Tp	\$ 31,468.39	\$ 31,468.39	\$ -
Lambton Shores Mn	\$ 86,252.27	\$ 86,252.27	\$ -
Middlesex Centre Mn	\$ 40,175.56	\$ 40,175.56	\$ -
Newbury V	\$ 2,638.86	\$ 2,638.86	\$ -
Oil Springs V	\$ 3,496.55	\$ 3,496.55	\$ -
Petrolia Tp	\$ 43,765.12	\$ 43,765.12	\$ -
Plympton Wyoming Tp	\$ 96,663.84	\$ 96,663.84	\$ -
Point Edward V	\$ 35,061.95	\$ 35,061.95	\$ -
Sarnia	\$ 616,272.74	\$ 616,272.74	\$ -
Southwest Middlesex Mn	\$ 19,444.58	\$ 19,444.58	\$ -
St Clair Tp	\$ 184,750.98	\$ 184,750.98	\$ -
Strathroy-Caradoc Tp	\$ 153,371.40	\$ 153,371.40	\$ -
Warwick Tp	\$ 37,839.84	\$ 37,839.84	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 1,675,950.01	\$ 1,675,950.01	\$ 0.00



2025 DIRECTORS' EXPENSES SUMMARY

Director	Honorarium	Total Mileage Cost	Total Per Diem	Total Annual Expenses
Grimes, Greg	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 2,075.76	\$ 1,554.14	\$ 7,179.90
Rodrigues, Kristen	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 749.95	\$ 1,332.12	\$ 3,757.07
Brennan, John	\$ -	\$ 11.52	\$ 777.07	\$ 788.59
Broad, Alan	\$ -	\$ 56.02	\$ 666.06	\$ 722.08
Brown, Pat	\$ -	\$ 684.00	\$ 1,443.13	\$ 2,127.13
Burrell, Terry	\$ -	\$ 378.43	\$ 1,110.10	\$ 1,488.53
Cates, Sue	\$ -	\$ 202.03	\$ 777.07	\$ 979.10
Gillis, Anne Marie	\$ -	\$ 66.67	\$ 111.01	\$ 177.68
Hall, Aaron	\$ -	\$ 118.80	\$ -	\$ 118.80
Jubenville, Rhonda	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Kennes, Frank	\$ -	\$ 32.40	\$ 1,110.10	\$ 1,142.50
Kilner, Adam	\$ -	\$ 159.12	\$ 444.04	\$ 603.16
Loosley, Brad	\$ -	\$ 244.80	\$ 444.04	\$ 688.84
Mackinnon, Betty Ann	\$ -	\$ 113.47	\$ 666.06	\$ 779.53
McCabe, Don	\$ -	\$ 377.28	\$ 1,110.10	\$ 1,487.38
McCallum, Don	\$ -	\$ 214.56	\$ 777.07	\$ 991.63
McCallum, Mary Lynne	\$ -	\$ 72.00	\$ 111.01	\$ 183.01
Miller, Steve	\$ -	\$ 860.98	\$ 999.09	\$ 1,860.07
Scott, Lorie	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 555.05	\$ 555.05
Veen, Ian	\$ -	\$ 283.54	\$ 555.05	\$ 838.59
Westgate, Jerry	\$ -	\$ 132.76	\$ 777.07	\$ 909.83
White, Brian	\$ -	\$ 416.16	\$ 777.07	\$ 1,193.23
TOTAL	\$ 5,225.00	7,250.25	16,096.45	28,571.70

Investment Report

BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.



Non-registered account #440-17189-13

December 31, 2025

ST. CLAIR REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
205 MILL POND CRESCENT
STRATHROY ON N7G 3P9

Your Investment Report

Account Summary

This table provides an overview of your account, including the opening and closing balance for the reporting period.

Your Investments	Opening Value Dec 1, 2025	Closing Value Dec 31, 2025	Balance on Dec 31, 2025 (CAD\$)
Canadian Dollar Investments			
Cash Account	1,722,855.89	1,723,033.64	1,723,033.64
	1,722,855.89	1,723,033.64	1,723,033.64
Grand Total (CAD\$)			1,723,033.64
		Last Statement Nov 30, 2025	1,722,855.89

You can access up-to-date account information online through BMO Nesbitt Burns Gateway at: www.gateway.bmonesbittburns.com. To register for Gateway, please contact your Investment Advisor.

We're here to help

We're dedicated to helping you succeed in meeting all of your wealth management goals. Call any member of our team referenced below if you have questions about Your Investment Report.

FLICK/BATCH#4
Investment Advisor
519-646-1180

Batch Flick Wealth Management
www.batchflick.com
Assistant: Patricia Daer
Patricia.Daer@nbpcd.com

ADAM D'SILVA
BMO Private Wealth Market Leader
(519) 672-8560

Suite 1900
One London Place
255 Queens Avenue
London, ON N6A 5R8

Non-registered account #440-17189-13

December 31, 2025

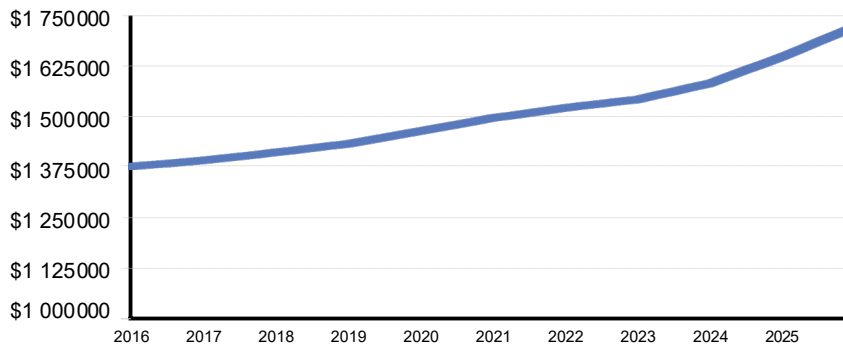
Your Performance Report

Changes to your account

This table provides a summary of the change in value of your account, including all deposits, withdrawals and the change in market value of your investments, for both the current year and as of the start of reporting. Where applicable, balances have been converted to Canadian dollars, see page 1 for exchange rates.

	This Year (2025)	Since January 1, 2016
Opening Value	1,648,835.33	1,379,179.68
Deposited	+ 0.00	+ 0.00
Withdrawn	- 0.00	- 0.00
Net Invested	= 0.00	= 0.00
Change In Market Value	+ 74,198.31	+ 343,853.96
Closing Value on Dec 31, 2025	1,723,033.64	1,723,033.64

Net Invested is the value of total deposits less the value of total withdrawals.



* MARKET VALUE
* NET INVESTED

The Change in Market Value of your account since January 1, 2016 is \$343,853.96. This includes gains, losses and income received with respect to the investments held in your account.

Your total percentage return

The table details the rates of return for your account. Including realized and unrealized capital gains / losses and the income earned from your investments over time periods specified. All returns are based on the Canadian dollar value of your investments, after all fees and charges. Return calculations are based on market values that include trades pending settlement.

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since Start Date	Start Date
MWR	4.50%	3.72%	2.83%	2.25%	2.25%	Jan 1, 2016
TWR	4.37%	3.94%	3.04%	2.39%	3.49%	Sep 1, 1999

Money-Weighted rate of return (MWR) considers the change in value of your investments, including the size and timing of any deposits and/or withdrawals made to, and from, your account; excluding any accrued interest. For accounts opened prior to 2016, MWRs detailed are as of January 1, 2016.

Time-Weighted rate of return (TWR) considers the change in value of your investments, including accrued interest. It does not consider the size or timing of deposits and/or withdrawals made to, and from, your account.

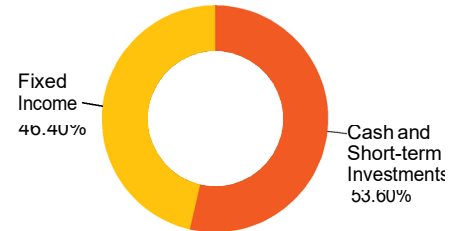
Non-registered account #440-17189-13

December 31, 2025

Summary of your investments in Canadian dollars

Your Investor Profile

Investment Objective	Income		
Time Horizon	10 yrs and more		
Investment Category	Amount	Target %	Holdings %
* Cash and Short-term Investments	923,033.64	10.00	53.60
* Fixed Income	800,000.00	90.00	46.40
* Equities	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1,723,033.64		100.00



Investments held in your account have been chosen based on objectives you selected on the Client Account Agreement. As your circumstances change, it is important to talk to your Investment Advisor about updating these objectives.

Your Canadian Dollar Investments

All amounts are reported in Canadian Dollars.

Income you received

Type of Income	Current Month	Year to Date
Interest	0.00	70,963.81
Total	0.00	70,963.81

Under Income you received:

- Distributions for ETFs, REITS, Funds are not officially classified by the issuer until after year-end. For this reason, we do not include that income in this section - even though these distributions are provisionally reported as 'dividends' under "Account activity for this month".
- Stock dividends reported in this statement's investment details will be included in subsequent statements under Year to date.

Your investment details

	Cost		Market Value on December 31, 2025	
	Quantity	Per Unit	Total	Total
Cash Account				
* Cash and Short-term Investments				
CASH			14,270.00	14,270.00

Non-registered account #440-17189-13

December 31, 2025

Your Canadian Dollar Investments (continued)

All amounts are reported in Canadian Dollars.

Your investment details (continued)

	Quantity	Cost		Market Value on December 31, 2025	
		Per Unit	Total	Per Unit	Total
BANK OF MONTREAL CAD HISA SERIES A (101) - BMT101	108,763.640	1.000	108,763.64	1.000	108,763.64
BMO TRUST COMPANY GIC ANNUAL DUE 03/02/2026 5.000%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
BMO TRUST COMPANY GIC ANNUAL DUE 06/01/2026 4.810%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
EQUITABLE BANK GIC ANNUAL DUE 06/01/2026 4.810%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
HOMEQUITY BANK GIC ANNUAL DUE 06/01/2026 4.810%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
COAST CAPITAL SAVINGS GIC ANNUAL DUE 06/19/2026 3.450%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
MCAN MORTGAGE GIC ANNUAL DUE 07/06/2026 5.230%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
VANCITY GIC ANNUAL DUE 07/09/2026 3.400%	200,000	100.000	200,000.00	100.000	200,000.00
Subtotal			923,033.64		923,033.64

* Fixed Income

Fixed Income

BANK OF MONTREAL MORTGAGE CORP GIC ANNUAL DUE 11/08/2027 5.270%	200,000	100.000	200,000.00	100.000	200,000.00
GENERAL BANK OF CDA GIC ANNUAL DUE 07/19/2028 4.420%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
COMMUNITY TRUST GIC ANNUAL DUE 09/19/2028 3.730%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
FAIRSTONE BANK GIC ANNUAL DUE 07/19/2029 4.440%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00

Non-registered account #440-17189-13

December 31, 2025

Your Canadian Dollar Investments (continued)

All amounts are reported in Canadian Dollars.

[Your investment details \(continued\)](#)

	Quantity	Cost		Market Value on December 31, 2025	
		Per Unit	Total	Per Unit	Total
HOMEQUITY BANK GIC ANNUAL DUE 07/19/2029 4.440%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
CONCENTRA BANK GIC ANNUAL DUE 06/19/2030 3.750%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
HOME TRUST COMPANY GIC ANNUAL DUE 07/23/2030 3.790%	100,000	100.000	100,000.00	100.000	100,000.00
Fixed Income Subtotal			800,000.00		800,000.00
Subtotal			800,000.00		800,000.00
Total for Cash Account			1,723,033.64		1,723,033.64
Total Canadian Dollar Investments			1,723,033.64		1,723,033.64

Average cost and market price indicator descriptions can be found in [Important information about your account](#).

[Account activity for this month](#)

Date	Activity	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Commission	Amount
Cash Account						
Dec 1, 2025		Opening Cash Balance				14,270.00
Dec 1, 2025	Interest	1000THS BANK OF MONTREAL CAD HISA SERIES A (101) AS OF 11/28/25 REINVESTED @ \$1.00	750		0.00	0.00
Dec 1, 2025	Interest	BANK OF MONTREAL CAD HISA SERIES A (101) AS OF 11/28/25 REINVESTED @ \$1.00	177		0.00	0.00
Dec 31, 2025		Closing Cash Balance				14,270.00

This report includes activity recorded in your account since your last statement. For a more comprehensive listing of your account activity, sign into your BMO Nesbitt Burns Gateway account.

Non-registered account #440-17189-13

December 31, 2025

Your Year-to-Date Fees Summary

□ Fees you paid

This section summarizes all compensation received by BMO Nesbitt Burns with respect to your account. Our compensation comes from two sources: what we charge you directly (Operating and Transaction charges), and payments we receive from third parties.

	CAD (\$)
Operating charges	
Total operating charges	0.00
Transaction charges	
Total transaction charges	0.00
Total fees you paid in 2025	0.00

See examples of operating charges in "Important Information about your Account". Some fees and charges may be reported as before-tax amounts and applicable tax is reported separately within the 'Sales Tax' line item. Where this is not possible the sales tax is included within the line item.

□ Payments BMO received from third parties

	CAD (\$)
GIC Commission	3,250.68
Trailing Commission	316.12
Total payments BMO Nesbitt Burns received from third parties in 2025	3,566.80

We received trailing commissions with respect to securities you owned during the reporting period.

Investment funds pay the investment fund managers a management fee for managing their funds. In turn, the investment managers pay us ongoing trailing commissions for the advice and services we provide to you. The amount of the trailing commission depends on the sales charge option under which you purchased your mutual fund. You are not directly charged a trailing commission or management fee; however, these fees will reduce the fund's overall investment return to you. Information about management fees and other charges to your investment funds is included in the applicable fund facts document.

□ Bulletin board

The USD/CAD conversion rate is: 1.3721, as of December 31, 2025

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ST CLAIR REGION CONSERVATION
 AUTHORITY
 205 MILL POND CRES
 STRATHROY ON N7G 3P9



Account Number: 460-16010
 Account Type: Regular Account
 For the Period: December 1 to 31, 2025
 Last Statement: November 28, 2025

Address Information
 255 Queens Avenue
 Suite 900
 London ON
 N6A 5R8

Phone: (519) 679-9490
 Website: www.scotiawealthmanagement.com
 Branch Manager: Christie Nicolacopoulos

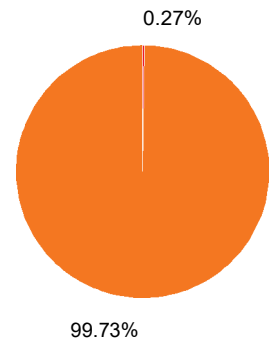
Your Wealth Advisor
 Craig Emptage (519) 660-3259
 craig.emptage@scotiawealth.com

Your Investment Team
 Michael Willemse (519) 660-3268
 Yousef Nassereddine (519) 660-3224
 Tammy Jackson (519) 660-3215
 Elyza Ubao (519) 660-3225

CANADIAN Account Overview

Currency: Canadian Dollar

Asset Class Summary	Dec. 31, 2025 Market Value	% of Total Assets
Cash	2,216	0.27
Fixed Income	796,235	99.73
Total Value of Account	\$798,451	100.00
Total Value on Last Statement, November 28, 2025	\$805,803	



Regulated by CIRO
 Canadian Investment
 Regulatory Organization

* Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. Scotia Wealth Management® consists of a range of financial services provided by The Bank of Nova Scotia (Scotiabank®); The Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company (Scotiabank®); Private Investment Counsel, a service of 1832 Asset Management L.P.; 1832 Asset Management U.S. Inc.; Scotia Wealth Insurance Services Inc.; and ScotiaMcLeod®, a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Wealth advisory and brokerage services are provided by ScotiaMcLeod, a division of Scotia Capital Inc. Scotia Capital Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and is regulated by the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization.

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Details of Your Account Holdings

Type	Security Description	Quantity	Average Cost	Adjusted Book Value	Market Price	Market Value
Cash						
CASH						2,216
Total Cash						\$2,216
Fixed Income						
CASH	ISHARES CANADIAN UNIVERSE BOND INDEX ETF	13,854	27.328	378,606	28.160	390,129
CASH	SCOTIA CANADIAN INCOME FUND CL F(577)	32,726.911	12.002	392,792	12.375	404,996
Subtotal Fixed Income						\$795,125
Accrued Interest:						
	ISHARES CANADIAN UNIVERSE BOND INDEX ETF					1,110
Total Fixed Income						\$796,235
Total Account Holdings				\$773,614		\$798,451

The average cost and adjusted book value displayed on this statement incorporates re-invested dividends and/or mutual fund distributions and does not necessarily reflect your original purchase price. Please see Average Cost & Adjusted Book Value in the Statement Notes for more information.

Monthly Activity

Date	Type	Activity	Description	Quantity	Price	Credit/Debit(-)
Opening Cash Balance						\$2,216.64
Dec. 01, 2025	CASH	DIVIDEND	SCOTIA CANADIAN INCOME FUND CL F (577) REINVEST 11/27/25 @ \$12.5155 PLUS FRACTIONS OF 0.070 BOOK VALUE \$977.08	78		
Dec. 23, 2025	CASH	DIVIDEND	SCOTIA CANADIAN INCOME FUND CL F (577) REINVEST 12/19/25 @ \$12.3404 PLUS FRACTIONS OF 0.368 BOOK VALUE \$979.43	79		

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Monthly Activity - continued

Date	Type	Activity	Description	Quantity	Price	Credit/Debit(-)
Closing Cash Balance						\$2,216.64

Summary

Income Summary		
	This Period	Year-to-Date
Total Income	\$0	\$0

A Note From ScotiaMcLeod

ScotiaMcLeod Administration and Service Fee Brochure

The ScotiaMcLeod Administration and Service Fees Brochure has been updated, to reflect a new annual household fee which applies only to households that do not have one or more accounts enrolled in an Investment Program.

Annual Household Fee: Clients may be subject to a minimum annual household fee of up to \$1,500 plus applicable taxes. If a household (which includes all accounts for persons living at the same address under management with the same Advisor) does not generate at least \$1,500 (excluding applicable taxes) in applicable commissions, certain fees and third-party payments during the 12-month period ending December 31, the difference between \$1,500 and the applicable commissions, fees and payments will be calculated and charged in March of the following year.

The updated brochure may be provided to you upon request to your Wealth Advisor.

Tax Slips

Visit our tax website at www.scotiawealthmanagement.com/tax to obtain a schedule of expected mailing dates for your tax slips.

Shortly after receiving tax information from the issuer, and in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations, your tax slip(s) will be mailed to you or will be available for download through Scotia online. Please ensure you have all your tax slips prior to filing your tax returns.

If you have any questions regarding your tax slips, please contact your Wealth Advisor.

Your Personal Investment Profile

The following information reflects your stated investment objectives and risk tolerance for this account, as well as your overall investment knowledge. If you would like to make any changes, have questions about whether or not this is appropriate for you or would like to discuss how your current investments correspond to this profile, please contact your Wealth Advisor.

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Your Personal Investment Profile- continued

For more information, please review Guidelines for Investment Objectives and Related Account Risk Factors in the ScotiaMcLeod Relationship Disclosure Document and Terms and Conditions brochure.

Alternatively, please visit https://www.scotiawealthmanagement.com/content/dam/scotiabank/swm/TandC_eng.pdf

Investment Objectives

Income: 100%

Growth:

Speculative Trading:

Risk Tolerance

Low: 75%

Medium: 25%

High:

Overall Investment Knowledge

Investment Knowledge: Medium

Time Horizon

Long Term: 7+ Years

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LTVCA Board Resolution in Response to Bill 68**Paul Tiessen****LTVCA Chair**

On November 20, 2025, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) held a special board meeting, its main point of discussion was the Province's proposal to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional entities under Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025. The plan, announced on October 31, includes creating an Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to oversee the consolidation and consult on proposed boundaries.

As proposed the LTVCA would become part of the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority (LERCA), which would include eight local Conservation Authorities, 81 municipalities and an approximate population of 2.2 million across the proposed region.

The LTVCA Board had many concerns with the proposed boundary change, especially in regards to geographical size. The current LTVCA board has representation from all 10 member municipalities, however under the proposed boundaries the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority Board would represent and make decisions for 81 municipalities. The main concern was accountability from the Regional Conservation Authority to the local municipalities. Local service delivery is critical to maintaining on the ground services to builders, developers and residents. The creation of a huge regional conservation authority will not only decrease accountability but increase bureaucracy, costs and timelines for local communities.

The Provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization can be realized by the current Conservation Authority structure without imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and increased costs to taxpayers.

Following significant discussion regarding this proposal, the Board unanimously passed the following resolution, which states:

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring that would also create a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to provide centralized oversight and direction under the Conservation Authorities Act; and

WHEREAS under this proposal, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) would be merged into a new "Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority" together with the:

Essex Region CA
St. Clair Region CA
Upper Thames River CA
Kettle Creek CA
Catfish Creek CA
Long Point Region CA
Grand River CA

forming a single organization stretching from Windsor, London and Sarnia, through to Waterloo region; and

WHEREAS the Board acknowledges and supports the Province’s goals of improved efficiency, consistency and fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, but finds that the proposed “Lake Erie Region” configuration would:

- Create a geographically vast and administratively complex entity, joining south western rural and urban municipalities throughout the province with little shared watershed connection or economic alignment;
- Dilute local accountability and municipal partnership, contrary to the principle that decisions are best made closest to the communities they affect;
- Generate substantial transition costs — including human-resources integration, governance restructuring, IT migration and policy harmonization — that would divert resources from front-line service delivery and delay measurable outcomes, contrary to the Province’s own business-planning principles of value for money, cost containment and service continuity; and,
- Risk greater uncertainty and delay for builders, developers and farmers, as local permitting offices and staff familiar with site conditions are replaced by distant regional structures, making it harder for applicants to obtain timely on the ground local advice, resolve issues or expedite housing and infrastructure approvals that support the Province’s “Get It Done” agenda; and

WHEREAS the LTVCA has already undertaken significant modernization work aligned with provincial objectives, including:

- Implementation of a Customer Service Delivery Program;
- Continually improvement of delivery standard well above the standard required by the province – 2024 – 81.7% met standard, 2025 – 96.8% are meeting standard
- Continual improvements in transparency and client communication through a number of recent strategic planning initiatives;
- Improvement in data and network systems, including security and redundancy

- Maintenance of a very low administrative overhead cost (e.g.10.7% (2024) of total operating costs).

And has done this while retaining in person local support to developers and permit recipients and

Maintained a very limited levy increase to municipalities over the last 8 years.

This demonstrates that cost effective and meaningful modernization can occur within the current watershed-based governance framework; and

WHEREAS the Board further recognizes that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority serves Southwestern Ontario communities facing vastly different climatic, hydrological and infrastructure realities (e.g. large diking and pumped systems) based on the needs of vibrant rural and urban communities that are very different than the large urban communities found in the proposed regional conservation authority,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Directors **does not** support the proposed “Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and

The Board instead endorses further provincial evaluation of a more focused specific model as a geographically coherent, cost-effective and locally accountable alternative that advances the government’s priorities of efficiency, red-tape reduction and timely housing delivery; and

The Board requests that the Ministry engage directly with affected municipalities and conservation authorities across Southwestern Ontario most specifically, the Lower Thames Valley municipalities before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments.

Sincerely,



Paul Tiessen

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Board Chair



December 4, 2025

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
 Conservation and Source Protection Branch
 300 Water Street North Tower, 5th Floor
 Peterborough, ON
 K9J 3C7

Adelaide Metcalfe

Blewater

Central Huron

Huron East

Lambton Shores

Lucan Biddulph

Middlesex Centre

North Middlesex

Perth South

South Huron

Warwick

West Perth

**Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Submission to ERO 025-1257
 Consultation on Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of
 Ontario's conservation authorities**

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is one of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities delivering programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources to fulfil a vital role in watershed management and protect communities from natural hazards. As leaders in watershed management, conservation authorities collaborate with the public, municipalities, Indigenous communities, the agricultural sector, and other partners to fulfil our mandate while meeting both local needs and provincial priorities. We have reviewed ERO 025-1257: consultation on *Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities* and offer the following comments for consideration.

Watershed management is complex – challenges such as flooding, erosion and declining water quality are typically the result of upstream activities on the landscape and can impact communities unevenly as the results of these decisions, and activities cumulate through the watershed. This often results in a disproportionate burden of management challenges, and costs on downstream communities; however, maintaining local governance helps ensure that the costs and responsibilities of preventative measures and management are shared across the watershed. This local governance, and current framework of conservation authorities promotes an effective scale for delivering front-line resources in partnership with our local communities, alongside provincial priorities, to apply science-based decisions that protect communities from

natural hazards. While ABCA acknowledges and supports the province's goals of improved efficiency, through the implementation of a digital applications and permitting system, consistent policies, flood standards, fees and technology, it does not support the proposed "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" boundary and encourages the province to consider meaningful modernization within the current watershed-based governance framework.

It is therefore recommended that a feasibility study should be completed that will guide and risk-manage the creation of regional watershed boundaries based on strategic alignment, governance and leadership, financial efficiency and partner/community relations.

LOCAL

References to local throughout this ERO submission go well beyond the ABCA watershed in a geographic context. Local means so much more:

It is established relationships with the community in which we work and live. Decades of partnerships and service with our watershed residents and neighbours has developed trust and brand recognition. Being associated with the very rivers for which we are named establishes a relationship between the community and the landscape. Local is being responsive and accountable to the needs of our watershed residents and working collaboratively with them to balance environmental needs, community interests and provincial priorities.

Posting Discussion Questions

What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?

Locally relevant geographic boundaries:

A priority for the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) is maintaining watershed-based jurisdictions – aligning with natural hydrological boundaries to support effective flood and water management, consistent with drinking water Source Protection Areas and Regions. We do not support the proposed "Huron – Superior Regional Conservation Authority" boundary, as we do not believe it adequately meets this criterion. A key factor to support a successful transition and outcome is considering the landscape, land uses, and economy throughout the boundary of each regional conservation authority. For example, the County of Huron, within the proposed boundary of the "Huron – Superior Regional Conservation Authority" contributes more than \$1 billion annually in agriculture revenue to

the Canadian economy. The landscape that supports this economy, and influences local, effective watershed management considerations, cannot be compared to fast-growing municipalities throughout the province, such as the urbanizing shoreline of Lake Simcoe, or the landscape, and the needs of the residents of Thunder Bay. Although agriculture is noted as a consideration of other proposed regional conservation authorities, we are concerned that agriculture, despite its significant contribution to the national economy, is not appropriately recognized in the proposed “Huron – Superior” boundary. This suggests that local land uses may not be adequately considered at the proposed scale.

Strong governance with local representation:

The ABCA affirms that strong, local municipal governance and oversight is fundamental to effectively deliver the vital watershed management programs and services that protect communities from natural hazards. Locally relevant watershed boundaries, supported by strong local governance, create a cohesive framework that overcomes jurisdictional barriers by enabling collaboration to meet both community and environmental needs. This collaboration between the community, industry and other employment sectors; municipalities, and the province, to address complex watershed management challenges, helps realize tangible outcomes by supporting the local community to build a more resilient Ontario.

Watershed-based management, which is the founding principal of conservation authority boundaries, is recognized internationally as the most effective means of addressing complex watershed management challenges. However, the true success of conservation authorities lies in the governance under which they were established and operate in, the structure that balances local environmental, economic and societal needs across a landscape and watershed scale that is meaningful to the people who live and work within it.

Regional support with local delivery:

The province has identified that its proposed amalgamation would improve conservation authorities by providing better tools and more resources; provide greater consistency and transparency; and deliver faster services to municipalities and permit applications, while ensuring decisions continue to be based on sound science.

Permitting administered by conservation authorities helps to ensure that development does not happen in unsafe areas and that it does not worsen the impacts in flooding or erosion in surrounding areas. ABCA understands that the OPCA will be tasked with streamlining and standardizing more consistent service delivery by setting provincewide service delivery standards. However, ABCA emphasizes that local delivery allows applicants to work with responsive staff through effective pre-consultation that may result in an outcome that

directs development away from regulated areas affected by the risk of natural hazards. Through this pro-active and effective working relationship, staff work with applicants to establish more resilient infrastructure and often eliminates the need for a permit altogether. Effective local delivery, enabled by knowledgeable and responsive staff, is fundamental to this success; however, this strength of the current conservation authority framework is not adequately captured within existing service delivery standards.

Therefore, the ABCA encourages the province to provide better tools and more resources that enhance consistency and transparency; and help deliver faster services to municipalities; within the existing conservation authority framework, enabling knowledgeable and responsive staff to deliver consistent services that continue to be based on sound science, supported by modern tools and resources, and backed by the region.

What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?

The ABCA recognizes that a more regional jurisdiction may improve our access to tools and resources to enhance consistency and transparency; and help delivery faster services; as conservation authorities collaborate to share resources, tools, knowledge and skills. However, ABCA reiterates that local delivery, by responsive staff is critical to successfully deliver watershed management programs and services, while fostering and maintaining strong relationships, as we work together, to build a more resilient Ontario.

The Healthy Lake Huron Initiative (HLH) is an example of how a regional conservation authority may operate to support a resilient landscape and provide opportunities and benefits to the conservation authority within its region. As a lead organization delivering the HLH, ABCA recognizes how separate, local entities, working together within a regional framework may generate opportunities that improve our individual program and service delivery. Through HLH, ABCA and its partners demonstrate that effective collaboration enhances access to improved resources and tools, and leverages shared technical skills and knowledge to strengthen the local delivery of programs and services across the HLH region.

The ABCA welcomes the opportunity to work with the province, to share our experience and build upon the success of the HLH framework. The HLH Initiative demonstrates that collaboration on a regional scale enhances opportunities, while still delivering local, efficient, and effective watershed management programs and services through our respective conservation authorities.

Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up and the municipal representative appointment process?

The ABCA reiterates that strong, local municipal governance and oversight is fundamental to effectively deliver vital watershed management programs and services that protect communities from natural hazards.

Watershed management is complex – it involves balancing the cumulative effects of previous land use decisions; local priorities and economic drivers; and provincial priorities including housing, the economy and infrastructure; while making sound, science-based decisions to protect communities from natural hazards. Strong, local governance, that recognizes watershed boundaries, as opposed to political boundaries is fundamental towards achieving this balance.

The ABCA welcomes the opportunity to work with the province to ensure that local governance is integrated into a regional framework. Through the successful HLH Initiative that ABCA described, governance at the regional conservation authority level could be structured with a tiered system. The tiered system would allow for:

- The retention of the local Board structure, creating a local Watershed Advisory Committee (Ausable Bayfield Watershed Advisory Committee) that includes representation from each member municipality.
- The local conservation authority Board or Advisory Committee to appoint member(s) to the Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors
- The Regional Conservation Authority Board of Directors to appoint member(s) to the OPCA Board of Directors

The tiered system enables centralized leadership, efficient governance, strategic direction and transparent oversight to the decisions that are consistent across the region, or province, while enabling strong, local governance that facilitates effective and efficient watershed management.

Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?

The ABCA is concerned about the financial implications for Ontarians associated with transitioning to regional conservation authorities. To ensure full transparency and informed decision making, a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis must be completed prior to

undertaking any transition. Further, any modernization of conservation authorities must be supported by provincial funding so that it does not affect service delivery.

With the guidance and support of our twelve member municipalities, ABCA demonstrates fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, ensuring stable growth through stable funding. Through strong partnerships, the ABCA successfully leverages funding to support programs and services that are locally important, based on sound science, and driven by community engagement. The ABCA affirms that a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority must retain municipal representation and authority. Please refer to the reference in the previous answer as it relates to the need for a local watershed Board or advisory committee. Retaining the involvement of member municipalities ensures transparency, effective consultation, and balances local, regional, and provincial priorities.

The ABCA acknowledges and supports the province's goal to improve efficiency of watershed management by implementing digital applications and permitting system, consistent policies, flood standards, fees and technology. The ABCA affirms that achieving this goal involves centralizing information, tools, and resources, rather than assets. To maintain strong, local relationships and community trust, assets must remain at the local level.

How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?

For nearly eighty-years, conservation authorities have worked with local communities and stakeholders to address complex watershed management challenges, building strong relationships. These strong relationships are built on trust and are reinforced by the community's recognition of our local identity. This trust and brand recognition has been established through the frontline of conservation authorities – local councillors, management, and staff – working collaboratively to balance environmental needs, community interests and provincial priorities.

The current watershed boundaries of the 36 conservation authorities enable effective and efficient administration at a scale that the community relates to. This local scale fosters meaningful connections that help people to understand that they are apart of the natural world and live within a watershed. The existing watershed boundaries:

- Connect the name of the river to people where they live, work and play, to the local organization that delivers watershed management programs and services (e.g., stewardship, lands, education, outreach, etc.)
- Connect the programs and services to local governance (i.e., municipal councillors)

Local offices serve as the community's primary point of contact for conservation, supporting environmental progress through front-line service delivery and direct access to knowledgeable staff who connect individuals with the resources they need. The ABCA emphasizes the importance of not only maintaining our local offices, but also preserving conservation authorities' individual, distinct local identity and brand. A successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authorities must preserve the local identity, while considering opportunities to centralize information, tools, and resources, rather than assets, to build upon strong working relations, backed by the tools and resources of the region.

Any regionalization of conservation authority boundaries must continue to respect the local watershed agreements that are in place, honour donations made to the local conservation authority, the wishes of those donors, and maintain our commitment to partnerships with community organizations.

Conclusion

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority affirms that strong, local municipal governance and oversight is fundamental to effectively deliver the vital watershed management programs and services that protect communities from natural hazards. As currently proposed, the "Huron – Superior" boundary is untenable. The ABCA does not support the proposed boundary configuration as outline in ERO 025-1257 and encourages the province to modernize and support conservation authorities within current watershed-based boundaries and governance. To maintain, and strengthen local relations and community trust, conservation authority boundaries must reflect local landscapes and economic drivers. With our many years of experience, collaborating with Healthy Lake Huron, we welcome the opportunity to work with the province to ensure that strong local governance is effectively integrated into a more regional watershed-based organization. The ABCA volunteers to be on a working group to help inform this transition.



United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

7a)
Item 8.1.3

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Councillor Densham

RESOLUTION NO 2025- 159

SECONDED BY

DATE November 17, 2025

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local

representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the United Counties of SDG supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the United Counties of SDG supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



WARDEN

Recorded Vote:

Councillor Bergeron	_____
Councillor Broad	_____
Councillor Densham	_____
Councillor Fraser	_____
Councillor Guindon	_____
Councillor Landry	_____
Councillor MacDonald	_____
Councillor McDonald	_____
Councillor McGillis	_____
Councillor St. Pierre	_____
Councillor Williams	_____
Warden Lang	_____



December 5, 2025

VIA EMAIL: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Honourable Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Flr, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Dear Minister McCarthy,

Council of the Municipality of Neebing reviewed your Ministry's proposal related to boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities (ERO Posting 025-1257).

At their meeting on December 3, 2025, Council carried the following resolution:

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Lakehead Region established the Neebing Valley Conservation Authority in 1954 which enlarged to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of hectares of land, much of which was donated by local residents as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good;

AND WHEREAS proposed governance changes risk undermining community trust and donor confidence, as these contributions were made with the expectation of local accountability and decision-making in the care and management of these lands;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes creating the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities; however, municipal cost apportionment, the overall cost of establishing and operating the OPCA, and the anticipated cost of consolidation remain undisclosed, creating significant uncertainty for municipalities and ratepayers, even as local watershed advisory boards would still be needed for oversight;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

AND WHEREAS such consolidation risks the loss of local viewpoints and representation, reducing the ability of communities to influence decisions that directly affect their watersheds, conservation lands, and municipal levies;

AND WHEREAS the Lakehead Region is located over 1,300 kilometers away from the other conservation authorities, making the proposed "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration geographically impractical and disconnected from local watershed realities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Neebing calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND THAT the Council of the Municipality of Neebing requests that the Province provide full transparency regarding the projected costs of establishing the OPCA and consolidating conservation authorities, including the impact on municipal levies and ratepayers, before implementing any governance changes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Municipality of Neebing supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, but imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Municipality of Neebing supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives;

AND FURTHER THAT Council of the Municipality of Neebing is opposed to the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Municipality of Neebing recommends that the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority form the “Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority”;

AND FURTHER THAT the Ministry engage directly with affected municipalities of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations and to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics; MPP Kevin Holland; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Conservation Ontario; all local municipalities; and all conservation authorities in Ontario.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Erika Kromm
Clerk Treasurer
(Resolution No. 2025-12-281)

cc: Public Input Coordinator, MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch
Peter Tabuns, Opposition Critic, tabunsp-qp@ndp.on.ca
MPP Kevin Holland, kevin.holland@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario, resolutions@amo.on.ca
Conservation Ontario, info@conservationontario.ca
All Conservation Authorities
All Local Municipalities



401-199 rue Larch Street
Sudbury, ON P3E 5P9
705-674-5249
ConservationSudbury.ca

December 12, 2025

RE: Conservation Sudbury position regarding the regional amalgamation of Ontario's conservation authorities as proposed through Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257

The following resolution was passed at the Nickel District Conservation Authority's meeting of December 11, 2025.

Resolution no. 2025-75

Moved by: Jennifer Davidson

Seconded by: Joscelyne Landry-Altmann

WHEREAS municipalities have historically established and governed their conservation authorities under the *Conservation Authorities Act*;

AND WHEREAS municipalities provide approximately 54% of conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%. (2023 MECP data);

AND WHEREAS for decades Conservation Sudbury and its predecessors have established programs and services to local watershed needs, maintained accountable service standards, and ensured fair and predictable costs for ratepayers.

AND WHEREAS the Authority operates the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area providing access to all visitors at no cost, maintains and operates flood control infrastructure across Greater Sudbury including dams in Copper Cliff and New Sudbury, weirs in Coniston, berms in Dowling and Capreol, and the box culvert under downtown Sudbury;

AND WHEREAS Conservation Sudbury owns and manages extensive lands for conservation, public protection, and recreational purposes, many of which are leased to private operators and to the City of Greater Sudbury for recreational purposes, including Timberwolf Golf Course, Adanac Ski Hill, Rotary Park, Garson Park, Carmichael Park, and portions of Fielding Park;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has proposed the consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into 7 large regional conservation authorities (RCAs) overseen by a new layer of bureaucracy named the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), a move that would dilute local governance and put municipal cost distribution in question;

AND WHEREAS in time, the OPCA will levy participating municipalities for some of its operating costs and will collect fees from the authorities, and Conservation Sudbury, as proposed, would be merged with authorities operating from offices located in Sault Ste-Marie (SSMRCA), Timmins (MRCA), and North Bay (NBMCA);

AND WHEREAS assets of the existing authorities would be pooled under any new regional authority, that would include all lands, buildings, chattels, bank accounts and reserves as well as all loans and other liabilities;

AND WHEREAS the imposition of a new oversight agency, lacking local or public accountability, risks creating unnecessary costs for municipalities and authorities alike, adding “red tape” and unnecessary bureaucracy, and undermines an authority’s efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario:

1. Maintains local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation that allow appropriate levy decisions, community-focused services, proper management of conservation lands and allocation of reserves to projects and infrastructure in the communities where the funds were raised;
2. Avoids imposing a centralized agency that will introduce additional costs, red tape, and bureaucracy, reducing efficiency and responsiveness to local needs;
3. Delays any decision to consolidate conservation authorities to allow: a) an assessment of the need for consolidation, and a complete cost analysis to the Authority and municipality, b) for meaningful engagement needed to address the concerns and risks of the proposed consolidation, c) for the review of alternative consolidation models and processes that would result in better outcomes related to Provincial priorities
4. Collaborates with municipalities and conservation authorities to improve consistency, capacity, and program delivery across Ontario without compromising local accountability;
5. Maintains existing land (property) and financial reserves to be used within, and for the benefit of, Greater Sudbury in which these originated and were improved upon.
6. Rejects the proposed “Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257.
7. Requires the Minister to directly engage affected municipalities before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or any other legislative amendments impacting their conservation authorities.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The City of Greater Sudbury
- The Environmental Registry of Ontario Consultations prior to the deadline of December 22, 2025
- The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MPP Peter Tabuns, Official Opposition Critic
- Frances G  linas, MPP for Nickel Belt
- Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Conservation Ontario
- All municipalities within the proposed Northeastern Regional Conservation Authority boundary that includes the Cities of Timmins, Sault Ste-Marie and North Bay, as well as Prince Township, the Municipalities of Callander, Calvin, East Ferris, Mattawan and Powassan, the Town of Mattawa and the Townships of Bonfield, Chisholm and Papineau-Cameron.

The Corporation of the
TOWNSHIP OF DORION
DORION, ONTARIO
POT 1KO
TELEPHONE 807-857-2289
FAX 807-857-2203

Date: December 2, 2025

Resolution No. 25-290

Moved by 

Seconded by 

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Lakehead Region established the Neebing Valley Conservation Authority in 1954 which enlarged to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of hectares of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Dorion calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND THAT while the Township of Dorion supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND THAT the Township of Dorion supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives;

AND that the Township of Dorion is opposed to the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257;

AND THAT the Township of Dorion recommends that the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority form the “Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority”;

AND THAT the Ministry engage directly with affected municipalities of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations and to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics;
- local Members of Provincial Parliament;
- local Members of Parliament;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Conservation Ontario;
- All local municipalities; and
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

..... 

Reeve/Chair

Carried 

Carried
(as amended)

Defeated

	YEAS	NAYS
REEVE		
R. Beatty		
COUNCILLOR		
D. Harris Shallow		
J. Mehagan		
D. Penner		
B. Cadeau		



MATTAGAMI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

100 Lakeshore Road, Timmins, Ontario P4N 8R5
www.mattagamiregion.ca

TEL. 705-360-2660 FAX 705-360-2692
info@mattagamiregion.ca

December 9, 2025

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Mattagami Region Conservation Authority position on the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

Please be advised that the following resolution 2025-1730 was passed at the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority' Regular Board Meeting held on December 3, 2025:

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring that would create a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to provide centralized oversight and direction under the Conservation Authorities Act; and

WHEREAS under this proposal, the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority (MRCA) would be merged into a new "Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority" together with the:

- Nickel District Conservation Authority
- North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority
- Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority

forming a single fragmented organization stretching from Sault Ste. Marie north to Timmins and southeast to Mattawa; and

WHEREAS the Board acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency, consistency and fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, but finds that the proposed "Northeastern Ontario Region" configuration would:

1. Create a geographically vast and administratively complex entity throughout the province with little shared watershed connection or economic alignment;
2. Dilute local accountability and municipal partnerships, contrary to the principle that decisions are best made closest to the communities they affect;
3. Generate substantial transition costs — including human-resources integration, governance restructuring, IT migration and policy

harmonization — that would divert resources from front-line service delivery and delay measurable outcomes, contrary to the Province's own business-planning principles of value for money, cost containment and service continuity;

4. Risk greater uncertainty and delays in program delivery, permitting and hazard management where local staff are merged with larger and more distant regional structures; and

WHEREAS the MRCA has consistently demonstrated fiscal responsibility, effective stewardship, and strong partnerships with municipalities, Indigenous communities, landowners, and stakeholders throughout the region; and

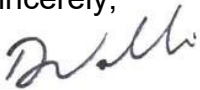
WHEREAS the Board further recognizes that the MRCA serves the City of Timmins, within the Arctic watershed and faces vastly different climatic, hydrological and infrastructure realities, which would be ill-served by a larger overarching administrative structure extending over 600 kilometres to the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and its administrative Ministry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors:

1. Formally opposes the proposed conservation authority amalgamations as they pertain to the MRCA and their member municipality as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to maintain the existing watershed-based governance structure, which ensures local accountability, comprehensive hazard management, and effective environmental protection; and
3. Requests meaningful consultation with municipalities, Indigenous communities, and Conservation Authority boards prior to any legislative or structural changes affecting watershed management in Ontario; and
4. THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the City of Timmins, Wabun Tribal Council, Mushkegowuk Council, Conservation Ontario, and Conservation Authorities.

Sincerely,



David Vallier

General Manager, Mattagami Region Conservation Authority

From: [Simone Tranter](#)
To: ca.office@ontario.ca; sheref.sabawy@pc.ola.org
Cc: Mum; info@conservationontario.ca; info@abca.ca; tbyrne@erca.org; grca@grandriver.ca; web@hrca.on.ca; nature@conservationhamilton.ca; info@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca; conservation@lprca.on.ca; info@ltvca.ca; maitland@mvca.on.ca; info@npca.ca; customerservice@svca.on.ca; SCRCA General Inbox; infoline@thamesriver.ca; mail@cloca.com; info@grca.on.ca; geninfo@kawarthaconservation.com; info@trca.ca; admin@nvca.on.ca; otonabeeca@otonabeeconservation.com; info@crca.ca; information@tc.on.ca; info@crowevalley.com; info@mvc.on.ca; info@quinteconservation.ca; info@rrca.on.ca; info@rvca.ca; info@nation.on.ca; info@lakeheadca.com; info@mattagamiregion.ca; ndca@ConservationSudbury.ca; nbmca@nbmca.ca; nature@ssmrc.ca
Subject: ERO #025-1257
Date: December 10, 2025 8:26:31 AM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern,

Actually - this concerns ALL of us. Including whoever is reading this and whoever is working in that office. My Mum and I regularly drive all the backroads that we can find and are so distressed with the lack of protection of our beautiful lands that are disappearing under developments. The land we need to protect our food resources for the country not just the province and the land we need to preserve all of our natural resources including watersheds and our wildlife.

The idea to combine what IS protected into some kind of larger authority where things will slip through the cracks and where the borders of these conservation areas could be at risk (see Caledon Swan Lake) is a terrible one and our household is completely against it. I may not be completely in the know of all the details but I do know that this province is cutting corners.

The Conservation Authorities that are already in place are doing a wonderful job and know their specific regions in and out.

This is a huge province. Have you ever driven top to bottom (where it's even possible since it's so vast you can't even get to a chunk of it - for now anyway - if Ford has his way I'm sure most of it will get mowed down eventually) - have you ever driven fully across it? I have. From our border with MB it took 24 hours just to Mississauga. You can get to Florida in the same amount of time. Not that anyone is going there anymore nor should they, I'm just pointing out the vastness of this province.

Seven Authorities will never cut it with the work that needs doing and that the thirty six are currently doing. The getting down on the ground with the children and teaching them why it needs protecting. The trails that need maintaining. The buildings that hold the educational areas etc etc etc. (They do so much I can't even list it all - things the majority of us take for granted)

You might think (not the person reading this but the people whose idea this was) that this is going to save money. Hm. How well have any of the changes the province has made worked for our healthcare system? Will it end up privatised and owned by rich people and end up being only for the rich? Will you outsource everything and it cost us taxpayers more than deem it not financially feasible and make cuts later on so that things can be shut down leaving these vulnerable areas at risk?

These conservation areas are for the people of this province. Including you. Protect them at all costs. Don't let all the work done over the year get lost by greed and dumb ideas.

Protect and keep the 36.

I've cc'd all the Authorities that I could find emails for. Thank you for all you do. Thank you to everyone behind the scenes that are taken for granted. Please let me know what else I can do in this fight for our beautiful province and all of its regions.

I've also sent this to my local MPP. Please hear our voices. Some people in the suburbs don't leave these developed areas and have no idea what is at risk for their children's future who may want to enjoy and learn and even work in these areas. Protect our Greenbelts and protect our 36 Conservation Authorities.

Regards,

Simone Tranter (and my Mum)

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TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL

Resolution Number 2014-339

December 8, 2025

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: Joe Mc

WHEREAS the *Conservation Authorities Act* (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- natural hazard identification and permitting;
- watershed planning and development review;
- flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;
- drinking water source protection;
- watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;
- sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;
- management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal is concerned that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the *French Language Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS SNC already collaborates regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

December 8, 2025

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal urges the Government of Ontario maintain South Nation Conservation as a local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authority;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- local MPPs and MPs;
- all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Conservation Ontario; and
- all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Carried Defeated Unanimous

Mayor: 

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____

NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		

December 18, 2025

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park
5th Floor.
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Honourable Minister McCarthy,

Re: Municipality of Meaford Response to Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Meaford adopted the following resolution at its meeting on December 15, 2025.

Moved by: Councillor Uhrig
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Keaveney

Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses; and

Whereas the municipalities within Grey and Bruce Counties established the North Grey Region Conservation Authority in 1957 and the Sauble Valley Conservation Authority in 1958 which amalgamated into the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) in 1985; and

Whereas local municipalities currently provide approximately 44% of total GSCA funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 7%; and

Whereas municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local



watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers; and

Whereas conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of hectares of land, much of which was donated or sold by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities; and

Whereas Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency whose objects include overseeing conservation authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities in Ontario with municipal cost contribution yet to be defined; and

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring; and

Whereas under this proposal, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) would be consolidated into a new "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" that is over 23,000 square kilometres in size and consists of 80 municipalities; and

Whereas the Province already has the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to address issues related to permitting, by establishing guidance, online permitting platforms and technical standards through legislation that could help build homes; and

Whereas the GSCA has already undertaken significant modernization work aligned with provincial objectives, including Information Technology / Information Management, and leveraging technology to streamline



planning and permit review processes processing 100% of major permits within the provincial timelines in 2024;

Therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Meaford calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands; and

Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford does not support the proposed "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models; and

Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford affirms that large-scale regional consolidation is unnecessary, would introduce substantial transition costs, and would divert resources away from frontline watershed programs. The Council further asserts that restructuring at this scale would erode local decision-making, weaken municipal accountability, and disrupt long-standing community partnerships that are central to delivering responsive watershed management; and

Be it further resolved that while the Municipality of Meaford supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down approach structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red-tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs; and

Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford urges the Province to strengthen centralized standards, resources, and tools rather than undertaking broad structural amalgamation and to provide sustainable, predictable provincial funding across conservation authorities to enable local CAs to advance ongoing digitization and systemization work that has



already resulted in improved efficiency and consistency in recent years;
and

Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford believes that the Province's proposed new online permitting portal can be implemented within the existing conservation authority framework without requiring structural amalgamation; and

Be it further resolved that the Municipality of Meaford requests that the Ministry engage meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, conservation authorities, and local Indigenous communities before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation; and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be included in the Municipality's ERO response and forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all of Ontario's municipalities, MPPs, conservation authorities, AMO, and Conservation Ontario.

Carried - Resolution #2025-46-09

Yours sincerely,

Allison Penner

Deputy Clerk / Manager, Legislative Services
Municipality of Meaford
21 Trowbridge Street West, Meaford
519-538-1060, ext. 1110 | apenner@meaford.ca



cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Conservation Authorities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Conservation Ontario
Submission to Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257

December 17, 2025

Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (ERO#025-1257)

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Submission

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) has reviewed the Province of Ontario's proposal to amend the *Conservation Authorities Act* and consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional bodies overseen by a new provincial agency (ERO Posting #025-1257). The GRCA does not support consolidation.

This proposal represents the most significant change to Ontario's environmental management system in 80 years.

Historically, the Province funded up to 50% of Conservation Authority operations; today, provincial support has fallen to less than 2%, leaving municipalities to fund the majority of the operations. GRCA is concerned that the proposed restructuring would shift governance away from the municipalities who created and fund Conservation Authorities, resulting in a significant loss of local decision-making, community accountability, and rural representation.

While GRCA supports provincial goals to improve consistency and modernize digital permitting, these objectives can be achieved without removing local governance or amalgamating watershed agencies into large provincial structures.

Summary of GRCA's Position

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) does not support consolidation for the following reasons.

1. Consistent policies, and resources across the existing conservation authority boundaries can be achieved without structural consolidation through direction and tools such as technical guidelines provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; or Conservation Ontario.
2. Conservation authorities are locally based, grassroots organizations formed by municipal governments in response to the challenges posed by a changing landscape; especially, the increased exposure to flooding and erosion hazards and the resulting risks to lives and property. GRCA has been supported by its seven municipalities, this vision has proven a successful model for nearly 80 years.
3. There has been no cost-benefit analysis prepared by the province demonstrating the fact that if consolidation were to take place, there would be a cost benefit. Furthermore, conservation authorities and municipalities were not consulted about the proposed consolidation.

Key Factors for Not Supporting Consolidation

Several key factors have been identified for not supporting the proposed consolidation.

1. The Approach to the Proposed Changes Lacks Transparency – GRCA Supports Timely Approvals for the Development of Resilient Communities

GRCA is concerned about the limited information provided to support the restructuring proposal. Municipalities and Indigenous communities received minimal advance notice, no cost-benefit analysis or transition plan has been released, and the proposal offers no clarity on how land transfers, municipal service agreements, risk management offices, or emergency response roles would function. As the primary funders of Conservation Authorities, municipalities must be properly consulted and engaged in any proposed changes to the existing system.

The ERO posting also does not reference Bill 68 (Schedule 3) — the legislation enabling consolidation — making it difficult for the public to understand the full scope of changes. The proposed changes were introduced within an omnibus bill without the benefit of a standalone legislative process that would allow for comprehensive public input, stakeholder consultation, or sufficient scrutiny regarding their long-term environmental, financial, and public safety implications.

Despite claims of inefficiency, GRCA issues over 99% of permits within provincial timelines, and provincial reports. It is important to note that the Province's Housing Affordability Task Force Report, does not identify Conservation Authorities as barriers to housing or development.

GRCA plays an essential role in helping municipalities meet their development targets: 100% of planning reviews and development-related screenings are completed within municipal timelines, and GRCA staff work directly with municipal planners, developers, and property owners to resolve issues early, reduce delays, and support local economic growth.

In 2023, the Province removed Conservation Authorities' ability to provide natural heritage reviews and hydrogeological services for municipalities. This change has not worked for rural Ontario, forcing municipalities to hire private consultants at higher cost, with longer timelines, and with less local knowledge — undermining the coordinated, affordable service model that previously supported rural development.

2. Rationale for Consolidation has not been Justified

GRCA has built relationships with municipal partners to address their needs and provide quality service. GRCA currently serves 7 municipalities in whole or in part with a population of 190,470. Under the proposed regional model there are 48

municipalities and a population which is 6.5 times or 1,250,000. With an increase in service area there will be a decrease in efficiency of service delivery.

The Province imposed timelines are being met for development applications. Furthermore, GRCA staff always answer the telephone. Callers get a senior staff person to speak to when inquiring. GRCA staff offer that any applicant may have a meeting with staff via an online platform within one week of any submission to get initial comments. GRCA staff have worked hard to build trust with our community, such that they have a local expert that they can deal with when contacting the Authority about their inquiry or application.

GRCA staff are experts in many fields in addition to planning and permitting. These staff include a GIS department that updates mapping quickly (often within a day or two) and uses cutting-edge technology. GRCA staff have effectively managed the Ganaraska Forest which continues to benefit our watershed as a flood prevention measure as well as being an extremely popular recreational attraction. GRCA staff monitor watershed conditions and provide flood notifications and recommendations. GRCA staff undertake in-house floodplain mapping that is cost-effective for our municipal partners and allows staff to update the watershed models and mapping on a regular basis. The GRCA, in partner with member municipalities offer a diversity of stewardship programs to engage watershed residents in watershed protection and restoration. Furthermore, GRCA has been and continues to be a fiscally responsible organization.

GRCA has a history of effectively and efficiently sharing staff with other Conservation Authorities to ensure required staff resources are available in all program areas.

3. Cost Efficiencies have not been Identified

The Province is establishing the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The Province may provide funding for the establishment of the OPCA for the first couple of years however it has not been stated how the OPCA will be funded in future years. It is anticipated the funding will come from municipalities. This results in municipalities contributing to all or a significant share of the OPCA's budget without having any meaningful role in shaping its governance, its priorities, or its strategic direction. The OPCA would require significant resources while local watershed advisory boards would still be needed to guide priorities and provide oversight.

The province has not developed a business case to support the proposed changes. GRCA believes these changes will not improve services and create efficiencies. The cost of consolidation has not been provided, and it has not been established who will pay for these costs. As a local organization, GRCA is responsive to community needs.

Municipalities, landowners, and community partners drive the services and priorities of the organization. If the OPCA is going to provide strategic direction to Conservation Authorities, and Conservation Authorities are consolidated into seven regional Conservation Authorities, then this would mean less municipal input on service priorities.

GRCA is deeply concerned about whether the needs of rural communities and the agricultural sector will be adequately recognized and prioritized in this consolidation, particularly since the lead Conservation Authority is expected to be an urban one in each region.

A core priority for GRCA is reducing the risk of loss of life and community damage caused by flooding and erosion. We are responsible for approving development in or near natural hazard areas, ensuring that new construction and additions are not at risk from flooding or erosion in floodplains or along the Lake Ontario shoreline. GRCA has a proven track record of effectively approving development consistent with applicable legislation and guidelines as well as ensuring that existing development downstream is not further impacted from development activities upstream. The GRCA and our community are particularly aware of flooding impacts as a result of the 1980 storm that affected the Ganaraska River causing considerable damage in Port Hope. GRCA's contributions to hazard management continue to result in significant benefits including safety of residents, a reduction in damage to property and cost-savings to residents, our municipalities and the province thereby ensuring our communities remain safe and resilient from the impacts of natural hazards.

The GRCA permitting process is efficient and consistent— in 2024, the average time to process all types of permits was just 5.7 days. From start to finish, our staff work closely with landowners, emphasizing customer service and helping them identify safe building locations outside hazardous areas. Will the proposed digital permitting platform be able to match our turnaround times and maintain this high level of customer experience? Additionally, what will the costs be for developing and maintaining this platform? The average time for reviewing and issuing permits by all Conservation Authorities is 12.5 business days.

ERO Discussion Questions and Answers

What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?

Political and staff support from key partners, specifically, municipalities, is key to the ongoing success of conservation authorities in Ontario. GRCA watershed municipalities do not support the proposed regional consolidation for many reasons including loss of local service delivery, expertise and in-house capacity for environmental and technical services provided by conservation authorities. The scale of the regional consolidation may be too large to preserve successful watershed management functions so any new

model must be grounded in the fundamentals of watershed management with an ability to introduce collaboration and flexibility, both in the proposed approach and the timelines for implementation. This will be critical to ensure that the transition does not introduce unnecessary processes, added bureaucracy, or uncertainty.

What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?

Consistent standards and policies are a potential benefit of regional consolidations. That said, the same consistency can exist if consolidations do not occur. Conservation Ontario can assist in standardizing program delivery and policies for the conservation authorities to follow. Conservation Authorities already pool resources and share technical expertise in a collaborative manner.

Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up and the municipal representative appointment process?

With regards to the suggested governance model at the regional level, a 12-to-18-member Board of Directors is a manageable size that is effective. Given this number of representatives, it would be very difficult to appoint members and still have the expectation of adequately representing the interests of 48 municipalities. These changes will cause some municipalities to lack representation at the regional conservation authority level. One potential solution to avoid entirely disenfranchising many municipalities is to create a tiered governance structure whereby regional conservation authorities are authorized to establish subregional watershed councils to more effectively represent local watershed issues and interests. These councils could be given the responsibility of appointing representatives to the Regional Conservation Authority Board.

Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?

Within the regional conservation authority there will be various priorities and budget pressures among the 48 municipalities, which will make budget deliberations very difficult, and the process may seem inequitable to some municipalities. As suggested in the previous point, subregional watershed councils could be created within the proposed regional conservation authority and could continue to follow a modified version of the existing budgeting process. The proposed subregional budgets and apportionments could then be proposed to the regional conservation authority for final approval. The regional conservation authority could have the authority to approve the budgets or amend and approve the budgets. This would allow for the continuation of a familiar budgeting process within a new structure. Another key factor to consider during the transition to consolidation is protecting watershed reserves,

infrastructure, and land assets. Many watershed municipalities and conservation authorities are concerned how locally funded reserves, land assets, and long-term capital programs will be treated within a consolidated structure.

How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?

For the regional conservation authorities to maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities, existing local offices should be maintained and remain visible within the community. This will also result in watershed-specific expertise remaining locally and accessible to the residents. The implementation of sub-regional watershed councils described above would ensure continued presence of a local voice in priority setting and decision-making. In addition, subregional offices must be maintained to ensure conservation authorities remain responsive to local needs. This includes not only offices, but includes brand identity, infrastructure, programming, and staffing. Attempts should be made to maintain the existing names of local conservation authorities in the naming of subregional watershed councils as they represent a rich legacy of serving their local communities and the names often have indigenous origins (i.e. Ganaraska, Nottawasaga, Otonabee, Quinte, Mississippi, Mattagami, Crowe, etc.).

Alternative Amalgamation

GRCA does not support the proposed regional consolidations and believes the best, most effective and cost efficient option is to remain as the 36 conservation authorities. However, there may be merit in exploring alternative amalgamations.

Board of Directors Resolution

GRCA 50/25

MOVED BY: Joan Stover

SECONDED BY: Miriam Mutton

WHEREAS the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency of watershed management, through the implementation of digital applications and permitting system, consistent policies, flood standards, fees, and technology; and

WHEREAS consistent policies, and resources across the existing conservation authority boundaries could be achieved without structural consolidation through direction and tools such as technical guidelines provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; or Conservation Ontario; and

WHEREAS conservation authorities are locally based, grassroots organizations formed by municipal governments in response to the challenges posed by a changing landscape; especially, the increased exposure to flooding and erosion hazards and the resulting risks

to lives and property. In the case of GRCA, supported by its 7 municipalities, this vision has proven a successful model for nearly 80 years; and

WHEREAS the GRCA, with the guidance and support of our 7 member municipalities, demonstrates fiscal prudence in conservation delivery, ensuring stable growth through stable funding. GRCA has successfully leveraged funding to support programs and services that are locally important and are driven by community engagement through GRCA's Conservation Land Strategy and the Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy; and

WHEREAS GRCA consistently meets or exceeds provincial service standards, and participates in staff-sharing initiatives with neighbouring conservation authorities that already deliver many of the efficiencies the Province seeks; and

WHEREAS plans to regionalize conservation authorities through consolidation would dilute local accountability and municipal partnership and is contrary to the basic principle that decisions are best made closest to the communities they affect. Effective representation by municipal partners remains core to the success of conservation authorities. The GRCA, while not unique among conservation authorities in this respect, is effective in working with our community to support sustainable development, and keeping communities safe; and

WHEREAS being front-line means being responsive and accountable to the community by delivering the services that are essential and valued to the best interest of the community. The front line of provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience are in the decisions between municipalities working together to address issues around floodplain (and hazard) protection and resilient upland and landscape management. Further, staff and Board are responsive and accountable to the needs of the watershed community, while meeting or exceeding provincial service standards. The staff and Board are reachable through publicly available contact information. Local governance and direction combined with local service provision allows GRCA to continue to be responsive to our community; and

WHEREAS consolidation will result in substantial transition costs, not the least of which is time. In all facets, that would divert resources from front-line service delivery and delay desired outcomes. Further, the loss of local watershed knowledge and community relationships will add greater uncertainty, loss of trust, and delay for our watershed residents. This includes the agricultural community, businesses, builders, developers, and our municipal partners that seek timely and effective local advice, which is provided through local pre-consultation; and

WHEREAS a proposed regional watershed would create a geographically vast and administratively complex organization when joining the seven conservation authorities as proposed in eastern Lake Ontario. This would be considerably worse if local offices do

not remain available and accountable to its membership, partners and the communities they serve.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors does not support the proposed “Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and

FURTHER THAT meaningful modernization can occur within the current watershed-based governance framework; and

FURTHER THAT the GRCA Board endorses further provincial evaluation of a more focused specific model as a geographically coherent, cost-effective and locally accountable alternative that advances the government’s priorities of efficiency, red-tape reduction and timely home construction; and

FURTHER THAT the Board asks that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks engage directly with affected municipalities and conservation authorities across Eastern Lake Ontario through a working group; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Directors direct staff to make a submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations asking the Province to pause any consolidation until more consultation can take place ; and

FURTHER THAT a letter from the Chair containing this resolution, be forwarded to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics; and
- the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office); and
- Ontario’s Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit; and
- Local Member of Provincial Parliament David Piccini, Northumberland – Peterborough South and
- All local watershed municipalities, all municipalities in Ontario, and Counties within GRCA ‘s watershed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities (ERO#025-1257).



Town of The Blue Mountains

32 Mill Street, Box 310

THORNBURY, ON N0H 2P0

<https://www.thebluemountains.ca>

OFFICE OF: Mayor Andrea Matrosovs

Email: mayor@thebluemountains.ca

Phone: 519-599-3131 Ext 406

December 5, 2025

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

College Park

5th Floor

777 Bay St.

Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

RE: Town of The Blue Mountains Opposition to Bill 68 and the Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Honourable Minister McCarthy,

The Town of The Blue Mountains Council would like to express our concerns regarding Bill 68 and the proposed consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional authorities. As a community with a strong and long-standing partnership with our local conservation authorities, we believe the proposed regional restructuring does not align with the best interests of our residents or the unique environmental needs of our community.

As a Council, we support provincial efforts to enhance efficiency through standardized fee schedules, policies, guidelines and online permitting systems. However, we believe that these improvements can be achieved without compromising the local expertise, responsiveness and accountability that watershed-based authorities currently provide.

The proposed consolidation raises significant concerns for The Blue Mountains Council regarding the loss of local expertise and the reduction of accessible, timely support for residents, builders and developers. Local conservation authorities possess a deep knowledge of watershed conditions, natural hazards and community priorities that cannot be effectively replicated at a broader regional scale. Centralizing the functions of local conservation authorities risks diluting the community-driven programming and tailored services that protect natural resources and support sustainable development in The Blue Mountains, while also diminishing meaningful municipal representation in decision-making. We are further concerned that a top-down

structure may introduce unnecessary transition costs, red tape and additional layers of bureaucracy, which hinder efficiency, rather than improve it.

Given these concerns, we urge you to reconsider the implications of the proposed amalgamation and to directly engage with municipalities and conservation authorities before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments. We respectfully request that the province consider alternative approaches that maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities while supporting shared objectives of modernization and efficiency improvements. We believe that strengthening and supporting existing structures, rather than replacing them, will help to preserve local expertise, ensure consistent service delivery, and uphold the principles of community-focused governance.

Thank you for considering the perspective of the Town of The Blue Mountains. We look forward to your response and hopeful reconsideration of this proposal.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Matrosovs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, prominent capital 'A'.

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs
Town of The Blue Mountains

**Resolution
Regular Council Meeting**



Agenda Number: 11.1.
Resolution Number RES-CM-227-2025
Title: Request for support from South Nation Conservation regarding the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO Posting #025-1257
Date: December 8, 2025

Moved by: Marjorie Drolet
Seconded by: Alain Mainville

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish Conservation Authorities and appoint locally elected representatives to their Boards, ensuring direct municipal oversight and accountability for programs funded by municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within the South Nation River watershed established South Nation Conservation (SNC) in 1947 to protect people, property, farmland, water resources, and natural systems through a watershed-based model that reflects local geographic, hydrologic, and community needs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities within the SNC jurisdiction currently provide between 25% and 50% of total funding for conservation authority operations, while provincial funding has declined to approximately 3% in recent years;

AND WHEREAS SNC delivers essential services that support municipal responsibilities, including:

- **natural hazard identification and permitting;**
- **watershed planning and development review;**
- **flood forecasting, emergency management, and low water response;**
- **drinking water source protection;**
- **watershed monitoring, reporting, and technical studies;**
- **sustainable forestry, agricultural stewardship, and restoration programs;**
- **management of over 13,000 acres of conservation lands, including lands donated by residents and managed through municipal service agreements;**

AND WHEREAS on November 7, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks posted ERO #025-1257 proposing to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities and to establish a new Ontario

Provincial Conservation Agency, with limited consultation and without accompanying cost-benefit analysis or evidence demonstrating the need for this restructuring;
AND WHEREAS Schedule 3 of Bill 68 enables the Province to assume governance authority over regional conservation authorities, raising concerns regarding diminished municipal representation, loss of local decision-making, and centralization of watershed management;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Eastern Ontario have expressed concern, including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, that restructuring may:

- increase red tape and administrative burden;**
- impose significant transition costs for HR, IT, land transfers, and governance realignment;**
- dilute rural voices within large regional agencies dominated by major urban centres;**
- erode donor confidence and affect the stewardship of thousands of acres of locally donated lands;**
- disrupt bilingual service delivery in designated municipalities governed by the French Language Services Act;**

AND WHEREAS Conservation Authorities—including SNC—already collaborate regionally through successful shared-service models, joint watershed studies, coordinated flood forecasting, agricultural stewardship partnerships, digital permitting, and harmonized technical reviews, demonstrating that modernization and efficiency can be achieved without dismantling local governance structures;

AND WHEREAS municipalities rely on SNC’s field-based expertise, rapid on-site support, landowner relationships, and local knowledge—services that risk being weakened under a large, centralized regional structure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Nation Municipality urges the Government of Ontario to maintain local, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities, including South Nation Conservation, to ensure effective natural resource and natural hazard management, transparent local services, and accountability for municipal levy dollars;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council does not support the proposed consolidation boundaries presented in ERO #025-1257 or the creation of a new provincial Conservation Agency without evidence-based analysis, transparent consultation, and clear articulation of impacts to municipal budgets, local service delivery, donor lands, and bilingual obligations;

AND FURTHER THAT this Council encourages the Province to work collaboratively with municipalities and Conservation Authorities to identify opportunities for improved consistency, modernization, and shared-service approaches within the existing watershed governance model;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;**

- **local MPPs and MPs;**
- **all municipalities within the South Nation Watershed;**
- **the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;**
- **the Rural Ontario Municipal Association;**
- **Conservation Ontario; and**
- **all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.**

Carried



December 18, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

RE: Bill 68 and Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

At the December 17, 2025 meeting of the Council of the Township of Zorra, the following resolution was passed:

Moved by: Paul Mitchell

Seconded by: Kevin Stewart

“WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Zorra established the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (initially formed in 1947);

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 35% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 2% (2026 budget);

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land. Many of these properties were entrusted to the UTRCA for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Zorra calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the Township of Zorra supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Township of Zorra supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives.

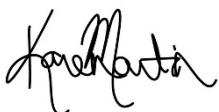
AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- Premier Doug Ford
- the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks,
- Ernie Hardeman, MPP for the riding of Oxford
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- All municipalities in the UTRCA watershed
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario
- Conservation Ontario

Disposition: Carried

Should you require anything further or have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you,



Karen Martin
Director of Corporate & Protective Services/Clerk

CC: All those noted on resolution (by email)

25-060



Georgian Bluffs

December 19, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via Email : premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier:

Re: Opposition to Bill 68 (Schedule 3) and Proposed Conservation Authority Amalgamation

Please be advised that at its December 3, 2025, meeting, the Township of Georgian Bluffs Council passed the following resolution:

RES2025-138

Moved By: Councillor Rick Winters

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses; and

WHEREAS the municipalities within Grey and Bruce Counties established the North Grey Region Conservation Authority in 1957 and the Sauble Valley Conservation Authority in 1958 which amalgamated into the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) in 1985; and

WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 44% of total GSCA funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 7%; and

WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs,



Georgian Bluffs

maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers; and

WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of hectares of land, much of which was donated or sold by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities; and

WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency whose objects include overseeing conservation authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities in Ontario with municipal cost contribution yet to be defined; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 (“Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities”), proposing to reduce Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring; and

WHEREAS under this proposal, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) would be consolidated into a new “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” that is over 23,000 square kilometres in size and consists of 80 municipalities; and

WHEREAS the Province already has the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to address issues related to permitting, by establishing guidance, online permitting platforms and technical standards through legislation that could help build homes; and

WHEREAS the GSCA has already undertaken significant modernization work aligned with provincial objectives, including Information Technology / Information Management, and leveraging technology to streamline planning and permit review processes processing 100% of major permits within the provincial timelines in 2024.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:



Georgian Bluffs

THAT the Township of Georgian Bluffs calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands; and

THAT the Township of Georgian Bluffs does not support the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models; and

THAT the Township of Georgian Bluffs affirms that large-scale regional consolidation is unnecessary, would introduce substantial transition costs, and would divert resources away from frontline watershed programs. The Council further asserts that restructuring at this scale would erode local decision-making, weaken municipal accountability, and disrupt long-standing community partnerships that are central to delivering responsive watershed management; and

THAT while the Township of Georgian Bluffs supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down approach structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red-tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs; and

THAT the Township of Georgian Bluffs urges the Province to strengthen centralized standards, resources, and tools rather than undertaking broad structural amalgamation and to provide sustainable, predictable provincial funding across conservation authorities to enable local CAs to advance ongoing digitization and systemization work that has already resulted in improved efficiency and consistency in recent years; and



Georgian Bluffs

THAT the Township of Georgian Bluffs believes that the Province's proposed new online permitting portal can be implemented within the existing conservation authority framework without requiring structural amalgamation; and

THAT the Township of Georgian Bluffs requests that the Ministry engage meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, conservation authorities, and local First Nations before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation; and

THAT this resolution be included in the Municipality's ERO response and forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, all of Ontario's municipalities, MPPs, conservation authorities, AMO, and Conservation Ontario.

Carried

Regards,

Jodi Ward

Jodi Ward

Council and Committee Coordinator

jward@georgianbluffs.ca | 519-376-2729 ext. 601

Encl.: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority - Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities; &
Bill 68 and Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario's
Conservation Authorities

CC: The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
All Ontario Municipalities
Local MP & MPP
All Conservation Authorities in Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Conservation Ontario

November 19, 2025

Andrew Dowie

Member of Parliament Windsor Essex

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Via Email

Re: Proposal to Amalgamate Conservation Authorities

Dear Mr. Dowie:

We are writing to you today regarding the province's intention to amalgamate Conservation Authorities (CA) in Ontario, which will reduce the number of CAs from thirty-six agencies to seven. We question the warrants for such an initiative, and have significant concerns with the proposal, on the basis that it will:

- Adversely impact responsiveness and extend approval times, resulting in significant project delays and confusion; and,
- Convert CAs to a pseudo provincial body, thereby reducing efficiency, as well as local accountability.

Many of our member companies work in the field of, or benefit from, "land development", and over the years have built relationships with the local representatives of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA). As a local approval agency, they function in a very professional manner and facilitate solutions for compliance with Provincial Policy. When non-routine issues do arise, we feel it is beneficial to have the ability to deal with a local representative that can interpret Provincial Policy and find solutions that suit our local geography and conditions.

In comparison, any time that it is necessary to deal with Provincial agencies such as MNR or MECP, significant delays are realized due to the unfamiliarity of individuals that lack local knowledge. Furthermore, at present there is a good relationship between member municipalities and the local CA. When issues arise where compromises are needed between conflicting requirements, solutions can be efficiently achieved. This is not the experience that has been observed when dealing with provincial agencies.

It is our understanding that ERCA will be amalgamated with seven other CAs to form the Lake Erie RCA. We suspect that the head office of this Regional Authority would be centrally located

in either the London region or Waterloo/Kitchener/Cambridge region. Obviously, this would impact efficiencies, particularly in terms of communications and meetings.

We understand that ERCA's budget is largely paid by the local municipal governments and that, except for an insignificant amount paid towards Source Water Protection, that ERCA is largely "self-funded". What does the Provincial government hope to achieve from the amalgamation process? What are the true objectives of this initiative?

In summary, there seems to be more downside to this proposal than upside. Rather than the proposed amalgamation, this region would prefer to see a return to higher levels of government downloading their responsibilities to the local CA, so that policies and objectives can be more efficiently managed by local individuals that are accountable to their member municipalities, with proper support from higher levels of government. We recall that this was once the case, when ERCA had jurisdiction over such things as the Fisheries Act, Public Lands Act, and natural heritage legislation, and dealt with all relevant legislation as a "one window" approval agency.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this initiative with you further.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Lyons", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Lyons, Executive Director

Cc. Premier Doug Ford

December 16, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Via Email todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

Re: Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities - Bill 68

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, at its regular meeting held on December 15, 2025, supported the following resolution regarding the above noted matter.

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (through its original municipalities) established the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and St Clair Region Conservation Authority (both initially formed in 1961);

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the Municipality of Chatham-Kent supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipality of Chatham-Kent supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Judy Shantz

Digitally signed by Judy
Shantz
Date: 2025.12.17 13:56:56
-05'00'

Judy Shantz, CMO
Director Municipal Governance/Clerk

C
Local MP and MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Ontario Municipalities
Conservation Authorities in Ontario



The Municipality of West Elgin

22413 Hoskins Line, Rodney, Ontario N0L 2C0
www.westelgin.net

December 22, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Via Email: todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

Re: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

At its Regular Meeting on December 18, 2025, West Elgin Council adopted the following motion regarding proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities:

Resolution Number 2025-327

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities from Robin Greenall, CAO, And

That West Elgin Council resolves that the Municipal of West Elgin calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands; AND

FURTHER THAT while the Municipality of West Elgin supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, digital modernization, and imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs; AND

FURTHER THAT the Municipality of West Elgin supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives, AND

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of

Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terri Towstiu', is positioned above the typed name.

Terri Towstiu
Manager of Community Services/Clerk

Cc: Andrew Lawton, MP, Elgin-St. Thomas-London South
Hon. Rob Flack, MPP, Elgin-Middlesex-London
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
All Municipalities of Ontario
All Conservation Authorities of Ontario



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

December 18, 2025

Via email: todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Response to Bill 68- Proposed New Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their December 15, 2025, Regular Council Meeting:

516-2025
Moved By: Ted Oke
Seconded by: Aaron Neeb

That South Huron Council endorses the Upper Thames Conservation Authority's draft Municipal Resolution regarding response to Bill 68 - Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities; and

That the draft resolution be updated to name the Municipality of South Huron, and circulated to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, MPP Thompson, AMO, ROMA, area indigenous communities, all municipalities in Ontario, Conservation Ontario and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario as follows:

Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses; and

Whereas the Municipality of South Huron established the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (initially formed in 1947) and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (initially formed in 1946); and

Whereas local municipalities currently provide approximately 35% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 2% (2026 budget); and

Whereas municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers; and

Whereas conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land. Many of these properties were entrusted to the UTRCA for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities; and

Whereas Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined; and

Whereas the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

Now Therefore be it Resolved That the Council of the Municipality of South Huron calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands; and

Further That while the Municipality of South Huron supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs; and



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

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Further That the Municipality of South Huron supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives; and

Further That a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks,
- local MPPs,
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario,
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association,
- area Indigenous communities,
- all municipalities,
- Conservation Authorities, and
- Conservation Ontario.

Result: Carried

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator

Municipality of South Huron

kwebster@southhuron.ca

519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: MPP, Hon. Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca; ROMA, roma@roma.on.ca; area indigenous communities; all municipalities in Ontario; Conservation Ontario, info@conservationontario.ca; all Conservation Authorities in Ontario



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

December 19, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Hassaan Basit
Chief Conservation Officer

Sent by email to: todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org, Hassaan.Basit@ontario.ca

Re: Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities – Bill 68

At its special meeting of Council held on December 19, 2025, the Township of Amaranth Council discussed the proposed amalgamation of the Conservation Authorities and passed the following motion.

Background

Located in the aptly named Headwaters Region of Southern Ontario, the Township of Amaranth in the County of Dufferin is currently very under the jurisdiction of three Conservation Authorities: Grand River, Nottawasaga Valley and Credit Valley. The Township of Amaranth has been under the jurisdiction of these three Conservation Authorities since they were established. Amaranth is currently well served by all three Conservation Authorities.

Under the proposal put forward by the provincial government as part of Bill 68 referenced above, the Township of Amaranth would remain split between three much larger Regional Conservation Authorities: Lake Erie, Huron-Superior and Central Lake. This proposal severely dilutes local accountability, potentially eliminating the voice of this municipality and the taxpayers who support the work of the Conservation Authorities with levies paid as part of property taxes. Meanwhile the provincial contribution to CAs continues at a level that funds less than 3% of the Conservation Authorities' respective budgets.

The Township of Amaranth values the significant watershed specific infrastructure investment as contributed by its three unique Authorities and the science-based knowledge that guides the decision making in each of the specific geographical areas of each Authority.

Conservation Authorities have been working hard to streamline permitting processes, improve delivery timelines and focus on fiscal prudence and consistency within their mandated roles. Through shared services, the improvement to modernization and

system evolution can continue with less system-wide disruption and without additional transition expense.

Resolution #: 2

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: V. Paan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the Township of Amaranth opposes the amalgamation process as defined in Bill 68.

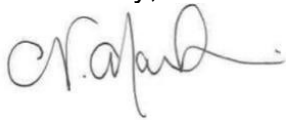
Further, the Township of Amaranth proposes a three-year hiatus of any transition changes while evaluation is completed with proper, appropriate consultation of all partners in Conservation Authorities to review any proposed boundary realignments, additional governance oversight, potential service adjustments and other Conservation Authority model proposals.

For (5): C. Gerrits, G. Little, S. Graham, B. Metzger, and V. Paan

CARRIED (5 to 0)

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,



Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.
CAO/Clerk

Cc: Dufferin MP and MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Ontario Municipalities
Conservation Authorities in Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources



Rainbow
Registered
Arc-en-ciel
Officiel

Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box
820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

December 23, 2025

Sent via Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON 1KA 0A2

Sent via Email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Doug Ford MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: Support Resolution – Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Conservation Fee Freeze Resolution

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Premier Ford:

At the November 10, 2025, Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, the following resolution was passed:

Moved by Councillor B. Halpin and Seconded by Councillor D. Myette

That Council support Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution - Conservation Fee Freeze resolution.

Sincerely,

Ashlynn Kennedy
Licensing and Records Clerk
Encl.

CC: Minister of Natural Resources
Minister of Forestry and Forest Products
Parry Sound MPP
Clerk, Township of Stone Mills

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From: [Bill MacDonald](#)
To: [Bonnie Crombie](#); [Doug Cook](#); [Doug Ford](#); [Marit Stiles](#); [Mike Schreiner](#); [Todd McCarthy](#)
Cc: [Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority](#); [SCRCA General Inbox](#)
Subject: Comments on proposal to amalgamate Conservation Authorities
Date: December 22, 2025 3:59:38 PM

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Re: ERO #025-1257 - Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

We are opposed to the scope and scale of the proposed boundary changes proposed for Ausable Bayfield and St. Clair Region Conservation Authorities, the two Conservation Authorities (CAs) that currently serve the community of Lambton Shores.

Our organization, the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group, located in Lambton Shores, along the Lake Huron shoreline in Lambton County, was formed in 2009 as a result of discovering invasive Phragmites australis on our beaches and in our wetlands. Within Lambton Shores, we have numerous ANSI sites, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, and areas designated as Provincially Significant and Globally Rare. They include Oak Savannah, Carolinian Core Forest, Coastal Meadow Marshes, and Coastal Dunes, as well as rare geological formations at Kettle Point and Rock Glen in Arkona. At the time our group was formed, not a lot was known about invasive Phragmites and the dangers associated with its spread, and it was viewed as a local problem with no one taking responsibility for managing it. But because they were local and intimately familiar with our unique watershed characteristics, we were able to quickly engage our CAs in what has become a 16-year campaign to restore sensitive habitat, a battle that we are winning. We fail to see how the proposed consolidation will speed up decision-making when the amalgamated authorities will need to serve dozens of municipalities with unique local needs and spanning watersheds with distinctly different environmental conditions. The proposed boundaries are far too sprawling to enable locally relevant decision-making.

CAs are a valued local presence that provide key stewardship, parks, trails and educational activities, in addition to flood management and regulatory functions, so essential to keeping our area safe.

A regional CA model will diminish the CA partnerships and local presence on the ground.

If, as the province asserts, this is about consistency and improved customer service across boundaries, there are many other options available that would be faster to implement and likely more cost effective, while supporting local needs. This level of disruption and distraction suggests that the province is seeking an excuse to dismantle a system that has been in place for almost 80 years rather than work with the parties affected to support their stated objective of faster housing development.

We do not think that there can be a successful amalgamation of that many conservation authorities. Some thoughtful and consultative options may benefit smaller or under-resourced CAs but should be done with those CAs and their municipalities. The province should:

- Carry out intensive consultations with all parties before introducing a one-size-fits-all approach to this proposal

- Maintain local presence
- Maintain municipal appointments to the boards based on population
- Maintain local naming of parks and facilities
- Ensure municipal funds are allocated to their local watersheds
- Increase provincial funding to CAs to ensure that they can carry out the work the province requires of them.

Thank you for reading our concerns.

Respectfully,

Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group

Bill MacDonald, Vice-Chair

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**Resolution
Special Council Meeting**



Agenda Number: 7.1.1.
Resolution Number: 2025-215
Title: Response to Bill 68 – Conservation Authority Changes
Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Moved by Mike Tarnowski
Seconded by Genevieve Lajoie

Whereas the *Conservation Authorities Act* (R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27) enables municipalities to establish conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of Board Members and the provision of annual municipal levies to support mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services;

And whereas the municipalities within Eastern Ontario, including the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (the “UCPR”), are founding municipal partners of the South Nation Conservation Authority (1947) and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (1963);

And whereas municipal governments currently provide between 25% and 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 3%;

And whereas municipalities have, for decades, governed their respective conservation authorities to ensure that programs, services, fee structures, permitting processes, and public service delivery remain aligned with local watershed needs and accountable to ratepayers;

And whereas conservation authorities collectively own and manage significant public lands across Ontario, including lands donated by local residents with the expectation that they would be protected, stewarded, and governed locally for the long-term public good;

And whereas Bill 68 proposes the creation of a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency—a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment and governance structures yet to be defined;

And whereas the Province already holds the authority to set provincial standards, regulations, and expectations for conservation authority operations under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

Be it resolved that the Council of the UCPR call on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities, ensuring strong municipal representation in decisions related to levies, service delivery, land management, and community-focused program outcomes.

Be it further resolved that while the UCPR support provincial objectives related to consistent permitting standards, shared services, and digital modernization, the imposition of a top-down centralized agency risks increasing cost, red tape, and administrative complexity while reducing accountability and responsiveness to local watershed needs.

Be it further resolved that the UCPR support balanced approaches to improving capacity, efficiency, and technical expertise across conservation authorities and request that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and existing conservation authorities to evaluate where strategic consolidation—if any—is appropriate, effective, and financially sustainable.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the local Member of Parliament and Member of Provincial Parliament; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and all municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario.

Carried

Mélissa Cadieux, Clerk