



**Board of Directors**  
**Meeting No. BOD-03-23**  
**Friday, March 24, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

## **Agenda**

**Meeting Location:**

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket  
Minutes and agendas are available at [www.LSRCA.on.ca](http://www.LSRCA.on.ca)

---

### **Upcoming Events**

---

**Board of Directors' Meeting**

Friday, April 28, 2023  
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

**Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation**

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conservation Dinner**

Wednesday June 14, 2023  
The Manor at Carrying Place

**5th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament**

Monday, August 21, 2023  
Oakdale Golf and Country Club

A full listing of events can be found at [www.LSRCA.on.ca](http://www.LSRCA.on.ca)

## I. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory

## II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Conflicts of Interest

## III. Approval of Agenda

Pages 1 - 6

**Recommended: That** the content of the Agenda for the March 24, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as presented.

## IV. Adoption of Minutes

### a) Board of Directors

Pages 7 - 13

Included in the agenda is a copy of the draft minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-02-23, held on Friday, February 24, 2023.

**Recommended: That** the minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting, No. BOD-02-23, held on Friday, February 24, 2023 be approved as circulated.

## V. Announcements

## VI. Presentations

### a) Watershed Planning

Integrated Watershed Management Specialist, Pam Strong, will provide an overview on watershed planning. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

**Recommended: That** the presentation by Integrated Watershed Management Specialist, Pam Strong, regarding watershed planning be received for information.

### b) Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report and 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget

Pages 14 - 102

General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, will provide a presentation on the Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report, as well as the 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

**Recommended: That** the presentation by General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO, Mark Critch, regarding the Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report and the 2023 Proposed Budget be received for information.

Staff Report No. 10-23-BOD regarding the Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report is included in the agenda.

**Recommended: That** Staff Report No. 10-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2022 be received for information.

Staff Report No. 11-23-BOD regarding the 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget is included in the agenda.

**Recommended: That** Staff Report No. 11-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget be received: and

**Further that** the 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget and all projects therein be adopted: and

**Further that** staff be authorized to enter into agreements and/or execute documents with private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations or governments and their agencies for the undertaking of projects for the benefit of the Conservation Authority and funded by the sponsoring organization or agency, including projects that have not been provided for in the approved budget; and

**Further that** as required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97), this recommendation and the accompanying budget documents, including the schedule of matching and non-matching levies, be approved by weighted vote.

### c) Summary Overview Regarding Bill 229

Pages 103 - 124

Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, will provide an overview of the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* resulting from Bill 229. This presentation will be provided at the meeting and will be available on the Conservation Authority's website following the meeting.

**Recommended: That** the presentation by Chief Administrative Officer, Rob Baldwin, regarding changes to the Conservation Authorities Act resulting from Bill 229 be received for information.

Staff Report No. 12-23-BOD regarding changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* resulting from Bill 229 is included in the agenda.

**Recommended: That** Staff Report No. 12-23-BOD regarding a summary and overview of Bill 229 be received for information.

## VII. Hearings

There are no Hearings scheduled for this meeting.

## VIII. Deputations

There are no Deputations scheduled for this meeting.

## IX. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

(Reference Pages 5 and 6 of the agenda)

## X. Adoption of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion

## XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

## XII. Closed Session

The Board will move to Closed Session to deal with a confidential legal matter.

**Recommended: That** the Board move to Closed Session to deal with a confidential legal matter; and

**Further that** the Chief Administrative Officer, members of the Executive Leadership Team and the Director, Development Services remain in the meeting for the discussion.

The Board will rise from Closed Session and report findings.

**Recommended: That** the Board rise from Closed Session and report findings.

### a) Confidential Legal Matter

Confidential Staff Report No. 17-23-BOD will be sent to Board members prior to the meeting.

**Recommended: That** Confidential Staff Report No. 17-23-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter be received for information.

### XIII. Other Business

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023. This meeting will be held in person at the Conservation Authority's Newmarket offices located at 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket.

### XIV. Adjournment

#### Agenda Items

##### 1. Correspondence

There are no Correspondence items included in this agenda.

**Recommended: That** no Correspondence items be received.

##### 2. Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the Period January 1 through December 31, 2022

Pages 125 - 134

**Recommended: That** Staff Report No. 13-23-BOD regarding monitoring of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2022 be received for information.

##### 3. Conservation Authorities Act Transition – Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 - March 2023

Pages 135 - 145

**Recommended: That** Staff Report No. 14-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 be received; and

**Further that** the March 2023 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 4 be approved for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

##### 4. Chair and Vice Chair Exception Request under Section 17(1.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act

Pages 146 - 148

**Recommended: That** Staff Report No. 15-23-BOD regarding the requirement for an exception request for the current Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for 2023 be received; and

**Further That** the Board of Directors Request the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to grant an exception under Section 17(1.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act for Chair Wayne Emmerson and Vice-Chair Peter Ferragine to continue in their Board roles for 2023.

**5. 2023 Conservation Awards Program and Ceremony**

Pages 149 - 151

**Recommended: That** Staff Report No. 16-23-BOD regarding the 2023 Conservation Awards Program and Ceremony be received for information.

# Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

## Board of Directors' Meeting

Board of Directors' Meeting No. BOD-02-23

Friday, February 24, 2023

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

### Meeting Minutes

#### Board Members Present

Regional Chairman W. Emmerson (Chair), Councillor S. Bell, Councillor F. Drodge, Councillor A. Eek, Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Mayor R. Greenlaw, Mayor V. Hackson, Councillor B. Hamilton, Councillor D. Le Roy, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Councillor C. Pettingill, Councillor M. Thompson, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh, Councillor E. Yeo

#### Board Members Absent

Councillor P. Ferragine (Vice Chair), Mayor I. Lovatt, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor C. Riepma

#### Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, A. Brown, M. Critch, A. Cullen, P. Davies, B. Ginn, D. Goodyear, N. Hamley, K. Kennedy, D. Lembcke, G. MacMillan, P. Strong, C. Taylor, B. Thompson, K. Yemm

### I. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Emmerson acknowledged the Lake Simcoe watershed as traditional Indigenous territory and thanked all generations of Indigenous peoples for their enduring and unwavering care for this land and water.

### II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None noted for the meeting.

### III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: B. Hamilton

Seconded by: S. Bell

BOD-016-23 **Resolved That** the content of the Agenda for the February 24, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as circulated. **Carried**

## IV. Adoption of Minutes

### a) Board of Directors' Meeting

Moved by: T. Vegh

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-017-23 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Board of Directors 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting, No. BOD-01-23, held on Friday, January 27, 2023 be approved as circulated.

**Carried**

## V. Announcements

- a) CAO Baldwin paid tribute to former Board member and Newmarket Councillor Dave Kerwin who passed away in early February 2023. Mr. Kerwin was a Councillor in Newmarket for 39 years, a Conservation Authority Board member for 8 years, and a strong supporter of education and the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. CAO Baldwin offered condolences to his family and friends.

## VI. Presentations

### a) The Health of Lake Simcoe

Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, presented an update on the current environmental status and trends in Lake Simcoe, including climate change and ice cover, invasive mussels and plants, and nutrients. The presentation also included progress toward Lake Simcoe Protection Plan objectives and how the phosphorus decoupling scenario is restructuring our understanding of nutrient dynamics.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [The Health of Lake Simcoe Presentation](#)

Moved by: R. Greenlaw

Seconded by: E. Yeo

BOD-018-23 **Resolved That** the presentation by Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, presented an update on the current environmental status and trends in Lake Simcoe be received for information. **Carried**

### b) Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided an overview of the Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023, noting that the report card provides a snapshot of the environmental conditions in the Lake Simcoe watershed. Indicators include surface water quality, forest conditions, groundwater quality, and lake ice cover. The report cards have been completed every five years since 2008, and the criteria for assigning grades to watersheds and



subwatersheds, as well as a template for reporting, is provided to all of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities by [Conservation Ontario](#) in an effort to have consistency in reporting across the province. Mr. Thompson also noted that the report card is set to be released on World Water Day, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, after which copies will be available on the Conservation Authority's website.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023 Presentation](#)

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-019-23 **Resolved That** the presentation by Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, regarding the Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023 be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 02-23-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023.

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: M. Thompson

BOD-020-23 **Resolved That** the Staff Report No. 02-23-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023 be received for information. **Carried**

**c) Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act – Mandatory Changes for the Conservation Authorities Role in Development Review**

CAO Rob Baldwin presented on the mandatory changes under Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act, 2022, that impact and change the role that Conservation Authorities play in the development review process. Specifically, three changes that took effect January 1, 2023 were a fee freeze for 2023; a requirement for additional information around potentially developable land owned by conservation authorities; and changes in the development plan review role. He noted that the Conservation Authority is protected by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan in some areas; such as, Natural Hazards and Source Protection. There are, however, legislative restrictions under Ontario Reg. 596/22 in areas such as the *Planning Act*, the *Drainage Act*, the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Condominium Act*, the *Aggregate Act*, and the *Endangered Species Act*. As no guidance was provided by the Province on transition, Conservation Authority staff have met with the member municipalities and the development community on a transition plan, as well as updating planning memorandums of understanding.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Update on Bill 23 Presentation](#)

Moved by: F. Drodge

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-021-23 **Resolved That** the presentation by CAO Rob Baldwin regarding Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act, 2022 – Mandatory Changes to Conservation Authorities' Role in Development Review be received for information. **Carried**

Included in the agenda was Staff Report No. 03-23-BOD regarding Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act, 2022 – Mandatory Changes to Conservation Authorities' Role in Development Review.

Moved by: F. Drodge

Seconded by: B. Garrod

BOD-022-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 03-23-BOD regarding Bill 23, *More Homes Build Faster Act, 2022* – Mandatory Changes to Conservation Authorities' Role in Development Review be received; and

**Further that** Staff be directed to provide mid-year and end-of-year assessments associated with the mandatory changes. **Carried**

## VII. Hearings

There were no Hearings at this meeting.

## VIII. Deputations

There were no Deputations at this meeting.

## IX. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

## X. Adoption of Items not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: B. Hamilton

BOD-023-23 **Resolved That** the following recommendations respecting the matters listed as "Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion" be adopted as submitted to the Board, and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same. **Carried**

### 1. Correspondence

BOD-024-23 **Resolved That** Correspondence Items a) to f) be received for information.  
**Carried**

### 2. Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Annual Statistical Report

BOD-025-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 04-23-BOD regarding the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2022 Annual Statistical Report be received for information. **Carried**

### 3. Durham Regional Forest Standing Timber Sale, DRF-2023-001

BOD-026-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. No. 05-23-BOD regarding the record of tenders for the Durham Regional Forest Tender DRF-2023-001 be received; and  
**Further That** Tender DRF-2023-001 be awarded to Gee's Lumber & Logging and Penguin Poles Ltd. **Carried**

### 4. Administrative Offices Flat Roofing Renewal, RFQ FAC-02-2002

BOD-027-23 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 06-23-BOD regarding the record of bids for the Administrative Offices Flat Roofing Renewal Request for Quotation FAC-02-2022 be received; and

**Further that** awarding the contract for Request for Quotation FAC-02-2022 to Sinclair Industrial Roofing Inc. be approved. **Carried**

## XI. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items required separate discussion.

## XII. Closed Session

The Board moved to Closed Session to deal with confidential land, legal and human resources matters.

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: S. Bell

BOD-028-23 **Resolved That** the Board move to Closed Session to deal with confidential land, legal and human resources matters; and

**Further that** the Chief Administrative Officer, members of the Executive Leadership Team remain in the meeting for the discussion; and

**Further** that the Director, Lands and the Land Securement Officer remain in the meeting for the discussion on Item a). **Carried**

The Board rose from Closed Session to report findings.

Moved by: E. Yeo

Seconded by: R. Greenlaw

BOD-029-23 **Resolved That** the Board rise from Closed Session and report findings. **Carried**

**a) Confidential Land Matter**

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-030-23 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 07-23-BOD regarding a confidential land matter be approved. **Carried**

**b) Confidential Legal Matter**

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-031-23 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 08-23-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter be received for information. **Carried**

**c) Confidential Human Resources Matter**

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: T. Vegh

BOD-032-23 **Resolved That** Confidential Staff Report No. 09-23-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter be approved. **Carried**

**XIII. Other Business**

- a) Chair Emmerson noted the next Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 24, 2023. This meeting will be in person at the Administrative Offices located at 120 Bayview Parkway in Newmarket.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Moved by: S. Bell

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

BOD-033-23 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 11:10 a.m. **Carried**

Original to be signed by:

Original to be signed by:

---

Regional Chairman Wayne Emmerson  
Chair

---

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Katherine Toffan, Manager of Finance

Date: March 13, 2023

### Subject

Fourth Quarter 2022 Unaudited Financial Report

### Recommendation

**That** Staff Report No. 10-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2022 be received for information.

### Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 10-23-BOD is to provide the Board of Directors with a summary of financial activities for the period ending December 31, 2022 as they relate to the 2022 Budget approved by the Board on February 25, 2022.

### Background:

The Budget Status Reports are developed for the use of the Board and management and provide a status update on the programs and projects that fall under the Conservation Authority's seven service areas: Corporate Services, Ecological Management, Education & Engagement, Greenspace Services, Planning & Development Services, Water Risk Management and Watershed Studies & Strategies. The annual budget, actual spending and financial forecasts are reviewed with program managers throughout the year. The results are also presented to the Board in Q2 and Q3 of each year and summarize operational year-to-date results, opportunities, risks, and a high-level year-end forecast. Final Audited Financial Statements are presented to the Board for review and approval in April of each year.

### Issues:

The draft unaudited financial results (found in Appendix 1) identify a year-end operational surplus position of \$21K, outside of the budgeted reserve activity and tangible capital asset entries. This is down slightly from the year-end surplus position of \$35K that was forecasted in the third quarter. The drivers of this surplus are outlined in the table below. Staff have conducted final year-end program and project reviews with managers and general managers and note the following variances that have impacted the Conservation Authority's year-end financial position.

**Summary of Operations Results by Service Areas:**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Surplus (\$000s)</b>	<b>Drivers</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>	233	Operational savings related to supplies, staff training, office and building maintenance services, as well as realizing a surplus in staffing costs related to timing of filling or replacing open positions.
<b>Ecological Management</b>	(12)	Expenditures in the Special Levy-funded Monitoring program exceeded the amount of Levy available in 2022.
<b>Education</b>	86	New agreements signed with York and Simcoe School Boards. Program delivery offered in person and virtually in 2022 which lowered costs.
<b>Greenspace Services</b>	(109)	A deficit related to Property taxes for Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve of (140K), also offset by some savings at year-end for funding received under a program offered by Conservation Ontario. The Conservation Authority is currently in the appeal stage for recapturing a portion of 2022 taxes paid and has resolved the issue for 2023 and beyond.
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>	(195)	A surplus had been forecast in Q3 which did not materialize. Planning applications are down 12% and Environmental Compliance approvals are down 43% over 2021.
<b>Water Risk Management</b>	18	Savings in costs related to a non-core asset where ownership was transferred, and income related to some interest earned on the administrative portion of Offsetting funds.
<b>Overall Corporate Operational Surplus at December 31, 2022</b>	<b>21</b>	This represents a variance of <0.1% of the 2022 Operating Budget of \$15.9M, well within industry-best targets of 2-3% of current year operating budgets.

### Summary of Reserve Activity for 2022

	2022 Budget	2022 Results	Note
<b>Draft Appropriations to/(from) Reserve for 2022:</b>			
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations:</b>			
Transfer Offsetting Program operational surplus – Restoration	-	454,711	1
Transfer Offsetting Program operational surplus - Corporate	-	261,254	1
Operational Surplus - summary by Service Area in table above	-	21,314	
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) from Budgeted Reserve Decisions:</b>			
Approved Draw from Asset Management	(630,648)	(207,724)	2
Approved Draw from Rate Stabilization	(100,670)	(8,155)	3
Approved Draw from Working Capital	(300,000)	(31,895)	4
Reserve Transfer for Asset Management	901,010	813,824	
Reserve Transfer for Interest Income	10,000	218,244	5
Reserve Transfer to Working Capital	7,000	7,000	
Reserve Transfer to Rate Stabilization	45,381	45,328	
<b>Sub-total: Changes from Budgeted Reserve Decisions</b>	<b>(67,927)</b>	<b>836,673</b>	
<b>Net Change in Reserves (excluding asset entries)</b>		<b>1,573,901</b>	

#### Notes

1. These surpluses are from the collection of administrative fees on Offsetting funds received in 2022. These funds will be used to pay down prior years draws and towards future costs related to Project Development in the Offsetting programs. The surplus is related to a timing variance and will be drawn from Reserve to cover future expenses.
2. Purchasing of the following assets was deferred into 2023; vehicle and equipment items for the Conservation Lands program, upgrade to the signage for owned Conservation Areas, and roof repairs and renovations to the washrooms at the Mabel Davis Administrative Building.
3. The variance in the reserve draw is primarily related to timing of the consulting work for the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging project. The remainder of these funds will be drawn in 2023 upon completion of the project.
4. The variance in the reserve draw is related to the deferral of purchasing and installing a new audio/visual system in the Mabel Davis Boardroom, as well as the potential installation of an access gate and generator at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.
5. This surplus is from Interest Income earned over budget due to higher interest rates on investments throughout 2022.



## **Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:**

In keeping with Conservation Authority policy, this staff report has been prepared to provide a draft unaudited fourth quarter financial update on the overall financial position, project revenues and expenditures, and procurement activity as they relate to the 2022 approved budget. Draft Audited Financial Statements will be presented for approval at the April 2023 Board meeting.

## **Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:**

### **a) Revenues:**

The Conservation Authority is recognizing variances against budget in revenue funded by Special Capital Levy and Municipal Partners, Provincial and Federal Funding, Revenue Generated by the Conservation Authority and Other Revenue and Contributions.

Funding received from Municipal Partners and the Provincial and Federal governments are generally tied to projects that carry over to future fiscal years. There is no surplus or deficit impact to the organization on these projects as revenue is recognized against the expenditures made in the year. Any excess funds are carried over in deferred and will be applied to the projects in 2023.

Special Capital Levy funds both operational and Restoration project expenditures. Unused amounts are held in deferred and used in future years on initiatives that are related to the program that the levy is assigned to.

The Revenue Generated by the Authority funding line is made up of all Fee for Service revenues and any revenue recognized from the Offsetting program and related projects.

Variances in Fee for Service Revenues are seen in Planning and Development. Drivers of the fee variances are available in Staff Report No. 13-23-BOD – Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the Period January 1 through December 31, 2022, which also forms part of the March 2023 agenda package.

Service areas where revenue variances are realized in Special Capital and Revenue Generated by the Conservation Authority that are related to timing of project delivery include Ecological and Water Risk Management, and Corporate Services (see section C below). These variances are a result of Facility, Restoration and Offsetting Program projects that did not materialize or projects that are carrying over to be completed in 2023.

The variance in the Other Revenue and Contributions line is related to the parcels of land contributed to the Conservation Authority in early 2022, that now make up the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve. This was an unbudgeted item at the time the budget was approved. The amount recorded is based on the appraisal of the land parcels at the fair market values of \$6,470,000.

**b) Expenditures:**

With the continued hybrid work model that was initiated in 2022, there were expenditure variances in the Corporate Services programs which contributed to the year-end surplus. The main drivers of this variance to budget relate to organizational training/conferences, printing, postponed corporate events, savings from catering, mileage, and office utility costs and supplies.

Expenditures in Greenspace Services are showing a large variance to budget which is directly related to the parcels of land contributed to the Conservation Authority in early 2022, that now make up the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve. As noted above, these parcels of land were recorded for accounting purposes at their fair market value (\$6.47M) at the time they were contributed.

Expenditures in the Planning & Development are below budget and have helped to offset some of the fee revenue shortfalls seen in this program this year. There are savings in staffing costs that are related to the deferral of hiring and replacement of some positions in this program. There were also savings in consulting, vehicle, materials and supplies and professional membership costs.

Throughout 2023 program managers and finance staff will be closely monitoring the fee-based revenues and financial position of the Planning and Regulations programs for any impact that Provincial Bill 23 will have. Updates will be provided to the Board should any major concerns arise.

**c) Budget and Timing Variances affecting Revenue and Expenditures in Capital Projects:**

There are revenue and expense variances realized throughout the year that can be attributed to timing. Timing variances occur when expenditures have not happened yet, and therefore recognition of the related revenue is deferred until and recognized in line with project expenditures as they arise.

Expenditures in Corporate Services, specifically Facility Management, are below budget which reflects progress related to the 2022 spending for consultation and architectural design of the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre which was on hold for most of 2022. The Project Team re-engaged the architectural firm, Gow Hastings, in Q4 to continue work on Stage 3: Final Design and Approvals. The Nature Center project is a strategic priority and multi year project for the Conservation Authority with the expectation for construction to begin in 2024.

Capital projects are also driving variances in the Ecological & Water Management Restoration program. These projects are outlined below and are either complete or will continue into 2023. The deferral of work will not have an impact on the overall financial position, as these projects are covered by Special Capital, Provincial and/or Partner funding. Key areas of these variances include:

1. Ecological Management - \$1.1K of the expenditure variance is related to projects in the Ecological Restoration program and includes:

- Ecological Offsetting Capital Projects
- Grassland/Meadow Restoration
- Grants to Partner/Landowners for projects

Projects completed and funded at year end:

- Kettleby Creek Restoration
- Circle Park Wetland Restoration
- Park Road and Innisfil Beach Park Wetland and Channel Realignment

Other projects on hold or carrying on to 2023:

- Kennedy Street Stream and Wetland Creation

2. Water Risk Management - \$2.1K of the expenditure variance is related to projects in the Water Management/ Restoration program and includes:

- Water Balance and LSPOP Capital Projects
- Mouth of Western Creek Restoration
- All Provincial Funding Agreements under the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan as outlined in Staff Report No. 20-21-BOD from the April 2021 Board of Directors' meeting.

Projects completed and funded at year end:

- Monitoring projects funded by Municipal partners – York Region and Town of Aurora
- KD03 Sunnidale Road Stormwater Pond Retrofit funded by Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Offsetting Policy

#### **d) Offsetting Projects Approved and Deferred Balances:**

In 2022 the Ecological Offsetting Committee approved and/or funded the following projects using Ecological Offsetting funds:

- Reforestation projects approved for \$139K in Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Aurora, Innisfil, and King, with \$72K funded in 2022 and projects continuing into 2023.
- Park Road and Innisfil Beach Park Wetland and Channel Realignment project was approved in prior years and completed in 2022. The Conservation Authority funded \$119K towards the implementation of this project.
- Circle Park Wetland Restoration project in Innisfil was approved in prior years and funding totalling \$13K was put toward finalizing this project in 2022.
- Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve project work in Georgina was approved for \$150K, with \$5K funded in 2022 and the project is ongoing.

- Township of Oro-Medonte Wetland and Restoration project approved for \$53K with the project is starting in 2023.
- Hamilton Park Wetland project in Aurora approval increased to \$71K from \$30K. Project began in late 2022 and funding of \$14K was spent, and this project is ongoing.
- Queensville Park Restoration Site Investigation project approved in East Gwillimbury for \$31K, and the project is starting in 2023.

The Water Balance and Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Offsetting Policy Committee approved and/or funded the following projects using the Water Balance and Phosphorus Offsetting funds:

- KD03 Stormwater Pond project in Barrie was approved in prior years and completed in 2022 with funding of \$670K going towards its implementation. The post monitoring phase of this project approved for \$80K will begin in 2023.
- Bunkers Creek Stream Restoration project in Barrie approved for \$274K.
- SP03 Stormwater Pond Retrofit and OSG Unit Installation project in Barrie approved for \$152K. The project has since been approved for an additional \$554K in early 2023 with the project starting in 2023.
- Murray Drive Culvert Replacement and OSG Unit Installation in Aurora approved for \$50K.
- Scanlon Creek Stream Restoration project in Bradford approved for \$200K.
- Bayfield Mall project in Barrie approved for \$322K.
- Martine Crescent Stormwater Pond Retrofit project in Oro-Medonte was approved for \$23K, and the project is starting in 2023.

Appendix 2 provides an outline of the deferred revenue balances by subwatershed related to the Ecological, Water Balance and Phosphorus Offsetting funds on December 31, 2022. These are to be used to fund future projects that meet the program's criteria.

#### **e) Procurement:**

Throughout 2022, 139 procurements that met the threshold for issuing a purchase order were awarded through the Conservation Authority's procurement process, totalling \$2.7M. An outline of these procurement statistics is attached in Appendix 3.

#### **Summary and Recommendations:**

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 10-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Fourth Quarter Unaudited Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2022 be received for information.

### **Pre-Submission Review:**

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Corporate & Financial Services/CFO and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Mark Critch  
General Manager, Corporate and Financial  
Services, CFO

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **Attachments:**

Appendix 1 – Draft Unaudited Corporate and Services Area Budget Status Reports  
Appendix 2 – Draft Unaudited Deferred Offsetting Revenue at December 31, 2022  
Appendix 3 – 2022 Procurement Summary

# Appendix 1

**Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**  
**DRAFT Unaudited Corporate Budget Status Report**  
**For period ending December 31, 2022 (shown in 000's)**

<b>Revenue:</b>	Full Year Budget	Actual YTD	% of YTD Budget
General Levy	\$ 4,089	\$ 4,089	100%
Special Capital Levy and Municipal Partners	8,622	5,909	69%
Provincial and Federal Funding	2,269	1,770	78%
Revenue Generated by Authority	8,392	6,142	73%
Other Revenue and Contributions	77	6,981	9025%
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>23,450</b>	<b>24,891</b>	<b>106%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Corporate Services	6,838	5,068	74%
Ecological Management	3,476	2,297	66%
Education and Engagement	688	679	99%
Greenspace Services	1,200	7,651	638%
Planning and Development Services	5,608	4,714	84%
Water Risk Management	6,438	3,776	59%
Watershed Studies & Strategies	1,397	1,293	93%
<b>Total Gross Expenses:</b>	<b>25,645</b>	<b>25,478</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Expenses included above related to:</b>			
Tangible Capital Assets	-	6,911	
Internal Fee for Service	2,127	2,071	97%
<b>Expenses before Amortization</b>	<b>23,518</b>	<b>16,496</b>	
Amortization on Capital Assets	-	400	
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) before reserve activity</b>	<b>(68)</b>	<b>7,995</b>	
Board approved draws on reserve:	1,031	248	
Board approved transfers to reserves:	(963)	(1,084)	
<b>Other reserve activity:</b>			
Transfer for offsetting operational surplus:	-	(716)	
Related to Change in Net Assets:	-	(6,422)	
<b>Operational surplus at December 30</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 21</b>	

**Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**  
**DRAFT Unaudited Service Area Budget Status Report**  
**For period ending December 31, 2022 (shown in 000's)**

	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
<b>Corporate Services</b>				
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Levy	\$ 2,776	\$ 2,776	\$ 2,776	100%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	1,098	1,098	879	80%
Provincial & Federal Funding	6	6	2	32%
Revenue Generated by Authority	948	948	395	42%
Other Revenue and Contributions	43	43	265	617%
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>4,871</b>	<b>4,871</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Corporate Communications	860	860	714	83%
Facility Management	2,024	2,024	760	38%
Financial Management	1,309	1,309	1,109	85%
Governance	637	637	649	102%
Human Resource Management	580	580	621	107%
Information Management	1,428	1,428	1,216	85%
<b>Total Gross Expenses:</b>	<b>6,838</b>	<b>6,838</b>	<b>5,068</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Expenses included above related to:</b>				
Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	18	
Internal Fee for Service	2,043	2,043	2,026	99%
<b>Net Expenses (excluding Capital Asset entries)</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>3,023</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Net surplus before reserve activity</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1,294</b>	
Board approved draws on reserve:	736	736	191	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(812)	(812)	(991)	
<b>Other reserve activity:</b>				
Transfer for offsetting admin surplus:	-	-	(261)	
<b>Operational surplus at December 30</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 233</b>	

	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
<b>Ecological Management</b>				
<b>Revenue :</b>				
General Levy	\$ 6	\$ 6	\$ 6	100%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	2,262	2,262	1,463	65%
Provincial & Federal Funding	405	405	290	72%
Revenue Generated by Authority	806	806	679	84%
Other Revenue and Contributions	31	31	49	157%
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>2,486</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Ecosystem Science & Monitoring	979	979	947	97%
Forestry Services	718	718	682	95%
Restoration & Regeneration	1,780	1,780	668	38%
<b>Total Gross Expenses:</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Expenses included above related to:</b>				
Internal Fee for Service	-	-	23	
<b>Net Expenses (excluding Capital Asset entries)</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>2,274</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Net surplus before reserve activity</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>212</b>	
Board approved draws on reserve:	6	6	3	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(41)	(41)	(24)	
<b>Other reserve activity:</b>				
Transfer for offsetting admin surplus:	-	-	(204)	
<b>Operational (deficit) at December 30</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (12)</b>	

**Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**  
**DRAFT Unaudited Service Area Budget Status Report**  
For period ending December 31, 2022 (shown in 000's)

	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
<b>Education and Engagement</b>				
<b>Revenue :</b>				
General Levy	\$ 340	\$ 340	\$ 340	100%
Provincial & Federal Funding	-	-	2	
Revenue Generated by Authority	285	285	423	148%
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>122%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Community Programming	152	152	86	56%
School Programming	536	536	593	111%
<b>Total Gross Expenses:</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Expenses included above related to:</b>				
Internal Fee for Service	63	63	-	
<b>Net Expenses (excluding Capital Asset entries)</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>679</b>	
<b>Operational surplus at December 30</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 86</b>	

	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
<b>Greenspace Services</b>				
<b>Revenue :</b>				
General Levy	\$ 372	\$ 372	\$ 372	100%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	436	436	380	87%
Provincial & Federal Funding	8	8	18	217%
Revenue Generated by Authority	190	190	51	27%
Other Revenue and Contributions	4	4	6,626	189327%
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>7,448</b>	<b>737%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Management	1,005	1,005	988	98%
Property Services	50	50	-	0%
Securement	144	144	6,665	4615%
<b>Total Gross Expenses:</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>7,652</b>	<b>638%</b>
<b>Expenses included above related to:</b>				
Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets	-	-	72	
Internal Fee for Service	21	21	22	104%
<b>Net Expenses (excluding Capital Asset entries)</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>7,558</b>	<b>641%</b>
<b>Net (deficit) before reserve activity</b>	<b>(168)</b>	<b>(168)</b>	<b>(111)</b>	
Board approved draws on reserve:	175	175	9	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(7)	(7)	(7)	
<b>Operational (deficit) at December 30</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (109)</b>	



**Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**  
**DRAFT Unaudited Service Area Budget Status Report**  
For period ending December 31, 2022 (shown in 000's)

<b>Planning and Development</b>	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
<b>Revenue :</b>				
General Levy	\$ 495	\$ 495	\$ 495	100%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	413	413	413	100%
Provincial & Federal Funding	22	22	22	100%
Revenue Generated by Authority	4,652	4,652	3,574	77%
Other Revenue and Contributions	-	-	15	
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<u>5,583</u>	<u>5,583</u>	<u>4,520</u>	81%
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Development Planning	2,834	2,834	2,544	90%
Permitting & Enforcement	2,774	2,774	2,171	78%
<b>Net Expenses (excluding Capital Asset entries)</b>	<u>5,608</u>	<u>5,608</u>	<u>4,715</u>	84%
<b>Net (deficit) before reserve activity</b>	(26)	(26)	(195)	
Board approved draws on reserve:	26	26	-	
<b>Operational (deficit) at December 30</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (195)</u>	

<b>Water Risk Management</b>	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
<b>Revenue :</b>				
General Levy	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	100%
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	3,464	3,464	1,935	56%
Provincial & Federal Funding	1,370	1,370	978	71%
Revenue Generated by Authority	1,511	1,511	1,014	67%
Other Revenue and Contributions	-	-	26	
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<u>6,445</u>	<u>6,445</u>	<u>4,054</u>	63%
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Flood Management & Warning	867	867	569	66%
Source Water Protection	840	840	684	81%
Water Management & Restoration	4,011	4,011	1,937	48%
Water Science & Monitoring	720	720	587	82%
<b>Net Expenses (excluding Capital Asset entries)</b>	<u>6,438</u>	<u>6,438</u>	<u>3,776</u>	59%
<b>Net surplus before reserve activity</b>	7	7	278	
Board approved draws on reserve:	89	89	45	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(96)	(96)	(54)	
<b>Other reserve activity:</b>				
Transfer for offsetting surplus:	-	-	(251)	
<b>Operational surplus at December 30</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 18</u>	

**Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**  
**DRAFT Unaudited Service Area Budget Status Report**  
**For period ending December 31, 2022 (shown in 000's)**

<b>Watershed Studies and Strategies</b>	2022 Full Year Budget	2022 YTD Budget	2022 YTD Actual	% of YTD Budget
<b>Revenue :</b>				
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	\$ 949	\$ 949	\$ 839	88%
Provincial & Federal Funding	456	456	457	100%
Revenue Generated by Authority	-	-	5	
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<u>1,406</u>	<u>1,406</u>	<u>1,301</u>	93%
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Climate Change Adaptation	196	196	197	100%
Research & Innovation	551	551	517	94%
Watershed Subwatershed Planning	650	650	579	89%
<b>Net Expenses (excluding Capital Asset entries)</b>	<u>1,397</u>	<u>1,397</u>	<u>1,293</u>	93%
Net surplus before reserve activity	8	8	8	
Board approved transfers to reserve:	(8)	(8)	(8)	
<b>Operational position at December 30</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	

## Appendix 2

### DRAFT Unaudited Deferred Offsetting Revenue Balances at December 31, 2022

#### Ecological Offsetting

Subwatershed	Land Acquisition Funds Remaining	Funds Remaining for Future Projects	Total
Barrie Creeks	-	163,517	163,517
Beaver River	169	152,992	153,160
Black River	-	367,887	367,887
East Holland	35,273	704,380	739,653
Hawkstone Creeks	-	610,847	610,847
Hewitts Creek	11,150	980,203	991,353
Innisfil Creeks	46,241	1,183,298	1,229,539
Lover's Creek	88,862	614,916	703,779
Oro Creeks South	18,902	303,492	322,393
Uxbridge Brook	20,813	139,858	160,671
West Holland	43,833	287,220	331,053
Whites Creek	37,417	249,443	286,860
General Pool - Interest Earned	-	223,559	223,559
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>302,659</b>	<b>5,981,613</b>	<b>6,284,272</b>

#### Water Balance Offsetting

Subwatershed	Funds Remaining for Future Projects
Barrie Creeks	82,446
Beaver River	53,604
Black River	82,808
East Holland	907,157
Innisfil Creeks	1,075,866
Lover's Creek	60,852
Oro Creeks North	39,248
Oro Creeks South	17,028
West Holland	1,087,820
Western Creek - (NM)	646,300
Young St. Aquifer (TRCA)	19,140
General Pool - Interest Earned	101,209
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,173,478</b>

#### Lake Simcoe Phosphorous Offsetting

Subwatershed	Funds Remaining for Future Projects
Barrie Creeks	224,289
Black River	253,336
East Holland	2,846,982
Georgina Creeks	39,725
Hewitts Creek	11,625
Innisfil Creeks	389,655
Lovers Creek	582,681
Maskinonge River	140,349
Uxbridge Brook	355,699
West Holland	1,087,318
Whites Creek	63,123
General Pool - Interest Earned	133,544
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,128,326</b>

# Appendix 3

## 2022 Procurement Summary

Vendor Name	Number of Purchase Orders Issued	Total Value (including HST)	Standard Procurement under 15,001	Standard Procurement RFQ/RFP or RFT Issued	Single Source	Sole Source
A Million Mouthfuls	1	5,133	X			
AECOM	1	4,520	X			
All Blue Solutions	1	10,940			X	
Aquafor Beech Ltd.	1	67,679		X		
Avensys Solutions	5	53,942	X		X	X
Bartram Woodlands Ltd.	1	50,480		X		
Bradford Rona	1	3,979	X			
Caduceon	4	12,606	X		X	
Canadian Tech Air Systems	1	32,391			X	
Chouinard Bros Roofing	2	24,328	X	X		
Com-Pair	1	16,012		X		
Conservation Ontario	1	13,717				X
Consortech Solutions	1	3,221	X			
Constant C Technology Group	2	16,833	X			
DCR Systems Group	4	30,883	X		X	
Dell Canada	2	8,310	X			
Devonshire Real Estate Appraisals	1	5,198	X			
Diversity Inclusion Belonging	1	42,940		X		
Drafting Clinic	1	2,302	X			
Drive True Mechanical	1	3,507	X			
ECOH Management Inc.	1	10,848	X			
Elevator One	1	4,616	X			
Enclosures Direct	2	1,994	X			
Envision IT	1	17,639		X		
Fisher Scientific	1	5,859	X			
GeoVerra	1	17,854		X		
GHD	1	6,215				X
GM Financial	1	19,406		X		
Greenlink Energy	1	4,063	X			
Hortico	1	26,310		X		
Hortico Nurseries	1	17,144		X		
Hoskin Scientific	3	52,320	X			X
HR Downloads	2	16,609	X			
Hutchinson Environmental Services	1	57,613		X		
Imperial Coffee	1	5,650	X			
Insight Canada	2	8,076	X			
Iron Mountain	2	28,250	X			
J.R. Shooter	1	3,335	X			
KISTERS North America	1	26,583				X
Know Be 4	1	3,060	X			
LBC Capital	1	13,217	X			
LHH Knightsbridge	1	3,955	X			
Marianne Love Consulting	1	14,129	X			
Mark Bookhout Services	2	25,990	X			
Maximum Signs	1	3,386	X			
McDougall Energy Inc.	1	4,214	X			
Million Mouthfuls	1	5,001				
ML Consulting Inc	1	55,596			X	
MRP Studios	1	7,000			X	
MSD Inc.	1	6,409	X			
MUS Consultants Inc.	1	3,955	X			
Newmarket Nissan	1	17,678				
North-South Environmental Inc.	1	33,403		X		
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority	1	497,194				X
Office Imaging	3	8,388	X			
Optrics	1	5,650	X			
Optrics Inc.	3	20,970	X			X
Peel Fencing	1	39,408		X		
PhycoTech Inc.	1	6,272	X			
Pipefusion	1	3,164	X			
Priestly Demolition	2	28,250	X	X		
Public Sector Digest Citywide	2	19,238			X	
Randy Perry Electric	2	8,814	X			
RCM Systems	2	24,933	X		X	
Regional Municipality of York	1	2,505	X			
Resilient Consulting Corporation	2	128,044		X		
Rona Bradford	1	4,735	X			

**Appendix 3 – 2022 Procurement Summary**

Vendor Name	Number of Purchase Orders Issued	Total Value (including HST)	Standard Procurement under 15,001	Standard Procurement RFQ/RFP or RFT Issued	Single Source	Sole Source
Sage Software Canada Ltd	1	14,574	X			
Sentia Solutions Inc	1	2,054	X			
Servpro of North Mississauga	1	14,973	X			
Severn Sound Environmental	1	136,997				X
Simco MTI	1	3,955			X	
Simcoe County	2	16,964	X			
Smart City Water Inc.	1	2,921	X			
Softchoice	2	16,695	X			
SQM Janitorial	1	13,022			X	
Stewarts Equipment	1	35,307		X		
Summerville Nurseries	1	41,351			X	
Technology Solutions	6	30,426	X			
TechSoup	1	14,476	X			
Thomas Solutions	2	16,382	X			
TipTapPay Micropayments	1	4,000	X			
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority	1	6,272	X			
Toyota Financial Services	4	62,457			X	
Triple J Contracting	1	44,070		X		
TSI Technology Solutions	2	110,972	X	X		
ULINE	1	7,186	X			
Upper Canada Signs	1	4,091	X			
UTS Tree Care	2	11,978	X			
Verity International	1	3,955	X			
VertiGIS North America Ltd.	1	3,285				X
Voyager	1	4,400	X			
W.F. Baird and Associates	1	272,097		X		
Wallwin Electric Services Ltd.	1	56,207		X		
WAP Engineering	1	10,679	X			
Waste Connections	1	4,520	X			
Workplace Safety and Prevention Services	1	1,921	X			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2,702,049</b>				

## Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Susan McKinnon, Manager Budget, and Business Analysis

Date: March 14, 2022

### Subject:

2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget

### Recommendation:

**That** Staff Report No. 11-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget be received; and

**Further that** the 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget and all projects therein be adopted: and

**Further that** staff be authorized to enter into agreements and/or execute documents with private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations or governments and their agencies for the undertaking of projects for the benefit of the Conservation Authority and funded by the sponsoring organization or agency, including projects that have not been provided for in the approved budget; and

**Further that** as required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97), this recommendation and the accompanying budget documents, including the schedule of matching and non-matching levies, be approved by weighted vote.

### Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 11-23-BOD is to provide the Board of Directors with the 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget for review and approval as required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97). This regulation also requires that the accompanying budget documents, including the schedule of matching and non-matching levies, be approved by weighted vote. The 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget was created using the Board-approved budget estimates/assumptions, and a copy of the budget document is attached (Attachment 2). This is the final year for budget approval in this manner, as Bill 229 changes will be implemented for the 2024 budget, requiring a new multi-step approval process.

### Background:

#### I. Assumptions

On June 24, 2022, the Board of Directors reviewed and approved Staff Report No. 21-22-BOD regarding the 2023 budget assumptions. The 2023 budget was then built within those assumptions:

Assumption	Approved Guideline	Actual
Inflation	Up to 4.00%	When applicable
COLA	Up to 2.00%	2.00%
Growth/Strategic Initiatives	Up to 1.50%	0.00%
General Levy	2.00%	2.00%
Special Operating	1.68%	1.66%
Special Capital	2.00%	2.00%

## II. Budget Process for 2022/2023

1. Board of Directors approve the budget assumptions.
2. Staff review of Base Operating Budget for:
  - a. Efficiencies/Cost Savings
  - b. Additional funding sources
  - c. Changes to program expenditures/funding
3. Based on the Strategic Plan, the Executive Leadership Team determine key areas of investment for 2023.
4. Work with municipal funding partners through communication of budget details and highlights, along with presentations to local Councils as required.

### Summary of Progress to Date

Municipal Funding Partner	Approval or Within Envelope
Regional Municipality of York	✓
City of Barrie*	✓
Regional Municipality of Durham	To be reviewed on March 29, 2023
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	✓
Town of Innisfil	✓
Township of Oro-Medonte	To be reviewed on March 29, 2023
Town of New Tecumseth	✓
City of Kawartha Lakes	✓
Township of Ramara	✓

\*City of Barrie has approved but added a motion, "That the contributions to the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority and Nottawasaga Conservation Authority be limited until the ramifications of Bill 23 are determined."

### Budget Approval Voting Procedure

The budget vote will be recorded, and each member will be requested in alphabetical order to vote yea or nay on the approval of the attached 2023 Budget. Further, the vote will be weighted based on the current value assessment of each municipality within the watershed. The Region of York's vote is required to be capped at 50%. The weighted vote will be taken as follows:

Representative	Municipality	CVA
Councillor Sherri Bell	Township of Ramara	0.91%
Councillor Fred Drodge	Town of Innisfil	4.53%
Councillor Avia Eek	York Region (King)	9.34%
Regional Chairman Wayne Emmerson (Chair)	York Region (at Large)	9.34%
Councillor Peter Ferragine (Vice Chair)	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury	5.20%
Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod	Durham Region (Uxbridge)	1.92%
Mayor Randy Greenlaw	Township of Oro-Medonte	0.98%
Mayor Virginia Hackson	York Region (East Gwillimbury)	9.34%
Councillor Bryn Hamilton	City of Barrie	8.22%
Councillor Shira Harrison-McIntyre	Town of New Tecumseth	0.48%
Councillor David Le Roy	Durham Region (Scugog)	1.92%
Mayor Iain Lovatt	York Region (Whitchurch-Stouffville)	9.34%
Councillor Cria Pettingill	Durham Region (Brock)	1.92%
Mayor Margaret Quirk	York Region (Georgina)	9.34%
Councillor Clare Riepma	City of Barrie	8.22%
Councillor Michael Thompson	York Region (Aurora)	9.34%
Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor Tom Vegh	York Region (Newmarket)	9.34%
Councillor Emmett Yeo	City of Kawartha Lakes	0.35%
		<b>100.00%</b>

### III. What's New for 2023 Capital and Operating Budget

Staff continue to look for ways to improve the accuracy and transparency of the budget process. In 2023, this includes changes to methodology for allocation of overhead costs and methodology for budgeting of pending funding agreements as follows.

#### Overhead Methodology

The methodology for allocation of overhead costs has been updated to reflect full cost recovery to all programs. Expenses previously allocated to corporate services have been expensed to programs, which leads to improved accuracy in costs to run programs and deliver projects.

#### Pending Funding

The methodology for budgeting pending external funding has been changed for 2023. The provincial year-end is March 31<sup>st</sup>, which follows the Conservation Authority's budget approval and results in funding being approved after budget. Any "pending funding" projects have not been added to the budget. The new methodology recognizes only the expenses in the anticipated project that relate to FTE staffing costs. This is considered risk of unfunded FTEs, and this risk is covered by a draw from reserve. As many of these funding requests are now being approved, the budget will be restated with these new funds, and draw on reserves reduced accordingly. This resulted in a lower provincial and federal funding revenue line in the budget, but once restated the amount should be more in line with the 2022 restated budget.



#### IV. Budget Highlights

Detailed information is provided in the attached 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget book. Some highlights regarding the 2023 proposed budget are as follows:

	2022*	2023	Change
Operating	\$15.9M	\$16.9M	\$1.0M
Capital	\$7.7M	\$5.9M	(\$1.8M)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23.6M</b>	<b>\$22.8M</b>	<b>(\$0.8M)</b>

\*Restated budget (Staff Report No. 30-22-BOD)

#### V. Opportunities

Annually staff review procurement and look for savings and efficiencies. In 2022, an external procurement audit was undertaken on our telecommunications and waste management services, identifying savings of \$8-10K that were then incorporated into the 2023 budget.

The Conservation Authority uses Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) for flood mapping updates and decisions related to regulations and planning. In 2023, the Conservation Authority will be updating its leaf-off LiDAR data. The Conservation Authority will contribute 50% of the project cost of obtaining LiDAR for York Region within the Lake Simcoe watershed and has secured 50% matching funding from Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

#### VI. General Levy

The Conservation Authority requested General Levy funding in the amount of \$4,171K, representing an increase of 2.00% over 2022. The increase was used to cover Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) for existing staff and inflation when applicable for program expenses. This is within the endorsed guidelines provided by the Board of Directors.

#### VII. Special Capital Levy and Special Operating Levy

The 2023 proposed Special Capital base levy increased by 1.66% to \$4,487K. This was within the Board-endorsed guideline of 1.68%. Special Operating Levy increased by 2.00% to \$508K which was also within the Board-endorsed guideline of 2.00%.

#### VIII. Municipal Partners Funding

In 2023, Municipal partners will provide support with an additional \$3,477K from Special Capital deferred and other one-time Municipal agreements.

#### IX. Provincial and Federal Funding

The 2023 proposed budget for Provincial and Federal funding (new and deferred) is \$1,734K, which is down 23.58% from \$2,269K in 2022. This change in funding can be attributed primarily to funding opportunities coming forward and being approved post-Budget (Provincial year-end

is March 31). The 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget includes a provision for Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry transfer payments in the amount of \$68,371, which has remained the same for the last three years. This \$68,371 represents the only annual Provincial funding for operating expenses.

#### **X. Revenue Generated by the Conservation Authority**

The 2023 proposed budget for Revenue Generated by the Conservation Authority is \$8.0M, down 4.21% from \$8.4M in 2022. The Revenue Generated by the Conservation Authority funding line is made up of all Fee-for-Service revenues and any revenue recognized from the Offsetting program and related projects. The reduction to Revenue Generated is predominately from the anticipated fewer permitting and regulations applications. Please see Staff Report No. 13-23-BOD included in the March 2023 agenda package for Statistics Summary Year-end Planning and Regulations for more details.

#### **XI. Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation Support**

The 2023 proposed Capital and Operating Budget includes donation revenue from the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation of \$766K, of which \$621K is supporting the education facility design and build, \$110K is for education program support and the remainder will support projects throughout the watershed in 2023. Additional funds will become available throughout the year, at which time a second round of requests will take place in the fall.

#### **XII. Other Revenue**

The 2023 proposed Capital and Operating Budget includes interest revenue from idle cash, and this is the driver for the increase of \$0.3M in other revenue.

#### **XIII. Salary/Wages**

Staffing Summary:

	<b>2022*</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Change</b>
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	106	107	+1
Permanent Part Time (PPTE)	2	2	0

\*Restated budget (Staff Report No. 30-22-BOD)

The one FTE is a contract conversion which is externally funded. The budget also includes 23 contracts for seasonal work and additional capacity needed for funded projects.

Historical summary of Increases to COLA:

<b>Year</b>	<b>COLA</b>
2020	1.75%
2021	1.00%
2022	2.00%
Proposed 2023	<b>2.00%</b>

**Issues:**

The 2023 Budget was developed with the understanding of the fiscal challenges being faced by municipal funding partners. The approved assumptions recognized that the Conservation Authority would need to adjust base costs as the levy increase would not cover inflation. Continuing to fund increases below the rate of inflation beyond 2023 is not a sustainable strategy for the Conservation Authority.

Ensuring all funding partners pay their fair share of the costs in the operating and capital budget is a legislative requirement and critical for the financial sustainability of the Conservation Authority. In 2023, it is anticipated that all funding partners will pay the requested budget submission. It should be noted that in 2024 all levy requests will be impacted by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry) changes with Bill 229.

Staff developed the 2023 budget with an awareness of possible Ministry changes with Bill 229 that will impact future budgets; however, these changes from the Ministry review will not be reflected until the 2024 budget.

A Minister's Regulation was filed under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and in accordance with Bill 23, *More Homes build Faster Act*, 2022 in December 2022. Impacts to Conservation Authority finances are anticipated, but it is not possible at this time for them to be identified and quantified. It is important to note that any adjustment to revenue would be in the fee-based programs only, which are not supported by levy. Staff will continue to track and assess any financial impacts of Bill 23 and will bring any concerns back to the Board as information becomes. Currently available information was provided to the Board in February 2023 through Staff Report No. 03-23-BOD.

**Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:**

The Conservation Authority is required to prepare annual budgets as part of the fiscal control and responsibilities of the organization. The budget is used in the audit process for evaluation by the external auditing firm. Annual audits are a requirement of Section 38 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

**Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:****Total Expenditures**

The total amount of expenditures for the 2023 proposed Capital and Operating Budget is \$22.8M, down (\$0.8M) from the 2022 Budget. The operating increase of \$1.0M is driven by COLA and inflation. The Capital decrease of (\$1.8M) is driven by several large, funded projects still pending and not yet included in the Capital budget. See Appendix 1 for a summary of the 2023 capital investments of \$5.9M.

### Total Revenue

Total Revenue for the 2023 proposed Capital and Operating Budget is \$22.8M, which is down (\$0.6M). This is driven by the pending projects not included in the budget and anticipated lower permitting and enforcement fees in 2023.

Revenue Category	2022	2023	+/-
Levy (2.00%)	\$4.1M	\$4.2M	\$0.1M
Special Capital (1.66%)/Operating (2.00%)	\$4.9M	\$5.0M	\$0.1M
One-Time Funding/Deferred	\$3.7M	\$3.5M	(\$0.2M)
Provincial/Federal	\$2.3M	\$1.7M	(\$0.6M)
Revenue Generated by Conservation Authority	\$8.3M	\$8.0M	(\$0.3M)
Other	\$0.1M	\$0.4M	\$0.3M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23.4M</b>	<b>\$22.8M</b>	<b>(\$0.6M)</b>

\*Restated budget, 30-22-BOD

### Municipal Levies

The Operating Budget is supported by \$9,167K of levies from our municipal funding partners.

	2022	2023	Change
General Levy	\$4,089K	\$4,171K	\$82K
Special Capital	\$4,413K	\$4,487K	\$74K
Special Operating	\$498K	\$509K	\$11K
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,000K</b>	<b>\$9,167K</b>	<b>\$167K</b>

### Reserve Draws

The 2023 proposed Capital and Operating Budget includes a net transfer of \$30K to reserves. In 2022, this budgeted net draw was (\$68K). This change is primarily due to the anticipated increase in interest revenue.

	Opening Balance	2023 Contribution	2023 Draws	Projected Ending Balance
Rate Stabilization	\$3,233K	\$311K		\$3,544K
Asset Management	\$1,348K	\$474K	(\$623K)	\$1,199K
Working Capital	\$435K		(\$122K)	\$313K
Restricted	\$44K		(\$10K)	\$34K
	<b>\$5,060K</b>	<b>\$785K</b>	<b>(\$755K)</b>	<b>\$5,090K</b>

## Summary and Recommendations:

The 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget can be summarized into the following key highlights:

- Board approved updated Planning and Development fees for 2023 (Staff Report No. 46-22-BOD);
- One new FTE's, fully funded by fees;
- The 2023 Capital and Operating Budget was developed within the direction provided by the Board of Directors, General Levy (2.00%), Special Operating (2.00%) and Special Capital (1.66%); and
- Approval has been received from seven of the nine funding municipalities, with the remaining two expected by the end of March.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 11-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget be received: and **Further that** the 2023 Proposed Capital and Operating Budget and all projects therein be adopted: and **Further that** staff be authorized to enter into agreements and/or execute documents with private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations or governments and their agencies for the undertaking of projects for the benefit of the Conservation Authority and funded by the sponsoring organization or agency, including projects that have not been provided for in the approved budget; and **Further that** as required by Ontario Regulation 139/96 (formerly O.S. 231/97), this recommendation and the accompanying budget documents, including the schedule of matching and non-matching levies, be approved by weighted vote.

## Pre-Submission Review:

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Corporate and Financial Services/CFO and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Mark Critch  
General Manager, Corporate and Financial  
Services, CFO

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Summary of 2023 Projects  
Appendix 2 – 2023 Budget Book  
Appendix 3 – 2023 Budget Companion

<b>2023 Projects</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>
Offsetting Projects (Water Balance, Ecological and phosphorous)	\$1,756K
Mouth of Western Creek Restoration, York Region	1,195K
Stormwater Projects	629K
Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve, Georgina	266K
Other Projects	160K
Watershed Plan Modernization	124K
Infrastructure Hazard Projects	115K
Greenspace Projects	112K
Flow Gauges	68K
Salt Case Studies	44K
Low Impact Development Projects	43K
Shoreline Hazard Mapping	31K
Restoration Projects	11K
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,554K</b>
<b>2023 Capital</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount</b>
Education Facility Design & Build	\$658K
Infrastructure & Furniture	477K
Equipment & Vehicles	210K
Hardware	48K
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,393K</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,947K</b>





Lake Simcoe Region  
conservation authority



# 2023

## Proposed Budget







## Our Vision

Healthy lake, healthy land, healthy life...for generations to come.

## Our Mission

We collaborate to protect and restore the Lake Simcoe watershed with innovative research, policy and action.







## At-A-Glance

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority is a local watershed management organization incorporated under the *Conservation Authorities Act (1946)*.

Since our formation in 1951, we have been dedicated to conserving, restoring, and managing the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Our jurisdiction, which began in the East Holland River with five municipalities, has grown to include the entire Lake Simcoe watershed except for the City of Orillia and the Upper Talbot River subwatershed.

The Conservation Authority is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, appointed within a four-year cycle by its 9 member municipalities. Each year, the Board of Directors elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its 18 board members.

## Our Watershed

The Lake Simcoe watershed is a 3,400 square kilometre area that sweeps across 20 municipalities, from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the south to the Oro Moraine in the north, through York and Durham Regions, Simcoe County and the cities of Kawartha Lakes, Barrie, and Orillia.

The watershed is delineated by 18 major river systems and many smaller ones that flow through the landscape to the heart of the watershed: Lake Simcoe.





## At the Forefront

Our watershed is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada and is currently home to 513,000\* people. Based on the Province of Ontario's Places to Grow Plan and municipal official plans, it's projected that the urban area within our watershed will increase by approximately 50% by the year 2041 and the population will nearly double.

Defined by our mandate under the *Conservation Authorities Act (1946)*, and shaped by continuous challenges presented by urban growth and climate change, the Conservation Authority delivers a number of programs and services to our municipal partners and watershed residents. Our strategic focus includes 26 programs within the following seven service areas - Corporate Services, Ecological Management, Education and Engagement, Greenspace Services, Planning and Development, Water Risk Management and Watershed Studies and Strategies.

As the leading local integrated watershed management agency, our business is built on programs and services that support the ecological, social and economic health of Lake Simcoe and the surrounding environment. While we have a long and accomplished history as expert practitioners, we don't do it alone. We are continually reaffirming and establishing partnerships at every level and within all of our communities to support our ongoing mission.

\*based on 2021 Environics data

## Operations Profile

The Conservation Authority's business operation employs over 100 full time, part time, contract, and seasonal staff.

Our science, research and restoration business relies on a vast range of experts in the field of environmental science including specialists in limnology, hydrogeology, hydrology, biology, botany, soil science and more. Additionally, recognized experts in water resource and environmental engineering, urban and community planning, forestry, conservation, and natural resource management, support the numerous activities of the organization.

Our education business depends on accomplished environmental leaders who are Ontario Certified Teachers and Outdoor Education Specialists, trained in delivering formal curriculum-based education programs to school-aged children and youth. Their expanded role includes delivering programs to engage citizens of all ages in making a meaningful and lasting connection with Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

These teams are championed internally by an equally broad range of experts delivering strategic leadership and essential services in several specialized fields including business planning; human resource management; financial planning and management; geographic information systems and information technology; and corporate communications, public and media relations, design, and marketing.



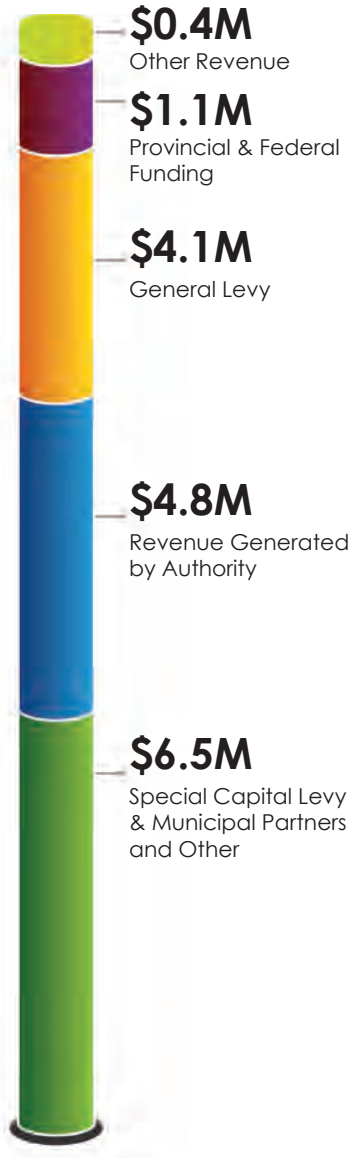




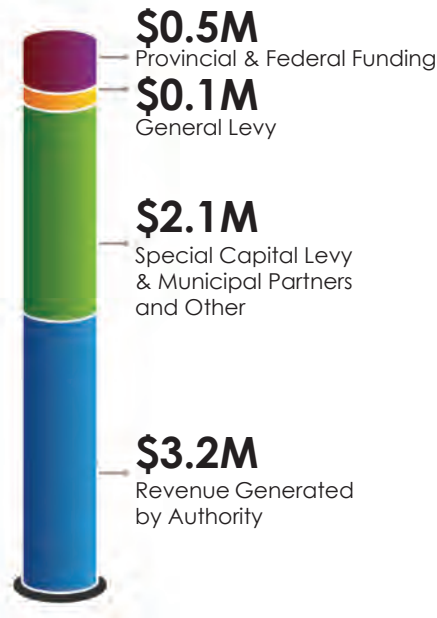




## 2023 Funding Sources



**Operating** \$16.9 Million



**Capital** \$5.9 Million

## 2023 Budget At-A-Glance

\$16.9 Million - Operating

\$ 5.9 Million - Capital

**\$22.8 Million - Total**

## 2023 Budget Highlights

- Respect the taxpayer
- Renewed Vision for 2022-2024
- Funding Requests within Municipal Targets

The Conservation Authority continues to demonstrate respect for the taxpayer by only requesting modest increases in 2023. We will continue focusing on our Strategic Plan (Transformation 2022-2024) and implementing the changes and requirements from the review of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Bill 23.

## 2023 Annual Priorities

1. Manage and implement legislative changes in Bills 229 (2020) and Bill 23 (2022)
2. Continue development of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging framework
3. Develop management plan, and conduct community consultation for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve
4. Advance design and construction of new Scanlon Creek Nature Centre
5. Advance business development opportunities for climate change and stormwater management
6. Assess and implement necessary network security solutions
7. Implement corporate records management and asset management financial strategies





# 2023 Capital & Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Consolidated Summary

Restated Budget 2022* (in the 000s)	Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)
---	--

### Revenue:

General Levy	4,088	4,171
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	8,655	8,472
Provincial and Federal Funding	2,269	1,734
Revenue Generated by Authority	8,358	8,006
Other Revenue	78	443

### **Total Revenue**

<b>23,448</b>	<b>22,826</b>
---------------	---------------

### Expenditures:

Corporate Services	5,398	5,659
Ecological Management	2,648	3,449
Education & Engagement	688	859
Greenspace Services	.. 3	987
Planning & Development Services	5,563	5,245
Water Risk Management	2,110	2,401
Watershed Studies & Strategies	734	1,142

Operating Expenditures	17,974	19,742
------------------------	--------	--------

Internal Fee for Service	(2,164)	(2,893)
--------------------------	---------	---------

Capital and Project Expenditures	7,707	5,947
----------------------------------	-------	-------

### **Total Gross Expenditures**

<b>23,517</b>	<b>22,796</b>
---------------	---------------

Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	(69)	30
----------------------------------	------	----

### **Net Revenue (Expenditures)**

<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
----------	----------

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.



# ▶▶▶ 2023 Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Corporate Services

Restated Budget 2022* (in the 000s)	Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)
---	--

### Revenue:

General Levy	1,360	1,823
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	1,098	1,072
Provincial and Federal Funding	6	4
Revenue Generated by Authority	185	204
Other Revenue	43	344

### **Total Revenue**

<b>2,692</b>	<b>3,447</b>
--------------	--------------

### Expenditures:

Corporate Communications	859	901
Facility Management	667	664
Financial Management	1,322	1,275
Governance	637	687
Human Resource Management	581	631
Information Management	1,332	1,501

### **Total Gross Expenditures**

<b>5,398</b>	<b>5,659</b>
--------------	--------------

Internal Fee for Service

(3,458)	(2,874)
---------	---------

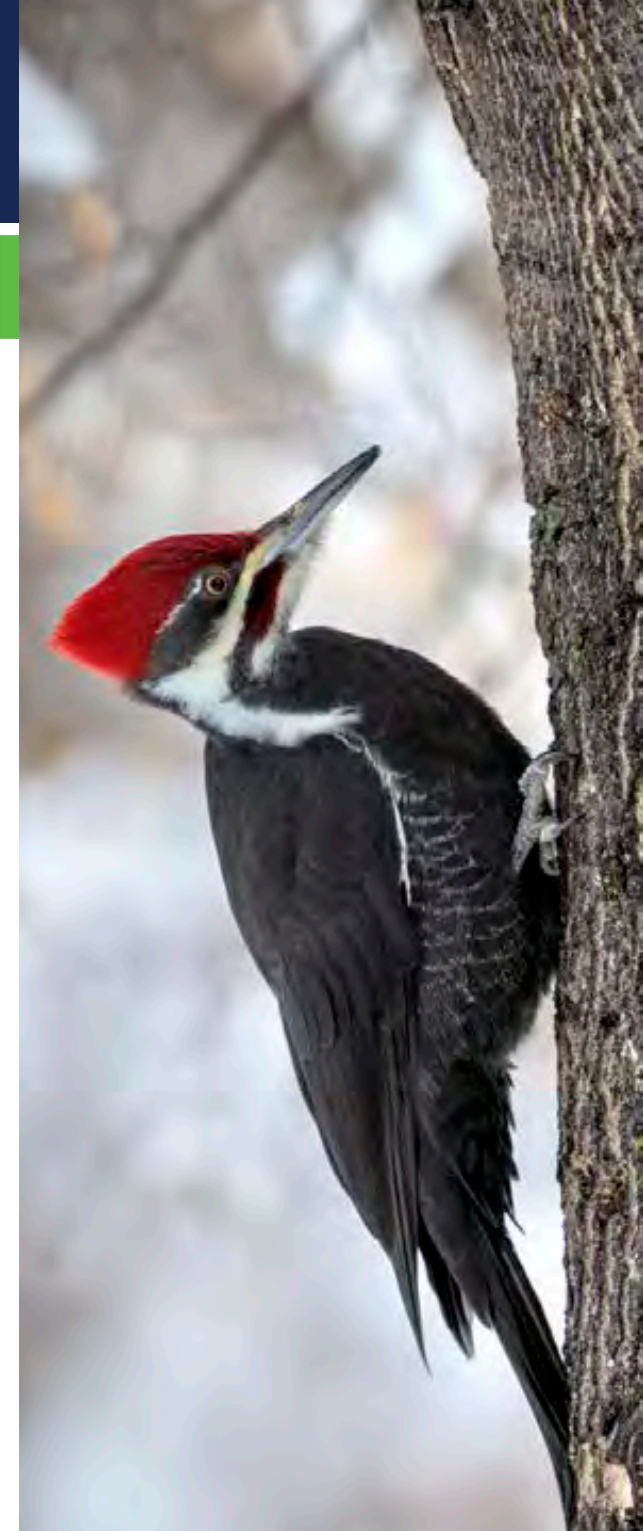
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve

752	662
-----	-----

### **Net Revenue (Expenditures)**

<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
----------	----------

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.





# ▶▶▶ 2023 Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Ecological Management

	Restated Budget 2022* (in the 000s)	Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)
<b>Revenue:</b>		
General Levy	501	297
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	2,121	2,545
Provincial and Federal Funding	302	279
Revenue Generated by Authority	228	301
Other Revenue	31	90
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>3,512</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Ecosystems Science and Monitoring	869	1,078
Forestry Services	623	676
Restoration and Regeneration	1,156	1,695
<b>Total Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>2,648</b>	<b>3,449</b>
Internal Fee for Service	495	(19)
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	40	82
<b>Net Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.





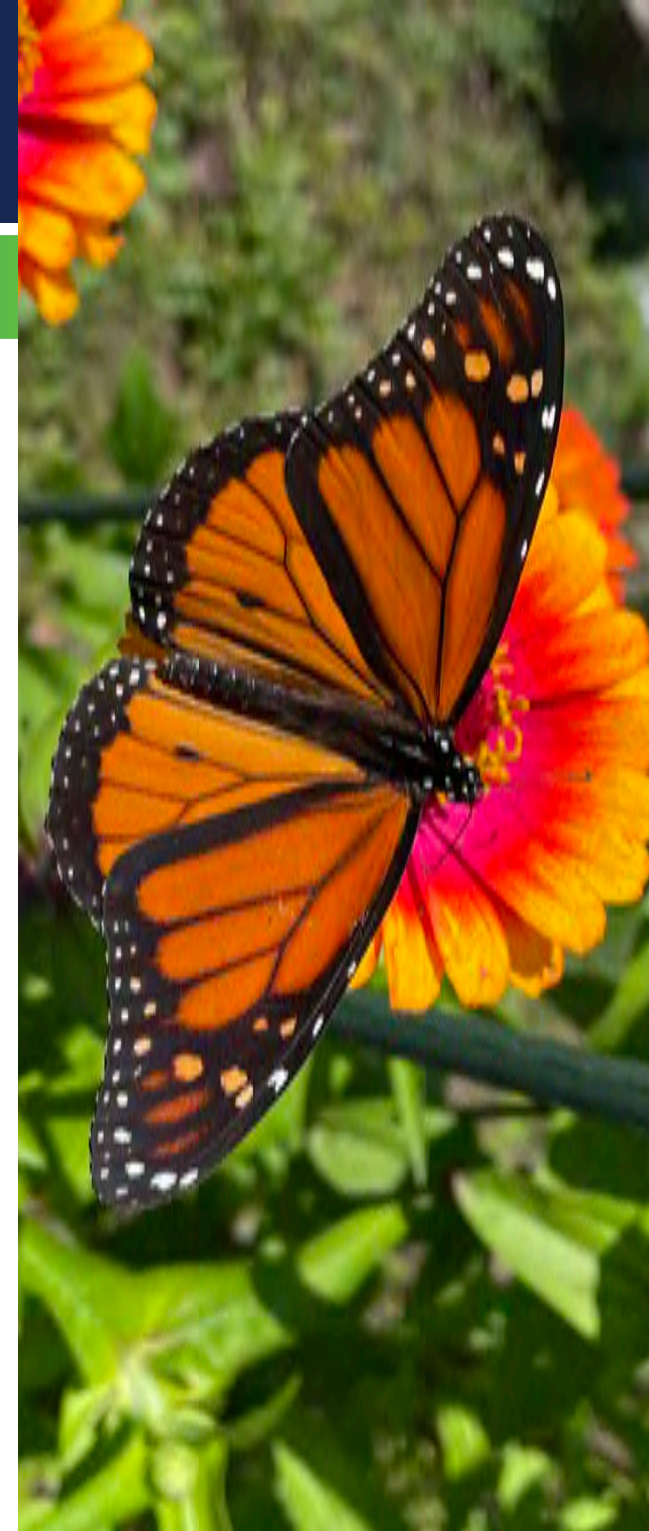
# ▶▶▶ 2023 Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Education and Engagement

	Restated Budget 2022* (in the 000s)	Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)
<b>Revenue:</b>		
General Levy	510	499
Revenue Generated by Authority	285	360
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>859</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Community Programming	152	158
School Programming	536	701
<b>Total Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>859</b>
Internal Fee for Service	107	-
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	-	-
<b>Net Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.



# ▶▶▶ 2023 Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Greenspace Services

	Restated Budget 2022* (in the 000s)	Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)
<b>Revenue:</b>		
General Levy	535	514
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	395	401
Provincial and Federal Funding	8	8
Revenue Generated by Authority	40	49
Other Revenue	4	3
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>975</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Management	689	833
Securement	144	154
<b>Total Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>987</b>
Internal Fee for Service	142	-
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	7	(12)
<b>Net Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.



# ▶▶▶ 2023 Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Planning and Development

	Restated Budget 2022* (in the 000s)	Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)
<b>Revenue:</b>		
General Levy	495	505
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	413	421
Provincial and Federal Funding	22	22
Revenue Generated by Authority	4,607	4,266
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,537</b>	<b>5,214</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Development Planning	2,789	2,794
Permitting and Enforcement	2,774	2,451
<b>Total Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>5,563</b>	<b>5,245</b>
Internal Fee for Service	-	-
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	(26)	(31)
<b>Net Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.







# 2023 Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Water Risk Management

Restated Budget 2022* (in the 000s)	Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)
---	--

### Revenue:

General Levy	398	304
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	1,128	1,192
Provincial and Federal Funding	882	797
Revenue Generated by Authority	60	233
Other Revenue	-	6
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>2,532</b>

### Expenditures:

Flood Management and Warning	486	456
Source Water Protection	840	755
Water Management/Restoration	588	840
Water Science and Monitoring	196	350
<b>Total Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>2,401</b>
Internal Fee for Service	298	-
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	60	131
<b>Net Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.



# ▶▶▶ 2023 Operating Budget

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Watershed Studies & Strategies

Restated Budget 2022\* (in the 000s)      Proposed Budget 2023 (in the 000s)

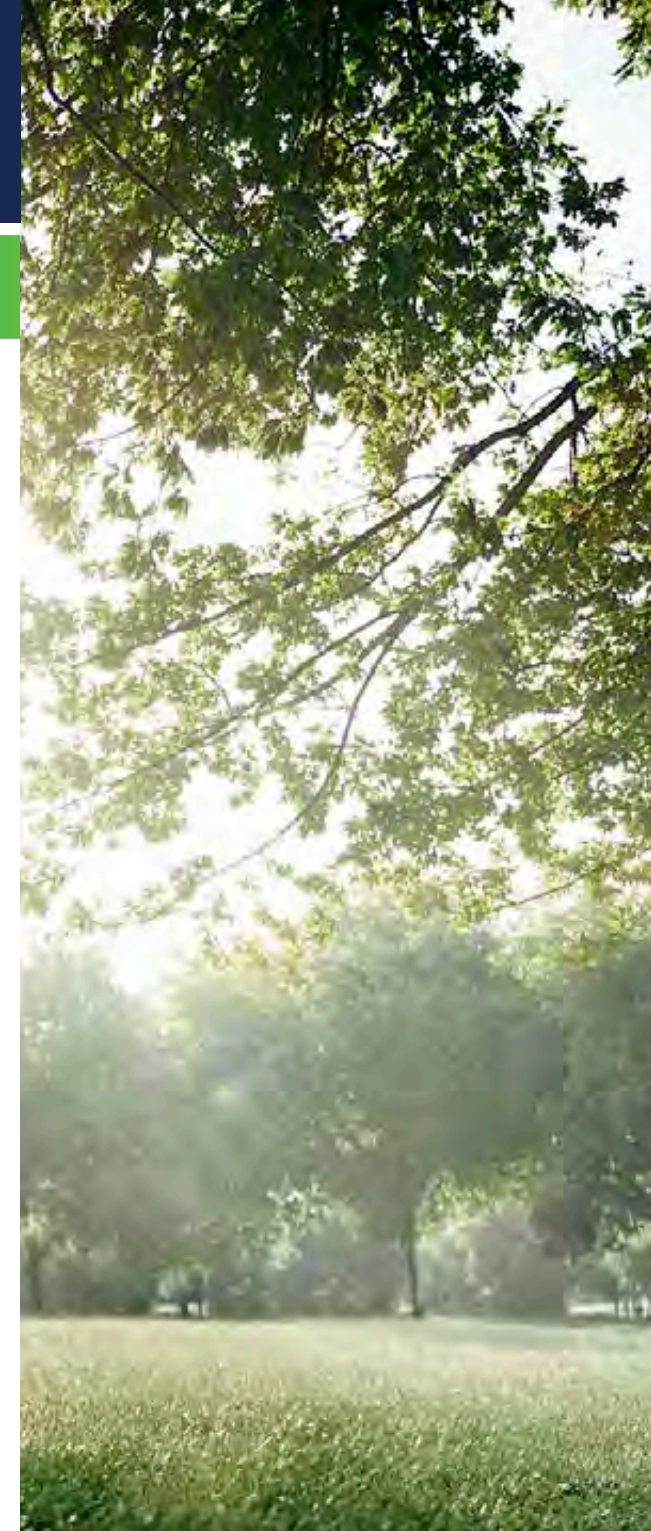
### Revenue:

General Levy	252	178
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	734	824
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>1,002</b>

### Expenditures:

Climate Change Adaptation	196	270
Watershed Subwatershed Planning	318	501
Research and Innovation	220	371
<b>Total Gross Expenditures</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>1,142</b>
Internal Fee for Service	252	-
Required Draws to/(from) Reserve	-	(140)
<b>Net Revenue (Expenditures)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\*2022 Budget restated for comparison. This is due to a change in accounting methodology.





# ▶▶▶ 2023 Capital Budget Status Report

For the period January - December 31, 2023

## Consolidated Summary

Restated  
Budget 2022\*  
(in the 000s)

Proposed  
Budget 2023  
(in the 000s)

### Expenditures:

Offsetting Projects	2,166	1,755
Mouth of Western Creek	-	1,195
Asset Management	931	735
Education Facility Project	800	658
Stormwater Projects	1,494	629
Preserve	-	265
Other Projects	264	160
Watershed Plan Modernization	186	124
Infrastructure Hazard Projects	653	116
Greenspace	-	112
Flow Guages	-	69
LID Projects	381	44
Salt Case Studies	132	43
Shoreline Hazard & Flood Risk Project	380	31
Restoration Projects	306	11
Land Cover Projects	14	-

### **Total Gross Expenditures**

**7,707**      **5,947**

### Revenue:

General Levy	37	51
Special Capital Levy & Municipal Partners	2,766	2,017
Provincial and Federal Funding	1,049	624
Revenue Generated by Authority	2,953	2,593
Reserve	902	662

### **Total Revenue**

**7,707**      **5,947**



# ▶▶▶ Overview of 2023 Municipal General & Special Capital Levy Funding

Municipalities	CVA within Watershed	% within Watershed	% Apportionment	General Levy (in the 000s)			Special Capital (in the 000s)			Special Operating (in the 000s)		
				2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
<b>Region of Durham</b>												
Brock	2,021,350,365	92	1.69%									
Scugog	518,080,913	11	0.43%									
Uxbridge	4,327,089,212	80	3.62%									
	<b>6,866,520,490</b>		<b>5.75%</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Region of York</b>												
Aurora	19,551,664,838	96	16.36%									
East Gwillimbury	9,515,267,037	100	7.96%									
Georgina	9,520,845,304	100	7.97%									
King	5,902,047,680	55	4.94%									
Newmarket	23,964,793,519	100	20.05%									
Richmond Hill	756,157,852	1	0.63%									
Whitchurch-Stouffville	8,890,052,059	57	7.44%									
	<b>78,100,828,289</b>		<b>65.36%</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>362</b>
<b>City of</b>												
Barrie	19,645,897,351	70	16.44%	685	676	678	610	598	588	52	51	51
Kawartha Lakes	421,749,692	3	0.35%	15	15	14	24	24	24	0	0	0
	<b>20,067,647,043</b>		<b>16.79%</b>									
<b>Municipality of</b>												
Bradford-West Gwillimbury	6,213,458,583	72	5.20%	217	211	209	254	250	247	31	31	30
Innisfil	5,414,789,072	57	4.53%	189	186	181	209	206	203	30	30	29
New Tecumseth	577,546,613	7	0.48%	20	20	20	17	17	16	0	0	0
Oro-Medonte	1,173,650,497	22	0.98%	41	40	40	34	33	32	0	0	0
Ramara	1,083,432,720	42	0.91%	38	37	37	39	38	37	0	0	0
	<b>14,462,877,485</b>		<b>12.10%</b>									
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>119,497,873,307</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,171</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>4,049</b>	<b>4,487</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>4,337</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>493</b>

# ▶▶▶ 2023 Reserve Budget

(in the 000s)

Reserve Budget	Opening Balance January 1, 2023 (unaudited)	2023 Proposed Appropriations to/from Reserve	Projected Balance as at December 31, 2023
Rate Stabilization	3,233	311	3,544
Asset Management	1,348	(149)	1,199
Working Capital	435	(122)	313
Restricted	44	(10)	34
<b>Total Reserve</b>	<b>5,060</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5,090</b>









Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is the leading environmental protection agency in the Lake Simcoe watershed. For over 70 years, we've been collaborating with community, government and other partners to protect and restore the environmental health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.


• 120 Bayview Parkway. Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 3W3 •


**E** infomail@LSRCA.on.ca


**T** 905-895-1281


**TF** 1-800-465-0437

**W** LSRCA.on.ca

 lakesimcoeconservation

 @LSRCA

 TheLSRCA

 lakesimcoeconservation

If you require this document in an alternate format, please contact us at 905-895-1281.



Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF) is the leading environmental charity in our watershed, raising funds from individuals and organizations for the critical environmental programs and projects of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. It is one of only a few environmental charities nation-wide that has been accredited in Imagine Canada's Standards Program after demonstrating excellence in operations in the charitable sector. Contact them directly for information about how you can support their important fundraising activities.

**E** foundation@LSRCA.on.ca

**T** 905-895-1281

**TF** 1-800-465-0437

**W** lakesimcoefoundation.ca







**Lake Simcoe Region**  
conservation authority



# 2023

## Budget Companion





## *Our Vision*

Healthy lake, healthy land,  
healthy life...for generations  
to come.

## *Our Mission*

We collaborate to protect  
and restore the Lake Simcoe  
watershed with innovative  
research, policy and action.





# Table of Contents

**A Bit About Us and the Watershed 4**

**Corporate Services 6**

- 8 Corporate Communications
- 9 Facility Management
- 10 Financial Management
- 11 Governance
- 12 Human Resource Management
- 13 Information Management

**Ecological Management 14**

- 16 Ecosystem Science and Monitoring
- 17 Forestry Services
- 18 Restoration and Regeneration

**Education & Engagement 20**

- 22 Community Programming
- 23 School Programming

**Greenspace Services 24**

- 26 Land Management
- 27 Land Securement

**Planning & Development 28**

- 30 Development Planning
- 31 Permitting and Enforcement

**Water Risk Management 32**

- 34 Flood Management and Warning
- 35 Source Water Protection
- 36 Water Management/Restoration
- 37 Water Science and Monitoring

**Watershed Studies & Strategies 38**

- 40 Climate Change
- 41 Research and Innovation
- 42 Watershed Planning





## A Bit About Us and the Watershed

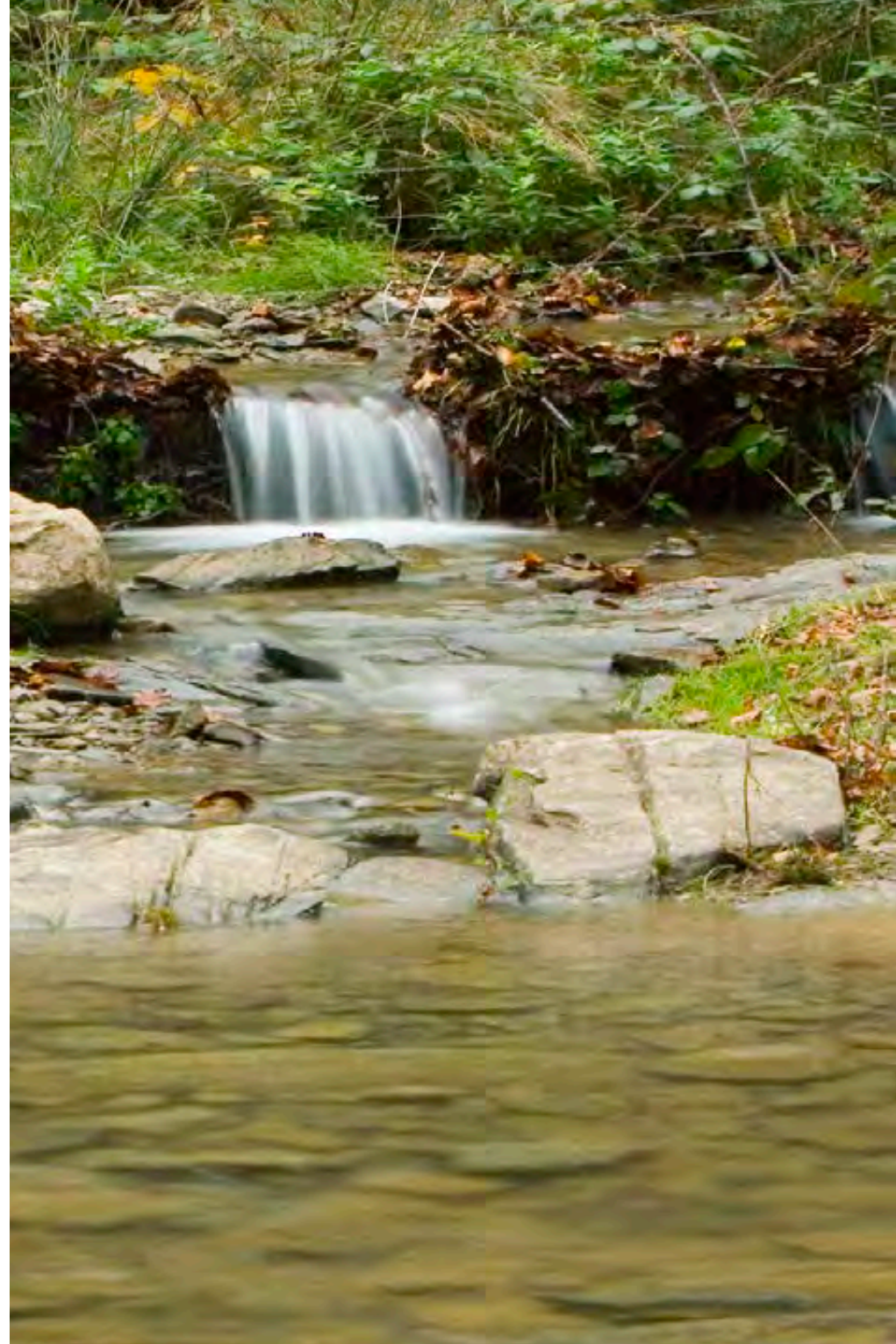
The Lake Simcoe watershed, which is 3400 square kilometres, sweeps across 20 municipalities, from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the south to the Oro Moraine in the north, through York and Durham Regions, Simcoe County and cities of Kawartha Lakes, Barrie and Orillia.

The watershed has been inhabited and cared for by Indigenous Peoples since creation, and we recognize and thank the Williams Treaties First Nations, including the Chippewas of Georgina Island, Rama and Beausoleil and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, the Credit and Scugog Island, for their historic connection and unwavering care for this land and water.

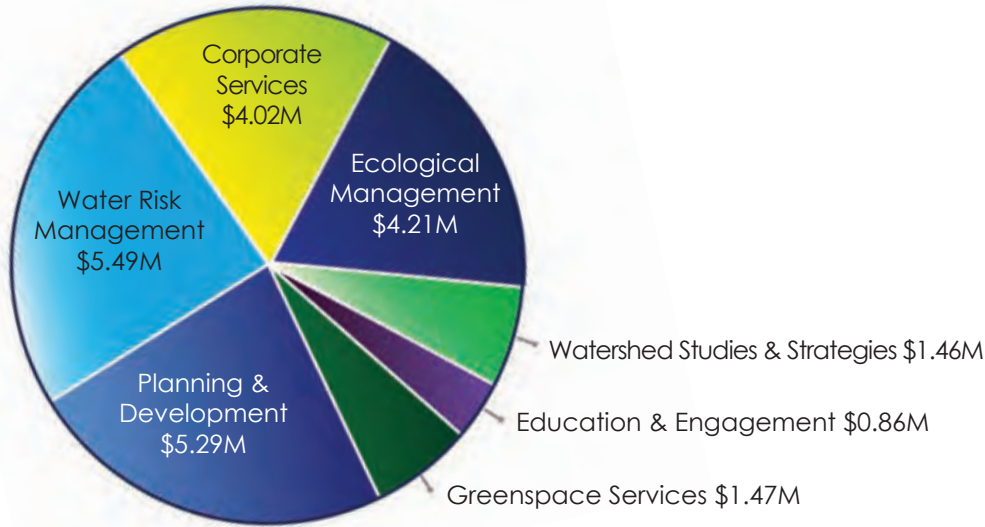
We are the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. We are a local watershed management organization incorporated under the province of Ontario's *Conservation Authorities Act*, and for over 70 years now, we have been focused on conservation, restoration and management of this incredible ecological gem.

To deliver on our mandate and commitments, we employ over 100 full-time, part-time, contract and seasonal staff across numerous professional fields who provide expertise within the following seven service areas, which are detailed in the following pages:

- Corporate Services
- Ecological Management
- Education & Engagement
- Greenspace Services
- Planning & Development Services
- Water Risk Management
- Watershed Studies & Strategies



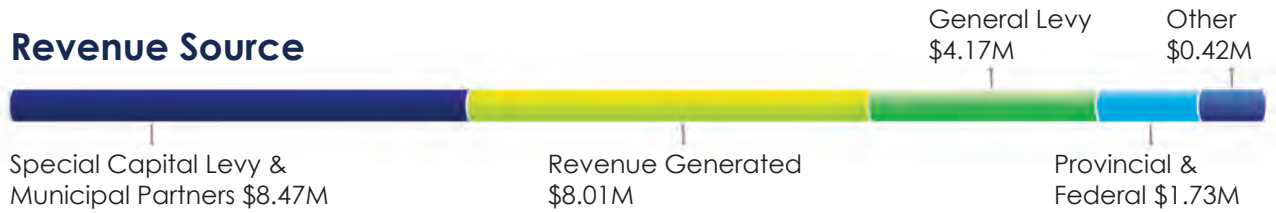
# 2023 Budget Summary \$22.80M, Total FTEs 108.6



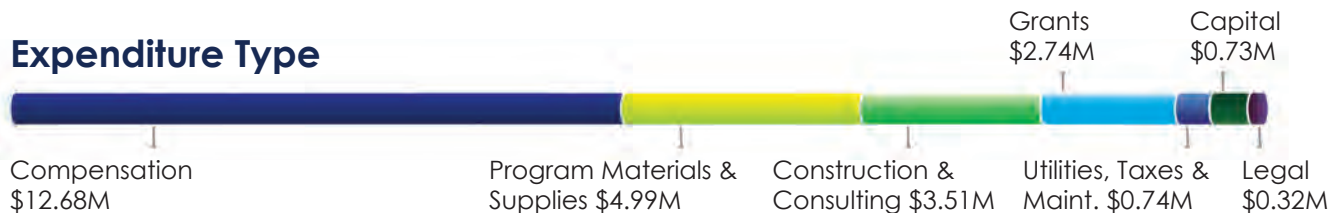
## Operating and Capital Split



## Revenue Source



## Expenditure Type



\*\$2.9M Recoverable Expenses in Corporate Services



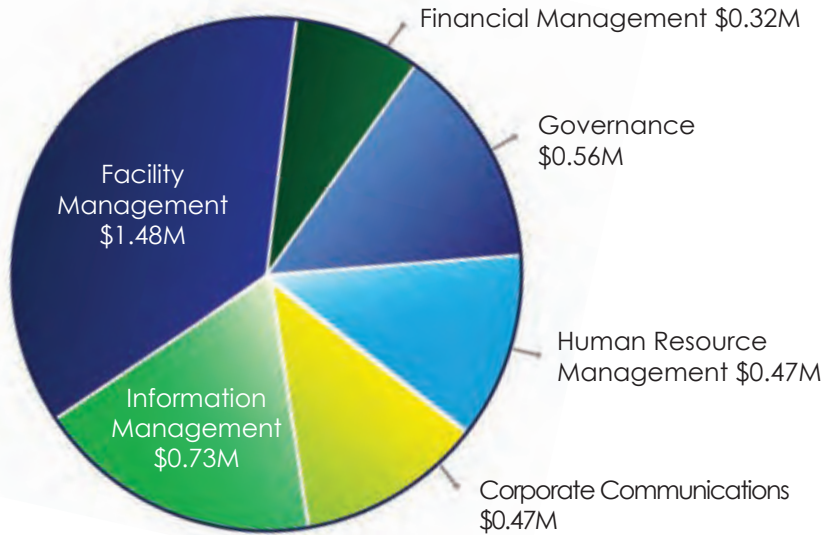


# Corporate Services





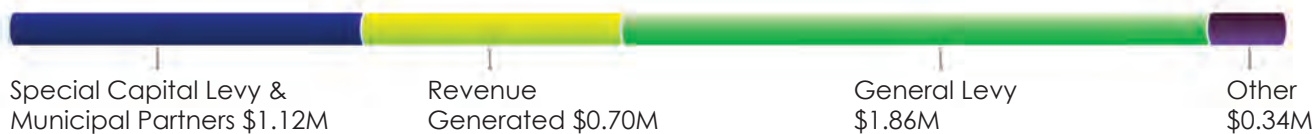
## 2023 Corporate Services Budget \$4.03M, 33.2 FTEs



### Operating and Capital Split



### Revenue Source



### Expenditure Type



Corporate Services provides leadership and management in the delivery of services central to the successful functioning of the entire organization. Corporate Services consists of the following program areas:

- Corporate Communications
- Facility Management
- Financial Management
- Governance
- Human Resource Management
- Information Management



\*\$2.9M Recoverable Expenses in Corporate Services

## Fast Facts

- We experienced a 32% increase in LinkedIn followers
- We presented 23 watershed residents with Conservation Awards at our first in person ceremony since 2019

## 2022 Achievements

- Redesigned and returned to delivering the Conservation Awards celebration in person
- Finalized review on the phase-one development of an online tool to modernize access to subwatershed plans
- Completed and submitted a communications strategy, including recommendations for influencing the reduction of road salt use, to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Completed resource materials and provided communications to augment an information webinar on the invasive Spongy Moth
- Responded to various issues of public interest, including the acquisition of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve (formerly Maple Lake Estates lands), the Bradford Bypass, and continued Pefferlaw Dam inquiries

## Corporate Communications

Corporate Communications provides strategic communications and marketing oversight and delivers a broad range of initiatives to inform, inspire, influence, and motivate government partners and people of all ages in our watershed communities, to collaborate and support initiatives to achieve a healthier watershed.

### 2023 Focus

- Redevelop and realign our social media strategy to meet corporate objectives
- Complete branding and redesign work to support our corporate signage strategy
- Collaborate on the development of a watershed-based resource management strategy
- Continue implementing priority recommendations in Corporate Communications and Engagement Strategy
- Continue to influence strategic, targeted communications to increase participation in and understanding of programs and services

### Outlook

- Our reputation continues to gain positive momentum, with increasing interest and coverage by traditional media, growing social media reach and impressive levels of engagement with our watershed residents, partners, and governments
- Increased online activity and targeted communications and marketing is leading to higher levels of subscription and knowledge of our programs and services

### Service Pressures

- The continuing evolution of social media as a channel to engage with audiences has created a constant need for staff to focus on developing high volumes of relevant, quality content in multiple formats (i.e., video, reels, infographics, etc.)
- Growth of our programs and the success of strategic, targeted communications and marketing challenges existing communications capacity
- Continuing challenges associated with effectively reaching audiences across the geographic, demographic, and socio-economic expanse and diversity of the watershed





## Fast Facts

- Replacement of 118 lights and fixtures at the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre and workshop facilities reduced annual hydro costs by \$2,850 and will provide a 129% return on investment in less than one year
- The conversion of all Conservation Authority fleet cars to electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles has decreased fuel consumption and reduced our carbon footprint

## Facility Management ◀◀◀

Facility Management oversees the management of all assets (buildings and infrastructure, vehicles, and equipment). This includes purchases, leases, repairs, scheduled maintenance, licenses, insurance, utilities, and taxes.

### 2023 Focus

- Replace and upgrade the end-of-life, flat roof on the Head Office building to enhance energy efficiency
- Complete tender processes to initiate construction of the new Scanlon Creek Nature Centre
- Replace three corporate fleet pick-up trucks with more fuel-efficient vehicles
- Install security cameras at the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre, Operations Centre and Works Yard
- Install high-quality audio/visual equipment in meeting rooms at Head Office and the Operations Centre

### Service Pressures

- Adapting facility and fleet vehicle service levels to meet new and evolving business delivery models, as well as employee health and safety requirements
- Supply chains and market fluctuations continue to impact service and material costs, causing delays of up to 6 months for some scheduled projects and product deliveries
- Delays in the development and construction of the new Nature Centre require more maintenance activities to ensure the safe delivery of Education programs

### Outlook

- Inflation, supply chain disruptions, and availability of materials is anticipated to impact current and future maintenance and construction projects and green fleet vehicle replacements

### 2022 Achievements

- Completed roof replacements at Head Office and the Farmhouse at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area and retained the services of a consulting engineer to complete assessment of the flat roofing systems at Head Office
- Completed facility upgrades at the Scanlon Creek Operations Centre, including demolition of a derelict balcony and installation of light standards along walkways and parking lots
- Replaced all lights with energy efficient LED (light-emitting diode) fixtures at the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre and Works Yard
- Retrofitted bathrooms at the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre to provide non-gendered options



## Fast Facts

- 2022 is our seventh consecutive year without an appeal related to our Freedom of Information requests

## 2022 Achievements

- Conducted an independent, third-party procurement audit that identified \$5-10K annual savings in telecommunication and waste management services for the Conservation Authority. Audit also confirmed current best pricing in many other operational areas that were audited
- Updated our overhead charge methodology to ensure full cost recovery across all program areas for 2023
- Completed the first draft of the costing of our programs and services as required under the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, and met with all funding partners to communicate the expected changes and estimated timelines of next steps
- Completed the selection and configuration of new platforms to enable improvements to procurement and on-line payments

## Financial Management ◀◀

Financial management is responsible for day-to-day financial operations such as payroll and accounts payable/receivable as well as budgeting, procurement, risk management, procured legal services, quarterly and annual financial reporting, records management, freedom of information requests/reporting and reception services.

### 2023 Focus

- Implement new payment software to enable online payments for clients across our various programs. This program is expected to reduce staff time and save 20% in processing fees
- Continue work on our records management project, seeking Board approval of a policy and retention schedule, following a legal review
- Enable more efficient financial processes by implementing new electronic workflow process to streamline purchase orders and expense claims processing
- Transition to a new, improved, and more efficient procurement platform
- Continue dialogue with funding municipalities to navigate the budget process changes required for implementation in 2024, under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

### Outlook

- Significant fiscal restraints, new processes developed through remote work and our drive for business excellence will continue to spur new program and process improvements and efficiencies

### Service Pressures

- Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* will change our future budgets starting in 2024, including how we request levy funding from our municipal funding partners
- Increasing complexity of budget, forecasting and financial reporting related to project accounting and additional grant submissions with limited staff capacity





## Governance ◀◀◀

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) provides expert knowledge, strategic advice, and recommendations to the Board of Directors on policy, program, and budget decisions. The CAO also provides operational leadership to more than 100 staff to guide and influence processes, decisions, and implementation, to advance our mission.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue focussed implementation of Transformation 2022-2024, and 2023 Annual Priority projects
- Continue transition and response to the Housing Supply Action Plan and the associated changes impacting Conservation Authorities
- Navigate the challenges brought about by Bill 109, Bill 229, Bill 23 and support our partner municipalities through the transition of roles and responsibilities

### Outlook

- *Conservation Authorities Act* changes will change the structure, funding and delivery of our programs and services for a stronger and more secure future
- The federal government's commitment to improving the health of Lake Simcoe provides excellent funding and partnership opportunities for critical watershed restoration projects into the future

### Service Pressures

- Regulatory and mandated changes to Conservation Authority programs and services under Bill 23 and the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- Minister's Zoning Orders will drive the need for additional restoration projects to compensate for environmental impacts, adding additional pressure on existing capacity and priorities

## Fast Facts

- Online, annually, we publish a Board-approved budget, a description of all programs and services (Budget Companion), as well as an audited financial statement
- Our primary municipal watershed funders are Durham & York Regions, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Innisfil, New Tecumseth, Oro-Medonte, Ramara, Barrie and Kawartha Lakes

### 2022 Achievements

- Successfully concluded our campaign for the transfer of the former Maple Lake Estates land into our ownership. We now own and will protect in perpetuity, the 360 hectares of young forest, wetland and grassland located in the Town of Georgina; temporarily named the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve
- Successfully concluded work on the Minister's Conservation Authorities Working Group
- Continued to operationalize regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- Established a successful hybrid work model, bringing staff back to work in the office a minimum of two days per week, improving client service and staff collaboration





## Fast Facts

- We have two Joint Health and Safety Committees comprised of management and employee representatives that work closely with Human Resources to develop, maintain and improve our health and safety program
- 83% of our employees responded to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) survey providing us with valuable feedback and data to build and enhance our DEIB program

## Human Resource Management ◀◀

Human Resources is responsible for the effective support and management of people in the organization through the provision of services such as attraction and retention, health and safety, performance management, employee relations, learning and development, benefits and compensation design and administration and policy development.

### 2023 Focus

- Enhance our health and safety program through a partnership with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and their Health and Safety Excellence Program
- Complete the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging roadmap to guide future policy and program development
- Undertake an organizational review of all positions and evaluate compensation
- Continue to focus on leveraging technology to create efficiencies and enhance Human Resource and Health and Safety workflow processes

### Service Pressures

- Uncertainty, due to changes to provincial environmental legislation creates challenges around addressing employee concerns and providing support and guidance
- Ensuring employees remain engaged and have collaborative opportunities in a hybrid working environment

### Outlook

- Robust diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging strategies are linked to a healthier, more satisfied, diverse, and productive workforce, placing an emphasis on how we move forward with improved corporate policies, practices, and initiatives, to attract and retain employees
- Succession, learning, and development opportunities are critical to employee performance, satisfaction, attraction, and retention, making strong talent management practices a focus now and into the future

### 2022 Achievements

- Successfully returned our organization to a hybrid working environment
- Continued successful in-person recruitment to ensure employment requirements were met
- Completed survey and staff engagement activities to support phase one of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy

# Information Management ◀◀

Information Management is responsible for providing and managing secure, reliable, and integrated information technology (IT) solutions that align with our business and strategic goals while delivering excellence in client service.

## 2023 Focus

- Complete the groundwork for our records management strategy to increase access and security for vital documents, files, and data
- Develop a security strategy recommending the critical security advancements required to protect our digital services and assets
- Implement improvements to our Microsoft 365 environment and build a dependable platform for our information management program
- Continue to update our geographic information system mapping applications and technology to allow staff faster access to support decision making
- Building modern, more accessible, and collaborative workspaces/solutions for more of our business areas

## Outlook

- Having staff working in two office locations and remotely is driving improvements to our network access and our ability to better collaborate with all partners
- Acquisition of more accurate elevation information from light detection and ranging (LIDAR) mapping for York Region is going to support the work needed to better predict where flooding will occur

## Service Pressures

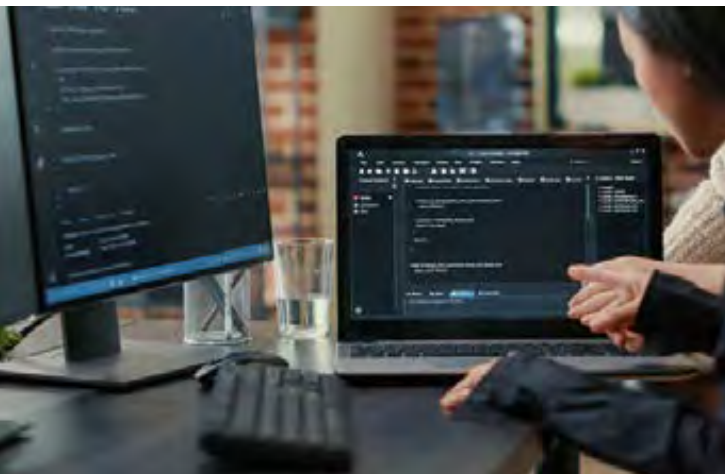
- Information management in the form of both overall content management and records management is driving us to shift more business processes to digital formats, leading to greater efficiency
- Systems and cyber security are a constant threat that require us to balance costs while keeping our network running smoothly and protecting stored, private data
- The ongoing need for flexible and adaptable network hardware and software to support staff working remotely
- Growing pressure on resources to properly store and maintain larger and more complex data
- Information technology is continuously evolving, making it challenging to stay current with a limited budget and resources

## Fast Facts

- 800,000+ spam emails bombard our servers each year
- There were 1306 downloads from our Geographic Information System Open Data Portal 2022

## 2022 Achievements

- Completed several security upgrades for our network to add additional layers of protection against cyber threats
- Completed a major upgrade of the Plan review tracking system to support a more efficient business process
- Built a geographic information system information Hub to better support internal staff who use this information and services
- Acquired new and more accurate elevation data for the northern portion of our watershed to support improved floodplain mapping
- Upgraded our network infrastructure with new servers and increased storage



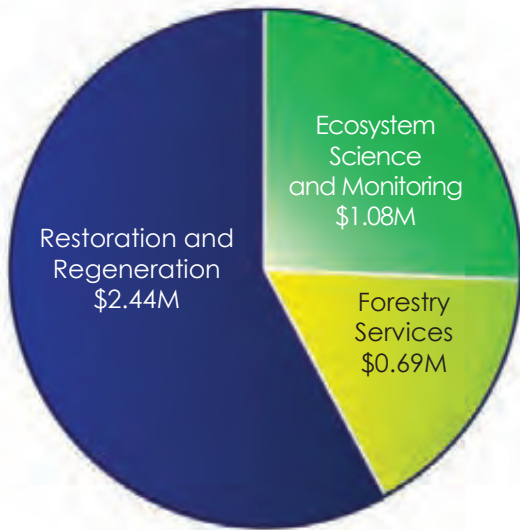


# Ecological Management





## 2023 Ecological Management Budget \$4.21M, 13.4 FTEs



The goal of Ecological Management is to manage natural heritage systems (forest, wetlands, lakes, rivers, etc.) within the watershed. We do this through monitoring, to understand the current state of our watershed, and then by identifying and implementing restoration projects. Ecological Management consists of the following program areas:

- Ecosystem Science and Monitoring
- Forestry Services
- Restoration and Regeneration

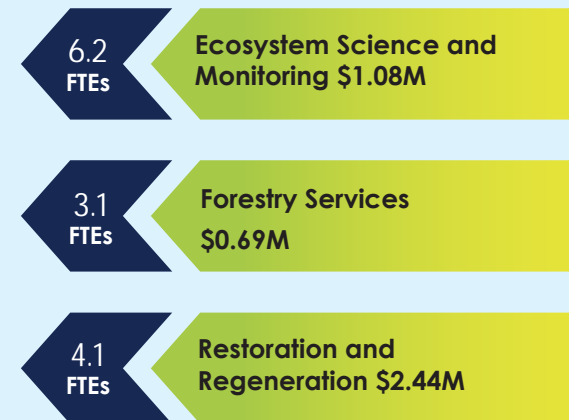
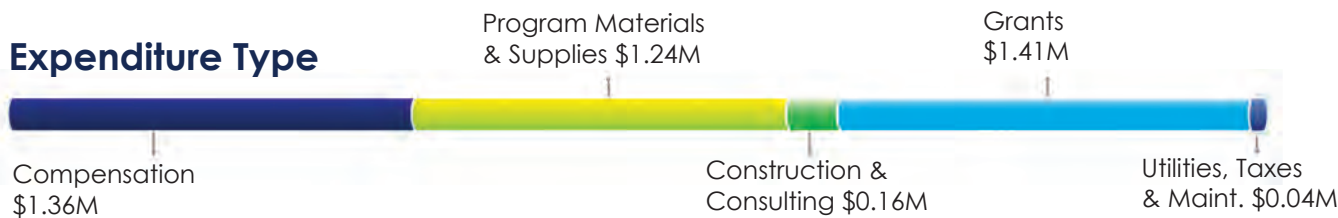
### Operating and Capital Split



### Revenue Source



### Expenditure Type





# Ecosystem Science and Monitoring ◀◀

The Ecosystem Science and Monitoring program assesses the health of Lake Simcoe's nearshore zone, the status of fish and aquatic insect populations and evaluates tributary water quality to support science-based management decisions.

## 2023 Focus

- Conduct lake-wide invasive mussel sampling at 700+ sites to support investigation into lake nutrient cycling dynamics and the role invasive mussels are playing in the storage of phosphorus
- Conduct chemical contaminants sampling of water and sediment in watershed tributaries and Lake Simcoe
- Continue to investigate changing nutrient cycling dynamics in Lake Simcoe through enhanced water quality sampling, aquatic plant sampling and invasive mussel sampling

## Outlook

- Updated invasive mussel survey results will be used to understand their role in lake nutrient cycling dynamics to improve lake management strategies
- Climate change and the impacts of new invasive species make continued monitoring data even more critical to formulate management actions

## Service Pressures

- Maintaining a robust ecosystem research program can only be supported through continued external funding such as Provincial Lake Simcoe Protection Plan support

## Fast Facts

- Invasive starry stonewort made up 70% of all aquatic plants in Cook's Bay in 2019 but decreased to only 23% of all plants by 2021. It has since increased back to making up 33% of the plant community in 2022
- 2021 paper on starry stonewort and aquatic plants in Lake Simcoe is the 5<sup>th</sup> most cited paper published since 2020 in the journal Lake and Reservoir Management (out of 60 papers)
- 500-plus tributary water quality samples are collected every year to evaluate ecological health and to calculate phosphorus loads

## 2022 Achievements

- Completed calculation of phosphorus loads to Lake Simcoe for hydrologic years 2018-2020. The 2020 phosphorus load, at 58 tonnes, was one of the lowest recorded in the last two decades
- Initiated enhanced water quality sampling of the Holland Marsh pump-off water to improve phosphorus load calculations for agricultural polders
- Investigated the relationship between phosphorus loads and lake dissolved oxygen, through enhanced aquatic plant, invasive mussel, and water quality sampling
- Collected water quality samples at 22 stations, to support lake and river ecological health assessments and calculation of phosphorus loads
- Conducted biologic monitoring at 38 sites, including fish population and aquatic insect sampling, to support assessment of the ecological health of watershed rivers and streams





## Forestry Services ◀◀

The Forestry Services program aims to implement best forest management practices that contribute to watershed and community health.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue to implement afforestation program upgrades in response to changing climatic conditions, and building resilience to address shorter, unpredictable planting seasons and shifts in suitable planting stock
- Begin Urban Forest Studies in Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville, in partnership with York Region and the local municipalities, to inform forest management planning decisions
- Renew agreements with watershed partners for ongoing program delivery, including Durham Regional Forest management, York Region Grow Your Legacy planting program and Simcoe Trees

### Outlook

- Partnerships with York Region and Simcoe County will be renewed in 2023 to support continued delivery of tree planting services to increase natural heritage cover, address climate change impacts, and contribute to overall community health

- New opportunities for afforestation and the establishment of large planting blocks, riparian habitat and woodland corridor connections are available on the new (temporarily named) Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve property

### Service Pressures

- Delivered planting services to watershed landowners, completing 94 site visits and planting nearly 40,000 trees and shrubs across 22.66 hectares
- Removed over 250 fallen and hazardous trees at 9 properties following the severe derecho storm in May
- Sold 12,300 seedlings to over 100 landowners through our annual Do It Yourself Planting Program
- The Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) population collapsed in 2022 due to impacts of naturally occurring pathogens

### Fast Facts

- Delivered planting services to watershed landowners, completing 94 site visits and planting nearly 40,000 trees and shrubs across 22.66 hectares
- Removed over 250 fallen and hazardous trees at 9 properties following the severe derecho storm in May
- Sold 12,300 seedlings to over 100 landowners through our annual Do It Yourself Planting Program
- The Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) population collapsed in 2022 due to impacts of naturally occurring pathogens

### 2022 Achievements

- Removed hazard trees near facilities, along conservation areas trails and Durham Regional Forest trails, including responding to the major derecho storm event in May
- Completed a Vulnerability Assessment, Adaptation and Mitigation Plan for York Regional Forest, providing recommendations and management strategies to address the anticipated impacts of climate change
- Monitored year-2 of the outbreak of Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) and provided educational resources and guidance to watershed partners and landowners



## Fast Facts

- Farmers installing cover crops protected 381 of hectares of farmland and will reduce 154 kilograms of phosphorus each year
- Over 570 volunteers planted over 5,670 trees, and shrubs
- Tile outlet control structures were installed to control water on 10.93 of hectares of land, reducing contaminants and sediment from entering our watercourses

## 2022 Achievements

- Provided over 90 grants to private landowners and community groups through our restoration assistance program
- 3% of the projects completed this year helped increase biodiversity and 56% enhanced pollinator habitat
- Partnered with our watershed partners to host 33 community events, planting trees and shrubs, removed invasive species and engaging community volunteers

## Restoration and Regeneration ◀◀

The restoration and regeneration program implements natural heritage, agricultural best management practices and watercourse restoration projects to enhance, restore and create natural features to improve water quality, control water quantity and infiltration within the watershed.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue to focus on reporting our projects using key performance indicators and other environmental benefits
- Discover new opportunities to implement restoration projects with public and private landholders to achieve ecological gains
- Conduct ongoing outreach with the agricultural community to secure commitments to implement restoration projects and environmental best management practices

### Outlook

- Through the Ecological Offsetting program and upcoming government grants, we have exciting opportunities to deliver and support natural heritage restoration projects across the watershed

### Service Pressures

- Timing and location of offsetting funds dictates when and where projects occur
- It's difficult to gain commitments from private and public landowners to implement restoration projects
- Added pressures from climate change and severe weather are changing how projects should be implemented







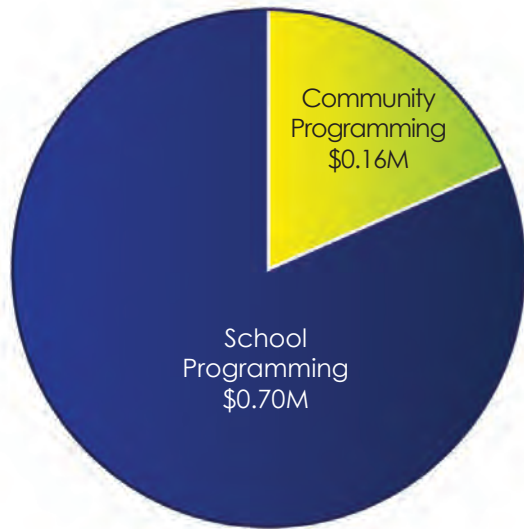




# Education & Engagement



## 2023 Education & Engagement Budget \$0.86M, 5.0 FTEs



The purpose of Education and Engagement is to engage learners of all ages, interests and abilities through programmed learning experiences that raise awareness, impart knowledge, create understanding and inspire action that leads to real and lasting change. Education and Engagement consists of the following program areas:

- Community Programming
- School Programming

### Operating and Capital Split



### Revenue Source



### Expenditure Type





## Fast Facts

- Forged new partnerships with the Children's Treatment Network and YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka Immigrant Services to pilot programs for marginalized groups
- Engaged with over 2600 children, youth and adults through various in-person and virtual community programs

## Community Programming ◀◀◀

Community programming provides unique learning opportunities for children, youth, and adults, enhancing participants' connections to the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed in areas where they live, work and play.

### 2023 Focus

- Re-launch of Spring into Scanlon March Break camp after a three-year pause
- Build on existing municipal partnerships to expand summer camp programming to include field trips to Scanlon Creek
- Pilot a weeklong summer Forest School camp as a new model of delivery to provide more options for local families

### Service Pressures

- Challenges remain in striking a balance between programs that are both full cost recovery and accessible to everyone
- Delays in advancing the final design and construction of the new Nature Centre has translated into extended time in an existing building no longer adequate for our needs

### Outlook

- Post-pandemic public interest in visiting our properties is translating into opportunities for new and re-envisioned community programs

## 2022 Achievements

- Hosted our first Spring into Birding family event at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area
- Returned to in-person program delivery, supporting York Region District School Board's Summer Institute at two different camp locations
- After a two-year COVID-related delay, successfully facilitated a Therapy in the Woods summer program for early learners with disabilities, in partnership with the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre





## Fast Facts

- 14,180 student engagements through field trips, in-person schoolyard visits and virtual program delivery
- Facilitated a Coffee and Chat with select Simcoe County secondary teachers to listen to and understand their needs and experience with climate change education
- Designed and delivered two exciting new grade 7 programs, "Telling Nature's Stories: Animal Tracking" and "Tech for Nature: Investigating Ecosystems"

## School Programming ◀◀

School Programming provides provincial curriculum-connected, experiential, and engaging programs and services for students and teachers from kindergarten to grade 12.

### 2023 Focus

- Expand school board partnerships to offer field trips and professional learning opportunities to more students and teachers
- Design and develop targeted programs to increase offerings related to climate change, flood risk and natural hazard education
- Pursue two grant opportunities with a focus on accessibility through competitive pricing and the availability of an all-terrain wheelchair at Scanlon Creek

- Our proven adaptability and innovation demonstrate that we will continue to succeed and remain key players in education programs and service delivery

### Service Pressures

- Uncertainty with labour unrest among education unions poses ongoing challenges to meeting program and service deliverables.
- Delays in advancing the final design and construction of the new Nature Centre has translated into extended time in an existing building that is no longer adequate for our needs

### Outlook

- As teachers look to connect students with nature, post-pandemic, our school programs and services are in higher demand than ever before, providing an opportunity to build partnerships and generate more revenue

## 2022 Achievements

- Field trips to the Scanlon Creek Nature Centre resumed after a near two-year hiatus
- Signed Service Agreement with York Catholic District School Board for student programming, bringing total number of school board contracts to 4
- Introduced a revised fee schedule to help move closer to full cost recovery
- Launched 'Walking Together Through the Four Seasons', a multi-partner, multi-year initiative to support York Region Early Childhood Educators in taking young learners outdoors to learn on the land

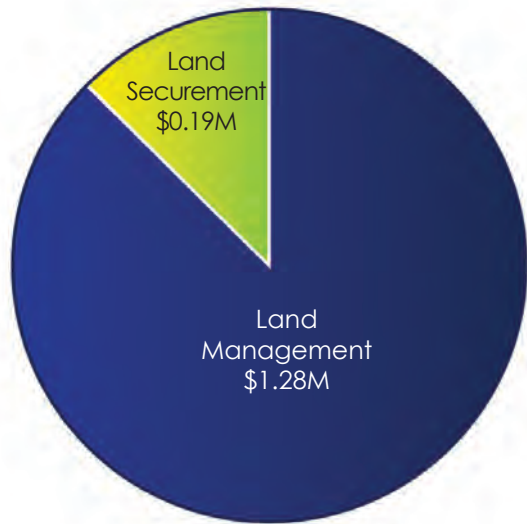




# Greenspace Services



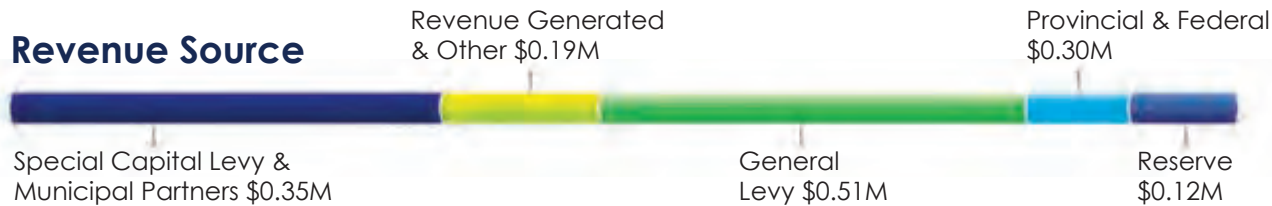
## 2023 Greenspace Services Budget \$1.47M, 6.6 FTEs



Greenspace Services ensures that valuable greenspace is enhanced and restored and that recreational opportunities are provided in safe, well maintained natural settings, so that our watershed residents can enjoy connections to nature, and a high quality of life. Greenspace Services consists of the following program areas:

- Land Management
- Land Securement

### Operating and Capital Split







## Fast Facts

- We protect more than 2,750 hectares of land in the Lake Simcoe watershed
- More than 178,000 people visited our most popular conservation areas in 2022
- The Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve added over 360 hectares of woodland, wetland, and agricultural lands to the Conservation Authority's protected network

## 2022 Achievements

- Began management and maintenance activities on the newly acquired land in Georgina (temporarily named Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve) including perimeter assessment, natural heritage and wildlife habitat monitoring and signage installations
- Secured \$125,000 through the Federal Development Tourism Relief Program to support trail and infrastructure upgrades at Beaver River Trail Conservation Area
- Completed the Rogers Reservoir Management Plan, developed in partnership with local stakeholders
- Replaced five footbridges along hiking trails at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, improving safety for visitors and providing expanded access for maintenance activities
- Installed benches at Rogers Reservoir, Scanlon Creek, Thornton Bales and Beaver River Conservation Areas, promoting our new Memorial Bench Program, in partnership with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation
- Worked with Brock Township to improve trail conditions for visitor safety at Beaver River Conservation Area

## Land Management ◀◀

We approach land management with the goal of striking a balance between conserving the natural environment and facilitating opportunities for outdoor recreation, education, and awareness.

### 2023 Focus

- Reconstruction of two footbridges at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area
- Installation of 25 new benches, at multiple conservation areas, as part of the Memorial Bench Program
- Commencement of a Conservation Areas Management Strategy, as required under the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- Creation of a high level ecological report that documents current use and condition of Mabel Davis Conservation Area
- Completion and initial implementation of a Conservation Areas Maintenance Program Review
- Implement Phase 1 of the Conservation Areas Signage Strategy

### Outlook

- Conservation lands continue to be an important resource for the community, providing health and wellness benefits, with visitor levels remaining above pre-pandemic levels

### Service Pressures

- Conservation lands in urban areas face added pressures from increased levels of trail use, encroachment and encampments by people experiencing homelessness
- Aging infrastructure (roads, trails, signage, etc.) to support recreational activities on our lands continues to require significant resources to ensure effective maintenance and management

## 2022 Achievements

- Added over 360 hectares of wetland, forest and agricultural lands to our landholdings with the acquisition of the (temporarily named) Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve in Georgina and retained a surveyor and environmental consultant to complete boundary assessments and survey updates to support Master Planning
- Continued to advance our Land Disposition Strategy, including transfer of Pefferlaw Conservation Area to the Town of Georgina
- Enrolled 5 conservation properties in the Canada Protected Areas Database, recognizing them for significant key natural heritage features, including Provincially Significant Wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, rare, threatened, or endangered species, significant forest and other ecological features

## Land Securement

Our Land Securement program continues to seek opportunities to acquire lands through donations, easements and/or purchases for the purposes of connecting urban areas to greenspace to increase recreational opportunities and to restore, enhance or create ecological features to support the watershed's natural heritage systems.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue implementing Priority 1 and 2 initiatives as part of our Land Disposition Strategy
- Initiate Master Planning for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve, consulting with stakeholders and partners to establish management priorities, restoration targets and to identify opportunities for passive recreation
- Develop workplans and strategies to address *Conservation Authorities Act* requirements with respect to land disposition and acquisition
- Continue to seek opportunities for strategic land acquisition based on our Natural Heritage System Land Securement Project (2019-2025) and Ecological Offsetting Program

### Outlook

- Infrastructure development within the watershed continues to impact conservation lands, requiring agreements to facilitate access and ensure protection of environmental features

### Service Pressures

- Costs associated with the purchase of property and the associated legal fees continue to rise
- Access to consistent funding for land securement initiatives continues to be challenging, which increases reliance on monetary donations, grants, and government funding programs



### Fast Facts

- The Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve and neighbouring easement properties now represent our largest collection of protected lands at 446 hectares. The natural heritage features on the property, make it qualify for nearly 100% tax relief through the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program

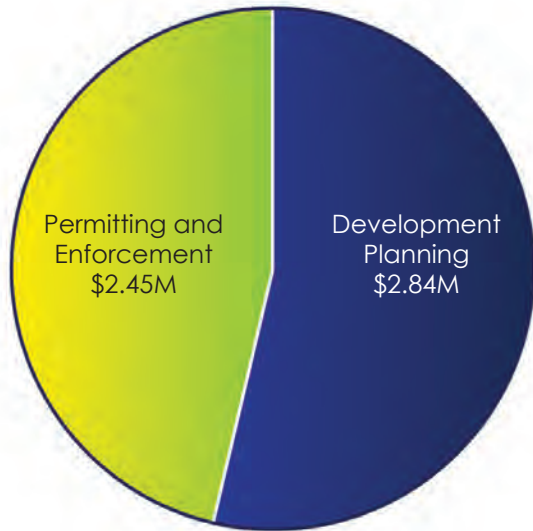




# Planning & Development



## 2023 Planning & Development Budget \$5.29M, 33.1 FTEs



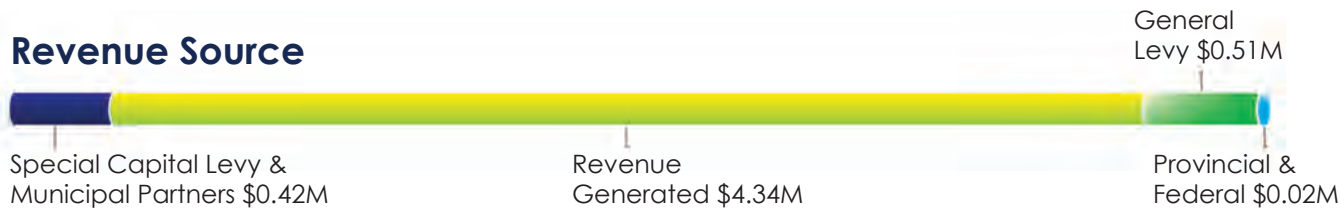
Planning and Development Services ensures that development in the watershed progresses in a sustainable manner that will protect natural heritage features, direct development away from natural hazard lands and will protect our water resources. We follow a planning-first principle which ensures that planning permissions are in place before we consider any further approvals under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Planning and Development Services consists of the following program areas:

- Development Planning
- Permitting and Enforcement

### Operating and Capital Split



### Revenue Source



### Expenditure Type



# Development Planning <<<

The Development Planning program works to protect the natural environment and build healthy and resilient communities. We provide technical expertise in natural heritage, hydrogeology, engineering, and stormwater management. We also deliver proactive and innovative guidance through our review of development applications on stormwater management, environmental compliance approvals for stormwater, groundwater recharge and phosphorus loading. Our goal is to influence sustainable development that protects natural heritage features, drinking water and directs development away from natural hazard areas.

## 2023 Focus

- Continue to collaborate with municipal partners to identify practices to ensure timely approvals of *Planning Act* applications

## Fast Facts

- Received 1026 applications made under the *Planning Act*
- Reviewed 305 hydrogeology submissions
- Reviewed 474 Natural Heritage submissions, including Environmental Impact Studies, Natural Heritage Evaluations, Tree Inventory and Protection Plans, Planting/Restoration Plans, and submissions in support of permit applications
- Attended 83 site visits to delineate natural heritage features and determine development limits
- Reviewed 581 engineering submissions in support of *Planning Act*, Environmental Compliance Approval, and permit applications
- Provided 363 pre-consultation responses on concept submissions

- Provide technical education sessions to industry partners on watershed planning.
- Create a Planning and Development Procedural Manual to provide guidance to industry partners in the preparation of submission materials
- Create standards and checklists for digital submissions to ensure streamlined reviews and consistent submission
- Review and update our Planning Memorandums of Understanding based on Municipal needs and changes resulting from Provincial legislation (Bill 108, Bill 23)

## Outlook

- The Lake Simcoe watershed continues to see extensive growth pressure requiring staff to address the balance of growth, community, and environment. Engaging with our municipal and development

industry partners continues to be a key focus to increase efficiencies, reduce timelines and embrace moving to digital submissions. Various legislative changes are creating uncertainty around roles and responsibilities

## Service Pressures

- Maintaining a high caliber of client service and balanced fees can be challenging due to constant fluctuations in the housing market
- Reduction in timelines for Municipal plan review will impact Conservation Authority review timeframes
- Quality of technical submissions continues to decline, increasing the amount of staff time required to review applications, which is compounded by reduced approval timelines in the *Planning Act*

## 2022 Achievements

- Continued to improve our submission pre-screening and technical walk-through processes to help streamline application reviews
- Prepared and delivered webinars to over 200 attendees, providing information on environmental standards and requirements related to hydrological assessments and storm water management, further streamlining the approval process
- Assisted local municipal partners with comprehensive updates to municipal Official Plan, Secondary Plan and Zoning Bylaw documents





## Permitting and Enforcement ◀◀

The Permitting and Enforcement program is responsible for implementing and enforcing the legislation within Ontario Regulation 179/06 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. This legislation specifies that our permission is required prior to undertaking development within lands identified as hazard lands\*. The goal of regulating development within hazard lands is to reduce loss of life, property damage and social disruption.

\*Hazard lands has a very distinct definition within the legislation. For ease of understanding, we generally refer to hazard lands as those that are susceptible to flooding, erosion, have unstable soils, watercourses, wetlands or adjacent to wetlands.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue to implement client service improvement strategies, including tracking customer service surveys
- Further streamline our permit approvals process including digital approvals and online payments
- Continue to update the regulation mapping including pending updates from the 2022 shoreline hazard study
- Work with external clients (e.g., Real Estate Council of Ontario) to create course content to educate students and realtors on the role and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities, and how our work may impact their homebuying clients

### Outlook

- Continued growth in the watershed is driving a corresponding increase in the volume of regulations related activity (applications, violations). To address this growth, we continue to look for ways to create more efficiencies in our processes and prioritize our efforts on areas of most environmental concern

### Service Pressures

- Uncertainty around existing future legislated and regulatory changes
- Significant housing demands creates pressure to identify suitable lands for development including marginal lands
- An increase in the complexity of files, combined with reduced timelines for review

## Fast Facts

- Reviewed 1180 regulation applications and issued 808 permits under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*
- Responded to 2409 general inquiries from the public.
- Responded to 350 complaints about potential unauthorized development
- Were successful in obtaining guilty convictions on two court cases (15 counts of illegal development) resulting in subsequent probation and restoration orders

## 2022 Achievements

- Met 92% of the timelines under Conservation Authority Liaison Committee standards
- Reviewed and commented on 16 Environmental Assessments
- Obtained approval and implemented our compliance and enforcement procedural manual and decision matrix to support how we prioritize enforcement files
- Launched our online complaint form and associated webpage update including FAQs for typical complaints
- Facilitated three sessions for realtors, highlighting our role in development approvals and requirements in regulated areas

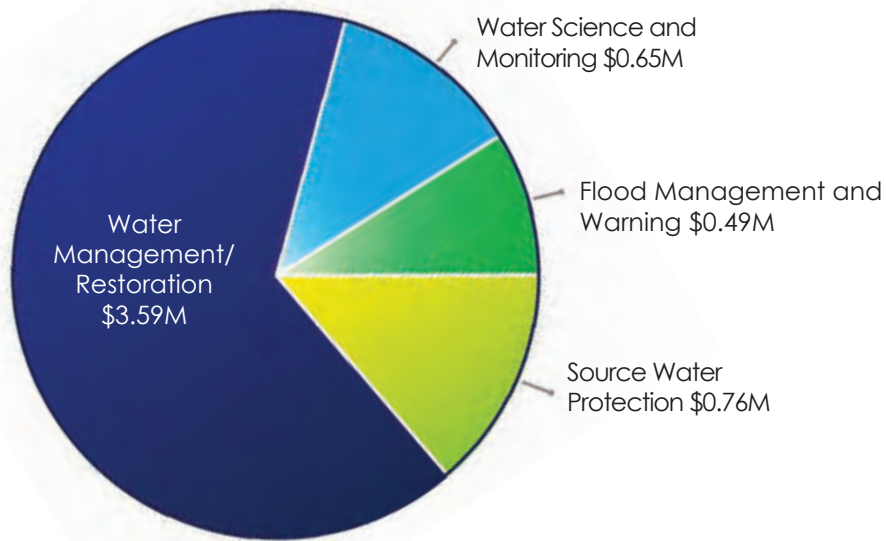


# Water Risk Management





## 2023 Water Risk Management Budget \$5.49M, 9.9FTEs



The goal of Water Risk Management is to ensure that we have a safe, clean and adequate supply of drinking water, to undertake restoration projects to protect and manage water and to engage in research activities to inform decision making. Water Risk Management consists of the following program areas:

- Flood Management and Warning
- Source Water Protection
- Water Management/Restoration
- Water Science and Monitoring

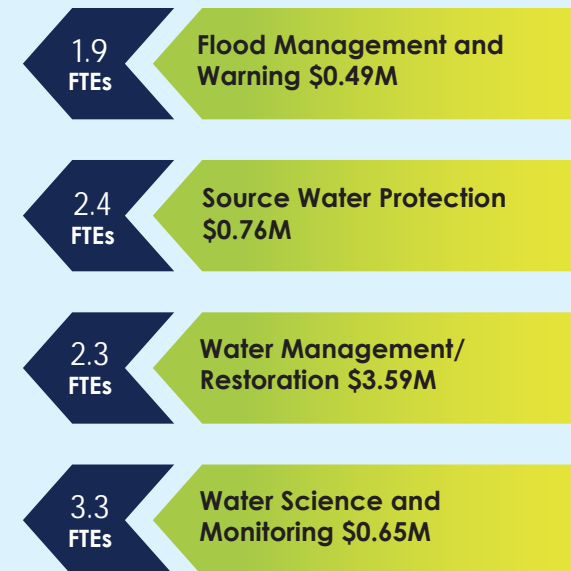
### Operating and Capital Split



### Revenue Source



### Expenditure Type







## Fast Facts

- Issued 7 riverine flood messages and 1 shoreline hazard message
- Monitored 14 stream flow gauges, 5 precipitation gauges and 8 snow survey sites
- Hosted a flood meeting of all Greater Toronto Area Conservation Authorities to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing

## 2022 Achievements

- Initiated and substantially completed work on the shoreline hazard mapping study in conjunction with Baird Coastal Engineers for the Lake Simcoe shoreline.
- Worked with the Region of Durham and completed a National Disaster Mitigation Program project to prepare for future flood mapping updates.
- Worked with the Science and Monitoring business unit to identify a location for a new Lake Simcoe water level gauge

## Flood Management and Warning ◀◀

The goal of the Flood Management and Warning program is to reduce the risk to people, property, and infrastructure (roads, bridges, etc.) from hazards due to flooding and to reduce social disruption.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue focusing on Development Plan Reviews to reduce the risk of flooding in the Lake Simcoe watershed
- Continue to monitor weather forecasts and watershed conditions to inform flood messaging and support partners and stakeholders
- Explore and adapt our role in rapidly changing stormwater management and regulatory requirements to provide innovative support to our municipal and industry partners

### Outlook

- Our changing climate is creating more extreme weather events and increasing the likelihood of winter runoff flooding due to unseasonable temperatures, as well as more ice damage to our properties

### Service Pressures

- Increased pressure on staff and resources due staff serving in multiple roles
- Reduced financial resources due to provincial funding reductions

# Source Water Protection ◀◀◀

Ensure sustainable and safe sources of clean drinking water to residents, within the South Georgian Bay-Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, by ensuring legislative requirements within the *Clean Water Act* and ensuring policies in the Source Protection Plan are implemented.

## 2023 Focus

- Continue to review and amend the source protection plan to incorporate new municipal drinking water systems, as required by Regulation 205 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*
- Complete the review of Source Protection Plan policies, and initiate consultation on the draft updated plan, as directed by Ministerial order

## Outlook

- Our legislated requirements under the *Clean Water Act* will continue to define our pivotal role as the lead Source Protection Authority; this includes supporting the Source Protection Committee and reviewing and amending the Source Protection Plan

## Service Pressures

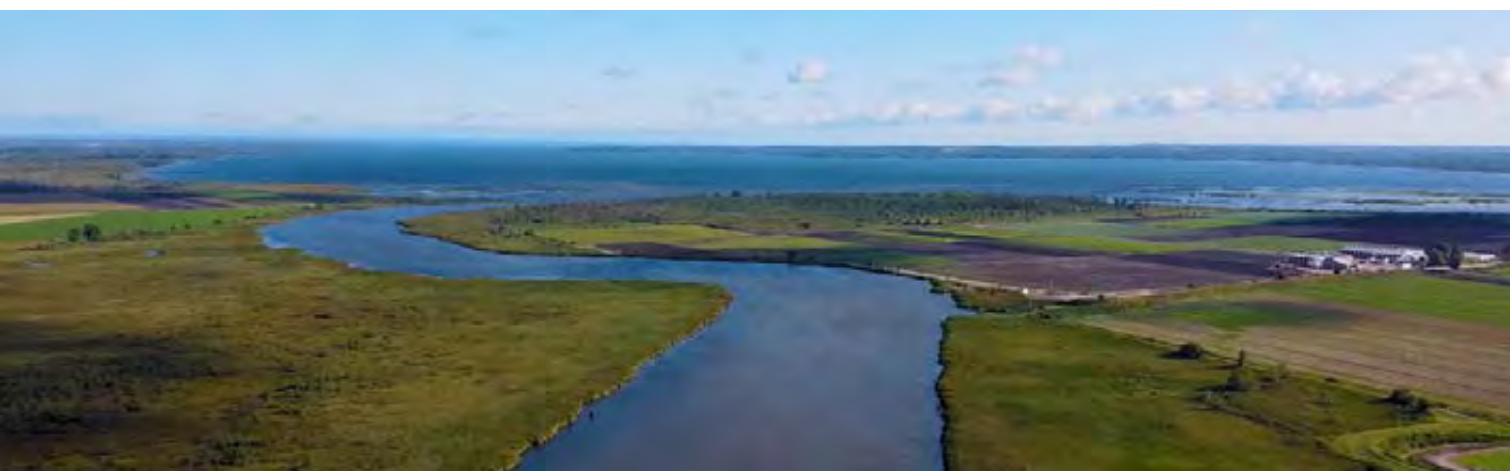
- The *Safe Drinking Water Act* requires amendments to the Source Protection Plan before any new (or expanded) municipal drinking water system can be put into use. The rate of growth and development in our source protection area will result in a significant workload for years to come
- Continued Provincial funding of this program is needed to ensure service levels are maintained and no delays occur to the approval of any new (or expanded) drinking water systems

## 2022 Achievements

- Completed our annual report to the Minister on plan implementation
- Coordinated with watershed municipalities to ensure new drinking water systems were added to the Source Protection Plan
- Initiated a review of Source Protection Plan policies, to ensure they remain appropriate given recent changes to Provincial policy

## Fast Facts

- Over the past year, Source Protection staff have undertaken amendments to the Source Protection Plan to address proposed changes at 11 municipal drinking water systems and to address growth projections or replace aging infrastructure
- There are currently 282 municipal wells, and 16 water treatment plants in the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region







## Water Management/Restoration ◀◀

The Water Management/Restoration program aims to improve water quality and better manage water quantity during storm events through the implementation of low impact development and innovative stormwater pond retrofits.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue to engage private, commercial landowners, to address large amounts of stormwater and maximize environmental benefits
- Partner with our local municipalities to complete stormwater retrofit projects
- Implement construction projects in our urban environment to address stormwater through recently finalized designs

### Service Pressures

- Timing and location of offsetting payments dictates when and where projects occur
- It continues to be challenging to find public or private land suitable for stormwater related restoration projects
- Additional pressures from climate change and severe weather increase the importance of implementing urban stormwater projects

### Outlook

- We will continue to cultivate partnership opportunities with municipalities to identify, support and implement urban restoration projects, including low impact development retrofits, through in-kind work and funding through the phosphorus and water balance offsetting programs

### Fast Facts

- The Town of Aurora stormwater project installed 125 catch basin inserts which will improve the function of the stormwater pond ultimately improving water quality

### 2022 Achievements

- Partnered with the Town of Aurora on a stormwater pond retrofit project to enhance the function of a stormwater pond and installed catch basin shields to help reduce phosphorus and sediment
- Completed two stormwater restoration designs in Bradford and Innisfil to reduce a significant amount of stormwater runoff and contaminants
- Continued partnerships with the private sector on designs for parking lot retrofits in Barrie and Newmarket



# Water Science and Monitoring ◀◀

The Water Science and Monitoring program is essential to informing our understanding of watershed processes, identifying emerging issues, and documenting environmental trends. This information is used to allow us to adapt our management activities to achieve our mission of a healthy Lake Simcoe and watershed.

## 2023 Focus

- Conduct performance monitoring of a stormwater facility that has been retrofitted from a dry pond to incorporate a large infiltration chamber
- Work with municipal partners to complete Consolidated Linear ECA receiver monitoring pilot and develop an implementation strategy for interested municipalities
- Install new lake level gauge at Beaverton Pier to support flood forecasting and lake water balance calculations
- Continue to operate and maintain 14 stream flow monitoring stations, 5 weather stations and 11 groundwater monitoring stations

## Service Pressures

- Challenges around predictability and certainty of project-specific funding agreements with municipal and provincial partners

## Outlook

- Our stream flow monitoring network will continue to play a key role in the detection and assessment of local climate change impacts. With extreme weather events predicted to increase, the network is being positioned to play a greater role in helping us to know how to respond to such events
- Activities under stormwater performance monitoring continue to grow, with an increased focus on low impact development and research, to improve our understanding of stormwater runoff impacts and treatment

## Fast Facts

- Our stream flow monitoring stations collect a data point every 5 minutes and the network of 14 stations generates almost 1.5 million points of data annually

## 2022 Achievements

- Continued a two-year study measuring phosphorus loading from three urban residential catchments of different ages
- Completed three years of performance monitoring of a Low Impact Development retrofit, including an exfiltration system, bioswale and permeable pavement
- Upgraded and relocated two stream flow gauges, Tannery Creek in Aurora and North Schomberg in Bradford West Gwillimbury and installed a permanent gauge on the Talbot River near Gamebridge
- Initiated a pilot project to develop a receiver monitoring program that would support the requirement under the new Consolidated Linear ECA for municipal stormwater infrastructure to assist municipal partners in meeting the requirement



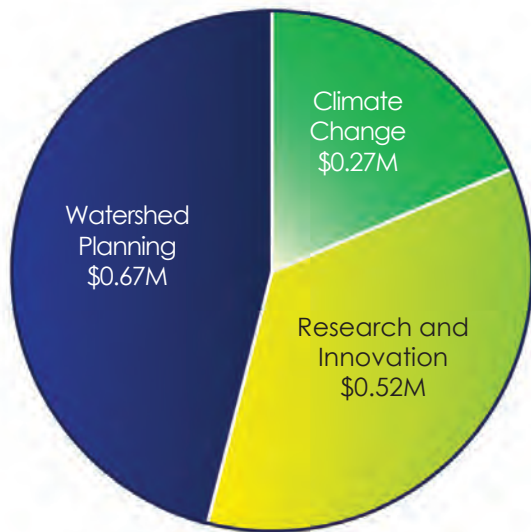


# Watershed Studies & Strategies





## 2023 Watershed Studies & Strategies Budget \$1.45M, 7.4 FTEs



Watershed Studies and Strategies focuses on conducting research and science to inform the decisions that we make regarding our policies, regulations and restoration works. Watershed Studies and Strategies consists of the following program areas:

- Climate Change
- Research and Innovation
- Watershed Planning

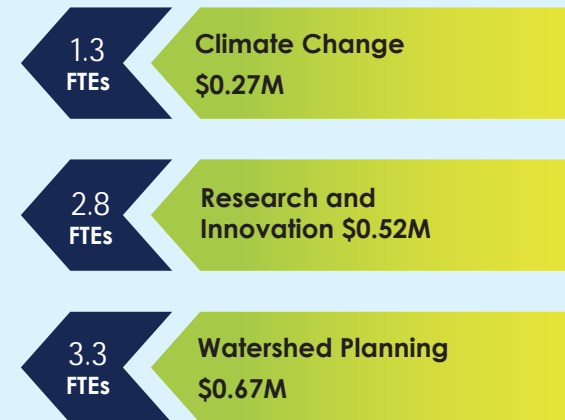
### Operating and Capital Split



### Revenue Source



### Expenditure Type







## Fast Facts

- Without significant action to reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, average temperatures in the Lake Simcoe watershed are predicted to increase by 5 degrees Celsius by 2080
- Roughly 20% of the carbon emitted in the watershed each year is sequestered by existing forests and wetlands in the Lake Simcoe watershed

## Climate Change ◀◀◀

The Climate Change program aims to ensure the resilience of communities, water resources and natural heritage systems, within the Lake Simcoe watershed, to climate risk. Our actions and desired outcomes are directed by our climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

### 2023 Focus

- Continue to build understanding of the role of natural assets and habitat restoration projects in carbon sequestration, including their contribution to meeting municipal net-zero goals
- Continue a review of the impacts that climate change has/will have on the delivery of our conservation authority programs and services
- Incorporate climate change predictions in subwatershed planning processes
- Establish our leadership role in guiding, advising, and supporting municipal climate change working groups

### Outlook

- Our Climate Change strategies and implementation plans have put us in a strong position to lead climate change adaptation and mitigation within the watershed

### Service Pressures

- Climate change continues to be an area of significant concern. Many watershed municipalities have declared climate emergencies and/or have set net zero targets for their communities. We will continue to play an important role in helping municipalities achieve these necessary and ambitious targets

### 2022 Achievements

- Developed a guidance document on estimating carbon sequestration rates in natural assets, in partnership with TRCA and CVC
- Continued our webinar series on climate adaptation at a municipal / watershed-scale to assist watershed municipalities with planning and responding to climate change.
- Supported numerous climate change working groups and committees to ensure collaboration with municipal, non-governmental and other partners
- Half of the action items identified in our Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies are completed or in progress

## 2022 Achievements

- Completed an implementation plan to support system-wide stormwater management optimization planning within the East Holland River subwatershed
- Enhanced the Lake Simcoe watershed municipal stormwater management database, to track facility locations, types, and relevant components for assessment to improve inspection and maintenance of stormwater facilities
- Developed a Lake Simcoe watershed municipal stormwater management database user guide for inspection and maintenance programs
- Led four municipal working group sessions to support improved low impact development inspection and maintenance planning and execution
- Delivered three full-day courses to municipal and industry practitioners on sustainable infrastructure, low impact development and climate resilience
- Delivered year-three of a fee-for-service stormwater management facilities inspection and maintenance pilot program

## Research and Innovation

Research and Innovation supports and advances management approaches to mitigate human activities that negatively impact the health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. These approaches must be outcome oriented, cost-effective, easy to implement and transferrable.

### 2023 Focus

- Begin implementation of the East Holland River system-wide stormwater management optimization
- Complete inventory and maintenance records in the Lake Simcoe watershed municipal stormwater management database
- Develop and deliver training to support municipal low impact development inspection and maintenance activities using best practices
- Develop and deliver stormwater management inspection and maintenance training to municipal staff
- Continue York Region low impact development co-benefits feasibility study, associated research, and practitioner training sessions

### Outlook

- Stormwater management research and innovation will help position and inform municipalities as they transition to a holistic approach to stormwater management and compliance
- The economic and environmental benefits of subwatershed scale stormwater management provide solid rationale for shared, collaborative municipal stormwater management planning

### Service Pressures

- Finding sustainable external funding to support continued innovations
- Ongoing regulatory changes for municipal stormwater management

### Fast Facts

- Provided inspection and maintenance training to 150+ municipal staff and other stormwater professionals
- We performed stormwater management inspection and maintenance services for 70 stormwater management facilities
- The Sustainable Technologies Evaluation Program Low Impact Development Treatment Train Tool was downloaded 520 times and the Low Impact Development Wiki Guide had 35,819 users in 2022



## Fast Facts

- A recent update to our land cover map, intended to inform subwatershed plan updates, shows that natural heritage cover in the Lake Simcoe watershed increased from 43.6% to 44.4% between 2003 and 2018

## 2022 Achievements

- Continued to coordinate implementation of subwatershed plan recommendations with partners
- Participated in regional and local municipal comprehensive reviews of Official Plans to ensure consistency with subwatershed plans
- Continued the process of modernizing the subwatershed planning program to make it more responsive to new data and municipal planning needs, and to ensure that climate change impact planning is conducted at a subwatershed level
- Began the process of setting subwatershed-scale objectives and targets for watershed health, to guide future subwatershed plan recommendations

## Watershed Planning

Watershed Planning involves identifying stressors affecting watershed health, selecting preferred solutions to address these impacts, and then monitoring progress and adapting plans to achieve desired outcomes. Watershed planning is essential to improving the health of Lake Simcoe and the watershed and is a legislated requirement of several provincial policies, including the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* and Plan.

### 2023 Focus

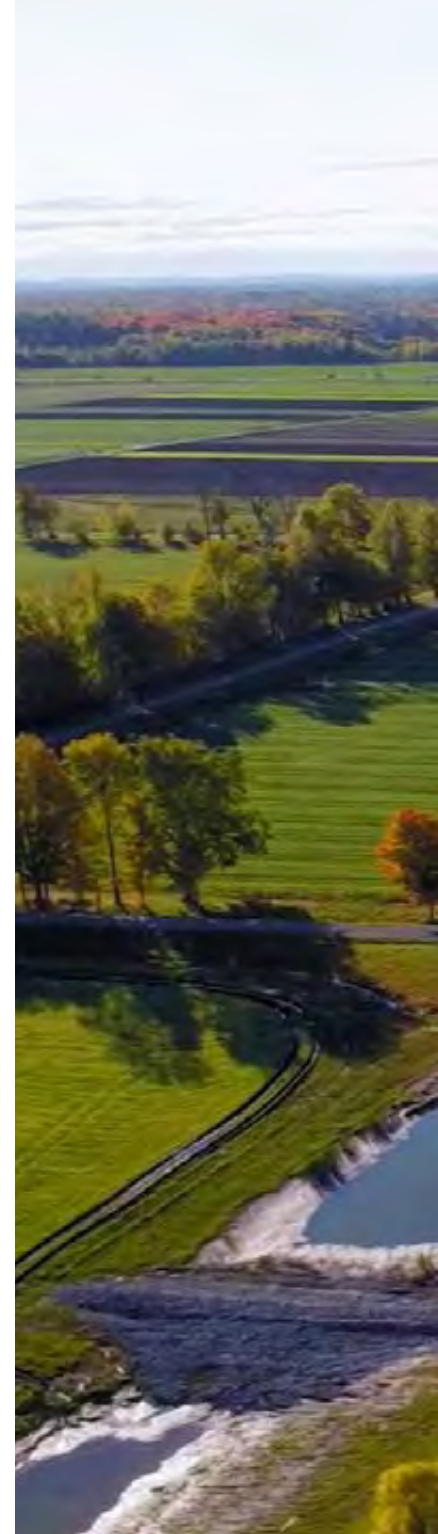
- Finalize development of an online platform and content updates needed to modernize our subwatershed plans
- Confirm environmental goals, set targets, and develop success indicators to better assess progress towards achieving subwatershed plan goals
- Support adoption of recommendations within the winter salt application discussion paper
- Incorporate climate change predictions in subwatershed plans
- Draft a Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy, one of the new provincially mandated programs and services required of Conservation Authorities

### Outlook

- Under the Growth Plan and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, many municipal land use planning and infrastructure planning documents need to be informed by watershed and subwatershed plans. As such, the watershed planning program will continue to provide an important service to member municipalities, the development industry, and continue to be a tool to translate watershed science into land use planning practice

### Service Pressures

- Funding constraints limit our capacity to complete critical studies needed to update and implement modernized subwatershed plans









Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is the leading environmental protection agency in the Lake Simcoe watershed. For over 70 years, we've been collaborating with community, government and other partners to protect and restore the environmental health and quality of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

• 120 Bayview Parkway. Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 3W3 •

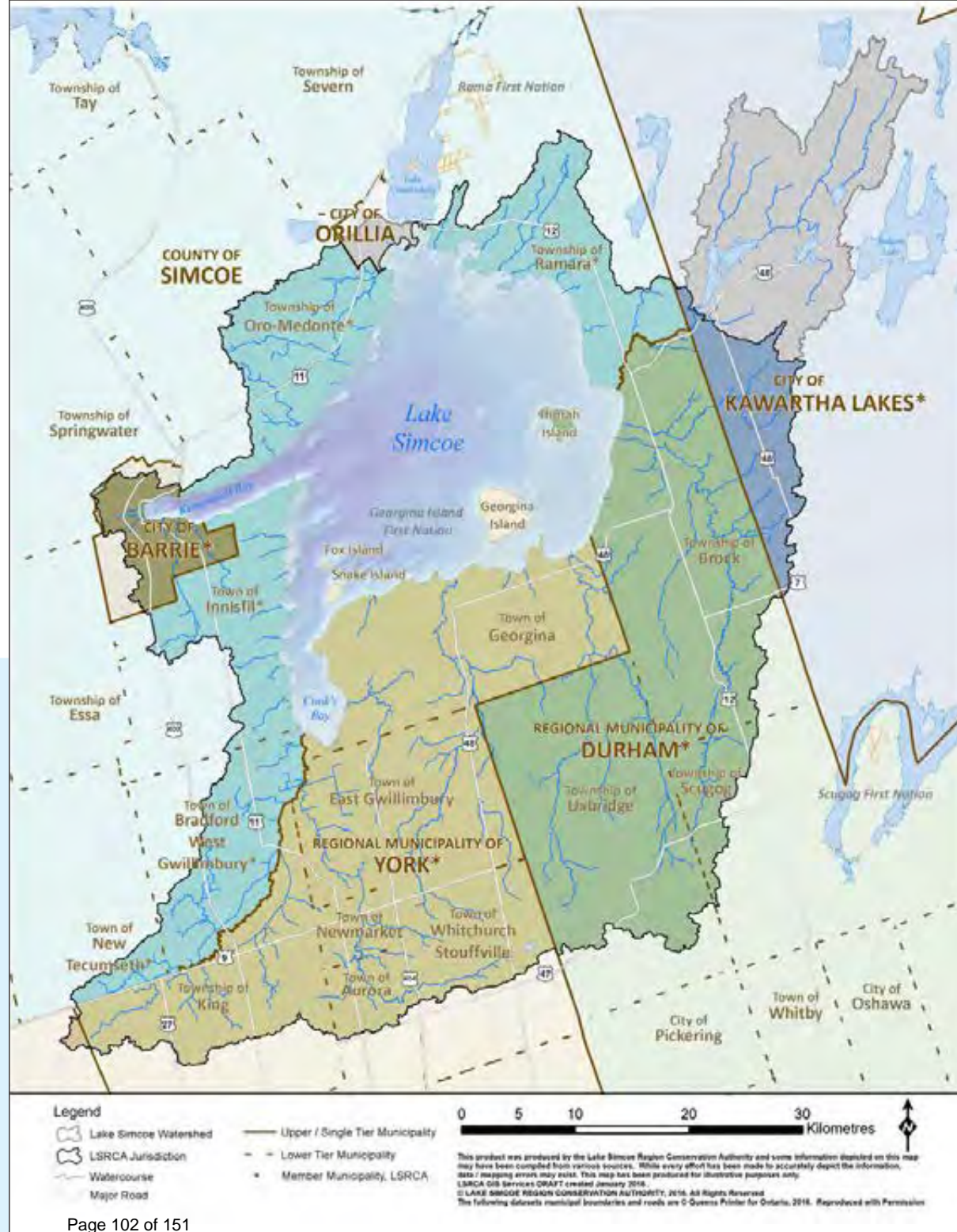
E infomail@LSRCA.on.ca    📧 lakesimcoeconservation  
 T 905-895-1281                🐦 @LSRCA  
 TF 1-800-465-0437           📺 TheLSRCA  
 W LSRCA.on.ca                📘 lakesimcoeconservation

If you require this document in an alternate format, please contact us at 905-895-1281.



Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation (LSCF) is the leading environmental charity in our watershed, raising funds from individuals and organizations for the critical environmental programs and projects of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. It is one of only a few environmental charities nation-wide that has been accredited in Imagine Canada's Standards Program after demonstrating excellence in operations in the charitable sector. Contact them directly for information about how you can support their important fundraising activities.

E foundation@LSRCA.on.ca  
 T 905-895-1281  
 TF 1-800-465-0437  
 W lakesimcoefoundation.ca



## Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Rob Baldwin, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: March 16, 2023

## Subject

Summary Overview Regarding Bill 229

## Recommendation

**That** Staff Report No. 12-23-BOD regarding a summary and overview of Bill 229 be received for information.

## Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 12-23-BOD is to provide the Board with a high-level summary regarding Bill 229 and required changes.

## Background:

On December 8, 2020, the Province approved by royal assent Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020 which included Schedule 6. This approval has already brought forth a slew of amendments and requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act). Multiple Board reports have addressed these matters over the past two years.

A further series of amendments and requirements established through legislation in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 required the creation, consolidation and/or amendment through regulations under the Act. To facilitate the development of these regulations, a Minister's Conservation Authorities Working Group was established and led by former Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Environment), Minister Jeff Yurek.

The Working Group is comprised of Environment staff, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Natural Resources) staff, several representatives from various conservation authorities, Conservation Ontario, BILD, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, municipal and agricultural sectors. The Working Group was chaired by Hassaan Basit, CEO of Conservation Halton. The Conservation Authority's Chief Administrative Officer was fortunate to be invited to be a member of this Working Group and participated since inception. The Working Group is currently not active and there is strong interest from all non-provincial government members to have it reactivated to provide input and guidance on current and future legislation.



## Issues:

### Mandatory Conservation Authority Programs and Services – Category 1

#### Programs and Services Related to Natural Hazards

There has not been significant change in this category. A clear definition and description of this core area has been included. Key highlights are as follows:

- The issuance of S.28 permits remains a mandatory program.
- Continue to provide input into plan review regarding natural hazards in accordance with the Provincial Policy Statement.
- Flood forecasting and warning continue as is.
- Only dams or control structures that are operated for the purposes of flood, low flow augmentation and/or erosion protection are eligible as mandatory. This includes asset management planning, operations, and associated aspects.
- Low water response monitoring and communication remain as is.
- Monitoring, collection and management of information to delineate hazard areas, flood forecasting, development of plans and policies related to hazard protection and management and studying impacts of climate change are mandatory programs.

#### Programs and Services Related to Land Management on Conservation Authority Owned Lands

Broadly speaking there has not been significant change regarding land management other than the consolidation of Conservation Authority specific S.29 regulations into one blanket S.29 Regulation and one key area related to recreation. Key highlights are as follows:

- A conservation authority shall have a strategy for all authority owned or controlled lands.
- A conservation authority shall have a policy for the securement, acquisition and/or disposition of land owned or controlled by the authority.
- A conservation authority shall have a management plan for each property owned by the authority. This could be for several properties together. Multiple parcels of land can be consolidated under one management plan (eg. Beaver River).
- Management and maintenance of authority lands is limited to the protection and maintenance of natural heritage features, monitoring of those features, and other related aspects.
- Each Authority shall develop a detailed land inventory of all land holdings respective the detailed requirements outlined in regulation by the end of 2024.

- Passive recreation and their supporting infrastructure are considered a mandatory program. Active recreation is a non-mandatory program.

#### Programs and Services Related to Source Protection

There is no change to the existing responsibilities occurring to date and they are expected to continue as is at this time.

#### Programs and Services Related to LSRCA activities and services under the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (Plan)

The Conservation Authority is a key public body that assists in the implementation of the Plan in collaboration with various Provincial ministries, municipalities and watershed communities. This mandatory program is unique to this Conservation Authority and expands which activities are mandatory activities. The Province has recognized the key role in several areas in ensuring the effective implementation of the Plan. This is done through the following mechanisms:

- The issuance of S.28 permits is a prescribed instrument of the Plan and therefore must be issued in accordance and compliance with the “Designated Policies” of the Plan.
- The Conservation Authority is a key body in ensuring “Strategic Actions” are informed through science and monitoring.
- The Guide lists an extensive list of activities that are deemed mandatory (core) to ensure the ongoing implementation of the Plan.
- The Programs and Service Inventory included as an attachment to this staff report outlines activities that are considered mandatory under the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

#### Watershed Based Management Strategy

The most basic tenet that conservation authorities were founded on is that they are based on the watershed boundary and not a political boundary. The Working Group had extensive discussions regarding the significance of operating on a watershed context and how all the previously mentioned core programs are driven and implemented from that context.

The watershed-based management strategy is a mandatory requirement with a completion timeline of end of 2024. The Conservation Authority has a long history in developing subwatershed plans. Staff anticipate this strategy to be a synthesis document of work done to date, evaluate stressors and gaps, identify opportunities for future focus, and a be a guiding document in the development of the next Conservation Authority strategic plan.

#### Programs and Services for Provincial Water Quality and Quantity Program

The implementation of the Provincial stream and groundwater monitoring programs are included as a mandatory program. All 36 conservation authorities participate in these programs at varying scales and are critical in the collection of key environmental data related to surface

and ground water across Ontario. The inclusion of this program as mandatory will ensure the long-term viability of this program and will also recognize the significant role the information collected plays in the implementation of the previously mentioned mandatory programs.

### **Programs and Services Undertaken at Request of Municipality – Category 2**

Programs and activities undertaken by a conservation authority which are funded by a member municipality require that an agreement be in place. The agreements must include financial details, termination dates, provisions for early termination or addressing breaches of the agreement, and transparency aspects. These agreements are intended to allow for flexibility and can include multiple municipalities, multiple programs, or services. A prescribed date of January 1, 2024 is established for all municipal agreements to be in place.

The key program and service provided within this category is the provision of development review for member municipalities. This work is undertaken under a specific planning memorandum of understanding on a cost recovery basis.

### **Non-Mandatory Conservation Authority Programs and Services – Category 3**

Conservation authorities across Ontario deliver a broad suite of programs that have been or will now be considered non-mandatory but are critical in effective watershed management and serving the needs of key municipal partners and communities. Some key program and service areas include some aspects of watershed restoration and stewardship, education, tree planting, research and innovation, and active recreation.

### **Transition Plans and Quarterly Reporting**

The regulation requires conservation authorities to develop a detailed transition plan by December 31, 2021 to be provided to the Environment Minister. The transition plan is to include a detailed inventory for both mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services provided, identification of what programs and services require a municipal agreement, and consultation with municipalities.

Each conservation authority is required to submit quarterly reports outlining transition process to date, how key activities have been completed, identifying any issues or concerns, and other pertinent matters.

### **Community Advisory Boards**

Each conservation authority is required to establish a Community Advisory Board (Advisory Board) if deemed necessary. Each conservation authority can develop a Terms of Reference for its Advisory Board reflective of the specific watershed aspects, issues, and circumstances. The Conservation Authority will evaluate the need for a Community Advisory Board in 2024. The government proposes to prescribe the following aspects into the regulation:



- Minimum of 5 members
- Members must reside in the watershed jurisdiction
- Permits members from the general public and should reflect general watershed geography
- Ensuring to recruit youth and indigenous members
- Ensuring a public notification and application process
- Minimum of one authority Board member and one alternate be included
- Administrative support is provided by the authority

The government is prescribing that at a minimum the functions and activities of the Advisory Board in the Terms of Reference will include:

- Provide advice on authority strategic plans, and associated policies, programs and services
- Discuss opportunities to co-ordinate with other environmental initiatives
- Identify opportunities for community engagement and suggest outreach opportunities
- Carry out other functions as describe in the Terms of Reference

### **S.29 Minster's Regulation**

A Minister's regulation is proposed to consolidate the 36 existing individual conservation authority S.29 regulations into one regulation for the management of authority owned lands. The regulation sets out permitted and prohibited activities on authority owned lands and allows for enforcement as required.

### **Municipal Levies Regulation**

Regulations will govern the apportionment of Authority municipal levies (operating expenses and capital costs), as well as budgetary matters in general.

The new municipal levies regulation consolidates the two current levies regulations and adapt the three current methods of apportioning Authority expenses/costs through municipal levy into the new categories of Authority programs and services:

- modified current property value assessment method
- by agreement between the Authority and a municipality
- as determined by the total benefit afforded to all the municipalities and the proportion of the benefit afforded to each of the municipalities

The new regulation will carry forward existing voting methods (i.e. the 'one member, one vote' and 'weighted vote'). A new requirement for the Conservation Authority will be a vote on the

levy for activities under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* as these costs include both member and specified municipalities.

### **Minister's Regulation for Determining Amounts Owed by Specified Municipalities**

Provisions in the Act allow the Conservation Authority to levy participating municipalities and specified municipalities for mandatory programs (Category 1) and services related to the Conservation Authority's responsibilities under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*. A specified municipality is a municipality designated by regulation but outside a conservation authority's area of jurisdiction (i.e., City of Orillia).

This regulation identifies the specified municipalities and identifies the methods available to the Conservation Authority to determine the costs specified municipalities may need to pay. The process for specified municipalities on levies under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* uses the current levy process and budget process for participating municipalities under the *Conservation Authorities Act* using the modified current value assessment method.

### **Minister's List of Classes of Programs and Services for which a Conservation Authority May Charge a Fee**

The Conservation Authority may only charge fees for services approved by the Minister. The current list is set out in the provincial Policies and Procedures for the Charging of Conservation Authority Fees (June 13, 1997).

Provisions of the Act will be proclaimed allowing the Minister to determine a list of 'classes of programs and services' an authority may charge a fee for, publish the list, and distribute it to each authority. Authorities would be permitted to charge a fee for a program or service only if it is set out in the Minister's list of classes of programs and services. Once an authority is granted the power to charge a fee for a program and service, the conservation authority may determine the fee amount to charge. These provisions will also require authorities to publish a fee policy and schedule, as well as a maintain a policy to reconsider a fee at the request of an applicant.

As previously outlined to the Board in February 2023, a Minister's regulation was established, O.Reg.596/22, and included a fee freeze for the 2023 business year.

### **Increased Transparency of Conservation Authority Operations**

Conservation authorities are required to maintain a governance section on their website where the following information is consolidated:

- Conservation authority members with contact information;
- Administrative by-laws;
- Draft and final budgets;

- Agreements with municipalities; and
- Board of Directors' meeting schedule.

#### **Governance:**

As of February 2, 2021, the Board of Directors must be composed of 70 percent (70%) elected municipal officials. Each member municipality must appoint members of Council equal to, or greater than 70 percent. For example, if a municipality appoints three members, they may not appoint a citizen representative as appointing two members of council would only constitute 66 percent. Under this rule, only York Region would have the ability to appoint a non-elected individual to the Board of Directors.

The Board may make a request to the Minister for an exemption from the above-prescribed governance direction. The 70 percent rule begins as new members are appointed going forward. Presently there is no issue with this Conservation Authority's membership.

The Minister at his/her discretion may appoint an agricultural representative to the Board of Directors. If an agricultural representative is appointment, that member is ineligible to vote on the following matters:

- Resolution to enlarge an authority's jurisdiction;
- Resolution to amalgamate an authority with another authority;
- Resolution to dissolve an authority; and
- Any resolutions related to budgetary matters.

#### **Terms of Chair and Vice Chair:**

The Chair and Vice Chair shall hold office for a term of one year and shall serve for no more than two consecutive terms.

An authority shall appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs from among the members appointed by each participating municipality on a rotating basis so as to ensure that a member appointed to the authority by a particular municipality may not be appointed to succeed an outgoing Chair or Vice Chair appointed to the authority by the same participating municipality.

Upon application from a conservation authority, the Minister may make exception and allow the appointment of Chair and/or Vice Chair to be extended beyond the limit of two consecutive terms and make exception to allow the appointment for Chair and/or Vice Chair to be from the same municipality as the departing Chair or Vice Chair.

#### **Municipal Member Agreements:**

The Authority shall provide to the Minister no later than April 3, 2021 any agreements that outline or establish the number of members from each participating municipality.



The Authority Board was consolidated at the request of the Minister of Natural Resources in the early 1990's. Staff provided the Minister with a detailed overview of the history of membership, expansions, board consolidation, and other pertinent information.

#### **Accounting Practice:**

Conservation authorities must use generally accepted accounting principles for local government and ensure that key conservation authority documents are made available to the public (i.e., minutes of authority or executive committee meetings, auditor reports) following proclamation of these provisions on February 2, 2021.

The Conservation Authority is already in full compliance with this requirement.

#### **Minister's Powers:**

The Minister has been provided with two new distinct powers under the Conservation Authorities Act as part of these recent proclamations. The first allows the Minister to issue a binding directive to an Authority following an investigation. The second allows the Minister to appoint a temporary administrator to assume control of a conservation authority's operations following an investigation or the issuance of a binding directive, if the directive is not followed. Immunity is provided for the administrator.

#### **Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:**

The changes to the Act and subsequent regulations will require the Conservation Authority's Administrative By-Laws to be amended to ensure consistency and compliance. A review and edit of the by-laws will occur, and updated by-laws will be brought to the Board at a future date for consideration. Staff are taking the approach to ensure a fulsome review of the Conservation Authority's Administrative By-Laws and bring forward a complete package for review and adoption instead of an ongoing piecemeal approach.

All Conservation Authority activities are undertaken fully respective of provincial legislation and regulation, as well as Conservation Authority policy.

#### **Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:**

The current 2023 fiscal year is a significant transition year. The changes to mandatory programs, requirements for cost apportioning agreements, and other substantive changes clearly require a detailed and focused budget and financial transition.

The Conservation Authority is unique with the provision of Lake Simcoe Protection Plan activities being a mandatory program. In general, most Conservation Authority programs and services are considered Category 1 and funded through mandatory levy. The detailed impacts and/or implications to Conservation Authority finances will be the focus of this transition as the

2024 budget is developed. Considerable attention and Board review will be brought to this matter as required in 2023.

### **Summary and Recommendations:**

This summary provides a general overview of the substantial changes and requirements outlined in Bill 229 and supporting regulation. There is substantial work required to address every requirement with the key focus on transition in 2023 as January 1, 2024 is a mandatory date for implementation of all financial and budget related aspects.

This is a significant time of change for conservation authorities, just as it is for municipalities. Staff are following a transition plan and are in regular consultation with member and specified municipalities regarding the changes to ensure a smooth transition.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 12-23-BOD regarding a summary and overview of Bill 229 be received for information.

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **Attachment**

- i. Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Programs and Services Inventory – March 2023



**Lake Simcoe Region**  
conservation authority

## **Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**

### **Programs and Services Inventory**

*Conservation Authorities Act*

Ontario Regulation 686/21

Updated March 2023



## **Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority**

### **Programs and Services Inventory – Supporting Information**

#### **Lake Simcoe Protection Plan**

The province has included activities under the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (Plan) delivered fully, in partnership with the province, in partnership with municipalities and/or in support of the Plan as Category 1 (Mandatory) Programs for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (Authority). Traditionally many of these activities are supported through transfer agreements with Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry) and through direct municipal funding for activities such as subwatershed planning and monitoring.

All applicable activities regarding the Plan have been included in a summary category providing the estimate of full Plan program delivery. Further review and refinement of Authority activities as they relate to Plan mandatory programs will continue as part of the transition process.

Applicable activities include core areas such as:

- Nearshore and lake monitoring and research
- Tributary biological and water quality and quantity monitoring
- Stormwater performance monitoring, research, and management options
- Climate change
- Subwatershed planning
- Contaminant reduction with focus on salt

#### **Source Protection Program**

The included budget information for the Source Protection Program only includes the direct budget/s expended by the Authority. The amount does not include the transfer of funds as the lead to our partner organizations of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Severn Sound Environmental Association. These funds are provided 100% by the province through transfer payment and agreement with Ministry. The Authority does not provide any services on behalf of our municipal partners, such as Risk Management Officer.

#### **Assumptions used for Enabling Program Services**

- a. Overhead costs have been removed from the direct program costs and left under the enabling services to ensure they are not double counted.
- b. All capital budget dollars have been removed this exercise as they would skew the 5-year average numbers with irregular expenditures.

- c. As this exercise used budget numbers, many projects have a budget that spans multiple years. If budgeted work was not completed in one year, it is added to the next year. Caution should be exercised before adding all the years together.
- d. Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation is a separate entity, and therefore the program was excluded from the Authority's list of programs and services.
- e. The 2022 Budget numbers were included to provide context into the most recent expenditure levels for each program and service.
- f. The best estimate of the funding percentage is based on the 2022 Budget, which is still be finalized.

## Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

### Programs and Services Inventory List – Updated March 2023

Program/Service	Description	Legislated Relevance	Category (1,2,3)	Source of Funding	Average Budget (2018-2022)	2022 Budget
<b>Natural Hazard Management</b>						
Section 28.1 Permit Administration	Reviewing and processing permit applications, associated technical reports, site inspections, communication with applicants, agents, and consultants.	Reg. 686/21 s.8	1, 2	Levy (16%) Fees (75%) Municipal support for enforcement (1%) Service level agreements with municipalities (8%)	\$1,338,000	\$1,591,000
Review under Other Legislation	Input to the review and approval processes under other applicable law, with comments principally related to natural hazards, wetlands, watercourses and Section 28 permit requirements.	Reg. 686/21 s.6	1	General Levy (100%)	\$56,000	\$66,000
Municipal Plan Input and Review	Technical information and advice to municipalities on circulated municipal land use planning applications (Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, Subdivisions, Consents, Minor Variances). Input to municipal land-use planning documents (Official Plans, Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw, Secondary plans) related to natural	Reg. 686/21 s.7  CAA s.21.1.1  Reg.596/22	1, 2	Levy (2%) Fees (91%) Service level agreements with municipalities (7%)	\$1,703,000	\$2,025,000



Program/Service	Description	Legislated Relevance	Category (1,2,3)	Source of Funding	Average Budget (2018-2022)	2022 Budget
	<p>hazards, on behalf of Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (delegated to conservation authorities in 1983)</p> <p>Recent approval of O.Reg.596/22 details prescribed acts under which the Authority may not make comment on. These changes only impact services supported through user fees.</p>					
Flood Forecasting and Warning (Includes low water response)	Daily data collection and monitoring of weather forecasts, provincial & local water level forecasts and watershed conditions. Flood event forecasting. Flood warning and communications. Maintenance of equipment.	Reg. 686/21 s.2  Reg. 686/21 s.3	1	Levy (16%) Provincial funding (5%) Special Capital (77%) Other (2%)	\$311,000	\$367,000
Natural Hazards Technical Studies, Communications, Outreach, Education and Information Management	Data collection and study of designs to mitigate natural hazards. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide spatial geographical representations of data. Promoting public awareness. Public events. Social media. Media relations.	Reg. 686/21 s.5(1)1  Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1, 2	General Levy (3%) Provincial Funding (7%) Special Capital (81%) Fees (9%)	\$103,000	\$123,000

<b>Program/Service</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Legislated Relevance</b>	<b>Category (1,2,3)</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Average Budget (2018-2022)</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Natural Heritage	Natural heritage monitoring, plans/strategies, and system design	Reg. 686/21 s.8  CAA s.21.1.1	1 2	General Levy (5%) Special Capital (93%) Provincial Funding (2%)	\$103,000	\$123,000
Stormwater Environmental Compliance Approval Review	The Authority can provide this service as outlined in O.Reg.596/22.	Reg.596/22			n/a	n/a
<b>Conservation Authority Lands</b>						
Strategies and Management Plans for conservation authority owned and/or managed lands	Development and implementation of land acquisition and disposition strategies. Acquisition of priority lands as per Authority Board approved Land Acquisition Strategy - focusing on lands for protection and restoration opportunities. Development and implementation of management plans that provide conservation area specific guiding principles, goals, and objectives. Development and implementation of conservation area visitor experience initiatives including signage strategy, parking and access enhancements, amenity upgrades, etc.	Reg. 686/21 s.9  CAA s.21.1.2	1, 2, 3	General Levy (51%) Special Capital (41%) Self-Generated Revenue (1%) Municipal Request/Support (7%) Corporate Grants (as occur) Foundation Support (as occur)	\$388,000	\$435,000

<b>Program/Service</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Legislated Relevance</b>	<b>Category (1,2,3)</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Average Budget (2018-2022)</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Management, operation and maintenance of conservation authority owned and/or managed lands including Section 29 Minister's regulation for Conservation Areas	Day-to-day management, operation and maintenance of conservation authority owned lands - includes property maintenance and upkeep, conservation area enforcement/compliance, trail development and upkeep, hazard tree inspections and mitigation, seasonal park closures, stewardship and restoration, ecological monitoring, etc.	Reg. 686/21 s.9  CAA s.21.1.2	1, 2, 3	General Levy (23%) Special Capital (37%) Municipal Request/ Support (36%) Fees (4%)	\$542,000	\$537,000
Management, operation and maintenance of the Authority owned and/or managed facilities and assets	Day-to-day management, operations and maintenance of all the Authority owned and/or managed facilities and assets (vehicles, equipment, etc.). This includes facility renovations, vehicle/equipment acquisitions, health and safety enhancements, etc.	Reg. 686/21 s.9  CAA s.21.1.2	Enabling Service 1, 3	General Levy (36%) Special Capital (25%) Self-Generated Revenue (8%) Overhead (31%)	\$668,000	\$640,000
Afforestation	Planting of trees and shrubs across the watershed to increase forest and canopy cover to address flood protection, climate change and natural heritage objectives.	CAA s.21.1.1  CAA s.21.1.2	2, 3	Municipal Request/ Support (18%) Self-Generated Revenue (82%) Corporate Grants Private landowners	\$172,000	\$205,000



<b>Program/Service</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Legislated Relevance</b>	<b>Category (1,2,3)</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Average Budget (2018-2022)</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Forest Management	Implementation of best forest management practices that contribute to watershed and community health and protect and enhance forest cover.	CAA s.21.1.1	2	Municipal Request/Support (100%)	\$140,000	\$128,000
Forest Research	In partnership with municipal and other partners, assessment of forest and canopy cover and development of plans and strategies to inform forest management activities	CAA s.21.1.1	2	Municipal Request/Support – typically one off projects	\$45,000	\$82,000
<b>Lake Simcoe Protection Plan</b>						
Lake Simcoe Protection Plan delivery and support where the Authority identified as lead, supporting and/or collaborating body.	Lead and support Plan policies directing science and research, ecosystem monitoring, watershed planning, climate change, land use mapping, improved management practices, including stormwater management and winter salt management and other required monitoring, management, and research activities.	Reg. 686/21 s.13	1,2	Levy (70%) Provincial funding (23%) Other funding (7%)	\$2,309,000	\$2,747,000

Program/Service	Description	Legislated Relevance	Category (1,2,3)	Source of Funding	Average Budget (2018-2022)	2022 Budget
<b>Water Quality &amp; Quantity Monitoring</b>						
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network	A long-standing (50+ year) conservation authority/Provincial Ministry partnership for stream water quality monitoring. conservation authority takes water samples; Ministry does lab analysis and data management.	Reg. 686/21 s.12	1	Municipal (levy) (100%) and Provincial in-kind	\$29,000	\$34,000
Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network	A long-standing (20+ year) conservation authority/Provincial Ministry partnership for groundwater level and quality monitoring. conservation authority maintains equipment, data transfer to the Ministry, water sampling; Ministry provides equipment, standards, data management.	Reg. 686/21 s.12	1	Municipal (levy) (100%) and Provincial in-kind	\$44,000	\$50,000
Municipal services - infrastructure protection, stormwater management performances, environmental monitoring	Assessing level of risk to York Region infrastructure due to stream erosion processes. Performance, inspection and prioritization, monitoring, maintenance and linear Environmental Compliance Approval support. Additional flow and receiver monitoring on behalf of municipalities.	CAA s.21.1.1	2	Municipal Memorandum of Understanding (85%), Special Capital (15%)	\$273,000	\$419,000

Program/Service	Description	Legislated Relevance	Category (1,2,3)	Source of Funding	Average Budget (2018-2022)	2022 Budget
<b>Core Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy</b>						
Strategy Development	Collate/compile existing resource management plans, watershed plans, studies and data. Strategy development, Implementation and annual reporting  This specific activity begins as of 2023.	Reg. 686/21 s.12(4)	1	Draw from Reserve	N/A	\$50,000 - \$75,000  Note: Work scheduled to commence in 2023.
<b>Watershed Stewardship and Restoration</b>						
Watershed Stewardship and Restoration (Urban, rural & Agriculture)	Manage external funding, promote private land stewardship, outreach, provide advice and design assistance to property owners. Delivery of restoration, infrastructure protection and stormwater management projects, implement offsetting projects and other related restoration projects.	Reg. 686/21 s.8  CAA s.21.1.1  CAA s.21.1.1	1, 2, 3	Offsetting revenue (7%) Special Capital (62%) Foundation (31%) Provincial (as occurs) Federal (as occurs)	\$1,600,000	\$1,902,000



Program/Service	Description	Legislated Relevance	Category (1,2,3)	Source of Funding	Average Budget (2018-2022)	2022 Budget
<b>Enabling Program Services</b>						
Corporate Services includes Human Resources, Legal and Financial Services	Administrative, Human Resources, financial operating and capital costs which are not directly related to the delivery of any specific program or service but are the overhead and support costs of a conservation authority. Accounting and payroll	Enabling Service	1, 2, 3	General Levy (46%) Special Capital (7%) Self-Generated Revenue (11%) Overhead for staff in Fee-based programs (35%)	\$1,802,000	\$2,084,000
Communications and Marketing	Provides strategic corporate and program communications and marketing oversight, develops and implements a broad range of initiatives to inform, influence, and motivate partners and the public to support the work of the Authority, drives participation in programs and promotes products and services	Enabling Service  CAA s.21.1.1  CAA s.21.1.2	1, 2, 3	General Levy (55%) Special Capital (18%) Overhead for staff in Fee-based programs (27%)	\$767,000	\$860,000
Governance	Supporting conservation authority Boards, Advisory Committees, Office of Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Management	Enabling Service	1	General Levy (78%) Special Capital (9%) Overhead for staff in Fee-based programs (13%)	\$381,000	\$388,000
Asset Management	Asset management planning, facilities & property management	Enabling Service	1	General Levy (100%)	\$265,000	\$500,000

Program/Service	Description	Legislated Relevance	Category (1,2,3)	Source of Funding	Average Budget (2018-2022)	2022 Budget
Information Technology Management and / GIS	Data management, records retention. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide spatial geographical representations of data.	Enabling Service  CAA s.21.1.1  CAA s.21.1.2	1, 2, 3	General Levy (42%) Special Capital (18%) Self-Generated Revenue (1%) Overhead for staff in Fee-based programs (39%)	\$1,240,000	\$1,332,000
<b>Source Water Protection</b>						
Administer South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Source Water Protection program	Following activities identified in draft consultation document. 1) Administration of the prescribed composition of the source protection committee and administrative support to source protection committees; 2) Preparing amendments to assessment reports and source protection plans; 3) Implementing source protection plan policies 4) Tracking and reporting on the progress of source protection plan implementation 5) Maintaining and providing access to source protection data and information	Reg. 686/21 s.13	1	Provincial funding (100%)	\$322,000	\$492,000

Program/Service	Description	Legislated Relevance	Category (1,2,3)	Source of Funding	Average Budget (2018-2022)	2022 Budget
<b>Education</b>						
School and Community Programming	<p>Provincial curriculum-connected, experiential and engaging programs and services for students and teachers from kindergarten to grade 12.</p> <p>Programmed learning opportunities for children, youth and adults, enhancing participants' connections to the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed in areas where they live, learn, work and play.</p>	CAA s.21.1.2	3	General Levy (49%) Self-Generated Revenue - Contractual Obligations with School Boards (24%) Self-Generated - Overhead (9%) Foundation Support & Other External Grants (17%)	\$603,000	\$614,000

## Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Ashlea Brown, Director, Development Services and Dave Ruggle, Manager Planning

Date: March 14, 2023

### Subject:

Monitoring Report – Planning and Development Applications for the Period January 1 through December 31, 2022

### Recommendation:

**That** Staff Report No. 13-23-BOD regarding monitoring of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2022 be received for information.

### Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 13-23-BOD is to update the Board of Directors on the progress of planning and development applications made under the *Planning Act* (Planning Approvals), the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Permits), *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act* (Environmental Compliance Approvals for Stormwater Management) submitted to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for the period January 1 through December 31, 2022.

### Background

A summary of the total number of applications for this period is shown in the attached Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. These tables summarize the number of applications received by application type and by municipality, as well as the number of pre-consultations, non-application technical reviews, and general inquiries. The type of applications reviewed and processed are statutory requirements under the following legislation:

#### *Planning Act* (Table 1)

- Official Plans, Secondary Plans, Community Plans and Amendments
- Comprehensive Zoning By-Laws and Amendments
- Consent and Minor Variance Applications
- Plans of Subdivision and Condominium
- Site Plan Applications



#### *Conservation Authorities Act* (Tables 2 and 3)

- Section 28 Permit Applications
- Public Information Requests (PIR)
- Site Clearances
- Solicitor Inquiries

#### Other Legislation (Table 2)

- Undertakings in accordance with the *Environmental Assessment Act*

#### Environmental Compliance Approvals (Table 4)

- Environmental Compliance Approval Applications in accordance with the Conservation Authority's Transfer of Review Agreements with York Region, Durham Region, and the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

To provide a comparison, the attached Tables 5, 6, 7 and 8 summarize the total number of planning and development applications and inquiries for the period January 1 through December 31, 2021, as well as the number of Environmental Compliance Approval Applications reviewed.

Tables 1 and 5 also provide the number of non-application technical reviews, peer reviews and pre-consultation reviews which were carried out in 2022 and 2021.

#### **Planning Act and Environmental Compliance Approval Applications**

In general, the total number of applications reviewed under the *Planning Act* as of December 31, 2022, decreased by 12% from the total number of applications reviewed in 2021.

Environmental Compliance approvals also decreased by 43% from 2021.

There are a few important elements to look at in this review, including:

1. As noted above, there was a 43% decrease in Environmental Compliance applications. There has been a continual decline since the uptake of Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Environmental Compliance Approvals. As a result of the recent amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* through Bill 23 and the subsequent release of Ontario Regulation 596/22, the Conservation Authority will no longer be providing transfer of review services.
2. Generally, the previous two years saw an increase in minor variances and site plans associated with existing residential development such as additions, pools etc. In preparing the 2022 budget staff assumed a reduction in application submissions resulting from inflation and interest rates increases. Overall, this assumption was correct with Site Plan and Minor Variance applications, as well as pre-consultations and site visits declining by an average of 17% in 2022.

### *Conservation Authorities Act (Permits)*

The Conservation Authority also experienced a decline in the number of permit applications received under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The total number of applications submitted under Section 28 (including legal inquiries) in 2022 was 1,198. This is an 18% decrease from the number of applications received in 2021.

Tables 3 and 7 summarize the general inquiries regarding the Regulation and/or permitting for 2022 and 2021 respectively. Regulations staff responded to 3,782 inquiries, a 36% decrease from 2021. The Regulations analysts continue to provide responses to inquiries through email, telephone, or video conferencing, and the Planning counter has been re-opened for walk in inquiries. In 2022 there were less than 50 walk-in inquiries; however, it is anticipated this will increase in 2023 as the public begin to return to more traditional practices.

In accordance with the Conservation Authority's Client Service Strategy, permit timelines are tracked and reported on annually through two standards. The first is the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry's 'Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting timelines, and the second is the Conservation Ontario's Client Service Standards timelines. Timelines for permit issuance range from 14 to 28 days in accordance with the Client Service Standards, and 30 to 90 days in accordance with the Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting timelines.

In 2022, the Conservation Authority met 94% of the Ministry's timelines for permit issuance and 92% of Conservation Ontario's timelines. The average number of days for permit issuance was 10. Timelines not met can be attributed to a few factors including the complexity of files and the need for multiple technical reviews. In cases where minor timelines were missed, it was by a few days and was attributed to staff vacation schedules. Attachment 2 provides a summary of the timelines.

### **Issues**

The statistics presented in the attached tables do not provide any indication of the complexity of applications. It has been reported in the past that many of the new development applications are being proposed on lands that have previously been overlooked due to the constraints associated with them. Conservation Authority staff continue to highlight this as it has been identified as an increasing challenge every year. Additionally, the increasing pressures of shorter review and approval timelines have added layers of intricacy to many larger development applications that are reviewed.

### **Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy**

Client service and satisfaction is an important guiding principle in the Conservation Authority's Strategic Plan 2022-2024. Senior staff have continued to work with Conservation Ontario, as

well as industry partners, to identify opportunities to further streamline plan and permit review processes to facilitate more timely approvals. Monitoring the number of applications processed by the Conservation Authority is an important step in ensuring customer service targets can be met.

### **Impact on Conservation Authority Finances**

As Plan Review and Permit Review are carried out on a fee for service principle, the decline in applications can negatively impact the budget. Continued monitoring of application numbers is important to understand staffing requirements of the departments and to assess revenue generation against the approved budget.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

It is therefore **Recommended that** Staff Report No. 13-23-BOD regarding monitoring of planning and development applications for the period January 1 through December 31, 2022 be received for information.

### **Pre-Submission Review**

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Development, Engineering and Restoration and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Glenn MacMillan  
General Manager, Development,  
Engineering and Restoration

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **Attachments:**

1. Tables 1, 2, 3, 4 – Summary of Planning, Regulations and ECA Program Statistics - Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2022
2. Tables 5, 6, 7, 8 – Summary of Planning, Regulations and ECA Program Statistics - Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2021
3. Permit Timelines Report 2022

**Table #1**

Summary of Planning Program Statistics January 1-December 31, 2022 - Review of Applications under the Planning Act																						
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	City of Orillia	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham					Region of York					Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	Township of Essa	Total Number of Applications by Type	
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville				Region of York
Official Plans, Official Plan Amendments	0	0	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	0	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	24
Official Plan Amendment/Zoning Bylaw	0	0	13	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	5	2	0	0	0	30
Official Plan Amendment/Zoning Bylaw/Site Plan	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Official Plan Amendment/Zoning Bylaw/Subdivision	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	11
Site Visits	0	0	3	1	3	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	4	3	7	2	3	9	0	0	0	42
Zoning By-laws, Min.	0	0	7	5	4	0	1	2	1	0	4	0	0	4	9	2	1	2	0	0	0	42
Zoning By-laws, Major	0	0	9	2	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	29
Plans of Subdivision, Plans of Condominium	0	0	8	3	2	0	2	1	2	0	5	0	0	4	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	36
Subdivision Request for Extension/Greater than 3 Submis./Redline	0	0	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Site Plans	0	0	21	12	18	0	5	0	3	1	3	0	31	19	7	30	17	10	0	0	0	177
Consents/MV Minor	0	0	15	13	8	0	34	15	17	0	17	0	12	10	27	3	6	19	0	1	0	197
Consents/MV Major	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	15
Peer Review	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Tech Review/ Special Studies	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	18
Preconsultation	4	0	63	26	37	1	15	5	11	1	12	0	28	25	38	28	28	40	1	1	0	364
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1006</b>



Table #2

Summary of Regulations Program Statistics January 1-December 31, 2022 - Review of Applications under the Conservation Authorities Act and Environmental Assessment Act																						
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	City of Orillia	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham				Region of York						Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	Total Number of Applications by Type		
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville			Region of York	
Section 28 Applications	13	0	63	36	142	2	85	92	33	0	32	5	34	60	175	42	20	21	14	0	0	869
Legal Inquiries	0	1	17	9	9	0	7	3	7	0	11	0	17	11	26	5	10	7	0	0	0	140
Site Clearances	2	0	17	14	34	3	3	3	2	2	5	0	12	15	34	14	6	7	0	0	0	173
Environmental Assessment Undertakings	0	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	16
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1198</b>	

Table #3

Summary of Regulations Program Customer Service Statistics January 1 - December 31, 2022																						
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	Outside of Watershed & General	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham				Region of York						Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	General	Total Number of Applications by Type	
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville				Region of York
Calls / Emails	38	17	85	75	301	3	124	167	128	10	158	0	57	260	616	115	83	74	0	3	46	2360
Counter Visits	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	7	0	0	4	0	1	10	11	5	2	2	0	0	0	48
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2408</b>

**Table #4**

Summary of Environmental Compliance Approval Program Statistics January 1-December 31, 2022 - Transfer of Review - Applications under the Ontario Water Resources Act																						
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	City of Orillia	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham				Region of York						Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	Township of Essa	Total Number of Applications by Type	
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville				Region of York
Major ECA Stormwater Works >5ha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Major Stormwater Conveyance System	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Minor Stormwater <2h and Conveyance System	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Moderate ECA Stormwater Works 2ha to 5ha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

**Table #5**

Summary of Planning Program Statistics January 1 - December 31, 2021 - Review of Applications under the Planning Act																						
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	City of Orillia	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham				Region of York						Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	Township of Essa	Total Number of Applications by Type	
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville				Region of York
Official Plans, Official Plan Amendments	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	7	0	2	0	6	6	1	2	0	34
Site Visits	0	0	7	1	8	0	3	2	2	0	1	0	9	6	13	4	5	0	0	0	0	61
Zoning By-laws, Zoning By-law Amendments	1	0	20	9	10	1	1	0	3	0	9	0	8	7	13	5	12	4	0	3	0	106
Plans of Subdivision, Plans of Condominium	0	0	10	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	5	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	36
Site Plans	0	0	28	14	11	0	10	2	6	0	1	0	23	19	13	22	14	19	0	0	0	182
Consents	1	0	5	2	9	2	12	3	9	0	10	0	5	0	11	4	1	3	0	0	0	77
Minor Variances	5	1	5	9	9	0	34	12	7	0	3	0	17	14	30	3	6	15	0	0	0	170
Peer Review	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tech Review/ Special Studies	0	0	10	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19
Preconsultation	8	0	86	29	39	2	14	3	17	2	13	0	44	35	60	18	40	51	0	0	1	462
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1148</b>

Table #6

Summary of Regulations Program Statistics January 1-December 31, 2021 - Review of Applications under the Conservation Authorities Act and Environmental Assessment Act																					
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	City of Orillia	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham				Region of York						Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	Total Number of Applications by Type	
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville			Region of York
Section 28 Applications	7	0	75	28	205	1	100	122	51	1	40		45	72	197	69	37	24		0	1074
Legal Inquiries	2	0	40	16	44	2	1	8	3	0	10	0	19	17	19	18	19	5	0	0	223
Site Clearances	1	0	22	8	21	2	3	6	1	1	4	0	6	28	20	12	7	1	0	0	143
Environmental Assessment Undertakings	0	1	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	19
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1459</b>

Table #7

Summary of Regulations Program Customer Service Statistics January 1 - December 31, 2021																						
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	Outside of Watershed & General	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham				Region of York						Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	General	Total Number of Applications by Type	
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville				Region of York
Calls / Emails	64	88	162	116	521	31	158	250	180	11	304	0	107	269	1000	231	115	100	0	1	74	3782
Counter Visits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3782</b>

Table #8

Summary of Environmental Compliance Approval Program Statistics January 1-December 31, 2021 - Transfer of Review - Applications under the Ontario Water Resources Act																					
Application Type	City of Kawartha Lakes	City of Orillia	City of Barrie	County of Simcoe					Region of Durham				Region of York						Region of Peel (Incl Caledon)	Total Number of Applications by Type	
				Bradford West Gwillimbury	Innisfil	New Tecumseth	Oro-Medonte	Ramara	Brock	Scugog	Uxbridge	Region of Durham	Aurora	East Gwillimbury	Georgina	King	Newmarket	Whitchurch-Stouffville			Region of York
Major ECA Stormwater Works >5ha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Major Stormwater Conveyance System	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minor Stormwater <2h and Conveyance System	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Moderate ECA Stormwater Works 2ha to 5ha	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total Number of Applications by Municipality</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>



Calc	Number of Permits Issued <b>Within</b> Policy and Procedure Timeline		Number of Permits Issued <b>Outside</b> of Policy and Procedure Timeline		Reason for Variance from Policy and Procedure (Optional)				
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Minor			
	425	338	42	2					
CO	Number of Permits Issued <b>Within</b> CO Timeline			Number of Permits Issued <b>Outside</b> of CO Timeline			Reasons for Variance from Guidelines (Optional)		
	Major	Minor	Routine	Major	Minor	Routine	Major	Minor	Routine
	417	174	149	41	11	15	Complex studies with multiple back and forth with consultants.		Miss due to staff days off timelines missed by a few days

## Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Rob Baldwin, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: March 16, 2023

### **Subject:**

*Conservation Authorities Act* Transition - Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 for March 2023

### **Recommendation:**

**That** Staff Report No. 14-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 be received; and

**Further that** the March 2023 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 4 be approved for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

### **Purpose of this Staff Report:**

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 14-23-BOD is to update the Board of Directors on the status of the *Conservation Authority Act* transition, as well as to seek approval to submit the fourth mandatory quarterly update to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

### **Background:**

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (the Ministry) implemented the first phase of *Conservation Authorities Act* regulations in October 2021. The regulations require each conservation authority to have a transition plan in place by December 31, 2021 and to create an inventory of programs and services by February 28, 2022. These documents initiate consultations with member municipalities prior to the Transition Date of January 1, 2024.

The Programs and Services Inventory approved by the Board on February 25, 2022 lists the programs and services that the Conservation Authority currently delivers and intends to deliver in the future. Staff circulated the Inventory to member municipalities, and the Ministry held a municipal presentation regarding the Inventory on February 24, 2022.

Regulations require the provision of quarterly updates to the Ministry as consultations take place and the Programs and Services Inventory is refined. Six quarterly reports are to be submitted as follows: in 2022 - July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>; and in 2023 - January 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and October 1<sup>st</sup>. With the recent notification of the change to the Ministry responsible for

the administration of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, the remaining reports will be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, hereinafter referred to as the Ministry.

The reports are required to include:

1. Any comments or other feedback submitted by a municipality regarding the inventory;
2. A summary of any changes that the conservation authority has made to the inventory to address comments or other feedback referred to in clause 1;
3. An update on the progress of negotiations of cost apportioning agreements with the participating municipalities;
4. An outline of any difficulties that the conservation authority is experiencing that might affect its ability to conclude any cost apportioning agreements with one or more participating municipalities by the transition date.

The fourth progress report is attached for the Board's consideration and provides an update on the requirements, as well as other relevant legislative mandatory requirements.

## **Issues**

The primary issues at the time of this report are the direct and indirect impacts of Bill 23 on Conservation Authority business and activities performed on behalf of member municipalities. There are substantial changes regarding the Conservation Authority's role in providing development review services, which are currently unclear. Considerable work has been ongoing as part of the transformation required under Bill 229 and the supporting regulations. Much of this work may have been completed in vain.

## **Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:**

This report and the quarterly update are consistent with legislative requirements and Conservation Authority policy.

## **Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:**

There is currently no direct impact on Conservation Authority finances. Any potential or future financial impacts will be identified as they arise.

## **Summary and Recommendations:**

This report is the fourth of a series of mandatory quarterly reports required under regulation to be provided to the Ministry. This report also provides the Board with a quarterly update as the Conservation Authority goes through the significant transition process moving towards the critical January 1, 2024 conclusion date for most requirements.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. No. 14-23-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 be received; and **Further That** the March 2023 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 4 be approved for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Attachments:**

- i) Conservation Authority Quarterly Progress Report No. 4 – March 2023



## Conservation Authority

### Quarterly Progress Report No. 4

March 2023

#### 1. Engagement with Member Municipalities

- In-person meetings with all member municipalities have occurred and a full slate of meetings to review the Cost Apportionment Agreements will be occurring through spring 2023:
- Initiated discussions with several municipalities regarding Bill 23 and any potential impacts or changes occurring as a result. Some key highlights:
  - Held a virtual session for all municipal CAOs and senior staff outlining the changes and impacts associated with O.Reg.596/22
  - Prepared a table outlining what development review services the Conservation Authority will continue to provide with a supporting map. This has been circulated to all municipalities and adjacent conservation authorities.
  - Held a virtual session for BILD and OHBA members outlining the changes and impacts associated with O.Reg.596/22.
  - Included reference to Bill 23 and O.Reg.596/22 in any municipal budget presentation.
- All municipal discussions have been positive, and all have expressed continued appreciation for ongoing dialogue as this process occurs.
- All municipalities have expressed their direct support for the Conservation Authority and for the continuation of existing Conservation Authority programs and services.

#### 2. Summary of Changes to Program and Services Inventory

- The only primary change is a preliminary budget estimate to complete the Watershed Based Management Plan, which has been established at \$75,000.
- The funding for this activity will be provided through a draw of the Conservation Authority's rate stabilization reserve and/or deferred revenue as this is a one-time cost.
- The considerable amount of work to date on subwatershed planning and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan results in this being a relatively simple exercise for the Conservation Authority.

### **3. Update on cost apportioning / service agreements with participating municipalities**

- A draft cost apportioning agreement has been completed. Discussions with member municipalities are occurring currently. Staff have set a goal to establish and sign all agreements for member municipalities through the end of July and sign any required agreements with non-member municipalities through the end of September 2023.
- Staff have been reviewing existing funding agreements with municipalities that may require a cost apportioning agreement.
- Discussions with municipalities will be ongoing for programs and services requiring cost apportioning agreements.
- An extension for 2023 of the York Region service level agreement has been agreed upon and is currently being signed.
- Bill 23 requires changes to Planning Agreements with member municipalities. A revised Planning Agreement has been completed and meetings are ongoing with member municipalities.

### **4. Difficulties affecting the establishment of cost apportioning agreements with participating municipalities.**

- Bill 23 and O.Reg.596/022 will result in some financial impacts, but full details and understanding cannot be provided at this time.

## Status Update on Various Mandatory Requirements

Activity Area	Current Status	Ongoing or Next Steps
Information Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% compliant with mandatory information requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing maintenance and posting of agreements as required</li> </ul>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exception request for Chair and Vice-Chair being submitted</li> <li>Meetings have occurred with specified municipalities with no issues raised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of current bylaws to identify any amendments</li> <li>Bring forward bylaw amendments in 2023</li> <li>Develop Board protocol / process for meetings when specified municipalities are required to participate</li> </ul>
Conservation Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Securement Strategy Complete</li> <li>Land Disposition Strategy Complete</li> <li>Various Conservation Area management plans complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review requirements outlined in Bill 23 and begin the process to include additional information as required</li> </ul>
Watershed Management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All subwatershed plans are complete and have a process for updating.</li> <li>Meeting with MECP staff has occurred and clear direction has been established.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Terms of Reference has been completed and initial work has commenced.</li> <li>Formal budget line item of \$75,000 identified for a reserve draw or deferred revenue.</li> </ul>
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertook a detailed and comprehensive fee review in 2021 with external consulting using standard municipal costing practices</li> <li>New fee scheduled was implemented in 2022</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fee adjustment based on cost-of-living adjustment being considered by the Board at the December 2022 meeting for implementation by year end.</li> <li>Fees will remain frozen for 2023.</li> </ul>



# DRAFT

## Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Plan Review Roles

Bill 23 & Ontario Regulation 596/22

January 10, 2023

**Lead agency within each area is marked with “CA” for Conservation Authority or “M” where Municipality is the lead.**



Areas of Interest/Features	Settlement Areas	Within ORM	Within Greenbelt	Outside of Settlement, ORM and Greenbelt	Policy Context
<b>Natural Hazards</b>					O. Reg 686/21 Sections 7 & 8
Watercourses (including channel realignments)	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3 CA Act 21.1 & 28
Flooding (Riverine and Lake)	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3 CA Act 21.1 & 28
Erosion	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3 CA Act 21.1 & 28
Slope Stability (Valley Lands/shoreline slopes, etc.)	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3 CA Act 21.1 & 28
Lake Simcoe Shoreline Hazards	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3 CA Act 21.1 & 28
Wetlands	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3 CA Act 21.1 & 28
Unstable Soils/Bedrock	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3 CA Act 21.1 & 28
<b>Natural Heritage</b>	* Established prior to July* 2009				O. Reg 686/21 Section 15 (LSPP)
Significant Wildlife Habitat	* M CA in settlement areas established after 2009	M	M	M	*LSPP 6.42 aggregate operations would be applicable CA to comment
Threatened/Endangered Species	M	M	M	M	*LSPP 6.42 aggregate operations T.E.S would be applicable CA to comment

Areas of Interest/Features	Settlement Areas	Within ORM	Within Greenbelt	Outside of Settlement, ORM and Greenbelt	Policy Context
Significant Woodlands	* M CA in settlement areas established after 2009	M	M	CA	LSPP 6.20-6.29
Significant Valleylands	* M CA in settlement areas established after 2009	M	M	CA	6.20 DP -6.29 & Natural Hazards
Wetlands	* M CA in settlement areas established after 2009	CA *hazard only	C *hazard only	CA	6.20 DP -6.29 DP
Fish Habitat	M	M	M	* CA in relation to 6.11 DP	*6.11
MVPZ's	* M CA in settlement areas established after 2009	M CA *Along the shoreline CA 6.2 -6.7	M *Along the shoreline 6.2 – 6.7 CA	CA	6.1 DP- 6.7 DP; 6.8 DP-6.13 DP; 6.20 DP-6.29 DP
Feature Based Water Balance	* M CA in settlement areas established after 2009	M	M	CA	LSPP 6.11 DP a; 6.40 DP *in recharge or ESGRA
<b>Stormwater Management</b>					
Water Quality	CA	CA	CA	CA	4.8 DP *for major development
Water Quantity (flooding) and Erosion Control	CA	CA	CA	CA	PPS Section 3, CA Act and 4.8 LSPP *major development
Water Balance	CA	CA	CA	CA	4.8 LSPP *major development

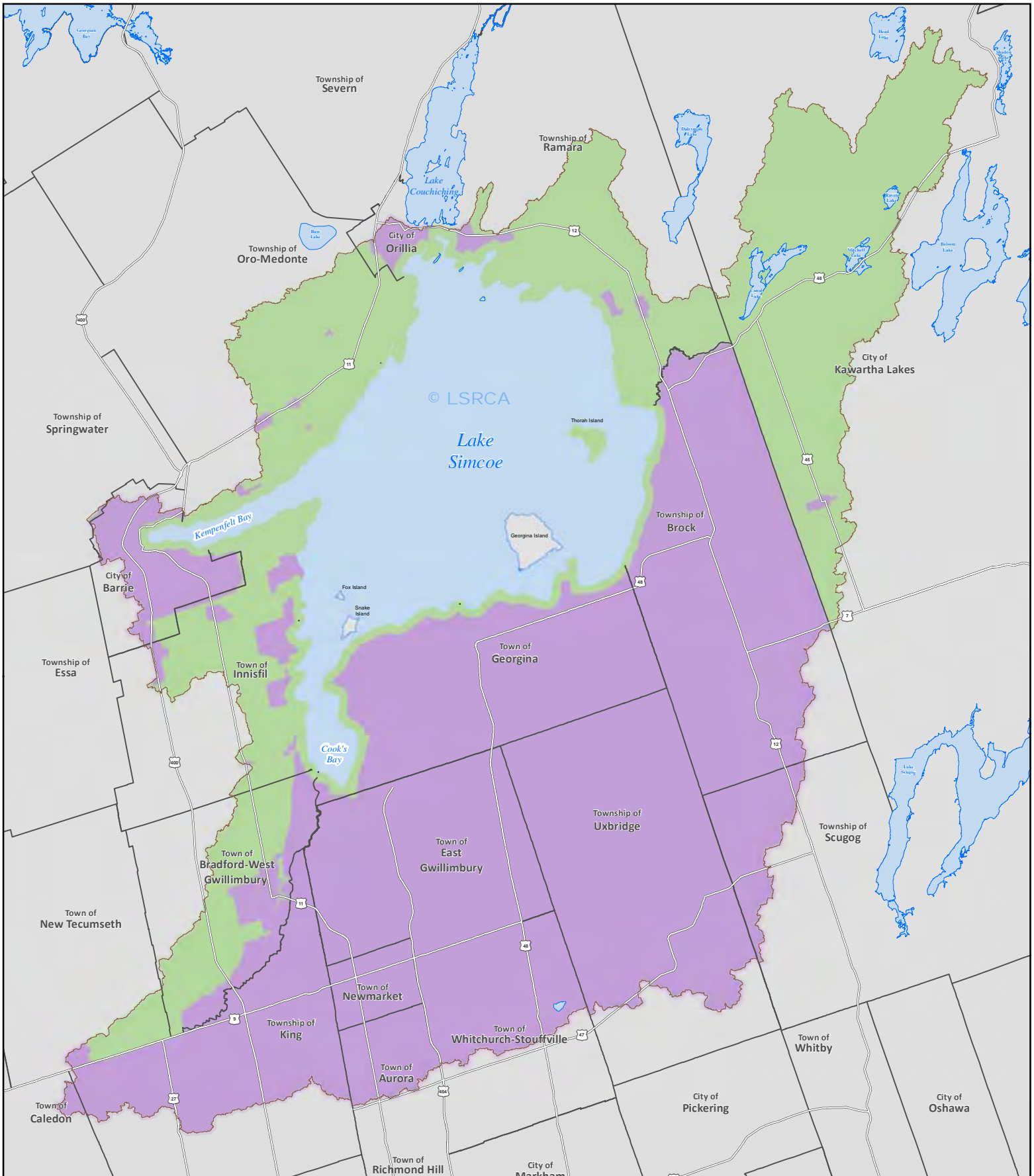
Areas of Interest/Features	Settlement Areas	Within ORM	Within Greenbelt	Outside of Settlement, ORM and Greenbelt	Policy Context
<b>Other</b>					
Erosion and Sediment Control (within regulated area)	CA	CA	CA	CA	Natural Hazards
Erosion and Sediment Control (outside regulated area)	M	M	M	M	
Sewage Treatment/Septic	CA *4.15 only	CA *4.15 only	CA * 4.15 only	CA	LSPP 4.15 DP; 6.40 DP
Hydro-G/Water Balance	CA	N/A in LSPP but covered off in WHPA Q-2	CA	CA	LSPP 6.40 DP *major development
<b>Source Water Protection</b>					O. Reg 686/21 Mandatory Program and Service
Hydro G/Water Balance	CA	CA	CA	CA	WHPA Q-2; LUP 12 Source Water Protection Plan
<b>ECA's</b>	M	M	M	M	CA no longer able to enter into agreement under The Ontario Water Resources Act

\* Note proposals under the *Aggregate Resources Act*; *Drainage Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act* can be circulated for comments related to natural hazard and LSPP as per O. Reg 686/21 Sections 6 and 15.

### Transition Plan

Any application in which the Conservation Authority received 1<sup>st</sup> submission and provided comments prior to January 1, 2023 will continue to be reviewed in the context of the Conservation Authority's current MOUs.

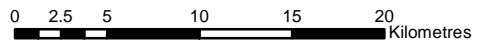
Any application received after January 1, 2023 or any application that did not get reviewed by the Conservation Authority prior to January 1, 2023 will be reviewed in the context of the current legislation.



## DRAFT - LSRCA Natural Heritage Review Areas

### Legend

-  Lower Tier Municipality
-  Municipal lead for review
-  LSRCA lead for review
-  Major Highway





## Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Rob Baldwin, CAO

Date: March 14, 2023

### Subject:

Requirement for Exception Request under Section 17(1.3) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the Current Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for 2023

### Recommendation:

**That** Staff Report No. 15-23-BOD regarding the requirement for an exception request for the current Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for 2023 be received; and

**Further That** the Board of Directors Request the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to grant an exception under Section 17(1.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act for Chair Wayne Emmerson and Vice-Chair Peter Ferragine to continue in their Board roles for 2023.

### Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 15-23-BOD is to seek a Board resolution formally requesting an exception for the current Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors to continue in their respective roles for 2023 in accordance with Section 17(1.3) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Act).

### Background:

One of the governance changes as part of the legislative requirements outlined in Bill 229 is the tenure of Chair/s and Vice-Chair/s of conservation authorities. The general intent of Section 17 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* is to increase the opportunity for members across the Conservation Authority membership to be Chair and/or Vice-Chair and to limit tenure to two years. A tenure of more than two years can occur with the Minister's approval for an exception. Therefore, an exception request and subsequent approval of the Minister is required.

### Issues:

There are no issues with the request, and the rationale for the exception request is as follows:

- At the Conservation Authority's Annual General Meeting in January 2023, nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for 2023 were called for on three occasions, with only one nomination coming forward for each position. No other members expressed interest or

intent to hold the position of Chair or Vice-Chair for the 2023 fiscal. Accordingly, both the Chair and Vice-Chair were acclaimed for 2023.

- The continuation of the current Chair and Vice-Chair allows for significant continuity during the first year of the current municipal term of Council with several new Board members.
- The Conservation Authority's Chair represents York Region, and the Vice-Chair represents the Town Bradford West Gwillimbury, which ensures representatives from two different and distinct member municipalities.
- The continuity of Chair and Vice-Chair has ensured stability over the past years and the current year, while significant navigation through the *Conservation Authorities Act* transition has occurred. This has been incredibly valuable to the Conservation Authority.

The above listed rationale clearly outlines the justification for both requesting of and granting of an exception by the Minister under S.17 of the Act.

### **Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:**

The current Chair and Vice-Chair were elected in accordance with Conservation Authority policy and bylaws at its Annual General Meeting held on January 27, 2023.

### **Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:**

There is no impact on Conservation Authority finances associated with this request.

### **Summary and Recommendations:**

Continuing with current Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023 is the simply and most logical approach and will provide for a smooth transition for the Conservation Authority with several new Board members resulting from the 2022 Municipal Election.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 15-23-BOD regarding the requirement for an exception request for the current Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for 2023 be received; and **Further That** the Board of Directors Request the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to grant an exception under Section 17(1.3) of the Conservation Authorities Act for Chair Wayne Emmerson and Vice-Chair Peter Ferragine to continue in their Board roles for 2023.

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer

### **Attachments**

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry letter of March 9, 2023

Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry

Office of the Minister

99 Wellesley Street West  
Room 6630, Whitney Block  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: 416-314-2301

Ministère des Richesses  
naturelles et des Forêts

Bureau du ministre

99, rue Wellesley Ouest  
Bureau 6630, Edifice Whitney  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tél.: 416 314-2301



354-2022-1033

March 9, 2023

Wayne Emmerson, Chair  
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
[regional.chair@york.ca](mailto:regional.chair@york.ca)

Rob Baldwin, CAO  
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
[r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:r.baldwin@lsrca.on.ca)

Dear Wayne Emmerson and Rob Baldwin:

Thank you for your application submitted on June 28, 2022, on behalf of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) seeking a Minister's exception under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) relating to chair and vice-chair appointments for the 2022 term, which has recently concluded.

I expect that for the 2023 term, the LSRCA has taken the necessary steps to ensure compliance with the requirements of subsections 17(1.1) and 17(1.2) with regards to the appointment of a new chair and vice-chair. It is important to uphold the intent of these requirements, which is to provide for varying perspectives in a conservation authority's leadership roles. This includes encouraging fuller representation from participating municipalities in a conservation authority.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Graydon Smith".

The Honourable Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Craig Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Division  
Jennifer Keyes, Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch  
Conservation Authority Office

## Staff Report

To: Board of Directors

From: Kristen Yemm, Director, Communications and Community Engagement

Date: March 14, 2023

### Subject

2023 Conservation Awards Program and Ceremony

### Recommendation

**That** Staff Report No. 16-23-BOD regarding the 2023 Conservation Awards Program and Ceremony be received for information.

### Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of Staff Report No. 16-23-BOD to inform the Board of Directors about the details of this year's Conservation Awards Ceremony, to be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at the NewRoads Performing Arts Centre in Newmarket.

### Background:

The Conservation Authority's Conservation Awards Program has been celebrating environmental success stories throughout the Lake Simcoe watershed for 41 years. The program recognizes and celebrates the efforts of individuals and groups who are actively working to improve the watershed environment.

This year, the Conservation Authority seeks nominations for award recipients for the following award categories:

- **Healthy Water:** The Healthy Water Award is presented to individuals and groups who have completed a project that improves, supports, or protects water quality in the Lake Simcoe watershed. Projects may include stormwater management, water conservation, streambank and shoreline restoration or stabilization, low impact development techniques and source water protection.
- **Healthy Land:** The Healthy Land award celebrates improvement projects that help to support and protect natural heritage features including woodlands, wetlands and their functions, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and ecological restoration, soil erosion, and trail development.
- **Healthy Community:** The Healthy Community Award celebrates individuals or groups in our watershed who have completed a project that increases community connections and engagement through events, fairs, and festivals; tree plantings; clean-ups and community



programs. It also acknowledges significant traditional media or social media coverage, delivery of innovative environmental programs or services, as well as sharing knowledge and information through campaigns.

- **Ernie Crossland Young Conservationist Award:** This award is presented to individuals 30 years of age or younger, or a group with participants who are 30 years or under, who are involved in a significant leadership role in a conservation project or with a conservation-based group or organization.
- **George R. Richardson Award of Honour:** The George R. Richardson award is the Conservation Authority's most coveted award, and is presented to one recipient only, to honour and recognize lifetime or significant environmental achievement.

#### **Timeline for 2023 Conservation Awards Ceremony:**

This year's awards ceremony will be held on the evening of Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at the NewRoads Performing Arts Centre, Newmarket. This date provides staff with the necessary time to plan and implement a successful Conservation Awards Program in relation to the following timeline:

- April 5, 2023 – Nominations Open
- June 2, 2023 – Nominations Close
- June 9, 2023 – Staff Review Committee meets to review nominations
- June 23, 2023 – Board of Directors' Meeting
  - Board of Directors select George R. Richardson Award of Honour recipient
  - Board of Directors receive Staff Review Committee selections for recipients in all other award categories
- October 10, 2023: Conservation Awards Ceremony at the NewRoads Performing Arts Centre in Newmarket

#### **Relevance to Conservation Authority Policy:**

The Conservation Awards Program supports the Conservation Authority's mission to collaborate to protect and restore the Lake Simcoe watershed with innovative research, policy and action. The awards program celebrates effort and inspires and motivates others to get involved and support the work of the Conservation Authority. It strengthens community connections and relationships and promotes opportunities to improve the health the Lake Simcoe watershed.

#### **Impact on Conservation Authority Finances:**

The Conservation Awards Program and ceremony is an annual budget item within Corporate Communications. Forecasted expenditures for 2023 are maintained at the same level consistent over the past ten years.

### Summary and Recommendations:

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 16-23-BOD regarding the 2023 Conservation Awards Program and Ceremony be received for information.

### Pre-Submission Review:

Prepared by: Katarina Zeppieri, Event and Marketing Specialist

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the Director, Communications and Engagement and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Kristen Yemm  
Director, Communications and Community  
Engagement

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin  
Chief Administrative Officer