

## Board Meeting Highlights

September 23, 2022

### Announcements:

- a) CAO Baldwin was pleased to introduce, and in some cases re-introduce, the Conservation Authority's new General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management, Don Goodyear. Board members welcomed Don, who most recently worked for York Region, but was a Conservation Authority employee prior to that.
- b) CAO Baldwin paid tribute to a former employee, Tom Hogenbirk, who recently passed away. Tom was a 26-year employee, who retired as the Director, Engineering in October 2019.
- c) CAO Baldwin advised that Conservation Ontario's new General Manager, Angela Coleman, started September 19<sup>th</sup> replacing Kim Gavine who retired at the end of June. Angela, who is also lawyer, comes from South Nation Conservation Authority, where she was the General Manager.
- d) CAO Baldwin reminded Board members that the Annual Conservation Awards Ceremony is being held on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> @ Newmarket Old Town Hall and staff look forward to returning to an in-person event.

### Presentations:

#### a) Land Use Change in the Lake Simcoe Watershed – 2003 to 2018

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided a presentation on land use change in the Lake Simcoe Watershed, noting that the Conservation Authority has recently completed an update to its watershed-wide landcover map, which was created in 2003 and is updated on a 5-year cycle, matching the 5-year cycle with which the Province captures a full set of aerial photographs over the watershed. He explained that the mapping is developed by categorizing the various land uses and features, the results of which is extremely detailed mapping that is used in many program areas.

With mapping now available for 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018, the rate of change within the watershed may now be quantified. One notable change in the watershed from 2003 to 2018 is the extent of impervious areas increased from 3.4% to 4.7% due to the increase in parking lots, housing and commercial services as populations have increased. Another notable change in the watershed between 2003 and 2018 is an increase in natural heritage cover from 43.6% to 44.4%. This increase can be attributed to effective protection of natural heritage features that occur on the landscape, restoration projects to increase the extent of forests and wetlands, as

well as the process of natural succession (i.e. forests beginning to emerge on their own in areas left unmanaged). Natural succession explains much of the increase presumably due to shifts in agricultural practices, and perhaps due to changes in land ownership and delays in development caused by the economic slow down in the early 2000s. It should be noted that the Province's Lake Simcoe Protection Plan has a more restrictive definition of natural heritage feature than that used by the Conservation Authority. Provincial planning policy tends to exclude those early successional habitats from the definition of natural heritage feature. Even within their more restrictive definition, an increase from 33% to 34% has been observed, as some early successional features and restoration sites have matured to become true forests.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Land Use Change in the Lake Simcoe Watershed from 2003-2018](#)

#### **b) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project**

Acting Director, Human Resources, Alyse Cullen, provided a presentation on the Conservation Authority's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project, noting that the Conservation Authority is committed to an inclusive workplace that values, respects, and embraces diversity, so everyone can achieve their full potential.

She explained that to date, steps the Conservation Authority has taken include: participating as a member of the Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group, endorsing the York Region Inclusion Charter in June 2018; engaging the services of Taneja Consulting Inc. and S.M.D. Consulting Inc. to develop a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Roadmap; and initiating Phase 1 of the project to create a framework for the roadmap. Project deliverables to date include a review of organizational Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging practices; a confidential staff survey exploring the themes of corporate culture and a sense of belonging, demographics and workplace practices; and the creation of a small staff working group to analyze survey results and assist with the development of focus group questions.

She went on to note that next steps include small focus group meetings with employees hosted by the consultants to expand on the survey results and provide recommendations for moving forward.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging](#)

## **Correspondence and Staff Reports:**

### **Correspondence**

- a) The Board received the August 30, 2022 email from Ministry of Natural Resources regarding new Ministry responsible for administering the Conservation Authorities Act; and
- b) The Board received the September 12, 2022 email from Ministry of Natural Resources regarding webinar sessions to answer questions on the new Conservation Authorities Act regulations, policy and implementation.

### **Land Use Change in the Lake Simcoe Watershed – 2003 to 2018**

The Board received Staff Report No. 35-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's land cover monitoring and a summary of key trends in land use change.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project**

The Board received Staff Report No. 36-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Project be received for information.

### **Conservation Authorities Act Transition - Quarterly Progress Report No. 2 for September 2022**

The Board received Staff Report No. 37-22-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress Report No. 2 and approved September 2022 Conservation Authority Transition Quarterly Progress No. 2 for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

### **Delegation of Signing Authority for Minor and Routine Development Applications made pursuant to Ontario Regulation 179/06**

The Board received Staff Report No. 38-22-BOD regarding the delegation of signing authority for minor and routine development applications made pursuant to Ontario Regulation 179/06. The Board approved the delegation of authorization for the Coordinator, Permitting and Coordinator, Infrastructure Permitting to approve both minor and routine development permissions under Ontario Regulation 179/06, as well as the updating of signing authorization for permitting to reflect title changes for the positions of General Manager, Development, Engineering and Restoration; Director, Development Services; and Manager, Planning.

### **Progress Report: Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area Campaign and Project**

The Board received Staff Report No. 39-22-BOD regarding an update on the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area campaign and project.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit [LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage](#).