



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, January 9, 2026

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Lina DeChellis, Director of Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives

DATE: January 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Physician Recruitment Incentive – Dr. Adedeji Makanjuola

I'm pleased to inform Council that Dr. Adedeji Makanjuola has chosen Welland for his family practice and is practicing at Crowland Medical Clinic located at 390 Crowland Avenue. Dr. Makanjuola is currently accepting new patients. If you know of anyone looking for a family physician, they can become a patient by calling 289-414-1015.

City staff have been working closely with the Region's Physician Recruitment Specialist and have been successful in attracting 17 new family physicians since the approval of the Physician Recruitment Incentive in June 2023.



Legal and Legislative Services

December 16, 2025

Melanie Davis, Manager, Office of the CAO and Board
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
3350 Merrittville Hwy., Unit 9
Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6

Dear Ms. Davis:

Re: Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of December 15, 2025 received and supported your correspondence dated December 5, 2025 regarding the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's position on the Regional Consideration of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.

A copy of your correspondence dated December 5, 2025, is attached.

Trusting this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Peter Todd,
Manager, Legislative Services / Town Clerk

ptodd@forterie.ca

PT:dlk

Encl.

c.c. Local Area Municipalities

Mailing Address:

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1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

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townshipofmachar.ca

Res End

Dec 23, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

premier@ontario.ca

Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Dear Premier Doug Ford,

We're in receipt of correspondence dated Nov 19, 2025 from the Town of Kingsville, regarding the opposition to proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities. The Council of the Township of Machar passed the following Resolution at their Regular meeting Dec 15, 2025.

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990 (the "Act"), originally enacted in 1946, was established to allow municipalities to form conservation authorities that are equipped to develop and deliver local, watershed-based conservation, restoration and natural resource management programs on behalf of the province and municipalities;

AND WHEREAS there are thirty-six (36) conservation authorities in Ontario, each of which is distinct and reflects the unique environmental, geographic and community needs of its watershed;

AND WHEREAS on October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation which would amend the Act to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven (7) regional conservation authorities.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Machar wishes to formally state that it opposes the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities without knowing the full financial and operational impact to municipalities and the conservation authorities.

Sincerely,

Angela Loney
Clerk Administrator

cc: Town of Kingsville atoole@kingsville.ca

73 Municipal Rd N, PO Box 70, South River, ON P0A 1X0

Phone 705-386-7741 Fax 705-386-0765



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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58 Dalhousie St.,
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Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Sent via email
clerks@brantford.ca

December 24, 2025

RE: Correspondence from David Miller regarding Elbows Up for Climate Action Letter

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on November 26, 2025, passed the following resolution:

THAT Council support the correspondence from C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy regarding Elbows Up for Climate Action; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to send a copy of this resolution to all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

CC:

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

of Gillies <gillies@gilliestownship.com>; Township of Manitouwadge <mhartling@manitouwadge.ca>; Township of Nipigon <cao@nipigon.net>; Township of O'Connor <twpoconn@tbaytel.net>; Township of Red Rock <cao@redrocktownship.com>; Township of Schreiber <cao@schreiber.ca>; Township of Terrace Bay <cao@terracebay.ca>; Municipality of Charlton and Dack <info@charltonanddack.com>; Town of Cobalt <cobalt@cobalt.ca>; Town of Englehart <mrobinson@englehart.ca>; Town of Kirkland Lake <clerk@tkl.ca>; Town of Latchford <jallen@latchford.ca>; Township of Armstrong <amyvickerymenard@armstrong.ca>; Township of Brethour <brethour@parolink.net>; Township of Casey <lise_chhk@parolink.net>; Township of Chamberlain <info@chamberlaintownship.com>; Township of Coleman <toc@colemantownship.ca>; Township of Evanturel <clerk@evanturel.com>; Township of Gauthier <diannesayer3@hotmail.com>; Township of Harley <admin@harley.ca>; Township of Harris <harris@parolink.net>; Township of Hilliard <twphill@parolink.net>; Township of Hudson <admin@hudson.ca>; Township of James <elklake@ntl.sympatico.ca>; Township of Kerns <admin@kerns.ca>; Township of Larder Lake <info@larderlake.ca>; Township of Matachewan <clerktreasurer@matachewan.ca>; Township of McGarry <treasure@ntl.sympatico.ca>; City of Oshawa <clerks@oshawa.ca>; City of Pickering <clerks@pickering.ca>; Durham Region <clerks@durham.ca>; Municipality of Clarington <clerks@clarington.net>; Town of Ajax <clerks@ajax.ca>; Town of Whitby <clerk@whitby.ca>; Township of Brock <clerks@brock.ca>; Township of Scugog <clerks@scugog.ca>; Township of Uxbridge <dleroux@uxbridge.ca>; City of Burlington <clerks@burlington.ca>; Halton Region <regionalclerk@halton.ca>; Town of Halton Hills <valeriep@haltonhills.ca>; Town of Milton <townclerk@milton.ca>; Town of Oakville <townclerk@oakville.ca>; City of Niagara Falls <clerk@niagarafalls.ca>; City of Port Colborne <cityclerk@portcolborne.ca>; City of St. Catharines <clerks@stcatharines.ca>; City of Thorold <clerk@thorold.com>; City of Welland <clerk@welland.ca>; Niagara Region <clerk@niagararegion.ca>; Town of Fort Erie <clerk@forterie.ca>; Town of Grimsby <skim@grimsby.ca>; Town of Lincoln <clerks@lincoln.ca>; Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake <clerks@notl.com>; Town of Pelham <clerks@pelham.ca>; Township of Wainfleet <mciuffetelli@wainfleet.ca>; Township of West Lincoln <jdyson@westlincoln.ca>; City of Brampton <cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca>; City of Mississauga <city.clerk@mississauga.ca>; Peel Region <regional.clerk@peelregion.ca>; Town of Caledon <Nathan.Hyde@caledon.ca>; City of Cambridge <clerks@cambridge.ca>; City of Kitchener <clerks@kitchener.ca>; City of Waterloo <clerkinfo@waterloo.ca>; Region-Waterloo <regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca>; Township of Wellesley <gkosch@wellesley.ca>; Township of Wilmot <clerks@wilmot.ca>; Township of Woolwich <jsmith@woolwich.ca>; City of Markham <clerks@markham.ca>; City of



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

Richmond Hill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>; City of Vaughan <clerks@vaughan.ca>; Town of East Gwillimbury <clerks@eastgwillimbury.ca>; Town of Georgina <clerks@georgina.ca>; Town of Newmarket <clerks@newmarket.ca>; Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville <clerks@townofws.ca>; Township of King <clerks@king.ca>; York Region <regional.clerk@york.ca>; Council Secretariat <clerks@aurora.ca>; Municipality of Dutton Dunwich <tkretschmer@duttondunwich.on.ca>; Township of Faraday <clerk@faraday.ca>; Township of Moonbeam <bgravel@moonbeam.ca>; Township of Pickle Lake <townclerk@picklelake.org>; Municipality of South Dundas <clebrun@southdundas.com>; Township of Hornepayne <deputyclerk@hornepayne.ca>; Township of Chapleau <cao@chapleau.ca>; Township of Oro-Medonte <yaubichon@oro-medonte.ca>; Grey County <Tara.Warder@grey.ca>; Village of Thornloe <thornloe@outlook.com>; Township of Tay <lmckay@tay.ca>; Municipality of Central Manitoulin <ddeforge@centralmanitoulin.ca>; Township of Adjala-Tosorontio <clerk@adjtos.ca>; Township of Nairn & Hyman <melaniebilodeau@nairncentre.ca>; Township of Athens <athens@myhighspeed.ca>; Municipality of Trent Lakes <clerk@trentlakes.ca>; Township of North Kawartha <c.parent@northkawartha.ca>;

Elbows Up For Climate Action

An open letter from Canada's local leaders

Messrs. Blanchet, Carney, Pedneault, Poilievre, Singh, and Ms. May:

We are mayors and councillors from across Canada, where we represent and serve millions of residents of all political backgrounds. Like so many of you, we are already feeling the effects of U.S. trade attacks in our communities through lost jobs, uncertainty for businesses, and increased costs of daily living.

Increasingly, we are also guiding our communities through another kind of crisis: recurring wildfires, floods, storms and deadly climate events. **We believe this is the moment for Canada to fight back, by investing in national projects that will connect and protect our country from the dual threats of tariffs and climate change.**

Leading through a climate emergency changes you. You can't witness elderly neighbours overheating in low-income apartments during a heat wave, and not recognize the critical role of well-insulated, affordable housing. You can't comfort people who have lost everything in floods and fires, and not wonder how we will afford to rebuild. You can't watch your kids and loved ones choke on toxic wildfire smoke without **knowing the time to act boldly on climate change is right now – because later is too late.**

Over the past decade, we've watched wildfires rip through nearly every part of our country. Just like you, we were stunned when Lytton disappeared off the map. Then parts of Halifax went up in flames. Last year, wildfires engulfed the iconic and beloved Jasper. What's next? Who's next?

We can't keep watching our homes, towns and forests burn to a crisp, and pretend the status quo is working or safe. We can't adapt our way out of this problem.

It is time for us to get to work. We are proposing five bold and achievable ideas the next federal government can implement as soon as it is elected, to tariff-proof our economy and create a jobs boom in every community:

- **create a national East-West-North clean electric grid**, delivering affordable energy to urban, rural and Indigenous communities across the country;
- **build a national high-speed rail network**, and extend it with locally-made electric buses to reach every community in this country;
- **build at least two million non-market, energy-efficient homes**, creating more affordable, transit-linked communities;
- **make our homes and buildings warmer in winter, cooler in summer** with retrofits and heat pump installations across the country, that will cut energy bills and pollution;
- **.... and fund a national resilience, response and recovery strategy** so our communities can prepare for the climate disasters we know are coming, respond when they hit, and rebuild afterwards.

These projects would create hundreds of thousands of good local jobs in cities, rural and Indigenous communities, using Canadian steel, aluminum and lumber. They would bolster our economy and make daily life safer and more affordable for all of us. We *can* afford to pay for them now: by redirecting billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies, and strengthening the polluter pays principle, for example.

This is the kind of action that this moment calls for. That is why it has been so disappointing to hear voices following Donald Trump's lead and using this crisis to revive long-dead and unpopular pipeline projects. Let's be honest: new pipelines require massive public handouts, trample on Indigenous sovereignty, and mean more climate disasters hitting our cities and towns in years to come.

As local leaders, we know that whatever their political backgrounds, our constituents are worried about the same things: good jobs; a safe and affordable place to live; and confidence that their leaders have a plan for the next crisis we face, whether a climate disaster – or an economic sucker punch from our closest ally.

We are facing a growing climate threat, and an attack on our economic sovereignty. We can and must take them both on at once. This federal election, let's put our elbows up for climate action, and commit to truly national projects to protect and connect our country.

Signed

Councillor Neville Abbott, **Lions Bay**
Councillor Samantha Agtarap, **Port Moody**
Conseiller Francis Allaire, **Blainville**
Councillor Phil Allt, **Guelph**
Conseiller Pierre-Luc Arseneault, **Chandler**
Councillor Jordan Back, **North Vancouver**
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay, **Antigonish County**
Councillor Lori Baldwin-Sands, **St. Thomas**
Conseillère Anne Barabé, **Boucherville**
Former Mayor Lisa Barrett, **Bowen Island**
Councillor Dale Bass, **Kamloops**
Councillor Haley Bateman, **Niagara**
Councillor Jeff Bateman, **Sooke**
Mairesse Évelyne Beaudin, **Sherbrooke**
Councillor Scott Beaver, **St. Mary's**
Councillor Donna Bell, **Sechelt**
Councillor Nancy Bepple, **Kamloops**
Mayor Andrew Black, **Tantramar**
Mayor Merlin Blackwell, **Clearwater**
Conseiller Loïc Blancoquaert, **Saint-Lambert**
Councillor Gabrielle Blatz, **Wetaskiwin**
Conseiller Jacques Bouchard, **Saint-Jérôme**
Councillor Phil Brennan, **Severn**
Conseillère Gabrielle Brisebois, **Montmagny**
Councillor Riley Brockington, **Ottawa**
Mayor Alan Brown, **Butternut Valley**
Councillor Don Brown, **View Royal**
Councillor Matthew Brown, **Kaslo**
Mayor Vickey Brown, **Cumberland**
Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, **Stratford**
Councillor Guy Burry, **Muskoka Lakes**
Councillor Sue Cairns, **Kimberley**
Councillor Ruby Campbell, **New Westminster**
Councillor Leanne Caron, **Guelph**
Deputy Mayor Marty Carr, **Ottawa**
Councillor Erin Caton, **Guelph**
Deputy Mayor Godwin Chan, **Richmond Hill**
Councillor Debbie Chapman, **Kitchener**
Mayor Scott Christian, **Region of Queens**
Councillor Karen Cilevitz, **Richmond Hill**

Former Mayor Charlie Clark, **Saskatoon**

Mayor Lucas Cleveland, **Cobourg**

Conseiller Jean Cloutier, **Deschambault-Grondines**

Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, **Courtenay**

Mayor Spencer Coyne, **Princeton**

Conseillère Catherine Craig-St-Louis, **Gatineau**

Councillor David Croal, **Gibsons**

Conseiller Alvaro Cueto, **Longueuil**

Maire Martin Dampousse, **Varennes**

Councillor Tom Davis, **St. John's**

Councillor Tobin Day, **Georgian Bluffs**

Councillor Lisa Deacon, **Russell Township**

Conseiller Etienne Decelles, **Sainte-Angèle-de-Monnoir**

Councillor Matt Dell, **Victoria**

Councillor Kacy DeLong, **District of Lunenburg**

Conseillère Anik Des Marais, **Gatineau**

Conseillère Alicia Despins, **Québec**

Councillor Sean Devine, **Ottawa**

Mayor Corrie DiManno, **Banff**

Councillor Deborah Doherty, **Collingwood**

Mayor Rob Douglas, **North Cowichan**

Councillor Nadia Dubyk, **Grey Highlands**

Conseiller Étienne Dupuis, **Crabtree**

Councillor Hilary Eastmure, **Nanaimo**

Councillor Alison Evans, **Pitt Meadows**

Area Director Andrew Fall, **qathet Regional District**

Councillor Jay Fallis, **Orillia**

Councillor Jon Farmer, **Owen Sound**

Councillor and Islands Trustee Sue Ellen Fast, **Bowen Island**

Councillor Ryan Fequet, **Yellowknife**

Councillor David Ferreira, **London**

Councillor Jane Fogal, **Halton Hills**

Mayor Adrian Foster, **Clarington**

Deputy Mayor Sarah Fowler, **Tahsis**

Councillor Skylar Franke, **London**

Councillor Danielle Fraser, **Westville**

Councillor David Froh, **Regina**

Councillor Pete Fry, **Vancouver**

Area Director Justine Gabias, **Halfmoon Bay**

Councillor Nora Gambioli, **District of West Vancouver**

Councillor Chantal Garneau, **Halton Hills**

Councillor Amit Gaur, **Parksville**

Conseillère Mélodie Georget, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

Maire Paul Germain, **Prévost**

Councillor Ben Geselbracht, **Nanaimo**

Councillor Derek Giberson, **Oshawa**

Councillor Cindy Gilroy, **Winnipeg**

Conseillère Christine Gingras, **Plessisville**

Councillor Angela Girard, **North Vancouver**

Councillor Rodrigo Goller, **Guelph**

Councillor Robin Goodfellow-**Baikie, North West River**

Councillor Steve Gray, **Metchosin**

Councillor Lauren Greenlaw, **Squamish**

Councillor Alison Gu, **Burnaby**

Maire Pierre Guénard, **Chelsea**

Maire Marc-André Guertin, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

Councillor Wendy Hall, **Jasper**

Councillor Danika Hammond, **New Denver**

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Councillor Colby Harder, **Langford**

Councillor Jimmy Hassan, **Kingston**

Former Mayor Lisa Helps, **Victoria**

Councillor Erin Hemmens, **Nanaimo**

Councillor Bonnie Henderson, **Stratford**

Former Mayor Brad Henderson, **Saint Andrews**

Councillor Tasha Henderson, **New Westminster**

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Hendriksen, **Yellowknife**

Mayor Greg Henley, **Oxford**

Councillor Linda Heshka, **Melville**

Councillor Doug Hillian, **Courtenay**

Councillor Claire Holloway Wadhwani, **Port Hope**

Councillor Jenn Houghtaling, **Cumberland County**

Conseiller David Huggins-Daines, **Sainte-Adèle**

Mayor Armand Hurford, **Squamish**

Mayor Michael Hurley, **Burnaby**

Mayor Richard Ireland, **Jasper**

Councillor Trina Isakson, **Powell River**

Councillor Chris Istace, **North Cowichan**

Former Mayor Don Iveson, **Edmonton**

Conseillère Rita Jain, **Chelsea**

Councillor Michael Janz, **Edmonton**

Councillor Laine Johnson, **Ottawa**

Mayor Patrick Johnstone, **New Westminster**

Councillor Evan Jolicoeur, **Courtenay**

Councillor Christopher Justice, **North Cowichan**

Mayor Todd Kasenberg, **North Perth**

Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, **Ottawa**

Councillor Jonathan Kerr, **Comox**

Councillor Susan Kim, **Victoria**

Mayor Peter Koetsier, **Township of Georgian Bay**

Mayor Sean Krausert, **Canmore**

Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, **Hamilton**

Mayor Dan Kutcher, **Summerside**

Councillor Johanna Kwakernaak, **Berwick**

Conseiller Dominic Labrie, **Chelsea**

Councillor Joy Lachica, **Peterborough**

Councillor Michel Lalonde, **Champlain**

Maire Guillaume Lamoureux, **La Pêche**

Conseiller Jérémy Laplante, **Paspébiac**

Conseillère Julie Lavoie, **Beloeil**

Councillor Casey Law, **New Denver**

Mayor Andrew LeBlanc, **Riverview**

Conseiller Joey Leckman, **Prévost**

Conseillère Line Légaré, **Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard**

Councillor Jeff Leiper, **Ottawa**

Conseiller Martin Leprohon, **Saint-Basile-le-Grand**

Conseillère Laure Letarte-Lavoie, **Sherbrooke**

Councillor Rik Logtenberg, **Nelson**

Mayor Adam Lordon, **Miramichi**

Councillor Joel Loughhead, **Grey Highlands**

Councillor Gord Lovegrove, **Kelowna**

Councillor Amy Lubik, **Port Moody**

Area Director Patti MacAhonic, **Fraser Valley Regional District**

Conseillère Cecilia Macedo, **Laval**

Councillor Kate MacNaughton, **Prince Edward County**

Councillor Leah Main, **Silverton**

Councillor Lucy Maloney, **Vancouver**

Councillor Paul Manly, **Nanaimo**

Councillor John Manuel, **Golden**

Mairesse Maude Marquis-Bissonnette, **Gatineau**

Mairesse Marie-Andrée Mauger, **Verdun, Montréal**

Area Director Robyn Mawhinney, **Strathcona Regional District**

Councillor Brian Mayes, **Winnipeg**

Councillor Reid McAlpine, **Markham**

Mayor Dorothy McCabe, **Waterloo**

Councillor Melanie McCollum, **Courtenay**

Councillor Ian McGrath, **Truro**

Councillor Cat McGurk, **Yellowknife**

Councillor Jessica McIlroy, **North Vancouver**

Councillor Tom McLennan, **Yellowknife**

Area Director Donna McMahon, **Sunshine Coast Regional District**

Conseillère Robin McPherson, **St. Catharines**

Councillor Jennifer Meilleur, **Comox**

Councillor Shawn Menard, **Ottawa**

Conseillère Kim Méthot, **Saint-Basile-le-Grand**

Former Mayor, David Miller, **Toronto**

Mayor Nicole Minions, **Comox**

Councillor Cathy Moore-Coburn, **Georgian Bluffs**

Mayor Andy Morel, **Rossland**

Conseiller David Morin, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

Councillor Wendy Morin, **Courtenay**

Councillor Lenore Morris, **Whitehorse**

Trustee Deb Morrison, **Islands Trust**

Councillor Joy-Anne Murphy, **Camrose**

Area Director Alison Nicholson, **Cowichan Valley Regional District**

Councillor Katrina Nightingale, **Pemberton**

Councillor Troy Nixon, **Fernie**

Councillor Vincent Noël, **La Prairie**

Conseiller Jérôme Normand, **Montréal**

Councillor Lukas Oakley, **County of Brant**

Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary, **St. John's**

Councillor Sean Orr, **Vancouver**

Councillor Lisa Osanic, **Kingston**

Conseiller Keith Page, **Nelson**

Councillor Aaron Paquette, **Edmonton**

Councillor Jasmin Parker, **Saskatoon**

Conseillère Valérie Patreau, **Outremont, Montréal**

Local Trustee Laura Patrick, **Salt Spring Island / Islands Trust**

Conseillère Véronique Payette, **Crabtree**

Councillor Leslie Payne, **Nelson**

Councillor Elizabeth Peloza, **London**

Councillor Kourtney Penner, **Calgary**

Councillor Gord Perks, **Toronto**

Councillor Liz Petrie, **Goderich**

Councillor Chris Pettingill, **Squamish**

Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff, **Saanich**

Councillor Stéphanie Plante, **Ottawa**

Mairesse Valérie Plante, **Montréal**

Councillor Catherine Pope, **North Vancouver**

Maire Jacques Poulin, **Fossambault-sur-le-Lac**

Councillor Matt Rodrigues, **Waterloo**

Councillor Sherri Rollins, **Winnipeg**

Councillor Erin Rutherford, **Edmonton**

Councillor Bridget Ryan, **Erin**

Councillor Maita Santiago, **Burnaby**

Councillor Dianne Saxe, **Toronto**

Councillor Ken Sentance, **Thorold**

Councillor Margo Sheppard, **Fredericton**

Conseillère Julie Simoneau, **La Prairie**

Councillor Anne Skipsey, **Qualicum Beach**

Councillor Alison Smith, **Lunenburg**

Councillor Evan Spencer, **Calgary**

Councillor Tony St-Pierre, **Sooke**

Mayor Michelle Staples, **Duncan**

Councillor Wendy Stephen, **Kingston**

Councillor Dan Stevens, **Chase**

Councillor Anne Stevenson, **Edmonton**

Former Mayor Kennedy Stewart, **Vancouver**

Councillor Jenna Stoner, **Squamish**

Councillor Stephanie Stretch, **Kitchener**

Councillor Jenny Tan, **Maple Ridge**

Councillor Keren Tang, **Edmonton**

Councillor Kyle Tapper, **Mackenzie**

Councillor Alvin Tedjo, **Mississauga**

Councillor Daniel Tetrault, **Burnaby**

Conseiller Jonathan Théorêt, **Chertsey**

Councillor Troy Therrien, **Cumberland**

Conseillère Natacha Thibault, **Otterburn Park**

Conseillère Isabelle Thibeault, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

Councillor Dave Thompson, **Victoria**
Councillor Jeremy Thorne, **Riverview**,
Area Director Roger Tierney, **Regional District of Central Kootenay**
Councillor Senos Timon, **Saskatoon**
Deputy Mayor Nathan Townend, **Loyalist Township**
Councillor Brandon Tozzo, **Kingston**
Maire Mathieu Traversy, **Terrebonne**
Councillor Sam Trosow, **London**
Conseiller Alexandre Turcotte, **Otterburn Park**
Conseiller Benjamin Turcotte, **Val-d'Or**
Conseillère Elizabeth Ulin, **Montreal West**
Councillor Tony Valente, **North Vancouver**
Conseillère Stephanie Valenzuela, **Montreal**
Councillor Penny Varney, **Gravenhurst**
Mairesse Mélanie Villeneuve, **Otterburn Park**
Conseiller Christopher von Roretz, **Dorval**
Councillor Mary Wagner, **Langford**
Councillor Tim Wake, **Bowen Island**
Councillor Courtney Walcott, **Calgary**
Councillor Nick Ward, **Cumberland**
Conseiller Alexandre Warnet, **Laval**
Councillor Pat Warren, **Kawartha Lakes**
Mayor Bob Wells, **Courtenay**
Councillor Courtney Wentzell, **Region of Queens**
Mayor David West, **Richmond Hill**
Deputy Mayor Ghislaine Wheaton, **St. Stephens**
Councillor Laura White, **Halifax**
Councillor Howard Williams, **Wolfville**
Councillor Pam Wolf, **Region of Waterloo**
Councillor Michael Wolfe, **Richmond**
Councillor Sean Wood, **Parksville**
Councillor Theresa Wood, **District of Invermere**
Councillor Jesse Wright, **District of Mackenzie**
Councillor Julie Wright, **Waterloo**
Councillor Keith Yacucha, **Langford**
Councillor Shanon Zachidniak, **Regina**
Councillor Margaret Zwart, **Clarington**

Join Us



December 16, 2025

Subject: Improvements to Highways 11/17

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores passed Resolution #25-29-20 at the Regular Meeting held Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, as follows:

"WHEREAS Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors;

AND WHEREAS four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor;

AND WHEREAS the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway;

AND WHEREAS modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity;

AND WHEREAS a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --+ Cochrane, then Cochrane --+ Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew--+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie--+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria,

supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

AND WHEREAS analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Huron Shores formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project;

AND THAT the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction;

AND THAT the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit):

- That the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and
- That both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and
- That the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials);

AND THAT this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for support, and the County of Renfrew for information."

Should you require anything further in order to address the above-noted resolution, please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Natasha Roberts".

Natashia Roberts

CAO/Clerk

NR/KN

Cc: the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), County of Renfrew



181 Perry Street, PO Box 780
Port Perry, ON L9L 1A7
Phone: 905-985-7346
Fax: 905-985-9917
scugog.ca

Sent Via Email to: mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com

December 22, 2025

Mark Majchrowski
Kawartha Conservation
277 Kenrei Road
Lindsay, ON, K9V 4R1

RE: Township of Scugog Resolution Regarding Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

At the last regular Council meeting, of December 15, 2025, the Council of the Township of endorsed the following Council Resolution:

1. **THAT** the presentation from Mark Majchrowski, CAO of the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority, be received; and
2. **THAT** the proposed "Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority," "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority," and the boundary configurations outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 not be support; and
3. **THAT** further provincial evaluation of a more focused and geographically coherent model be endorsed, one that is cost-effective, locally accountable, and aligned with provincial priorities including efficiency, red-tape reduction, and timely housing delivery; and
4. **THAT** that the Ministry be requested to engage directly with affected municipalities and conservation authorities across Eastern Ontario before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments; and
5. **THAT** any consolidation proposal include a clear, evidence-based plan, developed in consultation with affected municipalities and conservation authorities, to ensure restructuring is cost-effective, financially sustainable, and operationally relevant for local communities; and
6. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition Critics, local MPs and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario,

To access this document in an accessible format, please contact 905-985-7346 ext. 115



181 Perry Street, PO Box 780
Port Perry, ON L9L 1A7
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Fax: 905-985-9917
scugog.ca

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

Should you require anything further in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905-985-7346, clerks@scugog.ca.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blair Labelle", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Blair Labelle
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

CC: Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations
Minister of the Environment
Conservation and Parks and his Opposition Critics
Local MPs and MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
All municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario



Municipality of Huron Shores
7 Bridge Street, PO Box 460
Iron Bridge, ON P0R 1H0
Tel: (705) 843-2033 Fax: (705) 843-2035

December 16, 2025

Subject: Rent Protection for Tenants

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores passed Resolution #25-29-18 at the Regular Meeting held Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, as follows:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Huron Shores supports, in principle, the Municipality of Wawa's resolution requesting that the Province of Ontario provide adequate protection against excessive and malicious rent increases for tenants while maintaining the ability for landlords to operate a viable and sustainable business;

AND THAT Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MP Terry Sheehan, MPP Bill Rosenberg, the Municipality of Wawa, and to all other Ontario Municipalities."

Should you require anything further in order to address the above-noted resolution, please contact the undersigned

Yours truly,

Natashia Roberts

CAO/Clerk
NR/KN

Cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MP Terry Sheehan, MPP Bill Rosenberg, the Municipality of Wawa, and to all other Ontario Municipalities



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

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

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

December 18, 2025

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

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

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

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

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

516-2025

Moved By: Ted Oke

Seconded by: Aaron Neeb

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Further That a copy of this resolution be sent to:

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

Result: Carried

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator

Municipality of South Huron

kwebster@southhuron.ca

519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

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



The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

Resolution No. CC- 179 - 2025

Date: December 18, 2025

Moved by

Tory Descamps

Seconded by

Nancy Peckford

WHEREAS on May 1, 2025, Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025, re-introduced legislation originally proposed under Bill 241; and

WHEREAS Bill 9, if passed, would enable the creation of a new, standardized municipal code of conduct, an integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province and mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards; and

WHEREAS Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025, was ordered for a third reading on October 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville deems it advisable for Bill 9 to be passed promptly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville calls for Bill 9 to proceed to its third reading forthwith; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Steve Clark, MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried ☒ Defeated ☐ Deferred ☐

Corinna Smith-Gatcke
Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden

December 19, 2025

By E-mail

Hon. Todd McCarthy MPP
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park, 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RE: Kawartha Conservation Board Submission on the Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities, ERO Notice #025-1257

Dear Minister McCarthy,

On behalf of the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors, we are writing to share the Board's perspective on Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting #025-1257, informed by discussions at its meetings on November 27 and December 18, 2025. The Board recognizes the Province's objectives under Bill 68, to strengthen oversight, consistency, and modernization across conservation authorities through the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and the proposed transition toward a regional watershed-based framework.

The proposed consolidation model includes the creation of an Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority, which would result in the consolidation of Kawartha Conservation with several neighbouring conservation authorities and would represent a significant change to governance structures, service delivery models, financial frameworks, land management responsibilities, and municipal oversight.

We support the Province's generally stated objectives, including the use of digital permitting systems, consistent policies and standards, and enhanced use of technology. Kawartha Conservation already demonstrates strong performance in these areas, including meeting or exceeding provincial service standards, participating in staff-sharing initiatives, operating within a fully digital permitting environment, and advancing digital transformation—reflecting many of the efficiencies sought through the provincial initiative.

Substantial concerns and risks have been identified with the proposed consolidation or amalgamation, particularly with respect to the loss of local decision-making authority, reduced municipal representation, uncertainty around transition funding, asset ownership considerations, potential service disruption, and impacts on locally delivered programs. The scale of the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario region raises additional challenges related to maintaining effective community relationships and ensuring services remain responsive to local watershed conditions.

The importance of meaningful consultation and engagement with municipalities, conservation authorities, and stakeholders prior to any decisions being finalized cannot be understated. In particular, the Board notes that many of the Province’s desired outcomes—such as improved consistency, efficiency, and modernization—can be advanced through the existing watershed-based governance framework, supported by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), without the disruption and destabilization inherent in large-scale structural consolidation, and counter to the Province’s goals of advancing the housing priority, streamlining service, and reducing red tape.

Similarly, the importance of effective, ongoing two-way communication between conservation authorities and the OPCA is critical as the Agency initiates and fulfills its evolving mandate. Regular dialogue, shared implementation guidance, and collaborative problem-solving would support consistent interpretation of provincial direction, reduce implementation risks, and ensure that operational experience and local watershed knowledge inform policy development and modernization efforts.

A transparent, comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of alternative approaches should be undertaken as a first step to inform decision-making in any transition model that may be contemplated in the future. Where any transition is determined to be beneficial, it should be supported by a clearly defined and phased transition plan. Full provincial financial support is critical for any mandatory transition efforts to ensure continuity of programs and services and to avoid disruption to municipalities and communities.

Accordingly, we urge the Province to consider the benefits of a measured “pause” of the consolidation proposal put forward to allow the OPCA to complete its initial three-year term, undertake meaningful engagement with conservation authorities, and assess the urgency and necessity of consolidation or amalgamation of conservation authorities through an evidence-based approach. This would include clearly identifying issues, providing effective communication and feedback to conservation authorities to address any issues and if necessary, consider alternative models that would more effectively advance provincial priorities related to efficiency, red-tape reduction, and timely housing delivery.

Attached is a resolution passed by the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors at their meeting held on December 18, 2025, and our detailed comments regarding ERO Notice #025-1257. For further information, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Pat Warren
Chair



Mark Majchrowski
Chief Administrative Officer

Enclosures: *Kawartha Conservation Board Resolution #157/25, December 18, 2025*
 Kawartha Conservation ERO #025-1257 Submission Comments

- cc. *The Conservation Authorities Office, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks*
Hassaan Basit, Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive
Peter Tabuns, MPP, Critic, Environment, Conservation and Parks
Local Members of Provincial Parliament:
Laurie Scott, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Dave Smith, Peterborough-Kawartha
Local Watershed Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Conservation Ontario and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING #10/25 (DECEMBER 18, 2025)

RESOLUTION #157/25

MOVED BY: MARK DOBLE

SECONDED BY: TRACY RICHARDSON

RECOGNIZING THAT, the Province of Ontario has posted Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #025-1257 proposing the consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into 7 Regional Conservation Authorities; AND,

RECOGNIZING THAT, the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority would consolidate Kawartha Conservation with Central Lake Ontario, Otonabee, Ganaraska, Lower Trent, Crowe Valley, and Quinte Region Conservation Authorities, resulting in significant changes to governance, service delivery, financial structures, land management, and municipal oversight; AND,

RECOGNIZING THAT, the Kawartha Conservation Board acknowledges and supports the Province's goals of improved efficiency of watershed management, through the implementation of digital applications and permitting system, consistent policies, flood standards, fees, and technology; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, Kawartha Conservation consistently meets or exceeds provincial service standards, participates in staff-sharing initiatives with neighbouring conservation authorities, regularly reports on performance, are engaged in a fully digital permit application framework, and are engaged in digital transformation activities, mirroring many of the efficiencies the Province seeks; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, the proposed consolidation raises substantial concerns and risks related to local decision-making authority, municipal representation, transition funding, asset ownership, service disruption and the protection of local programs; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, there is a need for meaningful consultation and engagement with stakeholders to address identified concerns and risks of the proposed consolidation or amalgamation; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, there is a need to undertake a full cost-benefit analysis of any consolidation or amalgamation models or alternatives; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, the objects of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) can accomplish the same goals and objectives without consolidation of conservation authorities and without the service disruption and interference that would come with amalgamation; AND,

CONSIDERING THAT, meaningful modernization can occur within the current watershed-based governance framework;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Kawartha Conservation Board does not support the proposed "Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; AND

THAT, the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors requests the Province of Ontario to pause any decision to consolidate or amalgamate conservation authorities to allow:

- the OPCA to complete its first 3-year term and a subsequent assessment of the need for consolidation
- for meaningful engagement needed to address the concerns and risks of the proposed consolidation
- for the review of alternative models and processes that would result in better outcomes that advances the government's priorities of efficiency, red-tape reduction and timely home construction, AND;

THAT, the commentary provided for in the staff report be endorsed and submitted to the Province of Ontario as Kawartha Conservation's comments regarding Environmental Registry Posting 025-1257, AND;

THAT, the resolution be forwarded to:

- Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office);
- Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit;
- Local Members of Provincial Parliament
- Conservation Ontario
- all municipalities within Kawartha Conservation's watershed and conservation authority municipalities.

Recorded Vote:

Municipality	Name	Governance Role	Vote Decision
Township of Cavan-Monaghan	Byrne, Gerry	Director	Yes
City of Kawartha Lakes	Doble, Mark	Director	Yes
Municipality of Trent Lakes	Franzen, Peter	Director	Yes
Region of Durham, Township of Brock	Pettingill, Cria	Director	Yes
Region of Durham, Municipality of Clarington	Rang, Lloyd	Director	Absent
City of Kawartha Lakes	Richardson, Tracy	Director	Yes
Region of Durham, Township of Scugog	Rock, Robert	Director	Absent
Region of Durham, Township of Scugog	Wright, Harold	Vice-Chair	Yes
City of Kawartha Lakes	Warren, Pat	Chair	Yes

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED (*of members present*)

Kawartha Conservation ERO #025-1257 Submission Comments
(December 19, 2025):

The following submission outlines Kawartha Conservation's comments in response to Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting #025-1257, which seeks input on the proposed regional consolidation of conservation authorities. These comments are informed by discussions of the Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors and reflect both governance oversight and operational experience delivering conservation authority programs and services at the watershed scale.

Kawartha Conservation recognizes the Province's objectives of improving consistency, efficiency, and modernization across the conservation authorities. The comments below are intended to be constructive and informed by local accountability and operational experience, to assist the Province in evaluating transition models that achieve these objectives while maintaining effective governance, accountable service delivery, fiscal prudence, and strong municipal partnerships.

The responses that follow are structured to directly address the questions posed in the ERO posting and focus on practical considerations related to the proposed transition of the conservation authority framework.

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

Evidence-based decision-making before implementation

- The Province's objectives related to consistency, efficiency, and speed of service can be advanced immediately within the existing 36 conservation authority framework through provincially led standards, shared tools, staff collaboration, and digital permitting systems. These measures should be implemented and evaluated first, allowing for work processes to be aligned, performance to be determined and testing of the assumption that efficiencies are to be gained through consolidation.
- Decisions regarding any potential structural change must be informed by a rigorous cost-benefit analysis (transition and steady-state), consistent with standard public-sector business practice. This analysis must meaningfully involve municipalities and conservation authorities, who understand both the operational realities and local service impacts. Structural change should not proceed where substantive, demonstrable gains cannot be clearly established.
- Where challenges or inefficiencies are identified, alternative approaches—such as shared services, regional collaboration agreements, or targeted functional integration—should be explored and exhausted before any consideration of consolidation.

Stable provincial transition funding and clear “who pays” rules

- Any provincially directed modernization initiatives must be accompanied by stable, multi-year provincial funding to avoid cost pressures being downloaded onto municipalities and ratepayers.
- Clear and transparent rules regarding “who pays” are essential. New provincial initiatives, including those associated with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), should not introduce additional financial burdens during periods of transition or change.

Service-continuity

- Protecting uninterrupted delivery of natural hazard management, permitting, planning, and environmental services must be a foundational consideration. Demonstrated service improvements through the implementation of standards and standardization objects of the OPCA should precede any structural change.
- The uncertainty associated with major structural reform presents a significant risk to workforce stability, recruitment, and retention. Disruption to experienced staff undermines the Province’s objectives related to efficiency, timeliness, and service quality.
- Any change initiative must explicitly prioritize continuity of service, institutional knowledge, and organizational capacity.

A “local by design” operating model

- Municipal support and confidence are critical to success in the conservation authority model. Without strong municipal buy-in, risks include fiscal uncertainty, reduced effectiveness, and erosion of accountability. Maintaining strong local governance relationships is critical to the success of conservation authorities.
- Ontario’s watersheds and conservation authority jurisdictions are geographically large and diverse. Effective service delivery requires local offices, local staff, and locally informed decision-making. Centralized models are not well-suited to regions that require extensive travel and have variable watershed conditions.
- It is imperative to have local offices and local people to facilitate effective programs and services. This is key for the delivery of natural hazard programming, permitting and planning for the community as well as other services provided, where people can physically interact with local staff who know the area and can provide informed answers.
- Preserving place-based knowledge through local watershed teams and advisory structures with real influence is essential to maintaining service quality and public trust.
- Meaningful engagement with communities, municipalities and conservation authorities should occur at the watershed scale to ensure local conditions, risks, and priorities are understood and reflected in any provincial initiatives.

Standards first, consolidation second

- If consistency and performance improvement are the primary objectives, the Province should first finalize, fund, and implement provincial service standards, consistent policies, shared digital platforms, and performance metrics.
- The direction-making authorities outlined in Bill 68—covering standards, IT, procurement, training, asset management, and strategic planning—provide ample tools to achieve consistency without requiring consolidation.
- Only after these measures are fully implemented and evaluated should any further structural changes be contemplated, and only where clear, incremental value can be demonstrated.

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

Potential benefits of partnering and sharing staff between conservation authorities include:

- Improved access to specialized expertise (e.g., hydrogeology, geomorphology, legal and complex planning files) through shared service arrangements and voluntary staff mobilization during peak demand periods such as floods, major development cycles or significant weather events impacting properties.
- Efficiencies through shared corporate services (IT licensing, fleet, insurance, purchasing).
- Enhanced regional-scale scientific collaboration for broader watershed analysis, climate resilience planning, and cumulative effects assessment—while recognizing the importance of strong local-scale science and community-specific knowledge.

It is important to note that many of these benefits already occur today through voluntary inter-authority collaboration. We have shared staff historically with other authorities related to specialized IT, engineering and ecology on a long-term basis, and partner with other conservation authorities on a variety of geographically scalable projects (regional to local community) where it makes demonstrable sense to do so (e.g. planning, engineering, hydrogeological, IT and Risk Management Official expertise). The sharing of staff would be made easier through templated agreements. Any proposed changes must therefore demonstrate clear net new benefits beyond what can already be achieved through shared services and supported standards.

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

Any governance framework must:

- preserve strong local representation for municipalities and taxpayers,
- remain strategically effective, and
- maintain equitable representation

Models that significantly dilute local voice or create excessively large, symbolic boards risk being cumbersome and ineffective. Governance approaches should prioritize clarity of roles, accountability, and meaningful municipal participation.

Where broader coordination is required, networked governance models—retaining strong local boards with defined roles while enabling strategic coordination—may offer a more balanced and effective approach than full consolidation.

Consideration should be given to Indigenous participation in governance structures.

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

Clear, standardized budget reporting

- Annual budget documents should continue to clearly identify program and service costs, capital needs, asset management requirements, and service outcomes in a consistent and comparable format.

Separation of funding streams

- The budget presentation should clearly distinguish:
 - provincially-directed costs (Agency directions)
 - provincial supports for programs and services
 - municipal supports for programs and services
 - locally delivered programs and capital works.

Guardrails to protect local priorities

- Policies must ensure that locally funded priorities and assets cannot be reallocated without municipal agreement, protecting investments made by municipalities in their own communities.

Predictable and local consultation

- Budget consultation processes must be structured, timely, and aligned with municipal budget cycles, including multi-year forecasts (e.g. 3 or 5 year) to support municipal financial planning and stability.

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

Keep local presence real

- Maintain local offices, local staff, and local contact points for programs and services. These points of contact are essential to effective service delivery and community trust.

Protect watershed identity and place-based knowledge

- Through consistency measures, a “one system, many watersheds” model will emerge with the OPCA efforts for standardization. A tangible sense of place must be identifiable to a community or municipality, with actions or plans tied to that same space.
- While standardization allows for greater consistency, flexibility must remain to address local conditions and support positive innovations for specific contexts. It is this creativity and customer service-oriented outlook that conservation authorities are known and appreciated for.

Strengthen transparency and accountability locally

- Communications, reporting, and performance measures should be clearly tied to local communities and watersheds, enabling municipalities and residents to understand outcomes that affect them directly

Additional Comments:

Support tied to Guidance

At this time, the principal gap in direction relates to the timely identification, interpretation, and resourcing of common provincial standards. Many of the Province’s stated objectives—such as uniformity, improved service delivery, and consistent application of standards—can be meaningfully advanced within the existing conservation authority framework, provided that these standards are finalized, clearly articulated, and adequately supported for administration by the Agency.

While significant legislative changes have been introduced in recent years, provincial guidance and implementation support would assist conservation authorities in achieving consistent interpretation and application across jurisdictions. Strengthened communication, transitional guidance, and shared tools would reduce variability in processes and outcomes, addressing many of the challenges put forward.

Focusing the OPCA's first term on common tools, standards, and guidelines would deliver the greatest gains toward the Province's objectives of consistency and housing delivery. Allowing conservation authorities time to implement these measures and meet defined targets is more effective than undertaking structural change simultaneously. A 3-year focus on these efforts, aligned with the OPCA's first term, would support effective implementation and evidence-based assessment.

Development of Guidelines, Policies and other Resource materials

To ensure that provincially developed policies, guidelines, and implementation tools remain scientifically sound and locally relevant, their development would benefit from structured consultation with conservation authorities, municipalities and other stakeholders that possess detailed, place-based knowledge of these systems. Early and ongoing engagement in the determination of such materials would help ensure that provincial direction is practical, evidence-based, and responsive to local hydrologic, geomorphic, and land-use conditions, thereby supporting consistent application while avoiding unintended regional or community-level impacts.

Boundary Alignment Considerations

It is recommended that conservation authority boundaries be aligned, to the greatest extent possible, with the best science available for delineating watershed boundaries to avoid duplicative administrative layers. Advancements in technology have enabled more defensible watershed-based frameworks and would help reduce administrative duplication, support coherent watershed management, and enhance consistency in planning, implementation, and oversight.

Governmental Transparency

The OPCA should be accountable to the public as well as to stakeholders that are responsible for funding their operation. Transparency measures identified in the Conservation Authorities Act for current conservation authority governance should be mirrored by the OPCA (public meetings, agendas, minutes, membership, etc.). Similarly, financial transparency to conservation authorities as a financial stakeholder in the OPCA is needed, tied to annual reporting on outcomes of the levy support. Representation on the OPCA board, particularly if apportionment provisions are enacted would represent an open, transparent and accountable governance model.



December 19, 2025

Honorable Mark Carney

Sent via email: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Dear Honorable Mark Carney:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council, at its meeting held December 16, 2025 adopted the following:

12.2.7 Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry - Councillor Samwell

WHEREAS the community of Welland and the surrounding communities were deeply impacted by a recent heinous crime that highlighted critical gaps in Canada's criminal justice and offender-management systems; and

WHEREAS on September 4, 2025, Mayor Frank Campion of the City of Welland wrote to the Premier of Ontario urging comprehensive reform to strengthen sentencing, parole, and bail provisions for violent sexual offenders, and to enhance public safety protections; and

WHEREAS on September 12, 2025, Mayor Mat Siscoe of the City of St. Catharines wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada expressing strong support for these reforms and calling for immediate federal action to strengthen sentencing, parole, and accountability measures for violent sexual offenders; and

WHEREAS the City of Thorold, at its meeting of September 9, 2025, adopted Resolution 14.2 requesting the Province of Ontario to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offenders Registry), 2000 to make Ontario Sex Offender Registry publicly accessible; and

WHEREAS several Niagara municipalities; including Grimsby, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, and St. Catharines have subsequently endorsed this call for greater transparency and reform; and

WHEREAS municipal councils, though not responsible for criminal law or parole, play a vital role in advocating for the safety and well-being of their residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Council of the City of Brantford hereby supports the City of Thorold's Resolution calling for the Publication of the Sexual Offender Registry and the City of Welland's correspondence dated September 4, 2025, calling for reform to sentencing, parole, and registry provisions concerning violent sexual offenders; and
- B. THAT the Province of Ontario be urged to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offender Registry), 2000 to make the Ontario Sex Offender

Registry publicly accessible, subject to appropriate privacy and safety safeguards; and

C. THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- i. The Right Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- ii. The Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada;
- iii. The Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety;
- iv. The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- v. The Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario;
- vi. The Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario;
- vii. Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock;
- viii. Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma;
- ix. The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
- x. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and
- xi. All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier City Clerk,
cgauthier@brantford.ca

CC - The Honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; - Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety
Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; - premier@ontario.ca

The Honorable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; -
Doug.Downey@ontario.ca

The Honorable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock; -
larry.brock@parl.gc.ca

Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma; -
will.bouma@pc.ola.org

The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) amo@amo.on.ca

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) FCMInfo@fcm.ca

All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

December 19, 2025

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

Hassaan Basit
Chief Conservation Officer

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

Re: Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities – Bill 68

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

Resolution #: 2

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: V. Paan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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

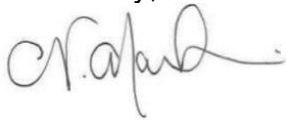
Further, the Township of Amaranth proposes a three-year hiatus of any transition changes while evaluation is completed with proper, appropriate consultation of all partners in Conservation Authorities to review any proposed boundary realignments, additional governance oversight, potential service adjustments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

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

CARRIED (5 to 0)

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

Yours truly,



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

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

GSCA Submission to ERO Posting 025-1257

December 18, 2025

Via Environmental Registry of Ontario

Subject: Comments on ERO Posting No. 025-1257 – Proposed Boundaries for Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

To Whom It May Concern:

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. We share the Province's objectives of improving efficiency, consistency, and modernization in service delivery. GSCA has already implemented significant improvements, including digital permitting, streamlined processes and enhanced customer service, and we remain committed to advancing these objectives.

However, GSCA does **not support the proposed consolidation into the Huron–Superior Regional Conservation Authority**. This model would create a geographically vast entity (over 23,500 km² and 80 municipalities) combining watersheds with little shared hydrology, climate, or economic alignment.

Such a structure risks:

- **Loss of Local Accountability and Rural Voice:** GSCA currently operates with strong municipal representation and local decision-making. Under the proposed model, local priorities could be overshadowed by urban centres hundreds of kilometers away.
- **Increased Costs and Bureaucracy:** No cost-benefit analysis or feasibility assessment has been provided. Transition costs (IT integration, HR harmonization, rebranding) and additional layers of governance will likely increase municipal cost apportionment and offer little in the way of savings to GSCA's member municipalities.
- **Reduced Responsiveness:** Larger administrative structures often slow processes, contrary to the Province's stated goal of streamlining approvals.
- **Disruption of Community Partnerships:** GSCA manages 29,000 acres of land, much of it donated by local residents with the expectation of local stewardship. GSCA also works with a network of dedicated volunteers and partners. Consolidation into a vast regional conservation authorities risks eroding these relationships and the trust that has been built locally.

Member Municipalities

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie, Town of the Blue Mountains, Township of Chatsworth, Township of Georgian Bluffs, Municipality of Grey Highlands, Municipality of Meaford, City of Owen Sound, Town of South Bruce Peninsula

GSCA supports modernization without amalgamation, through:

- Province-wide standards and policies for permitting.
- Provincially developed and updated technical guidelines.
- Refined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to ensure that Provincial objectives are being met.
- Shared digital platforms and tools.
- Sustainable provincial funding to enable modernization and service delivery.

Responses to ERO Consultation Questions

1. Key factors for a successful transition and outcome of regional consolidation:

GSCA does not support the proposed regional consolidation of conservation authorities and is firmly of the opinion that the Government's objectives would be better served without adding red-tape and bureaucracy. However, if consolidation proceeds, success depends on:

- Pausing the current consolidation proposal to allow the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency time to develop a well thought out business plan, including cost-benefit analysis and feasibility assessments.
- Clear provincial leadership and phased implementation to avoid service disruption.
- Retention of local knowledge and staff expertise, which is critical for ongoing program management.
- Retention of local offices and staff, including management, to provide continuance of local partnership, accessibility and front-line service.
- Continuation of locally prioritised and tailored programming to reflect local community needs.
- Transparent governance frameworks that preserve municipal influence and watershed identity.
- Dedicated provincial funding for all transition costs.
- Robust communication strategies to keep municipalities, stakeholders, and the public informed and engaged throughout the process.

2. Opportunities or benefits of a regional conservation authority framework

GSCA is of the opinion that these benefits can be achieved through collaboration, shared systems and voluntary service agreements without the cost and complexity of consolidation. The potential benefits of such service agreements could include:

- Shared technical expertise and modern tools across multiple watersheds.

- Consistent permitting standards and digital platforms that improve predictability for applicants. These should be provided by the Province regardless of consolidation.
- Opportunities for joint procurement and shared services to reduce duplication.

3. Suggestions for governance structure at the regional level

The current governance structure provides the most representative and accountable system by offering each funding partner a meaningful voice at the governance table. GSCA has eight (8) participating municipalities represented by eleven (11) Board Directors appointed from each of the participating municipalities. This system provides a well-balanced structure that allow the participating municipalities the opportunity to design programs and policies that align with local municipal priorities, align with local municipal budgets, and represent the needs of the local community. If the Province proceeds with consolidation, the following governance structure may provide the next best option:

- A streamlined board (10–20 members) with representation grouped by upper-tier municipalities or counties to maintain fairness and efficiency.
- Utilizing the existing Upper Tier and Single Tier frameworks for local governance and apportionment to provide a more manageable option. That is, members of the Regional CA Board would be appointed from local upper tier or single tier municipalities within the Region's jurisdiction.
- In this model, it is recommended that apportionment would also move to the Upper Tier / Single Tier level.
- Clear protocols for communication between regional boards and municipalities.
- The creation of Regional Boards provides an opportunity to include other community groups within the Board structure, including local Indigenous representation and local industry representation. If this option is considered, it is recommended that the additional representatives would be excluded from budget votes.

4. Maintaining a transparent and consultative budgeting process

The current budget process provides for the most transparent, accountable, accessible and consultative budgeting process as each participating municipality is afforded the opportunity to review draft budgets and representation at the Board table is such that individual municipal input is factored into budget decisions. This will be lost by the proposed consolidation model.

If consolidation moves forward, the following process should be utilized:

- A standardized regional budget framework with clear timelines and assumptions.
- Locally developed operating and capital budgets for each local office that are factored into the regional budget framework. These budgets can be reviewed and presented to sub-regional (local) budget advisory committees to ensure local priorities are considered.

- Publicly accessible budget documents and early consultation aligned with municipal budget cycles.
- Transparent levy apportionment formulas and regular financial reporting to all member municipalities.

5. Maintaining and strengthening relationships with local communities and stakeholders

Relationships with local communities and stakeholders have been developed over years or decades. Unless local offices, staff and leadership are maintained, not only will relationships weaken, they are at risk of disappearing altogether.

- Retain local offices and staff presence to ensure accessibility and responsiveness.
- Maintain clear communication channels and decision-making processes for local issues.
- Preserve local branding and identity to sustain trust and engagement.

Closing Statement

GSCA urges the Province to prioritize modernization through shared standards, tools, and funding rather than large-scale structural amalgamation. We remain committed to working collaboratively to achieve efficiency and consistency while preserving the watershed-based governance model that has served Ontario effectively for decades.

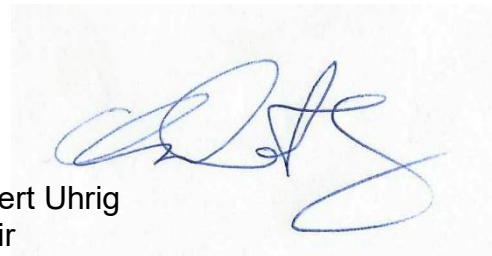
Submitted by:

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
www.greysauble.on.ca

Thank you,



Tim Lanthier
Chief Administrative Officer
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority



Robert Uhrig
Chair
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

**Motion No.: FA-25-097
December 17, 2025**

**Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Scott Mackey**

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS GSCA generates approximately 50 percent of its own revenues and local municipalities provide approximately 43% of total GSCA funding, while the Province of Ontario provides less than 7%; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS no governance model has been provided to ensure that local municipalities are still able to make local decisions related to the functioning and programs of the conservation authorities; and

WHEREAS no business plan, cost-benefit analysis, or feasibility assessment has been provided to justify the proposed consolidation; and

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

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

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

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

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

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



THAT the Board of Directors of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority believes that the Province's proposed new online permitting portal can be implemented within the existing conservation authority framework without requiring structural amalgamation; and

THAT the Board of Directors of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority requests that the Ministry engage meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, conservation authorities, and local First Nations before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation; and

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

Carried



United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Councillor Densham

RESOLUTION NO 2025- 159

SECONDED BY

DATE November 17, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

☒ CARRIED

☐ DEFEATED

☐ DEFERRED



WARDEN

Recorded Vote:

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

The Corporation of the Township of Hamilton

8285 Majestic Hills Drive
P.O. Box 1060, Cobourg, ON K9A 4W5
Tel: 905-342-2810 Fax: 905-342-2818
Email: info@hamiltontownship.ca
Web: www.hamiltontownship.ca



December 16th, 2025

Premier's Office Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park Toronto, ON M7A 1A5
Via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

Re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Please be advised that the Council for the Township of Hamilton passed the following resolution at their December 16, 2025, Regular Council Meeting:

RES:2024-602

Moved by Councillor Mark Lovshin, Seconded by Councillor John Davison

The Council for the Corporation of the Township of Hamilton enacts as follows: That Council supports the November 27, 2025 resolution of the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority regarding Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities; and

That the supporting resolution and originating documentation be circulated to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics; and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office); and Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit; and Local Member of Provincial Parliament David Piccini, Northumberland - Peterborough South and all local watershed municipalities, all municipalities in Ontario, and Counties within GRCA's watershed.

CARRIED.

I have attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Daphne Livingstone,
Director of Corporate Services/Municipal Clerk

Encl.

cc: Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rob Flack, rob.flack@pc.ola.org; MPP, Hon. Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit; and- Local Member of Provincial Parliament David Piccini, Northumberland - Peterborough South and- All local watershed municipalities, all municipalities in Ontario, and Counties within GRCA's watershed.



**Ganaraska Region
Conservation Authority**

2216 County Road 28
Port Hope, ON L1A 3V8

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Fax: 905-885-9824
www.grca.on.ca

MEMBER OF
CONSERVATION ONTARIO

November 28, 2025

**Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities, ERO Notice #025-1257
Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Resolution GRCA 51/25**

On October 31, 2025, Minister Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), announced that the provincial government will introduce legislation to amend the *Conservation Authorities Act* to create a new provincial agency, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) under Bill 68. On November 27, 2025, Bill 68, *Plan to Protect Ontario Act* (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2) received Royal Assent.

Another key action announced at this time, by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, together with the Chief Conservation Executive, is the proposal to consolidate the province's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities, while maintaining alignment with watershed boundaries. On Friday, November 7th, the MECP posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), the ERO posting remains open for public comment for a total of 45 days until December 22, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

The proposed consolidation recommends Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) join with Central Lake Ontario, Kawartha Region, Otonabee Region, Lower Trent Region, Crowe Valley and Quinte Region Conservation Authorities forming the Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (ELORCA). This regional conservation authority would include 48 municipalities across the proposed region. As well, the area covered by the ELORCA is 16 times the current jurisdiction of the GRCA and larger than the area covered by the island of Jamaica. The population included is more than the population of some Canadian Provinces.

At the November 27, 2025, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors meeting, a staff report entitled "Bill 68, Schedule 3 Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Proposed Boundaries for Regional Consolidation of Ontario Conservation Authorities" which can be found at the following link, https://grca.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/grca_ca-act-amendments-as-per-bill-68-update.pdf, was presented and the following resolution was received as written in the report:

GRCA 50/25

MOVED BY: Joan Stover

SECONDED BY: Miriam Mutton

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

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

WHEREAS conservation authorities are locally-based, grassroots organizations formed by municipal governments in response to the challenges posed by a changing landscape; especially, the increased exposure to flooding and erosion hazards and the resulting risks to lives and property. In the case of the GRCA, supported by its seven municipalities, this vision has proven a successful model for nearly 80 years; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS being front-line means being responsive and accountable to the community by delivering the services that are essential and valued to the best interest of the community. The front line of provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience are in the decisions between municipalities working together to address issues around floodplain (and hazard) protection and resilient upland and landscape management. Further, staff and Board are responsive and accountable to the

needs of the watershed community, while meeting or exceeding provincial service standards. The staff and Board are reachable through publicly available contact information. Local governance and direction combined with local service provision allows the GRCA to continue to be responsive to our community; and

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

WHEREAS a proposed regional watershed would create a geographically vast and administratively complex organization when joining the seven conservation authorities as proposed in eastern Lake Ontario. This would be considerably worse if local offices do not remain available and accountable to its membership, partners and the communities they serve.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics; and
- the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office); and
- Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit; and

- Local Member of Provincial Parliament David Piccini, Northumberland – Peterborough South and
- All local watershed municipalities, all municipalities in Ontario, and Counties within GRCA's watershed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The GRCA encourages all partners to review the posting at the following link:
<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257>, and submit comments prior to the closing date of December 22, 2025.

For further information, please contact the undersigned at info@grca.on.ca

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Mink', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Vicki Mink
Chair, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority

CC:

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



December 16, 2025

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Sent by Email

Dear: Honorable Doug Ford,

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

The Council of the Corporation of Tay Valley Township at its meeting held on December 9th, 2025, adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #C-2025-12-14

MOVED BY: Wayne Baker

SECONDED BY: Angela Pierman

“WHEREAS, water resources and water availability is the defining issue of this century due to the impacts of climate change which Tay Valley Township has already experienced (through dry wells and below normal river levels this summer and floods in 2017 and 2019),

AND WHEREAS, Ontario's Conservation Authorities play a critical role in watershed management, flood mitigation, drought mitigation, and public safety;

AND WHEREAS, Tay Valley Township has already experienced negative consequences of centralized management of water resources from afar (the Ministry of Natural Resources staff in Toronto have previously directed the depth of water at the Pike Lake Dam be lowered during a pickerel spawn event resulting in the death of the pickerel);

AND WHEREAS, municipalities must retain a strong, meaningful voice to ensure that local knowledge, local priorities and local risks are fully considered;

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

AND WHEREAS, local municipalities established the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in 1966 and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority in 1968 and currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides less than 5%;

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

AND WHEREAS, Bill 68 (Schedule 3) and ERO posting 025-1257 propose to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities and create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown agency that would assume oversight over conservation authorities and have the ability to levy authorities to cover its costs;

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Tay Valley Township strongly urges the Provincial Government of Ontario to withdraw all sections of Bill 68 related to Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Province be requested to re-introduce any proposed changes as a standalone bill to proceed through the regular legislative process (First and Second Readings, Committee Review, stakeholder submissions and public consultation) to ensure the impacts on watershed management, environmental protection and public safety are fully and transparently captured;

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Tay Valley Township calls on the province to consider any potential amalgamation of Conservation Authorities on the basis of their abiotic, biologic and cultural characteristics (i.e. remove the Cataraqui Region and all lands not draining to the Ottawa River);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the province maintains the local knowledge of the unique natural resources, weather and climactic features of the RVCA and MVCA watersheds through local staffing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the current assets (including financial reserves and land trusts) of the RVCA and MVCA remain with them to recognize their fiscal prudence and are not used to subsidize conservation authorities with fewer assets or developed upon;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the province ensure that any future governance framework for Ontario's Conservation Authorities includes robust and clearly defined municipal representation, recognizing municipalities as essential partners in protecting watershed and mitigating risks;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ontario Minister of Finance, to the local MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the local conservation authority(s), and all municipalities in Ontario."

ADOPTED

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (613) 267-5353 ext. 130 or deputyclerk@tayvalleytwp.ca

Sincerely,



Aaron Watt, Deputy Clerk

cc: Hon. Todd J. McCarthy Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks,
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy Ontario Minister of Finance,
John Jordan, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston,
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), RVCA, MVCA and all Ontario Municipalities
Sally McIntyre, General Manager, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

/Enclosure

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
December 2nd, 2025

Report #PD-2025-21
Noelle Reeve, Planner

**PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR THE REGIONAL CONSOLIDATION OF ONTARIO'S
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

“THAT, staff submit comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257> Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities;

AND THAT, this report be circulated to the Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; local MPP the Honourable John Jordan; Mayor Christa Lowry, the Chair of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and Sommer Casgrain Robertson, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority; Sally McIntyre, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.”

BACKGROUND

On November 7, 2025, the province of Ontario introduced <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257> “Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities” for public comment by December 22, 2025.

The province states that, “Ontario's 36 conservation authorities play a vital role in watershed management and protecting communities from natural hazards like floods. Conservation authorities deliver programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources. Conservation authorities review permit applications and issue permits to builders, municipalities and property owners for development activities such as housing developments, installation of sewage systems in areas affected by risks of natural hazards such as floodplains, shorelines, river and stream valleys, and wetlands. Permitting administered by conservation authorities helps to ensure that development does not happen in unsafe areas and that it does not worsen the impacts of flooding or erosion in surrounding areas.”

However, the province believes, “The current system of 36 separate conservation authorities is fragmented, with each conservation authority following different policies, standards, fees and levels of staffing and technical capabilities. This has led to unpredictable and inconsistent

turnaround times for approvals across all conservation authorities, creating uncertainty and delays for builders, landowners and farmers seeking permits, and undermining conservation authorities' ability to protect communities from floods and natural hazards."

Therefore, the province intends to "consolidate the province's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities" (see Attachment 1 Map). Tay Valley Township would be included in the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority (see Attachment 2 Map).

The proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority would include 5 conservation authorities (the Rideau Valley, Mississippi Valley, Cataraqui, Raisin Region, and South Nation Conservation Authorities) containing 46 municipalities ranging in population from large (Ottawa, Kingston, Cornwall) to small (Front of Yonge, Westport) and in geographical size from Greater Madawaska to the Town of Merrickville-Wolford (see Attachment 3 for a list).

On November 6, 2025 the province introduced Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2). Schedule 3 of Bill 68 proposes to amend the Conservation Authorities Act to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency – a provincial board-governed agency – "to provide centralized leadership, efficient governance, strategic direction, and oversight of Ontario's conservation authorities".

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DISCUSSION

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Will we be saddled with extra costs for the extra layer of bureaucracy the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency represents? Tay Valley Township has experience with the amalgamation of Police Services Boards into one Lanark County Board and the extra costs that brought.

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STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Strong Community and Thriving Economy – Water is life. Without clean water and safety from flooding and drought there is no economy.

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CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS

Information on microclimates and ecological niches may be lost due to management at a higher level.

CONCLUSION

The Planner concludes that the Township should comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting so that the province hears which of the proposals the Township supports and hears our concerns about the specific potential negative impacts on our rural area.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Map of Proposed 7 Regional Conservation Authorities
- 2) Map of Proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority
- 3) List of Current Conservation Authorities and Municipalities that Would Fall Within the Proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

Prepared and Submitted By:



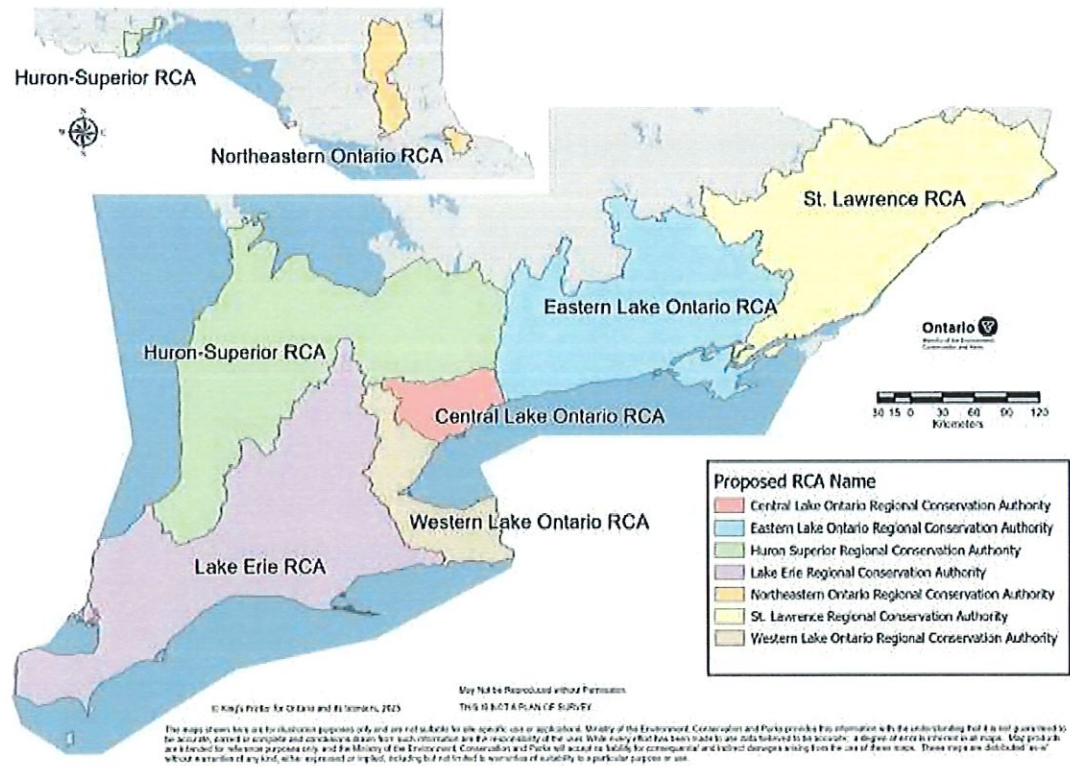
**Noelle Reeve,
Planner**

Approved for Submission By:

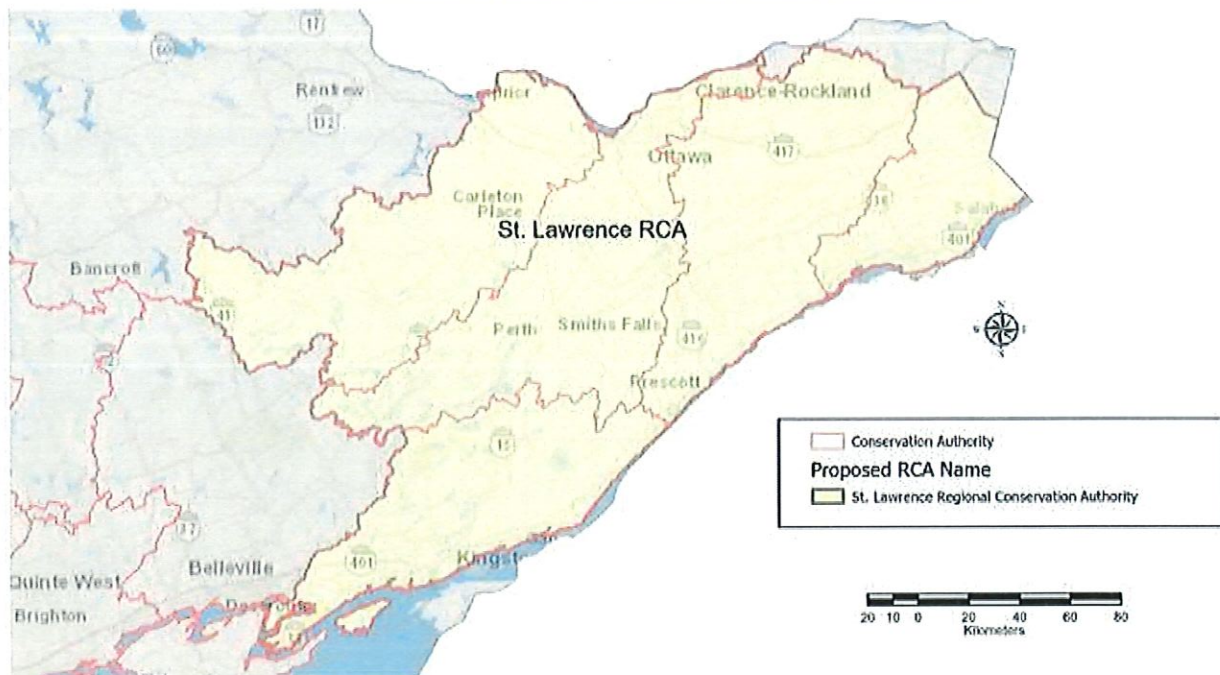


**Amanda Mabo,
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PROPOSED 7 REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (RCA)



ST. LAWRENCE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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Municipalities that would fall within the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brockville
- City of Clarence-Rockland
- City of Cornwall
- City of Kingston
- City of Ottawa
- Municipality of Mississippi Mills
- Municipality of North Grenville
- Municipality of South Dundas
- Municipality of The Nation
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Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority include:

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

December 2nd, 2025

Report #PD-2025-21
Noelle Reeve, Planner

**PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR THE REGIONAL CONSOLIDATION OF ONTARIO'S
CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

“THAT, staff submit comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257> Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities;

AND THAT, this report be circulated to the Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; local MPP the Honourable John Jordan; Mayor Christa Lowry, the Chair of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and Sommer Casgrain Robertson, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority; Sally McIntyre, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.”

BACKGROUND

On November 7, 2025, the province of Ontario introduced <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257> “Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities” for public comment by December 22, 2025.

The province states that, “Ontario's 36 conservation authorities play a vital role in watershed management and protecting communities from natural hazards like floods. Conservation authorities deliver programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, and management of natural resources. Conservation authorities review permit applications and issue permits to builders, municipalities and property owners for development activities such as housing developments, installation of sewage systems in areas affected by risks of natural hazards such as floodplains, shorelines, river and stream valleys, and wetlands. Permitting administered by conservation authorities helps to ensure that development does not happen in unsafe areas and that it does not worsen the impacts of flooding or erosion in surrounding areas.”

However, the province believes, “The current system of 36 separate conservation authorities is fragmented, with each conservation authority following different policies, standards, fees and levels of staffing and technical capabilities. This has led to unpredictable and inconsistent

turnaround times for approvals across all conservation authorities, creating uncertainty and delays for builders, landowners and farmers seeking permits, and undermining conservation authorities' ability to protect communities from floods and natural hazards."

Therefore, the province intends to "consolidate the province's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities" (see Attachment 1 Map). Tay Valley Township would be included in the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority (see Attachment 2 Map).

The proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority would include 5 conservation authorities (the Rideau Valley, Mississippi Valley, Cataraqui, Raisin Region, and South Nation Conservation Authorities) containing 46 municipalities ranging in population from large (Ottawa, Kingston, Cornwall) to small (Front of Yonge, Westport) and in geographical size from Greater Madawaska to the Town of Merrickville-Wolford (see Attachment 3 for a list).

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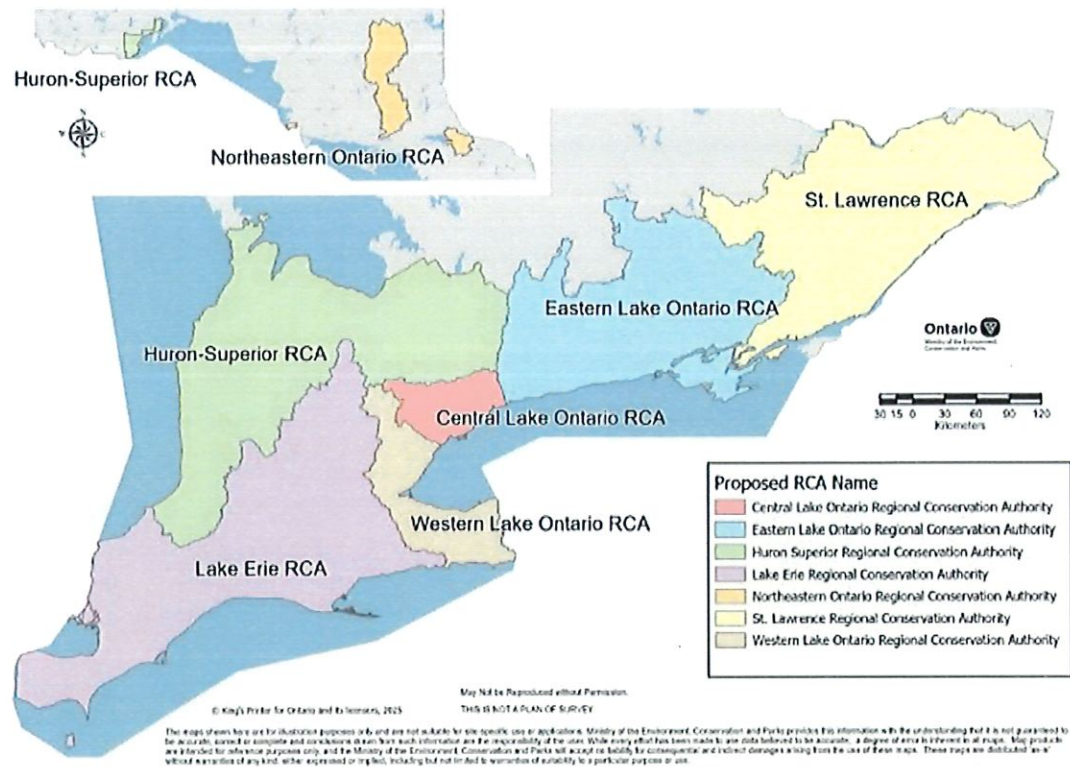
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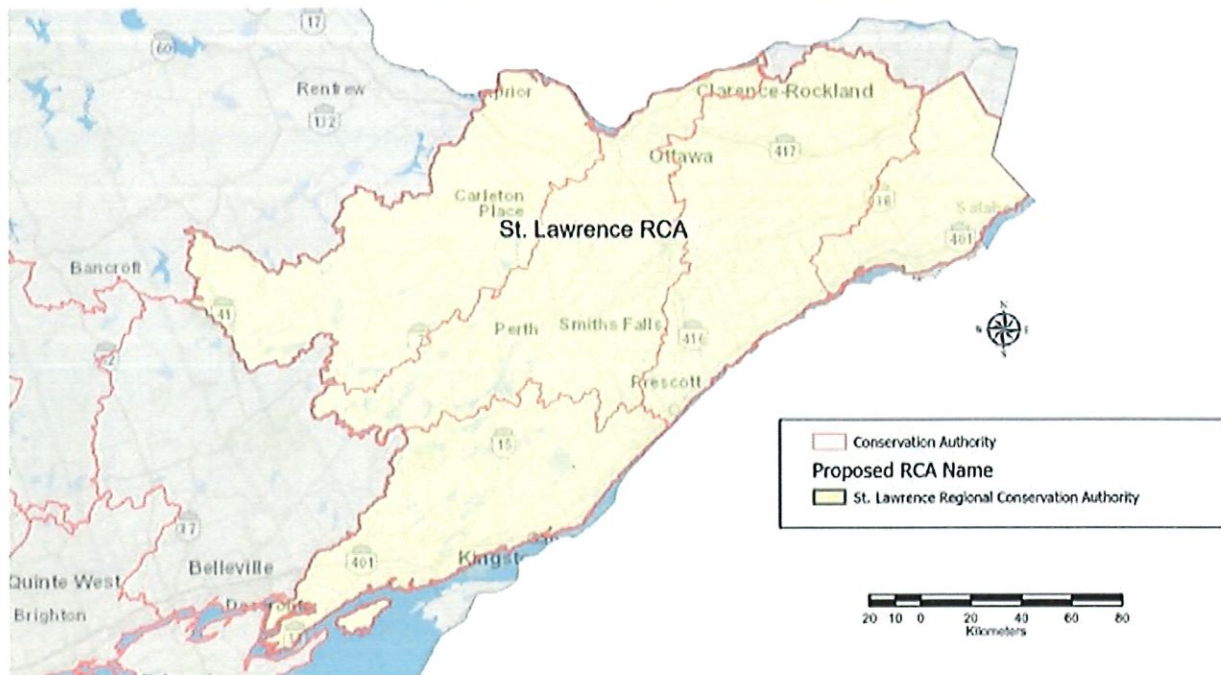


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Ministry of the Environment
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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

Todd J. McCarthy
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Sent via email
todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

December 29, 2025

RE: Correspondence from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority regarding
GRCA Board Resolution in response to Bill 68 and ERO 025-1257

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on December 17, 2025, passed the following resolution:

THAT Council support the correspondence from the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority regarding GRCA Board Resolution in response to Bill 68 and ERO 025-1257; and

FURTHER THAT Council does not support the proposed "Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration as outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257; and

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

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

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

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



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to forward this resolution to:

- the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Board
- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics; and
- the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (CA Office); and
- Ontario's Chief Conservation Executive, Hassaan Basit; and
- Local Member of Provincial Parliament David Piccini, Northumberland – Peterborough South; and
- all municipalities in Ontario

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

CC: David.Piccini@pc.ola.org; info@grca.on.ca; tabunsp-gp@ndp.on.ca; SShaw-QP@ndp.on.ca; ca.office@ontario.ca; City of Brantford <clerks@brantford.ca>; City of Greater Sudbury <clerks@greatersudbury.ca>; City of Hamilton <clerk@hamilton.ca>; City of Kawartha Lakes <clerks@kawarthalakes.ca>; City of Ottawa <Caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca>; City of Toronto <clerk@toronto.ca>; County of Brant <alysha.dyjach@brant.ca>; County of Haldimand <clerk@haldimandcounty.on.ca>; County of Norfolk <clerks@norfolkcounty.ca>; County of Prince Edward <clerks@pecounty.on.ca>; Municipality of Chatham-Kent <ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca>; County of Bruce <cmacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca>; Municipality of Arran-Elderslie <clerk@arran-elderslie.ca>; Municipality of Brockton <fhamilton@brockton.ca>; Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula <clerk@northernbruce.ca>; Municipality of South Bruce <clerk@southbruce.ca>; Town of Saugeen Shores <clerk@saugeenshores.ca>; Town of South Bruce Peninsula <angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com>; Township of Huron-Kinloss <edance@huronkinloss.com>; County of Dufferin <clerk@dufferincounty.ca>; Town of Grand Valley <mtownsend@townofgrandvalley.ca>; Town of Mono <clerksoffice@townofmono.com>; Town of Orangeville <clerkdivision@orangeville.ca>; Town of Shelburne <townclerk@townofshelburnema.gov>; Township of Amaranth <nmartin@amaranth.ca>; Township of East Garafraxa <clerks@eastgarafraxa.ca>; Township of Melancthon <dholmes@melancthontownship.ca>; Township of Mulmur <tatkinson@mulmur.ca>; City of St. Thomas <mkonefal@stthomas.ca>; County of Elgin <kthompson@elgin.ca>; Municipality of Bayham <melliott@bayham.on.ca>; Municipality of Central Elgin <pshipway@centralelgin.org>; Municipality of West Elgin <clerk@westelgin.net>; Town of Aylmer <clerks@town.aylmer.on.ca>; Township of Malahide <aadams@malahide.ca>; Township of Southwold <cao@southwold.ca>; City of Windsor <clerks@citywindsor.ca>; County of Essex <clerks@countyofessex.ca>; Town of Amherstburg <clerk@amherstburg.ca>; Town of Essex <clerks@essex.ca>; Town of Kingsville <pparker@kingsville.ca>; Town of Lakeshore <clerk@lakeshore.ca>; Town of LaSalle <clerk@lasalle.ca>; Town of Tecumseh <jalexander@tecumseh.ca>; Township of Pelee <info@pelee.ca>; City of Kingston <cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca>; County of Frontenac <jamini@frontenacounty.ca>; Township of Central Frontenac <cmacmunnn@centralfrontenac.com>; Township of Frontenac Islands <dplumley@frontenacislands.ca>; Township of North Frontenac <clerkplanning@northfrontenac.ca>; Township of South Frontenac <lfragnito@southfrontenac.net>; City of Owen Sound <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>; Municipality of Grey Highlands <clerks@greyhighlands.ca>; Municipality of Meaford <clerk@meaford.ca>; Municipality of West Grey <info@westgrey.com>; Town of Hanover <tpatterson@hanover.ca>; Town of The Blue Mountains <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>; Township of Chatsworth



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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<mbishop@dysartet.ca>; Municipality of Highlands East <rrogers@highlandseast.ca>; Township of Algonquin Highlands <dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca>; Township of Minden Hills <admin@mindenhills.ca>; City of Belleville <mtmacdonald@belleville.ca>; City of Quinte West <clerk@quintewest.ca>; Hastings County
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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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