




ConservationONTARIO
Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

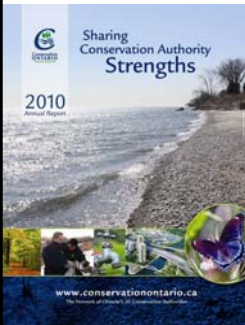


2010 Annual Report
Sharing Conservation Authority Strengths

Conservation Ontario Council
April 18, 2011



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Outline of Presentation

- Introduction
- Program Areas and Major Initiatives



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- Growing challenges for Conservation Authorities to continue to maintain water quality & quantity
 - Climate change impacts on weather patterns and precipitation leading to increased flooding, erosion & drought
- Needs of rapidly growing province need to be balanced against the ecological needs of our environment




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Updating Our Approach to Integrated Watershed Management



- Recognizes that our environment – economy and people are interconnected, not separate.
- The way forward is to manage natural and human impacts on water and land resources more collaboratively
- CAs facilitate collaborations around watershed planning and delivery of programs plus provide the science



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- Need to share responsibility for decisions around water between diverse stakeholders: government, industry, agencies and residents

Role of Conservation Authorities:

- ✓ Monitor, plan and report on local watershed conditions
- ✓ Deliver practical, cost efficient programs and services that ensure sustainable water and land resources
- ✓ Develop partnerships that leverage or increase available resources






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- 2010: CO released series of reports about IWM in Ontario that were developed in partnership with MNR, Fisheries & Oceans Canada & MOE
- Look at:
 - What is IWM?
 - How is it practiced in Ontario?
 - How can it be improved?
 - www.conservationontario.ca




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Source Protection Program – Two particular milestones in 2010:

- Release of the final phase of the Clean Water Act Regulations: tells us what we need to have in the source protection plans and what the process is to develop the plans
- CAs also completed and submitted their Watershed Assessment reports: identifies specific threats to municipal drinking water sources



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- Conservation Ontario continued to support CA staff as they moved to developing source protection plans
- CO coordinated the Source Protection Planning Advisory Committee – develops policy guidance
- Hosted day long workshop with Council to determine what we need in order to move forward into SP implementation phase

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- CO has also worked with Province to complete the development of the Assessment Report Database
- Using CAMaps website, we will be able to host all of the CA assessment information online in one spot

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Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program in 2010

- End of Early Actions program which supported a number of best management practices & education/outreach projects
- Working with MOE, CO pulled together and profiled publicly all the projects and their value undertaken by Conservation Authorities to October 2010.
- Also showcased delivery partnerships with Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture

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CA Drinking Water Early Actions Stewardship Projects to October 2010

Action/BMP/Measure	Cost –Share (Grant Rate & Cap)	Total # Projects (Oct 2010)
Decommissioning abandoned wells and upgrades to existing wells	80% \$4000	588 Completed 35 In Progress
Septic system inspections and upgrades	80% \$7,000 (\$15,000 advanced systems)	1222 Completed 31 In Progress
Pollution prevention (P2) reviews for med and small businesses	100% \$12,000	62 Completed 2 In Progress
Runoff and erosion protection measures and additional best management practices (BMPs)	25% to 80% \$1,000 to \$60,000	90 Completed 23 In Progress

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Other Watershed Stewardship (2010)

- Continued important partnerships with Trees Ontario, Provincial/Federal Ministries, Canadian Wildlife Service and Stewardship Network of Ontario
- Facilitated specialized training for CA staff (delivered by UTRCA) in erosion control
- CO Annual Reports shows how CAs leverage their funding to deliver stewardship programs

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Aging Infrastructure Threatens Public Safety

- Share this problem with municipalities
- CA infrastructure protects people and property from flood and erosion
- 2010: CAs implemented a total of 66 projects worth \$9 million (50% MNR \$\$)
 - 19 CAs for 43 repair projects / 20 studies

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Streamlining CA Regulatory Process

- CO Teams & Multi-stakeholder committees:
 - Release of the *Policies & Procedures for CA Plan Review and Permitting Activities*
 - Worked on development of best management practices and protocols for coordination with Drainage Act
 - Worked on rec'ns for Guidelines on Wetland Environmental Impact Studies
 - Drafted Memoranda of Understanding for Coordination (i.e. renewable energy projects, Hydro One activities)
 - Design & Registration: Regulatory Compliance Training

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Key role for Conservation Authorities around climate change is adding to our Watershed Science

- Updated our approaches to improve data management by developing more strategies and priorities / revised how we work together around data
- Worked with MOE to update and expand one of MOE's key information portals which is used by over 150 CA staff.
- Corrected and improved the provincial groundwater monitoring project within CAs

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- Completed **two year project** which helps CA and the Province to assess the potential impacts of climate change.
 - Analyzed data collected through our provincial water monitoring networks
 - Identified areas in 10 CAs that are potentially sensitive to climate change
 - Recommended how to enhance the monitoring networks to improve climate change detection & adaptation

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Lower Best Conservation Watershed Report Card 2007
A Report on the Ecological Health of the Region

Worked to improve how we report on conditions in our watersheds

- CA / CO Watershed Report Card Working Group & Sub Groups spent year developing recommendations to update CA approach to watershed reporting
- Final report completed in December
- 2011 – new guidelines to be released & transferred to all CA staff



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 **Step Into Nature**



Conservation Ontario continued to support CA Conservation Areas programs

- Trails Open 2010 (April to October)
- Conservation Areas Workshop (October)
- Promoted CA activities and events year round
- Special E-Bulletins

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Supported and Promoted CA Local Programs and Services

- **Training workshop** on Communicating Science – with University of Maryland Professor
- **2010 Municipal World article** promoted how CA programs help to build resiliency to protect biodiversity and adapt to climate change

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- **Series of E-Bulletins:**
 - March 2010: World Water Day talked about CA programs around water
 - May 2010: Walkerton 10 Years Later
 - July 2010: CA Watershed Stewardship Programs
 - December 2010: Showcased TD Friends of Environment and CA partnerships

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AD Latornell Conservation Symposium

- Just under 1,000 delegates, exhibitors, and speakers
- Keynote speakers featured some of North America's leading thinkers around Biodiversity
- Unique partnership with MNR Biodiversity Branch to promote feedback to Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy
- Evaluations: high majority of delegates said 'very good' to excellent