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Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 25, 2024
6:30 pm
3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick ON
(RVCA Boardroom)

Members and the public are also welcome to join via Zoom.

Please contact Marissa Grondin at marissa.grondin@rvca.ca or 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1177 in advance of the meeting if you wish to receive instructions to join.

AGENDA

Meeting 4/24	Page
1.0 Roll Call	
2.0 Land Acknowledgement Statement	
3.0 Agenda Review	
4.0 Adoption of Agenda	
5.0 Declaration of Interest	
6.0 Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2024	
7.0 Business Arising from Minutes	
8.0 2023 Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor Staff Report Attached (Kathy Dallaire).....	01
9.0 Proposed Discontinuation of Private Drinking Water Testing Program Staff Report Attached (Marika Livingston)	40
10.0 2023 Annual Report Staff Report Attached (Diane Downey).....	44
11.0 Conservation Ontario 2023 Annual Report Staff Report Attached (Sommer Casgrain-Robertson)	82
12.0 JHSC 2023 Annual Report Staff Report Attached (Sommer Casgrain-Robertson)	101

13.0 MFIPPA 2023 Annual Report
 Staff Report Attached (Sommer Casgrain-Robertson) 105

14.0 Final Programs and Services Inventory
 Staff Report Attached (Sommer Casgrain-Robertson) 116

15.0 Meetings

- a) Source Protection Committee Meeting – April 4, 2024
- b) Audit Committee Meeting – April 8, 2024
- c) Conservation Ontario AGM and Council Meeting – April 15, 2024
- d) Meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry – April 15, 2024
- e) Friends of the Tay Watershed AGM (presentation) – April 19, 2024

Upcoming

- f) Summer Student Orientation – April 29, 2024
- g) Climate Network Lanark Natural Heritage Systems Workshop – May 8, 2024
- h) Eastern Ontario Regional Housing Summit – May 28, 2024
- i) RVCF AGM and Board Meeting – June 12, 2024
- j) RVCA Watershed Tour – June 21, 2024
- k) CO Council Meeting – June 24, 2024
- l) Provincial GMs Meeting – June 25-26, 2024

16.0 Member Inquiries

17.0 New Business

18.0 Adjournment

Action Items from Previous Meetings:

Item	Lead Staff	Anticipated Timeline



**8.0 2023 Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor
Report #: 01-240425**

To: RVCA Board of Directors
From: Kathy Dallaire, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance
Date: April 16, 2024

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachments – 36 pages

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves the attached Draft 2023 Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December, 31 2023 and receive the Report of the Auditor and Management Letter.

Purpose

To review and approve the draft audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, and receive the Report of the Auditor and Management Letter.

Background

The firm of MNP LLP completed an audit of the RVCA in April 2024 and then met with RVCA's Audit Committee on April 8, 2024 to review the attached draft Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor. Ian Murphy, Partner with MNP will be attending the Board meeting on April 25, 2024 to present the attached documents and respond to questions.

Analysis

At RVCA's March 28, 2024 Board meeting staff presented draft unaudited year-end financial reports that included Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31, 2023, and a statement of Financial Position as at December 31 2023. These reports showed an annual surplus of \$2,205,206 before accounting for investments in tangible capital assets. There were no additional adjustments to the financial statements following the year-end audit. Therefore, the surplus presented in the draft unaudited financial statements in March is unchanged and matches the surplus reported in the 2023 draft audited financial statements.

The combination of actual revenues for the year ended Dec 31, 2023, being over budget by \$1,742,540 and the expenses being under budget by \$462,666 results in the surplus for the year of \$2,205,206.

After accounting for the required transfers to reserves, the operational surplus before discretionary transfers to reserves is \$1,078,837.

At RVCA's March 23, 2023, Board meeting the Board also approved total transfers to reserves of \$1,274,580 that includes required transfers to reserves of \$132,647 and discretionary transfers of \$1,141,933. Total transfers from reserves are \$487,473. This means that net reserve transfers in 2023 are \$787,107. The transfers to reserves approved by the Board in March are unchanged following the completion of the audit.

Once approved, the audited financial statements will be posted on RVCA's website and provided to member municipalities and the Province as required by legislation.

Input From Other Sources

The attached Financial Statements were audited by MNP LLP and reviewed by RVCA's Audit Committee.

Legal Considerations

The RVCA's 2023 financial audit is in accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Specifically, Section 38 of the Act states:

Annual audit

38 (1) Every authority shall cause its accounts and transactions to be audited annually by a person licensed under the Public Accounting Act, 2004 and shall ensure that the annual audit is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, as they exist from time to time. 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 24 (1).

Auditor

(2) No person shall be appointed as auditor of an authority who is or during the preceding year was a member of the authority or who has or during the preceding year had any direct or indirect interest in any contract or any employment with the authority other than for services within his or her professional capacity. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 38 (2).

Auditor's report

(3) An authority shall, upon receipt of the auditor's report of the examination of its accounts and transactions, forthwith forward a copy of the report to each participating municipality and to the Minister. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, s. 38 (3).

Report made publicly available

(4) Within 60 days of receiving the auditor's report, an authority shall make the report available to the public on its website and by any other means that the authority considers appropriate. 2020, c. 36, Sched. 6, s. 24 (2).

Adherence to RVCA Policy

The RVCA's 2023 financial audit is in accordance with RVCA's Administrative By-law. Specifically, Sections B.7, B.11 and C.10 of RVCA's Administrative By-law state:

B.7. Appointment of Auditor

The General Membership shall appoint an auditor for the coming year at the Annual Meeting in accordance with Section 38 of the Act.

B.10. Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor

The Authority's accounts and transactions will be audited annually by a person licensed under the Public Accounting Act, 2004 and shall ensure that the annual audit is prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

The General Membership shall receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor by May 31 of each year for the previous year.

The Authority shall forward copies of the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor to Participating Municipalities and the Minister in accordance with Section 38 of the Act and will make the Audited Financial Statements available to the public on the Authority's website within sixty (60) days of receiving the Auditor's Report.

Attachments:

- Draft Audited Financial Statements Dec 31, 2023
- 2023 Management Letter
- 2023 Audit Findings
- Proposed Reserve Continuity Schedule December 31, 2023

Draft for management only

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

December 31, 2023

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RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority are the responsibility of the Authority's management and have been prepared in compliance with legislation, and in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. A summary of significant accounting policies are described in note 2 to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involved the use of estimates based on management's judgement, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

The Authority's management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management.

The Audit Committee and management meet with the external auditors to review the financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters. The Board of Directors meets with management subsequently to review these same matters prior to the Board's approval of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been audited by MNP LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the Authority. The accompanying Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Authority's financial statements.

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

To the Board members of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (the "Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, accumulated operating surplus, changes in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Cornwall, Ontario
April 25, 2024

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
NET FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Assets		
Cash	\$ 8,791,194	\$ 8,714,813
Short-term investments (Note 3)	300,000	400,000
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	1,508,248	862,712
Long-term investments (Note 3)	1,450,913	1,350,913
	12,050,355	11,328,438
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,674,009	2,048,454
Vacation pay and other leave entitlements	171,436	198,325
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	2,453,244	2,152,424
Non pension post-retirement benefits obligation (Note 7)	464,614	458,347
Obligation under capital lease (Note 9)	1,702,319	1,905,023
	6,465,622	6,762,573
Net Financial Assets	5,584,733	4,565,865
NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Tangible capital assets (Note 10)	11,883,967	10,674,723
Prepaid expenses	156,908	179,816
Non-Financial Assets	12,040,875	10,854,539
Contingent Liabilities (Note 11)		
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS		
Accumulated Surplus	\$ 17,625,608	\$ 15,420,404

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	(Note 17) BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2022
REVENUE			
Municipal levies	\$ 6,719,746	\$ 6,719,748	\$ 6,461,296
Special municipal levies			
Rideau River Ice Management	987,648	486,540	894,774
Water Control infrastructure			
Reserve	10,000	10,000	10,000
Operation and maintenance	40,000	40,000	40,000
Water Quality Monitoring	158,696	158,696	158,696
Britannia Water Control Structure	21,500	21,500	21,500
Provincial Funding			
Ministry of Natural Resources			
Operating grant	107,422	125,286	125,286
Drinking Water Source Protection (Note 14)	248,440	273,215	218,572
Program revenues (Schedule 2)			
Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services	101,292	275,120	291,845
Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services	1,629,203	1,455,835	1,620,644
Stewardship Services	1,070,817	1,099,585	1,155,963
Conservation Land Management Services	421,598	2,007,392	436,221
Corporation Services	80,000	413,487	239,201
Other Income			
Capital projects	80,000	-	-
Total Revenues	11,676,362	13,086,404	11,673,998
EXPENDITURES			
Program expenditures (Schedule 3)			
Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services	3,447,076	3,046,334	3,267,327
Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services	2,872,527	2,463,406	2,644,676
Stewardship Services	1,796,746	1,664,819	1,639,509
Conservation Land Management Services	1,535,688	1,610,355	1,352,279
Corporate Services	1,664,185	2,062,879	1,784,715
Non Pension Post Retirement Benefit Obligation	27,647	33,407	33,188
Total Expenditures	11,343,869	10,881,200	10,721,694
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	332,493	2,205,204	952,304
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, beginning of year	15,420,404	15,420,404	14,468,100
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS, end of year	\$ 15,752,897	\$ 17,625,608	\$ 15,420,404

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	(Note 17) BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2023	ACTUAL 2022
Net surplus for the year	\$ 332,493	\$ 2,205,204	\$ 952,304
Amortization of tangible capital assets	302,087	321,556	302,015
Amortization of buildings under capital lease	146,313	146,313	146,313
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(160,000)	(1,680,113)	(497,261)
Change in prepaid expenses	-	22,908	(102,151)
(Gain) loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	(3,150)	19,224
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	6,150	-
Increase in net financial assets	620,893	1,018,868	820,444
Net financial assets, beginning of year	4,565,865	4,565,865	3,745,421
Net financial assets, end of year	5,186,758	\$ 5,584,733	\$ 4,565,865

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
CASH (USED IN) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net surplus for the year	\$ 2,205,204	\$ 952,304
Items not affecting cash or equivalent		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	321,556	302,015
Amortization of buildings under capital lease	146,313	146,313
(Gain) loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	(3,150)	19,224
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	(645,536)	(53,697)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(374,445)	49,366
Vacation pay and other leave entitlements	(26,889)	(38,676)
Deferred revenue	300,820	153,993
Non pension post retirement benefit obligation	6,267	3,986
Prepaid expenses	22,908	(102,151)
	1,953,048	1,432,677
CASH USED IN CAPITAL ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	6,150	-
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(1,680,113)	(497,261)
	(1,673,963)	(497,261)
CASH FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
(Purchase) redemption of short-term investments	100,000	-
Redemption (purchase) of long-term investments	(100,000)	7
	-	7
CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Capital lease payments	(202,704)	(202,704)
	76,381	732,719
INCREASE IN CASH	76,381	732,719
CASH, beginning of year	8,714,813	7,982,094
CASH, end of year	\$ 8,791,194	\$ 8,714,813

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

1. STATUS OF THE AUTHORITY

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (the 'Authority') is established under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario to maintain and improve the quality of the valley environment through watershed planning, cooperative resource management and conservation awareness. The Authority is exempt from income taxes.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority are the representations of management and have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. The financial statements include the following significant accounting policies:

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements reflect financial assets, liabilities, operating revenues and expenditures, reserves, reserve funds and changes in investment in tangible capital assets of the Authority.

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. The accrual basis of accounting records revenue as it is earned and measurable. Expenditures are recognized as they are incurred and measurable based on receipt of goods and services and/or the creation of a legal obligation to pay.

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year, and are not intended for sale in the ordinary course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the Change in Net Financial Assets for the year.

Revenue Recognition

Municipal levies are recognized in the financial statements as revenues in the period in which they are levied.

Government transfers are recognized in the financial statements as revenues in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met, and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made.

The Authority defers recognition of user charges and fees which have been collected but for which the related services have yet to be performed. These amounts will be recognized as revenues in the fiscal year the services are performed.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Authority considers cash and cash equivalents to be highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Investments

Short-term and long-term investments are recorded at cost plus accrued interest. If the market value of investments become lower than cost and the decline in value is considered to be other than temporary, the investments are written down to market value.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost, which include all amounts that are directly attributable to acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset. The cost, less residual value, of the tangible capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

	Estimated Useful Life
Buildings	20 - 50 years
Building under Capital Lease	50 years
Infrastructure < Dams / Berms / Dykes	20 - 25 years
< Bridges / Boardwalks	20 - 30 years
< Vehicles	7 years
< Machinery and Equipment	5 - 15 years
< Computer and IT Equipment	5 - 20 years
< Office and Audio Equipment	5 - 20 years

Amortization is charged from the date of acquisition. Assets under construction are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

When tangible capital assets are disposed of, either by way of a sale, destruction or loss, or abandonment of the asset, the asset's net book value, historical cost less accumulated amortization, is written off. Any resulting gain or loss, equal to the proceeds on disposal less the asset's net book value, is reported on the statement of operations in the year of disposal. Transfers of assets to third parties are recorded as an expense equal to the net book value of the asset as of the date of transfer.

When conditions indicate that a tangible capital asset no longer contributes to the Authority's ability to provide services or the value of the future economic benefits associated with the tangible capital asset are less than its net book value, and the decline is expected to be permanent, the cost and accumulated amortization of the asset are reduced to reflect the revised estimate of the value of the asset's remaining service potential. The resulting net adjustment is reported as an expense on the statement of operations.

The Authority has a capitalization threshold of \$5,000 so that individual capital assets of lesser value are expensed, unless they are pooled because, collectively, they have significant value, or for operating reasons.

Tangible capital assets received as contributions are recorded at their fair value at the date of receipt, and that fair value is also recorded as revenue. Similarly, transfers of assets to third parties are recorded as an expense equal to the net book value of the assets as of the date of transfer.

Leases

Leases are classified as capital or operating leases. Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as capital leases. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related lease payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Pension and Employee Benefits

The Authority participates in the Ontario Municipal Employees Benefit Retirement System ("OMERS"), a multi-employer public sector pension fund, which is a defined benefit plan. As sufficient information is not available to apply defined benefit plan accounting, the Authority accounts for the plan as a defined contribution plan. The OMERS plan specifies the retirement benefits to be received by employees based on length of service and pay rates.

Employee benefits include vacation entitlement which are accrued as entitlements are they are earned in accordance with the Authority's policy.

The Authority provides Post-Retirement Benefits in the form of employer paid group insurance premiums commencing on retirement and payable until the attainment of age 65. The annual cost of the benefit obligation will be charged as a program expenditure.

Deferred Revenues

The Authority receives restricted contributions under the authority of Federal and Provincial legislation and Authority by-laws. These funds by their nature are restricted in their use and until applied to applicable costs are recorded as deferred revenue. Amounts applied to qualifying expenses are recorded as revenue in the fiscal period they are expended.

Deferred revenue represents certain user charges and fees which have been collected but for which the related services have yet to be performed. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year the services are performed or related expenses incurred.

Reserves

Reserves for future expenditures and contingencies are established as required at the discretion of the Board members of the Authority. Increases or decreases in these reserves are made by appropriations to or from operations.

Financial Instruments

The Authority recognizes its financial instruments when the authority becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. All financial instruments are initially recorded at their fair value.

All financial assets and liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

Transaction costs are added to the carrying amount for those financial instruments subsequently measured at amortized cost.

All financial assets are tested annually for impairment. Management considers recent collection experience for the financial assets, such as a default or delinquency in interest or principal payments in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. Any impairment which is not considered temporary is recorded in the statement of operations. Write-downs of financial assets at amortized costs to reflect losses in value are not reversed for subsequent increases in value.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the period. Actual results could differ from these estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically and as adjustments become necessary, they are recorded in the financial statements in the period in which they become known. Significant estimates include estimated useful life of tangible capital assets, the valuation of allowances for doubtful accounts receivable, and future employment benefits.

Contributed services

Volunteers contribute significant time to the delivery of the Authority's programs. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of these contributions, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements

Corporate Services Program Revenues and Expenditures

Internal charges are made to allocate common overhead expenses, payroll burden and vehicle charges to all program areas. Actual expenditures are applied to these recovery revenues at year end which results in a net surplus or expenditure each year. These net amounts are included in Corporate Services - Administration and Finance - Program Expenditures.

Contaminated Sites

Contaminated sites are the result of contamination being introduced in air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic, or radioactive material or live organism that exceed an environmental standard. A liability for remediation of contaminated sites is recognized, net of any expected recoveries, when all of the following criteria are met: a) an environmental standard exists; b) contamination exceeds the environmental standard; c) the organization is directly responsible or accepts responsibility for the liability; d) future economic benefits will be given up; and e) a reasonable estimate of the liability can be made.

3. INVESTMENTS

Short-term investments consist of GIC's with interest rates of 2.47% (2022 - 2.60% - 3.20%) maturing in June 2024. Long-term investments consist of GIC's with interest rates between 1.11% - 4.93% (2022 - 1.11% - 4.60%) maturing between July 2025 and June 2028.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2023	2022
Trade and other	\$ 558,360	\$ 638,859
Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation (Note 15)	849,488	155,643
City of Ottawa	100,400	68,210
	\$ 1,508,248	\$ 862,712

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

5. CREDIT FACILITY

The Authority maintains an operating line facility with the Bank of Montreal of \$750,000 which bears interest at prime + 0.25% and is due on demand. As of December 31, 2023, no balance (2022 - \$Nil) was payable under the facility.

6. DEFERRED REVENUES

	2023	2022
Conservation Land Management Services	\$ 119,484	\$ 31,105
Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services	66,927	93,941
Planning Advisory & Regulatory Services	282,882	169,145
Stewardship Services	1,231,602	1,179,499
Ottawa Rideau River Ice Management	752,349	251,241
Municipal levies - City of Ottawa	-	427,493
	\$ 2,453,244	\$ 2,152,424

7. NON PENSION POST RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATION

The Authority's employee benefits plan consists of employer-paid group insurance premiums for extended health care and dental care, as well as life insurance coverage. Benefits commence on retirement and are payable for five years, or until the employee reaches the age of sixty-five, if earlier.

The valuation was based on a number of assumptions about future events such as inflation rates, interest rates, medical and dental inflation rates, wage and salary increases, and employee turnover and mortality.

An actuarial valuation was performed for accounting purposes on February 3, 2023.

The accrued benefit obligation as at December 31, 2023 consists of the following components:

	2023	2022
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	\$ 458,347	\$ 454,361
Current service cost	21,191	23,661
Benefits paid during the year	(23,100)	(35,000)
Interest accrued	16,706	17,578
Unamortized Gain/(Loss)	(8,530)	(2,253)
Expected accrued benefit obligation, end of year	\$ 464,614	\$ 458,347

8. PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

The Authority is a member of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System ('OMERS'), which is a multi-employer plan. The plan is a contributory defined benefit plan which specifies the amount of the retirement benefit to be received by the employees based on the length of service and rates of pay. Employers and employees contribute to the plan. Since any surpluses or deficits are a joint responsibility of all Ontario municipalities and their employees, the Authority does not recognize any share of the OMERS pension surplus or deficit in these financial statements.

The amount contributed to OMERS was \$418,350 (2022 - \$393,795) for current services and is included as an expenditure on the Statement of Operations classified under the appropriate functional expenditure.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

9. OBLIGATION UNDER CAPITAL LEASE

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is committed to total annual payments including interest under capital lease as follows:

2024	\$ 322,793
2025	322,793
2026	322,793
2027	322,793
2028	322,793
and thereafter	\$ 645,586

The Authority has entered into a twenty year lease agreement with the City of Ottawa for the new office building located in Beryl Gaffney Park which expires August 2030. Minimum annual payments are based on the annual debt charges that the City will incur on a twenty year debenture of \$4,735,000. The effective interest rate as of December 31, 2023 was 5.97% (2022 - 5.97%). In addition, an annual park development fee of \$32,000 will be paid to the City for the term of the lease. Rent and park development fees (excluding HST) in the amount of \$354,793 were paid for 2023 (2022 - \$354,793). Interest on the obligation was paid in the amount of \$120,089 (2022 - \$120,089).

In accordance with Article 2.04 of the building lease, monthly payments are based on estimated debt charges and will be amended to reflect actual debt charges.

The present value of the obligation at December 31, 2023, under the terms of the capital lease, is \$1,702,319 (2022 - \$1,905,023).

At the end of the term, the Authority shall have the option to purchase the building for \$1. In no event shall acquisition of the building include the demised lands.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

10. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

Cost	Opening	Additions	Transfers	Disposals	Closing
Land	\$ 1,977,823	\$ 872,413	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,850,236
Buildings	1,876,142	10,000			1,886,142
Building Under Capital Lease	7,315,669	-	-	-	7,315,669
Infrastructure					
Dams/Berms/Dykes	9,399,096	-	-	-	9,399,096
Bridges/Boardwalks	484,342	-	148,769	-	633,111
Vehicles	832,934	180,701	-	(71,236)	942,399
Machinery and Equipment	716,009	169,034	-	-	885,043
Computers and IT equipment	493,149	40,645	-	-	533,794
Office and Audio Visual					
Equipment	159,739	7,634	-	-	167,373
Assets Under Construction	393,699	399,686	(148,769)	-	644,616
	\$ 23,648,602	\$ 1,680,113	\$ -	\$ (71,236)	\$ 25,257,479

Accumulated Amortization	Opening	Additions	Disposals	Closing
Buildings	\$ 1,252,217	\$ 32,053	\$ -	\$ 1,284,270
Building Under Capital Lease	2,206,892	146,313	-	2,353,205
Infrastructure				
Dams/Berms/Dykes	7,660,886	103,177	-	7,764,063
Bridges/Boardwalks	355,585	18,893	-	374,478
Vehicles	674,493	58,996	(68,236)	665,253
Machinery and Equipment	357,990	56,803	-	414,793
Computers and IT equipment	371,852	39,493	-	411,345
Office and Audio Visual				
Equipment	93,964	12,141	-	106,105
	\$ 12,973,879	\$ 467,869	\$ (68,236)	\$ 13,373,512

Net Book Value	2023	2022
Land	\$ 2,850,236	\$ 1,977,823
Buildings	601,872	623,925
Buildings Under Capital Lease	4,962,464	5,108,777
Infrastructure		
Dams/Berms/Dykes	1,635,033	1,738,210
Bridges/Boardwalks	258,633	128,757
Vehicles	277,146	158,441
Machinery and Equipment	470,250	358,019
Computers and IT equipment	122,449	121,297
Office and Audio Visual		
Equipment	61,268	65,775
Assets Under Construction	644,616	393,699
	\$ 11,883,967	\$ 10,674,723

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The nature of conservation authority activities is such that there may be litigation pending or in prospect at any time. With respect to claims as at December 31, 2023 management believes that the Authority has valid defenses and appropriate insurance coverages in place. In the event any claims are successful, the amount of any potential liability is not determinable, therefore, no amount has been accrued in the financial statements.

12. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

Accumulated surplus consists of individual fund surplus and reserves as follows:

	2023	2022
Unrestricted Surplus	224,000	217,851
Invested in Tangible Capital Assets		
Tangible capital assets	\$ 11,883,967	\$ 10,674,723
Obligation under capital lease	(1,702,319)	(1,905,023)
	10,181,648	8,769,700
Reserves		
Capital Reserves	1,866,065	1,906,394
Building Life Cycle Reserve	923,550	853,550
Working Fund Reserve	1,728,456	1,212,616
Program Reserves		
Stewardship	468,423	338,537
Part VIII Program	480,820	639,691
LRC Production Centre	100,800	100,800
ORWC	248,848	232,892
Conservation Lands	214,495	214,495
Planning and Regulations	699,999	540,992
Watershed Science and Engineering	256,623	256,623
Corporate Communications	119,227	90,491
Part IV	524	524
Septic Reinspection	12,130	45,248
Outdoor Education	100,000	-
Total reserves	7,219,960	6,432,853
Accumulated Surplus	\$ 17,625,608	\$ 15,420,404

13. SPECIAL LEVY ON MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

The Authority's share of the cost of the Rideau River Ice Management - City of Ottawa was funded by a special levy on the benefiting municipality for 2023 of \$486,540 (2022 - \$894,774). Other special levies in 2023 from the City of Ottawa include Water Control Infrastructure \$10,000 (2022 - \$10,000), Water Control Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance \$40,000 (2022 - \$40,000), Water Quality Monitoring \$158,696 (2022 - \$158,696), and Britannia Water Control Structure Reserve \$21,500 (2022 - \$21,500).

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

14. SOURCE WATER PROTECTIONS

The Authority is receiving funding support for the Drinking Water Source Protection Program. Funds are to be used to lead and deliver the local source protection program for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region. This project will be delivered with the collaboration of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. Any unspent funds are repayable to the Province.

15. RELATED PARTY

The Authority has an economic interest in the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation. During the year, the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation transferred donations of \$72,785 (2022 - \$48,830), grant revenue of \$668,575 (2022 - \$Nil), Species at Risk program revenue of \$81,521 (2022 - \$96,773) and Partnership Agreement revenue of \$21,943 (2022 - \$Nil) in addition, expense reimbursements of \$8,750 (2022 - \$44,856) to the Authority. Of these transfers, \$849,488 (2022 - \$155,643) is outstanding at year end. Amounts owing are due on demand, non-interest-bearing and have no specific terms of repayment but are expected to be paid after the Foundation's Annual General Meeting, held annually in June.

The Foundation funds are used to support the conservation programs of the Authority to protect and conserve the lands and waters of the valley of the Rideau River in Eastern Ontario. All transactions between the Authority and the Foundation are recorded at fair market value.

16. LIABILITIES FOR CONTAMINATED SITES

The Authority reports environmental liabilities related to the management and remediation of contaminated sites where the Authority is obligated or likely obligated to incur such costs. A contaminated site liability of \$Nil (2022 - \$Nil) has been recorded based on environmental assessments or estimations for those sites where an assessment has not been conducted. The Authority's ongoing efforts to assess contaminated sites may result in additional environmental remediation liabilities related to newly identified sites, or changes in the assessments or intended use of existing sites. Any changes to the Authority's liabilities for contaminated sites will be accrued in the year in which they are assessed as likely and reasonably estimable.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

17. BUDGET AMOUNTS

The 2023 budget amounts that were approved on February 23, 2023 were not prepared on a basis consistent with that used to report actual results (Public Sector Accounting Standards). The budget included capital items such as infrastructure replacements and estimated costs for constructed assets, as program expenses, but the actual expenses have been removed in the Statement of Operations. The revenues attributable to these items continue to be included in the Statement of Operations, resulting in a significant positive variance.

The following analysis is provided to assist readers in their understanding of differences between the approved budget and the audited financial statements:

	Approved Budget	Actual
Surplus for the year per Statement of Operations	\$ 332,493	\$ 2,205,204
Assets capitalized as tangible capital assets	(160,000)	(1,680,113)
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	(3,150)
Amortization	-	467,870
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	6,150
Repayment of obligation under capital lease	(202,704)	(202,704)
Transfers from reserves	160,000	487,473
Transfers to reserves	(129,789)	(1,274,580)
Adjusted surplus for the year	\$ -	\$ 6,150

18. SEGMENTED INFORMATION

Certain allocation methodologies are employed in the preparation of segmented financial information. Government grants, user charges, transfers from other funds, and other revenues are allocated to the specific program or service they relate to. Expense allocations are both internal and external. The basis of accounting for inter-segment transfers is at cost using activity based costing for the allocation of internal support costs to departments. These costs include the net expenditures for departments, such as human resources, information systems, finance and others, commonly referred to as overhead.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority segments its activities into five main program areas which are reported in the accompanying supplementary schedules to the financial statements.

Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services

Watershed management and health monitoring program costs and revenues are those required to develop the framework and management strategy to provide a rational approach to natural systems protection, restoration and use. The main activities included in this segment are watershed and sub watershed plans, resource inventory and environmental monitoring, flood protection services and source water protection.

Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

Planning advisory and regulatory services include costs and revenues associated with the approval of development applications or rendering of opinions on the impact of development applications on natural hazards, natural heritage resources and water resources as provided under provincial legislation which includes the Planning Act, Conservation Authorities Act and the Environmental Assessment Act.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

18. SEGMENTED INFORMATION (Continued)

Stewardship Services

The stewardship services costs and revenues are those associated with providing service and assistance to private and public landowners on sound environmental practices that will enhance, restore or protect lands and natural features. This category includes activities such as fisheries rehabilitation, tree planting and reforestation, wildlife habitat improvements, management plans, agricultural best practices and erosion control services.

Conservation Land Management Services

The conservation land management services includes all expenses and revenues associated with lands, improvements, buildings and structures owned by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. It also includes active programming on some Authority lands.

Corporate Services

Corporate services includes management and non-program specific costs and revenues. These include internal support service costs such as senior management costs, board costs, office services, financial services, human resources, information technology and corporate communications.

19. SEGMENTED DISCLOSURES

	Watershed Sciences & Engineering Services	Planning Advisory & Regulatory Services	Stewardship Services	Conservation Land Management Services	Corporate Services & Internal Recoveries	2023	2022
Revenues							
Levies	\$ 2,464,813	\$ 1,232,324	\$ 725,928	\$ 1,114,089	\$ 1,899,330	7,436,484	7,586,266
User fees, program revenues & other	659,201	1,470,257	936,737	1,069,477	106,898	4,242,570	3,810,658
Interest revenue	-	-	-	-	306,589	306,589	154,893
Donations	-	-	162,848	937,913	-	1,100,761	122,180
	3,124,014	2,702,581	1,825,513	3,121,479	2,312,817	13,086,404	11,673,997
Expenses							
Amortization	134,841	5,486	3,781	44,503	279,258	467,869	448,328
Charge - common cost	229,073	324,518	97,716	141,975	234,684	1,027,966	1,013,508
Charge - vehicle & equipment	5,040	45,491	20,160	63,809	13,030	147,530	147,798
Operating expenses	1,393,195	216,627	935,819	523,111	1,156,549	4,225,301	3,885,979
Interest on capital lease	-	-	-	-	157,771	157,771	157,771
Recovery - common costs	-	-	-	-	(1,036,222)	(1,036,222)	(1,016,749)
Recovery - LRC	-	-	-	-	(2,400)	(2,400)	(17,851)
Recovery - vehicle & equipment	-	-	-	-	(178,910)	(178,910)	(153,648)
Salaries, wages & benefits	1,284,185	1,871,284	607,343	836,957	1,439,119	6,038,888	6,223,370
	3,046,334	2,463,406	1,664,819	1,610,355	2,062,879	10,847,793	10,688,506
Non Pension Retirement Benefits	-	-	-	-	33,407	33,407	33,188
Net Surplus	\$ 77,680	\$ 239,175	\$ 160,694	\$ 1,511,124	\$ 216,531	2,205,204	952,303

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2023

20. RISK MANAGEMENT

In the normal course of operations, the Authority is exposed to a variety of financial risks which are actively managed by the Authority.

The Authority's financial instruments consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrual liability, accrued vacation and other leave entitlements.

The Authority's exposure to and management of risk has not changed materially from December 31, 2022.

Credit Risk

Credit Risk arises from the possibility that the entities to which the Authority provides services to may experience difficulty and be unable to fulfil their obligations. The Authority is exposed to financial risk that arises from the credit quality of the entities to which it provides services. The Authority has the largest concentration of credit with Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation that totals 49% (2022 - South Nation Conservation Authority, 28%) of the Authority's entire receivable balance. As a result, the requirement for credit risk related reserves for accounts receivable is minimal.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that the value of, or cash flows related to, a financial instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is exposed to financial risk that arises from the interest rate differentials between the market interest rate and the rates on its cash, investments and operating loan. Changes in variable interest rates could cause unanticipated fluctuations in the Authority's operating results.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its obligations as they fall due. The Authority requires working capital to meet day-to-day operating activities. Management expects that the Authority's cash flows from operating activities will be sufficient to meet these requirements.

21. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been restated to conform with the current year's presentation.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

RESERVES

Schedule 1

For the year ended December 31, 2023

CONTINUITY OF RESERVES

	2023	2022
Reserves and reserve fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 6,432,853	\$ 5,685,194
Net transfers from operations approved by board	787,107	747,659
Reserves and reserves fund balances, end of year	\$ 7,219,960	\$ 6,432,853

COMPOSITION OF RESERVES

	2023	2022
Capital Reserves	\$ 1,866,065	\$ 1,906,394
Building Life Cycle Reserve	923,550	853,550
Working Fund Reserve	1,728,456	1,212,616
Program Reserves	468,423	338,537
Stewardship	480,820	639,691
Part VIII Program	100,800	100,800
LRC Production Centre	248,848	232,892
ORWC	214,495	214,495
Conservation Lands	699,999	540,992
Planning and Regulations	256,623	256,623
Watershed Science and Engineering	119,227	90,491
Corporate Communications	524	524
Part IV	12,130	45,248
Septic Reinspection	100,000	-
Outdoor Education	100,000	-
Total	\$ 7,219,960	\$ 6,432,853

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PROGRAM REVENUES

Schedule 2

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	(Note 17) Budget	2023	2022
Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services			
Surface Water Quality Monitoring	\$ -	\$ 34,004	\$ 70,774
Hydrometric Monitoring and Forecasting	2,974	190,257	36,113
Flood Erosion and Drought Studies	92,048	11,871	149,651
Ground Water Monitoring	10,075	3,982	1,204
Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring	26,195	35,006	34,103
Water Control Structures/Engineering	(30,000)	-	-
	101,292	275,120	291,845
Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services			
Plan Review	400,000	393,061	406,829
Section 28 Conservation Authorities Act	311,401	303,100	293,190
Septic Re-Inspection Program	85,475	54,671	121,138
Part VIII Building Code Act	785,324	701,380	797,943
Part IV Clean Water Act	47,003	3,623	1,544
	1,629,203	1,455,835	1,620,644
Stewardship Services			
Private Land Forestry	720,000	715,965	662,799
Clean Water Program	206,000	254,562	354,537
Other	144,817	129,058	138,627
	1,070,817	1,099,585	1,155,963
Conservation Land Management Services			
Program Management and Land Donations	15,000	872,587	30,950
Baxter	213,328	614,266	184,996
Foley Mountain	106,461	160,540	125,466
Other Developed Conservation Areas	32,000	307,820	41,929
Other Conservation Areas	22,809	17,084	18,987
Lease and Management Agreements	32,000	35,095	33,893
	421,598	2,007,392	436,221
Corporate Services			
Administration and Finance	65,000	315,514	159,236
Communications	15,000	40,302	7,873
Watershed Information Management System	-	57,671	72,092
	80,000	413,487	239,201
Total Program Revenues	\$ 3,302,910	\$ 5,251,419	\$ 3,743,874

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Schedule 3

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	(Note 17) Budget	2023	2022
Watershed Sciences and Engineering Services			
Program Management	\$ 74,994	\$ 90,173	\$ 101,139
Watershed Report Cards	164,469	194,624	228,856
Drinking Water Source Protection (Note 13)	248,440	273,215	218,572
Surface Water Quality Monitoring	465,780	476,814	440,554
Hydrometric Monitoring and Forecasting	294,907	432,985	273,438
Flood, Erosion and Drought Studies	482,745	439,052	558,881
Ground Water Monitoring	174,897	100,261	161,746
Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring	380,607	298,203	184,022
Water Control Infrastructure			
Operations	122,589	69,626	26,381
Capital Maintenance	50,000	-	(113)
Rideau River Ice Management	987,648	536,540	944,774
Amortization	-	134,841	129,077
	3,447,076	3,046,334	3,267,327
Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services			
Program Management	143,037	124,717	118,758
Plan Review	904,434	595,004	843,991
Section 28 Conservation Authorities Act	907,254	833,668	889,846
Part IV Clean Water Act	47,003	3,632	1,544
Part VIII Building Code Act	785,324	813,110	711,911
Septic Re-Inspection Program	85,475	87,789	75,890
Amortization	-	5,486	2,736
	2,872,527	2,463,406	2,644,676
Stewardship Services			
Program Management	167,360	166,089	166,277
Private Land Forestry	841,660	753,575	711,045
Clean Water Program	466,718	491,671	488,721
Shoreline Stewardship Program	242,610	179,468	192,133
Other	78,398	70,235	78,666
Amortization	-	3,781	2,667
	1,796,746	1,664,819	1,639,509
Conservation Land Management Services			
Program Management and Land Donations	104,240	77,799	96,059
Baxter Conservation Area	423,133	368,184	336,375
Foley Mountain Conservation Area	349,257	404,279	309,062
Other Developed Conservation Areas	350,868	478,720	291,895
Other Conservation Areas	276,190	203,008	239,405
Lease and Management Agreements	32,000	33,862	33,893
Amortization	-	44,503	45,590
	1,535,688	1,610,355	1,352,279

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Schedule 3 continued

For the year ended December 31, 2023

	(Note 17) Budget	2023	2022
Corporate Services			
Management and Members	\$ 330,278	\$ 335,030	\$ 301,438
Finance and Administration	553,443	534,587	485,426
Communications	269,055	265,621	247,867
Foundation	101,618	109,655	102,703
Headquarter Lease and Maintenance	157,771	190,041	157,771
Watershed Information Management System	275,681	364,723	253,137
	1,687,846	1,799,657	1,548,342
Internal Cost - Expenditures (Recoveries)			
Gain on Disposal	-	(3,150)	19,225
Common Cost	(23,661)	(18,217)	(28,052)
Vehicles and Equipment	-	5,331	(23,058)
Amortization	-	279,258	268,258
	(23,661)	263,222	236,373
Total Corporate Services	1,664,185	2,062,879	1,784,715
Total Program Expenditures	\$ 11,316,222	\$ 10,847,793	\$ 10,688,506

April 8, 2024

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
3889 Rideau Valley Drive PO Box 599
Manotick, ON K4M 1A5

Dear Ms. Casgrain-Robertson:

Management letter for the year ended December 31, 2023

We have recently completed our audit of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("GAAS"). The objective of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. Included in our audit was the consideration of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements. This consideration of internal control was for the purpose of designing audit procedures that were appropriate in the circumstances. It was not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or for identifying all significant control deficiencies that might exist.

An audit is not specifically designed to identify all matters that may be of interest to management in discharging its responsibilities, however, during the course of our audit, we did, identify some areas for improvement that we are bringing to your attention with this letter. It is our responsibility to communicate any significant deficiencies identified to those charged with governance. A significant deficiency in internal control is defined as a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control that, in the auditor's professional judgment, is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of those charged with governance.

Journal Entry Approval

Observation:

No evidence of approval is present on adjusting journal entries.

Impact:

This may allow unauthorized or incorrect entries to be posted.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the Finance Manager documents evidence of review for each adjusting entry posted.

Management's response:

No hard copy of entries get printed, therefore no physical signature occurs. There is currently no function in Sage that allows for electronic sign-off of journal entries.

We would like to express our appreciation for the co-operation and assistance we have received during the course of our audit from your staff.

We would be pleased to discuss with you further any matters mentioned in this letter at your convenience. This communication is prepared solely for the information of management and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to any third party who uses this communication.

Sincerely,

MNP LLP

**Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants**

encls.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

2023 Audit Findings

Report to the Audit Committee

December 31, 2023

Ian Murphy, CPA, CA
T: 613.209.8252
E: ian.murphy@mnp.ca

Overview

We are pleased to submit to you this Audit Findings Report (the "Report") for discussion of our audit of the financial statements of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (the "Organization") as at December 31, 2023 and for the year then ended. In this report we cover those significant matters which, in our opinion, you should be aware of as members of the Audit Committee.

As auditors, we report to the members on the results of our examination of the financial statements of the Organization as at and for the year ended December 31, 2023. The purpose of this Report is to assist you, as members of the Audit Committee, in your review of the results of our audit.

This Report is intended solely for the information and use of the Audit Committee and management and should not be distributed to or used by any other parties than these specified parties.

We appreciate having the opportunity to meet with you and to respond to any questions you may have about our audit, and to discuss any other matters that may be of interest to you.

Engagement Status

We have substantially completed our audit of the financial statements of the Organization which has been carried out in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and are prepared to sign our Independent Auditor's Report subsequent to completion of the following procedures:

- Receipt of the remaining outstanding legal confirmations;
- Receipt of the signed management representation letter;
- Discussion of subsequent events with the Audit Committee;
- The Audit Committee's review and approval of the financial statements.

No significant limitations were placed on the scope or timing of our audit.

Independent Auditor's Report








We expect to have the above procedures completed and to release our Independent Auditor's Report on April 8, 2024.



Unless unforeseen complications arise, our Independent Auditor's Report will provide an unmodified opinion to the members of the Organization. A draft copy of our proposed Independent Auditor's Report has been included with this report. The matters disclosed in the Independent Auditor's Report are discussed further in the relevant sections of the Report.

Audit Reporting Matters

Our audit was carried out in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, and included a review of all significant accounting and management reporting systems, with each material year end balance, key transaction and other events considered significant to the financial statements considered separately.

Significant Audit, Accounting and Reporting Matters

Area		Comments
	Changes from Audit Service Plan	There were no deviations from the Audit Service Plan previously presented to you.
	Final Materiality	Final materiality used for our audit was \$520,000 for December 31, 2023, and \$420,000 for December 31, 2022.
	Identified or Suspected Fraud	While our audit cannot be relied upon to detect all instances of fraud, no incidents of fraud, or suspected fraud, came to our attention in the course of our audit.
	Identified or Suspected Non-Compliance with Laws and Regulations	Nothing has come to our attention that would suggest any non-compliance with laws and regulations that would have a material effect on the financial statements.
	Matters Arising in Connection with Related Parties	No significant matters arose during the course of our audit in connection with related parties of the Organization.
	Going Concern	No events or conditions identified that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.
	Auditor's Views of Significant Accounting Practices, Accounting Policies and Accounting Estimates	<p>The application of Canadian public sector accounting standards allows and requires the Organization to make accounting estimates and judgments regarding accounting policies and financial statement disclosures.</p> <p>As auditors, we are uniquely positioned to provide open and objective feedback regarding your</p>

Area		Comments
		<p>Organization's accounting practices, and have noted the following items during the course of our audit that we wish to bring to your attention.</p> <p>The accounting policies used by the Organization are appropriate and have been consistently applied.</p>
	Financial Statement Disclosures	The disclosures made in the notes to the financial statements appear clear, neutral and consistent with our understanding of the entity and the amounts presented in the financial statements.
	Significant Deficiencies in Internal Control	While our review of controls was not sufficient to express an opinion as to their effectiveness or efficiency we have not detected any significant deficiencies in internal controls.

Significant Risk Areas and Responses

Significant Risk Area	Response and Conclusion
<p>Program revenue</p> <p>Risk that revenue is not complete due to management bias to defer revenue</p>	Fraud risk in completeness of program revenue is addressed through work performed in deferred revenue section.
<p>Expenses</p> <p>Risk in existence of payables due to management bias to reduce surplus</p>	Fraud risk on existence of expenses surrounding year end cut off is addressed through work performed in accounts payable section.
<p>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</p> <p>Risk of overstating payables to reduce surplus due to management bias</p>	Assign more experienced staff to this section of the file and increase sample size for testing existence of payables.
<p>Accounts receivable</p> <p>Risk of understating receivables to decrease surplus due to bias</p>	Plan additional supervision from manager on this section, increase subsequent receipt testing by using a higher risk factor.

Other Areas

Area	Comments
Auditor Independence	We confirm to the Audit Committee that we are independent of the Organization. Our letter to the Audit Committee discussing our independence is included as part of the additional materials attached to this report.
Management Representations	We have requested certain written representations from management, which represent a confirmation of certain oral representations given to us during the course of our audit. This letter, provided by management, has been included as additional material to this report.
Summary of Significant Differences	A few significant differences were proposed to management with respect to the December 31, 2023 financial statements.

We appreciate having the opportunity to meet with you and respond to any questions you may have about our audit, and to discuss any other matters that may be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

encls

Appendix A - Summary of Significant Differences

Description of Differences	Proposed Adjustments Dr (Cr)				
	Earnings		Balance Sheet		
	Identified	Likely Aggregate (Net of Tax)	Assets	Liabilities	Equity
To record donated portion of property	\$ (250,000)	\$ (250,000)	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ (250,000)
To record ARO liability for house to demolish.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,290	\$ (37,290)	\$ -
Total	\$ (250,000)	\$ (250,000)	\$ 287,290	\$ (37,290)	\$ (250,000)
Differences corrected by management	\$ (250,000)	\$ (250,000)	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ (250,000)
Total differences net of corrections	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,290	\$ (37,290)	\$ -
Uncorrected opening differences	\$ 50,995	\$ 50,995	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Current period differences	\$ 50,995	\$ 50,995	\$ 37,290	\$ (37,290)	\$ -
Final overall materiality	\$ 520,000	\$ 520,000	\$ 520,000	\$ 520,000	\$ 520,000
Excess (shortfall)	\$ 469,005	\$ 469,005	\$ 482,710	\$ 482,710	\$ 520,000

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And proud of it!

At MNP we're proud to be the national accounting, consulting and tax firm that is 100% Made in Canada.

Our history defines who we are and our approach to business. Being a Canadian firm has helped shape our values, our collaborative approach, and the way we work with our clients, engaging them every step of the way.

We have a unique perspective. Our decisions are made here – decisions that drive Canadian business and help us all achieve success — and we know the impact that our choices have on the cities and towns we call home.

Throughout our six decades of work, we've seen our communities are more than just a place we do business in. They're a place where our families live, play, and thrive, and we work to make them the best places they can be.

Being 100% Canadian is something we wear proudly. This country provides us with great opportunities, and we're here to help our clients seize the opportunities so we can create a brighter future for the generations to come.



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Draft for management only



Wherever business takes you

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Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Reserves					
2023 Approved Transfers					
Description	Balance Dec 31 2022	2023 Proposed Transfers			Proposed Balance Dec 31 2023
		Decrease	Increase	Net	
Capital Reserves					
Vehicles	345,543	188,441	6,793	(181,648)	163,895
Workshop Equipment	68,565	37,797	8,398	(29,399)	39,166
Trimble Equipment	28,261	-	-	-	28,261
Environmental Science Equipment	239,123	69,246	65,815	(3,431)	235,692
Ottawa Water Control Structures	310,392	-	10,000	10,000	320,392
Britannia Water Control Structure	86,000	-	21,500	21,500	107,500
Conservation Areas Infrastructure	446,606	-	133,649	133,649	580,255
Topographical Data	100,000	-	5,000	5,000	105,000
Flood Event Aerial Imaging	65,000	-	1,000	1,000	66,000
Drape Imagery Acquisition	15,461	-	3,000	3,000	18,461
Water Control Infrastructure (outside Ottawa)	83,819	-	-	-	83,819
Information Management System	57,624	-	-	-	57,624
Watershed Modelling (formerly Mike 11)	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Total Capital Reserves	1,906,395	295,484	255,155	(40,329)	1,866,066
Building Life Cycle Reserve	853,550	-	70,000	70,000	923,550
Program Reserves					
Septic Reinspection	45,248	33,118	-	(33,118)	12,130
Part 8 Septic Program	639,691	158,871	-	(158,871)	480,820
Watershed Science & Engineering	256,623	-	-	-	256,623
Stewardship	338,537	-	129,886	129,886	468,423
LRC Production Centre	100,800	-	-	-	100,800
ORWC	232,892	-	15,956	15,956	248,848
Conservation Lands	214,495	-	-	-	214,495
Outdoor Education	-	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Corporate Communications	90,491	-	28,736	28,736	119,227
Part IV	524	-	-	-	524
Planning & Regulations	540,992	-	159,007	159,007	699,999
Total Program Reserves	2,460,293	191,989	433,585	241,596	2,701,888
Working Fund Reserve	1,212,616	-	515,840	515,840	1,728,456
Total Reserves	6,432,853	487,473	1,274,580	787,107	7,219,960



**9.0 Proposed Discontinuation of Private Drinking Water Testing Program
Report #: 02-240425**

To: RVCA Board of Directors
From: Marika Livingston
Project Manager, Drinking Water Source
Protection

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachment – 2 pages

Date: April 17, 2024

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority endorses the attached letter to the Minister of Health calling on the province not to discontinue their private drinking water testing program;

THAT staff be directed to send a letter to the Minister of Health, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Premier of Ontario and the Chair of ROMA indicating the RVCA’s endorsement of this letter;

AND THAT staff be directed to circulate the letter to all member municipalities for their information and consideration.

Purpose

To seek endorsement of a letter calling on the province not to discontinue their private drinking water testing program.

Background

The Auditor General of Ontario issued a report in December titled *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario*. This report references a Public Health Ontario (PHO) plan to gradually discontinue Ontario’s free private drinking water testing program.

Analysis

A large portion of the Rideau watershed is rural with approximately 125,000 people in the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region getting their drinking water from private drinking water sources. Private drinking water systems do not benefit from the legislated safeguards required for municipal, communal, and public systems under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and *Clean Water Act*, making residents responsible for their own water testing and treatment.

Ontario has a private drinking water testing program that provides homeowners with free testing for *E.coli* and coliforms which is a critical service for rural residents to determine the safety of their drinking water. Residents can pick up sample bottles at a variety of locations within the community and get their water tested at no cost. Without this program, residents would have to seek out private laboratories and incur costs that may be prohibitive for some residents, including the most vulnerable.

At their meeting on April 4, 2024, the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee discussed the issue and directed staff to send a letter to the Minister of Health, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Premier of Ontario and ROMA calling on the province not to discontinue this program. Other Source Protection Committees across the province have also been submitting similar letters.

Attached is the letter that was sent to the Province on behalf of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee. It is being shared with the Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Boards of Directors for information and for consideration. Staff are seeking the Board's endorsement of the letter and direction to circulate it to all member municipalities for their information and consideration as well.

Attachment:

- Letter to the Minister of Health Re: *Public Health Ontario, Private Drinking Water Testing Program* (dated April 18, 2024)

April 18, 2024

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

Sent via email: sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Re: Public Health Ontario, Private Drinking Water Testing Program

Dear Minister,

The Auditor General of Ontario issued a report in December entitled *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario*. This report references a Public Health Ontario plan to gradually discontinue Ontario's free private drinking water testing program, which prompted the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee to pass the following resolution at their April 4, 2024 meeting:

THAT the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee direct staff to write a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister of Health, to the Premier and to Rural Ontario Municipal Association requesting that the Province does not proceed with the recommended phase out of free private well water testing in Ontario.

Our Source Protection Region is located in eastern Ontario, and while a Source Protection Plan has been in place since 2015 to protect municipal sources of drinking water, a large portion of our region is rural. There are approximately 125,000 people in our region whose drinking water comes from private drinking water sources, the vast majority of which are private wells. As you know, private drinking water systems do not benefit from the legislated safeguards required for municipal, communal, and public systems under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* and *Clean Water Act*.

Ontario's private drinking water testing program that provides homeowners with free testing for *E.coli* and coliforms is a critical service for rural residents to determine the safety of their drinking water. Residents can pick up sample bottles at a variety of convenient locations within their community and then get their water tested at no cost. Without this program, residents would have to seek out private laboratories and incur costs that may be prohibitive for some residents, including the most vulnerable.

While we support efforts to make existing programs more efficient, we cannot support the discontinuation of this longstanding public health service as it could lead to a decrease in water testing and a decrease in the safety of rural drinking water.

Sincerely,



Diane Smithson
Chair Pro-tempore, Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region



Cc:

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Mayor Robin Jones, ROMA Chair
Paul Kehoe, Chair, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
Kristin Strackerjan, Chair, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Sally McIntyre, General Manager, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



**10.0 2023 Annual Report
Report #: 03-240425**

To: RVCA Board of Directors
From: Diane Downey
Director of Communications and Outreach
Date: April 18, 2024

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachment – 36 pages

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approves RVCA’s 2023 Annual Report for distribution.

Purpose

To seek Board approval of RVCA’s Annual Report for the year 2023.

Background

Each year, the RVCA produces an Annual Report to highlight key accomplishments and special activities across all program areas for the prior year. The report also summarizes revenues and expenditures based on the audited financial statements.

Annual Reports are an important tool for public sector organizations to be transparent and accountable to taxpayers and other partners. An Annual Report is a way for member municipalities, stakeholders and the public to see what was accomplished in relation to the budget that was approved and the work plan that was set for that year. It is also a way for the RVCA to increase public awareness of its mandate and encourage support for conservation authority programs by illustrating the value provided to the watershed and those who live, work and play in it.

Analysis

Staff continue to enhance RVCA’s Annual Report by adding additional graphs and maps to visually display information that is requested by municipal councils, while keeping the document concise and user-friendly for watershed residents and partners.

If the Annual Report is approved, electronic copies will be provided to:

- Municipalities for circulation to council members and staff (RVCA staff are also available to present a summary of the Annual Report to municipal councils).
- All watershed MPs, MPPs and key Ministers
- Local partners and other conservation authorities
- RVCA’s mailing list (including local media).

The Annual Report will also:

- Be posted on RVCA's website
- Used to create social media posts highlighting key partnerships and accomplishments.
- A small number of hard copies will also be produced for distribution at meetings and events throughout the year.

Financial Considerations

Costs associated with creating and distributing the Annual Report are accounted for in RVCA's annual operating budget.

Attachment

- 2023 Annual Report

The cover features a scenic photograph of a lake with reeds in the foreground and a cloudy sky. A large purple circle with a gold border is centered on the page, containing the text '2023 ANNUAL REPORT'. A decorative pattern of light blue circles is scattered across the background.

2023

ANNUAL REPORT





IN MANY WAYS, 2023 was the Year of the Bridge. Staff completed construction of two accessible pedestrian bridges at two of our most popular conservation areas – an achievement that will benefit the community for decades to come.

But we also built many figurative bridges. We worked closely with our municipal partners on new agreements to formalize our stewardship and monitoring programs across the watershed. Science staff also finalized our much-awaited, once-in-a-decade Watershed Conditions Report to bridge the gap between data collection and scientific analysis toward a better understanding of the health of our watershed. This will pave the way for a new Watershed Management Strategy in 2024.

So much of our work is ultimately about building bridges: connecting with our valued partners, expanding our knowledge of the watershed and ensuring our services remain relevant, valuable and accessible to everyone who calls the Rideau valley home. To this end, in 2023 engineering staff began data collection for new flood mapping on several upper watershed lakes and initiated the development of a new hydrologic model of the watershed; outdoor education staff expanded forest school to new age groups at Foley Mountain and Baxter conservation areas; and conservation lands staff worked with local landowners and our Foundation to complete three land donations that will protect 199 hectares of conservation land in perpetuity.

Stewardship staff bridged the gap between best management practices and private landowners, working with them to add and restore critical green infrastructure on their properties through tree planting, shoreline naturalization and clean water projects. The forestry team even celebrated the 7 millionth tree planted since 1984!

Our Planning and Regulations department continued to serve clients by reviewing planning files and processing Section 28 and septic applications to ensure development proceeds safely and sustainably across the watershed. They also did so efficiently, issuing 99% of permits within provincial timelines.

It is clear through these many accomplishments how dedicated RVCA staff remain to conservation, customer service and collaboration; whether building accessible spans over Baxter's wetland or building bridges through relationships, research and restoration. We are also grateful to the many partners who make our work possible, whose funding, volunteer hours and support contribute to a sustainable future and a thriving Rideau watershed.

Kristin Strackerjan
RVCA Board Chair

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer





THE RVCA is one of 36 conservation authorities in Ontario working to manage local watersheds to protect people and property from natural hazards and conserve critical natural resources.

Since 1966, the RVCA has worked closely with its member municipalities, provincial and federal governments, local landowners, farmers, businesses and community groups to protect communities from natural hazards, guide sustainable development, improve water quality and connect people with nature. The RVCA looks to build resilient communities in the face of climate change and population growth by promoting an integrated watershed approach — one that balances human, environmental and economic needs. Our success is based on partnerships that accomplish local initiatives at the watershed scale.

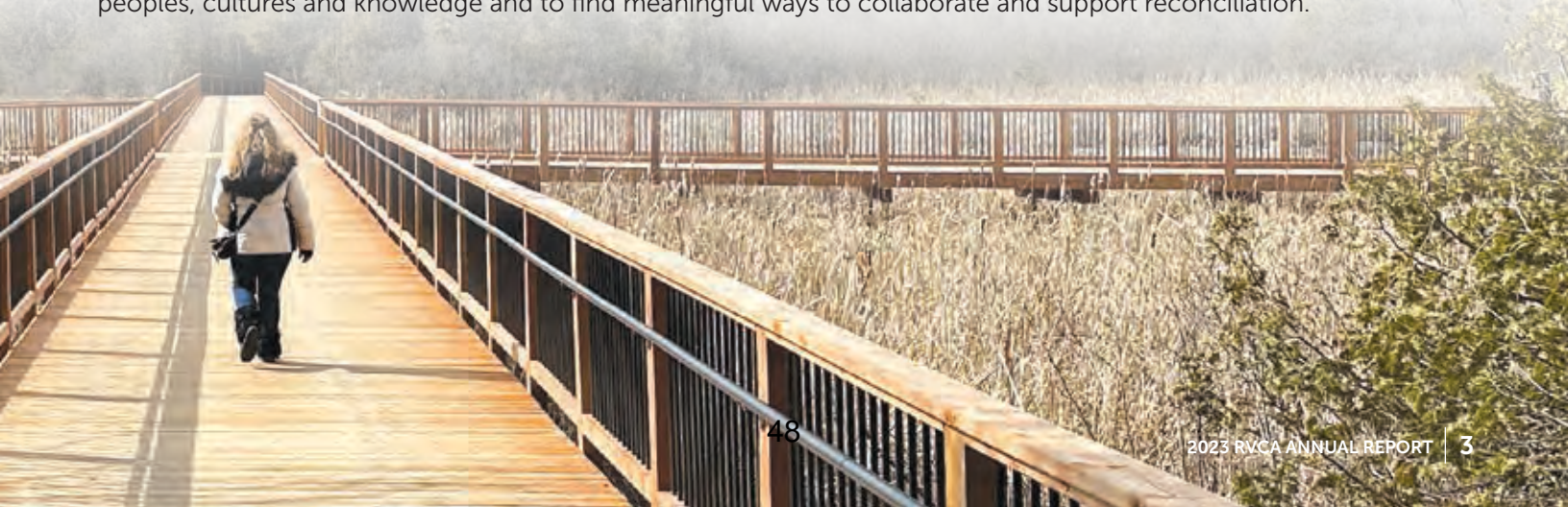
OUR VISION: A thriving watershed with clean abundant water, natural shorelines, rich forests and wetlands, diverse habitat and sustainable land use that is valued and protected by all.

OUR MISSION: To understand, manage, protect, restore and enhance the Rideau watershed through science, stewardship, education, policy and leadership.

2023 Board of Directors

- Kristin Strackerjan (Chair) North Grenville
- Anne Robinson (Vice Chair) Ottawa
- Vacant* Athens
- Adrian Wynands. Augusta
- Brian Dowdall Beckwith
- Susan Irwin Central Frontenac
- Vacant* Clarence-Rockland
- Steve Fournier. Drummond/North Elmsley
- Vacant* Elizabethtown-Kitley
- Anne Barr Merrickville-Wolford
- Morgan Kenny Montague
- Gerry Boyce/*Vacant* North Dundas
- Theresa Kavanagh Ottawa
- Wilson Lo Ottawa
- Pieter Leenhouts/Riley Brockington Ottawa
- Shawn Menard/David Brown Ottawa
- Gary Waterfield Perth
- Jeff Banks Rideau Lakes
- Shawn Pankow Smiths Falls
- Charlene Godfrey. South Frontenac
- Angela Pierman Tay Valley
- Barry Card Westport
- Mel Foster Agricultural Rep

We acknowledge that the Rideau Valley watershed is located on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people as well as the traditional territory of the Anishnabek, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Oneida peoples. The RVCA pays respect to all Indigenous peoples in the watershed and acknowledges that they are the traditional guardians of this land and water. RVCA is working to deepen its understanding of local Indigenous peoples, cultures and knowledge and to find meaningful ways to collaborate and support reconciliation.

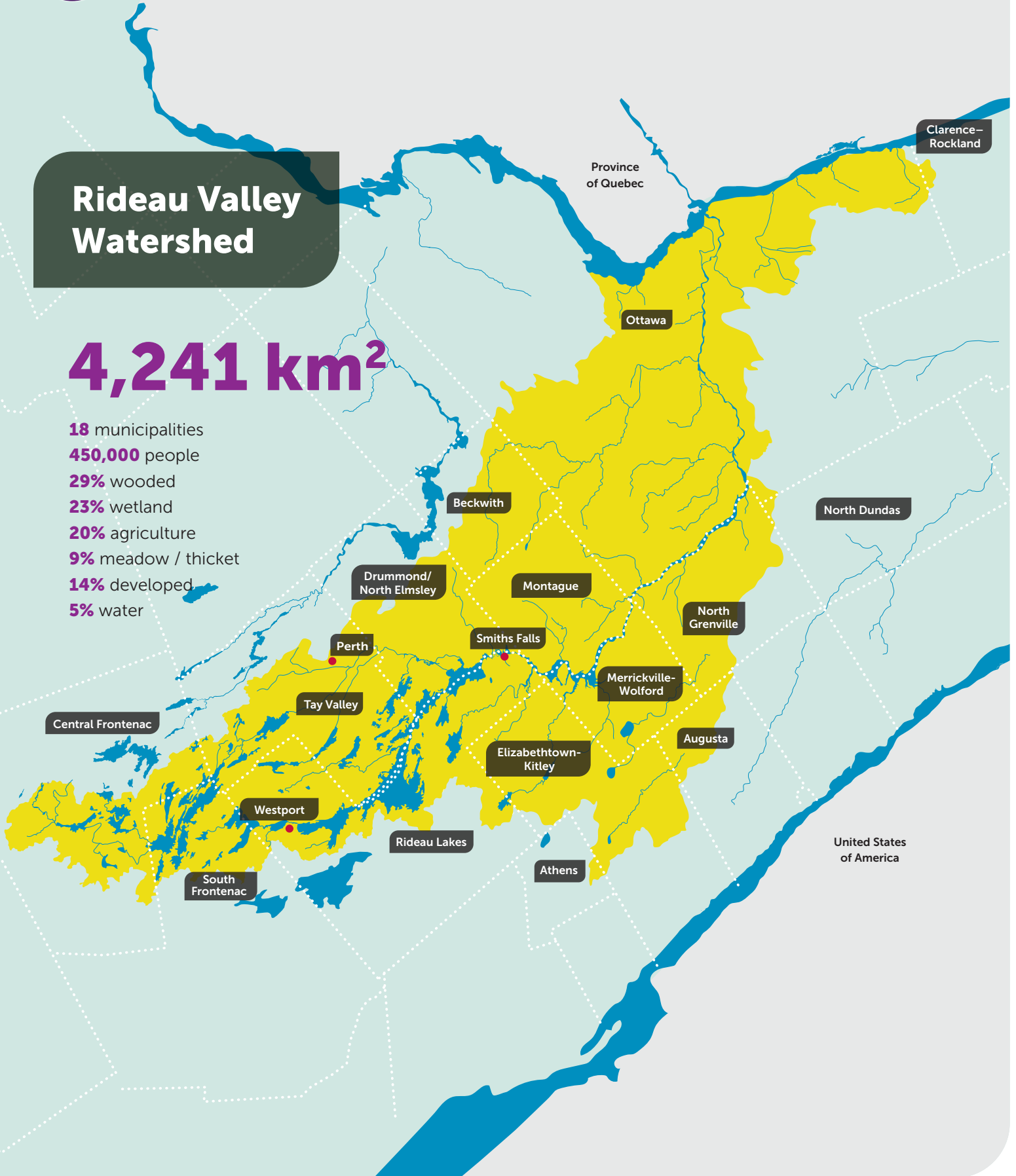




Rideau Valley Watershed

4,241 km²

- 18 municipalities
- 450,000 people
- 29% wooded
- 23% wetland
- 20% agriculture
- 9% meadow / thicket
- 14% developed
- 5% water





Conditions Report dives deep into data

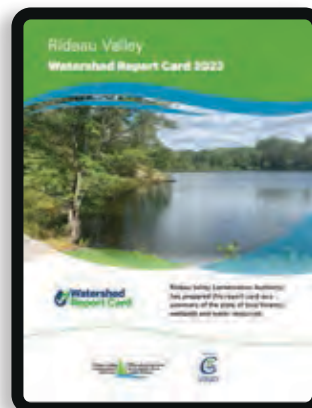
Completion of our comprehensive *Watershed Conditions Report* was a major 2023 accomplishment, the

culmination of several years of hard work on the part of science, engineering, GIS and communications staff. The 193-page report is the first of its kind for the RVCA, compiling decades of monitoring data into one report to assess trends regarding surface and ground water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, hydrological function, natural hazard risks and the status of critical green infrastructure such as wetlands, forests and natural shorelines.

The analysis found several concerning trends, including a continuing steep decline in large woodland patches, increasing chloride levels in our urban streams, and large shifts in surface water flow patterns linked to increased development and loss of wetlands. The report also identified knowledge gaps in some parts

of the watershed regarding natural hazard risks such as flooding, erosion and landslides, as well as gaps in groundwater quality monitoring in rural communities where private wells are the most common source of drinking water.

The next step is to complete a Watershed Management Strategy in 2024 that will serve as an action plan to address issues and areas of concern as well as knowledge gaps in the coming years.



Report Card offers watershed checkup

RVCA also completed a *Watershed Report Card* as part of Conservation Ontario's Watershed Checkup program, offering a snapshot of surface water quality, groundwater quality and forest conditions in the Rideau Valley.



RVCA and RVCF Board members participate in an outdoor education demonstration during the board tour at Foley Mountain Conservation Area.

CORPORATE SERVICES supports the entire conservation authority, enabling it to perform its functions and deliver programs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The department is responsible for strategic planning, budgeting, financial reporting, business improvement, human resources, communications, IT, GIS, member services, fundraising and administration.



RVCA celebrated Foley Mountain Conservation Area's 50th anniversary with a community event that brought municipal partners, provincial representatives and Foley Mountain supporters together. Left to right: RVCA general manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Augusta Township Deputy Mayor Adrian Wynands, Rideau Lakes Mayor Arie Hoogenboom, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes MPP Steve Clark, Westport Mayor Robin Jones and RVCA Board Chair Kristin Strackerjan.

\$11.8M

budget for 2023

68

staff plus 19
summer students

19

Board Members

- **2** training and orientation sessions held for new and returning Board members as well as training on Section 28 hearings for executive committee members
- **18** MOUs signed with member municipalities to continue providing stewardship and monitoring programs across the watershed (Category 3 Agreements)
- Hosted annual watershed tour for board members and municipalities at Foley Mountain Conservation Area, where staff showcased RVCA's programs and services
- Approved new Fleet Emissions Reduction Guideline
- Initiated new modernized accessible website
- Expanded online payment to outdoor education programs and conservation area rentals
- Updated Purchasing Policy, Administrative Bylaw and Section 28 Hearing procedures

Foley Mountain Site Supervisor Rebecca Whitman and RVCA Board Chair Kristin Strackerjan cut the cake at Foley's 50th anniversary celebration in June.





PLANNING AND REGULATIONS staff bring watershed science, provincial policies and individual municipal needs together to help build safe, sustainable communities. The RVCA provides planning advice to municipalities and is the approval authority for development affecting natural hazards like flooding, erosion, steep slopes, unstable soils and wetlands, as well as watercourses. Staff also approve the construction, enlargement or alteration of septic systems and provide septic re-inspection services to several municipalities.



Planning Reviews

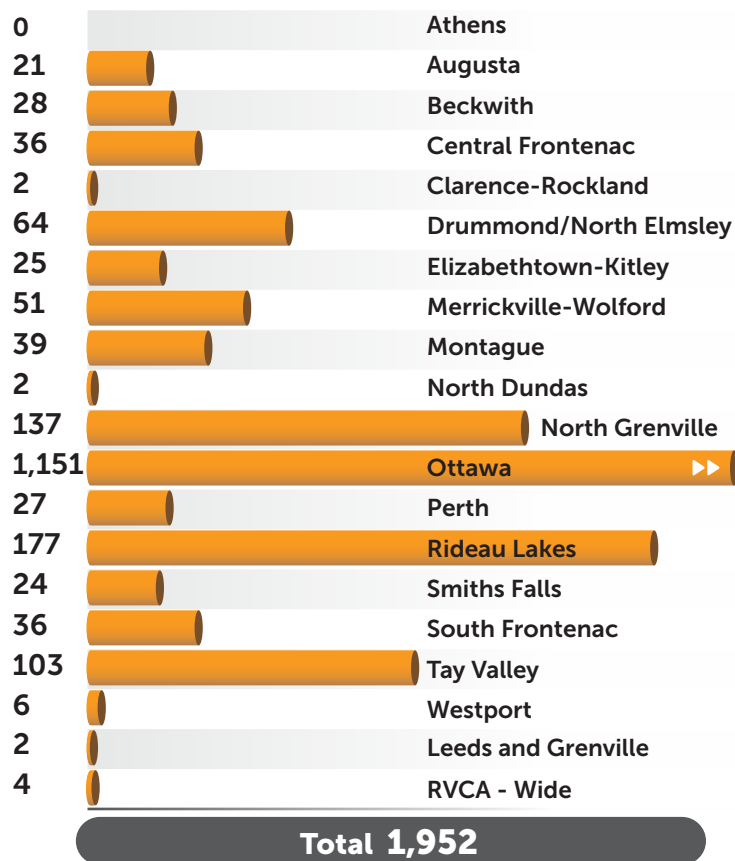
- **132** Pre-consultation Meetings
- **402** Severances
- **326** Minor Variances
- **100** Site Plan Control
- **120** Zoning By-law Amendments
- **16** Official Plan Amendments
- **3** Official Plans
- **16** Subdivision Reviews
- **10** Condominium Applications
- **1** *Aggregate Resource Act* review
- **4** Part Lot Control
- **4** Lifting of 30 cm Reserve
- **4** *Environmental Assessment Act* Reviews
- **1** Lifting of Holding By-law
- **1** Application for Absolute Title
- **1** Disposal of Municipal-Owned Land
- **5** Validation of Title

Partnership Highlight:

- Worked closely with municipalities to implement *Ontario Regulation 596/22*, which now requires municipalities to review planning applications for natural heritage. RVCA had been commenting on natural heritage (in addition to natural hazards and drinking water source protection) at the request of municipalities to help them fulfill their obligations under the *Provincial Policy Statement*

1,952
planning reviews

Planning Activities by Municipality, 2023



Source Water Protection Approvals

- Reviewed development applications to ensure they meet *Source Protection Plan* policies
- Visited **22** local businesses who handle and store certain chemicals in vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water systems to provide spill response kits and assess their storage and handling practices
- Administered a Fuel Oil Tank Replacement Rebate Program in certain areas on behalf of the City of Ottawa



Section 28 Services

- **629** Property Inquiries
- **110** Clearance Letters
- **319** Applications
 - **93%** Approved
 - **5%** On Hold
 - **1** Hearing
- **67** Complaints/Occurrences
 - **16** Violations
 - **2** Charges laid under *Conservation Authorities Act*

Partnership Highlight:

- Presented to the Ottawa Real Estate Board about waterfront properties in February

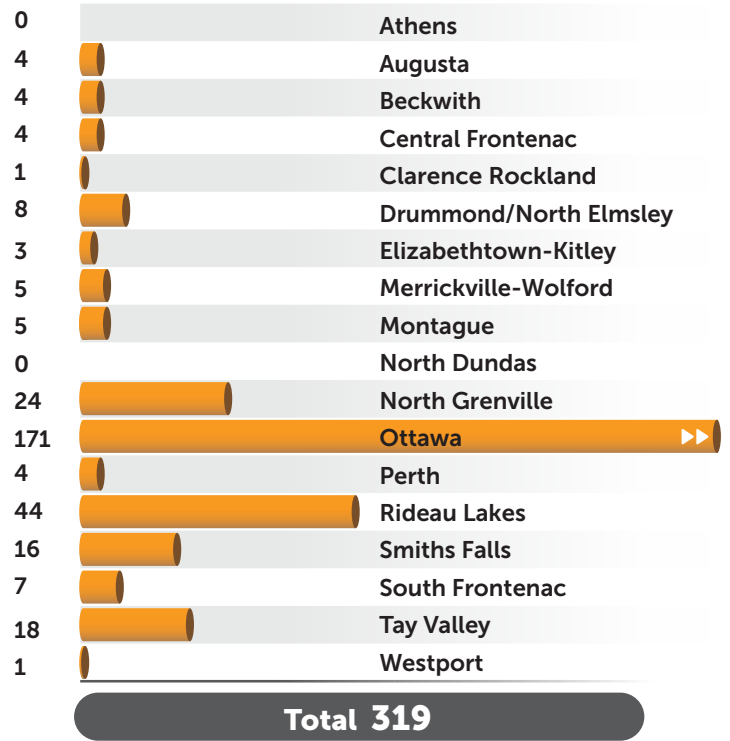
319

permit applications

93%

of applications approved

Section 28 Applications by Municipality, 2023



RVCA issued 99% of Section 28 permits within provincial timelines:

Permits Issued Within Provincial Timelines	
Major Permits (90 days)	Minor Permits (30 days)
29	267
Permits Issued Outside Provincial Timelines	
Major Permits (90 days)	Minor Permits (30 days)
0	2



Septic System Services

- **218** file search requests
- **806** applications for new or replacement septic systems
- **138** applications for septic renovations or alterations
- **27** complaints
- **651** septic re-inspections

Partnership Highlights:

- Hosted annual septic installers meeting with **30** attendees at MVCA headquarters
- Taught **6** preparation courses for people wanting to become a licensed septic installer or inspector, welcoming **122** participants
- Presented to the Big Rideau Lake Association, Lower Beverly Lake Association AGM, Black Lake AGM and the Ottawa Real Estate Board about septic system care and maintenance/inspections

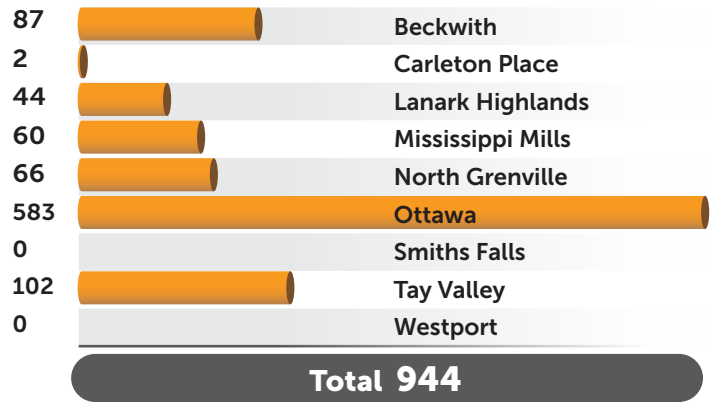
944

permit applications

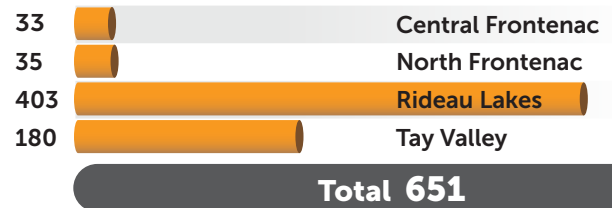
651

re-inspections completed

Septic Applications by Municipality, 2023



Septic Re-Inspections by Municipality, 2023



RVCA issues most septic permits within half the time prescribed by the *Ontario Building Code*:

Building Code Requirement	Building Code Timeline	RVCA Timeline
New Sewage System Permit	10 days	5 days
Clay Seal Inspection	5 days	48 hours
Scarification Inspection	5 days	48 hours
Installation Inspection	5 days	48 hours
Final Grading Inspection	5 days	48 hours





CONSERVATION LANDS staff manage more than 3,400 hectares of conservation land for the strategic protection of natural hazards, critical natural resources and vulnerable habitats. They also maintain 11 developed conservation areas offering public trails, beaches, boat launches and a range of popular outdoor education programs. Conservation areas provide affordable recreation, education and tourism opportunities to watershed residents and communities.



Land Management

- **2,355** hectares of conservation land owned across the watershed
- **1,209** additional hectares managed by RVCA (Foundation and partner properties)
- **3** new land donations totalling 199 hectares (1 RVCA property and 2 RVCF properties)
 - **146** hectares near Motts Mills
 - **26** hectares on Big Rideau Lake
 - **27** hectares on the Tay River
- **55** Species at Risk projects maintained at six conservation areas in support of bobolink, butternut and barn swallows, in partnership with the RVCF
- **2** Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plans completed for recently acquired properties
- **2** Conservation Land Tax Incentive Plans approved following species at risk monitoring (property taxes now waived for those properties)
- Underplanted hemlock stands with red spruce to prepare for the Woolly Hemlock Adelgid (aphid-like insect killing hemlock trees)
- Thinned red pine and spruce stands at Mill Pond Conservation Area to improve forest health and reduce the risk of damage from weather events

Conservation Areas

- **11** public conservation areas maintained for public enjoyment
- **307,500** visitors in 2023 (up from 200,000 annually pre-pandemic)
- **42** kilometres of trails, **3** beaches, **4** boat launches and **6** picnic shelters maintained
- Shoreline stabilized at Chapman Mills Conservation Area around the water access point
- Installed permanent Storybook Trail at Foley Mountain Conservation Area
- Completed construction on two replacement pedestrian bridges:
 - Prefabricated accessible bridge at Chapman Mills Conservation Area
 - Accessible pedestrian boardwalk with learning platforms over the marsh at Baxter Conservation Area
- Started construction on accessible bathrooms and facility upgrades at Baxter’s interpretive centre

Partnership Highlights:

- Chapman Mills received **\$150,000** and Baxter received **\$280,000** in funding from the Federal Government’s Canada Community Revitalization Fund to replace the pedestrian bridges
- Nature for All Committee continued to guide and support ongoing accessibility improvements at Baxter Conservation Area, including working with the Foundation to secure external funding
- Installed **3** boat launches for municipal and provincial partners

307,500

conservation area visitors



Outdoor Education

Baxter Conservation Area:

- **4,432** students from **66** schools across five school boards (plus two private schools and one university) and numerous community groups participated in Baxter’s in-person outdoor education programs
- **168** students attended weekly in-person Forest School in winter, spring and fall
- **144** children participated in Summer Day Camp
- Expanded Forest School’s age range to include a day for kids aged 10 to 13

Foley Mountain Conservation Area:

- **3,457** students participated in in-person outdoor education programs, including Forest School sessions in winter, spring and fall. This is an increase of about 20% over 2019 and about 29% over 2022.
- **41** schools from across three school boards came for field trips
- **92** children participated in Summer Day Camps, a 37% increase over 2019 numbers
- Added a new Family Forest School category for kids ages 2 to 5 and their caregivers

Partnership Highlights:

- BOGS, North Face and Starbucks provided bus subsidies to help offset travel costs for school kids
- Township of Rideau Lakes once again sponsored a free monthly forest school drop-in program at Foley Mountain
- Foley hosted **6** student teachers for their practicum placement

Facilities and Rentals

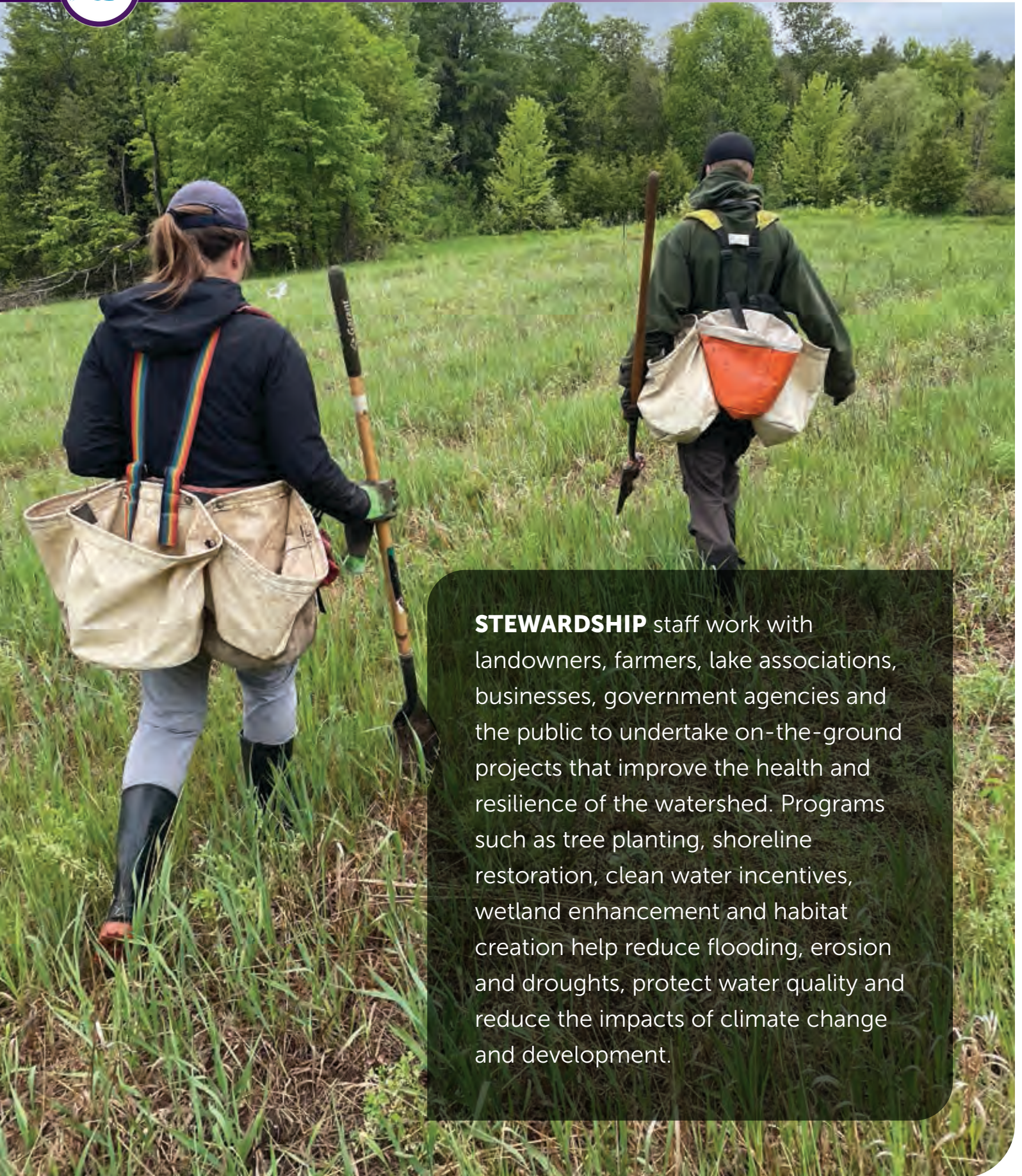
- **1,343** people enjoyed rental facilities at Foley Mountain Conservation Area (Interpretive Centre, Silversides, Group Campsite)
- **3,289** people enjoyed rental facilities at Baxter Conservation Area (group camping areas, picnic shelter, Interpretive Centre, River Cabin)
- **1,500** students plus parents and supporters were welcomed to Baxter for the Ottawa Carleton District School Board Cross Country Meet
- Continued to host two tiny cabins owned by Cabinscape at Mica Mines Conservation Area

8,125

students participated in outdoor education programs



11
Conservation
Areas



STEWARDSHIP staff work with landowners, farmers, lake associations, businesses, government agencies and the public to undertake on-the-ground projects that improve the health and resilience of the watershed. Programs such as tree planting, shoreline restoration, clean water incentives, wetland enhancement and habitat creation help reduce flooding, erosion and droughts, protect water quality and reduce the impacts of climate change and development.



Butternut Recovery

- **3,312** free butternut seedlings distributed to landowners to help replace dead and dying butternut trees in Eastern Ontario
- Continued effort to locate and assess healthy trees in Eastern Ontario
- Tracked the survival and health of planted butternut seedlings and completed survival site visits with landowners who had planted seedlings

Partnership Highlights:

- Worked with the Canadian Wildlife Service to manage the butternut population in the Mississippi Lake National Wildlife Area. This includes releasing **21** natural seedlings on site, planting **37** new Butternut seedlings and under crown release.
- Continued partnership with Ontario Nature to search for the endangered American Ginseng on landowner properties involved in the Butternut Recovery Program





Tree Planting

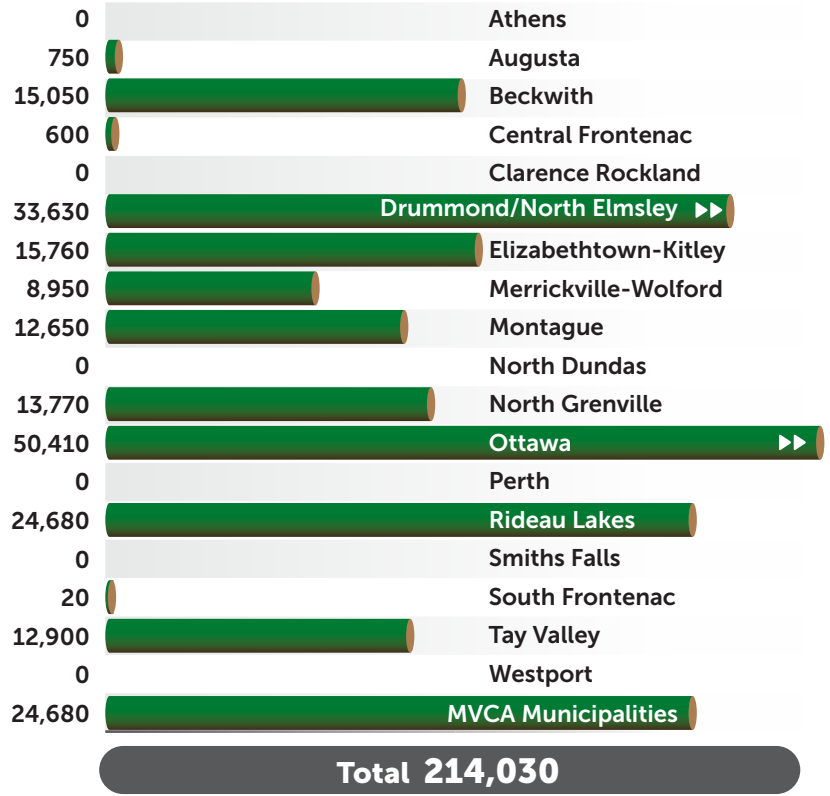
Also delivered on behalf of MVCA

- **214,030** trees planted in the Rideau and Mississippi watersheds
 - Almost **100** hectares of new forest
 - **132** landowner participants
 - **50,410** trees planted in Ottawa through the City's Green Acres program
 - Largest project was **14,680** trees planted in Rideau Lakes
 - **16,000** trees planted by landowners through over-the-counter sales

Partnership Highlights:

- More than **\$484,000** in external funding secured to subsidize tree planting costs
- Provided Lanark County with **12,000** trees for their annual free tree give-away
- Partnered with the Invasive Species Centre to start monitoring Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on our conservation lands

Tree Planting by Municipality, 2023

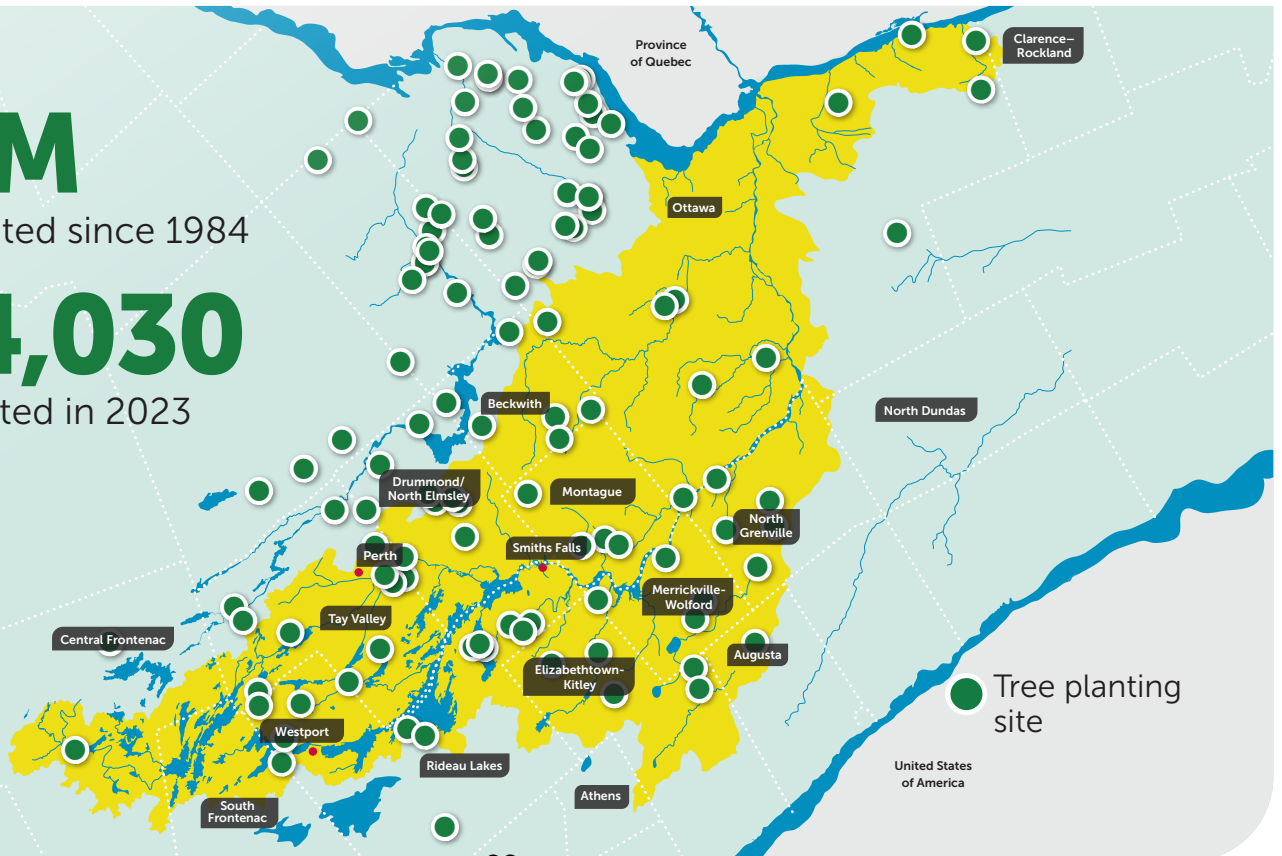


7.4M

trees planted since 1984

214,030

trees planted in 2023





Left: RVCA General Manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, Elizabethtown-Kitley Mayor Brant Burrow and RVCA Board Chair Kristin Strackerjan plant a ceremonial tree in Richmond to mark 7 million trees planted since 1984.



Above: RVCA Board member and Barrhaven East Councillor Wilson Lo plants a tree during the Richmond event.

Left: Forests Ontario's Eastern Ontario field advisor Jim Hendry and RVCA Forestry Manager Ian Cochrane plant trees in Richmond during the 7 million tree celebration.



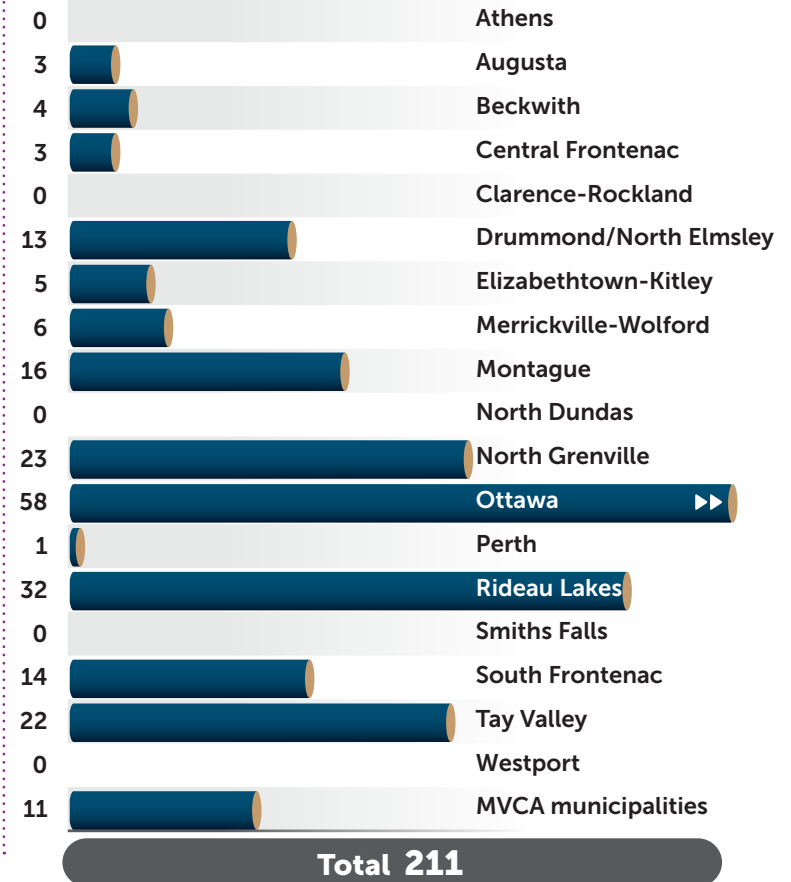
Rural Clean Water

- **136** projects approved through the Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program, allocating **\$287,062** in grants with landowner contributions totaling **\$1,148,055**
- **57** projects approved through the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, allocating **\$268,355** in grants with landowner contributions totaling **\$578,777**
- **18** projects completed through ALUS Lanark
 - Distributing **\$87,518** in grants towards projects valued at **\$98,185**
 - **39.86** acres of new environmental services through wetlands, tree planting, buffers and delayed haying

Partnership Highlights:

- Worked with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority to deliver ALUS Lanark, which was initiated by the County of Lanark and Climate Network Lanark
- Shared a booth with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority and South Nation Conservation at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show in March

Clean Water Projects by Municipality, 2023

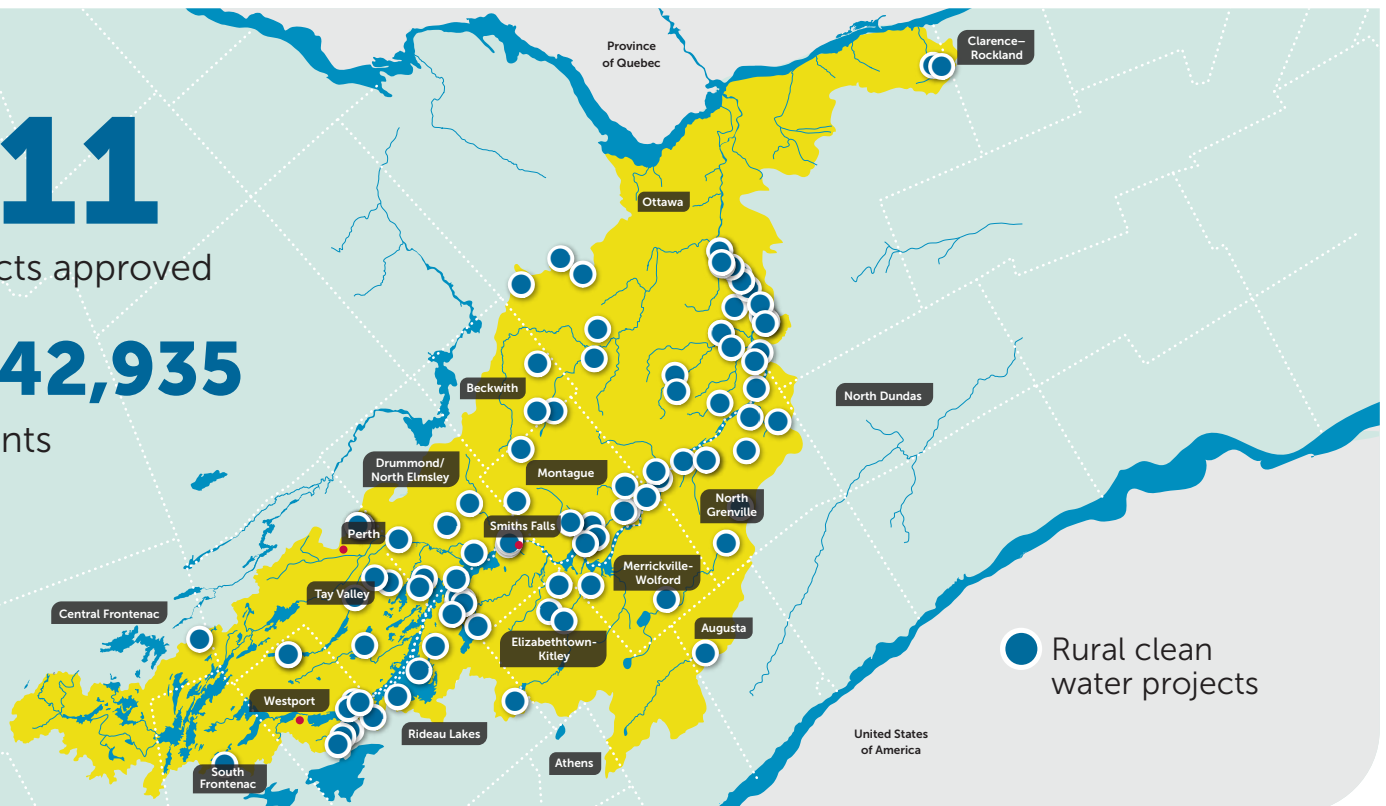


211

projects approved

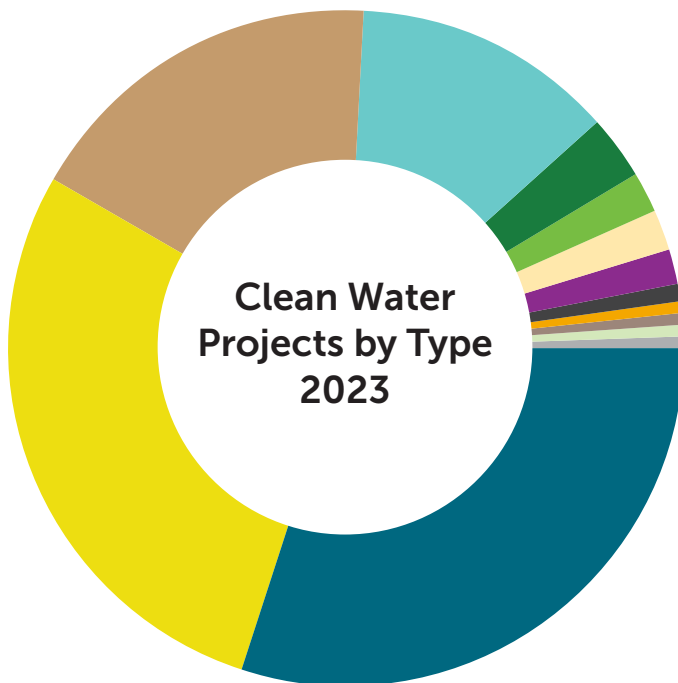
\$642,935

in grants





Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston MPP John Jordan addresses ALUS Lanark partners and supporters at the program's official launch at Milkhouse Farm & Dairy in Montague.



- Buffers and Land Retirement
- Erosion Control
- Forest Management Plans
- Septic and Well Projects
- Wetland Restoration
- Livestock Fencing
- Manure Storage
- Runoff Management
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Education
- Cover Crops
- Precision Farming
- Fuel Storage



Shoreline Naturalization

- **9,394** trees and shrubs planted on 67 properties
- **1,719** metres of shoreline naturalized
- **377** native pollinator-friendly perennials distributed to landowners through over-the-counter sales

Partnership Highlights:

- **2,135** trees and shrubs distributed to lake residents through over-the-counter plant sales through Upper Rideau Lake Association and Otty Lake Association
- **1,070** native trees, shrubs and wildflowers planted with community volunteers along a 350-metre stretch of Tay River shoreline in Last Duel Park in partnership with the Town of Perth, which secured funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund

9,394

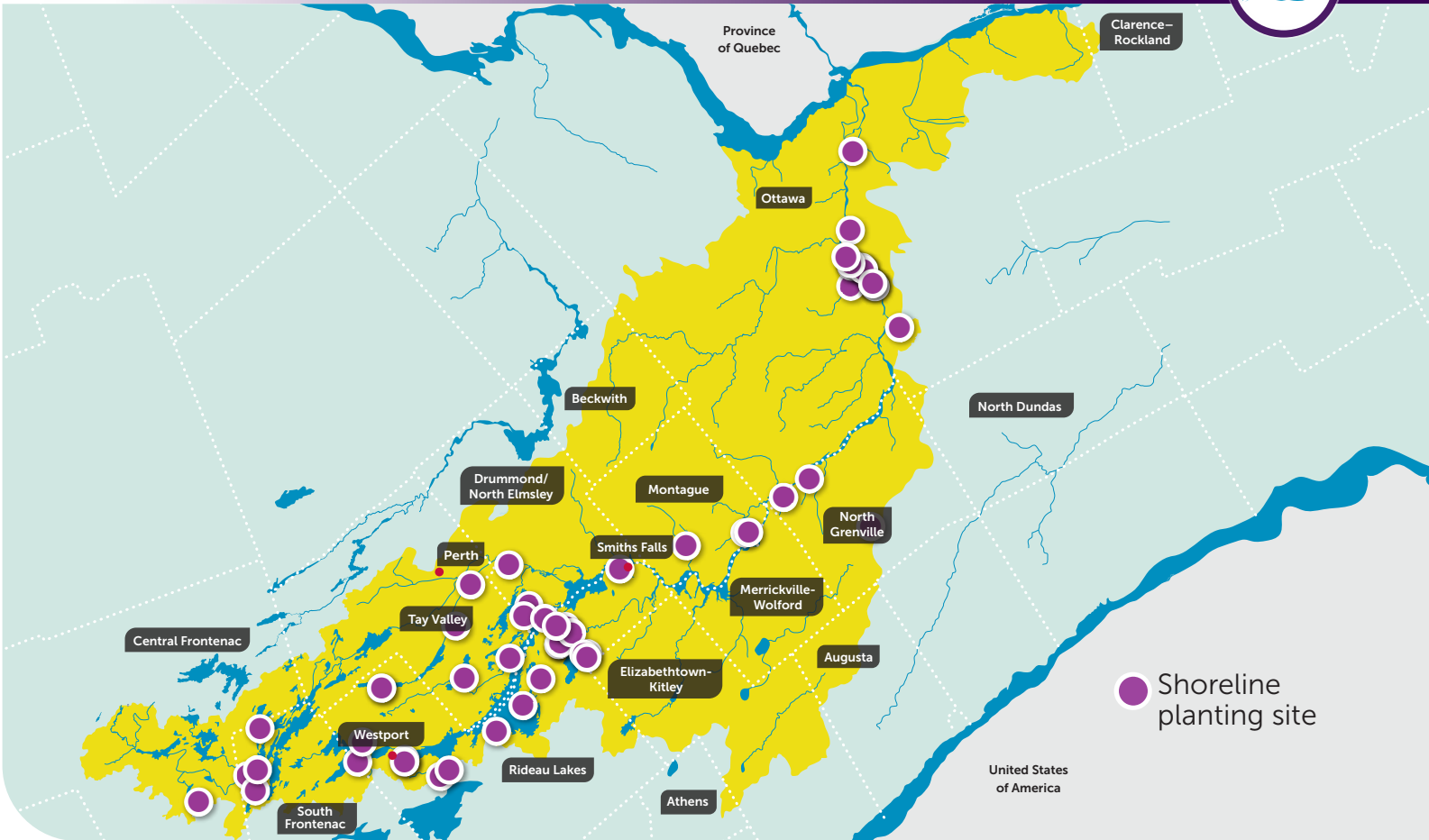
trees and shrubs planted

1,719_m

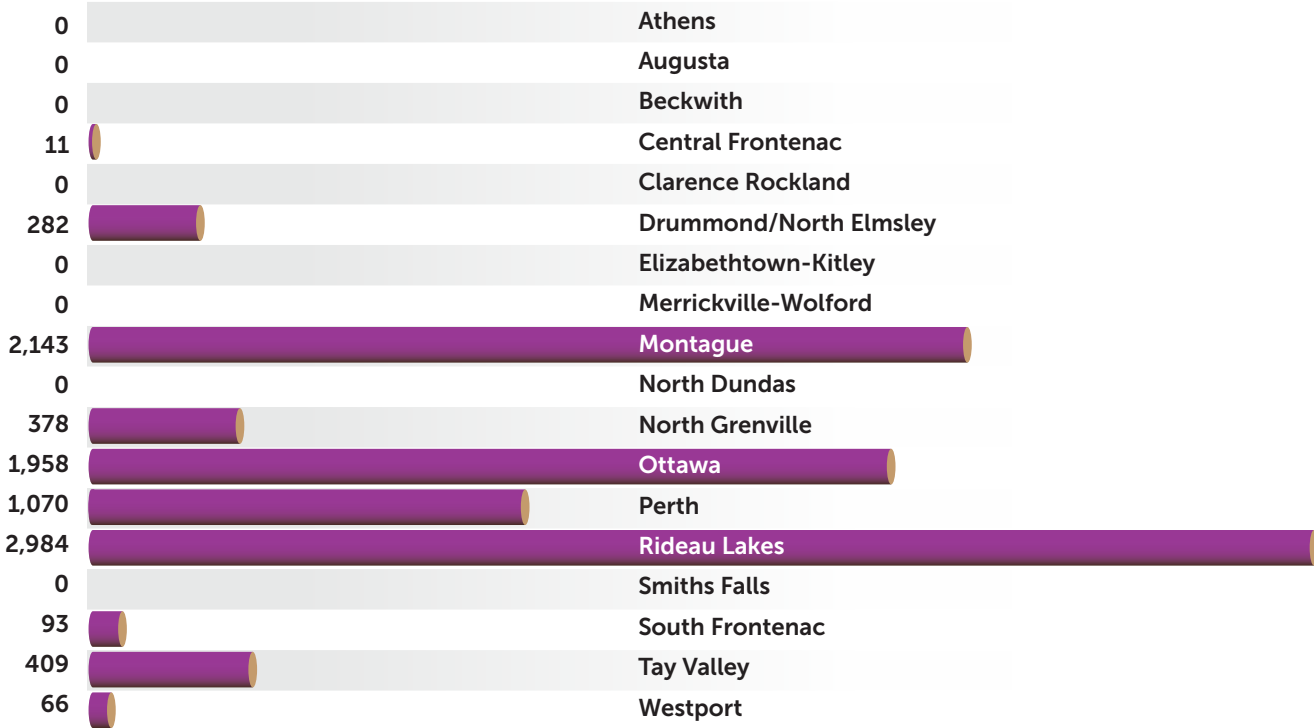
of shoreline naturalized



The Town of Perth, RVCA staff and community volunteers help naturalize a stretch of Tay River shoreline in Last Duel Park.



Shoreline Plantings by Municipality, 2023



Total 9,394



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING staff monitor watershed conditions to understand and manage natural hazard risks to people and property, and to protect water quality and natural resources. Data about water levels and hydrology, land cover and elevation, surface and ground water and aquatic environments is critical to guide decisions about land and water to keep people and development safe from hazards and protect the many benefits of a healthy watershed.





Flood Forecasting & Warning

- **13** flood messages issued for the Rideau River
- **8** flood messages issued for the Ottawa River
- **2** low water messages issued
- **26** sites monitored for water levels and flow
- **7** Parks Canada water level gauges monitored by staff through public info-net site
- **24** sites monitored for precipitation, including 11 new RVCA Weather Stations installed in 2021
- **6** sites monitored for snowpack

Partnership Highlights:

- Hosted annual flood forecasting and warning meeting in February for all municipalities and partner agencies
- Presented at the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Workshop in September
- Completed Phase One of a new flood forecasting and warning model for the Rideau River with funding from the City of Ottawa

Natural Hazard Mapping

- **6**-year workplan approved to complete natural hazard mapping on the following watercourses to fill gaps in existing mapping:
 - Brassils Creek, Graham Creek, Greens Creek, Sawmill Creek, Stillwater Creek and Faulkner Drain in the City of Ottawa
 - Bobs Lake, Otty Lake, Lower Rideau Lake and Big Rideau Lake in the upper watershed
- Continued work on hazard mapping for Middle Rideau River, Wolf/Sand Lake and Stevens Creek

Partnership Highlight:

- Finalized a new 5-year funding agreement with the City of Ottawa to prioritize floodplain and erosion hazard mapping within the City as well as additional products on Cardinal Creek
- Received federal funding to collect data to support future flood hazard mapping on watercourses prioritized in the workplan



Source Water Protection

- Welcomed two new Source Protection Committee members
- Advancement of major updates to the both the *Technical Assessment Reports* and *Source Protection Plan*

Partnership Highlight:

- Partnered with the Eastern Ontario conservation authorities to jointly host a 5-part webinar series called Drinking Water Wise to promote Best Practices for Source Water Protection. **557** audience members attended virtually



Surface Water Quality Monitoring

- **119** sites sampled for the Baseline monitoring and Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program, which monitors the water chemistry of major rivers and tributaries
- **39** lakes sampled from May to October
- **51** water quality parameters monitored annually

Partnership Highlights:

- **29** landowners provided access to lakes and streams through their properties to enable sampling, and **10** waterfront landowners provided on-water transportation for staff as part of the Watershed Watch (lake) monitoring program (**80** volunteer hours)
- Continued to partner with the Township of Rideau Lakes, Big Rideau Lake Association and Cataraqui Conservation on the Sustainable Drainage Project:
 - Installed a second rain garden and seven catch basin filters in the village of Portland
 - Produced a series of fact sheets focused on property-level low-impact development options (i.e. rain barrels, rain gardens)
 - Held a rain barrel sale in Portland
 - Hosted an information session attended by **115** municipal and conservation authority staff on new stormwater management opportunities through reuse and recharge
- Presented on water quality / invasive species to the Upper Rideau Lake Association, Black Lake Property Owner Association AGM, Long Lake (East) AGM, Long Lake (West) AGM and Pike Lake AGM
- Presented at the Lake Networking Group Meetings (May and October)

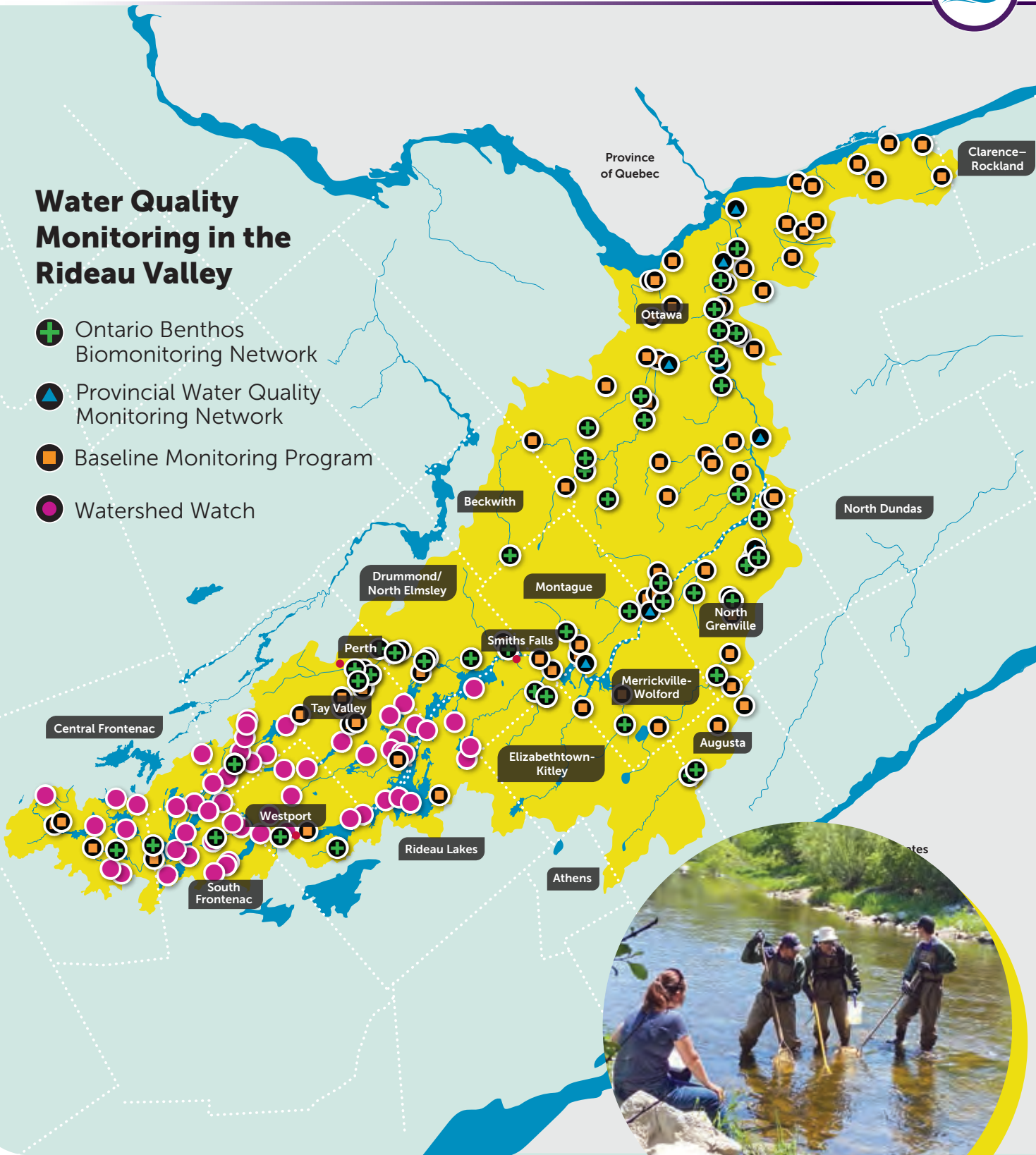
51

water quality parameters monitored annually



Water Quality Monitoring in the Rideau Valley

- Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network
- Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network
- Baseline Monitoring Program
- Watershed Watch





Aquatic Habitat Monitoring

- **44** sites sampled across the watershed in spring and fall for the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network (OBBN)
- City Stream Watch Program monitored four creeks in the City of Ottawa: Bilberry Creek, Mosquito Creek, Mud Creek (Manotick) and Stillwater Creek
- **361** stream survey sections completed
- **16** temperature loggers installed
- **107** headwater drainage features surveyed
- **23** fish sampling sites monitored
- Catchment level watershed conditions were classified across the watershed by aquatic score, benthic community score, fish community score and thermal classification

Partnership Highlights:

- **268** community volunteers contributed a total of **811** hours towards stream monitoring, **12** stream cleanups and **15** invasive species removals on the Jock River (in Richmond), Graham Creek, Sawmill Creek, Mud Creek, Bilberry Creek, Rideau River, Tay River, Barrhaven Creek and Stillwater Creek

- Hosted an invasive species identification workshop in July with **30** participants
- Hosted an interactive booth with benthic invertebrates at the following community events: North Grenville Sustainability Fair, Sandy Hill Ecofair, Ecofest Westport, Tay Watershed Discovery Day and Ottawa Ward 22 Open House
- Presented at the Annual Lake Links Workshop in October on fish habitat restoration
- Partnered with Parks Canada to help remove Water Chestnut along the Rideau River (Black Rapids Lock station) and the Tay River (Port Elmsley)
- **82** Landowners provided access to streams through their properties to enable surveying for the City Stream Watch program.
- Partnered with the Alta Vista Community Association to help cleanup and rehabilitate Sawmill Creek

Wetland Restoration

- Phase Two of the Motts Mills Wetland Restoration Project was completed, creating additional open water ponds with connecting channels to support increased biodiversity within the provincially significant wetland. This work was completed in partnership with the Mott's Mills Steering Committee
- Post-effectiveness monitoring was undertaken at the Stillwater Wetland Creation Project (Year 3) and Jebbs Creek Wetland Embayment (Year 5)



Partners and supporters gathered at the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre in May to celebrate ongoing efforts to restore the Stillwater Wetland in Nepean back to a functioning part of the local hydrological system. Left to right, RVCA General Manager Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Bay Ward Councillor and RVCA Board member Theresa Kavanagh, RVCA Aquatic Biologist Jennifer Lamoureux and RVCA Board Chair Kristin Strackerjan celebrate Lamoureux's recognition for her role in restoring the wetland.



Workers clear open channels and ponds in Hutton Marsh as part of the Motts Mills Wetland Restoration Project in February.



Science & Engineering Services	\$2,911,493
Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services	\$2,457,920
Corporate Services	\$1,817,028
Stewardship Services	\$1,661,038
Conservation Land Management Services	\$1,565,852
Investment in Capital Assets	\$1,677,113
Transfer to Reserves	\$ 793,256
Repayment of Capital Lease	\$202,704



Municipal Levy	\$6,719,748
Program Revenue	\$4,406,595
Foundation	\$844,824
Special Levies	\$716,736
Provincial Funding	\$398,501



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Open fields at the newly acquired ParMc property will provide space for species at risk habitat projects and other stewardship efforts.



The new bridge at Baxter Conservation Area.

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Thank you for an incredible year.

Looking back at 2023, I'm amazed at the impact of our work. In many ways, it was the culmination of many years of work as we moved forward with several significant campaigns, including the installation of a new accessible pedestrian bridge at Chapman Mills Conservation Area and the construction of our accessible bridge and education platforms at Baxter Conservation Area.

We also continued our important work as a land trust, welcoming more than 130 acres of forest, wetlands and shoreline in new donated lands through the Foundation and continuing to protect another 7,350 acres of conservation land through the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund.

Our generous donors and supporters make it all possible; this and our many other conservation projects including tree planting, shoreline restoration, invasive species removal and outdoor education.

The RVCF is delighted to be the vital bridge between ideas and actions, bringing together individuals, partners and businesses to achieve our shared goals through funding, in-kind support and volunteer hours. Together we channel our efforts towards the protection of the Rideau's natural environment – ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to our shared mission – thank you.

Yours in conservation,

Andrew Harkness,
RVCF Chair

RVCF Board of Directors

- Andrew Harkness, Chair
- Tom Scott, Vice Chair
- Jason W. M. Kelly, Past Chair
- John Batson
- Allison Gibbons
- Gary Howard
- Mark Mortimer
- Jake Rice
- R.E. (Bob) Smith
- Kathy Thomas

Support Team

Diane Downey,
RVCF Executive Director
Kathy Dallaire,
Secretary- Treasurer

2023 Highlights

- Renewed accreditation from Imagine Canada’s Standards Program. Earning the Imagine Canada Accreditation Trustmark verifies RVCF’s excellence in governance and non-profit management.
- Constructed Baxter Conservation Area’s accessible boardwalk bridge and education platforms thanks to funding from Canada’s Community Revitalization Fund, City of Ottawa Rural Community Building Grant, RVCA support and many generous donors.
- Installed the Chapman Mills Conservation Area accessible pedestrian bridge thanks to funding from Canada’s Community Revitalization Fund and private donors.
- Retrofitted Baxter’s Interpretive Centre washrooms to include accessibility features thanks to funding from the Government of Canada (Employment and Social Development Canada).
- Honoured Year 3 of our partnership with Modern Niagara, which will provide \$300,000 over five years to help acquire and protect vulnerable land.
- Celebrated two land donations to ensure the long-term protection of two small islands and 133 acres of green infrastructure including shorelines, wetlands, forests and meadows.
- Secured funds from Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Government of Ontario to support the acquisition of conservation land.
- Protected more than 7,350 acres of conservation land throughout the Rideau watershed.
- Invested \$152,000 into the Steve Simmering Conservation Land Endowment Fund to support perpetual care of conservation lands.
- Raised \$128,100 in support of Phase 2 of the Hutton Marsh Restoration Project, thanks to a dedicated group of local stakeholders and funders including Ducks Unlimited Canada, Leeds Grenville Stewardship Council, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone F, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (UCLG), Wildlife Habitat Canada, Ontario Land Trust Alliance and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

RVCF has raised

\$8.3M

for conservation since 1994.



The new bridge at Chapman Mills Conservation Area.



Several Carbon Neutral and Tree Planting partners joined RVCF board members, RVCA staff and many volunteers to celebrate the 7 millionth tree planted across the watershed in May.

2023 Highlights *(continued)*

- Planted 30,000 trees with support from One Tree Planted.
- Continued partnership with Hulse, Playfair and McGarry to plant 1,500 trees seedlings annually.
- Planted 652 memorial and special occasion trees in tribute of loved ones.
- Welcomed returning Carbon Neutral individuals, businesses and events including Capital Pyro, LIVE 88.5, Elephant Print, Greek Fest Ottawa, McCooeye Wealth Management – Mandeville Private Client Inc., Somersault Events and Velofix Ottawa.
- Celebrated the official opening of the Foley Mountain Story Trail made possible thanks to the Lawson Foundation, Westport Lions Club, Friends of Foley Mountain and the RVCF.
- Received funding from TD Friend of the Environment to install a permanent Story Trail Adventure at Baxter Conservation Area.
- Supported the Nature for All Committee in its fundraising efforts for accessibility projects at Baxter Conservation Area.
- Raised funds to eliminate bus and registration fees for priority schools attending outdoor education programs at Foley and Baxter Conservation Areas. Special thanks to supporters of the Don Maciver Memorial Fund for their continued commitment.
- Helped families in need participate in Forest School programming at Baxter and Foley Mountain Conservation Areas.
- Welcomed support for stream protection and invasive species removal from Ferguslea Property Inc.
- Enjoyed the confidence of several land development companies who use the Foundation's Species at Risk Compensation Program services to compensate for the unavoidable loss of butternut or barn swallow, bobolink and meadowlark habitat during their business activities. We are currently managing 55 projects.

Thank you for your continued trust in the RVCF. We appreciate you supporting programs and projects that protect our beautiful watershed – for today and the future.



Left to right: Friends of Foley Mountain president Rob Struthers, Foundation board member Mark Mortimer, Foley Mountain Conservation Area Site Supervisor Rebecca Whitman, Foundation board member Allison Gibbons and Lawson Foundation’s Tim and Nancy Gardiner celebrate the opening of a new permanent Storybook Trail at Foley Mountain.

Donor Milestones

We recognize the following donors who have reached new cumulative giving milestones in 2023:

- **Patrons (\$100,000+)**
Modern Niagara, K.A. McClure & R.D. Partridge, Ontario Land Trust Alliance, Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited
- **Sponsors (\$25,000 to \$99,999)**
One Tree Planted
- **Benefactors (\$5,000 to \$24,999)**
Norman Lepointe, Gillian Shaw
- **Supporters (\$1,000 to \$4,999)**
Benjamin Doyle, Elephant Print, Bruce Fanjoy, Fidus, Maureen Gabe, Alain & Maureen Gauthier, HR Ottawa, LP, Melissa Kruyne, Ottawa Greek Fest, Tarandeep Sehgal
- **Friends (\$500 to \$999)**
AlphaPlus Centre, Amazon YOW, John Kenneth Barr, Hilton, Peter Ide, Maria Yousaf

For a complete list of our valued donors, visit our digital donor board at rvcf.ca/supporters or in person at 3889 Rideau Valley Drive in Manotick.

In 2023, the RVCF was generously supported by



230

individuals and families



10

corporate partners



7

not-for-profits



5

government partners



2

in-kind donors



10

volunteer directors

Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation

Box 988
3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, ON K4M 1A8
613-692-3571 ext. 1126
info@rvcf.ca www.rvcf.ca

The RVCF is proudly accredited under Imagine Canada’s Standards Program having demonstrated excellence in board governance, financial accountability and transparency, ethical fundraising, staff management and volunteer involvement. RVCF is also a proud and practicing member of both the Ontario and Canada Land Trust Alliances.





Rideau Valley
Conservation
Authority

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive


Manotick, ON K4M 1A5

613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504

www.rvca.ca

 [RideauValleyConservationAuthority](https://www.facebook.com/RideauValleyConservationAuthority)

 [RideauValleyCA](https://twitter.com/RideauValleyCA)

 [rideauvalleyca](https://www.instagram.com/rideauvalleyca)

 [@RideauValleyCA](https://www.youtube.com/@RideauValleyCA)



**11.0 Conservation Ontario 2023 Annual Report
Report #: 04-240425**

To: RVCA Board of Directors
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: April 18, 2024

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachment – 28 pages

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receives Conservation Ontario's 2023 Annual Report.

Purpose

To circulate Conservation Ontario's 2023 Annual Report to members.

Background

Conservation Ontario is a non-profit association that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.

Its core business functions are:

- Policy and Program Development
- Business Development and Partnerships
- Communications
- Education and Training
- Collective Corporate Services
- Government Relations
- Information Management and Research

Its Vision is:

- Engage Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and shape effective policy relating to Conservation Authorities.

Its Mission is:

- To promote and continually strengthen a watershed-based conservation coalition in Ontario.

Conservation Ontario is directed by a Council comprised of one voting delegate from each conservation authority. This Council meets four times a year and voting delegates are usually accompanied by their conservation authority's General Manager.

RVCA's voting delegate to Conservation Ontario Council is the Chair with the Vice-Chair and General Manager as the first and second alternates.

The Council also elects a six-member Board of Directors who is responsible for governing Conservation Ontario. Conservation Ontario's 2023 Board of Directors was elected on April 15, 2024 as follows:

- Chair – Chris White, Chair of Grand River Conservation Authority
- Vice Chair – Jonathan Scott, Chair of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- Vice Chair – Pat Warren, Chair of Kawartha Conservation Authority
- Director – Brad McNevin, CAO of Quinte Conservation
- Director – Rob Baldwin, CAO of Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- Director – Chandra Sharma, CAO of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Financial Considerations

Conservation Ontario's main source of funding is from levies to each conservation authority supplemented by project funding and contracts. RVCA's levy to Conservation Ontario for 2024 is \$45,453.

Attachment

- Conservation Ontario 2023 Annual Report



Conservation
ONTARIO



ANNUAL *Report*



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MESSAGE FROM THE

General Manager

THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION IS COLLABORATIVE

Are you an optimist or a pessimist by nature? With the many twists and turns of the past few years, I no longer consider myself on one side or the other. Instead, I think of myself as a “possibilist”. An individual who thinks of outcomes and opportunities as creative spaces for shared wins: so long as we avoid the limitations of small-picture thinking.

Without a doubt, Conservation Authorities (CAs) and Conservation Ontario (CO) have had challenges over the years; however, with excellent members that comprise our network and extended networks, we are positioning ourselves for future success.

Most of you know I take many things seriously, including drafting this message. In my short time at CO, I have been honoured to work and negotiate on your behalf. These negotiations required me to grow as a professional and to expand the limits of my thinking for our shared organizations. I am comfortable in rooms where it is necessary to build bridges to help people come together to find productive solutions.

Through discussions and debates, I've realized that collaboration is key to unlocking the full potential of conversation and conservation.

This annual report will tell stories of successful collaborations between CO and various stakeholders. These stories serve as a reminder that no single entity can tackle the challenges of conservation alone. Through partnerships, we leverage our collective strengths, share best practices, and amplify our impact.

The work being carried out by CO on behalf of the Conservation Authority (CA) network is aligned with this vision. CO's programs and initiatives support and highlight the transformative impact of collaboration by fostering partnerships between government agencies, Indigenous communities, businesses, agriculture, stewardship organizations, environmental organizations, and engaged citizens.

From watershed management to floodplain mapping, from climate change adaptation to biodiversity conservation, CO's work exemplifies the strength that lies in unity. By combining diverse perspectives and expertise, we are driving positive change across the province.

This report highlights the importance of engaging and supporting the CA network. This inclusive approach ensures the sustainability of conservation efforts across watersheds.

Looking ahead, we are committed to deepening our collaboration with organizations across Ontario. We aim to expand our reach and influence in conservation by forging strategic alliances and nurturing partnerships. Together, we can drive change, advocate issues relevant to CAs, and create a future where the delicate balance between human progress and environmental preservation is maintained.

I want to thank Chair Chris White and our Board, Council, CAs, and partners for their support. Your dedication and commitment have enabled us to make significant strides over the past year. Let us embrace collaboration and possibility as the cornerstone of our efforts, knowing that together, we can build sustainable communities for all.

Angela Coleman

Angela M. Coleman
General Manager,
Conservation Ontario



📍 Rogers Reservoir (Lake Simcoe Region CA)

CONSERVATION

Authorities Act

COLLABORATION IN ACTION: TRANSITIONING TO NEW REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT

Conservation Authorities (CAs) have been working on implementing the Transition Plans and Agreements regulation (O. Reg. 687/21) under the *Conservation Authorities Act* since October 2021. This implementation was accompanied by additional legislative and regulatory updates. The purpose of the transition period is to allow CAs and Municipalities time to address changes to the budgeting and levy process related to mandatory programs and services (Category 1), municipal programs and services (Category 2), and other programs and services (Category 3), as well as to reach agreements.

In 2023, CAs focused on ongoing consultations with Municipalities regarding the Conservation Authority (CA) Program and Service Inventory, negotiations with Municipalities on cost apportioning agreements, and quarterly progress reporting to the Province. CAs submitted their quarterly progress reports to the Province, with the last one due on October 1, 2023. This date also marked the deadline for any extension requests to the Transition Period, which concluded on January 1, 2024. Eighteen CAs were granted extension requests to finalize agreements and align with 2024 budget approvals.

In addition to the Transition Period requirements, O. Reg. 402/22 (Budget and Apportionment) took effect on July 1, 2023. This regulation governs budgetary and apportionment matters for all CAs, requiring each CA to prepare a budget for 2024 and each subsequent year as per the regulation.

CONSERVATION ONTARIO SUPPORT FOR COLLABORATION

In 2023, Conservation Ontario facilitated seven sessions for General Managers and Conservation Authority staff to ensure compliance with the Transition Period requirements and transition to the new budget and apportionment framework. These sessions included a webinar in partnership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, focusing on the Next Steps for Conservation Authorities and Municipalities.

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Conservation Ontario (CO) and Conservation Authorities (CAs) are aligned with the Provincial government's commitment to governance, accountability, and transparency. All 36 CAs adhere to the Chair and Vice-Chair provisions outlined in the *Conservation Authorities Act* for 2023. This ensures Chairs and Vice-Chairs have not served more than two consecutive terms unless granted a Minister's exception. Additionally, the 36 CAs upheld their Governance webpages, with support from CO staff as needed, and shared relevant materials per the April 2022 Information Requirements regulation.

UPCOMING CONSERVATION AUTHORITY DELIVERABLES

Conservation Ontario (CO) provided valuable support to Conservation Authorities (CAs) in the development of key provincial deliverables due by December 31, 2024. Over the course of six sessions, CAs focused efforts on developing key deliverables including the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy, Conservation Area Strategy, Conservation Land Inventory, and Natural Hazard Infrastructure asset management plans.

Strategies encourage consultation with stakeholders and the public throughout their development and subsequent updates. To assist CAs, CO developed comprehensive consultation and engagement toolkits for CA use.

FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL *Consultations*

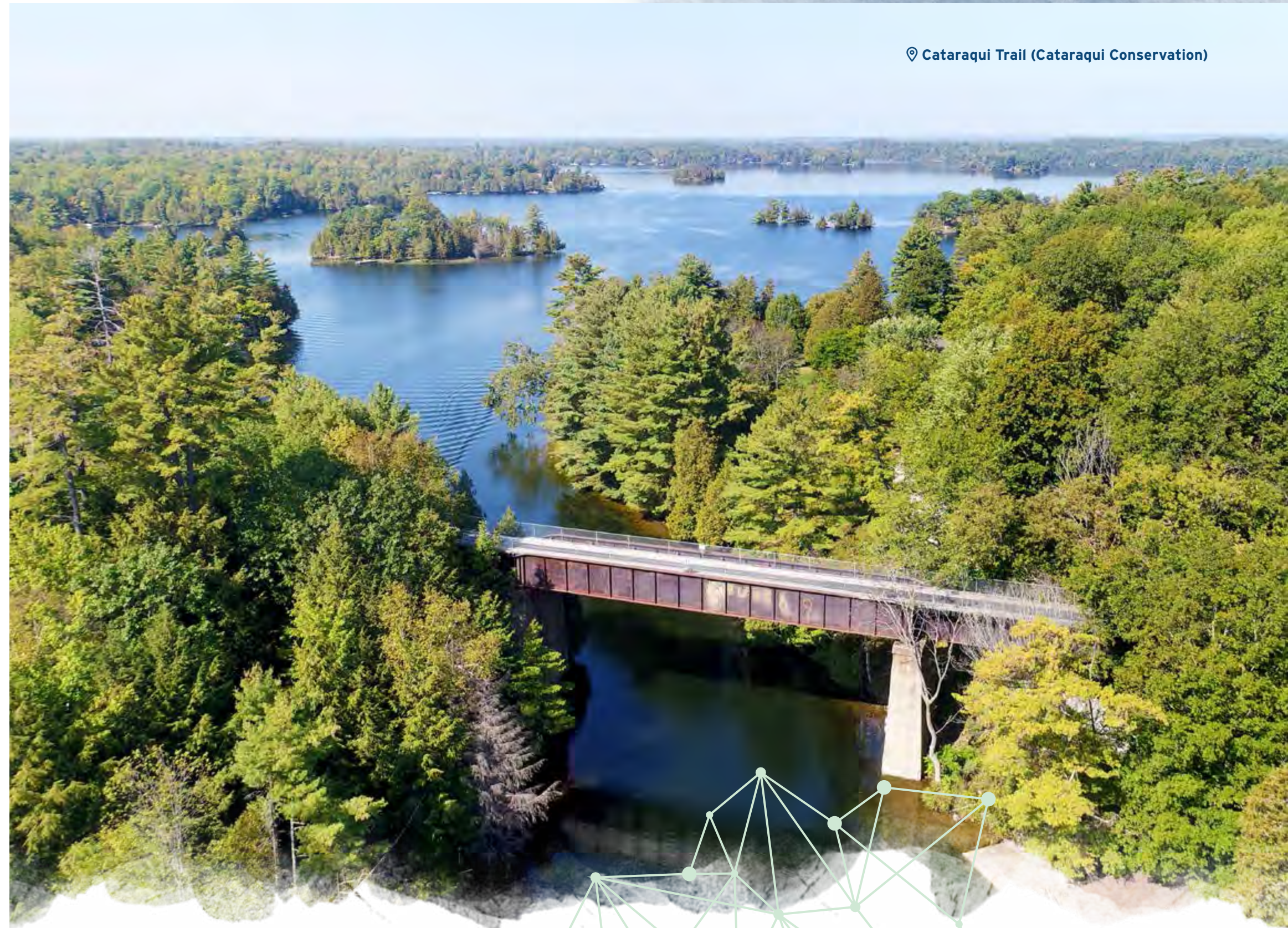
CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Conservation Ontario (CO) plays a crucial role coordinating reviews of provincial and federal policy proposals and consultations by Conservation Authorities (CAs) that impact the CAs' mission of conserving natural resources and safeguarding public health and safety.

In 2023, 21 out of 36 CAs actively collaborated in the development of 14 submissions by CO. These submissions addressed a wide range of policy proposals, including those concerning the *Planning Act* (e.g., Provincial Policy/Planning Statement), the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*, and flood mapping specifications, as well as the modernization of Regulations under various Acts.

In January 2023, CO submitted the Five-Year Review Report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding the use of CO's *Class Environmental Assessment for Remedial Flood and Erosion Control Projects*. CO also continued its collaboration with MECP to enhance the efficiency of CO's Class Environmental Assessment process.

📍 Cataraqui Trail (Cataraqui Conservation)



CLIENT SERVICE AND

Streamlining Initiative

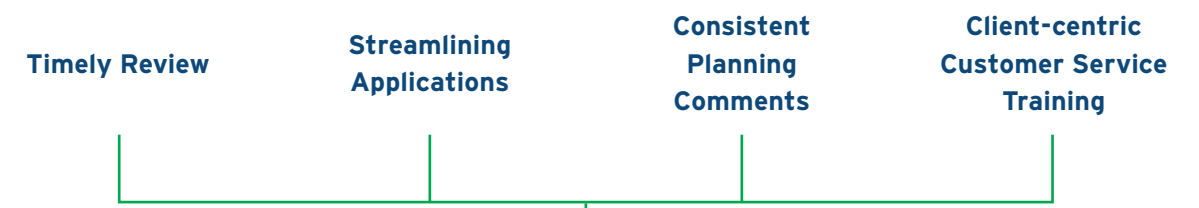
IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE TO SUPPORT SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

To support development without jeopardizing public health, safety, or the environment, Conservation Ontario (CO) continues to collaborate with Conservation Authorities (CAs) to enhance client service and accountability, and increase the speed of approvals, while streamlining processes and reducing regulatory complexities.

CO works with all CAs to provide an annual report on permit review timelines. Participation in the annual reporting cycle showcases CA commitment to increasing transparency within the permit review process, as well as providing efficient reviews and approvals. The timely issuance of permits by CAs not only ensures the effectiveness of their role in the development approval process, but also safeguards people and their properties from potential impacts of natural hazards.



ACTIVITIES



2023 RESULTS



11,517
Permits Issued



95%
Issued within Provincial Timelines



36
Conservation Authorities Participated

DIGITIZING THE FUTURE: STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESSES

In 2023, Conservation Ontario (CO) actively engaged in technical working groups focused on service digitization to streamline and standardize development applications for Conservation Authority (CA) permits and municipal planning and development processes.

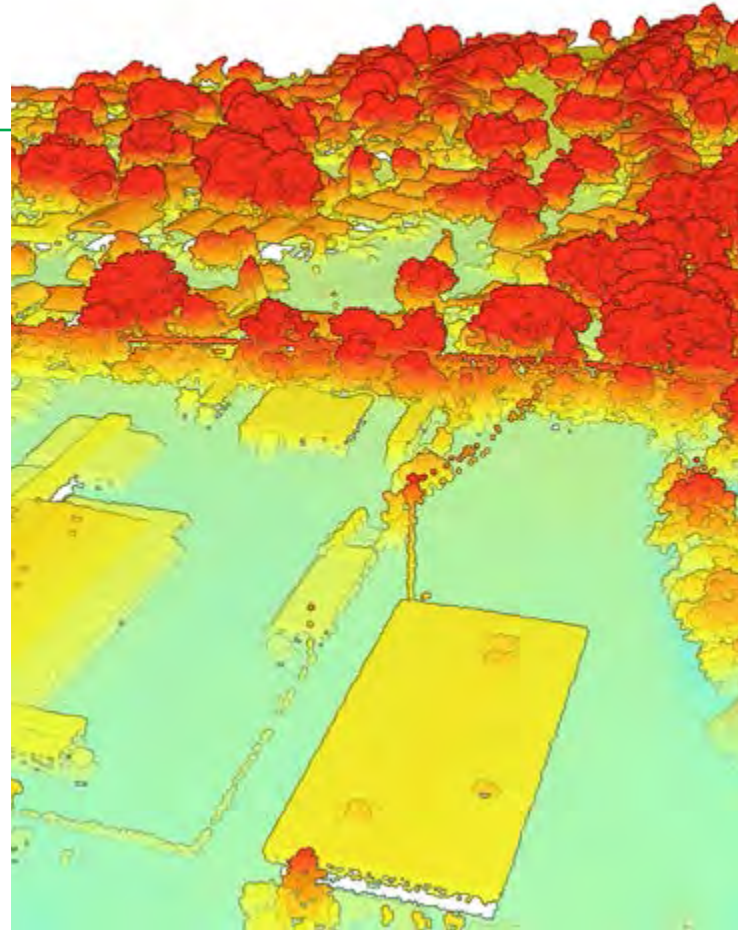
CO collaborated with e-permitting stakeholders and Conservation Authorities on a pilot project aimed at enhancing building permitting software. Additionally, CO participated in a Technical Committee led by the Digital Governance Standards Institute in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery. This committee is dedicated to establishing data standards for municipal planning and development applications, encompassing lexicon and common data field standards.

Flooding

CONSERVATION ONTARIO SUPPORTS FLOOD MAPPING INVESTMENTS FOR CAS AND MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH FEDERAL PROGRAM

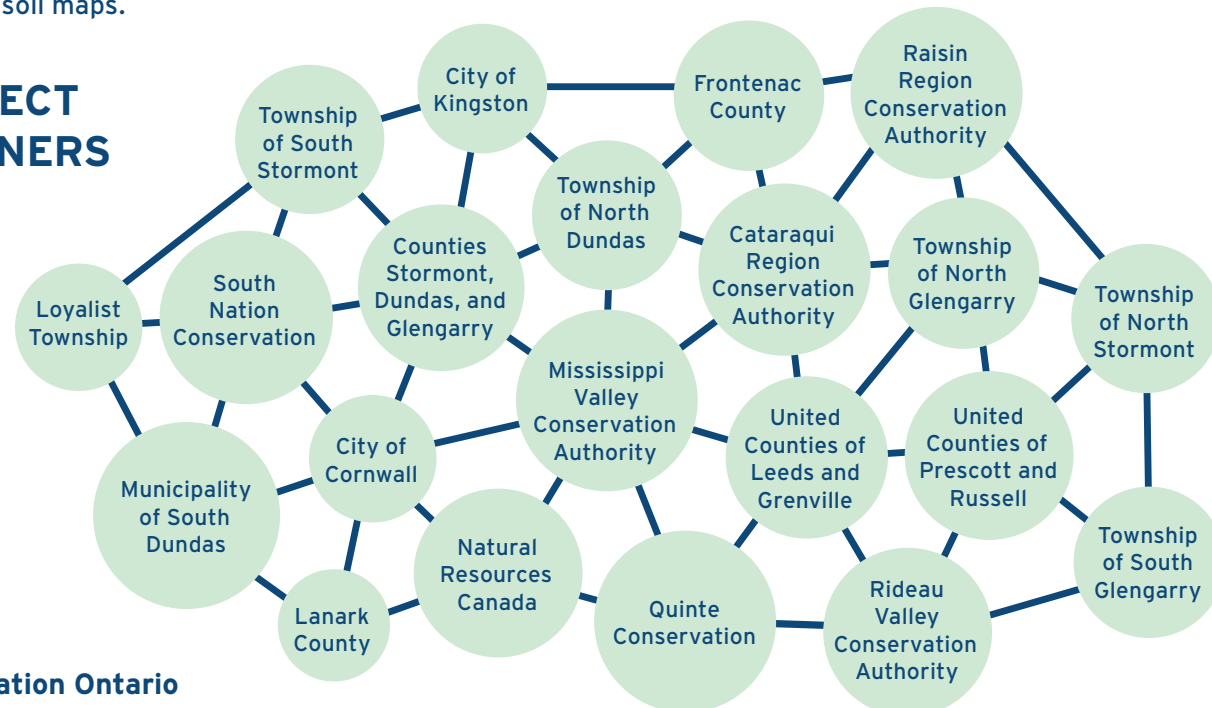
Conservation Ontario (CO) works in collaboration with Provincial and Federal governments to distribute funding from the Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) to Conservation Authorities in the Greater Toronto Area, including the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation, Conservation Halton, and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. The project, titled "2023 Spring Leaf-off Airborne LiDAR Data Acquisition and Classification for the Greater Toronto Area to Hamilton," involved the acquisition of LiDAR for flood mapping purposes, with the support of local Municipalities.

Additionally, CO allocated FHIMP funding to the Eastern Ontario LiDAR Acquisition Project to aid in flood mapping efforts and provide data for updates to Ontario's soil maps.



3D LiDAR Point Cloud depicting buildings, powerlines, and tree canopy in Conservation Halton's watershed.

PROJECT PARTNERS



DRINKING WATER

Source Protection

PROTECTING ONTARIO'S DRINKING WATER TOGETHER

Conservation Ontario offers essential coordination and support services to Conservation Authorities (CAs), enabling them to fulfill their legislative duties as Source Protection Authorities. CAs, known for their collaborative nature, excel in program delivery through partnerships with the Province, Municipalities, and other stakeholders, playing a crucial role safeguarding our drinking water.

The inception of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP) under the *Clean Water Act*, 2006, ensures the protection of current and future sources of municipal drinking water on a watershed basis.

PARTNERSHIPS AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING

- ▶ The Source Water Seminar Series for Risk Management Officials, Inspectors, CA DWSP Project Managers, and supporting staff was reintroduced in 2022. This bi-annual seminar series facilitates collaboration among staff from the Province, Municipalities, CAs, and consulting fields to build partnerships, share best practices, and work together on solutions for safeguarding drinking water.
- ▶ CO organizes quarterly meetings with CA Project Managers and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to enhance relationships and exchange information, ensuring the effective operation of the program.
- ▶ CO assists DWSP Project Managers by offering quarterly peer-to-peer knowledge-building sessions to support their professional development and enhance program effectiveness.

CREATING AWARENESS

Conservation Ontario has successfully executed five social media campaigns focusing on source water protection, emphasizing best practices and fundamental principles. These campaigns have been widely shared across the Province.

PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

In collaboration with CAs, Conservation Ontario has identified 30 process improvements aimed at enhancing program delivery and safeguarding sources of drinking water. Significant efforts are underway with our partners, including the Province, CAs, Municipalities, and consulting fields, to continuously enhance the delivery of this vital program.





Partnerships

\$10 MILLION IN PARTNERED FUNDING FOR WECI INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and Conservation Ontario (CO) partner to support safety and repair projects and studies on aging infrastructure which was built to protect lives and property from natural hazards.

The Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) database was managed by CO for the 2023-2024 WECI funding application review process. The WECI Committee hosted an information webinar in early February 2023 to provide guidance for submitting applications. The Committee reviewed 151 funding applications from 26 Conservation Authorities (CAs) with total project costs around \$10 million.

Overall, the MNR approved and fully allocated their 50 per cent funding (i.e. \$5 million) to 135 infrastructure safety and repair projects and studies being undertaken by 26 CAs.

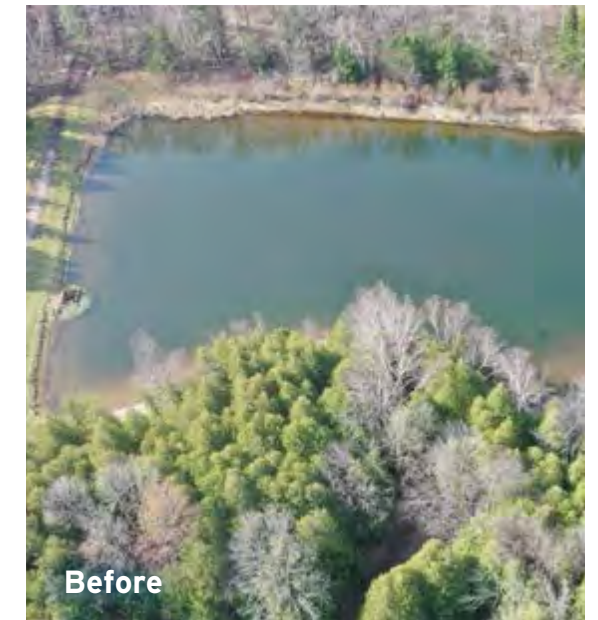
NATURE SMART CLIMATE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

Over three years (2021-23), Conservation Ontario (CO) has received \$11,048,189 from Environment and Climate Change Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund.

Through agreements with 20 Conservation Authorities (CAs), over 70 local projects were implemented to support reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by protecting and restoring wetlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and implementing sustainable agricultural practices like cover cropping. These projects contribute to GHG reductions and also provide additional benefits such as flood risk reduction, habitat restoration for species at risk, and improvements in water quality and soil health.

In June 2023, CO applied to ECCC's Ecosystem Protection and Climate Mitigation Intake for 2023-2025 land acquisition projects, resulting in the approval of three sites for the securement of 79 hectares. Additional restoration projects were also submitted and successfully approved, securing an additional \$2,164,189 in funding over two years (2023-2025) and enabling two more CAs to join the program.

In addition to these achievements, CO launched a social media campaign showcasing one project from each participating Conservation Authority and displayed a Nature Based Solutions banner at the 2023 Latornell Conservation Symposium.



Before



After

📍 Monora Park (Credit Valley Conservation)



📍 Cooper Marsh (Raisin Region CA)



St. Lawrence River

Chris White, Chair of Conservation Ontario's Board of Directors, and a signatory to the Memorandum of Collaboration expressed, "This Memorandum of Collaboration signifies our commitment to collaborating on critical challenges faced by coastal communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. By combining our resources and expertise, we aim to develop solutions that bolster coastal resilience and protect vulnerable communities in these regions."

This collaboration will optimize resources by jointly focusing on communication, fundraising, and addressing gaps in science and implementation. Leveraging their existing capacity and expertise, Conservation Authorities play a pivotal role as key partners in enhancing coastal resilience and assisting communities in proactively addressing climate vulnerabilities and risks. For example, in December 2023, CO, in conjunction with the GLSLCI and six Coastal Conservation Authority pilot regions, submitted a funding request of \$5.5 million to Natural Resources Canada's Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities Fund.

The collaborative efforts of the GLSLCI, MCCR, and CO encompass various responsibilities, including developing funding messages, planning and delivering messages to elected officials, creating funding applications and partnership agreements, showcasing on-the-ground strategies and projects, crafting joint communications, offering technical expertise, boosting response rates to the GLSLCI Annual Survey, and co-developing frameworks, tools, and educational opportunities.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE: CONSERVATION ONTARIO AND GLSLCI JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER COMMUNITIES

In December 2023, Conservation Ontario and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) Mayor's Commission on Coastal Resilience (MCCR) approved a Memorandum of Collaboration to assist communities to prepare for the increasing risks posed by flooding, erosion, and severe storms along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River coast. The signing of the Memorandum of Collaboration took place on the inaugural day of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Toronto in January 2024.



WORKING TOGETHER TO PLANT 2 BILLION TREES

Conservation Ontario (CO) fostered collaboration with planting partners to address opportunities, challenges, and solutions in tree planting and forest management, with a focus on the successful implementation of the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) Program.

Conservation Authorities (CAs) play a pivotal role as valued partners to numerous organizations and Municipalities in tree planting and forest management, with nearly two million trees planted annually and a remarkable 20 million trees planted over the past decade.

Partners involved in tree planting under the federal 2BT Program, including Forests Ontario, Forest Recovery Canada, Tree Canada, ALUS, Agro Forestry, Woodlot Extension Society, and CO, have been actively engaging in discussions to ensure the effective delivery of the program.

In October 2023 (photo above), Forests Ontario, local CAs, and CO celebrated enhanced federal commitments to the 2BT Program for Forests Ontario at a press conference in Ottawa. Our longstanding partnership with Forests Ontario is essential for our shared goals for tree planting in Ontario.

In December 2023, Tree Canada and CO collaborated on a new initiative to provide additional funding for CA tree-planting initiatives. This partnership offers interested CAs with projects to plant up to 600,000 additional trees annually from 2024 to 2026.

Throughout these discussions, staff have emphasized the significance of our partnerships and stressed the importance of effective communication and collaboration to guarantee the successful delivery of the program.

PARTNERS IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

CLIMATE PROOF CANADA COALITION NATIONAL ADAPTATION SUMMIT

As a member of the Climate Proof Canada Coalition, Conservation Ontario sponsored and participated in the Climate Proof Canada Climate Adaptation Summit in November 2023. The Summit featured a Panel Session with Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Stephen Guilbeault, along with representatives from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, First Nations communities, the insurance industry, and emergency management.

This Summit marked the culmination of a series of summer workshops aimed at developing recommendations to guide federal investment to help Canada make rapid and tangible progress toward the targets outlined in the National Adaptation Strategy. The key focus areas of the recommendations include Adapting to Extreme Heat, Building Resilient Climate Infrastructure, Enhancing Indigenous Resilience, and Climate-Proof Housing.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation (ORCCA) steering committee includes Conservation Ontario, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, and the Toronto Region Conservation Authority. ORCCA is a pilot initiative led by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Canada and supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. Financial support is also being provided by the Government of Canada through Environment and Climate Change Canada to fulfill federal and provincial commitments under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health. ORCCA aims to assist First Nations, Municipalities, and communities in their climate action projects by providing access to relevant climate data and resources for effective climate adaptation efforts.

MAXIMIZING RESTORATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

During a panel session hosted by the World Wildlife Fund, Conservation Ontario, and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff shared Conservation Authorities' perspectives on maximizing the long-term benefits of restoration for climate resilience. The participants included non-government organizations, Indigenous representation, and federal government staff responsible for funding programs like The 2 Billion Trees Program, Nature Smart Climate Solutions, climate adaptation, and land securement initiatives that involve restoration.

The session emphasized the need for ongoing investments to ensure restored ecosystems are effectively managed to withstand the impacts of climate change, land use changes, recreation, and invasive species, to meet Canada's 30 by 30 targets.





Stewardship

ADVANCING ONTARIO'S SOIL HEALTH STRATEGY

The Soil Action Group, comprised of key stakeholders such as the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Conservation Ontario (CO), agricultural producer groups, soil health NGOs, and academia, guides the implementation of Ontario's Soil Health Strategy. Ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the significance of soil health, best practices, monitoring, and research remain a top priority. CO is actively promoting the Province's Soil Resource Inventory initiative, aimed at updating soil resource inventory maps and information through comprehensive soil field sampling across Ontario. CO is also promoting Conservation Authority partnerships in the delivery of Agricultural Best Practices.

BULK Purchase

CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S EFFORTS TO DELIVER COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY

In 2023, Conservation Ontario (CO) continued to provide cost savings and efficiencies for its members through bulk purchases and shared tools and services. CO implemented Year 2 of a three-year Enterprise Agreement with Esri Canada, offering Conservation Authorities (CAs) discounted access to the latest GIS technologies, training, and services. Additionally, bulk purchase arrangements were maintained with Teranet for single sign-on access to the Geowarehouse, OnBoard for meeting and Board management software, and a new agreement was negotiated with KnowBe4 for discounted access to cyber risk management solutions for CAs. Other bulk purchase agreements were provided for group benefits, insurance, and communications tools.



INFORMATION

Management

CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S LAND ACQUISITION INITIATIVE: A SUCCESS STORY IN PROTECTING CANADA'S ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS

In 2021, Conservation Ontario signed a \$1.2 million contract with Environment and Climate Change Canada under the Canada Nature Fund. By 2023, the project expanded to a three-year, \$12.5 million initiative to assist Conservation Authorities (CAs) in obtaining ecologically significant lands.

Year 2 (2022-23) concluded with 14 CAs successfully securing 27 parcels, protecting a total of 1,365 hectares of land. These acquisitions have been submitted to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database to support Canada in achieving its 30x30 targets.

Year 3 (2023-24) began in April, with 12 CAs actively working to acquire an additional 23 parcels. To date, CAs have matched federal funding with over \$13 million in CA-raised cash and in-kind contributions towards the program.



View of the Otonabee River with the Otonabee River Conservation Authority's 12.9-hectare property acquisition in the backdrop.

HOW HEALTHY ARE ONTARIO'S WATERSHEDS? WATERSHED REPORT CARDS

The Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards offer a comprehensive assessment or "checkup" of the health of many of Ontario's watersheds. They monitor and report on the quality of surface and groundwater, as well as the state of our forests.

Launched on World Water Day (March 22, 2023), this release marked the third in a series of reports on environmental health published by Conservation Authorities (CAs) on a five-year reporting cycle since 2011. Out of 36 CAs, 29 have produced watershed report cards, with an additional six CAs contributing data for the provincial-scale State of Ontario's Watersheds story map. Key concerns highlighted by many CAs include non-point source pollution (runoff) and climate change, along with issues such as invasive species, loss of wetland and forest cover, urbanization, and habitat fragmentation.

The findings suggest that our watersheds are facing significant stress, emphasizing the need for increased investment in watershed management programs to help Ontarians adapt to climate change and the rapid development in our region.



Events

2023 LATORNELL CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

CHANGING CLIMATES: OUR WATERSHED MOMENT

The 2023 Latornell Conservation Symposium, themed *Changing Climates: Our Watershed Moment*, experienced high demand, leading to a swift sell-out of registrations. The symposium welcomed 317 delegates, with the top five participant groups being Conservation Authorities, private and consulting, NGOs, Municipal, and students. Co-hosted by Conservation Ontario and the University of Guelph, the event took place on October 23 and 24 at the Royal Botanical Gardens. Notable highlights included:

1. Keynote luncheon with Commissioner Henry Lickers of the International Joint Commission.
2. Five half-day experiential field trips organized by Conservation Authorities and partners, covering various topics such as agricultural management practices, wetland programs, habitat conservation, and invasive species management.
3. Two on-site workshops: one discussing nature-based solutions on a global and local scale through a panel discussion, and another focusing on cultivating a “Think Again” mindset.
4. Student poster competition and networking event.
5. A full day of concurrent sessions with five streams, including Watershed Management, Nature-based Solutions, Program Transformation, Equity and Inclusion, and Natural Heritage.



STEP INTO NATURE HEALTHY HIKES

The 2023 Healthy Hikes Step Into Nature social media campaign was launched during Mental Health Week with the theme of Nature as Self-care. The campaign included the following initiatives: Recreate Responsibly, More Than Just Trees, Create Memories in Conservation Areas, and Reconciling through Nature.



EDUCATION AND Training

WORKSHOPS

Level 1 Provincial Offences Officers Training Course

- ▶ January 23 - February 3
- ▶ 28 CA staff; 17 CAs represented

Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Funding Application Information Session

- ▶ February 8
- ▶ 38 CA staff; 32 CAs represented

Provincial Flood Forecast and Warning Workshop

- ▶ September 18-19
- ▶ 84 CA staff; 30 CAs represented

Private Onsite Wastewater Systems - Advancing Technologies

- ▶ September 21
- ▶ 24 CA staff; 18 CAs represented

Risk Management Official Source Water Seminar Series

- ▶ October 3, 2023
- ▶ 58 CA and Municipal participants; 20 CAs represented

Conservation Authorities University: Module 1 Governance

- ▶ October 19-20
- ▶ 37 CA staff; 25 CAs represented

Latornell Conservation Symposium

- ▶ October 23-24
- ▶ 116 CA staff; 17 CAs represented

Conservation Areas Workshop - Back to the Future: Strong Foundations for Tomorrow's Growth

- ▶ October 24-26
- ▶ 127 CA staff; 26 CAs represented

Rekindle The Sparks Workshop - Rekindle Unplugged: A Holistic Approach to Environmental Education

- ▶ November 1-3
- ▶ 48 CA staff; 19 CAs represented

CA Natural Asset Management Planning Workshop

- ▶ November 1
- ▶ 40 CA staff; 18 CAs represented

Ontario Land Tribunal Process Training for Section 28 Permit Appeals

- ▶ November 6
- ▶ 246 CA staff; 36 CAs represented

CA Communications Workshop

- ▶ November 15
- ▶ 28 CA staff; 17 CAs represented

Regulatory Compliance Committee Post-Latornell Workshop

- ▶ November 16
- ▶ 55 CA staff; 21 CAs represented

Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy Working Session

- ▶ November 17
- ▶ 57 CA staff; 31 CAs represented

Conservation Authority Collaborative Information Sessions (CACIS)

- ▶ November 20
- ▶ 68 CA staff; 22 CAs represented

Conservation Authorities University: Module 2 CA Public Administration I

- ▶ December 12-13
- ▶ 36 CA staff; 25 CAs represented

Floodplain Mapping Metadata Application Update

- ▶ December 15
- ▶ 77 CA staff; 33 CAs represented

Conservation Authorities Act Implementation General Manager &/or CA Staff Lead Virtual Sessions

- ▶ Eight sessions from February 21 - December 4
- ▶ Average of 42 staff; Average of 31 CAs represented

WEBINARS

Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas Regulation

- ▶ April 12
- ▶ 115 CA staff; 31 CAs represented

Overview of the 2023 Watershed Report Cards

- ▶ April 13
- ▶ 89 CA staff; 24 CAs represented

Conservation Ontario/Association of Municipalities of Ontario Webinar: Next Steps for Conservation Authorities and Municipalities

- ▶ April 19
- ▶ 500+ participants

Part VII Enforcement and Offences Training

- ▶ May 16
- ▶ 125 CA staff; 34 CAs represented

Latornell Conservation Symposium - Navigating Adaptation to Coastal Hazards

- ▶ September 26
- ▶ 122 CA staff; 23 CAs represented

CA Natural Asset Management Planning

- ▶ October 18
- ▶ 48 CA staff; 16 CAs represented

Latornell Conservation Symposium - Building Resilient Shorelands: How to take positive land use action in a changing environmental and legislative climate

- ▶ November 21
- ▶ 98 CA staff; 24 CAs represented

*These numbers are not reflective of the total number of webinar participants.





What We Do

CONSERVATION ONTARIO REPRESENTS ONTARIO'S 36 CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (CAS) ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST TO POSITIVELY INFLUENCE POLICY DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

CAs are community-based watershed management agencies that implement programs focused on watershed management to safeguard people and property from flooding and other natural hazards. Additionally, they work towards conserving natural resources to promote economic, social, and environmental benefits. CAs operate under the legislative framework of the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1946*.



CONSERVATION ONTARIO'S BUSINESS FUNCTIONS

- ✔ Policy and Program Development
- ✔ Government Relations
- ✔ Business Development and Partnerships
- ✔ Education and Training
- ✔ Communications
- ✔ Corporate Services
- ✔ Information Management and Research

How We Work



VISION

Conservation Ontario will engage Conservation Authorities in matters of common interest and to shape effective policies relating to Conservation Authorities.



MISSION

To promote and continually strengthen a watershed-based conservation coalition in Ontario.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair, Chris White
Grand River
Conservation Authority

Vice Chair, Pierre Leroux
South Nation
Conservation

Vice Chair, Robert Rock
Kawartha Conservation

Director, Rob Baldwin
Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority

Director, Linda Laliberte
Ganaraska Region
Conservation Authority

Director, Chandra Sharma
Niagara Peninsula
Conservation Authority

CONSERVATION ONTARIO

2023 Financial Summary

In 2023, Conservation Ontario generated total revenues of \$10,053,123. These revenues were sourced from membership fees, special projects funded by federal and provincial governments, and non-governmental agencies.

After a detailed review of all expenses, Conservation Ontario achieved a surplus of \$311,306 in revenue over expenditures.

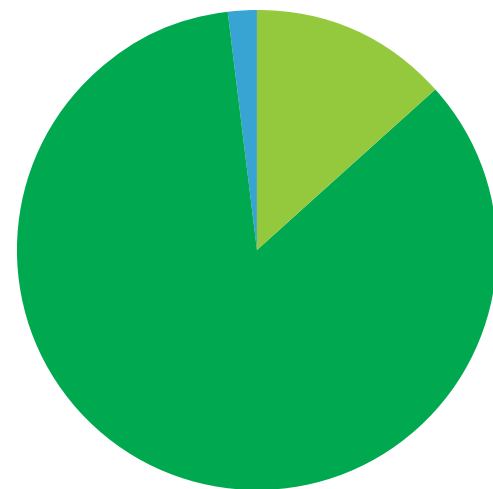
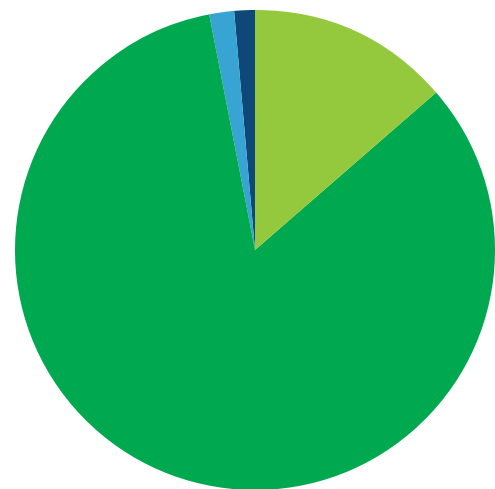
REVENUES

● Membership Fees	1,375,000
● Special Projects	8,373,752
● Source Water Protection	175,726
● Other	128,645
	<hr/>
	\$10,053,123

EXPENDITURES

● Operations	1,301,053
● Special Projects	8,265,038
● Source Water Protection	175,726
	<hr/>
	\$9,741,817

Surplus of revenue over expenditures **\$311,306**



📍 Rock Glen (Ausable Bayfield CA)



Conservation ONTARIO

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✉ info@conservationontario.ca

🌐 conservationontario.ca

📘 Ontario's Conservation Areas / Conservation Ontario

✂ conont

📷 con_ont

🌐 Conservation Ontario



**12.0 JHSC 2023 Annual Report
Report #: 05-240425**

To: RVCA Board of Directors
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: April 18, 2024

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<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
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Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receives the RVCA’s Joint Health and Safety Committee 2023 Annual Report.

Purpose

To provide an Annual Report to members to demonstrate compliance with the *Occupation Health and Safety Act*.

Background

The RVCA is subject to the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* which outlines responsibilities for employers, workers, directors and officers. Specifically, the Board of Directors is responsible for:

Duties of directors and officers of a corporation

32 Every director and every officer of a corporation shall take all reasonable care to ensure that the corporation complies with,

- (a) this Act and the regulations;*
- (b) orders and requirements of inspectors and Directors; and*
- (c) orders of the Minister. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1, s. 32.*

Analysis

To assist the Board in ensuring that the RVCA is complying with the Act, an annual report has been prepared, outlining steps and actions taken in 2023 by the RVCA and its Joint Health and Safety Committee to maintain compliance with the Act.

Attachment

- Joint Health and Safety Committee 2023 Annual Report



Joint Health and Safety Committee

2023 Annual Report

Department	Program	Frequency	Requirement
Corporate Services	Human Resources	Annually	Best Practice

Received By	Date & Resolution	Circulated	Submitted
Board of Directors	April 25, 2024 xx-240425	All Staff	N/A

Role of the JHSC

A joint health and safety committee (JHSC) is composed of worker and employer representatives. Under Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the committee has various powers, including:

- Identifying actual and potential hazards in the workplace
- Obtaining information from the employer relating to health and safety in the workplace
- Inspecting the workplace on a regular basis
- Being consulted about and having a member representing workers be present at the beginning of any health and safety-related testing in the workplace
- Recommending health and safety improvements in the workplace

Legislative Requirements

Under the Act, RVCA's JHSC requires the following:

Legislative Requirement	RVCA's JHSC
Number of Members	4 (at least 50% worker reps) / 7 (5 worker reps)
Member Certification	1 worker rep / 1 employer rep / All members are currently certified
Frequency of Meetings	Every 3 months / Monthly
Workplace Inspections	Monthly / Monthly

RVCA's JHSC

The RVCA wishes to thank the following staff for sitting on its JHSC in 2023:

- Worker Representatives: Shane Olive (Chair), Chelsey Ellis, Marissa Grondin, Amanda Lange, Rico Vipari
- Employer Representatives: Brian Stratton, Sommer Casgrain-Robertson

Each year, RVCA's JHSC prepares an Annual Report for staff and the Board summarizing its work and steps taken by the RVCA to continually improve workplace health and safety.

Annual Report for 2023

Summary of Activities

- 11 JHSC meetings (monthly except December)
- 10 health and safety bulletins emailed to staff
 - Additional safety emails issued to address wildfire smoke
- 4 inspections of all first aid stations (quarterly)
- 4 inspections of vehicles including first aid kits, roadside safety kits and fire extinguishers (quarterly)
- 12 inspections of building fire extinguishers (monthly)
- 7 workplace inspections
 - 3 Main Office and Annex
 - 1 Workshop
 - 2 Baxter and 2 Foley Mountain
 - 1 MSD Hazard / Ergonomics Inspection
- Annual new employee / summer student orientation and training session
- 4 additional defibrillators purchased (3 interpretive centres and 1 field unit)

Summary of Incident / Injury Reports Involving Staff

- 7 reports of attached ticks
- 2 heat stress related incidents
- 1 stinging insect incident
- 1 incident involving threats made by a client
- 1 non-threatening visitor exhibiting mental health stress

Summary of Training

- 25 staff received CPR “C” First Aid / Basic Rescuer and AED training
 - Included several staff and summer students who renewed or completed first aid certifications required for their positions
- 20 new employees and summer students completed RVCA’s orientation session
 - Covered WHMIS, Workplace Violence and Harassment, AODA, RVCA’s Health and Safety Manual
- 3 volunteers completed AODA and Workplace Violence and Harassment training
- Management Team and HR Coordinator attended AMCTO’s Mental Health and Wellness Forum
 - Provided insights, tools, tips and strategies from mental health and wellness experts in combating mental health challenges

Provincial Orders or Requirements

- The RVCA did not receive any:
 - Orders and requirements of inspectors and Directors; or
 - Orders of the Minister.



**13.0 MFIPPA 2023 Annual Report
Report #: 06-240425**

To: RVCA Board of Directors
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager, Secretary-Treasurer
Date: April 18, 2024

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachment – 10 pages

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority receives the RVCA's *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2023 Annual Report*.

Purpose

To provide an Annual Report to members to demonstrate compliance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Background

The RVCA is subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* which:

- Provides a right of access to information under the control of institutions in accordance with the principles that information should be available to the public, necessary exemptions from the right of access should be limited and specific, and decisions on the disclosure of information should be reviewed independently of the institution controlling the information.
- Protects the privacy of individuals with respect to personal information about themselves held by institutions and to provide individuals with a right of access to that information.

Analysis

To assist the Board in ensuring that the RVCA is complying with the Act, an annual report has been prepared summarizing freedom of information requests received in 2023 and the statistical report required by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario.

Attachment

- Freedom of Information Requests 2023 Annual Report



Freedom of Information Requests

2023 Report

Department	Program	Frequency	Requirement
Corporate Services	Administration	Annually	Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

Received By	Date & Resolution	Circulated	Submitted
Board of Directors	April 25, 2024 xx-240425	N/A	Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

Role of the IPC

The Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario oversees compliance with:

- The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
- The *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
- The *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004*, S.O. 2004, c. 3 Sched. A
- Part X of The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*
- The *Anti-Racism Act* (General – O. Reg. 267/18)

These laws establish the rules for how Ontario’s public institutions, health care providers, children’s aid societies and other child and family service providers may collect, use, and disclose personal information and how they must keep such information secure. They also provide the public with a right of access to government-held information and access to their own personal information.

Legislative Requirements

Conservation authorities are subject to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and as such, are required to submit an annual statistical report to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario by April 1 of each year. Attached is RVCA’s report for 2023 that was submitted on March 28, 2024.

Summary of Activity for 2023

Type of Request	Number of Requests
Access to general records	0
Access to own personal information	0
Access to other’s personal information by authorized party	0
Correction of own personal information	0
Affected third party (seeking representations)	1



The Year-End Statistical Report
for the
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

**Statistical Report of
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
for the Reporting Year 2023
for
*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy
Act***

Section 1: Identification

1.1	Organization Name	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
	Head of Institution Name & Title	Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager
	Head of Institution E-mail Address	sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca
	Management Contact Name & Title	Rico Vipari, FOI Co-ordinator
	Management Contact E-mail Address	rico.vipari@rvca.ca
	Primary Contact Name & Title	Rico Vipari, FOI Co-ordinator
	Primary Contact Email Address	rico.vipari@rvca.ca
	Primary Contact Phone Number	6136923571 ext. 1145
	Primary Contact Fax Number	6136920831
	Primary Contact Mailing Address 1	P.O. Box 599
	Primary Contact Mailing Address 2	3889 Rideau Valley Drive
	Primary Contact Mailing Address 3	
	Primary Contact City	Manotick
	Primary Contact Postal Code	K4M 1A5
1.2	Your institution is:	Conservation Authority

Section 2: Inconsistent Use of Personal Information

2.1	Whenever your institution uses or discloses personal information in a way that differs from the way the information is normally used or disclosed (an inconsistent use), you must attach a record or notice of the inconsistent use to the affected information.	0
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Your institution received:

- No formal written requests for access or correction
- Formal written requests for access to records
- Requests for correction of records of personal information only

Section 3: Number of Requests Received and Completed

Enter the number of requests that fall into each category.

	Personal Information	General Records
3.1 New Requests received during the reporting year	0	0
3.2 Total number of requests completed during the reporting year	0	0

Section 4: Source of Requests

Enter the number of requests you completed from each source.

	Personal Information	General Records
4.1 Individual/Public	0	0
4.2 Individual by Agent	0	0
4.3 Business	0	0
4.4 Academic/Researcher	0	0
4.5 Association/Group	0	0
4.6 Media	0	0
4.7 Government (all levels)	0	0
4.8 Other	0	0
4.9 Total requests (Add Boxes 4.1 to 4.8 = 4.9)	0	0

BOX 4.9 must equal BOX 3.2

Section 5: Time to Completion

How long did your institution take to complete all requests for information? Enter the number of requests into the appropriate category. How many requests were completed in:

	Personal Information	General Records
5.1 30 days or less	0	0
5.2 31 - 60 days	0	0
5.3 61 - 90 days	0	0
5.4 91 days or longer	0	0
5.5 Total requests (Add Boxes 5.1 to 5.4 = 5.5)	0	0

BOX 5.5 must equal BOX 3.2

Section 6: Compliance with the Act

In the following charts, please indicate the number of requests completed, within the statutory time limit and in excess of the statutory time limit, under each of the four different situations:

NO notices issued;

BOTH a Notice of Extension (s.27(1)) and a Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)) issued;

ONLY a Notice of Extension (s.27(1)) issued;

ONLY a Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)) issued.

Please note that the four different situations are mutually exclusive and the number of requests completed in each situation should add up to the total number of requests completed in Section 3.2.(Add Boxes 6.3 + 6.6 + 6.9 + 6.12 = BOX 6.13 and BOX 6.13 must equal BOX 3.2)

A. No Notices Issued

	Personal Information	General Records
6.1 Number of requests completed within the statutory time limit (30 days) where neither a Notice of Extension (s.20(1)) nor a Notice to Affected Person (s.21(1)) were issued.	0	0
6.2 Number of requests completed in excess of the statutory time limit (30 days) where neither a Notice of Extension (s.20(1)) nor a Notice to Affected Person (s.21(1)) were issued.	0	0
6.3 Total requests (Add Boxes 6.1 + 6.2 = 6.3)	0	0

B. Both a Notice of Extension (s.27(1)) and a Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)) Issued

	Personal Information	General Records
6.4 Number of requests completed within the time limits permitted under both the Notice of Extension (s.27(1)) and a Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)).	0	0
6.5 Number of requests completed in excess of the time limit permitted by the Notice of Extension (s.27(1)) and the time limit permitted by the Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)).	0	0
6.6 Total requests (Add Boxes 6.4 + 6.5 = 6.6)	0	0

C. Only a Notice of Extension (s.27(1)) Issued

	Personal Information	General Records
6.7 Number of requests completed within the time limits permitted under both the Notice of Extension (s.27(1)).	0	0
6.8 Number of requests completed in excess of the time limit permitted by the Notice of Extension (s.27(1)).	0	0
6.9 Total requests (Add Boxes 6.7 + 6.8 = 6.9)	0	0

D. Only a Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)) Issued

	Personal Information	General Records
6.10 Number of requests completed within the time limits permitted under both the Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)).	0	0
6.11 Number of requests completed in excess of the time limit permitted by the Notice to Affected Person (s.28(1)).	0	0
6.12 Total requests (Add Boxes 6.10 + 6.11 = 6.12)	0	0

E. Total Completed Requests (sections A to D)

	Personal Information	General Records
6.13 Total requests (Add Boxes 6.3 + 6.6 + 6.9 + 6.12 = 6.13)	0	0

BOX 6.13 must equal BOX 3.2

Section 6a: Contributing Factors

Please outline any factors which may have contributed to your institution not meeting the statutory time limit. If you anticipate circumstances that will improve your ability to comply with the Act in the future, please provide details in the space below.

Section 7: Disposition of Requests

What course of action was taken with each of the completed requests? Enter the number of requests into the appropriate category.

	Personal Information	General Records
7.1 All information disclosed	0	0
7.2 Information disclosed in part	0	0
7.3 No information disclosed	0	0
7.4 No responsive records exists	0	0
7.5 Request withdrawn, abandoned or non-jurisdictional	0	0
7.6 Total requests (Add Boxes 7.1 to 7.5 = 7.6)	0	0

BOX 7.6 must be greater than or equal to BOX 3.2

Section 8: Exemptions & Exclusions Applied

For the Total Requests with Exemptions/Exclusions/Frivolous or Vexatious Requests, how many times did your institution apply each of the following? (More than one exemption may be applied to each request)

	Personal Information	General Records
8.1 Section 6 — Draft Bylaws, etc.	0	0
8.2 Section 7 — Advice or Recommendations	0	0
8.3 Section 8 — Law Enforcement ¹	0	0
8.4 Section 8(3) — Refusal to Confirm or Deny	0	0
8.5 Section 8.1 — Civil Remedies Act, 2001	0	0
8.6 Section 8.2 — Prohibiting Profiting from Recounting Crimes Act, 2002	0	0
8.7 Section 9 — Relations with Governments	0	0
8.8 Section 10 — Third Party Information	0	0
8.9 Section 11 — Economic/Other Interests	0	0
8.10 Section 12 — Solicitor-Client Privilege	0	0
8.11 Section 13 — Danger to Safety or Health	0	0
8.12 Section 14 — Personal Privacy (Third Party) ²	0	0
8.13 Section 14(5) — Refusal to Confirm or Deny	0	0
8.14 Section 15 — Information soon to be published	0	0
8.15 Section 20.1 Frivolous or Vexatious	0	0
8.16 Section 38 — Personal Information (Requester)	0	0

Section 8: Exemptions & Exclusions Applied

- 8.17** Section 52(2) — Act Does Not Apply³
- 8.18** Section 52(3) — Labour Relations & Employment Related Records
- 8.19** Section 53 — Other Acts
- 8.20** PHIPA Section 8(1) Applies
- 8.21** Total Exemptions & Exclusions
Add Boxes 8.1 to 8.20 = 8.21

0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0
0	0

¹ not including Section 8(3)

² not including Section 14(5)

³ not including Section 52(3)

Section 9: Fees

Did your institution collect fees related to request for access to records?

- 9.1** Number of REQUESTS where fees other than application fees were collected
- 9.2.1** Total dollar amount of application fees collected
- 9.2.2** Total dollar amount of additional fees collected
- 9.2.3** Total dollar amount of fees collected (Add Boxes 9.2.1 + 9.2.2 = 9.2.3)
- 9.3** Total dollar amount of fees waived

	Personal Information	General Records	Total
	0	0	0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0

Section 10: Reasons for Additional Fee Collection

Enter the number of REQUESTS for which your institution collected fees other than application fees that apply to each category.

- 10.1** Search time
- 10.2** Reproduction
- 10.3** Preparation
- 10.4** Shipping
- 10.5** Computer costs
- 10.6** Invoice costs (and other as permitted by regulation)
- 10.7** Total (Add Boxes 10.1 to 10.6 = 10.7)

	Personal Information	General Records	Total
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

Section 11: Correction and Statements of Disagreement

Did your institution receive any requests to correct personal information?

- 11.1** Number of correction requests received
- 11.2** Correction requests carried forward from the previous year
- 11.3** Correction requests carried over to next year

	Personal Information
	0
	0
	0

Section 11: Correction and Statements of Disagreement

11.4 Total Corrections Completed [(11.1 + 11.2) - 11.3 = 11.4]

0

BOX 11.4 must equal BOX 11.9

What course of action did your institution take regarding the requests that were received to correct personal information?

11.5 Correction(s) made in whole

0

11.6 Correction(s) made in part

0

11.7 Correction refused

0

11.8 Correction requests withdrawn by requester

0

11.9 Total requests (Add Boxes 11.5 to 11.8 = 11.9)

0

BOX 11.9 must equal BOX 11.4

In cases where correction requests were denied, in part or in full, were any statements of disagreement attached to the affected personal information?

11.10 Number of statements of disagreement attached:

0

Personal Information

If your institution received any requests to correct personal information, the Act requires that you send any person(s) or body who had access to the information in the previous year notification of either the correction or the statement of disagreement. Enter the number of notifications sent, if applicable.

11.11 Number of notifications sent:

0

Personal Information

Note:

This report is for your records only and should not be faxed or mailed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario in lieu of online submission. Faxed or mailed copies of this report will NOT be accepted. Please submit your report online at: <https://statistics.ipc.on.ca>.

Thank You for your cooperation!

Declaration:

I, Rico Vipari, FOI Co-ordinator, confirm that all the information provided in this report, furnished by me to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, is true, accurate and complete in all respects.

Signature

Date



**14.0 Final Programs and Services Inventory
Report #: 07-240425**

To: RVCA Board of Directors
From: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
Date: April 17, 2024

<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Adoption
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attachments – 8 pages

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority approve the attached Programs and Services Inventory (Final Version dated April 25, 2024) and direct staff to provide a copy to all member municipalities and the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry by April 30, 2024 to complete the Transition Period outlined in Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Purpose

To seek approval of the final inventory of programs and services.

Background

On December 5, 2020 the *Conservation Authorities Act* was amended. This was followed by three new regulations on October 1, 2021. These changes required CAs to:

- Complete a Transition Plan by December 31, 2021
- Complete a Program Inventory by February 28, 2022
- Complete Municipal Agreements by January 1, 2024
- Submit a final Program Inventory 30 days after the Transition Date

Transition Plans required conservation authorities to:

- Outline the timeline and steps they would follow to prepare a program inventory and enter into cost apportioning agreements with participating municipalities

Program Inventories required conservation authorities to:

- List their programs and services
- Categorize them into the following program categories
 - Category 1 – those prescribed as mandatory by the province
 - Category 2 – those delivered on behalf of municipalities
 - Category 3 – those that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources
- Identify the cost of delivering each program and service
- Identify the revenue source(s) of each program and service

Municipal Agreements required conservation authorities to:

- Enter into agreements with participating municipalities for any category 2 programs or any 3 programs that are support by municipal levy.

Analysis

In compliance with the legislation, the RVCA completed:

- A Transition Plan by December 31, 2021
- A preliminary Program Inventory by February 28, 2022

At their September 28, 2023 meeting, the RVCA Board of Directors then directed staff to request an extension to complete municipal agreements by February 29, 2024. The Minister granted the extension and made March 31, 2024, RVCA's new transition deadline.

- All Municipal Agreements were completed by March 31, 2024
- Attached is a final Program Inventory that must be circulated to municipalities and the Minister by April 30, 2024 to complete the legislated transition requirements.

Input from Other Sources

Municipalities were consulted on the preliminary Program Inventory circulated in 2022 and the final inventory now reflects agreements signed by municipalities for category 2 and 3 programs as of January 1, 2024 and RVCA's approved budget for 2024.

Legal Considerations

This program inventory will complete transition requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Link to Strategic Plan

This initiative supports the following strategic priority:

- *Prepare an implementation strategy to address any changes made to the Conservation Authorities Act that may result from the legislative review currently underway.*

Attachment:

- RVCA Programs and Services Inventory: Final Version (April 25, 2024)

RVCA Programs and Services Inventory

Final Version (April 25, 2024)

This final version of RVCA's programs and services inventory was approved by RVCA's Board of Directors on April 25, 2024. It will be circulated to member municipalities and submitted to the province by April 30, 2024 to complete the transition period requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Program & Service

This column provides a list of RVCA's existing programs and services.

Description

This column provides a brief description of each program and service.

Category

This column indicates which "category" the program and service falls under within the new legislative framework:

- Category 1 – mandatory programs and services prescribed by the province through regulation
- Category 2 – programs and services provided on behalf of one or more municipalities through mutual agreement
- Category 3 – other programs and services that conserve, restore, develop and manage natural resources in the watershed
- General – operating expenses not related to the provision of a program or service

Reference

This column provides a reference to the applicable section of Ontario Regulation 686/21 for category 1 mandatory programs or it provides the name of the municipality and date an agreement was signed for category 2 and 3 programs.

Estimated Annual Cost

This column estimates the annual cost of providing each program and service based on RVCA's 2024 operations budget (RVCA has undertaken multiple program reviews in recent years that would make a five-year average less accurate).

Source of Funding

This column estimates which of the following revenue streams support the program and service based on RVCA's 2024 budget (unless followed by an asterisk which indicates a multi-year average):

- Municipal Levy (MCVA apportionment method)
- Named Municipality (benefit-based apportionment method or municipal agreement)
- Provincial / Federal Funding
- Self-Generated (user fees, grants, fundraising)

Watershed Science & Engineering Services

Program & Service		Brief Description	Category	Reference	2024 Cost	Source of Funding
1	Program Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide oversight and management of all programs within the department 	General		\$68,423	16% provincial 84% levy
2	Watershed Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the condition of the watershed and identify trends, concerns and priority actions to address natural hazard and natural resource issues, including the impacts of climate change Complete a watershed-based resource management strategy as prescribed in regulation 	1	Section 12 (4): watershed-based resource management strategy	\$164,566	100% levy
3	Drinking Water Source Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer the province's drinking water source protection program under the <i>Clean Water Act</i> to protect present and future sources of municipal drinking water from contamination and overuse 	1	Section 13: Source protection authority under the Clean Water Act, 2006	\$233,323	100% provincial
4	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measure and analyze water quality in lakes, rivers and streams to establish a baseline dataset and identify changes and concerns Program looks at both water chemistry and indicator invertebrates and involves volunteers in sampling 	1	Section 12 (3): provincial stream monitoring program	\$113,607	100% levy
			2	Agreement with Ottawa since 2019	\$163,457	100% City of Ottawa
			3	Cost-apportioning agreement with all municipalities since 2024	\$210,666	100% levy

5	Hydrometric Monitoring and Forecasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect, analyze and disseminate climate, snow and streamflow data to monitor high and low water conditions across the watershed. Issue flood and drought advisories and warnings to partners and the public. 	1	<p>Section 2: Flood forecasting and warning</p> <p>Section 3: Drought or low water response</p>	\$460,633	3% provincial; 29% self-generated; 68% levy
6	Natural Hazard Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study and map areas that are at risk from natural hazards such as floodplains, steep slopes and unstable soils. Maintain and refine a hydrologic model of the watershed to support hazard mapping, flood and drought analysis, and land use and climate change analysis 	1	Section 1: Risk of certain natural hazards	\$346,172	5% provincial; 4% City of Ottawa; 91% levy
7	Groundwater Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the provincial groundwater monitoring program and develop tools that support watershed planning and development review and help create a conceptual understanding of hydrogeological conditions 	1	Section 12 (2): provincial groundwater monitoring program	\$222,168	100% levy
8	Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect information about the physical and biological attributes of creeks and streams (temperature, habitat, fish) using volunteers in some areas Assess headwater drainage features Identify changes in land cover All information is used to assess the condition of the watershed and guide actions and restoration activities 	3	Cost-apportioning agreement with all municipalities since 2024	\$397,456	100% levy
9	Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate and maintain water, flood and erosion control structures 	1	Section 4: Ice Management	\$1,034,141	7% provincial; 87% City of Ottawa; 6% levy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support ice management activities undertaken by City of Ottawa 		Section 5: infrastructure		
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Planning Advisory and Regulatory Services

	Program & Service	Brief Description	Category	Reference	Annual Cost	Source of Funding
10	Program Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide oversight and management of all programs within the department 	General		\$146,856	100% levy
11	Site Specific Plan Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review planning applications and provide comments to municipalities regarding natural hazards and drinking water source protection Work closely with applicants and municipalities to identify concerns early in the process and identify alternatives where possible 	1	Section 6: Comment re applications, proposals Section 7: Plan review, comments	\$736,904	75% user fees; 25% levy*
12	Non-Site Specific Plan Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide input to municipalities on draft official plans, zoning bylaws, environmental assessments and other municipal studies Participate on technical advisory committees that oversee master servicing studies, community design plans, subwatershed studies and environmental management plans 	1	Section 7: Plan review, comments	\$197,945	7% provincial, 93% levy
13	Section 28 Conservation Authorities Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulate development related to natural hazards in accordance with Ontario Regulation 41/24 Work closely with applicants and municipalities to identify concerns early in the process and identify alternatives where possible; program also includes policy development, pre-consultation, compliance 	1	Section 8: Administering and enforcing the Act	\$867,118	50% user fees; 50% levy*

		monitoring and enforcement which collect no fees				
14	Part IV <i>Clean Water Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer Source Protection Plan policies near municipal wells and intakes on behalf of some municipalities under Part IV of the Clean Water Act (designated as their Risk Management Inspector and/or Official) 	2	Agreements with 11 municipalities (2017 to 2023)	\$47,173	100% user fees
15	Part 8 <i>Building Code Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulate sewage systems (including new, enlarged or replacement systems) on behalf of some municipalities under Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code (designated as their Principal Authority) 	2	Agreements with 5 municipalities (2020 to 2022) Also administer agreements for MVCA with 4 municipalities	\$714,013	100% user fees
16	Septic Reinspection Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect existing sewage systems in lake country on behalf of some municipalities under the Ontario Building Code (some programs are voluntary others are mandatory) 	2	Agreements with 2 municipalities in 2024 (varies each year)	\$102,843	100% user fees

Stewardship Services

Program & Service		Brief Description	Category	Reference	Annual Cost	Source of Funding
17	Program Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide oversight and management of all programs within the department 	General		\$175,626	100% levy
18	Tree Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-service tree planting program for private and public landowners 	2	Agreement with Ottawa since 2000	\$418,142	39% City of Ottawa; 61% self-generated

		(woodlot advice, planting plans, site prep, tree planting, tending, funding) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also have a program dedicated to recovering disease-tolerant butternut 	3	Cost-apportioning agreement with all municipalities since 2024	\$435,248	71% self-generated; 29% levy
19	Rural Clean Water Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical assistance, grants and incentive payments for farmers and rural landowners to undertake projects on their property that protect or improve water quality or create or enhance ecological goods and services 	2	Agreement with Ottawa since 2000	\$120,000	100% City of Ottawa
			3	Cost-apportioning agreement with all municipalities since 2024	\$371,147	27% self-generated; 73% levy
20	Shoreline Naturalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-service shoreline naturalization program for private and public landowners (technical advice, planting plans, site prep, planting) Also work with lake associations and other groups to support plant sales 	3	Cost-apportioning agreement with all municipalities since 2024	\$263,140	21% self-generated; 79% levy
21	Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and teach courses for septic installers, designers and regulators to advance their knowledge of design, construction, repair and inspection regarding sewage systems Maintain a demonstration site at Baxter Conservation Area that displays a wide variety of sewage system technologies 	3		\$73,398	100% self-generated

Conservation Land Management Services

Program & Service		Brief Description	Category	Reference	Annual Cost	Source of Funding
22	Program Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide oversight and management of all programs within the department 	General		\$83,510	100% levy

23	Land Donations / Acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept donations of ecologically sensitive land (such as wetland, shoreline, forest cover) and protect it in perpetuity so natural features can provide lasting ecological benefits 	3		\$15,000	100% self-generated
24	Conservation Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage 11 conservation areas that welcome 300,000 visitors / year Provide amenities such as trails, boardwalks, lookouts, beaches, boat launches, picnic shelters and interpretive centres 	1	Section 9, 10 & 11: conservation and management of lands	\$913,414	18% self-generated; 82% levy
25	Conservation Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage 3,300 hectares of ecologically sensitive land Develop management plans for properties to ensure good land use planning and long-term health 	1	Section 9, 10 & 11: conservation and management of lands	\$295,780	7% self-generated; 93% levy
26	Outdoor Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver curriculum-based school programs, forest school, summer day camps and group programs that promote conservation and environmental stewardship 	3		\$290,954	100% self-generated
27	Lease and Management Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide limited land management services (grass cutting, trail maintenance) on some municipally owned properties 	1	Section 9, 10 & 11: conservation and management of lands	\$32,000	100% City of Ottawa

Corporate Services

Program & Service	Brief Description	Category	Reference	Annual Cost	Source of Funding
28	Management and Members	General		\$348,267	100% levy

		government relations, work planning, policy and program development, issues management and partnership development.				
29	Finance and Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and human resources support including budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, payroll, employee recruitment, training, employee management and joint health and safety 	General		\$591,315	22% self-generated; 78% levy
30	Communications and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications support including website development, social media, project planning, outreach (media releases, blog, newsletter, videos), drafting of reports and messaging 	General		\$312,859	100% levy
31	Fundraising and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising support including partnership development, grant writing, fundraising campaigns, and management of endowment funds 	General		\$105,911	100% levy
32	GIS and Information Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS support including data and information management and the creation and management of internal and public facing databases, geoportals, technical mapping and field apps 	General		\$301,334	100% levy