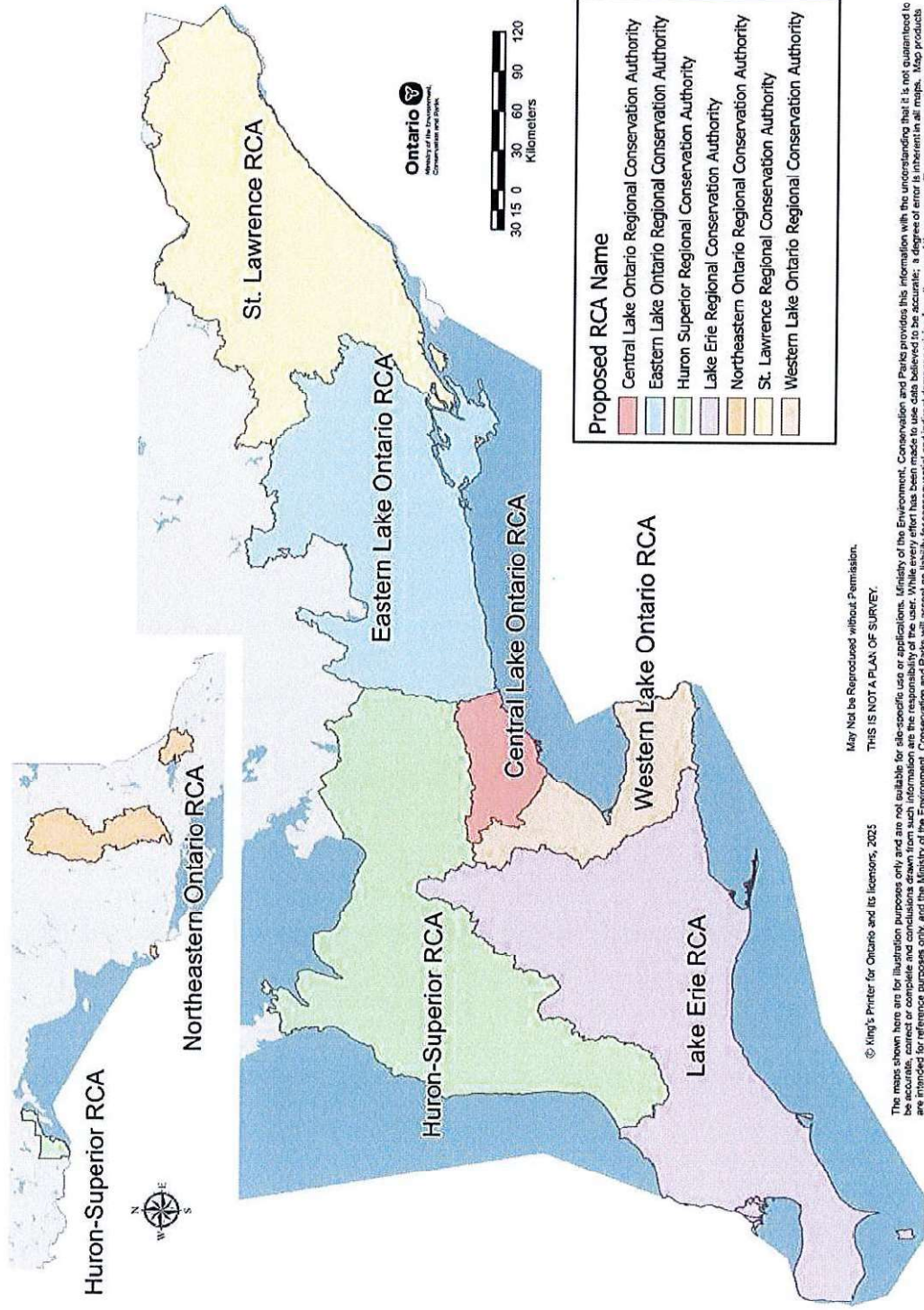


Maps

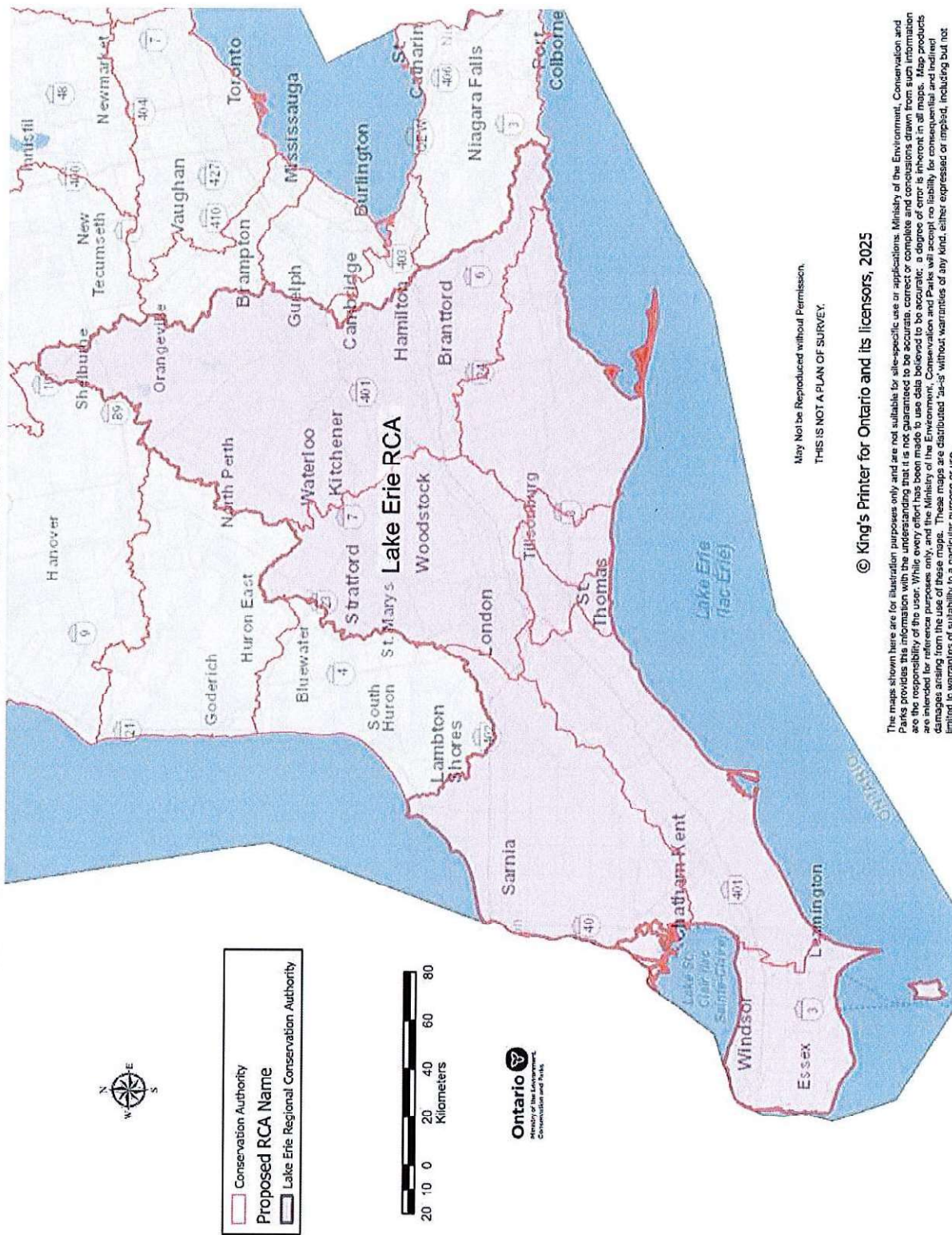
Map of Proposed Regional Conservation Authorities

PROPOSED 7 REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (RCA)



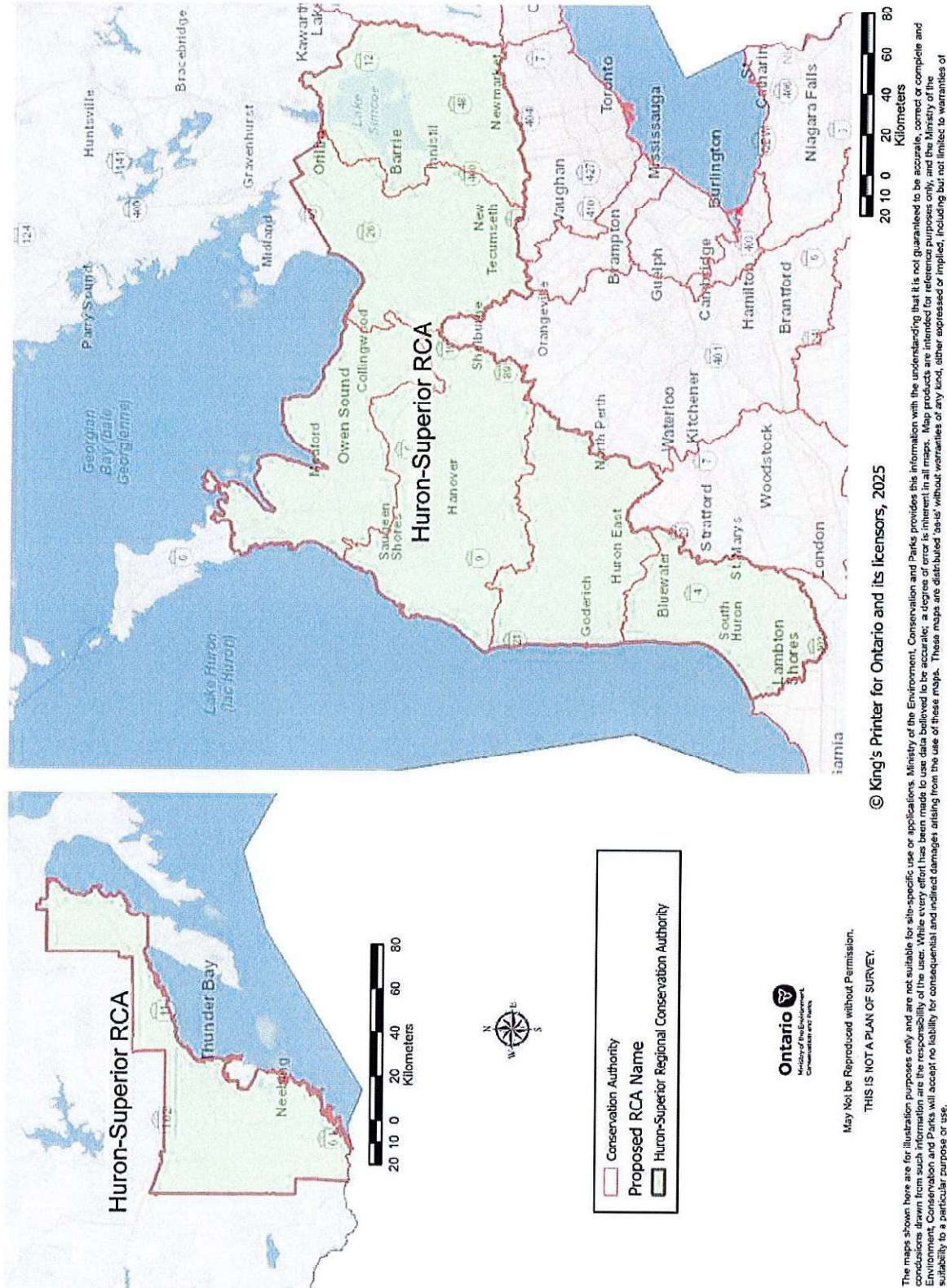
Map of Proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority

LAKE ERIE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



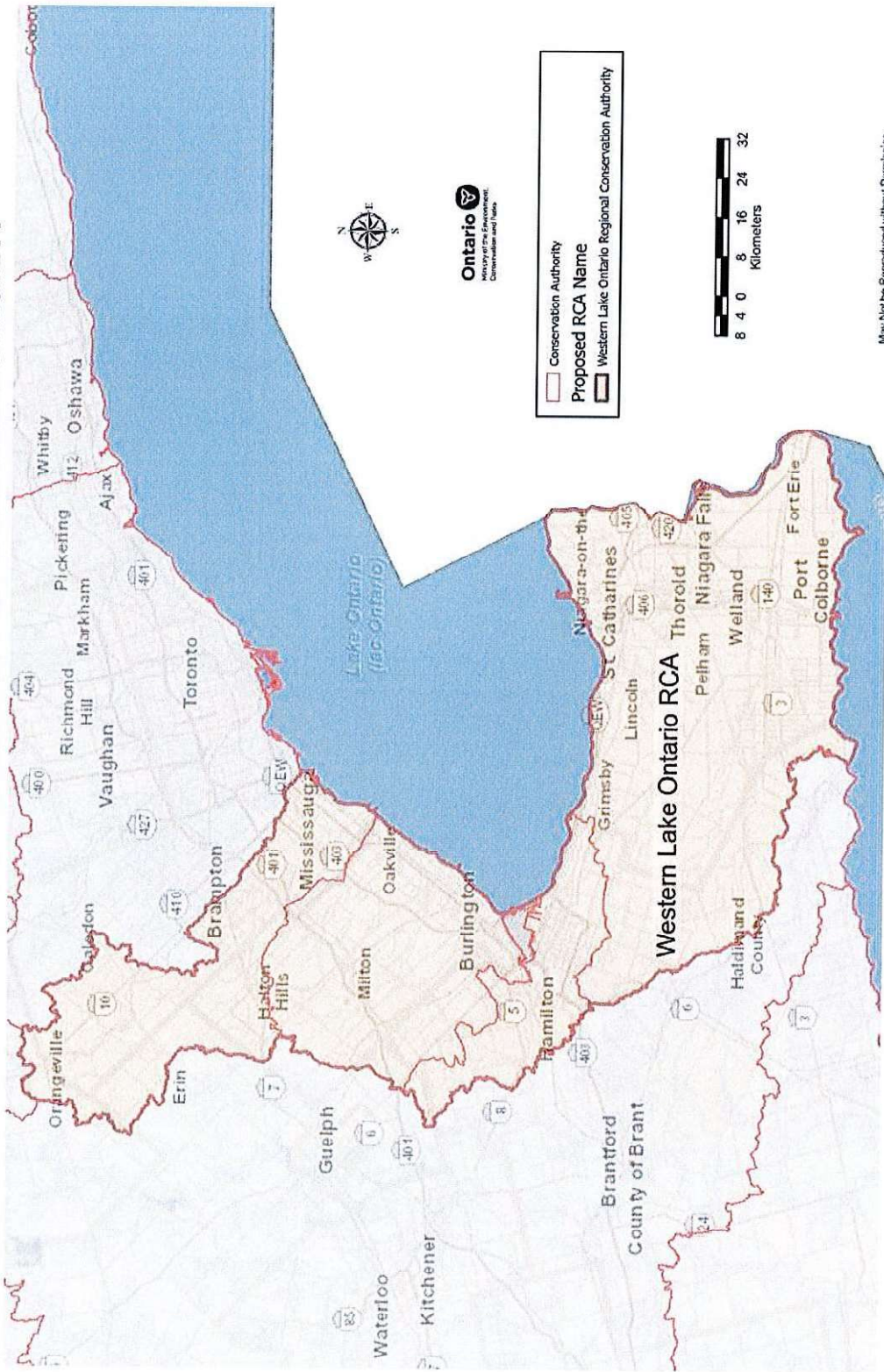
Map of Proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

HURON-SUPERIOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Map of Proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

WESTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



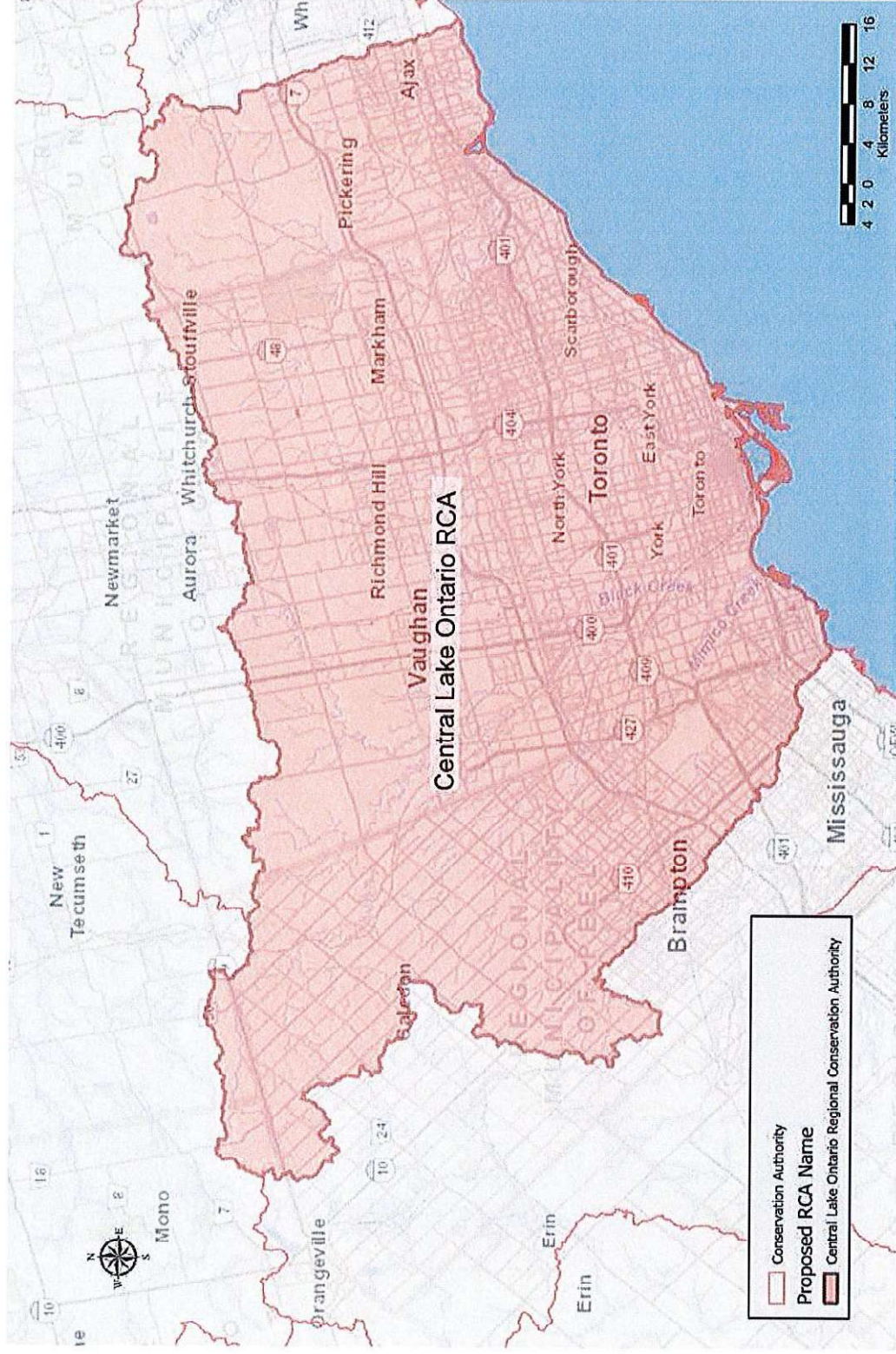
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Map of Proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

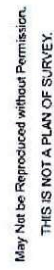


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EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

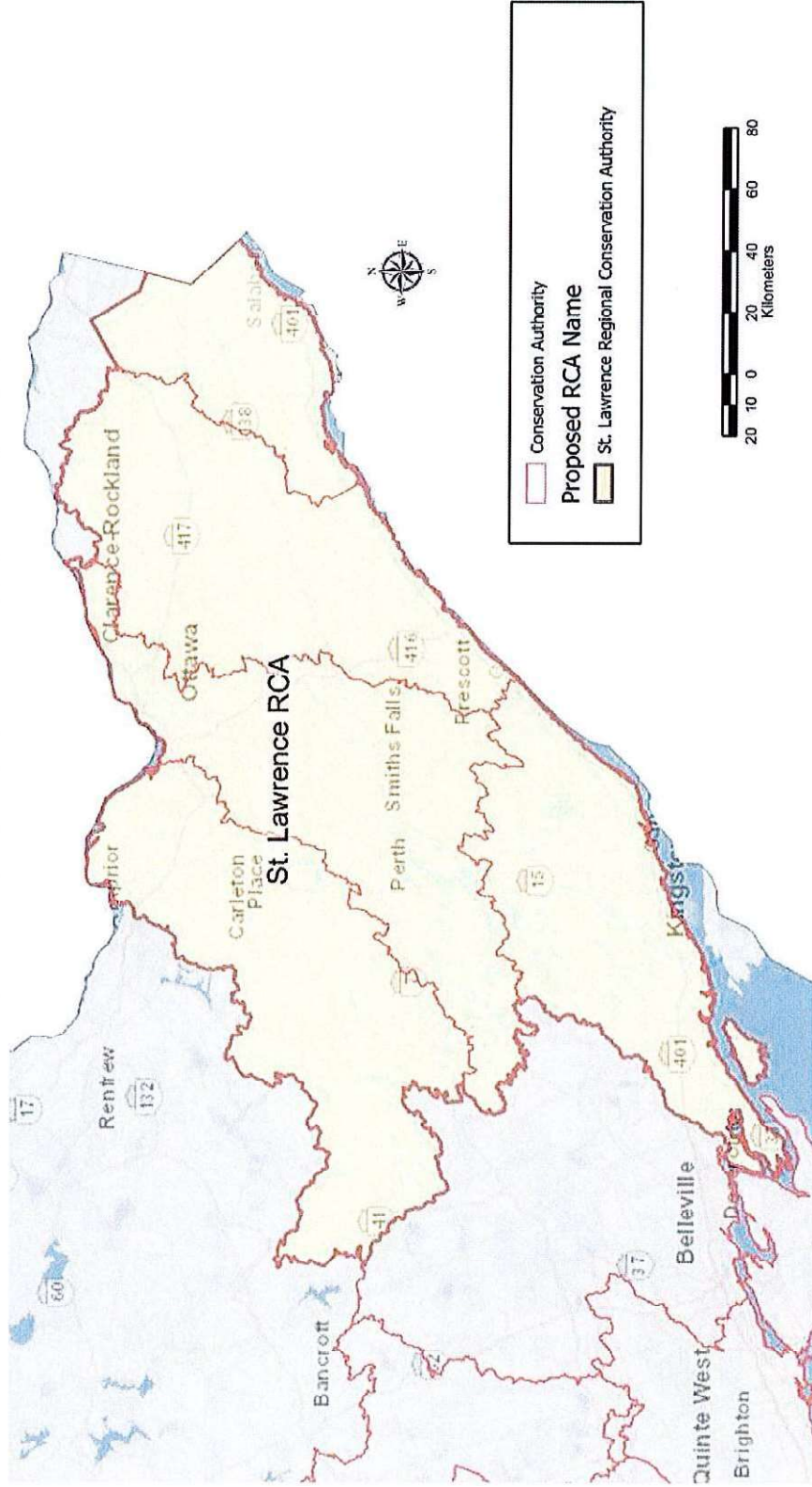


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Map of Proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

ST. LAWRENCE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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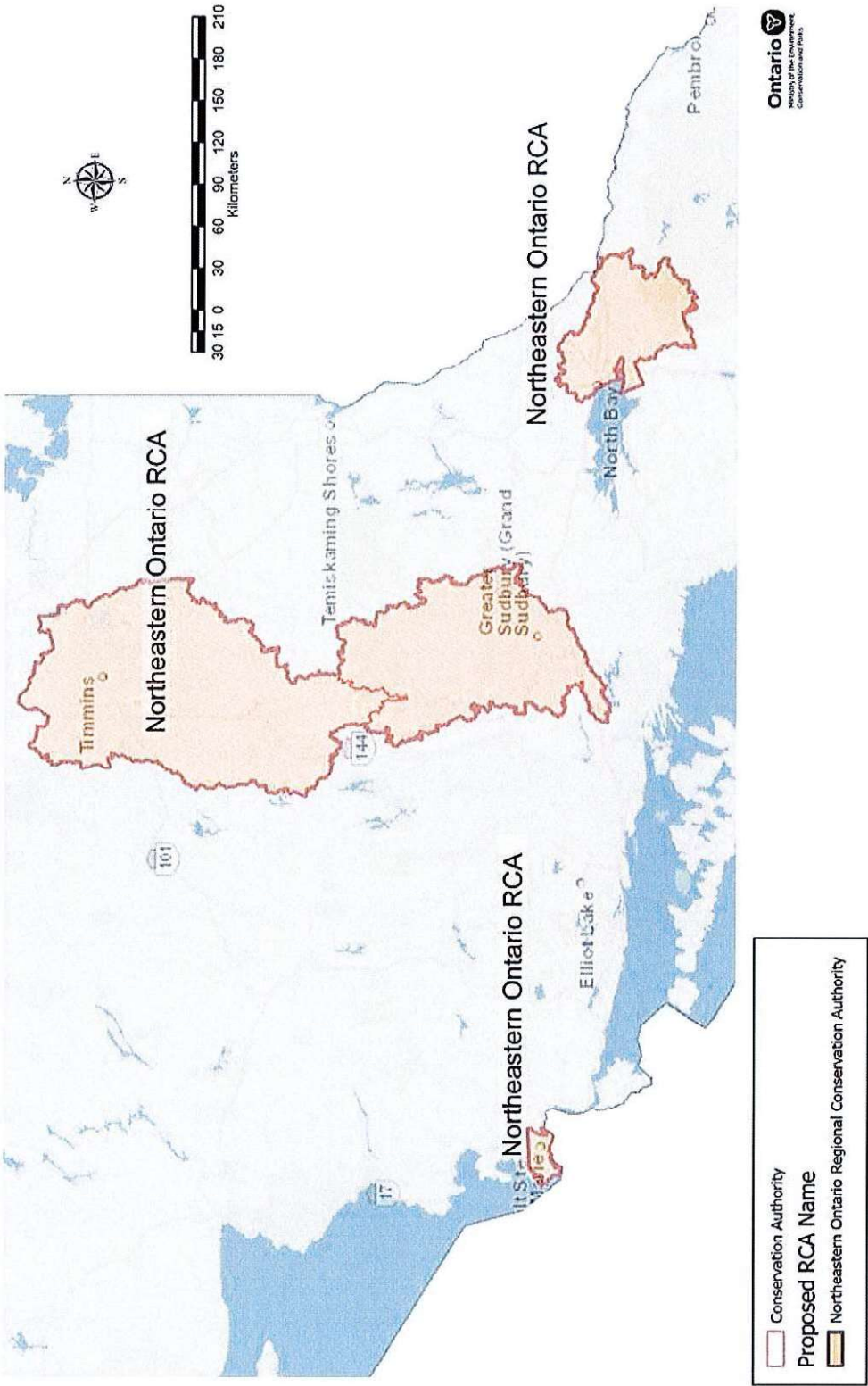
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Map of Proposed Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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Listing of Municipalities and Conservation Authorities

Below are listings of the current conservation authorities that are proposed to be included with each regional conservation authority, and of the municipalities that would fall within each proposed regional conservation authority.

Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Essex Region CA
- Lower Thames Valley CA
- St. Clair Region CA
- Upper Thames River CA
- Kettle Creek CA
- Catfish Creek CA
- Long Point Region CA
- Grand River CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • City of Brantford | • Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich | • Town of Ingersoll |
| • City of Cambridge | • Municipality of Huron East | • Town of Kingsville |
| • City of Guelph | • Municipality of Lambton Shores | • Town of Lakeshore |
| • City of Hamilton | • Municipality of Leamington | • Town of Lasalle |
| • City of Kitchener | • Municipality of Middlesex Centre | • Town of Milton |
| • City of London | • Municipality of North Perth | • Town of Minto |
| • City of Sarnia | • Municipality of South Huron | • Town of Mono |
| • City of St. Thomas | • Municipality of Southwest Middlesex | • Town of Petrolia |
| • City of Stratford | • Municipality of Thames Centre | • Town of Plympton-Wyoming |
| • City of Waterloo | • Municipality of West Elgin | • Town of St. Marys |
| • City of Windsor | • Municipality of West Perth | • Town of Tecumseh |
| • City of Woodstock | • Norfolk County | • Town of Tillsonburg |
| • County of Brant | • Town of Amherstburg | • Township of Adelaide-Metcalf |
| • Haldimand County | • Town of Aylmer | • Township of Amaranth |
| • Municipality of Bayham | • Town of Erin | • Township of Blandford-Blenheim |
| • Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston | • Town of Essex | • Township of Centre Wellington |
| • Municipality of Central Elgin | • Town of Grand Valley | • Township of Dawn-Euphemia |
| • Municipality of Chatham-Kent | • Town of Halton Hills | • Township of East Garafraxa |

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Township of East Zorra-Tavistock | • Township of Pelee | • Township of Warwick |
| • Township of Enniskillen | • Township of Perth East | • Township of Wellesley |
| • Township of Guelph/Eramosa | • Township of Perth South | • Township of Wellington North |
| • Township of Lucan Biddulph | • Township of Puslinch | • Township of Wilmot |
| • Township of Malahide | • Township of Southgate | • Township of Woolwich |
| • Township of Mapleton | • Township of South-West Oxford | • Township of Zorra |
| • Township of Melancthon | • Township of Southwold | • Village of Newbury |
| • Township of North Dumfries | • Township of St. Clair | • Village of Oil Springs |
| • Township of Norwich | • Township of Strathroy-Caradoc | • Village of Point Edward |

Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • Ausable Bayfield CA | • Grey Sauble CA | • Lakehead Region CA |
| • Maitland Valley CA | • Nottawasaga Valley CA | |
| • Saugeen Valley CA | • Lake Simcoe Region CA | |

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| • City of Barrie | • Municipality of Meaford | • Town of Aurora |
| • City of Kawartha Lakes | • Municipality of Middlesex Centre | • Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury |
| • City of Orillia | • Municipality of Morris-Turnberry | • Town of Caledon |
| • City of Owen Sound | • Municipality of Neebing | • Town of Collingwood |
| • City of Thunder Bay | • Municipality of North Middlesex | • Town of East Gwillimbury |
| • Municipality of Arran-Elderslie | • Municipality of North Perth | • Town of Georgina |
| • Municipality of Bluewater | • Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula | • Town of Goderich |
| • Municipality of Brockton | • Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge | • Town of Hanover |
| • Municipality of Central Huron | • Municipality of Shuniah | • Town of Innisfil |
| • Municipality of Grey Highlands | • Municipality of South Bruce | • Town of Minto |
| • Municipality of Huron East | • Municipality of South Huron | • Town of Mono |
| • Municipality of Kincardine | • Municipality of West Grey | • Town of New Tecumseth |
| • Municipality of Lambton Shores | • Municipality of West Perth | • Town of Newmarket |

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Town of Richmond Hill | • Township of Clearview | • Township of O'Connor |
| • Town of Saugeen Shores | • Township of Conmee | • Township of Oro-Medonte |
| • Town of Shelburne | • Township of Dorion | • Township of Perth East |
| • Town of South Bruce Peninsula | • Township of Essa | • Township of Perth South |
| • Town of The Blue Mountains | • Township of Georgian Bluffs | • Township of Ramara |
| • Town of Wasaga Beach | • Township of Gillies | • Township of Scugog |
| • Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville | • Township of Howick | • Township of Severn |
| • Township of Adelaide Metcalfe | • Township of Huron-Kinloss | • Township of Southgate |
| • Township of Adjala-Tosorontio | • Township of King | • Township of Springwater |
| • Township of Amaranth | • Township of Lucan Biddulph | • Township of Tay |
| • Township of Ashfield-Colborne-
Wawanosh | • Township of Mapleton | • Township of Tiny |
| • Township of Brock | • Township of Melancthon | • Township of Uxbridge |
| • Township of Chatsworth | • Township of Mulmur | • Township of Warwick |
| | • Township of North Huron | • Township of Wellington North |

Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Niagara Peninsula CA
- Hamilton Region CA
- Halton Region CA
- Credit Valley CA

Municipalities that would fall within up the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • City of Brampton | • City of Toronto | • Town of Lincoln |
| • City of Burlington | • City of Welland | • Town of Milton |
| • City of Hamilton | • Haldimand County | • Town of Mono |
| • City of Mississauga | • Town of Caledon | • Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake |
| • City of Niagara Falls | • Town of Erin | • Town of Oakville |
| • City of Port Colborne | • Town of Fort Erie | • Town of Orangeville |
| • City of St. Catharines | • Town of Grimsby | • Town of Pelham |
| • City of Thorold | • Town of Halton Hills | • Township of Amaranth |

- Township of East Garafraxa
- Township of Puslinch
- Township of Wainfleet
- Township of West Lincoln

Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Toronto and Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • City of Brampton | • Town of Ajax | • Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville |
| • City of Markham | • Town of Aurora | • Township of Adjala-Tosorontio |
| • City of Mississauga | • Town of Caledon | • Township of King |
| • City of Pickering | • Town of Mono | • Township of Scugog |
| • City of Toronto | • Town of New Tecumseth | • Township of Uxbridge |
| • City of Vaughan | • Town of Richmond Hill | |

Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| • Central Lake Ontario CA | • Ganaraska Region CA | • Quinte Region CA |
| • Kawartha Region CA | • Lower Trent Region CA | |
| • Otonabee Region CA | • Crowe Valley CA | |

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • City of Belleville | • City of Quinte West | • Municipality of Hastings Highlands |
| • City of Kawartha Lakes | • County of Prince Edward County | • Municipality of Highlands East |
| • City of Oshawa | • Municipality of Brighton | • Municipality of Marmora and Lake |
| • City of Peterborough | • Municipality of Centre Hastings | • Municipality of Port Hope |
| • City of Pickering | • Municipality of Clarington | • Municipality of Trent Hills |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Municipality of Trent Lakes | • Township of Cavan Monaghan | • Township of North Kawartha |
| • Municipality of Tweed | • Township of Central Frontenac | • Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan |
| • Town of Ajax | • Township of Cramahe | • Township of Scugog |
| • Town of Cobourg | • Township of Douro-Dummer | • Township of Selwyn |
| • Town of Deseronto | • Township of Faraday | • Township of South Frontenac |
| • Town of Greater Napanee | • Township of Hamilton | • Township of Stirling-Rawdon |
| • Town of Whitby | • Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen | • Township of Stone Mills |
| • Township of Addington Highlands | • Township of Limerick | • Township of Tudor and Cashel |
| • Township of Alnwick/Haldimand | • Township of Loyalist | • Township of Tyendinaga |
| • Township of Asphodel-Norwood | • Township of Madoc | • Township of Uxbridge |
| • Township of Brock | • Township of North Frontenac | • Township of Wollaston |

St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority include:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| • Cataraqui Region CA | • Mississippi Valley CA | • Raisin Region CA |
| • Rideau Valley CA | • South Nation River CA | |

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| • City of Brockville | • Town of Perth | • Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal |
| • City of Clarence-Rockland | • Town of Prescott | • Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley |
| • City of Cornwall | • Town of Smiths Falls | • Township of Front of Yonge |
| • City of Kingston | • Township of Addington Highlands | • Township of Greater Madawaska |
| • City of Ottawa | • Township of Alfred and Plantagenet | • Township of Lanark Highlands |
| • Municipality of Mississippi Mills | • Township of Athens | • Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands |
| • Municipality of North Grenville | • Township of Augusta | • Township of Loyalist |
| • Municipality of South Dundas | • Township of Beckwith | • Township of Montague |
| • Municipality of The Nation | • Township of Central Frontenac | • Township of North Dundas |
| • Town of Carleton Place | • Township of Champlain | • Township of North Frontenac |
| • Town of Gananoque | • Township of Drummond/North Elmsley | • Township of North Glengarry |
| • Town of Greater Napanee | • Township of East Hawkesbury | |

- Township of North Stormont
- Township of Rideau Lakes
- Township of Russell
- Township of South Frontenac
- Township of South Glengarry
- Township of South Stormont
- Township of Stone Mills
- Township of Tay Valley
- Village of Casselman
- Village of Merrickville-Wolford
- Village of Westport

Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

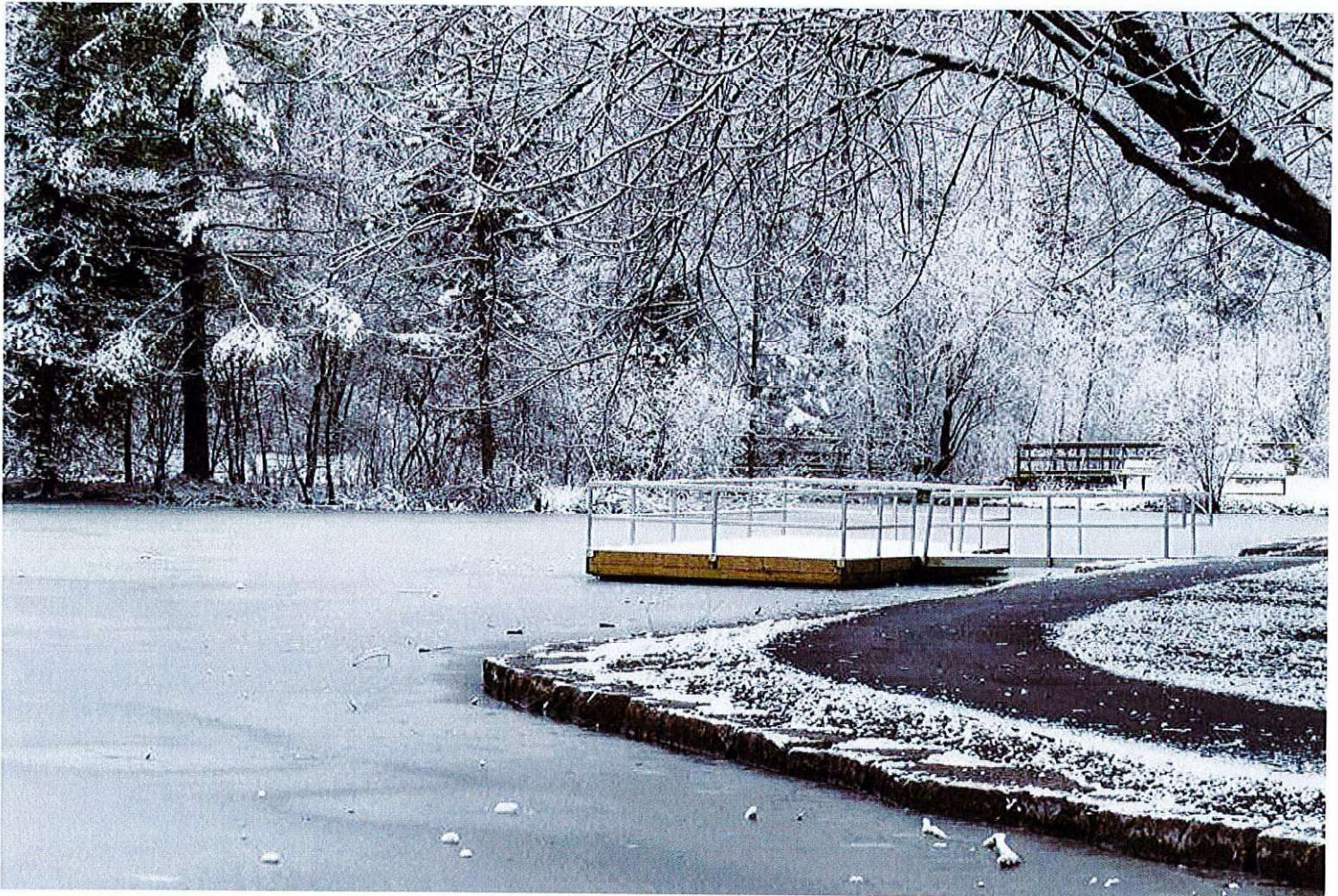
- Nickel District CA
- Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
- Mattagami Region CA
- North Bay-Mattawa CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Northeastern Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Greater Sudbury
- City of North Bay
- City of Sault Ste. Marie
- City of Timmins
- Municipality of Callander
- Municipality of Powassan
- Municipality of East Ferris
- Town of Iroquois Falls
- Town of Mattawa
- Township of Black River-Matheson
- Township of Bonfield
- Township of Calvin
- Township of Chisholm
- Township of Matachewan
- Township of Mattawan
- Township of Nairn and Hyman
- Township of Nipissing
- Township of Papineau-Cameron
- Township of Prince

Ford set to shrink conservation authorities, with irreversible consequences

Anushka Yadav, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
about 20 hours ago



St Johns Conservation Area, which is managed by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, set to be merged into a larger regional authority under Ford's proposal. | PelhamToday Staff

[Listen to this article](#)

00:19:52

When Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks were discovered, they revealed how he saw the one element responsible for all that fascinated his limitless genius: "Water is the driving force of all nature."

It nourishes food systems and sustains every living being. It takes shapes and forms that mystify and bewilder us.

For Canadian microbiologist Andrea Kirkwood, its sheer force has been a lifelong focus.

She has spent decades studying how urbanization impacts freshwater ecosystems, advocating for their protection, and working alongside several conservation authorities.

Kirkwood's career, rooted in both research and advocacy, has made her one of Ontario's most respected voices in conservation, which led her to share the stage with four other long-time conservation leaders to receive the 2025 Latornell Leadership Award on November 3, recognizing their contributions to Ontario's conservation movement at a time when "the province has pretty much gutted [the] Conservation Authority Act".

The celebration came amid mounting uncertainty, and "muted discussions" about major changes announced by the Doug Ford government to conservation authorities in the province.

See: [New local Conservation Authority includes North Bay, Sudbury, Timmins and the Soo](#)

On October 31, the province announced plans to amalgamate its 36 conservation authorities into seven regional bodies under a new centralized agency called the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) a decision PC officials claim is meant to speed up housing and infrastructure projects. Alarm has spread quickly among environmental scientists, municipal leaders and legal experts who warn the move could dismantle decades of watershed protection.

"Conservation authorities play a vital role in protecting our communities and managing our watersheds, but the system has become too fragmented, inconsistent and outdated," environment, conservation and parks minister Todd McCarthy said during the [announcement](#), arguing that varying standards and policies among the 36 conservation authorities have created "unpredictable" turnaround times for developers and municipalities.

McCarthy claimed the consolidation "will ensure faster, more transparent permitting and more front-line services, so that we can reduce delays to get shovels in the ground sooner, so that we can support economic growth and so that we can keep our community safe from floods and other natural hazards." This is the latest in a long line of legislative changes the PCs have introduced since 2018 that have completely rewritten how land use planning is done in Ontario and gutted environmental protections—all in the name of accelerating housing development. Yet, last year, housing starts reached the lowest they have been in Ontario at any point in the last decade.

Compounding the strain on the housing system, the [federal government's latest budget](#) eliminated the underused housing tax, a one-percent levy on vacant or underutilized homes introduced in

January 2022, a move critics warn could further fuel the housing crisis.

Ontario's modern conservation authorities were created after Hurricane Hazel struck Toronto in 1954, a storm that dumped nearly 30 cm of rain, killed 81 people, destroyed bridges, and caused \$1.3 billion in property damage (using today's dollar).

To prevent future disasters, the Province gave these authorities the power to buy land, restrict construction on floodplains, and manage dams, reservoirs and channels to control floodwaters — [powers that are now being systematically butchered](#), one piece of legislation at a time.

Advertisement

The legislation is expected to be tabled in the upcoming weeks and the new structure is expected to roll out between late 2026 and into 2027, but for Whitelaw Twining lawyer Laura Bowman, "it appears to be another attack on conservation authorities."

"There's clearly been a mentality with this particular government that conservation authorities had too much power and that they need to be kept in line," Bowman told The Pointer.

"It's hard to see this as a benign administrative change when it's happening in that broader context."

"No one would argue that we need housing, no one would argue that the Conservation Authority system needs some modernization, especially when it comes to administrative aspects...However, the amalgamation is what's very worrying," Kirkwood told The Pointer.

"What is ultimately being proposed is just another death knell to CA (conservation authority) mandates and functions by the provincial government."

Bowman says, "at this point, it's not clear exactly how this will play out, but it's certainly concerning at the level that conservation authorities were originally set up to govern on a watershed basis."

Both Kirkwood and Bowman point to the Doug Ford government's track record to understand the implications of this change.

When the Ford government passed Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, in November 2022, it promised to supercharge housing construction and cut through what it called "red tape" by stripping Ontario's Conservation Authorities (CAs) of many of their core powers. [It was labelled as "ecological insanity"](#) by prominent environment advocates.

“

**At this point, it's not clear exactly how this will play out, but
it's certainly concerning**

”

Bill 23 removed their ability to block developments that threaten rivers, wetlands, and floodplains, prohibiting them from considering pollution, conservation, or natural heritage when issuing permits. CAs were tasked with identifying "surplus land" they own or manage by December 31, 2024, that could be repurposed for housing development, an effort that raised concerns over the potential risk to protected areas.

The legislation also barred them from partnering with municipalities to review planning proposals, effectively silencing the scientific voices that once helped local governments make safe, sustainable land-use decisions.

This was on top of Bill 229, dubbed the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act, which included amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act, and received Royal Assent on December 8, 2020.

One of the amendments allowed the government to use Ministerial Zoning Orders to force conservation authorities to approve developments, even if they had concerns about flooding risks, while another provision required conservation authorities to enter into agreements with developers, allowing them to pay a fee in exchange for the destruction of endangered species habitats.

Angela Coleman, general manager of Conservation Ontario, warned the Ford government that separating environmental protection from land-use planning would have dangerous

consequences.

"It's not the average day Conservation Authorities prepare for. We are planning for the 1:100 year flood, or larger storm. It's the day the waters rise, when the roads are underwater, and the emergency vehicles must rescue people from their homes," Coleman said during a Standing Committee session on Heritage, Infrastructure, and Cultural Policy while discussing Bill 23.

The PCs rejected claims that Bill 23 undermined conservation authorities, but since receiving royal assent, two things have become clear:

1. Flooding has worsened across Ontario, driving insurance premiums up and coverage down: A [new Rates.ca report](#) found that a single water damage claim can increase home insurance costs by an average of \$376 a year, a 19 percent jump. "Repairing a flooded basement costs at least \$43,000 out of pocket, with weather-related repair costs surging 485 percent since 2019," the report said. Mississauga is now the sixth most expensive city for home insurance in the Greater Toronto Area, with areas like Port Credit and Cooksville bearing much of the risk.
2. Housing crisis has not been solved: The Ford government recently updated Ontario's housing tracker for the first time in eight months, revealing that all three Peel Region cities missed their new-home targets, with first-quarter 2025 housing starts at their lowest since 2009 and the province's six-month average falling to a decade low, pushing the PCs further from their goal of 1.5 million new homes by 2031.

"It's hard to see this as a benign administrative change when it's happening in that context," Bowman said.

"There's also a real concern this could open the door to selling off conservation lands for development, similar to the government's approach to the Greenbelt and school board lands."

She stressed that conservation authorities bring local expertise, develop sub-watershed plans, and have staff with in-depth knowledge of their areas.

"Amalgamating them risks diluting that local knowledge. While there may be some administrative duplication, development regulations have already been standardized and streamlined, so it's not clear why further consolidation is necessary," Bowman added.



It's not clear why further consolidation is necessary



The province insists the changes won't lead to job cuts, but employees in senior positions could be reassigned to front-line roles, a claim Kirkwood called "comical."

"Imagine working for a CA for 20 years, building your expertise, and being punished and told you're now taking an entry-level job," she said.

"That's not a promotion....Does that mean demotions, a pay cut? Is that just a way to try to drive attrition for people to leave?"

Bowman also does not "really understand how you could operationalize this without any job losses," when in the past the PC government has backtracked on its promises.

In 2019, when conservation authorities were already underfunded, sharing just \$7.4 million among 36 CAs, Ford cut their provincial funding in half, despite having promised that "the province is 100 percent behind them."

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), which just celebrated 70 years of managing flood risk, parks, education, and wildlife, has played a critical role in shaping the Region of Peel's green spaces and environmental stewardship.

In a statement shared with The Pointer, CVC's chief administrative officer Terri LeRoux emphasized that the province's "made-in-Ontario," watershed-based management model remains one of the province's most effective tools for protecting both "public health and safety from natural hazards like flooding".

LeRoux added that CVC will be reviewing the proposed framework in collaboration with Conservation Ontario, other conservation authorities, and municipal partners to provide feedback during the consultation period.

Kirkwood says many of the things mentioned in the province's press statement seem like "good modernizations of the system," but "the devil is in the details".

Kirkwood believes the amalgamation will undermine one of Ontario's greatest environmental innovations: managing land and water based on natural watershed boundaries, not political ones.

"These conservation authorities were intentionally allocated based on watershed boundaries... that's what makes Ontario's model the envy of the world," she said.

She criticized the government's portrayal of the system as fragmented — "disingenuous."

"That's a dishonest way of framing CAs...making it seem like they're bumbling and inefficient and that's not the truth," Kirkwood told The Pointer.

"There's no real difficulty for municipalities like Durham Region that deal with multiple conservation authorities. They've worked together effectively for decades. This feels like a made-up problem for a solution that no one's asked for, except for the province."

The risk, she says, is that a "top-down approach" will strip local authorities of their autonomy, replacing collaboration with political directives that prioritize development over conservation.

"It might allow development to go through with very little consultation at the local level," Kirkwood warned.

"I approach this from the perspective of water quality, since urbanization has significant negative impacts on the health of our rivers and lakes. Beyond that, there's a real concern about flood risks and climate change. Allowing development in areas prone to flooding could put homeowners at risk, and people rely on their government to ensure that such development isn't permitted."

“

It might allow development to go through with very little consultation

”

Quoting Hurricane Hazel as a historical example of why watershed-based management is critical for protecting lives and property, she expressed concern that amalgamation would dilute local expertise and disrupt the relationships that make conservation authorities effective.

"Managing at a watershed scale makes far more sense than adhering to political boundaries, especially when considering flood prevention and sustainable development," Kirkwood said.

A tangible example of this principle in action is Rattray Marsh in Mississauga, which was once almost lost to development over 60 years ago.

After the death of Colonel James Halliday Rattray, the estate that bore his name was proposed to be converted into a private yacht club.

But under the leadership of Dr. Ruth Hussey, a dedicated group of citizens formed the Rattray Marsh Preservation Committee, which successfully rallied to protect the area, and in 1973, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), with the support of the newly formed City of Mississauga, acquired the environmentally sensitive lands, establishing Rattray Marsh Conservation Area.

Today, the marsh remains a rare lakefront coastal wetland along Lake Ontario, protected in perpetuity. It is recognized as a Provincially Significant Wetland, an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, and an Environmentally Significant Area.

The marsh serves as a biodiversity hotspot, a critical stopover for migratory birds, a transition zone between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and provides natural climate resilience by buffering storm surges, high lake levels, and shoreline erosion, and functions as a natural filter improving water quality in the Credit River Watershed.

At an environmental action committee meeting on November 3, Mississauga ward 2 councillor Alvin Tedjo, said those protections could be at risk since Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority would probably be merged into a "Mega West Lake Ontario Conservation Authority".

"This is a massive change," Tedjo said in a social media video.

"These seven regions would be enormous, merging everything in our area, from Mississauga all the way to Niagara Falls. Now we have a close working relationship with the CVC, and there are local experts who work and live in our region. How sure are we that politicians from Hamilton or Niagara Falls are going to understand the challenges that we face right here in Mississauga? How are you going to represent our residents and ensure that the right flood mitigation projects get funded in our neighbourhoods?"

Tedjo, who sits on the boards of CVC and Conservation Halton, shared that both the CAs were caught off guard by the announcement, confirming there had been no consultation with conservation authorities prior to the provincial release.

If the legislation passes, how long would it take for Ontarians to notice changes in their water and their surrounding environment?

"It probably wouldn't take long," Kirkwood warns.

"The science is pretty clear. When unfettered development happens without proper mitigation for flooding and environmental impacts, water quality degrades quickly. It's a physical process... streams and rivers just become dirtier."

She notes that while mitigation strategies like stormwater ponds exist, which she has been studying, they are not substitutes for wetlands and other sensitive areas that naturally absorb stormwater.

"There's this notion that we have a 'fix' for the problem, but we know there will be downstream impacts. Once environmentally sensitive or flood-prone areas are bulldozed for development, it's like the genie is out of the bottle — very difficult and costly to restore. That's why there's so much pushback on this legislation: preventing pollution and flooding in the first place is far cheaper and more effective than trying to fix it afterward."

On September 25, Ontario Nature sent a letter to Minister Jill Dunlop urging stronger action to reduce flooding across Ontario, emphasizing that wetlands act as natural sponges that absorb rain and snowmelt to prevent downstream flooding and drought impacts, and calling for restored Conservation Authority roles, a provincial flood risk map, and greater support for wetland conservation as a cost-effective, climate-resilient solution.

The letter points to the [Auditor General's 2022 report](#) identifying wetland conservation as a key strategy for reducing urban flood risk, warning that further loss of wetlands to urbanization, infrastructure, or agriculture will only heighten future flooding, an alarming reality already evident in Southern Ontario, where over 70 percent of original wetlands have been lost, and in the Greater Toronto Area and southwestern Ontario, where losses exceed 85 percent, coinciding with most of the province's urban floods between 2010 and 2020.

Ontario Nature recommended creating a provincial flood risk map, funding municipalities to assess natural assets and guide sustainable land use, restoring Conservation Authorities' mandates and resources, supporting Indigenous communities and municipalities in conserving wetlands, and increasing public awareness of wetlands' vital role in mitigating floods and building climate resilience.

As Ontario moves ahead with consultations on the OPCA and its consolidation plan, conservationists, lawyers, and scientists are watching closely for the fine print. Whether the new agency truly "protects communities," as the province promises, or quietly opens the floodgates to unchecked development, may depend on how loudly the public demands transparency before it's too late.

Kirkwood acknowledges the public, after years of rapid policy changes and scandals, might be too exhausted to respond but she remains hopeful.

"The government is flooding the zone...They're trying to push through as many pieces of legislation as possible while they can, without allowing for proper consultation, and it's very disheartening," she said.

"I just worry that the public may just be kind of now numb to all of this, and I hope not. At this moment in time, I'm really hopeful that people recognize there are plenty of ways to build housing, especially where people want to live, not in natural and currently protected areas. I hope we don't lose sight of that."

Anushka Yadav is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter based at The Pointer.

Comments (5)

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts. We ask that you be respectful of others and their points of view, refrain from personal attacks and stay on topic. To learn about our commenting policies and how we moderate, please read our [Community Guidelines](#).



[moremiles](#)

Verified about 20 hours ago

Honestly, I don't have much to say in response. Based on our local Conservation Authority's recent track record, if it were to go away or be taken over, it might not be all bad!

R

[rwrh](#) about 19 hours ago

they just made it easier for the corporations and companies at the taxpayers expense to do as they please with a lot less oversight.

TR

[Tax Reformer](#) about 19 hours ago

The Church development on Premier Rd was a good example why a Local Conservation Authority should be abolished.

T

[Troutlake](#) about 19 hours ago

Anyone remember the Local Health Integration Network and how they were supposed to be the answer to health care delivery in Ontario.....they weren't the answer and I suspect we are going to see the same failure when it comes to the "new" Conservation Authority. Lana no response Mitchell and King Peter need to be kicked off the existing Authority if that happened the existing structure might actually do what it's mandate is, protecting our water!

RR

[respectful reality](#) about 17 hours ago

When used in the same sentence, profits and watersheds represent concerns for the environment. Local watersheds will suffer because of the downsizing and eventual removal of conservation authorities.

If you would like to apply to become a **Verified Commenter**, please [fill out this form](#).

Trending

4490

North Bay man sentenced to life in prison for Lake Park Estates murder

2810

Drunk driver sentenced to 8 years in deadly high-speed crash

2636

Hunters face charges for carrying loaded firearms in vehicles

2251

Committee hopes HGTV makeover could revitalize Cobalt

Have a story idea?

Letter to the editor

Report a mistake

Ask a question

OP 9.4

From: CAO <CAO@calvintownship.ca>
Sent: November 18, 2025 1:28 PM
To: Councillor Dean Grant <Councillor.Grant@calvintownship.ca>
Subject: Fw: OAPSB/OACP Joint Meeting Agenda

Hi Dean
Are you attending the meeting below?

Donna Maitland
CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Municipality of Calvin
1355 Peddlers Dr., R.R.#2, Mattawa, ON. P0H 1V0
Ph: 705-744-2700
www.calvintownship.ca



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From: Bill Hagborg <bhagborg77@gmail.com>
Sent: November 18, 2025 12:52 PM
To: CAO <CAO@calvintownship.ca>
Subject: Re: OAPSB/OACP Joint Meeting Agenda

Hi Donna:

My apologies if you were missed on the original notice for this meeting. We were in the process of updating our records since the establishment of the new boards created as a result of the CSPA.

Our records indicate that your OPP Detachment Board is a member of the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards. We typically hold 2 in person meetings and one virtual meeting per calendar year with all the members Boards in our Zone (Zone 1A) to provided updates, presentations, conduct Zone business, etc. And in most cases (as

outlined on the attached agenda) hold the in-person meetings jointly with the Chiefs in the Zone.

Each member Board is invited to send as many members as they so wish.

I realize this meeting is only 2 days away, but perhaps one or two of your Board members might be available to attend. I have attached the registration form (we are using the Chief's form).

Again my apologies for you not receiving this much sooner. At least we now have your contact info for all future communications from our Zone.

Bill

bhagborg77@gmail.com
705.471.2956

On Nov 18, 2025, at 7:23 AM, CAO <CAO@calvintownship.ca> wrote:

Hi Bill

I have not received any prior info. Can you please bring me up to speed. What, who, why. Thx

Donna Maitland
CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Municipality of Calvin
1355 Peddlers Dr., R.R.#2, Mattawa, ON. P0H 1V0
Ph: 705-744-2700
www.calvintownship.ca

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From: Bill Hagborg <bhagborg77@gmail.com>
Sent: November 18, 2025 6:29 AM
To: Bill Hagborg <bhagborg77@gmail.com>
Subject: OAPSB/OACP Joint Meeting Agenda

Hello Zone 1A Board Chairs and Board EAs:

My apologies for the delay in providing the attached agenda for the joint meeting with the Zone 1A Chiefs.

If you, or any of your Board members, have registered and are attending, please note we are starting at 1 pm on the 20th and adjourning at noon on the 21st.

Bill Hagborg, Chair
OAPSB Zone 1A

bhagborg77@gmail.com



JOINT OAPSB/OACP – Zone 1A Meeting: November 20-21, 2025

Best Western North Bay

AGENDA

Thursday, November 20th Lakeshore Room	
13:00	Opening Remarks & Land Acknowledgement - Chief Daryl Longworth
13:10	OACP Updates - Paul Pedersen, Executive Director & Chief Mark Campbell, President
14:00	Guest Speaker - Kathleen Jodouin, Victim Services of Nipissing District
14:15	Break
14:30	<u>OAPSB Zone 1A Breakout Session</u> - Room tba Welcome & Introductions - Bill Hagborg, Zone 1A Chair Impaired Driving Coalition of Canada - Pat Cliche, Vice-Chair, NBPSB OAPSB Q&A - Lisa Darling, Executive Director IoP Q&A - Tom Gervais, Zone 1A Police Service Advisor Roundtable Discussion - Board updates, highlights...
16:00	Northern Ride Launch
17:30	Evening Reception & Dinner
Friday, November 21st Lakeshore Room	
08:00	Breakfast
09:00	Welcome - Chief Sara Cunningham, Zone 1A Director
09:10	Guest Speaker - D/Sgt. Brad Reaume, NBPS & Vice-Chair Pat Cliche, NBPSB - Prescription Diversion
09:40	Guest Speaker - Tom Gervais, Police Service Advisor, IoP
10:00	Break
10:15	Guest Speaker - Lisa Darling, Executive Director, OAPSB
10:45	<u>OAPSB Zone 1A Business Meeting</u> 1. Adoption of Agenda 2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes of May 6-7, 2025 3. Business Arising 4. Correspondence 5. New Business a. Financial Report b. Payment of Invoices c. Board Members' items Adjourn
12:00	Adjournment and take away lunch



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE ZONE 1A MEETING

Best Western North Bay
700 Lakeshore Dr. North Bay, Ontario
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 1300hrs to
November 21, 2025, 1200hrs
REGISTRATION FEE: \$150.00

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

City:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Email:

Dietary Restrictions:

Dinner Choice: ☐ Prime Rib ☐ Chicken Parm ☐ Vegetarian Option

Please email registration form to: **darro@northbaypolice.on.ca** Executive Assistant
and reserve your accommodation, both due **no later than October 27, 2025.**

To book your accommodation, use the following link:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.66058.html?groupId=4E2ZY7Z5

at the preferred rate of **\$139.99.**

Please make cheques payable to:
North Bay Police Service Board, 135 Princess St. W. North Bay, ON P1B 6C2
Attention: Monique Seguin-Russell, Finance Coordinator

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALVIN

BYLAW NUMBER 2025-50

BEING A BYLAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Legal Authority

Scope of Powers

Section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, ("*Municipal Act*") as amended, provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate, and to enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues.

Powers of a Natural Person

Section 9 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act.

Powers Exercised by Council

Section 5 (1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council

Powers Exercised by By-law

Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by bylaw unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise.

Preamble

Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin ("Council") acknowledges that many of the decisions it makes during a meeting of Council, regular, special, or otherwise, are done by resolution. Section 5 (3) requires that Council exercise their powers by Bylaw.

Council further acknowledges that the passing of resolutions are more expedient than adopting Bylaws for each decision.

Decision

Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin decides it in the best interest of the Corporation to confirm its decisions by way of Confirmatory Bylaw.

Direction

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin directs as follows:

1. The Confirmatory Period of this By-Law shall be for the Regular Council meeting of November 25, 2025, excluding Closed Meeting Agendas and Closed Meeting Minutes.
2. All By-Laws passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
3. All resolutions passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
4. All other proceedings, decisions, and directives of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin during the period mentioned in Section 1 are hereby ratified and confirmed.
5. This Bylaw takes effect on the day of its final passing.

Read and adopted by Resolution 2025-359 this 25th Day of November 2025.

MAYOR

CAO