



Board of Directors Meeting #1/24
Thursday, January 25, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Kawartha Conservation, Boardroom
277 Kenrei Road, Lindsay, ON K9V 4R1

AGENDA

We would like to acknowledge that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which we are located.

Today, this area is home to many indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that our watershed forms a part of the treaty and traditional territory of the south-eastern Anishinaabeg.

It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we live and work. To honour this legacy, we commit to being stewards of the natural environment and undertake to have a relationship of respect with our Treaty partners.

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- 9. Action Items
 - 9.1 Administrative Resolutions for 2024 Page 135
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- 10. New Business
- 11. Reports and Updates from Board Members
- 12. Closed Session – None
- 13. Adjournment



To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO

Re: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2024

KEY ISSUE:

The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair are elected from the Board of Directors annually. In moving through the elections process, the following resolutions are recommended:

- Resolution #1 appoints the Elections Chair.
- Resolution #2 precedes the calling for nominations and appoints scrutineers. Nominations for Chair would then be called, and
- Resolution #3 would close nominations for the Chair position. Nominations for Vice Chair would then be called, and
- Resolution #4 would close nominations for the Vice Chair position.

Usually, the Election Chair conducts both the Chair and Vice Chair elections.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTIONS:

1. **RESOLVED, THAT**, Mark Majchrowski, CAO, be appointed as elections chair.
 2. **RESOLVED, THAT**, in the event of a vote by ballot, that Jonathan Lucas and Kristie Virgoe be appointed as scrutineers; and
THAT, all ballots be destroyed following the election.
 3. **RESOLVED, THAT**, the nominations for the position of Chair be closed.
 4. **RESOLVED, THAT**, the nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed.
-

In the event of a vote by ballot, two scrutineers need to be appointed. Ballots are destroyed following the election. The suggested resolution (#2) is above.

The election of the Chair is followed by the election of the Vice-Chair. Procedures for elections are as follows:

- Nominations are called for from the floor. Nominations require a nominator only, not a seconder.
- When all nominations have been received and no further nomination is put forward after three calls, a motion to close nominations is requested. This motion requires a mover and a seconder and is voted upon. The suggested resolutions are above.
- All nominees shall signify, when asked, if he/she will stand for the position.

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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- When nominations are closed, each candidate is given an opportunity of addressing the membership in the order of the alphabetical listing of his or her surnames.
- The election vote will be taken by written ballot, counted by the election scrutineers, and announced by the Election Chair. In the event of a tie vote, a second ballot will be taken. If that too is a tie, then, a third vote is held. Should there be a tie vote after the third vote; the election will be decided by a draw from a hat.
- The election Chair will declare the Chair and Vice-Chair following their election or acclamation.

Following the election of Chair and Vice-Chair, the Election Chair steps down, and the newly elected Chair assumes the chair. We attach an excerpt from the Administrative By-Law for your information.

A list of eligible Board Members who could immediately serve in the role of Chair or Vice-Chair in accordance with provincial direction is provided on the following page.

Members from the same participating municipality as an outgoing Chair or Vice-chair position would require special approval from the Minister to serve in that capacity. Further, members can not serve more than two terms in the same position.



Member Voting Eligibility Details

(Fulfilling criteria as specified in the Conservation Authorities Act)

	Chair	Vice-Chair
Outgoing Officers	Rock, Robert Durham Region (Township of Scugog)	Warren, Pat City of Kawartha Lakes
Immediately Eligible	Byrne, Gerry Franzen, Peter Rock, Robert Smeaton, Eric Richardson, Tracy Warren, Pat	Byrne, Gerry Franzen, Peter Pettingill, Cria Rang, Lloyd Rock, Robert Warren, Pat Wright, Harold
Minister's Exception Required	Pettingill, Cria Rang, Lloyd Wright, Harold	Richardson, Tracy Smeaton, Eric

Notes:

1. If the chair or vice-chair position is not filled by the incumbent member, other members from the same participating municipality are ineligible for serving those positions.
2. A member can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms as a Chair or as Vice-Chair.
3. An exception from the legislative clauses identified (notes 1 and 2) can be sought from the Minister, who may or may not grant an exception.
4. For the purposes of the Act, all members representing municipalities in the Region of Durham are counted as one participating municipality.

Excerpt from By-Law #1 - Administrative Policies

Section ADMINISTRATION	Title ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES - BY-LAW #1	
RESPONSIBILITY: CAO	Approved by: Board of Directors (Resolution #118/18; #95/20; #17/21; #102/21; #60/22; #126/23)	Date of Approval: October 17, 2018 Revised: Nov 23, 2023
		Page: 16, 39-40 of 44

B. Governance

1 c. Members - Powers of the General Membership

4. Maximum Term for Chair and Vice-Chair

Both the Chair and Vice-Chair shall hold office for a term of one year, and shall serve for no more than two consecutive terms. Notwithstanding these terms, the Minister may grant permission (upon application by an Authority or a participating municipality) for a Chair or Vice-Chair to serve for a term of more than one year or to hold office from more than two consecutive terms.

7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The election of the Chair and one or more Vice-Chairs shall occur at the first meeting held each year in accordance with the Authority's Procedures for Election of Officers (Appendix 3).

Successors to the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair shall be a Member from a different participating municipality from the incumbent.

Upon application by an Authority or a participating municipality, the Minister may grant permission for a member to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair who was appointed to the Authority by the same participating municipality that appointed the outgoing Chair or Vice-Chair.

Appendix 3 - Procedure for Election of Officers

1. Voting

Voting shall be by secret ballot and no Members may vote by proxy.

2. Acting Chair

The General Membership shall appoint a person, who is not a voting Member, as Acting Chair or Returning Officer, for the purpose of Election of Officers.

3. Scrutineer(s)

The appointment of one or more scrutineers is required for the purpose of counting ballots, should an election be required. All ballots shall be destroyed by the scrutineers afterwards. The Acting Chair shall call a motion for the appointment of one or more persons, who are not Members or employees of the Authority, to act as scrutineers. A Member, who will not stand for election, may be appointed as an additional scrutineer if requested.

4. Election Procedures

The Acting Chair shall advise the Members that the Chair and Vice-Chair can serve for no more than two consecutive terms, and that successors to these specific positions are different participating municipality from the incumbent.

Permission may be granted by the Minister for exceptions to these legislative conditions.

The Acting Chair shall advise the Members that the election will be conducted in accordance with the Act and the Administrative By-law Section B: Governance, subsection 4 'Maximum Term for Chair and Vice Chair(s)' as follows:

- a) The elections shall be conducted in the following order:
 - i. Election of the Chair, who shall be a Member appointed by a participating Municipality to the Authority
 - ii. Election of one or more Vice-chairs, who shall be Members appointed by a participating Municipality to the Authority.
- b) The Acting Chair shall ask for nominations to each position;
- c) Only current Members of the Authority who are present may vote;
- d) Nominations shall be called three (3) times and will only require a mover;
- e) The closing of nominations shall require both a mover and a seconder;
- f) Each Member nominated shall be asked to accept the nomination. The Member must be present to accept the nomination unless the Member has advised the Secretary-Treasurer in writing or by email in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination.

If one Nominee:

- g) If only one nominee the individual shall be declared into the position by acclamation.

If More than One Nominee:

- h) In the event of an election, each nominee shall be permitted not more than three (3) minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing by surnames.
- i) Upon the acceptance by nominees to stand for election to the position of office, ballots shall be distributed to the Members by the scrutineers for the purpose of election and the Acting Chair shall ask the Members to write the name of one individual only on the ballot.
- j) The scrutineers shall collect the ballots, leave the meeting to count the ballots, return and advise the Acting Chair who was elected with more than 50% of the vote.

A majority vote shall be required for election. If there are more than two nominees, and upon the first vote no nominee receives the majority required for election, the name of the person with the least number of votes shall be removed from further consideration for the office and new ballots shall be distributed.

In the case of a vote where no nominee receives the majority required for election and where two or more nominees are tied with the least number of votes, a special vote shall be taken to decide which one of such tied nominees' names shall be dropped from the list of names to be voted on in the next vote.

Should there be a tie vote between two remaining candidates, new ballots shall be distributed, and a second vote held.

Should there still be a tie after the second ballot a third vote shall be held.

Should there be a tie after the third vote, the election of the office shall be decided by lot drawn by the Acting Chair or designate.



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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO

Re: Approval of Minutes

KEY ISSUE:

To approve the minutes of Meeting #9/23 held on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the Board of Directors Minutes of Meeting #9/23 be adopted as circulated.

BACKGROUND

Minutes are attached for your review and approval.



Board of Directors Minutes of Meeting #9/23

Meeting #9/23 was held on Thursday, December 21, 2023, in person, at the Kawartha Conservation Administration Centre. The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

Present: Robert Rock, Chair
Eric Smeaton, Director
Tracy Richardson, Director
Harold Wright, Director
Gerry Byrne, Director
Cria Pettingill, Director

Regrets: Pat Warren, Vice-Chair
Peter Franzen, Director
Lloyd Rang, Director
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations (vacant)

Staff: Mark Majchrowski, CAO
Matthew Mantle, Director, Planning and Development Services
Jonathan Lucas, Director, Corporate Services
Nancy Aspden, Acting Director, Integrated Watershed Management
Melanie Dolamore, Corporate Services Assistant
John Chambers, Marketing and Communications Specialist

Guests: None

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair began meeting #9/23 with a First Nations Acknowledgement:

We would like to acknowledge that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which we are located.

Today, this area is home to many indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that our watershed forms a part of the treaty and traditional territory of the south-eastern Anishinaabeg.

It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we live and work. To honour this legacy, we commit to being stewards of the natural environment and undertake to have a relationship of respect with our Treaty partners.

#1 - ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION #134/23

MOVED BY: CRIA PETTINGILL

SECONDED BY: ERIC SMEATON

RESOLVED THAT, the Agenda for Meeting #9/23 be adopted.

CARRIED

#2 – Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

#3 – Approval of Minutes

RESOLUTION #135/23

MOVED BY: GERRY BYRNE

SECONDED BY: HAROLD WRIGHT

RESOLVED, THAT, the Board of Directors Minutes of Meeting #8/23 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

#4 – Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

#5 – Deputation

None.

#6 – Presentations and Applicable Action Items

None.

#7 – Staff Reports

7.1 – Permits Issued by Designated Staff (November)

RESOLUTION #136/23

MOVED BY: CRIA PETTINGILL

SECONDED BY: ERIC SMEATON

RESOLVED, THAT, the following Section 28 Permits issued by staff be received.

Permits Issued: 2023-411 to 2023-444 Permits Revised: 2023-336, 2022-418, 2023-427

AND THAT, the Permitting performance report be received.

CARRIED

7.2 –CAO Report

RESOLUTION #137/23

MOVED BY: TRACY RICHARDSON

SECONDED BY: HAROLD WRIGHT

RESOLVED, THAT, the CAO Monthly Report for meeting #9/23 be received.

CARRIED

Mr. Majchrowski shared key highlights from last month on items including the pay equity and compensation review project, sediment and erosion control symposium and Christmas at Ken Reid.

Director’s Pettingill, Smeaton and Richardson provided positive feedback from participation in the Christmas at Ken Reid event.

7.3 – Correspondence

RESOLUTION #138/23

MOVED BY: CRIA PETTINGILL

SECONDED BY: GERRY BYRNE

RESOLVED, THAT, the attached correspondence be received.

CARRIED

#8 – Action Items

8.1 – Updated Fee Schedule 2024

RESOLUTION #139/23

MOVED BY: TRACY RICHARDSON

SECONDED BY: ERIC SMEATON

RESOLVED, THAT, the updated fee schedule for 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

8.2 – Conservation Authorities Act – Phase 2 Transition Activities

RESOLUTION #140/23

MOVED BY: CRIA PETTINGILL
SECONDED BY: HAROLD WRIGHT

RESOLVED, THAT, the staff report on Phase 2 Transition Activities related to *Conservation Authorities Act* changes be received.

CARRIED

#9 – New Business

None.

#10 – Reports and Updates from Board Members

None.

#11 – Closed Session

None.

#12 – Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

RESOLUTION #141/23

MOVED BY: HAROLD WRIGHT
SECONDED BY: GERRY BYRNE

RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors Meeting #9/23 be adjourned.

CARRIED

Robert Rock
Chair

Mark Majchrowski
CAO



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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO

Re: Presentations

KEY ISSUE:

Presentations on our 2023 Year in Review and Service Recognition Awards.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the presentation on our 2023 Year in Review be received.

RESOLVED, THAT, the presentation on our Years of Service Awards be received.

Please see below for a short description on the topics of interest.

2023 Year in Review & Strategic Plan Accomplishments

Opening remarks will be provided by the CAO on our 2023 Year and Strategic Plan accomplishments, followed by a video presentation that will highlight accomplishments from our organization and staff throughout the year 2023, created by Anita Caven, Marketing & Communications Assistant.

Discussion on staff report (item 7.1.1) associated with this presentation will follow.

Years of Service Awards

Each year, Kawartha Conservation recognizes staff and Board members who have achieved service milestones of 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and more.

This year, we are proud to recognize three outstanding staff members that have supported our organization and our communities through their dedication and commitment.

Five years of Service:

- Melissa Creasy Alexander, Conservation Areas Technician
- Jonathan Lucas, Director, Corporate Services

Twenty years of Service:

- Nancy Aspden, Acting Director Integrated Watershed Management

A staff report is not associated with this presentation.

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, Chief Administrative Officer

Re: 2023 Year in Review

KEY ISSUE:

A review of 2023 accomplishments with a focus on strategic plan implementation.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the 2023 Year in Review and Strategic Plan accomplishments report be received.

BACKGROUND

2023 was a successful year, and we advanced on a number of initiatives on the second year of our strategic plan. We continued to adapt our business on a strategic and operational basis, solidifying a number of improvements made in previous years efforts to innovate our business and provide more means for public access to our services electronically, and to use technology to our advantage. These technologies have also advanced within their respective businesses, necessitating changes in our user interfaces to remain optimally functional. The following is a highlight of the previous year, touching on just some of our many programs, accomplishments and successes that have contributed to strengthening our watershed communities and our relationships with the municipal partners we work to support.

Across our program areas from planning and permitting to integrated watershed management, education, conservation areas and more, our focus is on the protection of people, property, and the environment. Our Vision, Mission and Focus guide our actions while our strategic goals ensure our work aligns with our municipal partners and with the best interests of our watershed residents, businesses, and visitors in mind.

Vision

Engaged communities that love, respect and appreciate our natural environment

Mission

To champion watershed health as the recognized leader in natural asset management

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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The following chart identifies a snapshot of strategic plan implementation on strategic priority actions across the organization in 2023.

Strategic Plan Progress in 2023

Strategic Priority Areas	Priority themes	Number of Strategic Actions furthered
Protect and Restore	Ensure the ongoing health of our watershed	5/7
	Encourage participation in environmental initiatives	3/3
	Ensure the safety of people, property, and public infrastructure	4/4
Engage and Inspire	Maintain and enhance our Conservation Areas to provide healthy outdoor experiences	2/5
	Community Building	8/8
Innovate and Enhance	Increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery	4/4
	Share our stories to enhance community awareness	3/3
	Ensure we have the resources we need to provide our services	2/2
	Increase our organizational resiliency	3/3

The remainder of this report identifies several highlights of the progress made throughout the year and highlights the ways we have continued to develop strong partnerships, engage our community, focus on science, education, and outreach, through the tremendous work undertaken and completed by our amazing team.

A summary of some of the key accomplishments for each of the department areas during the year is provided below as we work to fulfill the vision and mission outlined in our strategic plan:

CORPORATE SERVICES

Providing support services to our team, implementing technology solutions, adapting business solutions, planning for the future of the organization, and remaining fiscally responsible were important themes in 2023. An important focus this year was achieving compliance with legislative sections of the conservation authorities act, for which transition timelines coming due, or for which legislative regulations came into effect.

Our 2022-2027 strategic plan has now seen its second year of implementation. Our focus is ensuring that our programs, initiatives, and actions are in collaboration with our strategic plan which sets the stage for the 5 years of conservation effort, focused on important activities such as supporting our municipalities and communities, continued innovation and adoption of technology and a focus on client-based service.

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Provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act came into effect in 2022, which resulted in necessary updates to administrative by-laws and operational policies and procedures. Most notably, were collaborative discussions with our municipal partners to discuss the Inventory of Programs and Services and the Cost Apportioning Agreements and Memorandums of understanding that were finalized in 2023, with the Durham MOU slated for approvals early in 2024. A significant change taking effect in 2024 was the new budget regulation, which necessitated the redevelopment of our background budget materials, budget document and the administrative backbones of our finance systems (e.g. accounting and timesheet coding).

Our organization was awarded with a grant by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities providing significant funding (80% of project costs, up to \$32,800) to complete an Asset Management Plan and Software Implementation. We finalized the development of this plan in 2023, which resulted in the very first long-term and forward-looking plan for the critical assets of the organization. We are looking forward to discussions with municipalities in 2024 to further advance the implementation of this plan.

The labour market has been very competitive in recent years, necessitating the review of our compensation program. A pay equity and compensation review was initiated in 2023 to address these market pressures and to ensure a fair and equitable assessment of positional responsibilities within our compensation structure. Although slated for completion in 2024, this project will be a significant improvement over our previous model. In 2023, we were able to successfully fill vacancies within our organization with quality employees and experienced successional growth from within the organization at the leadership level.

As we recognize the importance of technology in our business and the importance of protecting important assets of the organization, we continue to update our security enhancements, infrastructure analysis improvements and organizational support. Notably in 2023, we moved to cloud backups of our server information, which has resulted in a slight reduction in service costs, reduced long-term capital costs for equipment, while increasing our flexibility in backup recoveries, should they be needed. Improvements to remote functionality for meetings were added in the boardroom, which includes a conference system and video relay.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

The following strategic plan linkages are achieved by the accomplishments identified above, organized by one of the three pillars of the strategic plan and the theme associated with specific actions.

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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- Engage and Inspire
 - Community building
- Innovate and Enhance
 - Increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery
 - Ensure we have the resources we need to provide our services
 - Increase our organizational resiliency

CONSERVATION LANDS

All our Conservation Areas were popular destinations throughout 2023, with Ken Reid being the most popular. Our conservation areas further our vision to have engaged communities that love, respect, and appreciate our natural environment and our strategic action to provide healthy outdoor experiences. A new feature at Ken Reid Conservation Area, the “Nature’s Edge” 9-hole disc golf course was opened, which provides another way to connect people with nature in a way that is meaningful to them, and reaching a different community than we may traditionally attract to our area, while providing an opportunity for healthy activity and connectedness to nature.

An exciting endeavour was initiated in 2023 which will look to restore the hydro corridor in Durham East Cross Forest to a combination of wetland, meadow, and tall grass communities. The Eco-corridor project is a 3-year restoration project on approximately 11 ha. We are working with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Hydro One, and Sir Sandford Fleming College on the project design.

Our Habitat Compensation program continued in 2023 with (1) one project that saw 20 endangered species planted at the Pigeon River Headwaters Conservation Area. This program has created a protected species at risk habitat within our conservation areas where our community can enjoy and connect with nature, supported by corporate partnerships.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

The following strategic plan linkages are achieved by the accomplishments identified above:

- Engage and Inspire
 - Maintain and enhance our Conservation Areas to provide healthy outdoor experiences
 - Community building
- Innovate and Enhance
 - Share our stories to enhance community awareness

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- Ensure we have the resources we need to provide our services
- Increase our organizational resiliency

Community Events, Outreach and Education

The Fall Festival, Christmas at Ken Reid, and the Illuminated Forest were successful community attractions in 2023, building on the successes in the previous year(s). Across all three events we estimate a total of over 6,300 visitors came to enjoy these festivals and attractions.

We continued a pilot partnership with At Last Forest School in 2023 to explore ways of offering outdoor summer camps to our community, which has been well received.

Several other interpretive hikes were provided during the year, providing opportunities for citizens to connect with nature and learn more about the environment around them.

Our 2023 Forest Therapy program was sponsored by Ward's Lawyers and enabled a series of 11 community forest therapy walks throughout the year, with donations raised (over \$800) in support of the Canadian Mental Health Association and their valuable programs in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Wind phones were also installed in two locations in Ken Reid Conservation Area in locations offset from the main trail, which helps promote mental wellness for anyone that may have lost a loved one and wish to connect with them.

Throughout the year we hosted a few environmental action days and partnered with local school groups, Fleming College, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to plant trees and shrubs in the conservation areas, pick up garbage, and remove invasive species.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

The following strategic plan linkages are achieved by the accomplishments identified above:

- Protect and Restore
 - Encourage participation in environmental initiatives
- Engage and Inspire
 - Maintain and enhance our Conservation Areas to provide healthy outdoor experiences
 - Community building

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- Innovate and Enhance
 - Share our stories to enhance community awareness
 - Ensure we have the resources we need to provide our services
 - Increase our organizational resiliency

STEWARDSHIP

Lake Management Plan Implementation has been successful in 2023 as identified in programs such as our tree planting programs, restoration projects with landowners, grant funding and scientific monitoring and analysis. This year was the final year of the 5-year Implementation Action Plan, focused in implementing actions outlined in the Lake Management Plans for the City of Kawartha Lakes. A renewed 5-year plan was developed with community involvement and provided to the municipality.

In 2023 we greatly exceeded our strategic target of 21,000 trees planted. Our seedling sale program alone sold over 19,000 seedlings. An additional 39,000 trees were planted across 22 sites as part of the 50 Million Tree program which leveraged over \$21,000 in landowner investment with \$97,725 in Forest Ontario subsidy. Additional trees and native plants were planted as part of community planting events, planted by a number of school groups and interested community members and supported by TD Tree Days. Three native plant guides were developed to assist landowners in choices for naturalizing their properties which were very well received and resulted in native plant sales dramatically increasing from previous years. Showcasing our efforts, and those of the other conservation authorities in Durham, an award was presented at Durham's environmental awards ceremony, recognizing the co-operative efforts of those who strive to enhance the environment by building partnerships with public, community, and private interests.

Our Water Fund program continues to provide incentive grants that encourage landowners to implement improvement projects on their land. In total, 30 grants were approved to private landowners and 3 for community groups. Those grants invested \$75,500 in projects and leveraged over \$248,000 in investment from landowners and community groups. The Implementation Action Plan achieves several strategic actions including defining a sustainable funding model, engaging with community and municipal partners, implementation of the Lake Management Plans, and instituting a forest regeneration program.

Our partnership with OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs) allowed us to implement 3 demonstration sites for agricultural properties including exclusion fencing, alternate watering system, natural stream buffer strip plantings, and a concrete manure storage project. Projects were showcased in a tour we hosted to highlight the implementation projects, and they were also highlighted as part of the City

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of Kawartha Lakes Agricultural Tour.

The Low Impact Design project was completed for permeable pavement along the Old Rail Line in Port Perry. This project showcases an innovative practice in stormwater management, controlling runoff and providing a measure for improving water quality in runoff.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

The following strategic plan linkages are achieved by the accomplishments identified above:

- Protect and Restore
 - Ensure the ongoing health of our watershed
 - Encourage participation in environmental initiatives
 - Ensure the safety of people, property and public infrastructure
- Engage and Inspire
 - Community building
- Innovate and Enhance
 - Increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery
 - Share our stories to enhance community awareness
 - Ensure we have the resources we need to provide our services
 - Increase our organizational resiliency

INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

A primary focus for this department is the long-term strategic planning and implementation of science supporting work on the ground through stewardship action, and planning and permitting, leading to community sustainability over the long term. To advance this, the implementation of lake management plans, development of the Lake Dalrymple Management Plan, and Lake Scugog Enhancement project were priority items.

Important in the long-term health of our lakes, monitoring programs to evaluate the health of nearshore environments and watercourses identified in the plans as warranting further investigation have been underway and are helping us understand these systems better which will aid in stewardship activities in the future as we delve into nutrient loadings and other sampling parameter information for high and low flow events. As part of a university research collaborative, various methods of controlling near-shore environments by landowners are being evaluated. As part of this initiative, 6

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aquatic thrusters were deployed, and conditions evaluated throughout the year.

Engagement of landowners and stakeholders is a key factor in long-term sustainability, which was seen through the continuation of several citizen science collaboratives including nearshore water quality monitoring, climate change action monitoring program, and aquatic plant surveys. We also collaborated with industry partners to provide webinars and a sediment and erosion control symposium on managing bare soils and erosion mitigation controls, which were well attended, reaching 200 persons during the live events, with videos available on our website for anyone unable to attend.

A key project that we continue supporting is the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project, for which we are the technical advisors to the Township of Scugog. We worked to progress numerous federal and provincial permits to enable the project to proceed which is nearing completion. The final project design is slated for discussion and approval at the Township of Scugog in 2024, which will inform the next steps. Significant accomplishments this year include the installation of two oil-grit separators that help address unfiltered runoff from Port Perry's urban area, and advancement of technical reports which form the basis for permitting approvals by legislative authorities.

We continued to improve our public availability of our monitoring information, spending time analyzing and providing pilot datasets to our website using applications to showcase the information. These applications allow users to interactively explore or understand the information provided. We are continuing to explore ways of presenting different data sets that are valuable and meaningful for our community. Ensuring our monitoring information is accessible to the public ties into multiple strategic goals and enables several other initiatives to progress.

We have invested in our flood forecasting network through the addition of a precipitation gauge in Trent Lakes this year and invested in the provincial program to enhance topography and aerial imagery, which is critical for many aspects of our business, and particularly for our permitting activities and evaluation of our regulated features. In addition, we have also enhanced the way we are able to view, record and access information, most notably in the flood forecasting and warning program – we have developed an internal Flood Inspection dashboard and used technology to increase our efficiency in obtaining information from our gauging network.

2023 Watershed Report Cards were launched this spring, a Conservation Ontario lead initiative that Kawartha Conservation and all other conservation authorities participate in. The launch was on World Water Day, March 23, 2023, which showcases the results of

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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our monitoring efforts over a 5-year period. In addition to the report card, staff also developed a complementary webpage and [Watershed Report Card Web Map](#) allowing users an interactive experience into the information.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

The following strategic plan linkages are achieved by the accomplishments identified above:

- Protect and Restore
 - Ensure the ongoing health of our watershed
 - Encourage participation in environmental initiatives
 - Ensure the safety of people, property and public infrastructure
- Engage and Inspire
 - Community building
- Innovate and Enhance
 - Increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery
 - Share our stories to enhance community awareness
 - Ensure we have the resources we need to provide our services
 - Increase our organizational resiliency

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING

We continued to see high levels of development activity, particularly in the form of larger applications (site plan approvals and subdivisions) in the watershed as the province promotes development. A significant changeover of departmental positions has resulted in some service challenges in 2023, however, we were able to bring our service level back to reasonable compliance with standards late in 2023, which sets 2024 in a position for success. The effort to bring our service level back to a reasonable standard was a team effort in multiple department areas, and staff did a tremendous job in working together for the common good of our customers and to ensure our organization could meet reasonable expectations of service. The development of a standard operating procedure was initiated for permitting activities, which will help provide consistency over time and provides a reliable foundation going forward. Further improvements were made to website content and enhancing mapping services.

We provided our third annual report outlining permitting performance in 2022 relative to the timelines identified as part of an initiative by Ontario's conservation authorities. The initiative is to improve transparency regarding client service, and streamlining our planning and permitting services, which demonstrated our success for the previous year in meeting service standards. A total of 98% of permits issued met provincial guidelines

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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established, while 81% of permits met the more stringent Conservation Ontario timelines for permits. The Conservation Ontario timelines reduce the Provincial service level guidelines by approximately 30%.

A busy year on the improvement of floodplain mapping resources occurred in 2023, with completion of the Fenelon Falls South Tributary Flood Plain Mapping Study, and initiation of the Nogies Creek and Miskwaa Ziibi River flood plain studies. Fieldwork was finalized for these two studies and an engineering consultant selected to complete the modelling requirement for the floodplain studies. Support to Haliburton County was provided on establishing Flood Plain Mapping for the Burnt River and Gull River watersheds.

The source water protection plans underwent a policy review and update for which a comprehensive submission package was prepared for Ministry approvals. Our involvement included consultation of the policy review with our municipal partners and a review of the plan and implication of technical rule changes made by the province, and a review of the amendment package information. Communication activity promoting the importance of protecting water at the source was conducted throughout the year through promotions such as “Know your Signs” and “Winter Wednesdays” salt awareness campaigns. Risk Management Official services provided for implementation of the plan resulted in several risk management plans being completed, with steps taken to encourage remaining landowners to develop plans, assessment of future properties that may require negotiated plans with landowners and the protection of municipal drinking water systems prior to development applications submitted.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

The following strategic plan linkages are achieved by the accomplishments identified above:

- Protect and Restore
 - Ensure the ongoing health of our watershed
 - Ensure the safety of people, property and public infrastructure
- Engage and Inspire
 - Community building
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Contributions to this report were made from all staff; specific contributions were appreciated from each of the Directors:

Jonathan Lucas, Director, Corporate Services; Kristie Virgoe, Director, Stewardship and Conservation Lands; Nancy Aspden, Acting Director, Integrated Watershed Management; Matthew Mantle, Director, Planning and Development Services.

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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Mantle, Director, Planning and Development Services

Re: Permits Issued by Designated Staff (December)

KEY ISSUE:

A summary listing of permits approved by designated staff for information purposes.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the following Section 28 Permits issued by staff be received:

Permits Issued: 2023-445 to 2023-479
Permits Revised: 2023-272, 2023-359, 2023-371, 2023-384

AND, THAT, the permitting performance report be received.

The following information identifies the permitting performance associated with the processing of permits since the previous staff report to the Board, aggregated on a monthly basis. Most of our permits fall within the minor permits category and are associated with a 14-day timeframe for determination of a complete application, and a decision on issuance of a permit is tied to a 21-day timeframe. Major (complex) applications and streamlined applications also have timeframes associated with approvals as shown below.

Type of Permit	Complete App. Review	Permit Issuance
Streamlined	10	14
Minor	14	21
Major	21	28

As displayed in Table 1, during the month of November, our team issued 37 new permits and met approximately 86% of the metric for application review timelines and met 97% of issuing permits within the Client Service Standard timeframes.

Our application review timelines have remained relatively consistent in terms of percentage of applications meeting guidelines, with a slight decrease in application review timelines

For more information, please contact Matthew Mantle at extension 213.



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achieved compared to the previous reporting period. Permit issuance statistics have improved in the percentage of applications meeting guidelines compared to reporting throughout the annum. In the month of December, an increase in the number of applications meeting permit issuance guidelines from the previous reporting period was observed.

Table 1: Number of applications meeting Client Service Standards for Permit Review and Issuance

Month	Application Review		Permit Issuance	
	No.	%	No.	%
December	30/35	86%	34/35	97%

Table 2, below, illustrates permits that did not meet the revised Client Service Standard for determination of a complete application and permit issuance during this reporting period.

A chart indicating monthly permitting activity and a related graph indicating performance relative to guidelines are provided in the attachments following this report.

Table 2: Permits Exceeding Client Service Standards for Permit Review and Issuance

Permit Number	Guideline Not Met	CALC Review Guideline	# Days Taken	Days Over	Reason
December					
2023-447	Application Review	14	36	22	Workflow matter
2023-451	Permit issuance	21	35	14	Site visit required after application was deemed complete.
2023-457	Application Review	10	15	5	Delay in review of secondary complete application requirements
2023-473	Application Review	14	20	6	Workflow matter
2023-475	Application Review	14	76	62	Workflow matter
2023-477	Application Review	14	21	7	Workflow matter

Please see attached reports for additional details.

Acknowledgements/Contributions from:

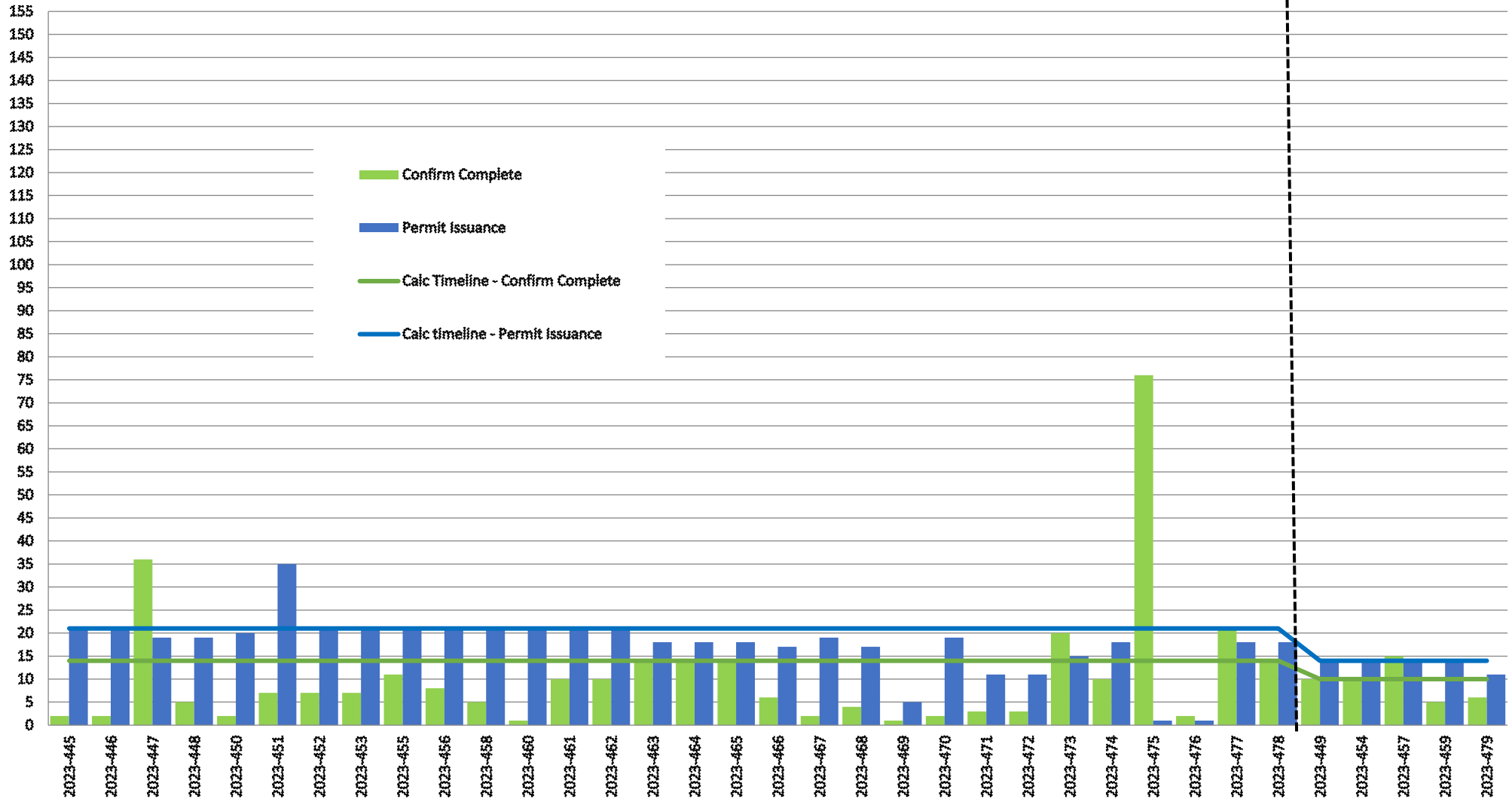
Will Chapple, Permitting Analyst

Amanda Brazeau, Administrative and Client Services

For more information, please contact Matthew Mantle at extension 213.

**CALC Performance Reporting
December 2023**

Standard (Minor) Permits ← → Streamlined Permits



PERMITS ISSUED - December 2023					
Permit #	Permit Type	Address	Geographic Township	Date Issued	Description
2023-272 (REVISED)	Standard	26 Hardwood St	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 18, 2023	Revision to include the installation of new septic
2023-359 (REVISED)	Standard	Kings Wharf & Pigeon Lake Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 18, 2023	Revision to include updated site plan
2023-371 (REVISED)	Standard	28 Rockway Trail	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 18, 2023	Revision to add septic to permit
2023-384 (REVISED)	Standard	1833 Crystal Lake Rd	Trent Lakes	December 18, 2023	Revision to include demolition and reconstruction of dwelling
2023-445	Standard	27 Leaside St	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 1, 2023	Construction of an upland boathouse and marine railway.
2023-446	Standard	53 Kenhill Beach Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 1, 2023	Repair of existing shore wall with upland armour stone and sloped rock for shoreline erosion protection.
2023-447	Standard	30 South Fork Dr	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 4, 2023	Demolition of existing garage and construction of a new 4-car garage.
2023-448	Standard	2 Ideal Pt	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 4, 2023	Shoreline erosion protection using armour stone and sloped rock.
2023-449	Streamlined	252 Hwy 7A	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 7, 2023	Demolition of existing structure
2023-450	Standard	70 Cedarview Dr	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 7, 2023	Construction of second-story addition to existing attached garage and fur-out of existing single-story attached garage to increase structural integrity.
2023-451	Standard	6 Gray Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 8, 2023	Installation of armour stone retaining wall
2023-452	Standard	52 Kent St E	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 11, 2023	Installation of gas service
2023-453	Standard	323 Fralicks Beach Rd	Scugog	December 11, 2023	Installation of gas service
2023-454	Streamlined	7 Alpine St	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 11, 2023	Grading and addition of crushed stone to existing driveway
2023-455	Standard	34 Fire Route 104A	Trent Lakes	December 12, 2023	Installation of shoreline erosion protection using armour stone and sloped rock.
2023-456	Standard	80 Charlore Park Dr	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 12, 2023	Horizontal directional drilling and/or open cut for the installation of gas service.
2023-457	Streamlined	80 Wakeford Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 12, 2023	Demolition of existing dwelling, deck, and garage
2023-458	Standard	49 Potts Shore	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 12, 2023	Shoreline erosion protection using sloped rock, and deck demolition and reconstruction.
2023-459	Streamlined	37 Huntingwood Cres	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 13, 2023	Demolition of existing deck and construction of new deck.
2023-460	Standard	1148 North Bay Dr	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 14, 2023	Shoreline erosion protection using armour stone and sloped rock, and replacement of stone steps for water access.
2023-461	Standard	19340 Scugog Point Rd	Scugog	December 14, 2023	Installation of gas service
2023-462	Standard	365 Fralicks Beach Rd	Scugog	December 14, 2023	Installation of gas service
2023-463	Standard	13 Jordan St	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 15, 2023	Installation of gas service
2023-464	Standard	319 Fralicks Beach Rd	Scugog	December 15, 2023	Horizontal directional drilling and/or open cut for the installation of gas service.
2023-465	Standard	258 Carnegie Beach Rd	Scugog	December 15, 2023	Horizontal directional drilling and/or open cut for the installation of gas service.
2023-466	Standard	9 Cedar Dale Dr	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 15, 2023	Shoreline erosion protection using armour stone and sloped rock.
2023-467	Standard	165 Fell's Point Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 18, 2023	Installation of 18,000L septic holding tank and raising existing cottage to construct additional story.
2023-468	Standard	Lakeview Cres	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 18, 2023	Horizontal directional drilling for the installation of gas pipeline.
2023-469	Standard	79 Fell's Point Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 18, 2023	Construction of a bunkie, minor residential addition, and shoreline erosion protection using armour stone and sloped rock.
2023-470	Standard	104 Sturgeon Glen Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 18, 2023	Shoreline erosion protection using armour stone and sloped rock.
2023-471	Standard	48 Lambs Lane	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 19, 2023	Construction of a new septic system.
2023-472	Standard	69 Rainbow Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 19, 2023	Demolition and reconstruction of on-shore boathouse.
2023-473	Standard	Riverside Dr	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 19, 2023	Horizontal directional drilling and/or open cut for the installation of gas pipeline and services in subdivision.
2023-474	Standard	Pearce Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 19, 2023	Construction of residential dwelling, driveway, garage, and septic.
2023-475	Standard	2 Ripple Street	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 19, 2023	Demolition of existing dwelling and reconstruction within existing footprint, installation of new septic.
2023-476	Standard	1168 King's Wharf Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 21, 2023	Replacement of existing septic system.
2023-477	Standard	3012 Chandler Dr	Scugog	December 22, 2023	Horizontal directional drilling and/or open cut for installation of gas services.
2023-478	Standard	Snake Point Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 22, 2023	Open cut and/or horizontal directional drilling for the installation of gas pipeline in subdivision.
2023-479	Streamlined	25 Snake Point Rd	City of Kawartha Lakes	December 22, 2023	Construction of a new porch.



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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Mantle, Director, Planning and Development Services

Re: Permit Application – 45 King St. W., Omeme

KEY ISSUE:

The construction of a new residential dwelling and attached garage partially within the flooding hazard for Omeme Mill Pond. Key elements of the policy not fulfilled include 1) the proposed basement below the regulatory flood elevation of Omeme Mill Pond and 2) a balanced cut-fill designed in 0.3 m increments.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the permit application submitted pursuant to Ontario Regulation 182/06: Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses to allow the construction of a residential dwelling with basement, attached garage, and modifications to an existing gravel driveway be approved and permitted.

Background

The subject land is located on the northern side of Highway 7 in the town of Omeme, between James St. and Alma St N. The permit application submitted includes the construction of a new residential dwelling, attached garage, and grade modifications to adjust the location of an existing gravel driveway. The location of the proposed residential dwelling and attached garage is shown in Figures 1 and 2 below. A permit has also been issued for the demolition of the existing residential dwelling located in the southeast corner of the property in 2023, which has been completed.

Analysis

The footprint of the current residential structure is slightly within the flood plain elevation identified for the Omeme Mill Pond, and within the 15 m allowance of the flood plain. The current Board-approved policies have stipulations regarding constructing within a flooding hazard and in this case, the following policies have elements that apply to the proposed development.

The residential dwelling is located entirely within the 15m regulated buffer for the floodplain of Omeme Mill Pond.



Figure 1: Approximate Building Location

For more information, please contact Matthew Mantle at extension 213.



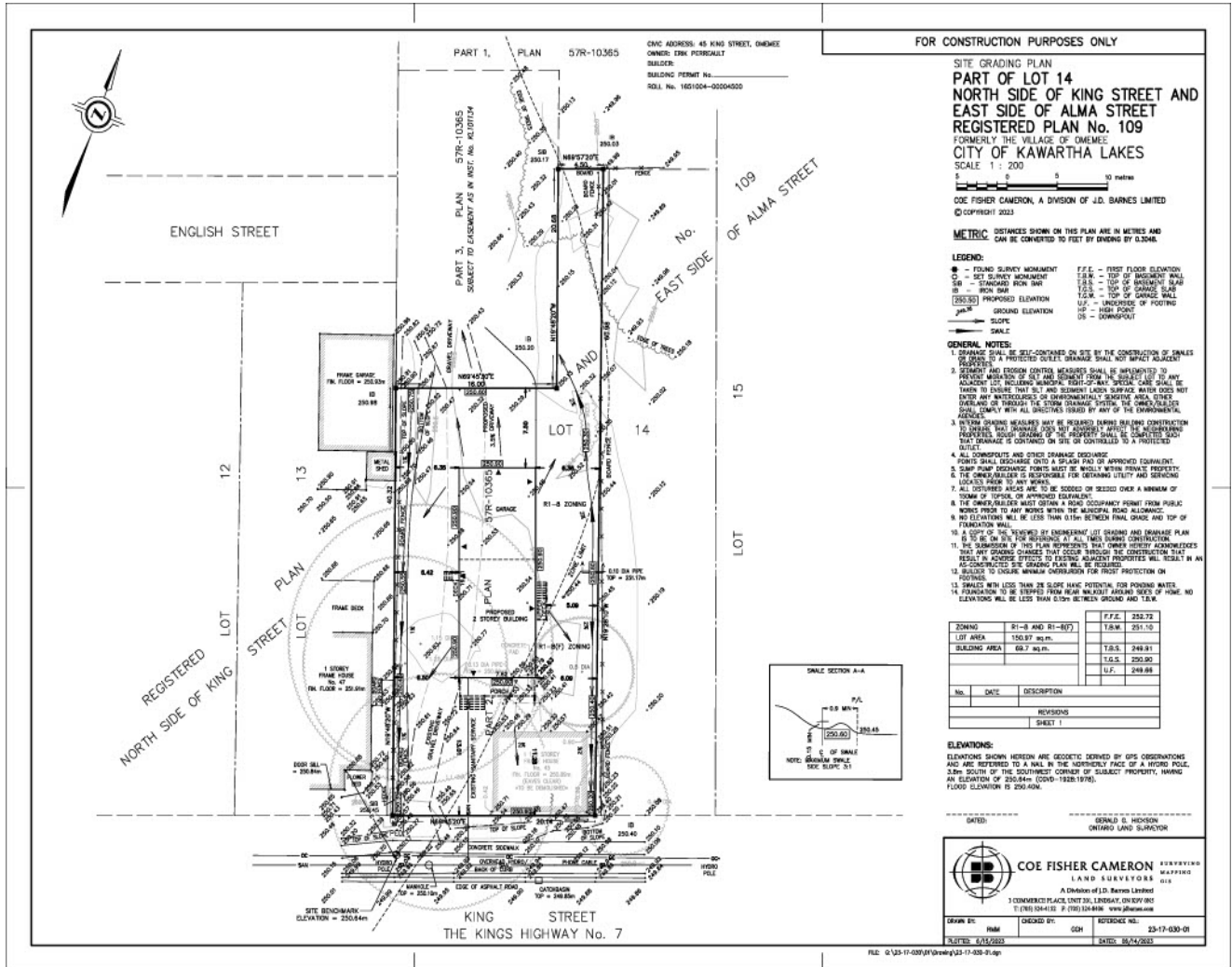
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Figure 2: Site Plan



The plans are also proposing a basement for the residential dwelling which would be located below the regulatory flood elevation for Omeme Mill Pond of 250.4 mASL. Additionally, a small portion of the attached garage footprint is located within the flooding hazard for Omeme Mill Pond. Therefore, the following New Residential Development section 4.5.2(2) will be used in preparation of a permit.

SPECIFIC POLICIES TO PROHIBIT OR REGULATE DEVELOPMENT – FLOODING HAZARDS
New Residential Development
4.5.2(2) On an existing lot of record where the current* zoning is appropriate to the nature of the proposed development, single residential development may be permitted within a flooding hazard provided it can be demonstrated that:

- there is no feasible alternative site outside of the *flooding hazard*;



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- the site is not subject to *frequent flooding* OR a *subwatershed* study or other *comprehensive plan* has confirmed that flooding has been artificially created as a result of undersized infrastructure such as culverts and bridges (i.e., a *backwater area*);
- the dwelling (including any crawlspace) will be floodproofed to an elevation of 0.3 metre above the *regulatory flood* elevation in accordance with floodproofing standards outlined in Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines;
- no basement is proposed;
- any new *accessory building* or *structure* can satisfy all of the conditions of Policy 4.5.2(24);
- any new and/or replacement sewage treatment system will be located outside of the *flooding hazard* OR where this is not feasible, can satisfy all of the conditions of Policy 4.5.2(37);
- *access (ingress/egress)* conditions are “dry” where this standard can be practically achieved, or floodproofed to an elevation which is practical and feasible, but no less than *safe*;
- design and lot modifications (e.g., *balanced cut and fill* operation designed in 0.3 metre vertical increments) will reduce the risk of flooding and property damage, to ensure that there will be no *adverse hydraulic or fluvial impacts* on *lakes, rivers, creeks, streams or watercourses*. Engineered hydraulic analyses may be required, at the discretion of the Authority, to demonstrate that there will be no detrimental effect on upstream water levels or local stream flow velocities; and,
- *inert fill material* will be used. The proponent may be required to provide proof of the origin and quality of the *fill material* to ensure the control of *pollution* and the *conservation of land* are not adversely affected.

***Changes to the current zoning will not be supported by KRCA except where the policies contained in Chapter 3 can be satisfied.**

The proposal for the residential structure adheres to most of Kawartha Conservation’s policies, with the exception that no basement is proposed. The basement will be located within the 15m regulated floodplain buffer (outside of the flood plain elevation), however the proposed floor elevation of the basement is 249.1 mASL, which is 0.5m below the flooding hazard elevation of Omeme Mill Pond of 250.4 mASL.

Due to the basement of the proposed dwelling and a small portion of the proposed attached garage being located below the regulatory flood elevation for Omeme Mill Pond, the proponent has undertaken engineering work to demonstrate that the structures will be wet-floodproofed in accordance with Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines identified in Kawartha Conservation’s Board-approved policies.

It has been demonstrated that the proposed basement and foundation have been reviewed by a qualified professional for impacts due to hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loading pressures. Engineering work prepared by a qualified professional indicates that all construction materials below the regulatory flood elevation are of a type that are not subject

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to damage by alternate wetting and drying, and that all electrical components will be floodproofed to an elevation 0.3 m above the regulatory flood elevation for Omemee Mill Pond (i.e., 250.4 mASL + 0.3 m for a total minimum elevation of 250.7 mASL). Permit conditions will be applied to ensure that the storage of nutrients, pesticides, and chemicals etc. in the proposed structures will be stored above an elevation of 250.7 mASL.

Lot grade modifications and placement of compacted granular are proposed to raise the grade elevation at the ground floor of the dwelling and the attached garage to 250.9 mASL, as shown in Figure 2 above. Therefore, the following Fill Placement, Excavation and/or Grade Modifications section 4.5.2(37) will be used in preparation of a permit.

SPECIFIC POLICIES TO PROHIBIT OR REGULATE DEVELOPMENT – FLOODING HAZARDS

Fill Placement, Excavation and/or Grade Modifications

4.5.2(37) *Fill placement, excavation, and/or grade modifications may be permitted within a flooding hazard where the works are: associated with existing access roads and driveways; required for the purpose of floodproofing existing structures; required for erosion control; and/or, to facilitate the installation of geothermal, and water and/or sewage treatment systems provided it can be demonstrated that:*

- the bed for sewage treatment systems will be located outside of the flooding hazard OR where this is not feasible, at a minimum, raised above the *regulatory flood* elevation plus an appropriate* separation distance;
- *stage-storage discharge relationships* of the *floodplain* will be maintained (e.g., by means of an incrementally *balanced cut and fill* operation designed in 0.3 metre vertical increments) to ensure that there will be no *adverse hydraulic or fluvial impacts* on *lakes, rivers, creeks, streams, or watercourses*. Engineered hydraulic analyses may be required, at the discretion of the Authority, to demonstrate that the later condition has been met and that there will be no detrimental effect on upstream water levels or local stream flow velocities; and,
- *inert fill material* will be used. The proponent may be required to provide proof of the origin and quality of the *fill material* to ensure the control of *pollution* and the *conservation of land* are not adversely affected;

***Appropriate separation distance to be determined by KRCA staff in consultation with the approval agency.**

Permitted fill placement, excavation and/or grade modifications may be seasonally restricted and subject to a specified time frame to enable stabilization/revegetation of the disturbed area.

The applicant has demonstrated that applicable policies related to the proposed grade modifications are satisfied, with exception of proposing an incrementally balanced cut and fill operation designed in 0.3 m vertical increments to ensure that there will be no adverse hydraulic or fluvial impact on Omemee Mill Pond. It is estimated that the loss of flood storage due to the construction of the dwelling, driveway, and attached garage will be less than 1 cubic metre, as only a very small portion of these modifications will occur within the flood plain elevation of the Omemee Mill Pond. Therefore, adverse hydraulic or fluvial impacts to Omemee Mill Pond will be negligible. It is the opinion of staff that natural hazard

For more information, please contact Matthew Mantle at extension 213.



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risk will be minimal for the construction of the proposed residential dwelling and attached garage.

Summary

The proposed construction of a new residential dwelling with basement, attached garage, and associated grade modifications can generally satisfy Kawartha Conservation policies pertaining to the requirements and conditions for constructing within a flooding hazard, except for the policy stipulating that no basement will be constructed below the regulatory flood elevation, and fully satisfying the incremental balance cut/fill.

The residential structure is proposed to have flood proofing in accordance with Appendix L – Floodproofing Guidelines identified in KRCA Plan Review and Regulation Policies (revised 2013). Further, the volume of fill within the flood hazard proposed is minimal (<1m³) and is anticipated to have negligible impact.

Staff are of the opinion that the proposed modifications and subsequent construction will not increase the flood risk to public safety or property damage from a natural hazard perspective.

Acknowledgements/ Contributions from:

Will Chapple, Permitting Analyst

Note: File #PRGK-450



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January 25, 2024

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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO
Jonathan Lucas, Director, Corporate Services
Kristie Virgoe, Director, Stewardship and Conservation Lands
Matthew Mantle, Director, Planning and Development Services
Nancy Aspden, Acting Director, Integrated Watershed Management

Re: Strategic Actions Update – 4th Quarter

KEY ISSUE:

To provide strategic actions updates related to our programs and projects from October 1 to December 31, 2023.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the staff report on Strategic Actions update for the fourth quarter be received.

BACKGROUND

Progress updates on our strategic plan actions related to our programs and projects for the fourth quarter are provided for review and information. Senior staff members will be present to address any questions.

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

PROTECT AND RESTORE

1. Ensure the Ongoing Health of our Watershed

Implement, update, and adapt Lake Management Plans to address emerging issues

- Lake Dalrymple Management Plan:
 - Completed Year 3 of monitoring for the Lake Dalrymple Management Plan, which includes monitoring 4 lake sites, 6 streams, 1 precipitation, 4 water level stations, and shoreline survey.
 - Held 1 working group meeting at Carden Recreation Centre. 10 local stakeholders attended, who provided input into our online Monitoring Dashboard tool, and draft management recommendations. (Nov 16)
 - Nine social media posts, including a video – the Deepest Darkest Deaths of Lake Dalrymple, was produced for the Lake Dalrymple Management Plan, resulting in a reach of 9,686, as well as 294 Clicks back to the Lake Dalrymple Management page on the Kawartha Conservation website.
- City of Kawartha Lakes Implementation Action Plan:
 - Erosion and Sediment Control:
 - Hosted Erosion and Sediment Control Symposium (Dec 7), in Fenelon Falls. 72 participants mostly contractors, consultants, approval agencies, and municipal staff. Presentations from 9 industry professionals on various topics. Vendors from 10 organizations. Event feedback form submitted by 17 attendees was very positive and several suggestions provided for subsequent events (e.g., more case studies, drone use for enforcement, approval process).
 - Captured, edited, and posted to website 11 videos from Kawartha Conservation’s Sediment and Erosion Control Symposium.
 - Undertook inspections at 5 construction sites in Lindsay (Oct 12 & 19). Common deficiencies included: improper maintenance of controls covering storm sewer inlets, bare soils on high slopes, and lack of controls in conveyance pathways (e.g., ditches that provide a direct connection to waterways and wetlands).
 - Aquatic Plant Control:
 - Attended a project partner ‘2023 project summary’ meeting (Dec 6). Preliminary results indicate that aquatic thrusters did have a significant impact (reduction) on submerged aquatic plants at 6 test sites (3 on Lake Scugog, 3 on Canal Lake).
 - Investigative Upstream Monitoring
 - Continued to work with Trent University to sample 12 sites across Janetville, Stoney, and Sucker Creek. For Q4, we collect two rounds of samples (24 samples).
 - We retrieved water temperature and conductivity loggers from 12 sites, this represents continuous data (hourly interval) from May to October.

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

- Investigative Upstream Monitoring – Rural Extension
 - Completed the monitoring for this program. For Q4, we collected 61 samples, including 3 microbial source tracking samples.
 - Initiated data analysis and drafting final report on key findings.
- Forestry:
 - Planted 295 trees and shrubs as a community plant on October 28 at Ken Reid Park with 9 volunteers ranging from high school and Fleming College students to local citizens.
 - Hosted 40 students from Bobcaygeon Public School to plant 90 trees and shrubs to naturalize areas of Ken Reid CA, followed by interactive nature hikes around Ken Reid and learning to identify common species of trees. (Oct. 10)
 - Seedling sale launched (Nov 22) and was approximately 30% sold out by end of year.
- WATER Fund Program:
 - Visited 11 sites to explore stewardship projects for the WATER Fund (7 agricultural, and 4 waterfront).
 - Issued payments for completed WATER fund projects.
- OMAFRA Stewardship Projects:
 - Created and posted two social media posts regarding the Talbot River Subwatershed OMAFRA project, resulting in 1,333 impressions, 8 clicks to the Kawartha Conservation website, and 18 engagements (likes, comments, and shares).
 - Completed last of the 5 OMAFRA-funded Talbot River Healthy Environment Initiative demonstration projects. Collected drone ‘after footage’ and water samples for final site.
 - Liaised with OMAFRA to discuss opportunities to expand program for 2024

Provide data-driven recommendations to advise on water resource issues

- N/A

Foster and enhance a multi-partner approach to safe drinking water

- Through both the Conservation Ontario Fall Source Water Protection campaign and the Drinking Water Source Protection campaign, 28 social media posts were published. The two campaigns generated a reach of 13,997, with 95 Engagements (likes, comments, shares).
- Attended various meetings to discuss program updates, emerging issues, progress on the Section 36 amendment package, the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe FUEL-4 policy, and preparation for pre-consultation and public consultation phases of the amendment process.
- Assisted in the delivery of the Risk Management Official/Inspector training course hosted by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- Issued 5 S.59 Notices and 2 letters for development proposals within vulnerable areas.

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

- Completed the negotiation of 1 Risk Management Plan for an agricultural and industrial property in the Woodville Wellhead Protection Area.
- Provided input to a project proposal tied to protecting source water in a watershed context for a third party.

Review planning and development guidelines that support watershed protection

- Attended consultation session on the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' proposal to streamline environmental permissions for water taking and stormwater management activities under the EASR on Oct 3, 2023, which provided latest updates on applicable policies.
- Attended a training session identifying the OLT process of permit appeals (Nov 6), hosted by Conservation Ontario/Ontario Land Tribunal (CO/OLT).
- Integration of CO guidance material for compliance processes.
- Attended Core Watershed Resource Based Management Strategy working session (Nov 17) to determine coordinating approaches and next steps.

Continue to adapt to changing climates by enhancing our flood forecasting services and monitoring network

- Issued a Watershed Conditions Statement – Water Safety (Oct. 5)
- Updated the municipal contact list for both the Flood Contingency Plan and Flood Forecasting Standard Operating Procedure.
- Improved the efficiency of performing the daily planning cycle, by developing an automated dashboard using R statistical program, which pulls real time data for all our precipitation and water level stations and displays them in one location.
- Submitted funding application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) for a replacement all-weather station at Ken Reid Conservation Area.

Continue ongoing and proactive Flood Plain mapping programs

Fenelon Falls South Tributary

- Fenelon Falls South Tributary flood plain mapping study was endorsed by the board in November 2023.
- The final study will be sent to our provincial representative of the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and owners influenced by the study will receive notification in early 2024 that their properties may be affected.
- Fenelon Falls South Tributary flood plain areas were added to Kawartha Conservation's internal web mapping application for permitting and planning staff.

Haliburton

- Our Flood Plain Mapping Technician completed additional field work (structure surveys) to support the development of floodplain mapping for Haliburton. Next steps include providing information on structures (e.g., bridges, culverts, and dams) and preparing the flood maps during late fall 2023/winter months 2024.

Trent Lakes

- Miskwa Ziibi River and Nogies Creek field work has been completed.

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

- An engineering consultant was retained to carry out hydrology and hydraulics modelling and we have transferred the base information required for their work to be carried out.

Increase awareness of flood impacts and potential through pro-active community engagement

- N/A

2. Encourage participation in environmental initiatives

Support and expand our volunteer-based programs

- Hosted 2 planting events with 49 volunteers from school groups and local citizens
- The Climate Change Action Program, in partnership with the Kawartha Lake Stewards Association and the Scugog Lake Stewards, consisting of 38 volunteers, concluded in 2023 with the provision of volunteer-collected precipitation and water temperature data. The annual report was initiated by staff.

Continue implementation of our forest regeneration program with landowners

- Seedling sale launched (Nov. 22); Bounce Radio interview conducted to promote the Annual Seedling sale.
- Completed year 1, 2, and 5 survival assessments from planting projects in 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Explore opportunities for enhanced landowner and community-based stewardship projects

- Met with MSIFN on Seven Mile Island to discuss location of fish spawning shoal expansion project (increase of fish spawning habitat by 525m² (75 x 7.0m)) related to the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project Fish Offsetting Plan.
- Attended a meeting with York University (Environmental & Urban Change) staff to explore opportunities for co-op based agricultural programs related to the OMAFRA demonstration site water monitoring. (Nov. 2)
- Liaised with OMAFRA partner to discuss opportunities to expand program for 2024.
- Attended various agriculture related sessions (ALUS Peterborough, Ontario Farmland Trust, Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program, Greenbelt Soil Health Testing program)

2. Ensure the safety of people, property, and public infrastructure

Track key environmental trends impacting the watershed and report on results at least every 3 years

- Sampled 11 PWQMN sites and completed our annual water quality groundwater sampling for 13 PGMN wells.
- Completed pesticide monitoring in groundwater for MECP and Health Canada.
- Initiated our winter PWQMN sampling (Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar).
- Retrieved and deployed 29 water temperature data loggers on sensitive groundwater fed streams.
- Completed and published a precipitation monitoring dashboard on our website under Watershed Monitoring > Precipitation. Created and implemented a programming script that allows for seamless updating on any required period.

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

Continued implementation and review of measures to address climate change

- Continued work on the 10-Year Climate Change Strategy. Posted for all-staff review, feedback, and comments.
- Submitted funding application to Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation Staff Capacity Program. Funding would provide staffing for 16 weeks to complete a Climate Vulnerability Study for the Kawartha watershed.

Evaluate natural features to better streamline planning/permitting approvals

- Completed a draft technical report for Durham Watershed Planning project, which includes information to help municipal planners conform to provincial policies, including verification on location of permanent and intermittent streams in Port Perry, location of sensitive fish habitats on Scugog Island, and location of tall grass prairies across Durham Region.
- Conducted 18 site visits to confirm the presence and boundary of regulated features to support the permitting process and enhance our understanding of the location and extent of natural hazards in our watershed.
- Completed 5 regulation change updates which included 1 Hazard Area removal, 2 wetland removals, and a watercourse removal.

Make the planning and permitting process more understandable

- Completed 36 permitting pre-consultation meetings and responded to numerous phone and email inquiries with clients to assist them through the permitting process.
- Initiated internal work on updating our company website to provide better clarity for permit application types and requirements.
- Provided learning opportunities for the public on the telephone, through emails and at 10 compliance site visits.

ENGAGE AND INSPIRE

1. Maintain and enhance our Conservation Areas to provide healthy outdoor experiences

Develop and execute a plan for infrastructure upgrades at our conservation areas

- Installed approximately 900 ft of exclusion fencing on the escarpment for Ken Reid CA (Nov. 27).
- Installed signs identifying 2 portage launch sites at Ken Reid Conservation Area.
- Updated Ken Reid trails map to include the newly installed wind phones and disc golf trails.

Explore service and program expansion opportunities at our conservation areas

- Attended Conservation Areas Workshop, providing an opportunity to network and learn from others. Staff attended sessions on how to handle encampments within conservation areas, event planning, construction techniques for stewardships projects and more. (Oct 24, 25, 26)

Explore feasibility of development of a multi-use facility at Ken Reid Conservation Area

- N/A

Provide programs and activities to support mental health and wellness

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

- Delivered two Forest Therapy sessions at Ken Reid to a total of 5 people. (Oct. 27, Nov. 17)

Review the land acquisition process for growth of the conservation area network in underserved areas

- N/A

2. Community Building

Expand engagement, collaboration and knowledge sharing with our First Nation communities

- Held a meeting with MSIFN to engage and seek input on proposed work in Lake Scugog. (Oct. 27)
- Received approval from Chief and Council of MSIFN for the Fish Spawning Shoal Extension on 7 Mile Island and drafted a service agreement for work on their behalf.
- Engaged with MSIFN for the Fish Spawning Shoal extension on 7 Mile Island, which resulted in a field survey of the extension.

Explore tourism and economic opportunities of value to the community, businesses, and member municipalities

- Continued to work closely with the Kawartha Lakes Public Library to support the Story Walk Trail at Ken Reid Conservation Area. Monthly media releases and social media coincide with the release of each new Story Walk book.
- Lake Scugog Enhancement Project:
 - Underwent a field survey for shoal extension on 7 Mile Island
 - Submitted updated versions of the fisheries offsetting plan and Basic Impact Assessment
 - The contract of the Baagwating OGS was awarded with installation and completion in December 2023.
 - Attended the Healthy Lake Steering Committee Meeting to discuss possible recommendations moving forward with project. i.e. tendering out individual project components of project. (Nov. 2)
 - Signed off on the MOU for LSEP with the Township of Scugog, Scugog Lake Stewards and the Healthy Lake Scugog Steering Committee

Expand our connections with our municipal partners and establish working relationships for projects of benefit to the community

- Liaised with several municipal partners at Erosion and Sediment Control Symposium over a shared interest in improving water quality by reducing sedimentation into local waterways from construction projects. (Dec. 7)
- Attended the CKL Environmental Advisory Committee quarterly meeting. (Oct 12)
- Liaised with Durham Region staff regarding a proposal to control Japanese Knotweed populations in Port Perry.
- Attended Durham Regions GIS Working Group meeting. (Nov 15)
- As a member of the CACIS planning committee (GIS and IT focus), contributed to the successful planning, implementation, and moderation of the information sessions. (Nov. 20, 21, 22)
- Coordinated the imagery acquisition project for our watershed from the MNRF.

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

Expand our outreach and collaboration with educational partners to develop and strengthen strategic, beneficial, and impactful opportunities for learning

- Hosted the Trillium Lakelands District School Board for their annual Cross Country Day with 840 students in attendance from different schools throughout the district. (Oct. 5)
 - Hosted the Cross-Country Championships. This event included a total of 200 students from across multiple districts including Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Kawartha Pineridge District School Board and the Catholic School Board. (Oct. 18)
 - Entered a winter contract with At Last Forest School through to the beginning of April. They will be at Ken Reid once a week teaching kids how to make a connection with the diverse natural environment around them through play and inquiry-based learning. Their forest school operates with the philosophy of “regular repeated access to the same natural space” and are hopeful to continue their schooling programs here at Ken Reid for the foreseeable future.
 - Hosted Pinnguaq Association for their annual Take Me Outside Day. Students spent the morning on a guided medicine walk with a local knowledge holder and then spent time in the afternoon on the trails using a micro:bit (small programmable microcontroller) for navigational activities.(Oct. 18)
 - Partnered with Fleming College’s Environmental Technology 3rd year students, 3 student groups, on an Applied Research Project (Characterizing water quality, habitat, and aquatic life at minimally impacted shorelines along Sturgeon Lake and Lake Scugog). Students submitted a technical report and gave an in-house presentation on their key findings (Dec 8).
 - Staff trained 13 students from Fleming College’s Environment Technology 3rd year students on how to sample fishes using seine nets at Ken Reid Conservation Area (Oct 30). Data will help track long term changes in the health of our shoreline.
 - Our collaborative work with Brock University on our Durham Implementation and CKL Implementation programs titled *Impacts of Land Use on Dissolved Organic Matter Quality in Agricultural Watersheds: A Molecular Perspective* was accepted into the journal Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts.
 - Partnered with Fleming College Conceptual Restoration program to mentor/work with 4 groups of students in creating conceptual restoration plans for Durham Eco Corridor and to target invasive species at Ken Reid Conservation Area.
 - September through December, we worked with a group of 4 students from Fleming College's Ecosystem Management Program’s Credit 4 Product project. We worked with OHT to help the students draft a DSV management plan for the Fleetwood property.
 - Hosted an Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network certification course at Trent University (October), in partnership with Trent University Ecological Restoration Society. Staff trained 19 students as part of our Innovation Hub activity.
 - Presented to students at I.E. Weldon Secondary school on how Kawartha Conservation uses GIS.
 - Submitted two projects to the Sir Sandford Fleming College’s GIS Collaborative project.
-

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

Continue to engage with, and cultivate positive relationships with our agriculture, business, urban, rural, and lake-based sectors

- Met with Scugog Lake Stewards (Nov. 17) to discuss priorities for monitoring and managing Lake Scugog.
- Attended the CKL Environmental Advisory Committee quarterly meeting (Oct. 12).
- Attended various agricultural-related sessions advancing agricultural environmental priorities.

Continue the use of interactive technology to connect people with nature

- Development and update of monitoring dashboards to share information about their environment.

Coordinate community events that provide value to the community

- Hosted the 4th annual Christmas at Ken Reid Event for our community. The event included horse drawn wagon rides, petting zoo, visits with Santa, kid's crafts, live shows with Reptilia Zoo, a brand-new artisanal vendor market and so much more. The event was incredibly successful with approximately 3000 people in attendance through the course of the day. (Dec. 2)
- For the entire month of December, we hosted the second annual Illuminated Forest. This year the trail was increased to a total of 1km in length with many more lights added along the way. Staff were onsite in the evenings to assist with event parking and to connect with the community. The event garnered a ton of positive feedback and patrons visiting from as far as Peterborough, Kitchener, and Ottawa.
- Attended the Lindsay Santa Claus Parade to promote our Christmas at Ken Reid event. (Nov. 19)
- Hosted 2 Cross country championship days at Ken Reid conservation Area. (Oct. 5, 18)
- Held community planting events in Ken Reid with local school groups and interested citizens

Cultivate experiences and relationships that inspire proactive social behaviour to protect and respect our environment

- N/A

INNOVATE AND ENHANCE

1. Increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery

Enhance and employ meaningful performance measures to report on our progress

- Using Meltwater Engage, communication staff have regularly reviewed social media analytics to determine the types of posts/content/topics that resonate most with our online audiences, to ensure we're providing the information our audiences want on the platforms they use, to help further our connection and growth across the watershed and beyond.
- Enhanced accountability and achievement of CALC timelines for permitting through regular team meetings and collaborative effort. Observed increased success in meeting timelines for permit application review and issuance in accordance with Conservation Ontario Permit Streamlining and Client Service Initiative during 4th Quarter.

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

Make information and data more easily accessible and understandable for everyone

- Created an internal dashboard for Flood Forecasting which allows staff to get the most up-to-date climate and water level information from our own stations and those of MNRF, MTO, and ECCC.

Review processes to ensure they are clearly documented and communicated effectively

- Development and review of standard operating processes in permitting activities

Continue to drive positive change as an industry leader in business and environmental best practices

- Two staff attended Conservation Authorities University Executive Development Program (CAU) Module 1 – Conservation Authority Governance (Oct 18 & 19) and Module 2 – Public Administration (Dec 12 & 13).
- Automated several forms from paper documents to electronic forms with a scripted approval process that substantially increased processing time and records for the finance department.

2. Share our stories to enhance community awareness

Increase communication opportunities and outreach to engage an expanded and diverse audience

- Wrote, and distributed nine media releases in Q4.
- Attended the 18th Annual Municipal Communications Conference. (Nov. 27, 28,29)
- Bounce Radio interview to promote Christmas at Ken Ried, and the Annual Seedling sale.
- Created a ‘deepest darkest depths of Lake Dalrymple’ video to engage lake users on issues related to dissolved oxygen and water temperature in our lakes.

Develop increased awareness of Kawartha Conservation and the positive impact we have on the natural environment and our communities

- Between October 1 and December 31, 2023, communications posted 765 social media posts (a 15% increase over the previous quarter). Post engagements reached 39,300 (a 212% increase over the previous quarter). Post impressions reached 570,000 (an increase of 89% from the previous quarter’s 302,000), and Post reach hit 448,000 (an increase of 116% over the previous quarter).

Continue conversations with our community, business, and agency stakeholders on environmental issues to support positive change

- Please see points in other sections; particularly “Community Engagement”

3. Ensure we have the resources we need to provide our services

Increase organizational resiliency

- Initiation of Pay Equity and Compensation review, which will improve our internal classifications and ensure comparability in the employment market.
- Program development and sourcing of funding.

Explore fundraising and strategic partnership opportunities that support our mission and vision

- Hosted the final Ontario Building Code – Part 8, On-Site Sewage System Exam Prep course of 2023 with 8 participants. (Nov. 13-17)

Kawartha Conservation Strategic Plan 2022-2026: Strategic Goals and Enablers

Accomplishments from October 1 – December 31, 2023.

Q4, 2023

- The partnership with Two Blokes Cider resulted in the Kawartha Conservation branded Lip Sumacker Cider being a sell out, increasing the brand exposure and recognition of Kawartha Conservation to a non-traditional audience.
- Launched a Community Events Sponsorship program securing \$2,500.00 in funds.
- Liaised with OMAFRA partner to discuss opportunities to expand program for 2024, with a focus on water quality monitoring.

4. Increase our organizational resiliency

Ensure our organization is able to adapt and respond effectively to future challenges

- Development and approval of 3 of 4 MOUs with municipalities, reinforcing commitments to undertake work of benefit to our watershed communities. One MOU is scheduled for January 2024 approvals.
- Early work on the Conservation Lands Strategy and Watershed Resource Based Management Strategy initiated.

Continue to put people first, recognizing the value and contributions of our team, customers, and community

- Secured a vendor for our Pay Equity and Compensation Review project to ensure our organization is equitable and competitive to attract and retain the talent required to deliver our programs and services.
- Hosted a Team Day with the organization to focus on team building and conservation focused education in an interactive way including analytics, legislation, and cybersecurity presentations.
- Brought our permitting activities to within targets established through the CALC timelines, respecting customer service outcomes.

Explore and implement digital infrastructure to enhance business success and outcomes

- Updated file structure and naming convention in the Information Management System to clearly identify and separate typical permit applications from compliance or violation files.



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BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO

Re: CAO Report

KEY ISSUE:

To provide the Board of Directors with a monthly CAO Report.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the CAO Monthly Report for meeting #1/24 be received.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Staff continue to develop our 2024 budget and align budget processes and internal processes to harmonize with legislation outcomes. These changes have been communicated across the organization to set 2024 firmly in implementation of the new legislative model.

We have continued to work towards compliance with legislative changes involving apportionment agreements with municipalities. Signatures on MOUs with 3 of 4 participating municipalities were coordinated prior to December 31st, 2023. Amendments to the agreement provided by the Region of Durham as a result of their internal and legal review were reviewed, discussed and agreed to at the staff level. This MOU is scheduled for review by Committee of the Whole (January 17th) and by Council (January 31st) at the Region of Durham. The MOU is provided further in this agenda for review.

Communications

Recent activity has been focused on the development of the annual report and supporting materials, as well as finalizing the 10-Year Climate Change Strategy. Communications staff has also been focused on responding to media inquiries, and online engagement during the holiday season.










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	Peterborough Examiner New flood plain mapping aids planning for Kawartha Lakes	Jan 3 - 5:00 AM
	Global News · Greg Davis Vandals force closure of Illuminated Forest at Ken Reid Conservation in Lindsay, Ont.	Jan 2 - 10:02 AM
	Peterborough Examiner Holiday spirit darkened at Lindsay conservation area after Illuminated Forest sustains damage	Jan 2 - 9:58 AM
	Global News Vandals strike Illuminated Forest at Ken Reid Conservation Area in Lindsay, Ont.	Jan 2 - 9:33 AM
	CHEX Peterborough Global News Morning	Jan 2 - 8:30 AM
	CHEX Peterborough CHEX News at 11	Dec 31, 2023 - 11:00 PM
	KawarthaNOW.com Illuminated Forest at Ken Reid Conservation Area near Lindsay closed due to vandalism	Dec 31, 2023 - 10:21 AM

Media Releases

Communications produced and distributed two media releases in December.

- [Discover the joy of First Day Hikes with Kawartha Conservation](#)
- [The Mitten returns to the Story Walk Trail in time for the holidays](#)

Social Media

From December 1 to December 31, Kawartha Conservation posted 259 updates to their social media channels, resulting in 367,000 post impressions, and reaching 326,000 people. Post impressions was up 220% from the previous month, while post reach was up 338% from the previous month.

Kawartha Conservation also enjoyed 35,900 video views during the same period, and 24,700 clicks to our website content through our social media efforts.

Below are the cross channel top posts. Reviewing top posts by channel provides valuable information when it comes to generating interest, gaining followers, and creating engagement. You'll note on the four below, the top posts are completely different, based on the platform, as are the number of engagements, reactions, comments, etc.

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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Cross Channel Top Posts

Platform	Post Title	Reactions	Comments	Shares	Post link clicks	Video views	Engagements	Engagement rate
Facebook	Due to vandalism, The Illuminated Forest ...	394	03	259	11,702	0	12,448	20.19%
Facebook	What an incredible day. The smiles, the h...	105	15	8	1,065	0	1,183	18.0%
Post	The Illuminated Forest returns to Ken Re...	251	4	20	0	0	347	15.59%
TikTok	It's beginning to look a lot like Christm...	52	4	0	456	4,9166	58.0	12.02%

Our top performing posts by platform are shared below for your interest.

Facebook

Top Facebook Posts

Platform	Post Title	Reactions	Comments	Shares	Post link clicks	Video views	Engagements	Engagement rate
Facebook	Due to vandalism, The Illuminated Forest ...	394	03	209	11,702	0	12,448	20.19%
Facebook	What an incredible day. The smiles, the h...	105	15	8	1,065	0	1,183	16.8%
Facebook	Kawartha Conservation partnered with Fle...	31	2	0	159	0	192	8.93%
Facebook	Kawartha Conservation is thrilled to anno...	29	3	6	188	0	207	7.78%

Instagram

Top Instagram Posts

Platform	Post Title	Likes	Comments	Saves	Video views	Engagements	Engagement rate
Post	The Illuminated Forest returns to Ken Re...	251	4	20	0	347	15.59%
Post	Illuminated Forest FAQs 📍 Where is t...	70	2	0	0	88	11.48%
Post	The Illuminated Forest - Update 📍 Visito...	115	2	8	0	138	11.1%
Reel	That changed quickly. But it's beginning ...	60	8	2	830	92	11.68%

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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LinkedIn

Top LinkedIn Posts

<p>Kawartha conservation LINKEDIN Dec 17, 02:30 PM</p> <p>You can now watch the 2023 Erosion & Sed...</p>  <p>Reactions: 13 Comments: 0 Shares: 1 Post link clicks: 35 Video views: 0 Engagements: 49 Engagement rate: 6.41%</p>	<p>Kawartha conservation LINKEDIN Dec 3, 12:35 PM</p> <p>Reducing road salt use 'not something that can wait' as Ontario lakes see oxygen depletion, researcher says https://lnkd.in/gUfjvY47</p> <p>Reactions: 26 Comments: 1 Shares: 3 Post link clicks: 10 Video views: 0 Engagements: 40 Engagement rate: 9.28%</p>	<p>Kawartha conservation LINKEDIN Dec 14, 03:08 PM</p> <p>Kawartha Conservation staff surveying bat...</p>  <p>Reactions: 35 Comments: 5 Shares: 1 Post link clicks: 75 Video views: 0 Engagements: 116 Engagement rate: 5.2%</p>	<p>Kawartha conservation LINKEDIN Dec 12, 04:00 PM</p> <p>Photographer, Michelle Bessie Brown spott...</p>  <p>Reactions: 11 Comments: 0 Shares: 0 Post link clicks: 4 Video views: 0 Engagements: 15 Engagement rate: 4.92%</p>
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TikTok

Top TikTok Posts

<p>Kawartha conservation TIKTOK Dec 12, 07:30 PM</p> <p>It's beginning to look a lot like Christm...</p>  <p>Likes: 52 Comments: 4 Shares: 0 Video views: 466 Avg. time watched: 4.8025 Engagements: 56.0 Engagement rate: 12.02%</p>	<p>Kawartha conservation TIKTOK Dec 24, 07:00 PM</p> <p>Merry Christmas from Ken Reid Conservatio...</p>  <p>Likes: 15 Comments: 0 Shares: 0 Video views: 150 Avg. time watched: 2.5058 Engagements: 15.0 Engagement rate: 10%</p>	<p>Kawartha conservation TIKTOK Dec 26, 07:00 PM</p> <p>Make a trip to a local conservation are...</p> <p>over a minute of crunching fresh snow asmr</p>  <p>Likes: 39 Comments: 1 Shares: 0 Video views: 423 Avg. time watched: 7.0263 Engagements: 40.0 Engagement rate: 9.45%</p>	<p>Kawartha conservation TIKTOK Dec 2, 07:00 PM</p> <p>Such a great time at Christmas at Ken Rei...</p>  <p>Likes: 39 Comments: 0 Shares: 1 Video views: 444 Avg. time watched: 5.654 Engagements: 40.0 Engagement rate: 9.01%</p>
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X (Formerly Twitter)

Top Tweets

<p>Kawarthaconservation TWITTER Dec 1, 00:51 AM</p> <p>Tomorrow is Christmas at Ken Reid! 🌲 🎄 🎅 ...</p>  <p>Likes: 2 Replies: 0 Retweets: 0 Quote tweets: 0 Video views: 0 Engagements: 4 Engagement rate: 8.51%</p>	<p>Kawarthaconservation TWITTER Dec 29, 12:00 PM</p> <p>#IlluminatedForest FAQs 🌟 📍 277 Kenrei Rd...</p>  <p>Likes: 3 Replies: 0 Retweets: 1 Quote tweets: 0 Video views: 0 Engagements: 5 Engagement rate: 6.1%</p>	<p>Kawarthaconservation TWITTER Dec 5, 06:13 PM</p> <p>The Illuminated Forest is open nightly fr...</p>  <p>Likes: 5 Replies: 0 Retweets: 4 Quote tweets: 0 Video views: 49 Engagements: 10 Engagement rate: 5.29%</p>	<p>Kawarthaconservation TWITTER Dec 13, 06:53 AM</p> <p>Beautiful morning https://t.co/BNKV8iSDZO</p>  <p>Likes: 5 Replies: 0 Retweets: 1 Quote tweets: 0 Video views: 0 Engagements: 6 Engagement rate: 4.8%</p>
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For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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Finance

The finance team has been busy with the core functions of accounts receivable, payable and payroll. We continue to focus efforts on the 2024 budget process with a second draft being presented to the Board in January and preparing a capital projects list for February.

As the 2023 fiscal year has come to an end, the finance team is completing system rollovers, developing year-end working papers, annual reporting, and has started preliminary audit work with our audit firm.

Human Resources/Health & Safety

Our Pay Equity and Compensation Review project is progressing well. Position information questionnaires have been completed and are currently under review for Pay Equity compliance. Additionally, the comparative information from other organizations have been obtained and analysis is underway. We anticipate that a final report will be completed early in 2024.

Information Technology

Efforts have been focused towards completing our cybersecurity insurance renewal, supporting the Finance departments applications and system updates, deploying user devices and meeting infrastructure in the new year.

We are now focusing efforts on larger initiatives that include our building security system and the replacement of our management and file server. We have procured the replacement servers which will be fundamental in managing our organizational resiliency and uptime. It's anticipated that the transition will occur in Q1. Our priority will be focused on implementation as soon as the products are delivered. Enhancement of our building security is in the final stages of reviewing project submissions.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning and Permitting Activities

We continue to experience a steady number of planning and permitting files as well as reports of activity in the watershed to be followed up from a compliance perspective. Our permitting performance continues to demonstrate improved performance level compared to previous reporting periods.

We are currently managing a range of compliance activities, including compliance permits and remediation agreements, site inspections, file and case reviews, and ongoing

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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communication. This involves verifying reported concerns and seeking compliance as may be needed.

Source Protection Activities

Source Protection activities remain active as updated policies have been examined for effectiveness and work is carried out to translate changes in the technical rules to on-ground implications. The amendment package to update the source protection plan and assessment report was submitted to the province on December 22nd, 2023. Also significantly, source protection agreements with the province and conservation authorities are moving from annual budgets and workplans to a 3-year commitment for funding. Workplans and budget submissions tied to this 3-year commitment are underway and will be submitted by the lead CA in the near future.

Work continues on the Risk Management Official front to establish risk management plans with remaining landowners and responding to inquiries and notice requirements related to building and planning applications.

Additionally, our Risk Management Official/Source Protection Technician has attended several meetings involving program updates, emerging issues/climate change science, the source protection plan update, and has assisted in the delivery of the Risk Management Official/Risk Management Inspector training course administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Work is being undertaken to complete the Annual Reporting, due internally for coordination and roll-up for February 1, 2024. Our Risk Management Official/Source Protection Technician is supporting our member municipalities in completing this reporting along with completing reporting of their own.

We have been liaising and providing input to a potential source protection pilot project with a third party, to study source protection opportunities for communities not currently covered under the scope of the source protection program.



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Flood Plain Mapping Activities

Fenelon Falls South

The final study has been sent to our provincial representative of the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and owners influenced by the study will receive notification that their properties may be affected early in 2024.



Haliburton

Our Flood Plain GIS/Mapping Technician is starting to prepare flood maps during winter months of 2024 in preparation for the March 1, 2024 deadline. Our Flood Plain GIS/Mapping technician will be attending a Haliburton Council meeting and Public Information Session on January 24th where the Haliburton Flood Plain Mapping Projects for Burnt River and Gull River will be discussed.

Trent Lakes

We have onboarded an engineering consultant to carry out hydrology and hydraulics modelling. All the base information and field survey data for modelling the flood plain has been transferred to the consultants. The study will meet the requirements for the Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program (FHIMP). We continue to be available to provide any supplementary data to the consultants and attend meetings as needed. This project includes the two study areas of Nogies Creek and Miskwa Ziibi River.

STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION LANDS

Community Outreach / Education

The Illuminated Forest

The Illuminated Forest provided families and visitors an affordable and unique activity to connect with nature through the month of December and over the Christmas break. The popularity of the Illuminated Forest is demonstrated by the popularity of our social media posts regarding the event. Our top three posts for the month of December were all related to the event.



For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



Agenda Item #8.4

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

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What were your **top performing** posts? ⓘ

Facebook



@Kawartha Conservation
Dec 30, 2023 • 3:20 PM

Due to vandalism, The Illuminated Forest at Ken Reid Conservation Area is closed for 2023, and will no longer be operating on December 30, 31 and January 1 and 2, 2024. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you to everyone who visited and enjoyed The

93 ❤️ 394 ↘ 259 📄 0
20.08% Engagement Rate

Instagram



@KawarthaConservation
Dec 1, 2023 • 4:34 PM

🌟 The Illuminated Forest returns to Ken Reid Conservation Area beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 2. 🌟 Throughout December, visitors experience the beauty of the Cedar forest after dark and also create new holiday traditions with family and friends.

4 ❤️ 251
15.69% Engagement Rate

Instagram Story



@KawarthaConservation
Dec 16, 2023 • 4:54 PM

You can now pay for your \$4 parking by scanning the QR code at The Illuminated Forest

40 📄 4 ▶ 200
15.28% Completion Rate

An analysis of our Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn and Instagram posts from December 2nd through to January 7th show that the Illuminated Forest posts had the following responses:

- 72.1K Impressions
- 12.6K Engagements
- 11.7K Clicks
- 6.7K Video Views

Unfortunately, we experienced some vandalism after Christmas that forced us to close the trail on December 30th, four days early. On the trail leading down to the forest, light strands were ripped in half, stakes were snapped off, and light strands were tossed into the forest and grassy areas along the side of the trail. Lights in the forest were generally not damaged, however timers were reset on the lights. Public response to the report of the vandalism was swift and overwhelmingly supportive of the event.

Forest Therapy

Each year we host a full day of Forest Therapy in recognition of Bell Let's Talk day. Bell Let's Talk day is an annual campaign designed to break the stigma around mental illness. Their website notes that 1 in 2 young people struggle alone with their mental health, 11.8% of people in Canada have had thoughts of suicide at some point in their life, and the Kids Help Phone received 596,934 interactions in 2023 alone.

Kristie Virgoe is a certified Forest Therapy Guide and provides monthly walks throughout the year. Forest Therapy is the practice of immersing yourself in nature. Through design, the

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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practice guides participants to connect with nature through their senses and promotes healing and wellness. In addition to the many health benefits, it has been noted that forest bathing decreases anxiety, depression, anger, confusion, and fatigue.



Our Forest Therapy program is offered free of charge on January 24th as our participation in Bell Let's Talk Day. At the time of writing this post, our morning walk is already sold out, and our afternoon walk has only 15 spaces left.

Conservation Lands

As we enter 2024, staff are busy developing annual workplans for the year including project development and quoting. While much of this work is administrative in nature, it sets us up for a successful year.

Conservation Areas Strategy & Land Inventory

Ontario Regulation 686/21 sets out the Mandatory programs and Services which must be delivered by all conservation authorities in Ontario. Section 10 of the regulation requires that all conservation authorities prepare a "Conservation Area Strategy", and section 11 requires that all conservation authorities prepare a "Land Inventory" as required components of the conservation and Management of Lands mandatory program and service area. The regulation further outlines that these components must be completed on or before December 31, 2024.

Staff are developing a workplan and approach to the Conservation Areas Strategy and will be bringing some preliminary information to the board towards the end of the 1st quarter including a full workplan of scheduled milestones. It is anticipated that this strategy will be completed by November of this year, including opportunities for community and partner consultations.

Last year, staff began the process of collecting all the required data for our Land Inventory, including working with other Conservation Authorities on the development of a proposed standard approach to the land inventory reporting. A full data review was conducted by staff including a data gap analysis to determine what information may be missing from our files.

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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As a result, the mandatory fields for the Land Inventory are largely complete, with the exception of a few title searches that are currently being done. Staff anticipate that this section of the reporting should be completed by mid year.

Ken Reid Conservation Area

The milder temperatures in December combined with rainfall and an increase in traffic due to the Illuminated Forest has resulted in significantly degraded road conditions within Ken Reid. Potholes and wash boarding effects on the road has been noted by staff and several guests to the conservation area. Repairing these conditions in the winter is difficult as the recently frozen ground makes grading the road a challenge. The heavy snow in January has improved the situation slightly, and we are hopeful that this continues to mitigate the challenge until temperatures improve so that grading can be done. Staff continue to look for a temporary solution if road conditions deteriorate and grading isn't possible due to frozen ground.

Stewardship

Agricultural Stewardship

We are in the final stages of our OMAFRA grant program with the final demonstration site for the Talbot River Healthy Environment Initiative being completed. This site involved the installation of two cattle exclusion fences and an off-line alternate watering solution. As staff prepare for final reporting on this agreement, we are also entering negotiations for a new one-year funding agreement to begin in April.

WATER Fund

Our Kawartha and Scugog WATER Fund programs are now open and receiving applications. These programs are designed to offer a cost-sharing incentive grant of up to \$4,000 for landowners interested in implementing water quality improvement stewardship projects on their property. Projects include shoreline naturalization, septic upgrades, agricultural best management practices, raingardens and more. Interested landowners can apply through our website or contact our Landowner and Community Support liaison, Ola Pasternak, for more information.



For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



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Forestry

Our over-the-counter tree seedling sale is open and doing well. Our goal this year is to sell over 20,000 seedlings this spring. We are currently over 40% sold out. The sale is open until March with seedling pick up in late April or early May.

INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

As we enter a new year, the team has been busy wrapping up 2023 projects and switching focus to new 2024 projects. Staff have begun developing their 2024 workplans and initializing project start up meetings.

Flood Forecasting and Warning

Over the Christmas break, the watershed experienced relatively mild temperatures and several days of rain. No watershed condition statements were required during the holiday, but staff were closely monitoring the weather and watershed conditions. As we entered January another weather system crossed Ontario bringing once again milder temperature and several days of mix precipitation of rain and snow. Due to this system, we issued a Watershed Conditions Statement on January 9th through to January 14th to bring awareness to watershed residents of the potential for rising water levels and unsafe ice condition on our creeks and waterbodies.

Watershed Based Resource Strategy

Ontario Regulation 686/21 of the Conservation Authorities Act sets out Mandatory programs and Services which must be delivered by all Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Subsection 12 (1) 3 of the regulation requires all Conservation Authorities to prepare a 'watershed-based resource management strategy' in accordance with subsections 12(4) through (9). Staff have initiated discussions on this initiative and have begun to prepare a project charter and establish timelines for key milestone deliverables. The strategy must be completed by December 2024. As we move forward throughout the year, staff will be providing frequent updates to the Board of Directors.

Innovation Hub

Our first of four scheduled Ontario Building Code Part 8 – Onsite Sewage Systems Exam Prep course was held on January 15 – 19th. A total of 10 participants, representing the Ontario Clean Water Agency, Ontario Parks and contractors attended. Registration is now open for the remaining three scheduled to run in March and April.



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Lake Management Plan Implementation

Investigative Upstream – Rural Extension

Field sampling for the rural extension program for 2023 concluded with over 120 water quality samples, 19 benthic sites, and three water level sites. We are digesting the data and will present key findings to CKL staff to facilitate meaningful discussion for the upcoming field season. A summary report of our key findings has been initiated and will be finalized shortly.

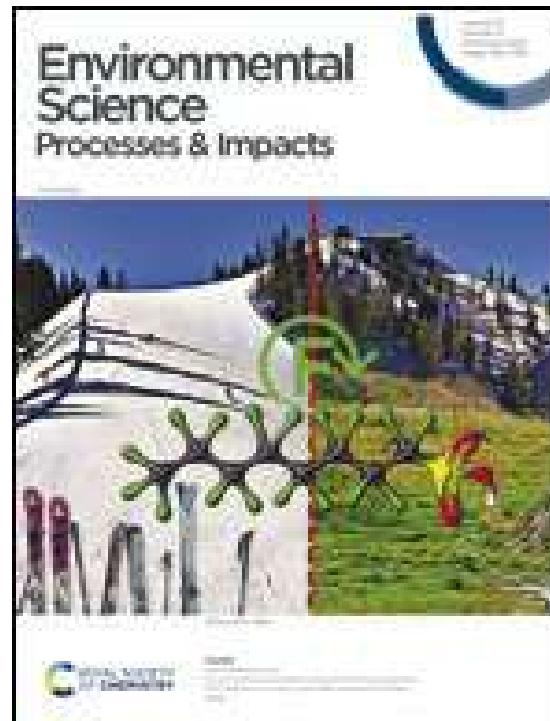
Lake Scugog Enhancement Project (LSEP)



The Baagwatting oil-grit separator (stormwater control) was installed. Township of Scugog staff will be presenting to council recommendations on how to proceed with the overall project which proposes additional measures to protect Lake Scugog (wetland creation and dredging). Council to vote on those recommendations on January 29th.

Academia/Partnerships

Our collaborative manuscript with Brock University, *Impacts of Land Use on Dissolved Organic Matter Quality in Agricultural Watersheds: A Molecular Perspective*, was accepted to *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts* publication. The report looked at the molecular chemistry of organic matter across 22 sites agricultural dominated waters within the Kawartha Conservation's administrative area.



Acknowledgements in the preparation of this report:

Nancy Aspden, Acting Director, Integrated Watershed Management; Jonathan Lucas, Director, Corporate Services; Kristie Virgoe, Director, Stewardship and Conservation Lands; Matthew Mantle, Director, Planning and Development Services



Agenda Item #8.5

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO

Re: Correspondence

KEY ISSUE:

To provide the Board with correspondence received.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the attached correspondence be received.

BACKGROUND

The following correspondence which may be of some interest has been received since the last meeting of the Board of Directors.

Ron Taylor, City of Kawartha Lakes – December 19, 2023

RE: 2024 Budget

At its Special Meeting of December 5, 2023, City of Kawartha Lakes Council adopted its 2024 operating budget, including \$1,512,508.00 dedicated to Kawartha Conservation.

Alexander Harras, Region of Durham – December 20, 2023

RE: 2024 Property Tax Budget Revised Guideline (2023-F-35), Our File: F33

At its meeting of December 20, 2023, Regional Council adopted amended recommendations of the Finance and Administration Committee, including that the 2024 Operating Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 2.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, and the 2024 Special Benefitting Programs Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 1.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, compared to the 2023 approved budget.

Sean Fraser, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – December 20, 2023

RE: Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023 receives Royal Assent –
Kawartha Conservation

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



Agenda Item #8.5

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January 25, 2024

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The attached correspondence provides an update on the Ontario government's commitment to fully restoring the 15 parcels of land that were redesignated or removed from the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan areas passed by the Legislature and the *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023* that received Royal Assent on December 6, 2023. Further details are provided on the attached for the Boards interest.



Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
P.O. Box 9000, 26 Francis Street
Lindsay, ON K9V 5R8
(705) 324-9411, ext. 1296
www.kawarthalakes.ca

December 19, 2023

Kawartha Conservation
c/o Mr. Mark Majchrowski, CAO
277 Kenrei Park Road
Lindsay, ON K9V 4R1
Email: mmajchrowski@kawarthaconservation.com

Dear Mr. Majchrowski:

Re: 2024 Budget

Thank you for providing an overview of the 2024 preliminary summary for Kawartha Conservation to City of Kawartha Lakes Council at its Special Meeting on November 2, 2023.

I am pleased to advise that City of Kawartha Lakes Council adopted its 2024 Operating Budget at the December 5, 2023 Special Meeting, and contained within the budget is \$1,512,508.00 dedicated to the Kawartha Conservation.

As per your normal process, please submit your instalment invoices to Carolyn Daynes, City Treasurer, and she will arrange for payment. If you have any questions or concerns regarding payment, please contact Ms. Daynes at cdaynes@kawarthalakes.ca.

Trusting this is satisfactory.

Yours truly,

Ron Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Mayor and Council
Director of Corporate Services
City Treasurer
City Clerk



December 20, 2023

Mark Majchrowski, CAO
 Kawartha Conservation
 277 Kenrei (Park) Road,
 Lindsay, ON K9V 4R1.
geninfo@kawarthaconservation.com

Dear Mark:

**The Regional
 Municipality of
 Durham**

Corporate Services
 Department –
 Legislative Services
 Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
 Level 1
 PO Box 623
 Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
 Canada

905-668-7711
 1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
 M.P.A.
 Director of
 Legislative Services
 & Regional Clerk**

**RE: 2024 Property Tax Budget Revised Guideline (2023-F-35), Our
 File: F33**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on December 20, 2023, adopted the following amended recommendations of the Finance & Administration Committee:

- A) That the following detailed direction and guidelines for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Services Board) be approved:
- i. The 2024 Property Tax Guideline not exceed an overall property tax impact of 5.0 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget which includes a minimum of 0.50 per cent dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from Provincial Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, and the guideline increases for Conservation Authorities as detailed in recommendation A (ii);
 - ii. The 2024 Operating Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 2.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, and the 2024 Special Benefitting Programs Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 1.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, compared to the 2023 approved budget;

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact Eamonn.Rodgers@durham.ca or call 1-800-372-1102 extension 3677.

- B) That the following detailed direction and guideline for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board be approved:
 - i. **That the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board not exceed \$267.966 million, an increase of 8.26 per cent (\$20.434 million) compared to the 2023 Durham Regional Police Services Board Budget or a 2.50 per cent overall increase to the Regional property tax levy;**
- C) That the requested funding by Oak Valley Hospital for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program be approved up to a maximum of \$10.0 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables;
- D) That Regional Council provide a letter of support to Community Care Durham for their Health and Wellness Centre project;
- E) That a moratorium be placed on the acceptance of any funding submissions/requests under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program until the current Council approved funding commitments have been fully funded from within the current annual funding envelope - which is to be **2029** at the earliest, subject to future budget approvals, and further that staff be directed to review the Region's Community Investment Grant policy and bring forward recommended changes for Council's consideration that reflect the service delivery challenges facing the Region and the alignment of provincial and municipal funding;
- F) That the 2024 budget reflect Council approved priorities including the base pressures, legislative impacts, ten-year service plans for transit and paramedics, climate change initiatives, housing and homelessness, GO East extension matters, and organizational effectiveness as the priority focus for the 2024 budget year;

- G) That the preliminary timetable for the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment #4 to Report #2023-F-35 of the Commissioner of Finance, which includes the following key dates:
- i. December 20, 2023 – final Regional Council approval of the 2024 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Business Plans and Budget;
 - ii. March 19, 2024 – Finance and Administration Committee consideration of the staff report recommending adoption of the proposed 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget;
 - iii. March 27, 2024 – final Regional Council approval of the entirety of the 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget;
- H) That Council support AMO's call for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call for a new framework for raising municipal revenue;
- I) That Council support the CAO's initiative on rotating service delivery reviews by Department and/or division with funding for the reviews to be provided from the Operating Impact Reserve Fund;
- J) That Council request the Ministry of Long-term Care further increase the construction subsidies to be applied to all Long-Term Care projects currently approved in order to reduce debt incurred by the Region impacting future tax levy increases;
- K) That Council request the federal government expedite the implementation of the permanent public transit funding, a new sustainable transit funding model scheduled to be implemented in 2026 – 2027;
- L) That Council advocate for additional 100% funding from the Ministry of Health for ongoing public health costs associated with COVID vaccines, increased inspections resulting from COVID and recovery of critical public health services;

- M) That Council advocate for continued sustainable funding for housing and homelessness supports from both the federal and provincial governments;
- N) That a copy of Report #2023-F-35 of the Commissioner of Finance be forwarded to the Durham Regional Police Services Board, Durham Region Transit Commission, Conservation Authorities, Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation, and other Outside Agencies to guide the development of detailed 2024 Business Plans and Budget; and
- O) **That the requested funding by Lakeridge Health for the Bowmanville Hospital Expansion, under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program, previously approved at \$37.5 million be increased by \$17.7 million to a new maximum of \$55.2 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables; and that final payment be satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance.**

Please find enclosed a copy of Report #2023-F-35 for your information.

Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras,
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk

AH/sr

c: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance
N. Pincombe, Director, Business Planning & Budgets

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2303



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Finance and Administration Committee
From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2023-F-35
Date: December 12, 2023

Subject:

2024 Property Tax Budget Revised Guideline

Recommendation:

That Finance and Administration Committee recommends to Regional Council:

A) That the following detailed direction and guidelines for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Services Board) be approved:

- i. The 2024 Property Tax Guideline not exceed an overall property tax impact of 6.0 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget which includes a minimum of 0.50 per cent dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from Provincial Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, and the guideline increases for Conservation Authorities as detailed in recommendation A (ii);
- ii. The 2024 Operating Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 2.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, and the 2024 Special Benefitting Programs Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 1.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, compared to the 2023 approved budget;

B) That the following detailed direction and guideline for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board be approved:

- i. The 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board not exceed \$263.879 million, an increase of 6.6 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget for the Durham Regional Police Service, which translates to an overall budgetary property tax impact of 2.0 per cent;

-
- C) That the requested funding by Oak Valley Hospital for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program be approved up to a maximum of \$10.0 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables;
- D) That Regional Council provide a letter of support to Community Care Durham for their Health and Wellness Centre project;
- E) That a moratorium be placed on the acceptance of any funding submissions/requests under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program until the current Council approved funding commitments have been fully funded from within the current annual funding envelope - which is to be 2027 at the earliest, subject to future budget approvals, and further that staff be directed to review the Region's Community Investment Grant policy and bring forward recommended changes for Council's consideration that reflect the service delivery challenges facing the Region and the alignment of provincial and municipal funding;
- F) That the 2024 budget reflect Council approved priorities including the base pressures, legislative impacts, ten-year service plans for transit and paramedics, climate change initiatives, housing and homelessness, GO East extension matters, and organizational effectiveness as the priority focus for the 2024 budget year;
- G) That the preliminary timetable for the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment #4 to this report, which includes the following key dates:
- i. December 20, 2023 – final Regional Council approval of the 2024 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Business Plans and Budget;
 - ii. March 19, 2024 – Finance and Administration Committee consideration of the staff report recommending adoption of the proposed 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget;
 - iii. March 27, 2024 – final Regional Council approval of the entirety of the 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget;
- H) That Council support AMO's call for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call for a new framework for raising municipal revenue;
- I) That Council support the CAO's initiative on rotating service delivery reviews by Department and/or division with funding for the reviews to be provided from the Operating Impact Reserve Fund;

-
- J) That Council request the Ministry of Long-term Care further increase the construction subsidies to be applied to all Long-Term Care projects currently approved in order to reduce debt incurred by the Region impacting future tax levy increases;
 - K) That Council request the federal government expedite the implementation of the permanent public transit funding, a new sustainable transit funding model scheduled to be implemented in 2026 – 2027;
 - L) That Council advocate for additional 100% funding from the Ministry of Health for ongoing public health costs associated with COVID vaccines, increased inspections resulting from COVID and recovery of critical public health services;
 - M) That Council advocate for continued sustainable funding for housing and homelessness supports from both the federal and provincial governments; and
 - N) That copies of this report be forwarded to the Durham Regional Police Services Board, Durham Region Transit Commission, Conservation Authorities, Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation, and other Outside Agencies to guide the development of detailed 2024 Business Plans and Budget.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 At the September 12, 2023 Finance & Administration Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

‘That Parts D) and E) of the original recommendations contained in [Report #2023-F-22](#) of the Commissioner of Finance, along with the amending motion by Councillor Woo and Councillor McDougall, (That Part D) of the recommendations contained in [Report #2023-F-22](#) of the Commissioner of Finance be amended to read as follows:

D) That the requested funding by Lakeridge Health for the Bowmanville Hospital Expansion, under the Region’s Community Investment Grant Program, previously approved at \$37.5 million be increased by \$17.7 million to a new maximum of \$55.2 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables; and that final payment be satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance;

and That Part E) of the recommendations contained in [Report #2023-F-22](#) be amended by replacing “which is to be 2026 at the earliest” with: “which is to be 2027 at the earliest, subject to future budget approvals” so that it now reads as follows:

E) That a moratorium be placed on the acceptance of any funding submissions/requests under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program until the current Council approved funding commitments have been fully funded from within the current annual funding envelope - which is to be 2027 at the earliest, subject to future budget approvals, and further that staff be directed to review the Region's Community Investment Grant policy and bring forward recommended changes for Council's consideration that reflect the service delivery challenges facing the Region and the alignment of provincial and municipal funding;

be referred to staff for a report back to the November 2023 Finance & Administration Committee meeting.'

1.2 At the September 27, 2023 Regional Council meeting the following further recommendation was approved:

'That [Report #2023-F-22](#) be referred to staff to complete the tasks outlined in a new Part F) (That staff be requested to report on the impact of limiting the tax cap at 6.25% and 5.25% for Regional Departments and related agencies; and that the Durham Regional Police Services Board (DRPSB) be requested to provide a scenario of an overall budgetary property tax impact of 2% for Council's consideration) and report back through the Finance & Administration Committee to determine the 2024 Property Tax Supported Budget Guidelines.'

1.3 This Report is in response to the above Council direction from the September 27, 2023 Regional Council meeting. While this report is about guideline, not the final budget report, staff have taken a very in-depth view to find some avenues to produce a reduced guideline in conjunction with responding to their request noted in Section 1.2. Any enhanced expenditures will be tied back to the Council priorities as noted in Recommendation F.

1.4 At the September 7, 2023 Health & Social Services Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

'That the Health & Social Services Committee recommends that the following requests from Community Care Durham be referred to Finance staff for appropriate action and response:

- A) That Community Care Durham's concept of Community Health and Wellness Centres be endorsed;*
- B) That the Region of Durham advocate for capital funding;*
- C) That the Region of Durham help to remove the barriers that limit clients' ability to access our services through providing financial support; and*

- D) That broader conversations and collaborations in Durham Region be fostered to address sustainable growth of an aging community, increasing mental health challenges, homelessness, immigration, and other important health and social issues.

1.5 This report addresses items B) and C) as detailed in Section 1.4.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 As noted above, [Report #2023-F-22](#), 2024 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline was presented and discussed at the September 12, 2023 Finance & Administration Committee meeting and September 27, 2023 Council meeting where direction was provided to staff to report back on the impacts of reducing the 2024 property tax supported guideline by 1 per cent or 2 per cent and reducing the guideline for the Durham Regional Police Service by 0.5 per cent.
- 2.2 [Report #2022-COW-33](#) provided Regional Council with an overview of Bill 23, the *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022* and summarized the anticipated impacts of Bill 23 and related legislation to the Region, the Region of Durham taxpayers and water and sanitary sewer ratepayers. [Report #2023-F-13](#), Financial Recommendations Regarding the New Regional Development Charges By-law, provided additional updates to the financial impacts.
- 2.3 [Report #2023-F-30](#), Durham Region's Response to the proposed *Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act* (Bill 134) provided comments on the draft Bill and initial financial implications if the Bill is passed.

3. Background

- 3.1 The overall 2024 property tax guideline provides a capped tax impact for the 2024 Regional Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget. This guideline is an overall impact which is then allocated across all departments, Durham Region Transit (DRT), 9-1-1 Emergency Service System, Durham OneNet Inc., Conservation Authorities and Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC). Durham Regional Police Service has a separate identified property tax guideline for Council's consideration.
- 3.2 The establishment of specific property tax guidelines is important to provide direction and assist staff with finalizing the 2024 budget submission for presentation to Regional Council in March 2024.
- 3.3 Regional staff will continue to review priorities and pressures with a goal of delivering the annual Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget within the guideline. However, the Region is faced with a constantly changing external environment that continues to affect our service delivery.

3.4 Durham is not the only municipality experiencing significant budget pressures for 2024. In particular, municipalities who have social services, transit, and police, along with growth areas impacted by Bill 23 are significantly impacted in 2024.

4. Projected 2024 Base Pressures and Non-Discretionary Items

4.1 Preliminary 2024 budget analysis indicates several base pressures and non-discretionary items that are required to continue to deliver the Region's existing programs and services including:

- the annualization of 2023 budget decisions, adjustments for one-time items included in the 2023 budget and mid-year adjustments;
- contractual and inflationary increases; and
- economic increases (salary/benefit contracts).

4.2 Base pressures for 2024, currently estimated at \$34.6 million are much more significant than in prior years due to significant inflationary pressures experienced in 2023 and projected for 2024. In October, the Bank of Canada projected inflation to stay at around 3.5 per cent until the middle of next year, returning to the 2 per cent target in 2025. However, the Region is experiencing significantly higher inflationary pressures than this, particularly for capital projects.

5. Strategic Investment in Core Service Areas – Durham Region Transit and Region of Durham Paramedic Services

5.1 In developing the 2024 budget guideline, staff have focused on Council priorities. The major strategic investment priorities adopted by Council are highlighted in Sections 5 through 8.

5.2 As part of the 2023 business planning and budget process, Council approved the 2023 – 2032 Region of Durham Paramedic Services Service and Financing Strategy ([Report 2023-COW-7](#)) and the Durham Region Transit's Service and Financing Strategy (2023 – 2032) ([Report 2023-F-5](#)) to Committee and Council in February 2023.

5.3 These reports outlined a ten-year strategy, beginning in 2023, for increased annual investment in these two critical front line core service areas to address current and forecast growth, modernization and service pressures.

5.4 To meet the current and projected service pressures to Region of Durham Paramedic Services and the priorities for service delivery and electrification for Durham Region Transit, significant priority funding increases approved through these ten-year plans are included in the 2024 guideline. This represents an incremental dedicated 0.53 per cent property tax levy increase in 2024 for Region of Durham Paramedic Services and a 2.0 per cent property levy increase for Durham Region Transit.

6. Strategic Investment in Core Service Areas – Housing and Homelessness

- 6.1 Housing and homelessness priorities encompasses the capital required for achieving housing targets, and the transit oriented development strategies aligned with the GO East extension.
- 6.2 During 2023, Council has received various reports outlining the significant and complex challenges facing many Durham residents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- 6.3 The following is a list of the projected increased investment for the housing and homelessness support programs impacting the 2024 budget. Some of these items have been approved in-year and others are under development:
- Approval of 10 new outreach workers to provide supports to those in need of housing and other life stabilization supports – estimated 2024 impact of \$1.22 million ([Report 2023-COW-19 as amended](#));
 - Pending the review of the outcomes from a pilot, an additional two new outreach workers to support DRT operations – estimated 2024 impact of \$0.24 million ([Report 2023-DRT-16](#));
 - Establish a Housing Redevelopment Office – estimated 2024 impact of \$0.59 million ([Report 2023-COW-28](#));
 - Estimated annualization for the operating expenses for the Beaverton Supportive Housing facility which is nearing completion with occupancy anticipated shortly – estimated 2024 impact of \$2.45 million;
 - Estimated operating costs for 1635 Dundas Street East – 2024 impact is under development and will be informed by the ongoing consultation services provided, and the number of residents supported ([Confidential Report 2023-COW-31](#));
 - DRLHC redevelopment and the development of the former Ritson School site – consultation is underway and will help inform the estimated 2024 impact; and
 - Additional funding for the Region's At Home in Durham program – 2024 impact under review ([Report 2023-COW-13](#)).

7. Strategic Investment in Organizational Effectiveness

- 7.1 The Chief Administrative Officer has begun a review process for organizational effectiveness. The first department is the Works Department. The Works Department is supporting unprecedented projected housing growth requiring critical Regional services (roads, water, sewer, waste management and facilities infrastructure) to meet housing and growth targets. The volume of work to provide servicing and services to these projected developments exceeds that which can be provided with current staffing resources. The Region is committed to ensuring we optimize our staffing and other resources and deliverables. As a result, an

assessment of the resources and organizational structure of the Works Department, undertaken by an external consultant, is underway at the time of writing this report.

- 7.2 Other organization effectiveness initiatives include the Equity Audit and related findings and next steps as reflected in [Report 2023-COW-36](#) and the continued rollout and enhancements to Service Durham and myDurham311.
- 7.3 The CAO is recommending proceeding with further reviews across the organization with each department, either in part or in whole, being reviewed over the next three years to ensure that the appropriate structures and resources are in place to deliver critical services in a cost effective and efficient manner with the outcomes of these reviews being a priority for focus. A roster of eligible firms to conduct these reviews has been created through a request for expressions of interest process. It is recommended that these reviews be funded from the Operating Impact Reserve Fund.

8. Strategic Investment in Climate Change

- 8.1 In 2020, Regional Council declared a climate emergency. The following year, Regional Council endorsed a Corporate Climate Action Plan. The 2023 Annual Corporate Climate Action Plan Update Report and Light Duty Fleet Electrification Plan ([Report 2023-COW-14](#)) was approved by Council on April 26, 2023.
- 8.2 A strategic priority of the Region is to continue to integrate a climate lens into the annual business planning and budget process to align corporate climate and operating plans with achieving the Region's greenhouse gas reduction target of net zero by 2045.
- 8.3 Some examples of ongoing work include:
- continue to implement the Durham Greener Homes Program to help homeowners reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions while generating local jobs and investment, including expanding the program to include flood readiness;
 - launch a building benchmarking and disclosure program to support voluntary energy use reporting, increasing awareness and creating demand for energy efficiency improvements. This is the first step in the development of a comprehensive platform to mobilize deep energy retrofits in commercial, institutional, and multi-residential buildings in Durham Region as part of implementing the low carbon pathway approved in the Durham Community Energy Plan;
 - continue to work with local area municipalities, Conservation Authorities and other public and private sector partners to advance flood hazard identification and mapping to support the development and implementation of an evidence informed flood risk resilience strategy to address the increasing risk of flooding due to climate change;

- establish an independent entity with Ontario Tech University to facilitate community oversight and accountability for the implementation of climate action in Durham; and
- advance the feasibility study for a low carbon district energy project in the Courtice Transit Oriented Community area in collaboration with the Municipality of Clarington.

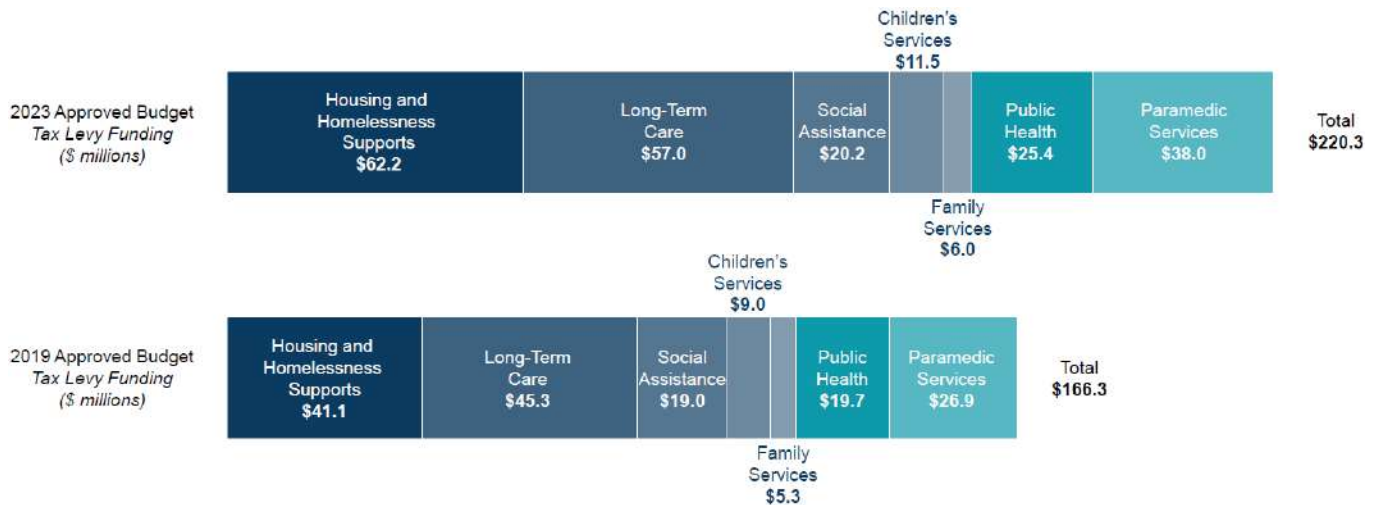
8.4 Many of the initiatives in Sections 5 through 8 are multi-year initiatives and will also have impacts on the 2025 budget and beyond. Given the base budget pressures (identified in Section 4) and the strategic investment in core service areas and financial pressures (identified in Sections 5 through 8), not all of the identified strategic investments can be accommodated within the recommended 2024 guideline. Significant prioritization and refinement of these strategic initiatives including the use of reserves, reserve funds and debenture financing is required to achieve the guideline recommended in this report.

9. Fiscal Sustainability and a New Financial Framework

9.1 One of the challenges facing regional municipalities across the province is the increasing costs of social services and public health programs. In 2023, 25.8 per cent of the Region’s budget was funded from Provincial sources and 1.7 per cent federal sources. In 2023, regional tax levy funding of social services and public health programs was approximately \$220.3 million or approximately 26.9 per cent of the overall regional property tax levy.

9.2 The following graph illustrates that regional funding of social services and public health programs has increased by \$54.0 million (32.4 per cent) between the 2019 approved budget and the 2023 approved budget. Regional funding of these services is anticipated to increase further in 2024.

Regional Funding of Social Services and Public Health Programs



9.3 In recognition of this, AMO has called for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review, requesting the Premier of Ontario to update the partnership between provincial and municipal governments to “help to create a sustainable, accountable provincial-municipal relationship where both orders of government can meet their responsibilities, grounded in:

- affordability and fiscal sustainability for both orders of government;
- fairness for taxpayers and affordability for residents;
- coordinated and timely infrastructure investment resilient to climate realities;
- increased housing supply and affordability;
- robust health and social services supporting increased economic participation;
- long-term economic development and prosperity for Ontario and its communities; and
- modern, effective and streamlined service delivery.

9.4 The Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ (FCM) Big City Mayors are also calling for a new framework for raising municipal revenue. A recent Municipal World article states:

“Canada’s population recently surpassed 40 million, yet local governments only receive eight to 10 cents for every tax dollar that is collected. At the same time, municipalities are expected to provide essential infrastructure for more homes, well-maintained roads and bridges to transport goods, reliable transit systems so people can get around, as well as mitigate and protect against the effects of climate change. To do all this, FCM is making the case that municipalities are going to need a modernized fiscal framework that better links municipal revenue with demographic and economic growth... Cities and municipalities have had to take on new responsibilities with respect to health, social services, housing, and economic development. Longstanding services like policing, waste management, and water and wastewater services are becoming more and more complex due to the challenges linked to mental health, homelessness, and climate change.”¹

9.5 In addition, the Premier of Ontario and the Mayor of the City of Toronto have established a working group with a mandate to achieve long-term stability and sustainability of Toronto’s finances. Details on the long-term funding deal between the Province and the City of Toronto were released on November 28, 2023. Staff continue to advocate for similar financial assistance.

¹ <https://www.municipalworld.com/feature-story/framework-municipal-revenue/>

10. Bill 23 – More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022 and Bill 134 – Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023

- 10.1 Bill 23 – *More Homes Build Faster Act, 2022* and related legislation will have significant impacts on the Region’s ability to coordinate and finance capital infrastructure investments for growth. Under this legislation, municipalities are required to phase-in new development charge rates, allow developers to ‘lock-in’ their development charge rates at time of development application (i.e., “rate freezing”), and provide development charge exemptions and discounts to select development categories. The implication is that a smaller share of the Region’s growth capital costs will be recoverable from development charges as the Region is required, under provincial legislation, to fund the impact of these provisions from non-development charge sources.
- 10.2 With the introduction of Bill 23, the Province of Ontario committed to “make municipalities whole”. To date, there have been no details available regarding this commitment.
- 10.3 In the absence of provincial funding, regional property taxes and water and sanitary sewer user rate revenues will be required to compensate for the phase-in of the new development charge rates, rate freezing, rental discount provisions and mandatory exemptions for non-profit housing and secondary units.
- 10.4 A partial and preliminary estimate of the non-development charge funding that will be required to compensate for the phase-in of the new development charge rates, rate freezing, rental discount provisions and mandatory exemptions for non-profit housing and secondary units is estimated at \$912.8 million by 2033. Of this, a projected \$373.0 million is for property tax supported services with the balance of \$539.8 million for water supply and sanitary sewerage user rate funded services. For context, \$373.30 million in property taxes represents 45.6 per cent of the Region’s 2023 total budgeted property tax revenues and \$539.8 million in water and sanitary sewer user rate revenues represents 219.2 per cent of the Region’s 2023 total budgeted water and sanitary sewer user rate revenues. These estimates are based on the provincial growth targets and do not include the impact of exemptions for affordable housing and attainable housing, nor do they include financial impacts at the local area municipal level.
- 10.5 On September 28, 2023, through Bill 134, the Province introduced new legislation, titled the *Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023* designed to supplement the current definition of affordable residential units that was embedded in the Development Charge Act through Bill 23. For general estimation purposes, if passed, preliminary analysis suggests that for every 5 per cent of residential units in Durham Region that qualify for the proposed affordable residential unit exemption, there will be an estimated \$204 million in lost development charge revenue for the Region of Durham between 2024 and 2033. This estimate is also based on the provincial growth targets and does not include financial impacts at the local area municipal level. Without additional provincial funding, this lost

revenue will need to be recovered from property taxes and water and sanitary sewer user rates. Additional details on Bill 134 and the potential impacts can be found in [Report #2023-F-30](#). The goal from a social outcome perspective would be greater than 5 per cent, resulting in a multiplier effect on lost development charge receipts.

- 10.6 While the Region will continue to advocate for provincial funding to adequately mitigate the negative financial impact to property taxpayers and user ratepayers of the *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022*, and potentially the *Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023*, it is prudent to begin to set funds aside to address the significant financial impacts. It is therefore recommended that a minimum tax levy increase of 0.50 per cent (\$4.09 million) be dedicated to fund the anticipated property tax impacts. This will need to escalate significantly in future years for the Region to implement infrastructure required to meet growth needs.
- 10.7 In addition, there is an urgent need to expedite the construction of new housing (especially housing that is affordable), including both ownership and purpose-built rental developments. Each of the Region's five lakeshore municipalities have signed a housing pledge to 2031 and are in the process of facilitating new housing as best they can, working in concert with home builders to achieve their housing targets and qualify for funding under the provincial Building Faster Fund. The Region, like the local municipalities, is facing significant additional resource requirements across many departments including Works, Planning and support services (e.g., Finance, Corporate Services, Communications and Government Relations), to implement the level of growth directed by the Province and achieve the home construction targets.

11. 2024 Property Tax Guideline Overview

- 11.1 In [Report #2023-F-22](#), staff were seeking Regional Council approval for a 2024 Regional property tax guideline impact for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Service) not to exceed 7.25 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget (after net weighted assessment growth).
- 11.2 In addition to the 7.25 per cent increase noted above, staff were seeking Regional Council approval for a 2024 property tax guideline impact of 2.50 per cent dedicated for the Durham Regional Police Service. This translates to an overall increase of 8.25 per cent on the Durham Regional Police Service budget compared to their 2023 approved budget.
- 11.3 In recognition of the significant economic challenges being faced by our residents in times of inflationary challenges, at the request of Council, staff have worked through the service delivery for each Department and have recommended a reduced guideline. The recommendations are to reduce the Regional portion of the guideline by 1.25 per cent. The implications of a 1 per cent and a second 1 per cent reduction are outlined in Attachment #2 for information only at the

request of Council. Staff are working to specifically focus on Council endorsed priorities and linking enhanced expenditures back to those priorities.

- 11.4 Setting the recommended guideline was achieved in consultation with the CAO, Regional departments, and Durham Region Transit and through detailed review of 2024 to 2028 operating pressures and 2024 to 2033 capital priorities. In addition, this guideline contemplated changes in the local and broader economic, political and social environments and associated risks and uncertainties facing the Region in the delivery of its programs and services. The Durham Regional Police Service guideline balanced the budget request of the Durham Regional Police Service staff and the Board's Finance Committee with the significant pressures being felt across all essential services provided by the Region. It is recommended that the Durham Region Police Service guideline be set at a 2.0 per cent increase on the overall Regional levy.
- 11.5 The 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget, which includes a nine-year capital forecast, will provide additional details on the utilization of alternative revenue sources including reserves and reserve funds for operating and capital expenditures as well as debenture financing, where appropriate, for significant priority capital projects that are planned for 2024 and the nine-year forecast. It is worth noting that the Region is entering into a period with a series of significant investments in major projects for which the Region has been accumulating funding over the last number of years. In addition, as a result of these significant capital projects, the Region is also entering into a period of significant increases in the use of debt financing to partially or fully fund a number of significant projects. This projected increased level of debt financing creates additional operating pressures to finance the repayment of the debt.
- 11.6 To achieve the guideline recommended in this report, Regional departments, Durham Regional Police Services Board, boards, commissions and outside agencies will continue to review their operating and capital business plans and budgets for line-by-line savings and efficiencies as well as prioritizing and pursuing the necessary adjustments to balance competing priorities, capital requirements and operating pressures.

12. Summary of Original 2024 Property Tax Guideline

- 12.1 The following table provides a summary of the estimated impact of the various pressures comprising the original 2024 Regional Property Tax Guideline. The amounts reflected below are subject to change based on the results of the review of the Works Department, ongoing modelling of Bill 23 impacts, the outcome of Bill 134, and updates from refinement and finalization of the budget submissions.

Item	Estimated 2024 Levy Impact	
	\$ (millions)	%
Durham Region Transit	16.347	2.00
Region of Durham Paramedic Services	4.332	0.53
Conservation Authorities	0.186	0.02
<i>Bill 23 – More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022 provision</i>	4.087	0.50
Department Increases (Base Pressures)	34.559	4.23
Department Increases (Strategic Council Priorities)	17.728	2.17
Assessment Growth		(2.20)
Net 2024 Property Tax Levy Impact for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities, and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Services Board)	77.239	7.25

Item	Estimated 2024 Levy Impact	
	\$ (millions)	%
Net 2024 Property Tax Levy Impact for Durham Regional Police Services Board	20.434	2.5

Total Net 2024 Property Levy Impact	97.673	9.75
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- 13. Council's Request for Impacts of a 1 per cent and 2 per cent Reduction in the Regional Portion of the 2024 Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline**
- 13.1 At the September 27, 2023, Regional Council Meeting, staff were directed to report back on the implications of a one per cent reduction and a two per cent reduction in the Regional portion of the initial 2024 property tax supported budget guideline of 7.25 per cent.
- 13.2 Staff are continuing to refine estimates, review, prioritize and phase planned work to achieve the original guideline proposed in [Report #2023-F-22](#) where items have already been remove. One significant example of a reduction needed to achieve the initial proposed guideline is eliminating the planned increase in the Region's road rehabilitation program. To achieve the original guideline, the property tax funding of the Region's road projects is anticipated to be held flat at the 2023 levels. With the significant capital cost escalations experienced the last couple of years and anticipated for 2024, and without an increase in the base tax levy funding for roads rehabilitation projects, the Region is challenged in achieving the target level of service for the Pavement Condition Index (PCI). Another example of the challenge presented to achieve the original guideline is the acknowledgement that the 0.50 per cent noted for Bill 23 above, is clearly not

sufficient and will have to be continually and significantly addressed in the coming years.

- 13.3 As requested, Attachment #2 provides the specific details on the service level impacts of a one per cent and two per cent reduction in the regional portion of the 2024 property tax guideline for Council's information.
- 13.4 It is important to note that the 2024 business planning and budget process is ongoing and over the next three months staff will continue to review budget assumptions and priorities to deliver a budget which optimizes outcome for Durham residents within the property tax guideline approved by Council. There are a number of assumptions and estimates that will continue to be refined as staff works to finalize the budget. Examples include provincial and federal funding assumptions, assessment growth assumptions and potential additional interest revenue resulting from Council's endorsement of the next steps for the implementation of Prudent Investor ([Report #2023-F-23](#)).
- 13.5 To assist with this, it is requested that Council provide direction on the 2024 property tax levy guideline but provide staff with the flexibility to develop a 2024 Budget for Council's consideration in March that minimizes service level, strategic and operational impacts and risks to the Region and that meets Council's direction.
- 13.6 Staff would like to continue to work through the detailed budget process to, where possible, find ways to maintain some of the priority items while still delivering the 2024 property tax guideline set by Regional Council. The proposed budget may or may not contain the items noted in Attachment #2 as those are for indicative purposes. For example, it is not the opinion of staff that the emphasis on reductions to planned transit service enhancements are ultimately feasible.

14. Durham Regional Police Services Board Budget Guideline and Reduction Impacts

- 14.1 At the September 19, 2023 Durham Regional Police Services Board meeting a draft 2024 budget requiring a 2024 property tax levy of \$271.518 million, an increase of \$23.986 million (9.7 per cent) from the 2023 approved budget, was presented. This represents an increase of 2.93 per cent on the Region's overall property tax levy requirement. Highlights of the draft budget include:

Strategic Investments (total \$11.273 million)

- 25 additional Front Line Officers to respond to growth and an increase in frontline work (\$2.532 million);
- 29 new officers and 22 new civilian positions supporting investigative and operational support units (\$5.111 million);
- Incremental lease and building operations and maintenance costs for fleet and canine units (\$0.309 million);

- Incremental lease and building operations and maintenance costs for a new police headquarters facility (\$1.424 million);
- Incremental lease and building operations and maintenance costs for Specialized Services (\$0.791 million);
- Increased investment in education, training and wellness programs to support personal and professional development (\$0.300 million);
- Incremental investment to complete facilities studies, including building condition surveys, annual inspections for asbestos and ladder and roof inspections (\$0.170 million);
- Increased contribution to Air One Reserve to support forecasted maintenance needs aligned with legislative requirements (\$0.100 million); and
- Net increase in property tax funded capital (\$0.536 million).

Base Adjustments (total \$12.713 million)

- Contractual Increases (\$7.858 million);
- Annualization of the 39 new full-time positions approved in the 2023 budget (\$2.477 million);
- Inflationary increases and alignment of budgets to actuals (\$2.348 million);
- Increase in fees, charges and recoveries (-\$0.279 million); and
- Reduction in provincial grant funding (\$0.309 million).

14.2 On September 27, 2023, Regional Council requested that the Durham Regional Police Services Board provide a scenario of an overall budgetary property tax impact of 2.00 per cent for Council's consideration. This represents a 2024 Durham Regional Police Service budget of \$263.879 million, an increase of 6.6 per cent from the 2023 approved budget. The recommendation to Council is to request Durham Regional Police Services Board meet the 2.0 per cent guideline and consider further internal efficiencies where possible.

14.3 The Durham Regional Police Services Board at their October 19, 2023, meeting identified the following savings that would reduce their current projected 2024 property tax levy requirement by \$1.418 million to \$270.1 million. This represents an increase of \$22.6 million (9.11 per cent) from the approved 2023 budget and an increase of 2.77 per cent on the Region's overall property tax levy requirement:

- Remove lease costs for a newly proposed Police headquarters (\$0.675 million reduction) due to the desire to investigate potential purchase opportunities for a standalone facility (please note that the budget submission does not include the debt servicing costs associated with an acquisition of a new facility);

- Payroll benefit rate adjustments (\$0.261 million reduction); and
 - Various other minor adjustments (\$0.482 million reduction).
- 14.4 In addition, the Durham Regional Police Services Board identified the confidential impacts (see Confidential Attachment #3) of further reducing the guideline to \$263.879 million, an increase of \$16.347 million (6.6 per cent) from the approved 2023 budget, an increase of 2.0 per cent on the Region's overall property tax levy requirement. If necessary, Regional Council may discuss the confidential attachment in closed session pursuant to section 239 2. (b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (personal matters about identifiable individuals), as the attachment describes potential service reductions that would impact identifiable Durham Regional Police Service staff.
- 15. Public Engagement Strategy for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget**
- 15.1 [Report #2023-F-22](#), details the planned public engagement strategy for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget. The Region has shifted the date of the 2024 Budget Virtual Town Hall to the evening of Thursday January 11, 2024. As part of this event, residents will be able to engage with the Region's senior leadership over the phone, online and in-person to provide input and feedback on key priorities, ask questions about the Region's Business Plans and Budget, and learn more about the Region's programs and services.
- 16. Funding Requests under the Durham Region Community Investment Grant Policy**
- 16.1 To support the funding requests received under the Community Investment Grant Policy, the Region's annual business plans and budget includes an annual contribution to this program. As part of the approved 2023 Business Plans and Budget, Regional Council maintained annual property tax funding of \$6.22 million for this program. This fund is fully committed until approximately 2027 for projects already approved as well as the initial funding requests of \$10.0 million from Oak Valley Health for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment project and the original funding request of \$37.5 million from Lakeridge Health for the Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment project detailed in [Report # 2023-F-22](#).
- 16.2 The following are the details on the three funding requests currently referred to staff under this program and the funding recommendations:
- **Oak Valley Health** – On February 14, 2023, Finance and Administration Committee referred Oak Valley Health's funding request totaling \$10.0 million for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment project to staff. It is recommended that the requested funding by Oak Valley Hospital, under the Region's Community Investment Grant Policy, for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment project be approved at a maximum of \$10.0 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that includes milestone payments and

performance deliverables.

- **Lakeridge Health** – On February 24, 2021, via [Report #2021-F-5](#), Regional Council approved Lakeridge Health’s funding request totaling \$37.5 million for the Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment project. On September 12, 2023, Lakeridge Health staff made a presentation to the Finance and Administration Committee requesting an additional \$17.7 million in funding for the Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment project to address a proportionate share of the capital cost escalations projected for this project. This brings the total funding request from Lakeridge Health for the Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment project to \$55.2 million. Given the available and projected funding in the Community Investment Grant fund and the Region’s current fiscal challenges, it is recommended that the Region’s commitment to this project remain at the \$37.5 million that was approved in February 2021. Providing additional funding to Lakeridge Health for this project would require extending the utilization of the entirety of the annual tax levy support to this program by almost three additional years.
- **Community Care Durham** - On September 27, 2023, Health and Social Services Committee referred the funding request from Community Care Durham for their Health and Wellness Centre to Finance staff. Community Care Durham has purchased a building at 20 Sunray Street in Whitby for their Health and Wellness Centre. The total capital cost to retrofit the building and purchase the required furniture and equipment is estimated at \$2,975,400. The estimated capital costs of this project that would be eligible for funding under the Region’s Community Investment Grant Policy is \$2,543,400. The Region’s grant program provides up to a maximum of 7.5 per cent of the capital costs, which equates to \$190,755 for the Community Care Durham project. Community Care Durham has applied for federal funding under the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program that, if successful, would give them up to \$2.324 million towards the retrofit. There is a requirement for Provincial project approval to be eligible under the Region’s program. While no capital funding has been committed, the operating costs once the renovation is complete are expected to be covered through Ministry of Health funding. Given the available and projected funding in the Community Investment Grant fund and the Region’s current fiscal challenges, it is recommended that the Region provide a letter of support to Community Care Durham for their Health and Wellness Centre project but not approve any Regional funding at this time.

- 16.3 Given the significant cost pressures facing the Region and its challenges in meeting its own essential service delivery obligations, it is recommended that a moratorium be placed on the acceptance of any funding submissions/requests under the Region’s Community Investment Grant program until the current Council approved funding commitments have been fully funded from within the current annual funding envelope which is anticipated to be in 2027 at the earliest.

This proposed moratorium is not intended in any way to minimize the importance of the healthcare and post-secondary institutions and their crucial impact on the Region. However, the Region's commitment to address service pressures in critical core service areas including Durham Regional Police Service, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Durham Region Transit, and housing and homelessness supports require the Region's primary focus in the coming few years. The ongoing tax levy support to the program of \$6.22 million is not proposed to change at this time. Should Regional Council opt to approve the additional funding request of \$17.7 million for the Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment project and the funding request of \$190,755 from Community Care Durham for their Health and Wellness Centre project the proposed moratorium would need to be extended to 2029 at the earliest.

- 16.4 Staff will be working on an update to the Community Investment Grant policy that reflects the service delivery challenges facing the Region and the alignment of provincial and municipal funding for Council's consideration in advance of when the program resumes.

17. Next Steps

- 17.1 Staff will continue to work towards Council's directed guideline. In the next phase of the business planning and budget process, all program areas will review their operating and capital plans to achieve the recommended property tax guideline including:
- Refining budget estimates and priorities;
 - Exploring additional alternative funding strategies including the sustainable use of reserves and reserve funds, development charges, provincial and federal gas tax and debenture financing;
 - Working with the provincial and federal government to understand 2024 funding impacts;
 - Reviewing the Region's weighted 2023 net assessment growth; and
 - Carefully reviewing and prioritizing 2024 staffing requests, budget pressures and priorities and looking for efficiencies and opportunities to minimize the 2024 budget impact.

18. Conclusion

- 18.1 The 2024 property tax guideline impact for Regional departments, Durham Region Transit Commission, DRLHC and funded Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Service) was recommended to not exceed 7.25 per cent (after net weighted assessment growth). Staff have provided a recommendation of a 1.25 per cent reduction from this amount. Staff will proceed with Council's direction to accomplish their 2024 guideline direction. This report is a request for a guideline only, not for specific direction on individual items as many things may change in

staff's preparation of the detailed budget document and recommendations for Council's consideration.

- 18.2 In addition, staff are seeking Regional Council approval for a 2024 property tax guideline impact dedicated to the Durham Regional Police Services Board at a maximum increase not to exceed 2.0 per cent on the overall Regional levy.
- 18.3 The combined impact of both original guidelines is an overall Regional property tax guideline impact of 9.75 per cent. This translates to an annual budgetary increase of approximately \$301 for an average residential home in Durham Region with an estimated 2024 current value assessment of \$483,100. The combined impact of an 8.00 per cent guideline (1.25 per cent reduction to Region and a 0.5 per cent reduction to DRPS proposed guideline) is \$247. The combined impact of a 7.00 per cent (2.25 per cent reduction to the Region and a 0.5 per cent reduction to DRPS proposed guideline) is \$216.
- 18.4 Regional departments, boards, commissions and outside agencies will continue to review their operating and capital business plans and budgets looking for efficiencies, prioritizing and making the necessary adjustments to balance competing priorities, capital requirements, and operating pressures to achieve Regional Council's approved property tax guideline. Durham Regional Police Services Board will also be requested to review their 2024 budget to align it with the 2024 guideline approved by Regional Council.
- 18.5 The detailed 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget are scheduled to be presented to the appropriate Standing Committee or Transit Executive Committee during the week of March 4, 2024, Finance and Administration Committee on March 19, 2024, and Regional Council on March 27, 2024.

19. Attachments

Attachment #1: Report# 2023-F-22 2024 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline

Attachment #2: Sample Service Level Impacts of a 1 per cent and 2 per cent Reduction in the Region's 2024 Property Tax Guideline

Confidential Attachment #3: Service Level Impacts of a 0.5 per cent Reduction in the Durham Regional Police Services Board Guideline – **Under Separate Cover**

Attachment #4: Preliminary Timetable for the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By _____

Nancy Taylor
Commissioner of Finance/Treasurer

Recommended for Presentation to Council

Original Signed By _____

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2303.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Finance and Administration Committee
 From: Commissioner of Finance
 Report: #2023-F-22
 Date: September 12, 2023

Subject:

2024 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline

Recommendations:

That the Finance and Administration Committee recommends to Regional Council that:

- A) The following detailed direction and guidelines for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Services Board) be approved:
- i. The 2024 Property Tax Guideline not exceed an overall property tax impact of 7.25 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget including 0.50 per cent dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from Provincial Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, and the guideline increases for Conservation Authorities as detailed in recommendation A (ii)
 - ii. The 2023 Operating Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 2.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, and the 2024 Special Benefitting Programs Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 1.5 per cent, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, compared to the 2023 approved budget
- B) The following detailed direction and guideline for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board be approved:
- i. The 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the Durham Regional Police Services Board not exceed \$267.966 million, an increase of 8.26 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget for the Durham Regional Police Service, which translates to an overall budgetary property tax impact of 2.50 per cent
- C) The requested funding by Oak Valley Hospital for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment, under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program, be approved up to a maximum of \$10.0 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables;

- D) The requested funding by Lakeridge Health for the Bowmanville Hospital Expansion, under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program, be approved up to a maximum of \$37.5 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables;
- E) A moratorium be placed on the acceptance of any funding submissions/requests under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program until the current Council approved funding commitments have been fully funded from within the current annual funding envelope - which is to be 2026 at the earliest, and further that staff be directed to review the Region's Community Investment Grant policy and bring forward recommended changes for Council's consideration that reflect the service delivery challenges facing the Region and the alignment of provincial and municipal funding;
- F) The February 2024 Finance and Administration Committee meeting be moved from February 13, 2024 to February 21, 2024 and the preliminary timetable for the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment #1 to this report, which includes the following key dates:
- i. December 20, 2023 – final Regional Council approval of the 2024 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Business Plans and Budget;
 - ii. February 21, 2024 – Finance and Administration Committee consideration of the staff report recommending adoption of the proposed 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget;
 - iii. February 28, 2024 – final Regional Council approval of the entirety of the 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget; and
- G) Copies of this report be forwarded to the Durham Regional Police Services Board, Durham Region Transit Commission, Conservation Authorities, Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation, and other Outside Agencies to guide the development of detailed 2024 Business Plans and Budget.

Report:

1. Overview

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the current economic factors impacting the Region's 2024 property tax supported Business Plans and Budget as well as the Regional priorities and initiatives for both 2024 and the four-year forecast period (2025 to 2028). This report also identifies pressures and risks facing the Region that need to be considered in establishing the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget guidelines including provincial funding impacts on the 2024 budget; approved 10 year financial plans for transit and paramedic services; decisions approved in year; and approved or anticipated legislative and regulatory changes impacting the Region's programs and services.
- 1.2 This report also outlines the proposed timetable and public engagement strategy for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget.

2. Purpose and Use of the Recommended Guideline

- 2.1 The overall 2024 property tax guideline provides a capped tax impact for the 2024 Regional Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget. This guideline is an overall impact which is then allocated across all departments, Durham Region Transit (DRT), 9-1-1 Emergency Service System, Durham OneNet Inc., Conservation Authorities and Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC). Durham Regional Police Service has a separately identified property tax guideline for Council consideration.
- 2.2 The establishment of specific property tax guidelines at this time provides direction and assists staff with finalizing the 2024 budget submission for presentation to Regional Council in February 2024.
- 2.3 Regional staff will continue to review priorities and pressures with a goal of delivering the annual Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget within the guideline. However, the Region is faced with a constantly changing external environment that continues to affect our service delivery.

3. 2024 Property Tax Guideline Overview

- 3.1 Through this report, staff are seeking Regional Council approval for a 2024 Regional property tax guideline impact for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Service) not to exceed 7.25 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget (after net weighted assessment growth). This includes 0.5 per cent dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from provincial Bill 23, *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022* and related legislation and the following specific guidelines for Conservation Authorities:
 - The 2024 Operating Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 2.5 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments, and
 - The 2024 Special Benefiting Programs Budget for each Conservation Authority not exceed an increase of 1.5 per cent compared to the 2023 approved budget, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments.
- 3.2 In addition to the 7.25 per cent increase noted above, staff are seeking Regional Council approval for a 2024 property tax guideline impact of 2.50 per cent dedicated for the Durham Regional Police Service to fund base pressures (estimated by Durham Regional Police Service at \$15.16 million) and other strategic priorities of the Durham Regional Police Services Board (estimated at \$5.27 million). This translates to an overall increase of 8.25 per cent on the Durham Regional Police Service budget compared to their 2023 approved budget.

- 3.3 The overall Regional property tax guideline impact of 9.75 per cent (after net weighted assessment growth) including 0.50 per cent dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from provincial Bill 23, *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022* and the 2.50 per cent for the Durham Regional Police Services Board will result in an annual budgetary increase of approximately \$301 for an average residential property owner in Durham Region with an estimated 2024 current value assessment of \$483,100.
- 3.4 Based on current 2023 assessment growth and through discussions with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), net weighted assessment growth is estimated at approximately 2.2 per cent (excluding net assessment growth in Seaton and Cherrywood). This is fairly consistent with the net weighted assessment growth of 2.1 per cent (excluding net assessment growth in Seaton) realized for the 2023 Budget. The current 2023 net weighted assessment growth estimate for 2024 taxation is only a preliminary estimate and should be used with caution as the actual assessment growth could vary either higher or lower than this estimate.
- 3.5 Setting the recommended guideline was achieved in consultation with the CAO, Regional departments, and Durham Region Transit and through detailed review of 2024 to 2028 operating pressures and 2024 to 2033 capital priorities. In addition, this guideline contemplates changes in the local and broader economic, political and social environments and associated risks and uncertainties facing the Region in the delivery of its programs and services. The Durham Regional Police Service guideline balances the current budget request of the Durham Regional Police Service staff and the Board's Finance Committee, which is being submitted to the Durham Regional Police Services Board for deliberation at their September 19, 2023 meeting, with the significant pressures being felt across all essential services provided by the Region.
- 3.6 The development of the recommended guideline incorporates the sustainable use of Development Charges, Canada Community-Building Funds (formally the Federal Gas Tax Fund), Provincial Gas Tax Funds and the Region's reserves and reserve funds to fund one-time operating and capital investments. Strategically optimizing the use of reserves and reserve funds in this way is effective in offsetting or mitigating tax levy increases without automatically shifting the tax levy increase to the next budget year. As staff continue to develop the 2024 Business Plans and Budget submissions, all additional opportunities to sustainably use the Region's reserves and reserve funds will be pursued. The optimized usage of reserves, reserve funds and debt financing will be critical to achieve the recommended property tax guideline.
- 3.7 The 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget, which includes a nine-year capital forecast, will provide additional details on the utilization of alternative revenue sources including reserves and reserve funds for operating and capital expenditures as well as debenture financing, where appropriate, for significant priority capital projects that are planned for 2024 and the nine-year forecast. It is worth noting that the Region is entering into a period with a series of significant investments in major projects for which the Region has been accumulating funding over the last number of years. In addition, as a result of these significant capital projects, the Region is also entering into a period of significant increases in

the usage of debt to partially or fully fund a number of these significant projects resulting in debt repayment impacts over the forecast period.

- 3.8 To achieve the guideline recommended in this report Regional departments, boards, commissions and outside agencies will continue to review their operating and capital business plans and budgets for efficiencies, prioritizing and pursuing the necessary adjustments to balance competing priorities, capital requirements and operating pressures. The same will be required of the Durham Regional Police Service to achieve the recommended guideline.

4. Projected 2024 Base Pressures and Non-Discretionary Items

- 4.1 Preliminary 2024 budget analysis indicates several base pressures and non-discretionary items that are required to continue to deliver the Region's existing programs and services including:
- The annualization of 2023 budget decisions and adjustments for one-time items included in the 2023 budget;
 - Contractual and inflationary increases;
 - Economic increases (salary/benefit contracts); and
 - Items that have received in-year approval by Regional Council during 2023.
- 4.2 Base pressures for 2024, currently estimated at \$34.6 million are much more significant than in prior years due in large part to a number of items that have received in-year approval by Regional Council during 2023 and significant inflationary pressures experienced in 2023 and projected for 2024. In July, the Bank of Canada projected inflation to stay around 3 per cent for next year, returning to the 2 per cent target by the middle of 2025. However, the Region is experiencing significantly more than this currently, particularly for capital projects.
- 4.3 Escalating prices directly impact Regional expenditures, including material inputs and services utilized for Regional service delivery. Projected gasoline pricing and national energy pricing are easing providing some relief to these operating components of the budget.
- 4.4 With the economy continuing to respond to supply shortages, tight labour markets, rising wages and resulting inflation this places additional pressure on the Region's budget and increases financial risks. These financial pressures are being particularly felt on the Region's capital program.
- 4.5 Staff continue to review these base budget pressures as well as explore all opportunities for efficiencies and line by line savings to help mitigate the impacts of these base pressures and to achieve the recommended 2024 property tax guideline.

5. Strategic Investment in Core Service Areas – Durham Region Transit and Region of Durham Paramedic Services

- 5.1 As part of the 2023 business planning and budget process, staff presented the 2023 – 2032 Region of Durham Paramedic Services Service and Financing Strategy ([Report 2023-COW-7](#)) and the Durham Region Transit's Service and Financing Strategy (2023 – 2032) ([Report 2023-F-5](#)) to Committee and Council in February 2023.
- 5.2 These reports outlined a 10-year strategy, beginning in 2023, for increased annual investment in these two critical front line core service areas to address current and forecast growth, modernization and service pressures.
- 5.3 To meet the current and projected service pressures to Region of Durham Paramedic Services and the priorities for service delivery and electrification for Durham Region Transit, significant priority funding increases approved through these 10 year plans are included in the 2024 guideline. This represents an incremental dedicated 0.53 per cent property tax levy increase for Region of Durham Paramedic Services and a 2.0 per cent property tax levy increase for Durham Region Transit.

6. Strategic Investment in Core Service Areas – Works Department

- 6.1 The Works Department is supporting unprecedented projected housing growth requiring critical Regional services (roads, water/sewer, waste management, and facilities infrastructure). The volume of work to provide servicing and services to these projected developments exceeds that which can be provided with current staffing resources. The Region is committed to ensuring we optimize our staffing resources and deliverables. We are doing this by identifying efficiencies and modernizations—not only in our work processes but also in how we organize our work and ourselves. As a result, an assessment of the resources and organizational structure of the Works Department, undertaken by an external consultant, is underway at the time of writing this report.
- 6.2 This external consulting team will review the current staff complement of the Works Department, with a focus on determining how many staff are needed to meet the increasing demands of the department projected for the next five to 10 years. In addition, the consulting team will review the organizational structure to ensure it positions the Department to handle new and emerging projects to support current and future residents.

6.3 There have been significant implications for the Works Department resulting from provincial changes announced through Bill 23 and related legislation and the development of lands removed from the Greenbelt (most notable the Cherrywood lands). There has been dialogue about municipalities being 'made whole' and/or the developer(s) funding the Regional costs associated with the development of the lands removed from the Greenbelt. Council has provided instructions to the CAO with respect to any discussions with the Greenbelt developers to ensure the principle of 'at no cost' to existing residents and ratepayers. At the time of writing this report, there is some positive dialogue underway with respect to funding additional staffing resources. Depending upon what occurs between now and final budget deliberations, there may be significant additional impacts from the capital perspective not noted in this report as it is premature to ascertain the outcome at this point. This issue is most challenging from the water and sewer user rate perspective.

7. Strategic Investment in Core Service Areas – Housing and Homelessness

7.1 During 2023, Council has received various reports outlining the significant and complex challenges facing many Durham residents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The following is a list of the projected increased investment for the housing and homelessness support programs impacting the 2024 budget. Some of these items have been approved in-year and others are under development:

- Approval of 10 new outreach workers to provide supports to those in need of housing and other life stabilization supports – estimated 2024 impact of \$1.22 million ([Report 2023-COW-19 as amended](#));
- Pending the review of the outcomes from a pilot, an additional two new outreach workers to support DRT operations – estimated 2024 impact of \$0.24 million ([Report 2023-DRT-16](#));
- Establish a Housing Redevelopment Office – estimated 2024 impact of \$0.59 million ([Report 2023-COW-28](#));
- Estimated annualization for the operating expenses for the Beaverton Supportive Housing facility which is nearing completion with occupancy anticipated shortly – estimated 2024 impact of \$2.45 million;
- Estimated operating costs for 1635 Dundas Street East – 2024 impact is under development and will be informed by the ongoing consultation, services provided, and the number of residents supported (Confidential Report 2023-COW-31);
- DRLHC redevelopment and the development of the former Ritson School site – consultation is underway and will help inform the estimated 2024 impact; and
- Additional funding for the Region's At Home in Durham program – 2024 impact under review ([Report 2023-COW-13](#)).

8. **Bill 23 – *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022 and Related Legislation***

- 8.1 Report [2022-COW-33](#) provided Regional Council with an overview of Bill 23, the *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022* and summarized the anticipated impacts of Bill 23 and related legislation to the Region, the Region of Durham taxpayers and water and sanitary sewer ratepayers. [Report 2023-F-13](#), Final Recommendations Regarding the New Regional Development Charges By-law, provided additional updates to the financial impacts.
- 8.2 Bill 23 and related legislation will have significant impacts on the Region's ability to coordinate and finance capital infrastructure investments for growth. Under this legislation, municipalities are required to phase-in new development charge rates, allow developers to 'lock-in' their development charge rates at time of development application (i.e., "rate freezing"), and provide development charge exemptions and discounts to select development categories. The implication is a smaller share of the Region's growth capital costs will be recoverable from development charges as the Region is required, under provincial legislation, to fund the impact of these provisions from non-development charge sources.
- 8.3 A partial and preliminary estimate of the non-development charge funding that will be required to compensate for the phase-in of the new development charge rates, rate freezing, rental discount provisions and mandatory exemptions for non-profit housing and secondary units is estimated at \$881.5 million by 2033. Of this, a projected \$360.0 million is for property tax supported services with the balance of \$521.5 million for water supply and sanitary sewerage user rate funded services. These estimates are based on the provincial growth targets and development of lands removed from the Greenbelt. The estimates do not include the impact of exemptions for affordable housing and attainable housing (which is yet to be defined) nor do they include financial impacts at the local area municipal level. Non-residential development levels above those forecasted as part of the Region's development charge background studies that may occur due to the removal of lands from the Greenbelt would also imply further impacts.
- 8.4 While the Region will continue to advocate for provincial funding to adequately mitigate the negative financial impact to property taxpayers and user ratepayers of the *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022*, and related legislation it is prudent to begin to set funds aside to address the significant financial impacts resulting from Bill 23. There are also significant resource requirements in the early years to implement the level of growth directed by the Province to achieve the home construction targets. It is therefore recommended that a minimum tax levy increase of 0.50 per cent (\$4.09 million) be dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from provincial Bill 23, *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022* and related legislation.
- 8.5 Additional modelling is currently underway to determine specific impacts on capital financing and timing of projects as a result of the reduced Development Charges receipts in 2023 and 2024 due to phase-in, freezing, exemptions and discounts. These are very significant in the next five years due to the phase-in impact of the new Development Charge bylaw. It is quite possible that greater than 0.50 per cent will be required to be set aside in a Bill 23 capital funding reserve fund to finance the shortfalls as each capital project approaches

commencement of work.

9. 2024 Strategic Investment Pressures

- 9.1 In addition to addressing the non-discretionary pressures and strategic investment requirements in critical core service areas, the guideline provides for strategic investments to support other key priorities identified in the Region's Strategic Plan while balancing the need for taxpayer affordability and competitive property taxes.
- 9.2 Following sound business planning and budget practices, departments have identified strategic investments that are aligned with and support the following five goals of the Region's Strategic Plan:
- Environmental Sustainability;
 - Community Vitality;
 - Economic Prosperity;
 - Social Investment; and
 - Service Excellence.
- 9.3 Many of these initiatives are multi-year initiatives and will also have impacts on the 2025 budget and beyond. Given the base budget pressures (identified in Section 4) and the strategic investment in core service areas and financial pressures (identified in Sections 5 through 8), not all of the identified strategic investments can be accommodated within the recommended 2024 guideline. Significant prioritization and refinement of these strategic initiatives including the use of reserves, reserve funds and debenture financing is required to achieve the guideline recommended in this report.

10. Durham Regional Police Service

- 10.1 On July 18, 2023, Durham Regional Police Service provided a presentation on their 2024 draft budget to the Durham Regional Police Services Board Finance Committee and intend to present the detailed 2024 budget to the full Durham Regional Police Services Board on September 19, 2023.
- 10.2 As part of the presentation to the Police Services Board, staff identified total 2024 budget pressures of \$23.11 million (9.3 per cent). This included Durham Regional Police Service defined base pressures of \$15.16 million and new investments for strategic priorities of \$7.94 million. This is subject to potential change for their final submission to the Police Services Board.
- 10.3 The following are the base pressures for 2024 that Durham Regional Police Service staff identified totaling \$15.16 million, an increase of 6.13 per cent over the 2023 approved Police Service Budget. Regional staff continue to work with Durham Regional Police Service staff to find creative solutions to reduce these operating pressures without impacting service levels:

- Contractual increases (4.7 per cent increase) – this includes negotiated salary and benefits and new premium pay for front line response positions to be phased in over 2023 and 2024 and annualization of full-time positions approved in the 2023 budget and other payroll related items (e.g., provisions for post employment benefits and WSIB costs).
 - Infrastructure (1.0 per cent increase).
 - Operating and reserve increases (0.9 per cent increase) – this includes inflationary pressures, increased contribution to the helicopter reserve and increased contribution for general facility repairs and renovations.
 - Increases in revenues and recoveries (0.5 per cent decrease) – this includes an increase in the Community Safety and Policing Grant, a projected decrease in the Court Security and Prisoner Transport Grant, and various other revenue increases for pay duty, Youth in Policing and records searches.
- 10.4 In addition, Durham Regional Police Service staff identified the following requests for increased investments in various strategic initiatives totaling \$7.94 million (3.21 per cent) which include a total of 76 new positions:
- 20 new front line officers to address growth in the Region, changes in front line workload, call response models and processes;
 - 34 uniform members in Serious and Organized Crimes, Patrol Support and Operational Support; and
 - 22 civilian positions in Serious and Organized Crimes, Operational Support and Administrative Support.
- 10.5 Durham Regional Police Service also presented a 10 year capital forecast totalling \$333.04 million for 2024-2033. The capital forecast for Durham Regional Police Service facilities will be considered as part of the Region's capital budget and forecast process.
- 10.6 Staff are recommending a 2024 guideline for the Durham Regional Police Services Board not to exceed \$267.966 million, an increase of 8.26 per cent (\$20.434 million) compared to the approved 2023 Durham Regional Police Services Board Budget or a 2.50 per cent overall increase to the Regional property tax levy. As noted above, increased investment in police services is needed to address service requirements and needs to be balanced with the service delivery and critical priority needs of Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Durham Region Transit, Regional housing and homelessness supports and Provincial Bill 23 impacts.
- 10.7 Durham Region staff will continue to work with the staff of the Durham Regional Police Service to finalize their 2024 Business Plans and Budget submission in accordance with Council's guideline.

11. Provincial/Federal Funding Impacts

11.1 In 2023, the Region budgeted to receive approximately 25.8 per cent of its annual property tax supported service revenue from provincial subsidies and grants.

11.2 While the Province has provided 2023 funding letters for a number of Regional program areas, there is still significant uncertainty and associated risk related to provincial funding levels for 2024. The following is a summary of the known and estimated impacts to the 2024 budget resulting from adjustments in provincial funding and changes in provincial funding formulas:

- Paramedic Services – The 2023 Regional Business Plans and Budget assumed 2023 provincial funding of paramedic services would be 2.5 per cent higher than the provincial funding provided in 2022. On August 31, 2023, the Province confirmed 2023 funding of \$30,768,370, \$760,709 higher than the 2023 budgeted funding. While the 2024 funding has not yet been confirmed, for purposes of guideline, staff are projecting the 2024 provincial funding to be higher than the actual 2023 provincial funding, reflecting the increased expenditures contemplated in the 2023 -2032 Region of Durham Paramedic Services Service and Financing Strategy.

In addition, Paramedic Services has received confirmation from the Ministry of Long-term Care on continued provincial funding to March 31, 2026 for the Region's Community Paramedicine Program. The Region is awaiting confirmation on the specific amount of funding for 2024 from the Ministry of Long-term Care as well as confirmation from the Ministry of Health on whether they will continue to provide funding in 2024 to the Region for Community Paramedicine.

- Public Health – The Province previously announced changes to the cost sharing arrangement with municipalities for mandatory programs. For 2020, the provincial funding of mandatory programs decreased from 75 per cent to 70 per cent while the funding of 100 per cent provincial funded programs dropped to 70 per cent provincial funding (with the exception of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care program, which the Province has committed to continue to fund at 100 per cent). The impact of this funding change was a reduction of approximately \$45,600 for Durham Region. In 2020, 2021 and 2022 the Province provided one-time funding so municipalities were not negatively impacted by this change. In August 2023, the Province announced that they will permanently restore annual base funding for public health to the level previously provided under the 75 per cent provincial funding model. In addition, the Province committed to provide a one per cent funding increase for public health each year for the next three years.

On August 29, 2023, the Province confirmed the 2023 provincial funding for mandatory programs of \$30,845,450 (including \$45,600 in one-time cost mitigation funding), \$183,607 lower than the 2023 budgeted funding. The Province also confirmed the 2023 provincial funding for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care program of \$2,058,975, \$155,100 lower than the 2023 budgeted funding. While the 2024 funding for both mandatory programs and the Ontario Seniors Dental Care program have yet to be confirmed,

the Region will need to adjust for this lower base funding. To date, the Province has not confirmed whether 2024 funding for public health costs for COVID response will be provided beyond December 2023. Should funding not be provided this will place additional financial pressure on public health departments as they continue to incur costs associated with delivering COVID vaccines and increased COVID related inspections.

- Childcare – In December 2022, the Province provided information on the increases in funding under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care program. Staff continue with the phased implementation of the CWELCC program.
- Social Assistance – The Province has announced further modernization efforts significantly impacting the Region's Social Assistance program in 2023 and beyond that were reported to Council through confidential report 2022-COW-29. The Province announced on March 9, 2023 that the Region of Durham, in conjunction with the Durham Workforce Authority and Durham College have now been appointed as system managers for the new employment services system. This program is anticipated to be net neutral to the 2024 budget, but the former system, no longer funded by the Province (subsidy reduction of \$4.54 million), will need to be reconfigured.
- Homelessness Supports – In 2023 the Region received \$5.0 million in federal funding under the Reaching Home Program and \$16.9 million in provincial funding under the Homelessness Prevention Program to support residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This is \$6.8 million higher than what was included in the 2023 budget. The Region is projected in 2024 to receive \$5.0 million in federal funding under the Reaching Home program and \$18.7 million in provincial funding under the Homelessness Prevention Program.
- Long-Term Care – On August 27, 2021, the Ministry of Long-Term Care announced a multi-year plan to increase level of care base funding starting April 1, 2021. Staff continue to incorporate this funding in the annual budgets to address resident care.
- Police – On August 10, 2020, the Province announced a review of their Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program. The Region's current funding agreement, which expires on December 31, 2023, provided \$3,914,797 in 2023 funding, \$569,253 lower than the amount budgeted for in 2023. It is unclear at this time what impact this review may have on 2024 and future funding.

Durham Regional Police Service has received confirmation of an increase of approximately \$43,321 in 2024 under the Community Safety and Policing grant program.

- Ukrainian and Asylum Seekers Humanitarian Response in Durham – Regional staff, in collaboration with GTHA regions, agreed to a collective and coordinated response to provide supports to Ukrainian newcomers. This has been extended to address current significant issues to support asylum seekers homeless and without independent financial means. Staff have worked with partners to secure temporary accommodations for newcomers and explore other potential housing benefits as well as working with the Community Development Council of Durham (CDCD) to deliver supports. To date the Region has allocated approximately \$3.9 million to support newcomers. The Region continues to advocate for funding from the provincial and federal governments for the Region’s costs in supporting newcomers.

11.3 Regional staff continue to advocate for sustained provincial funding and will work with the Province to understand any further financial impacts on the 2024 Business Plans and Budget and beyond. It has been emphasized recently at AMO and is noted in the concurrent report to Finance and Administration Committee (Report 2023-F-21) that the funding model and/or service delivery model between the Province, Federal Government and local governments needs to be reconsidered as the current model is unsustainable from a local taxpayer perspective.

12. Impacts of Legislative and Regulatory Changes

12.1 The Region delivers several programs and services that are legislated or regulated by the provincial government and, to a lesser extent, the federal government. Legislative and regulatory changes often have a direct financial impact to the Region in delivering these valued and critical programs and services. The following is a list of current or potential legislative and regulatory changes that may have fiscal impacts for the Region.

- On June 14, 2021, the Ministry of the Solicitor General released five draft Regulations under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* for comment. It is expected that there will be upwards of 80 Regulations in support of this legislation. The initial five draft Regulations cover investigations, active attacker incidents, alternative provision of policing functions, the Ontario Police Arbitration and Adjudication Commission and codes of conduct for police officers, municipal police services board members and members of the Ontario Provincial Police Governance Advisory Council. The Durham Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Police Services Board have provided comments on these draft regulations and are reviewing potential fiscal impacts to Durham Regional Police Service. Durham Regional Police Service will be providing a summary of legislative areas of concern and opportunity, to the Police Services Board and to Regional Council to consider advocacy measures.
- In October 2021 and April 2022 the Province released Phase 1 and Phase 2 regulations and policy under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. These new regulations outline:
 - mandatory programs and services to be delivered by conservation authorities,

- the need for agreements between participating municipalities and conservation authorities to fund non-mandatory programs and services through a municipal levy,
- the requirement of conservation authorities to establish a community advisory board,
- the budget process for conservation authorities,
- the municipal apportionment methods for levying participating municipalities,
- various user fee requirements, and
- information requirements for conservation authorities.

Negotiations between the Region and the five conservation authorities on the Memorandum of Understanding are ongoing and will be subject to a separate report later in 2023. In the interim, staff are proposing that the 2024 budget guidelines for conservation authorities remain consistent with past trends for increases in the short term.

13. Funding Requests under the Durham Region Community Investment Grant Policy

- 13.1 In October 2019, Regional Council approved the Durham Region Community Investment Grant Policy. Under this policy, local healthcare and post secondary education institutions can apply for funding to assist with the community fundraising requirements for capital infrastructure projects in the Region.
- 13.2 There are two funding requests currently referred to staff under this program, namely:
- Oak Valley Health - Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment project; and
 - Lakeridge Health - Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment project.
- 13.3 To support the funding requests received under the Community Investment Grant Policy, the Region's annual business plans and budget includes an annual contribution to this program. As part of the approved 2023 Business Plans and Budget, Region Council has maintained annual property tax funding of \$6.22 million for this program.
- 13.4 In order to address the two outstanding delegation requests, it is recommended that:
- The requested funding by Oak Valley Hospital, under the Region's Community Investment Grant Policy, for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment project be approved at a maximum of \$10.0 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables; and

- The requested funding by Lakeridge Health, under the Region's Community Investment Grant Policy, for the Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment project be approved at a maximum of \$37.5 million subject to the execution of a funding agreement with terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance that include milestone payments and performance deliverables.
- 13.5 There are two additional factors currently impacting the Region's Community Investment Grant Program that require additional consideration. First, similar to the Region's experience with large facility builds and redevelopment projects, a number of organizations qualifying under the Region's Community Investment Grant Program have experienced significant cost increases from the initial estimates provided to the Region and tender pricing received for these projects. Second, the Region is facing significant cost pressures and is challenged to meet its own essential service delivery obligations as evidenced by this report. It is therefore recommended that a moratorium be placed on the acceptance of any funding submissions/requests under the Region's Community Investment Grant program until the current Council approved funding commitments have been fully funded from within the current annual funding envelop which is anticipated to be 2026 at the earliest.
- 13.6 This proposed moratorium is not intended in any way to minimize the importance of the healthcare and post-secondary institutions and their crucial impact on the Region. However, the Region's commitment to address services pressures in critical core services areas including Durham Regional Police Service, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Durham Region Transit, and housing and homelessness supports require the Region's primary focus in the coming few years. The ongoing tax levy support to the program of \$6.22 million is not proposed to change at this time.
- 13.7 Staff will be working on an update to the Community Investment Grant policy that reflects the service delivery challenges facing the Region and the alignment of provincial and municipal funding for Council's consideration in advance of when the program resumes.

14. Summary of 2024 Property Tax Guideline

- 14.1 The following tables provides a summary of the estimated impact of the various pressures comprising the 2024 Regional Property Tax Guideline as outlined in Sections 4 through 13 of this report.

- 14.2 The amounts reflected below are subject to change based on the results of the review of the Works Department, modelling of Bill 23 impacts, outcome of Greenbelt discussions, and updates from refinement and finalization of budget submissions.

Item	Estimated 2024 Levy Impact	
	\$ (millions)	%
Durham Region Transit	16.347	2.00
Region of Durham Paramedic Services	4.332	0.53
Conservation Authorities	0.186	0.02
<i>Bill 23 – More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022 provision</i>	4.087	0.50
Department Increases (Base Pressures)	34.559	4.23
Department Increases (Strategic Priorities)	17.728	2.17
Assessment Growth		(2.20)
Net 2024 Property Tax Levy Impact for Regional Departments, Conservation Authorities, and other Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Services Board)	77.239	7.25

Item	Estimated 2024 Levy Impact	
	\$ (millions)	%
Net 2024 Property Tax Levy Impact for Durham Regional Police Services Board	20.434	2.5

Total Net 2024 Property Levy Impact	97.673	9.75
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15. 2025 – 2028 Forecast Highlights

- 15.1 Many of the 2024 strategic investment pressures are multi-year initiatives and will continue throughout the 2025 to 2028 forecast period. These forecasted priorities will be reviewed and realigned throughout 2024 to reflect the updated Regional Strategic Plan currently under development.
- 15.2 Based on current modeling, the Region anticipates annual property tax increases for 2025 to 2028 to be consistent with the 2023 and 2024 property tax guideline ranges. This is driven in part by ongoing funding increases for Region of Durham Paramedic Services and Durham Region Transit to meet service level needs, operating costs for the new Seaton Long-Term Care Home, costs to address needed housing and homelessness supports, increased debt repayment obligations for new facilities as well as costs to accommodate growth. Staff continue to explore alternative funding strategies including advocating for and leveraging provincial and federal funding, use of reserves, reserves funds and debenture financing as well as identifying efficiencies to reduce future property tax impacts.

16. 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget Timetable

- 16.1 The Region's business planning and budget process includes strategic planning, risk assessment, economic and financial forecasting, property tax guidelines, detailed business plans and budgets, and performance measurement. Fiscal accountability is strengthened by the multi-year planning of expenditures, financing and risk mitigation that are imbedded in the Region's Business Planning and Budget process and highlighted each year by the Region's bond raters.
- 16.2 The key dates for the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget timetable are outlined below and are further detailed in Attachment #1:
- Water and Sanitary Sewer User Rates
 - Finance and Administration Committee – December 12, 2023
 - Regional Council – December 20, 2023
 - Water Supply and Sanitary Sewerage Business Plans and Budgets
 - Works Committee – December 6, 2023
 - Finance and Administration Committee – December 12, 2023
 - Regional Council – December 20, 2023
 - Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget
 - Standing Committees – week of February 5, 2024
 - Finance and Administration Committee – February 21, 2024
 - Regional Council – February 28, 2024
 - Property Tax Strategy
 - Finance and Administration Committee – February 21, 2024
 - Regional Council – February 28, 2024
- 16.3 The 2024 proposed timetable establishes February 28, 2024 as the target date for Regional Council approval of all 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget.

17. Public Engagement Strategy for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget

- 17.1 Transparency and education are key components of building successful public engagement on the Region's business plans and budgets with residents, businesses and stakeholders.
- 17.2 The Region remains focused on modernizing our public engagement initiatives by evaluating different standards, compiling best practices, measuring outcomes and incorporating expertise from experts.

17.3 The public engagement approaches for the 2024 Business Plans and Budget will continue to engage with more residents and businesses in new and different ways to encourage their feedback and will include:

- Exploring additional opportunities to engage with residents throughout the annual Business Planning and Budget process (including sharing information on engagement opportunities through various community and stakeholder events);
- Updating the Region's Business Plans and Budget online presence, informed by data and lessons learned, to allow residents to ask questions and provide comments online in a convenient and intuitive manner;
- Hosting a Virtual Town Hall on Thursday October 12, 2024 where residents can join over the phone, online and in-person to provide input and feedback on key priorities, ask questions about the Region's Business Plans and Budget, and learn more about the Region's programs and services;
- Updating the award-winning Value Stories videos which highlight the details of the Region's Budget and the value these investments have on residents and businesses;
- Updating the Budget Infographic to provide a visual summary of the service metrics and investments included in the approved budget;
- Providing ongoing social media engagement throughout the annual business planning and budget process to support a wider understanding of the process and seek engagement throughout the process to inform budget development; and
- Providing traditional engagement initiatives consistent with prior year activities including the utilization of print media.

18. Next Steps

18.1 In the next phase of the business planning and budget process, all program areas will review their operating and capital plans to achieve the recommended property tax guideline including:

- Refining budget estimates and priorities;
- Exploring alternative funding strategies including the sustainable use of reserves and reserve funds, development charges, provincial and federal gas tax and debenture financing;
- Working with the provincial and federal government to understand 2024 funding impacts;
- Reviewing the Region's weighted 2023 net assessment growth; and
- Carefully reviewing and prioritizing 2024 staffing requests, budget pressures and priorities and looking for efficiencies and opportunities to minimize the 2024 budget impact.

- 18.2 Staff will also closely monitor any Provincial activity relating to an update to the reassessment cycle and report accordingly.

19. Conclusion

- 19.1 The 2024 property tax guideline impact for Regional departments, Durham Region Transit Commission, DRLHC and funded Outside Agencies (excluding Durham Regional Police Service) is recommended to not exceed 7.25 per cent (after net weighted assessment growth). This includes 0.5 per cent dedicated to fund anticipated property tax impacts resulting from provincial Bill 23, *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022*.
- 19.2 In addition, staff are seeking Regional Council approval for a 2024 property tax guideline impact of 2.50 per cent dedicated to the Durham Regional Police Services Board. This represents a 2024 Durham Regional Police Service budget of \$267.966 million, an increase of 8.26 per cent compared to the 2023 approved Durham Region Police Service budget and will accommodate base pressures (estimated at \$15.16 million by Durham Regional Police Service) and other strategic priorities of the Durham Regional Police Services Board (\$5.27 million).
- 19.3 The combined impact of both guidelines is an overall Regional property tax guideline impact of 9.75 per cent. This translates to an annual budgetary increase of approximately \$301 for an average residential home in Durham Region with an estimated 2024 current value assessment of \$483,100.
- 19.4 Regional departments, boards, commissions and outside agencies will continue to review their operating and capital business plans and budgets looking for efficiencies, prioritizing and making the necessary adjustments to balance competing priorities, capital requirements, and operating pressures to achieve Regional Council's approved property tax guideline. Durham Regional Police Services Board will also be requested to review their 2024 budget to align it with the 2024 guideline approved by Regional Council. It is important to note that work is still needed to achieve the recommended property tax guideline and, as such, not all requests identified in this report may be able to be accommodated within the 2024 Business Plans and Budget and may require consideration in future years.
- 19.5 The detailed 2024 Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budget are scheduled to be presented to the appropriate Standing Committee or Transit Executive Committee during the week of February 5, 2024, Finance and Administration Committee on February 21, 2024, and Regional Council on February 28, 2024.

20. Attachments

20.1 Attachment #1: Preliminary Timetable for the 2024 Regional Business Plans and Budget

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original Signed By

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

A) 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE

Item	Description	Standing Committee	Regional Council
1.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline 	Finance and Administration Committee – September 12, 2023	September 27, 2023

B) SUPPORTING BUSINESS PLANNING REPORTS

Item	Description	Standing Committee(s)	Regional Council
1.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Water and Sanitary Sewer User Rates 	Finance and Administration Committee – December 12, 2023	December 20, 2023
2.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Strategic Property Tax Study 	Finance and Administration Committee – February 21, 2024	February 28, 2024
3.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Property Tax Rates 		February 28, 2024

C) 2024 DETAILED BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS

Item	Description	Standing Committee(s)	Regional Council
1.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Detailed Water and Sanitary Sewer Business Plans and Budgets 	Works Committee – December 6, 2023 Finance and Administration Committee – December 12, 2023	December 20, 2023
2.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 9-1-1 Emergency Service System Business Plans and Budget 	9-1-1 Management Board November 28, 2023	
3.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Durham OneNet Inc. Business Plans and Budget 	Durham OneNet Inc. Board – January/February 2024 (tentative)	
4.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC) Business Plans and Budget 	DRLHC Board – January 17, 2024 (tentative)	
5.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Planning and Economic Development Business Plans and Budgets 	Planning and Economic Development Committee – February 6, 2024	
6.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Works General Tax and Solid Waste Management Business Plans and Budgets 	Works Committee – February 7, 2024	
7.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget 	Transit Executive Committee – February 7, 2024	
8.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Health and Social Services Business Plans and Budgets 	Health and Social Services Committee – February 8, 2024	

Item	Description	Standing Committee(s)	Regional Council
9.	Review and approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Departmental Business Plans and Budgets • 2024 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Durham Regional Police Service Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Conservation Authorities Business Plans and Budgets • 2024 9-1-1 Emergency Service System Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Durham OneNet Inc. Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC) Business Plans and Budget 	Finance and Administration Committee – February 21, 2024	February 28, 2024

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION’S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

1. Litter Pick-up Program

\$479,600

Description:

- Reduction in the current level of service under the Region’s litter pick-up program. The Region conducts litter pick-up activities every two weeks and weekly in some southern communities as well as on an as needed basis.

Department: Works Department

Frequency: Permanent Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Garbage and waste from recycle bins, recycling trucks and general litter around garbage receptacles at bus stops and accident clean-up would not be collected as frequently as desired, leaving garbage along the roadside and properties adjacent to the Regional road allowance.
- May result in vermin infestation and pile-up of deadstock on roadways.

2. Median Landscaping Program

\$50,000

Description:

- Removal of a new initiative to enhance the Region’s level of service for median landscaping.

Department: Works Department

Frequency: Permanent Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Decline in the aesthetic appearance of Regional Right of Ways resulting in increased complaints from both local municipalities, residents and businesses.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

3. Traffic and Depot Capital Purchases

\$813,000

Description:

- Defer the purchase of the following two new vehicles for Traffic and the Ajax Depot:
 - One 5-Ton Flatbed for Traffic (\$625,000)
 - One Tractor for the Ajax Depot (\$188,000)

Department: Works Department

Frequency: One-time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- One 5-Ton Flatbed for Traffic – deferring the acquisition of this vehicle will lead to lower levels of productivity due to a reliance on a single vehicle. When the existing vehicle is out for repairs the Region is challenged to complete its annual line painting program on high-speed roadways.
- One Tractor for the Ajax Depot – currently the Ajax Depot has to borrow a tractor from other Depot locations across the Region. The Ajax Depot will continue to not meet the desired service levels for rural roadside mowing and snow removal with deferring the acquisition of this vehicle as a tractor is not always available for the Ajax Depot to borrow when required.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

4. Road Patrol

\$241,300

Description:

- Reduction in the current level of service for the Region's road patrol program in the southern communities. Currently, the Region carries out road patrol activities five days per week in the southern communities compared to 2.5 days in the northern communities. With this reduction, the Region will still meet minimum maintenance standards (MMS) but will be reducing the service level.

Department: Works Department

Frequency: Permanent

Service Level Impact:

- Reduction in the ability to identify deficiencies such as pothole repairs, illegal sign removal and other maintenance needs and carryout necessary repairs in a timely manner.

5. Enhanced Green Bin Rollout

\$261,000

Description:

- With the rollout of the enhanced green bin program in 2024, the Region planned to subsidize (50 per cent) the cost of an additional green-bin for residents, where requested, to manage the increased volume of material being collected under the enhanced green bin program. With this reduction residents would need to pay the full cost for an additional green bin.

Department: Works Department

Frequency: One-time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- There may be some reluctance from residents to purchase new green bins which would result in less waste diversion than anticipated potentially impacting diversion rates.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

6. Ontario Works and Integrated Employment Services

\$344,000

Description:

- Realignment of staff responsibilities from Ontario Works (taxpayer funded component) to Integrated Employment Services (IES) Direct Delivery (provincial investment funded).

Department: Social Services

Frequency: Permanent

Service Level Impact:

- Staff would be reassigned from providing life stability and wrap around support work for social assistance clients to delivering pre-employment programming and workshops currently provided by our community partners for high acuity - job seeking individuals.
- With this realignment, approximately 1 hour less of life stability and wrap around support work for a social assistance client will be available per month.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

7. Housing Services

\$50,600

Description:

- Defer the hiring of a new Program Assistant position (1.0 FTE) in the Housing Services division.

Department: Social Services

Frequency: One-time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- The division will see service level challenges in meeting various administrative requirements associated with senior government funding for housing. This role was intended to support additional administrative requirements – to address urgent capital repairs to help sustain the community housing stock.

8. Family Services

\$95,500

Description:

- Defer the hiring of new Family Counsellor positions (1.5 FTEs) in the Family Services division.

Department: Social Services

Frequency: One-time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Wait time for residents to access counselling services will continue to increase with current wait times of 52 weeks.
- Approximately 600 hours of direct counselling service will not be added in 2024 as a result of this reduction.
- Going forward, a cap for Ontario Works clients served may need to be created to allow for more fee-paying clients.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

9. Long Term Care		\$2,234,900
Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defer the hiring of new nursing positions which would increase the level of care provided to the Region's Long Term Care Home's residents. 	Department: Social Services	
	Frequency: Permanent	
Service Level Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferring these new positions would reduce the amount of direct care to residents by 12 minutes per day per resident (0.2 hours). While still meeting the minimum provincial requirement/target, this additional care could help ensure residents can continue to connect to the care they need in the comfort of their long-term care home. 		

10. Public Health Inspectors		\$206,800
Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defer the hiring of three new Public Health Inspectors (3 FTEs). 	Department: Health Department	
	Frequency: One Time Reduction	
Service Level Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases risk to effectively manage unanticipated outbreaks and events (e.g., increase in respiratory illnesses, extreme weather events, etc.). Reduction in service to the community for programs such as Food Safety and Safe Water including increased response times and delays in responding to service requests. 		

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

11. Oral Health

\$98,200

Description:

- Defer the hiring of three new part-time oral health positions including a part-time Dentist, a part-time Dental Hygienist and a part-time Dental Assistant (1.5 FTEs).

Department: Health Department

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Currently eligible low-income Durham Region residents are waiting a minimum of four months to receive oral health services - deferring these positions will increase wait times even further.
- 600 urgent dental needs that were identified through school screening in the 2022/2023 school year remain outstanding.

12. Advertising

\$20,000

Description:

- Elimination of advertisements in print newspaper.

Department: Office of the CAO

Frequency: Permanent

Service Level Impact:

- In 2023, Metroland stopped the production of print newspapers in Durham Region. The high cost of advertisements in print newspaper can be eliminated.
- Remaining advertising budget will be used to promote programs and services on digital news platforms.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

13. Legal POA Staffing

\$259,600

Description:

- Defer the conversion of a part-time prosecutor to a full-time position. The conversion is required to address growing volumes in POA Courts and the additional responsibilities for POA Prosecutors related to hybrid courts.
- Defer the hiring of two new Court Clerks (2.0 FTEs).
- Defer the hiring of a new Trial Scheduler (1.0 FTE) to support Red Light Camera and Automated Speed Enforcement charges.
- Defer the hiring of a new Court Assistant (1.0 FTE) to support Red Light Camera and Automated Speed Enforcement charges.

Department:

Office of the CAO

Frequency:

One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Increased workloads for existing staff resulting in additional overtime costs.
- Reduction of 25 per cent of POA Court capacity, impacting Court matters.
- Anticipated increase in time to trial, withdrawals and POA revenues as Court Services POA charge volumes are at 150 per cent of all-time highs as a result of growth and new programs such as Red Light Camera and Automated Speed Enforcement with no corresponding increase in staffing.
- Efforts will be required to work with stakeholders to reduce charge volumes which may include withdrawal of charges at earlier stages or reductions in the number of Red Light Camera and Automated Speed Enforcement charges.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

14. Planning Services - Plan Implementation

\$65,100

Description:

- Retain full year gapping savings for a third position in the Plan Implementation Section of the Planning Division. This position was gapped in the 2023 Budget.

Department: Planning and Economic Development

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Due to Bill 23, departure of planning staff has been pronounced within the Plan Implementation Section. However, the Region's role remains unchanged since the portions of the Bill pertaining to the approval authority of upper-tiers is yet to be proclaimed.

15. Durham Region Transit

\$2,753,900

Description:

- Reduction in the planned service enhancement for 2024 as outlined in Durham Region Transit's ten-year service and financing strategy.

Department: Durham Region Transit

Frequency: Permanent

Service Level Impact:

- Planned service enhancements would be reduced from 70,000 revenue service hours to approximately 44,500 revenue service hours, a reduction of 25,500 revenue service hours (36.4 per cent reduction). This is a specific key Council priority.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

1.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

16. Computer Replacement Program

\$200,000

Description:

- Change the rejuvenation cycle of Regional computers (laptops) from every three years to every four years.

Department: All Departments

Frequency: Permanent

Service Level Impact:

- Anticipate higher number of incidents of device issues and higher break-and-fix costs for out-of-warranty devices.
- With more older devices in use, there will be higher probability of service interruptions due to system issues.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

17. Durham Region Transit

\$6,181,000

Description:

- A further reduction in the planned service enhancement for 2024 and forecast as outlined in Durham Region Transit's ten-year service and financing strategy. This \$6,181,000 is in addition to the \$2,753,900 reduction outlined above (Reduction Item #15).

Department: Durham Region Transit

Frequency: Permanent

Service Level Impact:

- There would be no increase in service for 2024 (service hours would remain at 2023 levels).
- Growth capital would be deferred resulting in a further reduction of approximately \$1.1 million service enhancements beyond 2024 as growth buses would not be available to provide increased service.
- Service guideline changes would be required including suspending Social Equity Guidelines.
- Durham Transit would not be able to reinstate the 23,000 hours of service that are being optimized in January 2024.
- Lower frequency, reliability and capacity to meet demand.
- No service to growth areas.
- Customers would be required to walk farther, wait longer and would experience lengthier travel times.
- Durham would fall further behind comparator municipalities in access to public transit.
- Loss of generational riders that have a choice for transportation.
- Disproportionate impact to residents at risk, students and workers.
- More full buses and customers left at stops, longer On Demand wait times and less access.

SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

18. Mental Health Resources

\$100,000

Description:

- Defer investment in mental health resources to support and ensure the well-being of Regional employees. Short-term Income Protection Program (STIPP) claims have increased in number and complexity since 2020.

Department: Corporate Services

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Not having the necessary resources needed to adequately address the surge in long-term disability will exacerbate delays in claim response times, particularly for complex mental health cases. This will lead to prolonged periods of lost productivity in staff that are off from work and impose additional emotional and financial burdens on affected employees, negatively impacting both individual well-being and organizational performance as well as jeopardizing the consistence and quality of service delivery and affecting our ability to meet public service expectations.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

19. Compensation Review for Education and Experience Equivalencies

\$126,600

Description:

- Defer the hiring of a temporary Compensation Analyst to identify education and experience equivalencies. This work supports the recommendations from the recently completed Equity Audit and is intended to eliminate systemic barriers that hinder the hiring of marginalized groups, fostering a more inclusive and equitable work environment.

Department: Corporate Services

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Without this additional temporary resource, Human Resources staff and hiring managers would face increased workloads, jeopardizing the timelines of the hiring process.
- This would also negatively impact both internal promotions and external recruitments, and ultimately undermine the Region's commitment to equity and inclusion consequently affecting the timely implementation of the Region's Equity Audit recommendations.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

20. Service Durham

\$485,000

Description:

- Defer the hiring of a new Quality Assurance Manager and a new Recruiter (2.0 FTEs) along with other operational requirements including software licenses and maintenance and staff training.

Department: Corporate Services

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Service Durham, a key Council priority, is continuing to transition staff from other departments to the Region's Corporate Call Centre.
- The new Quality Assurance Manager position is required for effective functionality and long-term sustainability of Service Durham. The new Recruiter position is required to ensure adequate staffing due to the industry standard expectation of high attrition rates in a call center. The absence of these two new positions will impact customer satisfaction, first contact resolution. Call wait times would also increase.
- Without increased investment in software licenses and maintenance, Service Durham will be challenged to provide additional OMNI contact center services including live chat, chat bot, home devices and kiosks.
- Without increased investment in training, new staff will not be provided with the required training which will impact customer satisfaction and first contact resolution.
- Ongoing work to integrate Service Durham with local municipalities to provide a single point of contact for the residents of the Region would need to be put on hold.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

21. Information Technology/Cyber Security

\$702,500

Description:

- Defer the hiring of three new Information Technology positions including a Senior Systems Analyst (Applications), a ITSM Administrator/Process Specialist (IT Service Delivery) and a Supervisor Security Architecture (Cyber Security) along with other operational requirements to meet existing Regional operation needs and mitigate cyber risk.

Department: Corporate Services

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Without increased investment in staffing, enterprise IT projects are likely to be delayed including myDurham311 project, Enterprise Information Management and Cyber Security and Maturity efforts.
- Impact the Region's ability to maintain and replace aging technology infrastructure, elevating security risks and operational inefficiencies that could potentially lead to system outages that may cause downstream disruption in Regional service delivery.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

22. Public Health Policy Analyst

\$73,100

Description:

- Defer the hiring of a new Policy Analyst position (1.0 FTE).

Department: Health Department

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Reduction in ability to review public health programs and services with an Indigenous lens.
- Reduction in resources available to build capacity to address health inequities impacting Indigenous communities, across all Health Department programs and affect our ability to demonstrate compliance with the Relationship with Indigenous Communities Guideline and Health Equity Standard of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS).

23. Public Health Financial Coordinator

\$67,100

Description:

- Defer the hiring of a new Financial Coordinator position (1.0 FTE).

Department: Health Department

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Delay in implementation of improved and modernized financial management processes including financial reporting and monitoring, and implementation of improved internal controls.
- Impact on timely review of Health Department financial matters including budgets and expenditures to ensure optimization of public funds and adequately demonstrate compliance with the Fiduciary Requirements and the Good Governance and Management Practices Domains of the OHPS, which require the board of health be held accountable for using ministry funds efficiently, for its intended purpose and ensuring value for money.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

24. Public Health Data Analysts Coordinators

\$141,200

Description:

- Defer the hiring of two new Data Analyst Coordinators (2.0 FTEs).

Department: Health Department

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Impact on accessibility of vaccines to residents including priority populations due to a lack of timely data collection and reporting to support vaccine inventory management.
- Impact on the ability to maintain the vaccine scheduling platform which has been in place since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic impacting expected level of customer service.

25. Procurement Officer

\$65,000

Description:

- Defer the hiring of one new Procurement Officer (1.0 FTE).

Department: Finance Department

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Bill 23 has had the impact of advancing both the planned capital program as well as the pre-work for those capital programs such as asset management activities to prepare for capital expansions. This will increase the demand for expedited capital procurement.
- This may cause challenges in delivering on Bill 23 and housing target capital programs.

**SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION
IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE**

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

26. Community Safety and Well-being Fund

\$40,000

Description:

- One year deferral of Community Safety and Well-being Fund.

Department: Office of the CAO

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- Impact on implementation of the Council-approved Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Fund.
- Impact on ability to invest in community non-profits serving those most in need, in alignment with the priority risk factors and action items identified in the CSWB Plan.

27. Community Events

\$50,000

Description:

- Deferral of purchase of often rented items for events.

Department: Office of the CAO

Frequency: One Time Reduction

Service Level Impact:

- A temporary Events Coordinator has substantially improved the efficiency and effectiveness of Regionally-hosted events.
- Items such as a collapsible podium, easels, curtains, backdrop, AV equipment, etc. are rented at significant cost multiple times over the course of the year.

SAMPLE SERVICE LEVEL IMPACTS OF A 1.0 PER CENT AND 2.0 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE REGION'S 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE

2.0 Per Cent Reduction Impacts

28. Procurement Solicitor	\$59,000
Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defer the start date of a new Procurement Solicitor to July 1, 2024.	Department: Office of the CAO
	Frequency: One Time Reduction
Service Level Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This critical area is presently serviced by only one solicitor, who is also required to attend to other matters. A deferral of the hiring of this position will continue to put strain on that sole solicitor and will impact the ability to provide service excellence to other clients within the Region's administration. Given Procurement's reliance on Legal Services, the ability to effectively manage and turn around procurements in the most efficient manner possible will continue to be impacted.	

PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE FOR THE 2024 REGIONAL BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS

A) 2024 PROPERTY TAX GUIDELINE

Item	Description	Standing Committee	Regional Council
1.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline 	Finance and Administration Committee – September 12, 2023	September 27, 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Regional Business Plans and Property Tax Supported Budget Guideline – Guideline Reduction Impacts 	Finance and Administration Committee – December 12, 2023	December 20, 2024

B) SUPPORTING BUSINESS PLANNING REPORTS

Item	Description	Standing Committee(s)	Regional Council
1.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Water and Sanitary Sewer User Rates 	Finance and Administration Committee – December 12, 2023	December 20, 2023
2.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Strategic Property Tax Study 	Finance and Administration Committee – March 19, 2024	March 27, 2024
3.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Property Tax Rates 		March 27, 2024

PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE FOR THE 2024 REGIONAL BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS

C) 2024 DETAILED BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS

Item	Description	Standing Committee(s)	Regional Council
1.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Detailed Water and Sanitary Sewer Business Plans and Budgets 	Works Committee – December 6, 2023 Finance and Administration Committee – December 12, 2023	December 20, 2023
2.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 9-1-1 Emergency Service System Business Plans and Budget 	9-1-1 Management Board January 30, 2024	
3.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Durham OneNet Inc. Business Plans and Budget 	Durham OneNet Inc. Board – January/February 2024 (tentative)	
4.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC) Business Plans and Budget 	DRLHC Board – February 14, 2024 (tentative)	
5.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Planning and Economic Development Business Plans and Budgets 	Planning and Economic Development Committee – March 5, 2024	
6.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Works General Tax and Solid Waste Management Business Plans and Budgets 	Works Committee – March 6, 2024	
7.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget 	Transit Executive Committee – March 6, 2024	
8.	Review and Approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Health and Social Services Business Plans and Budgets 	Health and Social Services Committee – March 7, 2024	

PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE FOR THE 2024 REGIONAL BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS

Item	Description	Standing Committee(s)	Regional Council
9.	Review and approval of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Departmental Business Plans and Budgets • 2024 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Durham Regional Police Service Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Conservation Authorities Business Plans and Budgets • 2024 9-1-1 Emergency Service System Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Durham OneNet Inc. Business Plans and Budget • 2024 Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC) Business Plans and Budget 	Finance and Administration Committee – March 19, 2024	March 27, 2024

From: Sean.Fraser@ontario.ca
To: Mark.Maichrowski
Subject: Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023 receives Royal Assent - Kawartha Conservation
Date: December 20, 2023 4:53:50 PM

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Planning and Growth Division
 777 Bay Street, 12th Floor
 Toronto ON M7A 2J3
 Tel.: 416 325-5799

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Division de l'aménagement et de la croissance
 777, rue Bay, 12^e étage
 Toronto ON M7A 2J3
 Tél. : 416 325-5799



December 20, 2023

Dear Municipal Clerks/CAOs, and Conservation Authority Administrators:

Subject: *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023* receives Royal Assent - Legislation Returns Lands to the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine

The Ontario government is following through on its commitment to fully restore the 15 parcels of land that were redesignated or removed from the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan areas in late 2022.

On October 16, 2023, the government introduced legislation, Bill 136, the *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023*, to restore these lands. I am writing to inform you that on December 5, 2023, Bill 136 was passed by the Legislature and the *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023* received Royal Assent on December 6.

The government has carefully reviewed the feedback received from the consultation on the proposed legislation through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #019-7739) and by email. The ERO posting was open for comment for 45 days from October 16 to November 30, 2023.

This legislation came into force upon Royal Assent on December 6, 2023, and immediately:

- Adds 15 sites back to the Greenbelt that were removed/redesignated in December 2022 and incorporate the description of the Greenbelt Area and Oak Ridges Moraine Area boundaries directly into the legislation;
- Eliminates the authority to add or remove lands to/from the Greenbelt Area and Oak Ridges Moraine Area by regulation so that any future amendments to these Areas would require legislative change to the *Greenbelt Act, 2005* or the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001*;
- Revokes the existing Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (*Ontario Regulation 59/05*) and the existing regulation that designates the Oak Ridges Moraine Area (*Ontario Regulation 1/02*);
- Undoes the redesignation of lands to Settlement Area in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan;
- Provides for a concurrent amendment to the Greenbelt Plan's land use schedules to restore the same protections to lands that they had before the 2022 amendment;
- Continues to provide that no Plan amendments can be made that would reduce the total area in the Greenbelt Plan;
- Restores the same protections for easements and covenants on the lands in the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve that they had before the 2022 amendment; and
- Strengthens immunity provisions.

The *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023* will provide enhanced protections to the Greenbelt moving forward by ensuring any future changes to the boundaries of these areas can only be made through an open, public, and transparent process that would require approval from the legislature.

The *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023* keeps the 9,400 acres (3,800 hectares) in the Greenbelt that were added in 2022. These include lands in the Paris Galt Moraine and in Urban River Valley areas across the Greater Toronto Area.

By reinstating the protections provided for the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve easements and covenants, the Ontario government recognizes the importance of this agricultural land and ensuring its sustainable use for present and future generations.

The government appreciates the valuable input and diverse perspectives provided during the consultative process on this proposal.

The *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023* incorporates the description of the restored Greenbelt Area boundary directly into the *Greenbelt Act, 2005* and the description of the Oak Ridges Moraine Area directly into the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001*, the latest versions of which can be found at:

- [Greenbelt Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 1](#)
- [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 31](#)

A copy of Bill 136, Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023 can be found on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website

at:

- [Bill 136, the Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023](#)

More information on the decision and legislative proposal to amend the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*, *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* and other related legislation can be found on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) at:

- [ERO #019-7739 - Proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt - Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023](#)
- [ERO #019-7735 - New Act regarding the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve easements and covenants](#)

Information and mapping on the 2022 decision to amend the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan can be found here:

- [ERO #019-6216 - Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan](#)
- [ERO #019-6218 Proposed redesignation of land under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan O. Reg. 140/02](#)

Sincerely,

Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister
Planning and Growth Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Cell: 647 282-1171

c. Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Le 20 décembre 2023

Objet : Sanction royale de la Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure et réintégration de terres dans la ceinture de verdure et la moraine d'Oak Ridges

Aux secrétaires et directeurs administratifs des municipalités et aux administrateurs des offices de protection de la nature,

Le gouvernement de l'Ontario tient son engagement de rétablir la totalité des 15 parcelles dont la désignation a été modifiée ou qui ont été retirées des zones du Plan de la ceinture de verdure et du Plan de conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges à la fin de 2022.

Le 16 octobre 2023, le gouvernement a déposé le projet de loi 136, intitulé *Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure*, afin de réintégrer ces terres. Je vous écris pour vous informer que l'Assemblée législative a adopté le projet de loi 136 le 5 décembre 2023 et que la *Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure* a reçu la sanction royale le 6 décembre.

Le gouvernement a examiné soigneusement les commentaires reçus dans le cadre de la consultation sur le projet de loi menée au moyen de la demande de commentaires affichée au Registre environnemental de l'Ontario (REO, no 019-7739) et par courriel. La demande du REO a été affichée pendant 45 jours, soit du 16 octobre au 30 novembre 2023.

La loi est entrée en vigueur le jour de la sanction royale, soit le 6 décembre 2023. Ses effets immédiats comprennent :

- Réintégration dans la ceinture de verdure de 15 sites qui ont été retirés ou dont la désignation a été modifiée en décembre 2022, et inclusion de la description de la zone de la ceinture de verdure et du territoire de la moraine d'Oak Ridges directement dans la législation.
- Élimination du pouvoir d'ajouter des terres à la zone de la ceinture de verdure et au territoire de la moraine d'Oak Ridges ou d'en retirer par règlement pour que toute modification future de ces zones exige une modification de la Loi de 2005 sur la ceinture de verdure ou de la Loi de 2001 sur la conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges.
- Révocation de l'actuel règlement sur les limites de la zone de la ceinture de verdure (Règlement de l'Ontario 59/05) et de l'actuel règlement qui désigne le territoire de la moraine d'Oak Ridges (Règlement de l'Ontario 1/02).
- Annulation de la nouvelle désignation de terres comme zone de peuplement dans le Plan de conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges.
- Modification corrélative des schémas d'aménagement du Plan de la ceinture de verdure pour rétablir les mesures de protection des terres qui étaient en vigueur avant la modification de 2022.
- Maintien de l'interdiction de modifier le Plan de la ceinture de verdure d'une manière qui réduirait sa superficie totale.
- Rétablissement des mesures de protection des servitudes et des engagements visant les terres de la réserve agricole de Duffins-Rouge qui étaient en vigueur avant la modification de 2022.
- Renforcement des dispositions relatives à l'immunité.

La *Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure* protégera davantage la ceinture de verdure à l'avenir en garantissant que toute modification des limites de ces zones ne puisse être adoptée que dans le cadre d'un processus ouvert, public et transparent qui nécessiterait l'approbation de l'Assemblée législative.

La *Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure* maintient dans la ceinture de verdure les 9 400 acres (3 800 hectares) qui ont été ajoutés en 2022. Ce sont notamment des terres des zones de la moraine de Paris Galt et des vallées fluviales urbaines de la région du grand Toronto.

En rétablissant les mesures de protection des servitudes et des engagements visant la réserve agricole de Duffins-Rouge, le gouvernement de l'Ontario reconnaît l'importance de cette zone agricole et de la durabilité de son utilisation pour les générations actuelles et futures.

Le gouvernement apprécie les commentaires précieux et points de vue diversifiés communiqués au cours du processus de consultation portant sur cette proposition.

La *Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure* incorpore la description de la limite rétablie de la zone de la ceinture de verdure directement dans la *Loi de 2005 sur la ceinture de verdure* et la description du territoire de la moraine d'Oak Ridges directement dans la *Loi de 2001 sur la conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges*, dont on trouvera les dernières versions à :

- [Loi de 2005 sur la ceinture de verdure, L.O. 2005, chap. 1](#)
- [Loi de 2001 sur la conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges, L.O. 2001, chap. 31](#)

Une copie du projet de loi 136 intitulé *Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure* se trouve sur le site Web de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario :

- [Projet de loi 136, Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui concerne la ceinture de verdure](#)

De plus amples renseignements sur la décision et la proposition de modification de la *Loi de 2005 sur la ceinture de verdure*, de la *Loi de 2001 sur la conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges* et d'autres lois connexes se trouvent sur le Registre environnemental de l'Ontario (REO) :

- [REO, no 019-7739 – Proposition visant à réintégrer des terres dans la ceinture de verdure - Loi de 2023 modifiant des lois en ce qui a trait à la ceinture de verdure](#)
- [REO, no 019-7735 - Nouvelle loi relative aux servitudes et engagements de la Réserve agricole de Duffins-Rouge](#)

Des renseignements et des cartes liés à la décision de 2022 de modifier le Plan de la ceinture de verdure et le Plan de conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges se trouvent ici :

- [REO, no 019-6216 - Modifications au Plan de la ceinture de verdure](#)
- [REO, no 019-6218 Décision concernant la nouvelle désignation proposée des terres dans le cadre du Plan de conservation de la moraine d'Oak Ridges - Règl. de l'Ont. 140/02](#)

Veuillez agréer l'expression de mes meilleurs sentiments.

Sean Fraser, sous-ministre adjoint
Division de l'aménagement et de la croissance
Ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement

Téléphone cellulaire : 647 282-1171

c. Martha Greenberg, sous-ministre, Affaires municipales et Logement



Agenda Item #9.1

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO
Jonathan Lucas, Director, Corporate Services

Re: Administrative Resolutions for 2024

KEY ISSUE:

On an annual basis the Board of Directors confirms by resolution our banker, solicitor, auditor, and approves a borrowing resolution.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

- 1) RESOLVED, THAT, the Royal Bank (Lindsay Branch) be appointed as the bank for Kawartha Region Conservation Authority for 2024.
- 2) RESOLVED, THAT, the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority may borrow from the Royal Bank, at the bank's prime rate of interest, up to the sum of THREE HUNDRED and FIFTY THOUSAND (\$350,000.00) DOLLARS necessary for its purposes until payment to the Authority of any grants and sums to be paid to the Authority by the participating municipalities; and,

THAT, the normal signing officers of the Authority are hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of the Authority a promissory note or notes for the sum to be borrowed and to affix thereto the corporate seal of the Authority; and,

THAT, the amount borrowed pursuant to this resolution together with interest thereon at the Royal Bank's prime rate of interest be a charge upon the whole of the Authority by way of grants as and when such monies are received and of sums received or to be received by the Authority from the participating municipalities as and when such monies are received; and,

THAT, the normal signing officers of the Authority are hereby authorized and directed to apply in payment of the monies borrowed pursuant to this resolution together with interest thereon at the Royal Bank's prime rate of interest, monies received by the Authority by way of grants, or sums received by the Authority from participating municipalities.

- 3) RESOLVED, THAT, for the year 2024, the firm of Hicks Morley Hamilton Stewart Storie LLP, be appointed as solicitor for human resource matters, and,

THAT, Gardiner Roberts LLP and Due Process Legal Services, be appointed as the solicitors for matters dealing with planning and regulations, and,



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January 25, 2024

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THAT, Warner & Cork, Barristers and Solicitors be appointed as solicitor for general legal matters.

- 4) RESOLVED, THAT, the brokerage firm Westland Insurance be appointed to coordinate our insurance policy in 2024.

Administrative Resolutions for 2024

BANK

Presently our banker is the Royal Bank in Lindsay providing routine and on-line banking products. We have a strong relationship with the local branch who have participated in programs as volunteers, as well, RBC has been extremely supportive of programs by providing grants supporting lake management plan implementation efforts and conservation area initiatives.

BORROWING

With respect to borrowing of funds, the Board of Directors annually considers a borrowing resolution, the purpose of which is to allow operating funds to be borrowed, if needed, prior to funding being received from member municipalities. This is a matter of cash flow; historically, very limited borrowing has been necessary. The amount of the borrowing resolution for 2024 is recommended to be set at the traditional level of \$350,000.

SOLICITOR

We utilize the services of 3 legal firms:

- Warner & Cork Barristers and Solicitors for general administrative advice and land management;
- Hicks Morley for employment and labour related matters;
- Gardiner Roberts, LLP and Due Process Legal Services for floodplain regulation advice and litigation.

We were recently notified the Warner and Cork Barristers and Solicitors will be retiring from practice and clients will have the opportunity to be taken by another firm. We will be in discussions with the proposed firm and exploring options into the future. A separate resolution will be presented to the Board in the future as we navigate the transition.

INSURANCE

Westland Insurance (previously Stewart Morrison Insurance) manages our insurance portfolio including property, liability, legal, fleet and cybersecurity. Westland is a local company operating out of Lindsay. Our 2024 policy is underwritten by Intact Public Entities for property, liability, legal and fleet and our cybersecurity renewal is in process with CFC

For more information, please contact Jonathan Lucas at extension 233.



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underwriters.

AUDITOR

In 2023, it was resolved that BDO Canada LLP is appointed as our auditing firm for the years ending 2022, 2023 and 2024.



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January 25, 2024

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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO
Kristie Virgoe, Director, Stewardship and Conservation Lands

Re: Funding Grant Application -Tourism Growth Program

KEY ISSUE: An opportunity to access the Tourism Growth Program for infrastructure improvements at Ken Reid Conservation Area.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the application for the Tourism Growth Program be supported and that match funding be approved in principle from reserves.

As part of the Federal Government's efforts to grow the Canadian tourism industry, the Tourism Growth Program has created a match funding program of up to \$250,000 per project. Eligible applicants for the program include:

- Incorporated small and mid-sized tourism operators
- Indigenous owned businesses
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Governments (municipal, provincial, territorial)

Among the various eligible activities is the opportunity to apply for funding that will support active outdoor experiences including the renovation or improvement of facilities and infrastructure.

Ken Reid Conservation Area boasts several attractions showcasing the beauty of the area including the Marsh Boardwalk. This popular feature provides opportunities for bird watching, nature observation and is used as a backdrop for many memorable photos. This destination within the park is linked to the vision of Kawartha Conservation, by providing opportunities for people to





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connect with nature and thereby helping to achieve *'Engaged communities that love, respect and appreciate our natural environment.'*

Over the past few years, the need for maintenance on the boardwalk has increased. The infrastructure is approximately 25 years old and in need of significant repair along several stretches. As the pictures below demonstrate; the underlying bracing structures are now rotting, resulting in multiple failures of boardwalk sections per year.

While some maintenance is scheduled each year, unanticipated failures are resulting in additional repairs and a risk to public safety. In 2023, emergency repairs resulted in the Boardwalk being closed for over 3 weeks during the summer and 1 week in the fall.



For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



Agenda Item #9.2

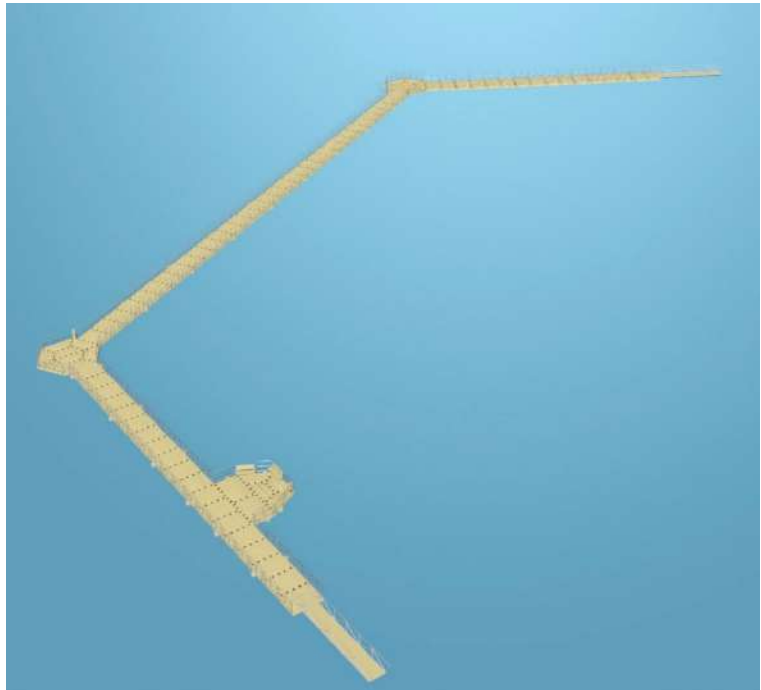
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To address the long-term need to repair the boardwalk, and to elevate our infrastructure and visitor appeal, we are in the process of investigating a fully redesigned and rebuilt boardwalk with a plan to utilize the Tourism Growth Program to help support the work. Given the extent of the work and limited staffing resources, we are proposing a contractor to complete this project. This length of boardwalk is approximately 135m and runs through the Sturgeon Lake No. 26 Provincially Significant Wetland.

We have obtained a cost estimate for the rebuild of the boardwalk, quoted at \$530,000. This includes the installation of an aluminum floating boardwalk with three viewing areas, seating, and composite decking. The aluminum structure will be longer lasting as it will not rot the way that wood is susceptible to do. A formal request for proposal will be undertaken if the Board agrees to move forward with this asset replacement and if funding is secured, however, this quote provides us with the baseline information we need to proceed with the application. Below is the conceptual image of the proposed new boardwalk.



With 50% coming from the grant, if successful, that will leave an estimate \$280,000 needed. We propose to offset funding from reserves to cover our matching costs if successful in the application. While our plan is to develop a capital funding campaign, knowing we have the match funding available will allow us to apply with confidence to the Tourism Growth Program. If proceeding with the funding grant is approved by the Board, this project will be included in the list of capital projects for the 2024 budget year.



Agenda Item #9.3

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

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To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO
Jonathan Lucas, Director, Corporate Services

Re: 2024 Draft Operating Budget

KEY ISSUE:

To review the 2024 Draft Budget and provide direction.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the Draft 2024 budget be updated to reflect any Board recommendations prior to circulation, AND,

THAT, the Draft 2024 budget be presented at the February meeting for endorsement,

BACKGROUND

Further to guidance provided at the Board meeting of July 25th, September 28th and October 26th, 2023 we have developed the Draft 2024 Budget using the 2023 Operating levy as a baseline with an increase of 2.5%, a total of \$42,883.

The draft budget was shared with the Board of Directors at the November 23rd meeting. There have been no revisions to the budget at the second draft review prior to seeking approval for consultation.

The 2023 operating levy baseline has been used to support the new frameworks categories of General, Mandatory, Municipal and Other Programs and Services in 2024. We attach the 2024 draft detailed budget inclusive of our Programs and Deliverables for the year.

A summary of key assumptions and guidelines is provided below.

Governance and Legislation

It is our objective to prepare a budget that meets the demands of our core business, our Strategic Plan, the economic outlook, the budget guidelines set by our municipal partners and respect the anticipated direction and outcomes of the legislation by the Province of Ontario, Bill 108, and proposed regulations.

Our 2024 budget required a significant undertaking from staff to review all our

For more information, please contact Jonathan Lucas at extension 233.



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programs and services and implement the administrative undertakings to provide a budget that meets the requirements of O. Reg. 402/22: Budget and Apportionment. This regulation went into effect July 1st, 2023 and is a supporting regulation to the amendments through the Conservation Authorities Act that have categorized our programs and services into General, Mandatory, Municipal and Other. As a result of the changes, there has been a restatement of 2023 budget figures to align with the 2024 budget approach. We attach a comparative table for your reference below.

2023 Budget	➔	2024 Budget Programs and Services
Operating levy	➔	General Operating Category 1 Mandatory Category 3 Other
Special Projects	➔	Category 2 Municipal
General Benefitting Projects	➔	Category 1 Mandatory Category 3 Other

Additionally, there is an accounting change that will result in how labour is charged throughout the budget. Traditionally, in-house expertise was used to appropriately recover staff labour for special projects (category 2) that benefitted one or more municipalities, but not all, in the past. However, with the increased complexity and an increasing volume of cost centres to maintain; salaries, wages and benefits will be directly charged to the relevant programs using the board approved full costing methodology.

We anticipate that the 2024 budget will be a transitory year and we will normalize in 2025 with better aligned year-over-year comparators as we adjust to the new framework.

Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* was first read at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario October 25th, 2022 and received Royal Assent on November 28th, 2022. While several accompanying regulations have been enacted (OWES, Wetland setbacks, removal of CA ability to comment on natural heritage features under the planning act, etc.), there are still budgetary considerations that include:

- Regulatory Exemptions and Regulatory Scope Changes – Bill 23 proposes exemptions for applications having received planning act approvals, in addition to other regulatory scope changes. There has not been an associated regulation update for this yet. Permitting applications for items under the plan review process may result in reduced permitting revenues. The extent is likely limited to

For more information, please contact Jonathan Lucas at extension 233.



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certain development applications where the rigour of the planning framework will provide the necessary information from a permitting perspective.

- Section 28 Regulation Changes – It is proposed by the Province that the definition of a watercourse be changed and setbacks from wetlands be reduced through associated regulatory changes which have not been released. We anticipate that the change in definition will require an increased number of field visits to verify a watercourse exists meeting the criteria defined, while the reduction in buffer areas around wetlands will reduce the number of permits and corresponding revenues associated with cost recovery for permitting.

General Benefiting Projects

Our general benefitting projects budget remains flat at \$40,000 in 2024 to carry out our Record Management Initiative and the implementation of our Environmental Monitoring Strategy. There are no further notable considerations that have impacted these projects.

Inflation

Inflation continues to pose challenges on several levels. We have seen a modest decline in the rate of inflation, however, the current trend is ahead of the Bank of Canada's target of 2%. Most recently at the time of this reports release, the September 2023 inflation figures came in at 3.8%.

Starting in March 2022, the Bank of Canada (BoC) has increased interest rates from 0.25% to 5.00% through ten hikes. These actions take time for measurable differences to be experienced as there is a lag effect. The [October 2023 Monetary Policy Report](#) from the Bank of Canada states that *"inflation is projected to remain persistently high, at roughly 3.5%, until the middle of 2024"* and *"is projected to fall to around 2.5% in the second half of 2024. It then continues to decline, returning to the 2% target in 2025"*. It's also important to note that there is *"a considerable amount of uncertainty [that] surrounds the forecast"*.

The increasing rates continue to place pressure on the procurement of our goods and services. Alternatively, we are seeing a benefit regarding monthly interest earned on our funds, albeit not to the extent to cover the pressures faced on our expenditures.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Lucas at extension 233.



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Municipal Guidelines

An updated summary by municipality and their current budget approval status is provided below:

MUNICIPALITY	CORRESPONDENCE
City of Kawartha Lakes	<p>On July 20th, 2023, we received budget guidelines from the City of Kawartha Lakes. The guidelines requested a target increase of 3%.</p> <p>We provided our budget figures to the City on September 15th, 2023. Our total anticipated municipal levy funding of \$1,512,508, which includes the drafted financial information for special projects is an increase of \$74,975, representing a 5.22% funding increase request for the City.</p> <p>The anticipated increase over the guideline is attributed to the 2024-2028 Lake Management Implementation Action Plan that we have developed in consultation with stakeholders and endorsed by our Board of Directors. The allocation of these funds will ultimately come from council decision.</p> <p>We provided a presentation to council on our 2024 budget on November 2nd.</p>
Region of Durham	<p>Regional Municipality of Durham Council meeting held on December 20, 2023 and approved the 2024 Property Tax Budget Revised Guideline and Report #2023-F-35.</p> <p>Approved guidelines for conservation authorities included 2.5% for operating programs and 1.5% for special benefiting programs that we are in alignment with.</p>
Township of Cavan-Monaghan	<p>On November 23, 2023 our draft 2024 budget figures were supplied for inclusion in their budget process. A budget presentation was provided to council on December 4th.</p>
Municipality of Trent Lakes	<p>On November 10th, our draft 2024 budget figures were supplied for inclusion in their budget process and we provided a presentation to council on November 21st.</p>

For more information, please contact Jonathan Lucas at extension 233.



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Budget Guidelines

The preliminary draft 2024 budget has been developed using the following assumptions:

- The municipal operating levy is increased by 2.5%, plus or minus any current value assessment adjustments impacting apportionment percentages that can alter each municipalities share.
- The municipal operating levy will support Category 1 (Mandatory Programs and Services), Category 3 (Other Programs and Services) and General Operating Expenditures, apportioned by the Modified Current Value Assessment.
- Category 2 (Municipal programs and services) will be funded by benefiting municipalities.
- MOU's will be primarily completed for the 2023 budget year with implementation in 2024, allowing for municipal levy apportionments to be received for Category 3 programs.
- Municipal levy apportionments in 2024 will not be affected as a result of the MOU extension granted by the Province for Durham Region.
- The labour market is showing signs of softening but remains competitive continuing into 2024 placing pressure on hiring and recruitment costs.
- Inflation and interest rates will remain elevated as the Bank of Canada continues to combat inflation with this monetary policy.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry transfer payment will remain at \$24,600.
- Planning and permitting revenues will remain consistent with 2023 activity levels.
- Provincial orders to freeze permitting and planning fees for a second year will place pressure on the adopted cost recovery model for natural hazard review
- Employment programs and grant opportunities will be accessible.
- General and special benefiting projects will incorporate deferred revenues accordingly to offset levy increases and attain deliverables.
- Our Asset Management Plan will be circulated for consultation and implementation in 2024. We will bring forward recommendations for a capital budget separately for 2024 using reserve funds and grants, if applicable.
- Salary adjustments for cost of living and review of merit increases. As we are amid a compensation review, any salary adjustments will be deferred until any recommendations from the review are received as the cost of living/merit increases may need to be leveraged for phasing in any adjustments out of the Pay Equity and Compensation Review.
- Converting one recurring contract position into a permanent role (primarily funded through the City of Kawartha Lakes Lake Management Implementation Action Plan).

For more information, please contact Jonathan Lucas at extension 233.



Agenda Item #9.3

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

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- Inflationary adjustments for goods and services.
- Implementation of the MOUs and revised reporting of financials and budgets in accordance with legislation.
- Implementation of Conservation Authority Act requirements including a watershed-based resource management Strategy (related to natural hazards, and other areas as agreed to through apportionment agreements), Land Inventory for CA owned or controlled lands and a Conservation Area strategy.

Budget Timetable

DATE	O. REG. 402/22 PHASE	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 27 th , 2023	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board direction for budget 2024 guidelines and timelines
September 28 th , 2023	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board direction for apportionment methods by program and service
October 26 th , 2023	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board direction for labour and approval of the full-costing methodology.
November 23 rd , 2023	Phase 1: Budget Drafting, Determining Amounts owed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st review of 2024 Draft Budget to determine all anticipated revenues and expenditures, and what portion of the expenses are to be paid by municipalities.
January 25th, 2024	Phase 2: Approval of Draft Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd review of 2024 Draft Budget; • Approval of draft budget for consultation sought
March 28 th , 2024	Phase 3 & 4: Approval of Amounts Owed; Final Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Amounts Owed via Weighted Vote (<i>Minimum 30 days notice of meeting provided to municipalities prior to this</i>) • Final Budget Approval via one-member one-vote
Promptly following March 28 th , 2024	Phase 4: Final Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate a copy of the final approved CA budget to the Minister and municipalities and make the final budget publicly available on the website.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Lucas at extension 233.



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Conclusion

A capital budget will be provided to the Board of Directors in February. The capital budget will not require additional municipal funding and will be dependent on reserves and/or grants.

Although the legislative requirements are met addressing cost apportionment for the budget year, given a preference to circulate a budget with the capital budget included to our municipal partners, staff are proposing commencing consultation for the 2024 budget following anticipated approval at the February Board meeting.

At that time, a copy of the 2024 draft operating budget would be circulated to participating municipalities and a copy posted to the Governance section of our website, as prescribed by the new budget regulations.

The circulation of the draft budget will be in conjunction with the “notice of meeting” that must be provided to all participating municipalities. The notice of meeting will be scheduled for March 28, 2024 when the weighed vote and final budget vote are scheduled to occur.

This notice will be provided 30 days prior to the meeting and include our draft budget and apportionment amounts.

2024 Budget



Information for
Member
Municipalities



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Governance

The municipalities within the boundaries of the watershed govern Kawartha Conservation through a Board of Directors comprised of nine representatives. Directors are responsible for making decisions as a collective working for the benefit of the whole watershed. They act as liaisons between their municipalities and Kawartha Conservation.

2024 Board of Directors

CHAIR

Robert Rock
Township of Scugog

VICE CHAIR

Pat Warren
City of Kawartha Lakes

DIRECTORS

Eric Smeaton
City of Kawartha Lakes

Tracy Richardson
City of Kawartha Lakes

Cira Pettingill
Township of Brock, Region of Durham

Lloyd Rang
Municipality of Clarington, Region of Durham

Harold Wright
Township of Scugog, Region of Durham

Gerry Byrne
Township of Cavan Monaghan

Peter Franzen
Municipality of Trent Lakes

Vacant
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation

We would like to acknowledge that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which we are located.

Today, this area is home to many indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that our watershed forms a part of the treaty and traditional territory of the south-eastern Anishinaabeg.

It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we live and work. To honour this legacy, we commit to being stewards of the natural environment and undertake to have a relationship of respect with our Treaty partners.

Member Municipalities

City of Kawartha Lakes

Region of Durham

- Township of Scugog
- Municipality of Clarington
- Township of Brock

Municipality of Trent Lakes

Township of Cavan Monaghan

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION

2024 Draft Budget



2024 Draft Budget

Overview

The Conservation Authorities Act and supporting Ontario Regulation 402/22: Budget and Apportionment came into effect on July 1, 2023, updating the budget process and requirements for conservation authorities for 2024 and subsequent years.

Departmental budgets are categorized into General, Mandatory and Other Programs and Services as these programs are generally managed by a core department area. Municipal programs and services are represented separately throughout this budget as they require cross-collaboration between departments with different program leads within a program responsible for ensuring deliverables are met. Municipal programs and services are funded by the benefiting municipality/municipalities.

As the framework has substantially changed for how our budgets are presented, the use of estimates for the 2023 budget figures has been used throughout this document to provide a representative comparison on a year over year basis.

Budget Apportionment

The Board provides direction on how to apportion expenditures by category of program or services by using, as applicable, either:

- Modified current value assessment (MCVA) method – Costs are shared by the municipal partners based on apportionment percentages supplied to us by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The apportionment percentage is based on current value assessment (CVA) information generated by MPAC. Individual municipal increases vary due to changes in the CVA apportionment year over year.
- Benefit-based apportionment method - Evaluating the benefit that each municipality obtains from the program or service as a percentage.
- By agreement method – The option to enter into an agreement respect to the apportionment. The agreement option has limited applicability:
 - Category 1 that benefits one or more, but not all, of the participating municipalities
 - Category 1 capital costs
 - Category 1 CWA costs
 - General capital costs

The apportionment method used for programs and services is identified within each program budget.

Categories of Programs and Services

General Operating Programs and Services

General operating programs and services are the expenditures incurred that are fundamental to operating the organization. These functions provide key assistance provided to all departments of the conservation authority, board of directors, member municipalities and the public to enable the organization to operate in an accountable, transparent, efficient, and effective manner. General programs are not related to the provision of a program or service that an authority provides and are a supporting element in the organization. The MCVA apportionment method is used to apportion these expenditures.

Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services

Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory programs and services identifies the programs and services that must be provided by Kawartha Conservation. These include:

- Programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards.
- Programs and services related to the conservation and management of lands owned or controlled by the authority, including any interests in land registered on title.
- Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the Clean Water Act, 2006.
- Functions and responsibilities related to the implementation and enhancement of the provincial groundwater and stream monitoring program.
- Programs and services related to the authority's duties, functions and responsibilities under an Act prescribed by the regulations.

Mandatory programs do not require a municipal agreement and the programs and services may be apportioned through MCVA, benefits based or agreement. Apportionment methods are identified throughout the budget for programs and services.

Category 2: Municipal Programs and Services

Projects are developed to implement priorities within our Strategic Plan and in response to municipal concerns. These programs and services address strategic plan directions and issues identified by our board of directors, municipal leaders, senior municipal staff, and community stakeholders. We use municipal funds to leverage grant opportunities whenever possible. Municipal programs and services are designed to meet the needs or concerns of a specific municipality, and thus directly benefit the individual municipality (municipalities).

Municipal programs and services require a memorandum of understanding, or such other agreement as may be entered into with the municipality, in respect of the programs and services. The annual funding for these programs and services is then approved through the Board of Directors and Council on an annual basis.

Category 3: Other Programs and Services

Other programs and services may be provided, within Kawartha Conservation's area of jurisdiction, and includes programs and services that are advisable to further the purposes of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Other programs and services require a memorandum of understanding, or such other agreement as may be entered into with the municipality, in respect of the programs and services where municipal levy is supporting the program or service.

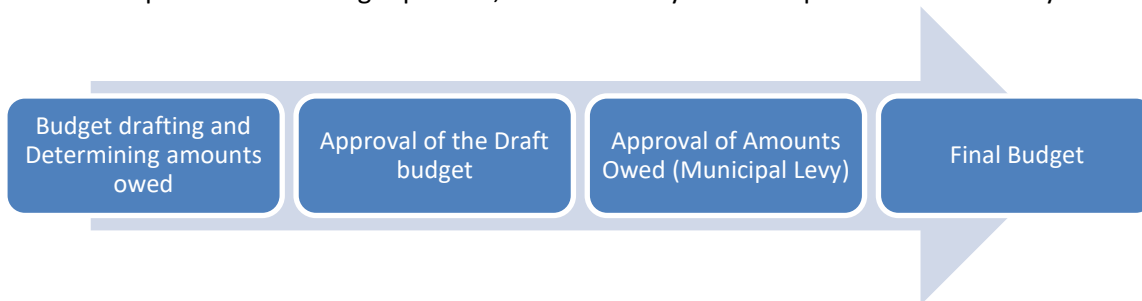
Municipal Levy Apportionment

A summary of the municipal levy apportionment by Municipality and Category is provided below.

Municipality	Proposed 2024 Levy					Approved 2023	Year over Year	
	Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services (MCVA)	Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services (Agreement)	Category 2: Municipal Programs and Services	Category 3: Other Programs and Services	2024 Total Municipal Levy	Total Municipal Levy	Levy Increase (Decrease)	Levy Percentage Increase (Decrease)
City of Kawartha Lakes	\$986,775	\$0	449,484	\$76,254	\$1,512,513	\$1,437,534	\$74,979	5.2%
Region of Durham	606,045	105,750	176,600	46,833	\$935,227	908,536	26,691	2.9%
Municipality of Trent Lakes	69,954	-	-	5,406	\$75,359	347,377	(272,017)	-78.3%
Township of Cavan Monaghan	6,445	-	-	498	\$6,943	6,758	185	2.7%
Total	\$1,669,218	\$105,750	\$626,084	\$128,990	\$2,530,042	\$2,700,175	(\$170,162)	-6.3%

Budget Process

There are four phases of the budget process, and these may be accomplished consecutively or concurrently.



Budget Drafting and Determining Amounts Owed

In the first phase of the budget process, we are to determine all anticipated revenues and expenditures, and what portion of the expenses are to be paid by municipalities. Depending on the type of expense, the cost will be split across all participating municipalities, or between only those municipalities who benefit. Operating and capital expenditures are to be categorized as category 1, 2, 3 or general.

Approval of the Draft Budget

Once a budget has been drafted, board members review and vote on the draft budget, approving it for consultation purposes. The draft budget is approved using the 'one-member-one-vote' voting method. Once approved for consultation, municipalities will be provided with a copy of the draft budget and all financial information used to determine the amounts owed. This information must also be posted on the website.

Approval of Amounts Owed

A minimum 30-day notice to municipalities is required to provide an opportunity for municipalities to review the draft budget and consult with us as may be required prior to approval of the budget. Notice

of the meeting to approve the budget requires a copy of the most recent draft budget and the expenditures the municipality is required to pay for the year. Following the consultation period, eligible Directors of the Board will vote on the budget and levy using a weighted vote based on the Current Value Assessment levy apportionment formula. Non-voting members or agricultural members appointed by the Province are ineligible to vote as identified in the Conservation Authorities Act.

The provincial regulation governing the weighted vote does not permit an individual municipality to have a weighted vote in excess of 50% of the weighting unless that municipality has more than 50% of the members on the Board of Directors. A weighted majority of 51% carries the vote.

The 2024 weighted vote is distributed amongst Directors as follows:

City of Kawartha Lakes	
1st of 3 representatives	16.6667%
2nd of 3 representatives	16.6667%
3rd of 3 representatives	16.6666%
Region of Durham	
1st of 4 representatives	11.1007%
2nd of 4 representatives	11.1006%
3rd of 4 representatives	11.1006%
4th of 4 representatives	11.1006%
Municipality of Trent Lakes	
1 representative	5.1252%
Township of Cavan Monaghan	
1 representative	0.4723%

Final Budget

Board members vote to approve the final budget, using a 'one-member-one vote' method. The final budget meets the same budget requirements as the draft budget and reflect matters agreed to during the consultation process. Promptly afterwards, we circulate a copy of the final approved budget to the Minister and municipalities and make the final budget publicly available on our website.

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Preliminary Budget
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Variance to 2023 Budget
REVENUE			
Municipal levy			
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services (MCVA)	\$ 1,613,325	\$ 1,669,218	\$ 55,893
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services (Agreement)	106,900	132,660	25,760
Category 2: Municipal Programs and Services	1,009,900	1,041,875	31,975
Category 3: Other Programs and Services	142,000	128,990	(13,010)
	<u>2,872,125</u>	<u>2,972,743</u>	<u>100,618</u>
Municipal Agreements			
CKL, Risk Management Official, Clean Water Act	60,000	60,000	-
County of Haliburton, Floodplain Mapping	50,000	25,000	(25,000)
Region of Durham, Climate Change Funding	18,000	9,000	(9,000)
Township of Scugog, LSEP	-	47,000	47,000
	<u>128,000</u>	<u>141,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>
Self-Generated Revenue			
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services (MCVA)	634,800	588,500	(46,300)
Category 2: Municipal Programs and Services	65,400	83,500	18,100
Category 3: Other Programs and Services	94,800	131,550	36,750
	<u>795,000</u>	<u>803,550</u>	<u>8,550</u>
Donations, Grants and Transfers			
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services (MCVA)	139,600	113,700	(25,900)
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services (Agreement)	-	51,150	51,150
Category 2: Municipal Programs and Services	139,000	153,325	14,325
Category 3: Other Programs and Services	3,000	-	(3,000)
	<u>281,600</u>	<u>318,175</u>	<u>36,575</u>
Reserve Funds			
Transfer from (to) Capital Asset Replacement	62,725	(3,900)	(66,625)
Transfer from (to) Windy Ridge	3,750	11,250	7,500
	<u>66,475</u>	<u>7,350</u>	<u>(59,125)</u>
Other Revenue			
Capital Contributions	5,400	-	(5,400)
Special projects management	417,950	-	(417,950)
	<u>423,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(423,350)</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 4,566,550	\$ 4,242,818	\$ (323,732)
EXPENDITURES			
General Operating Programs and Services			
Corporate Services	\$ 1,127,150	\$ 908,718	(218,432)
Integrated Watershed Management	271,600	219,250	(52,350)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	60,000	70,000	10,000
Vehicle and equipment pool	(25,000)	(25,000)	-
	<u>1,433,750</u>	<u>1,172,968</u>	<u>(260,782)</u>

Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services

Planning and Development Services	\$ 701,500	\$ 662,150	(39,350)
Integrated Watershed Management	193,950	171,800	(22,150)
Stewardship and Conservation Lands	523,550	540,460	16,910
Drinking Water Source Protection	63,200	64,100	900
	<u>1,482,200</u>	<u>1,438,510</u>	<u>(43,690)</u>

Category 2: Municipal Programs and Services

City of Kawartha Lakes	576,600	695,250	118,650
Region of Durham	217,700	290,150	72,450
Municipality of Trent Lakes	250,300	114,300	(136,000)
City of Kawartha Lakes & Region of Durham	187,700	235,000	47,300
	<u>1,232,300</u>	<u>1,334,700</u>	<u>102,400</u>

Category 2: Municipal Agreements

CKL, Risk Management Official	60,000	60,000	-
County of Haliburton, Floodplain Mapping	50,000	24,250	(25,750)
	<u>110,000</u>	<u>84,250</u>	<u>(25,750)</u>

Category 3: Other Programs and Services

Integrated Watershed Management	142,300	85,540	(56,760)
Stewardship and Conservation Lands	87,000	171,850	84,850
	<u>229,300</u>	<u>257,390</u>	<u>28,090</u>

Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,487,550	\$ 4,287,818	\$ (199,732)
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Capital Expenditures	114,000	-	(114,000)
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Total Expenditures	\$ 4,601,550	\$ 4,287,818	\$ (313,732)
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Annual Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (35,000)	\$ (45,000)	\$ (10,000)
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Planning and Development Services

Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services

Natural Hazard Planning Services

Planning helps to protect properties against the loss of life, property damage and social disruption, and encourages the responsible management of natural hazard related features, while ensuring compliance with provincial legislation at the local level.

Conservation Authorities have been delegated the responsibility of commenting on behalf of the Province of Ontario on planning matters related to natural hazards (Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020). In addition, Conservation Authorities provide plan review advice with respect to the health of watersheds including the management of water.

Section 28 Administration and Compliance

Permitting through the Conservation Authority ensures public safety and protection of property from damage caused by natural hazards, protects watershed health by preventing pollution and damage to sensitive environmental areas such as wetlands, shorelines, and watercourses, and promotes long term sustainability of the watershed. Kawartha Conservation administers the Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the supporting Ontario Regulation 182/06, the regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. This regulation provides rules for development and other activities in relation to river and stream valleys, steep slopes, watercourses, floodplains, and wetlands, plus the respective allowances that are associated with each feature.

Conservation staff are responsible for regular monitoring of development activities impacting on natural regulated features, following up on public and municipal complaints regarding any potential violations and obtaining regulatory compliance through compliance agreements or judicial methods as pertains to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and associated specific Ontario Regulation 182/06.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Purpose

This program involves the implementation a multi-barrier approach to strengthen the protection of municipal drinking water sources, through the support of actions required to implement source protection planning. A Source Protection Plan is based on threat assessments of groundwater and surface water quality and quantity. Activities support the Source Protection Committee, Source Protection Authority, and stakeholders in the implementation of the Source Protection Plans.

Benefits

A multi-stakeholder Source Protection Committee (SPC) which includes representatives from municipal and local stakeholders (agriculture, industry, commerce, environmental, rural and urban property owners) is responsible for the development of an effective and proactive approach to protect municipal drinking water sources. This is completed through policy development detailed in a local Source Protection Plan. The plan uses a preventative planning approach to actively manage development and activities around municipal water supply source areas. Our work has been fully funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Background and detail

In response to Justice O'Connor's recommendations in the Report of the Walkerton Inquiry, Ontario's

Clean Water Act was released in 2006. The Act requires Source Protection Plans be developed on a local watershed basis by a local committee comprised of a variety of stakeholders known as a Source Protection Committee (SPC).

The best available science, technical data and local knowledge has been used by the SPC to make decisions in the interest of the long-term protection of safe and healthy drinking water sources. Our local SPC has since developed the terms of reference guiding the overall work, the assessment report (September 2014) identifying the science behind source protection planning, and the source protection plan (effective Jan 1, 2015) outlining the policies to protect water supplies. The program is currently in the plan implementation phase, which includes an annual reporting component as well as the completion of the amendments which were ordered by the Minister to be done on a five-year cycle. Annual reporting activities include the update of planning policies (Official Plans, Zoning bylaws), emergency management plans, and the development of risk management plans, which will reduce the likelihood of an activity on the landscape impacting the municipal water supplies.

Amendments to the assessment report and source protection plan are being completed to bring them into conformity with the recently amended technical rules, and to address challenges which have been identified through the first years of plan implementation. The final amendment package containing the updated to the assessment report and source protection plan are slated for submission to the Minister in December 2023. Implementation of these amendments will begin once the Minister issues the approval of the submission and posts the updates on the ERO.

Deliverables

- Assist municipalities in the implementation of the Source Protection Plan
- Respond to inquiries regarding the plan and deliver communications and education services
- Conduct annual reporting requirements specified in the plan
- Provide management of source water related information and data
- Implement the updated source protection plan policies

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Natural Hazard Planning Services

Category 1

Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 165,500	\$ 99,650	\$ (65,850)
Planning Fees	210,000	225,000	15,000
Administration Recovery	6,000	-	(6,000)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 381,500	\$ 324,650	\$ (56,850)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 335,500	\$ 276,400	\$ (59,100)
Contracted services	5,000	5,000	-
Legal	2,500	2,500	-
Membership	-	750	750
Professional Development & Training	2,000	3,000	1,000
Professional services	30,000	30,000	-
Supplies and materials	5,500	5,500	-
Travel	1,000	1,500	500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 381,500	\$ 324,650	\$ (56,850)

**KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget**

**Section 28 Permit Administration and Compliance
Category 1
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment**

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 100,000	\$ 102,500	\$ 2,500
Permits and Fees	210,000	225,000	15,000
Large Scale Fill	10,000	10,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 320,000	\$ 337,500	\$ 17,500
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 300,000	\$ 322,000	\$ 22,000
Contracted services	10,000	5,000	(5,000)
Legal	2,500	2,500	-
Membership	-	250	250
Professional Development & Training	500	500	-
Supplies and materials	5,500	5,500	-
Travel	1,500	1,750	250
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 320,000	\$ 337,500	\$ 17,500

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Drinking Water Source Protection
Category 1
Apportionment Method: N/A

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Provincial Transfers	63,200	64,100	900
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 63,200	\$ 64,100	\$ 900
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 52,500	\$ 53,400	\$ 900
Supplies and materials	4,400	4,400	-
Travel	500	500	-
Program administration	5,800	5,800	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 63,200	\$ 64,100	\$ 900

Integrated Watershed Management

General Operating Programs and Services

Integrated Watershed Management

The Integrated Watershed Management department provides general management and ongoing support and maintenance of spatial environmental information to assist with decision making across our watershed for our staff and external stakeholders. As part of this service, we develop maps for both internal programs and projects and as a service to external partners.

Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services

Provincial Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring

The Provincial Water Quality (PWQMN) and Groundwater (PGMN) monitoring programs are in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) where Conservation Authorities and other partner organizations collect water samples at rivers and streams, or groundwater wells throughout Ontario. Both programs aim to protect water quality for future generations by ensuring there is continued surveillance of water quality to detect trends and threats, to ensure compliance with the Provincial Water Quality objectives, and provide and deliver water quality data for water quality studies and assessment.

Flood & Water Level Monitoring and Ontario Low Water Response

These programs involve our flood contingency and flood response plans, daily monitoring of water levels and precipitation, assessment of potential flood and low water threats, communication with municipalities and the community, participation in municipal flood response activities or coordination of low water response efforts to help support and protect the people and property across the watershed.

Flood forecasting and warning is a fundamental responsibility delegated to conservation authorities by the province since 1984. We fulfill this duty by monitoring the water level, precipitation, and watershed conditions.

Close collaboration and partnership with federal (Ontario Waterways – Trent Severn Waterway, Environment and Climate Change Canada), and provincial (MNRF, Ontario Hydro) agencies and partner conservation authorities allow for accurate forecast and reliable information which is put in context of the local watershed and provided to the community when flooding concerns are warranted.

We will continue to assess and evaluate developing drought conditions through the Ontario Low Water Response program using the same network as used for flood forecasting in addition to the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program and communicate this information to municipalities and watershed stakeholders.

Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

The Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy is a requirement under Ontario Regulation 686/21. Over the course of 2024, staff will complete the required strategy which will include the following mandatory components.

- Guiding Principles and Objectives
- Summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs and other information
- Review of authority's mandatory programs and services

- A process for periodic review and updating.
- Public and stakeholder consultation and publication of the strategy.

Category 3: Other Programs and Services

Local Environmental Monitoring

We maintain a core watershed monitoring network, including water quality and quantity for both surface and ground water on a more local scale than the Provincially mandated programs. This enables us to identify issues requiring attention early on, while gauging the effectiveness of current planning practices. The programs that fall under this category include Biomonitoring (Aquatics), Temperature Monitoring (Coldwater Streams), and our Citizen Science water quality monitoring program Kawartha Water Watch (KWW). All these programs work in collaboration with partners from Conservation Authorities, Provincial government, academia, and local volunteer groups to assist with the coordination of program delivery, while combining expertise and experience to ensure consistency and cost efficiency.

Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy

The Watershed Based Resource Management Strategy being developed under the Ontario Regulation 686/21 will also include Category 3 programs and services. Guiding principals and objectives that inform the design of Local Monitoring, Natural Heritage, and Lake Management Planning will be summarized to help direct inform and support program delivery and identify any issues and risks which may limit effective delivery.

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Integrated Watershed Management Support
General Operating
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 250,100	\$ 213,750	\$ (36,350)
Employment Grants	10,000	5,000	(5,000)
Self Generated Revenues	1,000	500	(500)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 261,100	\$ 219,250	\$ (41,850)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 244,500	\$ 186,250	\$ (58,250)
Membership	2,500	2,500	-
Professional Development & Training	2,100	3,250	1,150
Supplies and materials	21,500	26,500	5,000
Travel	1,000	750	(250)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 271,600	\$ 219,250	\$ (52,350)

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Provincial Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring
Category 1
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 118,550	\$ 51,300	\$ (67,250)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 118,550	\$ 51,300	\$ (67,250)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 110,300	\$ 39,500	\$ (70,800)
Equipment	2,300	4,200	1,900
Professional Development & Training	600	600	-
Supplies and materials	2,350	4,300	1,950
Travel	3,000	2,700	(300)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 118,550	\$ 51,300	\$ (67,250)

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response
Category 1
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 50,800	\$ 61,400	\$ 10,600
Provincial Transfers	24,600	24,600	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 75,400	\$ 86,000	\$ 10,600
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 67,700	\$ 76,300	\$ 8,600
Equipment	2,200	2,800	600
Professional Development & Training	1,200	1,500	300
Supplies and materials	2,400	2,200	(200)
Travel	1,900	3,200	1,300
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 75,400	\$ 86,000	\$ 10,600

**KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget**

Watershed Resource Management Strategy - Mandatory
Category 1
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ -	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ -	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500

EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ -	\$ 34,300	\$ 34,300
Supplies and materials	-	200	200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500

Watershed Resource Management Strategy - Non-Mandatory
Category 3
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 3	-	\$ 12,800	12,800
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ -	\$ 12,800	\$ 12,800

EXPENDITURES

Salaries, wages & benefits	\$	-	\$	11,400	\$	11,400
Supplies and materials		-		200		200
Program administration		-		1,200		1,200
				<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	-	\$	12,800	\$	12,800

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Local Environmental Monitoring
Category 3
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 3	\$ 117,000	\$ 47,440	\$ (69,560)
Self Generated Revenues	300	300	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 117,300	\$ 47,740	\$ (69,560)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 105,700	\$ 33,700	\$ (72,000)
Equipment	2,600	1,000	(1,600)
Professional Development & Training	2,000	2,000	-
Supplies and materials	4,400	5,000	600
Travel	2,600	1,700	(900)
Program administration	-	4,340	4,340
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 117,300	\$ 47,740	\$ (69,560)

Stewardship and Conservation Lands

Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services

Conservation Lands and Areas

Kawartha Conservation owns and manages over 1,300 hectares of natural areas including Ken Reid Conservation Area, Durham East Cross Forest, Pigeon River Headwaters, Windy Ridge/Tuckerman property, Fleetwood Creek Natural Area, and Dewey's Island.

Visitors to our Conservation Areas include the public, schools, special interest groups, and tourists. With an estimated 40,000 visits per year, our Conservation areas provide opportunities to relax, discover the natural world and enjoy the many health benefits of being in nature. This program strives to provide a safe and meaningful way for our community to access quality green spaces.

Between January and September in 2023, our conservation areas appeared in over 1,370,000 direct searches in Google demonstrating a growth of over 623,000 searches over 2022. Those searches resulted in over 20,900 actions, demonstrating the ongoing popularity and demand for access to green spaces and natural areas. Our properties offer safe opportunities to get active and get outside.

Conservation Area Strategy

Legislative requirements under Ontario Regulation 686/21 require the development of a conservation area strategy for all conservation authority owned or controlled lands, in addition to the development of a conservation land inventory. Over the course of 2024, staff will complete the required deliverables. The strategy will include the following mandatory components.

- Guiding Principles and Objectives
- Summary of existing information
- Review of conservation land programs and services, mandatory and other
- Assessment of how the objectives may be achieved and land use categories for properties
- A process for periodic review and updating
- Public and stakeholder consultation and publication of the strategy

Category 3: Other Programs and Services

Fleetwood Creek Natural Area

Fleetwood Creek Natural Area is owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust. This 900-acre property is a Provincially Significant Earth and Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and a popular fall destination for tourists looking to enjoy the fall colours. Kawartha Conservation has a management agreement with the Ontario Heritage Trust, providing trail and property management services on a cost recovery basis.

Habitat Restoration

Our conservation lands also provide sites to compensate for species or habitat disruption because of development activity to restore these vulnerable habitats in our conservation properties, and by providing expert advice and support for private land restoration projects. This program is initiated by provincial requirements and generates revenue to support other programs, improves habitat across Conservation and private lands, and builds relationships between the development industry and the Conservation Authority.

Land Acquisition

Kawartha Conservation reviews and evaluates opportunities for land acquisition each year. Potential properties are evaluated on a set of criteria including ecological importance, financial impact, and opportunities for community engagement. When appropriate funding and opportunities align, they are brought to the Board for discussion and decision.

Conservation Education and Community Outreach

Our Community Engagement programs include our geared to curriculum education program, community events, and a variety of community hikes throughout the year. These popular programs attract residents and tourists to explore the beauty of the Kawartha Lakes area. Our community festivals like Fall Fest and Christmas at Ken Reid have become seasonal highlights for our community and create unique opportunities for people to connect with nature in a way that is meaningful for them.

The education program is designed to provide a variety of engagement and educational opportunities to all members in our community, and include youth, families, seniors, and professionals in the delivery models. We strive to provide excellence in our curriculum and community programs. The goals of conservation education align with our strategic vision and contribute to communities that love, respect, and appreciate our natural environment.

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Conservation Areas and Lands

Category 1

Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 254,700	\$ 272,400	\$ 17,700
Employment Grants	18,000	20,000	2,000
Self Generated Revenues	46,500	53,000	6,500
Donations and other revenue	5,000	-	(5,000)
Administration Recovery	88,700	-	(88,700)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 416,650	\$ 356,650	\$ (60,000)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 344,000	\$ 276,400	\$ (67,600)
Advertising and Communications	-	5,500	5,500
Equipment	6,800	12,000	5,200
Infrastructure maintenance and repairs	8,500	6,350	(2,150)
Professional Development & Training	1,500	1,500	-
Property Taxes	2,100	2,100	-
Road and parking lot maintenance	24,950	26,500	1,550
Supplies and materials	20,950	18,300	(2,650)
Travel	3,150	2,900	(250)
Utilities	4,700	5,100	400
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 416,650	\$ 356,650	\$ (60,000)

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area
Category 1
Apportionment Method: Agreement Method (Region of Durham)

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 104,200	\$ 105,750	\$ 1,550
Municipal Levy, Category 1, Deferred	2,700	26,910	24,210
Federal Grants	-	51,150	51,150
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 106,900	\$ 183,810	\$ 76,910

EXPENDITURES

Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 53,000	\$ 103,600	\$ 50,600
Advertising and Communications	2,000	500	(1,500)
Contracted services	-	7,000	7,000
Equipment	2,000	3,600	1,600
Infrastructure maintenance and repairs	17,800	15,000	(2,800)
Professional Development & Training	1,000	1,000	-
Property Taxes	6,000	6,000	-
Security Services	2,000	-	(2,000)
Supplies and materials	8,600	27,360	18,760
Travel	4,200	2,450	(1,750)
Utilities	600	600	-
Program administration	9,700	16,700	7,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 106,900	\$ 183,810	\$ 76,910

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Conservation Education and Community Outreach
Category 3
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 3	\$ -	\$ 43,750	\$ 43,750
Other Grants	3,000	-	(3,000)
Self Generated Revenues	45,800	113,850	68,050
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 48,800	\$ 157,600	\$ 108,800
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 4,300	\$ 63,300	\$ 59,000
Advertising and Communications	-	1,800	1,800
Equipment	-	1,500	1,500
Professional services	24,000	58,100	34,100
Supplies and materials	10,000	18,200	8,200
Travel	-	400	400
Program administration	-	14,300	14,300
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 38,300	\$ 157,600	\$ 119,300

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Fleetwood Creek Natural Area
Category 3
Apportionment Method: N/A

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Self Generated Revenues	\$ 8,700	\$ 8,850	\$ 150
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 8,700	\$ 8,850	\$ 150
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,600	\$ 100
Equipment	350	150	(200)
Supplies and materials	250	-	(250)
Travel	600	300	(300)
Program administration	-	800	800
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 8,700	\$ 8,850	\$ 150

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Habitat Compensation Program
Category 3
Apportionment Method: N/A

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Self Generated Revenues	\$ 40,000	\$ 8,550	\$ (31,450)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 40,000	\$ 8,550	\$ (31,450)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 28,100	\$ 4,400	\$ (23,700)
Equipment	1,800	-	(1,800)
Supplies and materials	1,300	50	(1,250)
Travel	2,300	250	(2,050)
Program administration	6,500	700	(5,800)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 40,000	\$ 5,400	\$ (34,600)

Corporate Services

General Operating Programs and Services

Corporate Services supports each of the departments and the organization as a whole by providing administrative support, coordination, policy development and implementation, program direction and development, strategic and business planning, and Board support including agendas and minutes.

Finance, Budget, Audit

This area of business provides financial leadership and support to the organization through financial direction, reporting, and management. All accounting processes, financial statements, and audits are conducted and prepared through strict adherence to the Canadian public sector accounting standards. Ongoing scrutiny and analysis contribute to effective and efficient processing, and adherence to applicable legislation. We produce internal financial statements and reports regularly for our leadership team and the Board of Directors.

Human Resources, Health & Safety

Human Resources provide comprehensive services and advice to all departments in the areas of legislative compliance, recruitment, orientation, on-boarding, talent management, metrics reporting, performance management, employment grants, and policies and procedures. Within the Health and Safety function, education and training continue to be a focus to create a culture of safety in our organization. We continue to invest resources to produce an effective and progressive Health and Safety program and ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act. In 2024, our Compensation Review will be completed with a proposed plan for implementation, as recommended.

Infrastructure, Asset Management, Information & IT Management

Assets include land, buildings, information technology infrastructure, vehicles, and equipment. The Corporate Services team provides support in managing, maintaining, replacing, and monitoring risk and liability issues. This business area also includes the management of corporate records involving soft and hard copies along with the proper retention criteria and the implementation of the Information Management System (IMS). This system enables timely responses to client requests, helps us to meet MFIPPA obligations, and improves search capabilities. Hardware and software for the computer network, including system support and security, are a function of this division.

Corporate Communications

Corporate communications ensure organization transparency and accountability to our Board of Directors, municipal partners, staff, and the watershed community, while representing our organization in a strong, positive manner that is consistent with our vision, mission, and focus. This business area also supports all our programs, projects and services through the development and implementation of communication plans. Some of the regular services and products provided include strategic communication guidance, plan development and implementation, media relations, image and brand management, website development and maintenance, and photography management.

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Corporate Services
General Operating
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 1	\$ 1,030,750	\$ 818,718	\$ (212,032)
Federal Grants	18,300	-	(18,300)
Interest income	62,600	75,000	12,400
Donations and other revenue	500	-	(500)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,112,150	\$ 893,718	\$ (218,432)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 782,000	\$ 750,600	\$ (31,400)
Administration and Overhead (<i>Schedule A</i>)	250,800	254,950	4,150
Advertising and Communications	1,000	1,500	500
Board of Directors & Governance	7,050	7,050	-
Professional Development & Training	5,500	6,500	1,000
Professional services	45,300	20,000	(25,300)
Supplies and materials	19,500	24,800	5,300
Travel	1,000	958	(42)
Program administration, cost recovery	-	(172,640)	(172,640)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,112,150	\$ 893,718	\$ (218,432)

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Schedule A - General Administration and Overhead
General Operating
Apportionment Method: Modified Current Value Assessment

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
EXPENDITURES			
Administration building utilities	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ -
Administration building maintenance	29,000	32,500	3,500
Office equipment leases and maintenance	3,000	3,000	-
Telephone & internet	14,200	14,200	-
Audit & legal	32,500	33,750	1,250
Banking & administration fees	4,700	4,700	-
Insurance	55,400	58,000	2,600
Website hosting, licenses, ecommerce	11,000	11,500	500
Conservation Ontario membership	26,000	25,500	(500)
Information Technology & Corporate Software	46,500	45,000	(1,500)
Human Resources & Safety	15,500	13,800	(1,700)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 250,800	\$ 254,950	\$ 4,150

General Benefitting Projects

General benefiting projects typically encompass studies, plans or other significant operating initiatives that are one-time in nature, although they may span over a period of more than one year.

Digitization of Corporate Records (Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services)

In conjunction with our Information Management System the digitization of these hard copy files will help contribute to faster processing of planning applications and can provide both parties with instant copies of important documents. As technology improves, more and more companies are moving to paperless offices to preserve these documents. Benefits of shifting to digitized documents will allow for easy storage, retrieval, updating and improved access and transport of information.

The digitization of corporate records is projected to be an ongoing project to transfer our paper files to a digital format for the next five years. This project will also support our records management policies and processes.

Environmental Monitoring Strategy Implementation (Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services)

In 2022, our 10-year environmental monitoring strategy was endorsed by the Board of Directors. The plan provides a roadmap to facilitate enhancements that focus on upgrading infrastructure to access real time data, enhancing our monitoring network to fill data gaps, and improving environmental information by investing in more recent aerial imagery. In 2024, our Year 2 priority is the installation of a new all-weather station at Ken Reid Conservation Area.

**KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget**

General Benfitting Projects

Apportionment Method: MCVA

Project	Category	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
Digitization of corporate records	Mandatory P&S	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -
Environmental Monitoring Strategy Implementation (Year 2/10)	Other P&S	25,000	25,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE		\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -

Municipality	2024 MCVA Apportionment	2023 Levy	2024 Levy	Variance
City of Kawartha Lakes	59.116	\$ 23,729	\$ 23,646	\$ (82)
Region of Durham	36.3071	14,423	14,523	100
Municipality of Trent Lakes	4.1908	1,695	1,676	(19)
Township of Cavan Monaghan	0.3861	154	154	0
Total	100	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ (0)

Category 2: Municipal Programs and Services

Region of Durham – Watershed Plan Implementation

Project Purpose

This program implements recommendations for high priority objectives identified within the Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan (endorsed in 2010), Oak Ridges Moraine Watershed Plans (endorsed in 2012), Port Perry Stormwater Management Plan (endorsed in 2014), and the Kawartha Conservation Stewardship Strategy (endorsed by the Board of Directors in 2020). In addition, the Kawartha Conservation Climate Change Strategy (endorsed by the Board of Directors in 2016) recommends a wide range of adaptation and mitigation activities that also support watershed plan implementation.

The maintenance of a healthy aquatic environment, recreational opportunities, and attractive waterfront area, with enhanced stormwater management, are important to the economic and social well-being of Lake Scugog and the Port Perry area. Implementation activities are geared to the improvement of water quality and the sustainability of natural heritage features. They are categorized into major groupings of activities as identified below:

- Stewardship and Natural Heritage
- Scugog Water And Terrain Environmental Restoration (WATER) Fund
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Lake Scugog Enhancement Project

Stewardship and Natural Heritage

Urban Deliverables include:

The Port Perry urban landscape is largely hardened surfaces that promote faster moving storm runoff and reduces the ability for the land to absorb water. The Urban Stewardship program is designed to help protect our urban communities by providing low impact development solutions at the lot level. Working with private landowners and the landscaping community, Kawartha Conservation will deliver a program designed to support private landowners looking to retrofit their properties including scalable templates for urban rain gardens and support for a variety of options to suit landowners with varying capacity for implementation.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Urban tree planting on municipal property
- On-Site landowner consultations for Low Impact Development or runoff management projects

Rural Agriculture Deliverables Include:

Farmland makes up 50% of the Kawartha watershed and is particularly important in sustaining our rural communities, with agriculture and healthy lakes being the two pillars of our vibrant local economy. This program works directly with the farming community to provide a range of technical services and incentives to assist farmers in practicing beneficial farmland management to improve groundwater and surface water quality.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Collaboration and consultation with commodity groups across the region

- On-site landowner consultations to support Scugog WATER Fund applications and project opportunities
- On-site landowner consultations and support to connect them with other cost sharing program opportunities

Shoreline Deliverables Include:

The majority of shoreline around Lake Scugog is privately owned. With this sensitive area having a considerable influence on surface water quality, the daily actions of these landowners are important, ensuring the ability for our community and tourists to enjoy the lake. The Shoreline Stewardship Program works with private landowners to provide an array of technical supports to encourage better land management decisions and actions.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- On-Site landowner consultations on shoreline related restoration projects
- Continue to search for funding to support the implementation of a restoration plan for Rotary Trail Park

Scugog WATER Fund

Since 2007, Kawartha Conservation has worked in partnership with the Township of Scugog, local landowners and businesses to deliver the Scugog Water and Terrain Environmental Restoration (WATER) Fund. To date we have assisted with over 300 water quality improvement projects on private properties and leveraged over \$1.4 Million in landowner contributions.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Provide seed funding grants to private landowners to support water quality improvement projects that align with our stewardship outreach programs and the various management plan recommendations
- Continue to provide support for community and private urban projects that improve water quality and incorporate climate change adaptation recommendations at the lot level
- Report on implementation successes to community stakeholders, municipal partners, and other agencies
- Minimum 50% match from landowners

Water Quality Monitoring

Upstream Investigative Water Quality Examination

The intention of the upstream investigative program is to reduce the data gaps by performing more comprehensive water quality and quantity data collection (more sites on one stream) in a specific area to identify causality of water quality degradation and plan for remediation or restoration efforts through our stewardship department.

This program includes comprehensive water chemistry and flow data being collected simultaneously to achieve accurate nutrient loading calculations. The information gathered will serve to identify specific stewardship priorities and areas for actions/improvements. Data collection is performed monthly during the ice-free period of May – November. A report will identify findings and provide recommendations for stewardship prioritization. Ongoing data analysis will identify changes across time.

- Finalize and publish Layton River Report
- Continuation of monitoring on 2 streams, East Cross Creek and Blackstock Creek (Year 3 of 3)
- 11 sites being sampled in total.

- 6 rounds of sampling (3 high flow and 3 low flow events)
- Water quality and discharge rates (flow volumes)
- Data maintenance, analysis and
- Draft report for East Cross Creek and Blackstock on the 3 years of monitoring that outlines catchments of concern.

Watershed Quality Monitoring - Lake Scugog and Major Oak Ridges Moraine Tributaries

The Lake Scugog Environmental Management Plan (LSEMP) identified recommendations for ongoing monitoring and the identification of 'hot spots' and data gaps.

Research and monitoring activities conducted for watershed planning purposes provided detailed baseline information on water quality and quantity for Lake Scugog and watershed tributaries. This annual project maintains a basic level of monitoring, providing a basis for evaluating implementation activities for future stewardship priorities, and providing recommendations for land use planning.

- 14 sites across Lake Scugog and its watershed (6 lakes and 8 tributary sites)
- 6 rounds of sampling on the lake
- 7 rounds of sampling on tributaries
- Installation of 2 new conductivity loggers at Cawker's Creek and Layton River

2024, marks the 20th year of ongoing research and monitoring for Lake Scugog and its tributaries. We plan to host 2 open houses to disseminate key findings from the last 20 years and provide the community an opportunity to communicate their needs and wants for the Lake and tributaries moving forward. We will review the current plan, look at our key findings and assess whether we need to continue similar monitoring structure or if we need to address data gaps, by improving the plan to monitor other areas of concerns.

Lake Scugog Enhancement Project

The purpose of this project is to provide technical and project management support to the Healthy Lake Scugog Steering Committee with a project to revitalize Port Perry Bay. Proposed strategies involve a combination of activities such as dredging, creating a berm and constructed wetland to improve urban storm water treatment, and aquatic plant harvesting. These activities will involve environmental assessment processes, public input, and permitting.

A contract was awarded to GHD Consulting to investigate options, develop a project plan, and conduct the public consultation process. A draft conceptual design was approved in June 2023 by council and tendering process was initiated. Tendering bids were much higher than anticipated so new recommendations are being established to move the construction phase forward in 2024. If construction commences in 2024 the following deliverables include:

- Support the Township of Scugog with project administration and management with tendering, permit related activities, liaison with regulatory agencies and the Williams Treaty First Nations.
- Provide ongoing science and technical support in addition to project management services, in collaboration with the Township of Scugog.
- Oversee GHD to provide detailed final conceptual preferred design
- Work through agency comments on submitted permits and applications including:
 - Basic Impact Assessment for Parks Canada
 - DFO fish offsetting plan and 'In Water Works' permit from Parks Canada for DFO offsets
- Conclude the Environmental and Climate Change Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solution Fund.
- Review of project deliverables and reports

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Region of Durham - Lake Management Implementation, Stewardship
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Benefits Based

<i>Stewardship</i>	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	\$ 65,800	\$ 61,100	\$ (4,700)
Municipal Levy, Category 2, Deferred		5,250	5,250
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 65,800	\$ 66,350	\$ 550
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 37,500	\$ 37,100	\$ (400)
Advertising and Communications	1,500	1,000	(500)
Landowner Grants	20,000	20,000	-
Supplies and materials	100	1,500	1,400
Travel	700	750	50
Program administration	6,000	6,000	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 65,800	\$ 66,350	\$ 550

**Region of Durham - Lake Management Implementation, Science
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Benefits Based**

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	\$ 78,300	\$ 79,000	\$ 700
Municipal Levy, Category 2, Deferred	42,700	62,300	19,600
Municipal Agreement	-	47,000	47,000
Employment Grants	2,000	5,000	3,000
Other Grants	1,600	-	(1,600)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 124,600	\$ 193,300	\$ 68,700

EXPENDITURES

Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 39,600	\$ 65,500	\$ 25,900
Equipment	3,000	10,900	7,900
Laboratory Fees	25,200	20,000	(5,200)
Supplies and materials	3,800	5,500	1,700
Travel	3,800	5,200	1,400
Lake Scugog Enhancement Project	37,800	68,600	30,800
Program administration	11,400	17,600	6,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 124,600	\$ 193,300	\$ 68,700

Region of Durham – Watershed Planning

Project Purpose

In January 2023, the implementation of *Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act*, was put into place. This meant that Conservation Authorities could no longer provide comments on natural heritage or water components not related to natural hazards for Planning Act applications, however, expertise remains within the organization to be able to provide reliable background information for municipal planning purposes.

Municipalities require the most up to date information to make timely decisions on Planning Act applications. Data related to the presence, and sensitivity of natural features (e.g., watercourses, wetland and fish habitat, erosion prone areas) remain crucial pieces of information for the municipality to consider when processing applications to ensure that provincial land uses and related policies are met.

This 1-year project will provide the municipality with the most up to date information on the following:

- Field-verified location of watercourses and wetlands in 2 priority areas (Blackstock and Nonquon Industrial Tributary Area).
- The presence/absence of cold-water habitats along 10 known cold-water streams.
- Field-verified locations of sensitive features (wetlands, fish habitat, erosion prone areas) along Lake Scugog.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

Update mapping layers that include:

- Locations of watercourses and wetlands in the hamlet of Blackstock, and the Nonquon Industrial Tributary Area.
- Changes in fish habitat along cold-water streams.
- Location of sensitive fish habitat along the Lake Scugog shoreline.
- Location of wetlands and watercourses along the Lake Scugog shoreline.
- Location of erosion prone areas along the Lake Scugog shoreline.

A summary report that includes:

- Methodology, key findings, and land use management considerations.

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Region of Durham - Watershed Planning
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Benefits Based

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	\$ 27,300	\$ 30,500	\$ 3,200
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 27,300	\$ 30,500	\$ 3,200
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 21,500	\$ 24,200	\$ 2,700
Equipment	500	1,600	1,100
Supplies and materials	500	500	-
Travel	2,300	1,400	(900)
Program administration	2,500	2,800	300
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 27,300	\$ 30,500	\$ 3,200

City of Kawartha Lakes Risk Management Official

Clean Water Act, Part IV, Enforcement

Source Water Protection Plan policies are designed in the best interests of a community and are required to be implemented for the long-term protection of safe and healthy drinking water sources. A Source Protection Plan helps municipalities save money by creating and implementing a multi-barrier approach to strengthen the protection of municipal drinking water sources. By implementing source protection plan policies requiring a risk management official (RMO), as per the Clean Water Act, threat assessments of groundwater and surface water quality and quantity on a site specific and watershed scale are determined and monitored.

Risk Management Plans and developing the land surrounding water supply systems in a suitable way is required. This is a proactive method of ensuring contamination risks are reduced and expensive clean-up costs can be averted. These plans and activities directly support the City of Kawartha Lakes specifically in implementation of plan policies requiring a Risk Management Plan and providing information for planning/building applications for development where the activity or land use could impact upon municipal drinking water supplies.

Activities of the Risk Management Official are guided by a Project Oversight Committee comprised of public works, planning and building staff from the City of Kawartha Lakes, and staff at Kawartha Conservation.

Deliverables

This project to date has involved the development of risk management plans with landowners designed to eliminate risks to municipal water supply systems and policies and procedures have been developed to guide implementation activities. Ongoing work occurs to verify compliance with risk management plans and adjust as them as necessary. Risk Management Plans address various risks to drinking water sources and agricultural uses and residential fuel oil have most common under the existing policies.

The changes to the Director's technical rules and subsequent proposed amendments to the assessment report and source protection plan will result in new significant drinking water threats which require management through risk management plans. Activities in 2024 will continue to focus on the negotiation and establishment of these new risk management plans, issuing notices to proceed with an activity under the *Planning Act* and *Building Code Act*, and annual reporting. Under the amended policies, road salt storage and chemical storage threats which were previously not a concern will now need to be addressed, resulting in a doubling of the number of risk management plans required. Some existing risk management plans will also need to be amended because of the amendments.

This program also includes the provision of letters or notices to applicants proposing to submit an application under the Planning Act or Building Code Act to ensure their activities will not affect municipal residential water supply systems.

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

City of Kawartha Lakes - Risk Management Official, Clean Water Act Part IV, Enforcement
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Agreement

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Agreement	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 51,000	\$ 52,300	\$ 1,300
Supplies and materials	4,000	2,000	(2,000)
Travel	500	500	-
Program administration	4,500	5,200	700
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -

Note: This budget is funded through a municipal agreement and is not considered part of the municipal levy for the City of Kawartha Lakes.

City of Kawartha Lakes - Lake Dalrymple Management Plan

Project Purpose

The primary purpose of this project is to work collaboratively with lake stakeholders towards obtaining a better understanding of the pressures on the lake and to determine priority management activities.

2024 is year four of a four-year project and builds on several accomplishments in year one, which included the establishment of a 10+ member Community Working Group, comprehensive water quality and quantity monitoring program, project website and numerous social media interactions.

The planning process involves science-based lake and watershed studies, in conjunction with strategic partnerships across all areas of interest to facilitate plan development and implementation. Comprehensive monitoring of water quality, water quantity, and land use parameters are undertaken over multiple years. This allows us to develop baseline documentation – or ‘state of the lake’ – as the foundation for developing management recommendations.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Continuation of Lake Working Group to help focus priority management recommendations.
- Completion of water quality and quantity monitoring to help capture “average” and “atypical” conditions.
- Compile and complete data analysis on 3 years’ worth of data and summarize results.
- Routine updating of Lake Dalrymple webpage and data dashboard. This includes posting up-to-date information on: Working Group meeting minutes and presentations, open house presentations, available technical reports, and key findings of our monitoring efforts.
- Finalize all components of the watershed characterization report
- Finalize the lake management plan

**KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget**

City of Kawartha Lakes - Lake Dalrymple Management Plan
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Benefits Based

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	\$ 69,300	\$ 62,700	\$ (6,600)
Municipal Levy, Category 2, Deferred	-	14,950	14,950
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 69,300	\$ 77,650	\$ 8,350
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 45,200	\$ 53,300	\$ 8,100
Equipment	3,500	650	(2,850)
Laboratory Fees	8,800	2,500	(6,300)
Professional services	-	12,100	12,100
Supplies and materials	2,100	1,350	(750)
Travel	3,400	650	(2,750)
Program administration	6,300	7,100	800
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 69,300	\$ 77,650	\$ 8,350

City of Kawartha Lakes - Lake Management Plan Implementation

Project Purpose

Implementation of the Lake Management Plans is important to our local economy, the attractiveness of the area for tourism and to the continued growth of our communities that have developed around our lakes and rivers. Building on the momentum established through our Implementation Action Plan 2019-2023, Kawartha Conservation and the Implementation Task Force developed an updated 5-year Implementation Action Plan (2024 –2028) to continue to improve the appeal of our lakes as an engine for economic growth.

The preferred options provided here address the greatest common concerns expressed by residents throughout the city and proposes science-based solutions to address these concerns. The programs are broken into five areas as outlined in the Action Plan. They are as follows:

- Incentive Grant Program
- Implementation Outreach Program
- Shoreline Program
- Urban Program
- Rural Program

Incentive Grant Program

Grassroots organizations and private landowners play a critical role in the implementation of the Lake Management Plans. The Kawartha Water Fund program was created to support private landowners and community groups that are interested in undertaking projects that demonstrate actions from the Lake Management Plans. Since 2019, this program has provided seed funding to 100 landowners and community groups, leveraging more than \$745,000 in community investment.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- \$70,000 in grants available for a 50/50 match
- Community planting projects
- Aquatic plant management projects
- Community engagement projects
- Agricultural Best Management Practices
- Septic and well upgrades
- Rainwater harvesting
- Shoreline and streambank restoration
- Low impact development solutions
- Leverage additional investment of \$215,000 in external support
- Total return on investment of 200%

Implementation Outreach Program

Partner and Community Engagement

A key component of the Implementation Action Plan is collaboration among community groups and institutions already active on the lake. This program will maintain collaboration with our partners at various levels to ensure that programs and projects are meeting the actions that were recommended in the Lake Management Plans. By working alongside the different program partners, Kawartha Conservation will share and promote sound scientific decision making, local knowledge, and traditional values.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Coordinate and facilitate a multi-partner public ‘State of the Lakes’ symposium
- Collaborate with lake associations, and other community groups providing presentations to provide updated information
- Participate in community events such as Country Living Show, Spotlight on Agriculture etc. to improve community connections and share important updates on programs and results
- Produce an annual report on implementation success
- Report on Implementation successes to community stakeholders, municipal partners, and other agencies
- Promote the Implementation Action Plan and Community Grant Program to partner groups, agencies, and individuals throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes
- Develop a digital dashboard to report data and activity results in real time
- Develop a semi-annual digital newsletter on implementation successes
- Oversee the planning and preparation for attendance at the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo in Lindsay

Erosion and Sediment Control Planning

Better erosion and sediment control management at construction projects near water is a priority recommendation in all Lake, Watershed, and Storm Water Management Plans. Sediment-laden run-off is a significant threat to the health of local lakes and their connecting waters and can have both acute and long-term impacts including filling in shallow areas, smothering fish habitat, increasing phosphorous loads and poor aesthetics. Ongoing development pressures is a priority in the City of Kawartha Lakes and vital to economic growth. Responsible sediment and erosion control planning is a required part of the preparation, during and post construction process. Effective erosion and sediment control planning between municipalities, contractors, conservation authorities and other construction partners reduces construction delays, ensures work permit compliance, and protects the local environment.

The purpose of this program is to partner with the development industry to pilot innovative technologies and research to track erosion and sedimentation at construction sites, educating developers, contractors, construction works and others in the development industry on best management practices related to selection, installation and inspection of erosion and sediment control measures. Work in this area will help ensure the effectiveness of these technologies. Lastly, a key part of this program is to undertake site inspections on active construction projects to work with proponents on evaluating effectiveness and to adjust when needed to ensure the health and safety of our surface water.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Establish a partnership with 1 developer to test sediment and erosion tracking technologies during the construction phase of a project.
- Installation of a turbidity meter at 1 construction site to establish a relationship between water clarity and sedimentation during the construction phase of a project.
- Distribute fact sheets, videos, and other educational materials to proponents.
- Update erosion and sediment control guidelines at Kawartha Conservation.
- Undertake 10 construction site inspections to assess efficiency of control measures.
- Secure 5 proponent led solutions for improving control measures on construction project.
- Certification of 1 staff as a certified inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control.

Rural Program

Agricultural Stewardship

Farmland makes up nearly 50% of the Kawartha watershed and is particularly important in sustaining our rural communities, with agriculture and healthy lakes being the two pillars of our vibrant local economy. This program works directly with the farming community to provide a range of technical services and incentives to assist farmers in practicing beneficial farmland management to improve groundwater and surface water quality. Since 2019, nine (9) agricultural demonstration projects have been implemented in Kawartha Lakes, leveraging \$208,000 in grant funding and \$8,000 in community investment.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Collaboration and partnerships with agricultural commodity groups
- On-farm consultations to develop and support project implementation
- Collaboration with the East Central Farm Stewardship Collaborative
- Collaboration with the Peterborough chapter of ALUS
- Water quality sampling to demonstrate the beneficial impact of projects
- Negotiate a grant to leverage \$17,000
- Total Return on Investment of 89%

Investigative Upstream Monitoring

The Investigative Upstream Monitoring program will reduce existing data gaps by providing qualitative and quantitative data. This data will be invaluable to allowing Kawartha Conservation to identify problem areas and establish remediation and restoration options moving forward. The Lake Management implementation plan is a result of recommendations made from the lake management planning process for Sturgeon, Balsam, Cameron, and Pigeon lakes. These recommendations include the identification of ‘hot spots’ or problem areas (i.e., high nutrient concentrations, reduced forest cover, impaired riparian zones).

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Completion of monitoring on Janetville Creek, Stoney Creek and Sucker Creek (Year 3 of 3) in collaboration with Trent University
- Sampling 21 sites in total for water quality and flow 8 times a year
- Parameters include nutrients (phosphorus & nitrogen, total suspended solids, chloride)
- Produce a summary report of key findings

Shoreline Program

Community Science Monitoring

The nearshore area is under the direct influence of activities performed on the shoreline (urban development, agriculture, specific shoreline alteration) in addition to acting as a transition zone that is highly influenced from waters offshore and land and tributary drainage. The data collected in nearshore areas can act as an early warning indicator for the lakes and thus identify “problem areas” or “hot spots” of degraded water quality and threats to human and animal health in addition to a decrease in biodiversity and habitat. Routine water quality monitoring was identified as a priority recommendation in every Lake Management Plan.

This citizen science program will continue the successful Nearshore Monitoring Program (2019-2021) and aim to continue to empower our community to take action and provide valuable information on the concentrations of various nutrients in our waterbodies. The objectives of the 5-year Community Science Monitoring Program

are to monitor the nearshore environments health annually, provide up-to-date results to the public and key lake stakeholders, track changes over a 3- and 5-year period to inform Lake Plan actions, and provide stewardship with information on areas with degraded nearshore water quality. These findings will guide stewardship efforts through the Water Fund and Waterfront Stewardship programs. The monitoring and hands-on components will work together to seek funding. This project will depend on external funding to accomplish the 2024 deliverables which include:

- Monthly (May to October) water quality monitoring at 70 sites across the high priority lakes (Sturgeon, Balsam, Cameron, Pigeon), medium priority lakes (Canal, Mitchell, Dalrymple), and low priority lakes (Head, Shadow, Four Mile), yearly.
- Engage at least 70 volunteers in monitoring activities annually.
- Report on key findings to watershed residents through an online dashboard
- Summary report of degraded areas of water quality for the planning of future stewardship projects
- Provide monthly social media posts with science summary.
- Host an annual volunteer appreciation event.

Waterfront Stewardship

The Shoreline Stewardship Program works with private landowners to provide an array of technical supports to encourage better land management decisions and actions. Most shoreline properties in the City of Kawartha Lakes are privately owned. With this sensitive area having such a large influence on surface water quality, the daily actions of these landowners impact the ability for our community and tourists to enjoy our lakes.

Deliverables for 2024 Include:

- On-site Shoreline consultations with landowners
- Increase awareness through the Watershed Welcome packages
- 1,200 native plants sold to support shoreline stewardship
- Septic management information for private landowners
- Monitor sedimentation and nutrient loading at key project waterfronts
- Total return on investment 243%

Urban Program

Stormwater Monitoring

Urban stormwater runoff has been identified throughout all Lake Management Plans to be a concern due to higher rates of imperviousness and the concentration of contaminant sources. Building upon the successes of the Investigative Upstream Monitoring program for agricultural tributaries, we can transfer the same approach of monitoring multiple sites along a watercourse, to identify hotspots along the Scugog River.

During the next 5 years, our focus will be in the largest urban centre of CKL, Lindsay, and the urban runoff draining into the Scugog River. The Stormwater Monitoring program will gather baseline water quality and quantity information from both stormwater outlets and streams. Our collection efforts will take place at outlets during storm events occurring spring, summer and fall months as well as at 5 major streams that drain directly into the Scugog River (Distillery, Jennings, Sinister, Albert, and Sucker creeks).

In addition, the information gathered will help direct the upcoming monitoring plans that will need to be developed by municipalities as part of the new provincial guidance being released in 2023, that are specific to the Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Permissions Approach (CLI-EAC). The preliminary data being collected will directly correlate with the two main objectives that these plans will have to include:

- I. Identifying existing or emerging water quality and quantity issues in the key receivers as well as track future changes to water quality and quantity including long term trends of receiver health due to urbanization and
- II. Determining cumulative impacts on the receiver due to water quality and quantity changes overtime due to urbanization.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- We will monitor 5 urban streams draining directly into Scugog River (Distillery, Jennings, Sinister, Suckers and Albert) for water quality, flow, and benthic communities.
- Twice a month sampling from April-November.
- Explore innovative approaches to sample by using conductivity loggers, an autosampler and siphon samplers, to help capture high loading events (rain events) remotely.
- Capture runoff from additional stormwater outlets along the river manually, during 5 stormwater events
- Parameters will include nutrients (phosphorus & nitrogen, total suspended solids, chloride).
- Conduct bacteria source tracking at 3 sites

Urban Restoration

The urban restoration program helps to protect our urban communities by providing low impact development recommendations at the individual property level. Much of our urban landscape is hardened surface that promotes faster moving storm runoff and reduces the ability for the land to absorb water. We work with private landowners and the landscaping community to develop a program for retrofitting existing properties including a variety of options to suit landowners with varying capacity for implementation. Since 2019, Kawartha Conservation has successfully implemented 14 urban demonstration projects on private and public lands.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- On-site landowner consultations
- Increase landowner awareness and engagement through publications, social media, and direct outreach to key stakeholders as identified through the Stormwater Monitoring program
- Implementation of lot level stormwater feature as part of new development model homes

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

City of Kawartha Lakes - Lake Management Implementation, Stewardship
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Benefits Based

Stewardship	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	\$ 163,200	\$ 265,000	\$ 101,800
Municipal Levy, Category 2, Deferred	77,800	26,875	(50,925)
Provincial Grants	68,900	-	(68,900)
Other Grants	-	34,325	34,325
Self Generated Revenues	7,000	16,000	9,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 316,900	\$ 342,200	\$ 25,300
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 161,500	\$ 181,000	\$ 19,500
Advertising and Communications	11,000	7,400	(3,600)
Contracted services	48,500	25,000	(23,500)
Cost of sales	5,000	14,000	9,000
Equipment	100	50	(50)
Landowner Grants	55,500	70,000	14,500
Supplies and materials	2,500	9,700	7,200
Travel	4,000	3,950	(50)
Program administration	28,800	31,100	2,300
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 316,900	\$ 342,200	\$ 25,300

**Lake Management Implementation, Science
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Benefits Based**

<i>Science</i>	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	128,950	121,784	(7,166)
Municipal Levy, Category 2, Deferred	54,450	111,116	56,666
Employment Grants	2,000	2,500	500
Other Grants	5,000	40,000	35,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 190,400	\$ 275,400	\$ 85,000
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 81,400	\$ 105,600	\$ 24,200
Stipends	10,000	-	(10,000)
Equipment	44,500	37,200	(7,300)
Laboratory Fees	24,000	81,900	57,900
Professional services	-	5,300	5,300
Supplies and materials	11,400	11,100	(300)
Travel	4,500	9,300	4,800
Program administration	14,600	25,000	10,400
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 190,400	\$ 275,400	\$ 85,000

Municipality of Trent Lakes – Flood Plain Mapping Studies

Purpose

The objective of these studies is to update flood plain mapping along two stretches of rivers in the Municipality of Trent Lakes, using new hydrologic and hydraulic models based on the latest ground survey, future land-use conditions, topographic maps, aerial photography, and provincial guidelines. The updated flood plain mapping will allow communities, municipalities, and Kawartha Conservation staff to make informed decisions about future land use and identify flood hazard reduction opportunities within the region.

Background and detail

One of the core responsibilities of Conservation Authorities is to advise on improvements and help mitigate flood risks within the watershed, which can be partially achieved through up-to-date and refined data. To do this, flood plain mapping studies are created using information collected for the study such as LIDAR, survey data, soil type and land use types. These studies help synthesize representations of what the landscape is like and how excess water volume will be displaced during large storm events within the watershed. Ultimately the model produces a flood line that can be used to create flood hazard mapping. This model will also help inform consultants and other engineers produce updated mapping for safe future development within or adjacent to flood plains.

In an effort to achieve this core responsibility, Kawartha Conservation is partnered with Municipality of Trent Lakes to provide studies along the Miskwaa Ziibi River and Nogies Creek, which is being partially funded through the Federal Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP).

The Miskwaa Ziibi River flows south into Little Bald Lake. It has a watershed area of approximately 200 square kilometers. Most properties of concern are located at the south end of the Miskwaa Ziibi river. There are approximately 200 residential properties that are assumed to be within the flood plain. This mapping will help identify which properties are at risk along the east and west side of the Miskwaa Ziibi River.

Nogies Creek flows south into Pigeon Lake. It has a watershed area of approximately 200 square kilometers. Most properties of concern are located at the southern half of Nogies Creek. This Creek has approximately 200 residential properties that are assumed to be within the flood plain. This mapping will help identify which properties are at risk along the east and west side of Nogies Creek.

Deliverables

- Attend quarterly coordination meetings;
- Provide management of flood plain related information and data;
- Provide Flood Plain Mapping Technical Report by March 1, 2024, outlining the findings for each study; and,
- Assist in the implementation of planning decisions.

**KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget**

Trent Lakes, Floodplain Mapping Studies
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Benefits Based

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	\$ 273,000	\$ -	\$ (273,000)
Municipal Levy, Category 2, Deferred	(22,700)	114,300	137,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 250,300	\$ 114,300	\$ (136,000)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 67,100	\$ 11,900	\$ (55,200)
Equipment	3,000	-	(3,000)
Professional services	152,400	92,000	(60,400)
Supplies and materials	3,000	-	(3,000)
Travel	2,000	-	(2,000)
Program administration	22,800	10,400	(12,400)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 250,300	\$ 114,300	\$ (136,000)

City of Kawartha Lakes and Region of Durham - Tree Planting Program

Tree planting within the watershed is a key deliverable of the 2020 Stewardship Strategy which outlines the need for increased forest cover across the watershed. Municipal guidance indicates a desired 30% tree canopy to help address the impacts of climate change. To achieve this coverage will require multiple organizations working together to support private landowners in rural and urban areas.

Kawartha Conservation has focused programs to support private landowners including participating in the 50 Million Tree program, the Forest Recovery Program, and through over the counter tree seedling sales. Urban tree planting is encouraged through our TD Tree days' work and in partnership with our municipal partners to identify public space that would benefit from increased canopy coverage. These programs provide incentives that support for tree planting projects on private and public properties.

Tree planting through these programs also supports the implementation of the Implementation Action Plan as well as protect and enhance our tree canopy; of which both items were highlighted in the City of Kawartha Lakes 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. Since 2019 Kawartha Conservation has sold/planted 179,005 trees and shrubs across the watershed, exceeding our target of 105,000. This new program is heavily invested in by Forest Ontario, Highway of Heroes, and private landowners.

Deliverables for 2024 include:

- Development of planting plans to support canopy growth
- Distribute 15,000 seedlings as part of the over-the-counter program
- Plant 40,000 trees as part of the 50 Million tree program
- Survival assessments of previous planting sites
- Urban tree planting projects
- Leveraged external funding of \$136,200
- Return on Investment of 142%

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Joint Project - Forestry and Tree Planting Stewardship
Category 2
Apportionment Method: Agreement Method (CKL & Durham)

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Levy, Category 2	\$ 34,800	\$ 6,000	\$ (28,800)
Municipal Levy, Category 2, Deferred	17,000	81,000	64,000
Municipal Agreement	18,000	9,000	(9,000)
Other Grants	59,500	71,500	12,000
Self Generated Revenues	58,400	67,500	9,100
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 187,700	\$ 235,000	\$ 47,300

EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 85,100	\$ 90,200	\$ 5,100
Advertising and Communications	2,500	3,100	600
Contracted services	26,000	44,800	18,800
Cost of sales	20,000	28,000	8,000
Supplies and materials	34,500	44,500	10,000
Travel	2,500	3,000	500
Program administration	17,100	21,400	4,300
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 187,700	\$ 235,000	\$ 47,300

County of Haliburton – Flood Plain Mapping Study

Purpose

The objective of these studies is to update flood plain mapping along the Gull and Burnt Rivers in the County of Haliburton, using new hydrologic and hydraulic models based on the latest ground survey, future land-use conditions, topographic maps, aerial photography, and provincial guidelines. The updated flood plain mapping will allow communities, County and the local municipalities the ability to make informed decisions about future land use and identify flood hazard reduction opportunities within the area.

Background and detail

Given conservation authority expertise in floodplain mapping, we have partnered with Haliburton to conduct flood plain mapping in conjunction with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. Municipalities are responsible for developing information to help mitigate flood risks outside conservation authority watersheds, and mitigation can be partially achieved through up-to-date and refined data. To do this, flood plain mapping studies are created using information collected for the study such as LIDAR, survey data, soil type and land use types. These studies help synthesize representations of what the landscape is like and how excess water volume will be displaced during large storm events within the watershed. Ultimately the model produces a flood line that can be used to create flood hazard mapping. This model will also help inform consultants and other engineers produce updated mapping for safe future development within or adjacent to flood plains.

This project is being funded through the County of Haliburton and through the Federal Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP). Our role in the project is to provide survey information and flood line mapping, based on the information provided by the engineering work conducted by the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.

Deliverables

- Attend coordination meetings;
- Provide survey information for flood plain related information and data;
- Provide topographical flood line mapping from engineering data
- Provide input to the Flood Plain Mapping Technical Report
- Assist in the implementation of planning decisions.

KAWARTHA CONSERVATION
2024 Budget

Haliburton County, Floodplain Mapping Project

Category 2

Apportionment Method: N/A

	Budget 2023	Budget 2024	Budget Variance
SOURCES OF REVENUE			
Municipal Agreement	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ (25,000)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ (25,000)
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, wages & benefits	\$ 47,500	\$ 20,300	\$ (27,200)
Supplies and materials	500	500	-
Travel	1,000	1,250	250
Program administration	1,000	2,200	1,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 50,000	\$ 24,250	\$ (25,750)

**Agenda Item #9.4**

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

Page 1 of 2

To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO

Re: *Conservation Authorities Act* – Phase 2 Transition Activities

KEY ISSUE:

Draft MOUs tied to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and supporting O. Reg. 687/21 requiring the development of agreements with municipalities for programs and services not deemed mandatory by the Province.

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the staff report on Phase 2 Transition Activities related to *Conservation Authorities Act* changes be received.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) released Phase 1 regulations to implement amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* on October 4th, 2021, which included a requirement to develop an inventory of programs and services. This inventory initiates the process for understanding the categories of services that a Conservation Authority provides and facilitates entering into agreements with participating municipalities on the costing of programs, which are to be entered into by January 1, 2024.

Phase 2 regulations outlining budget requirements were released on April 20, 2022, which are tied to the Phase 1 regulation requirements for the accounting of agreements with municipalities.

Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services under Section 21.1.2 of the Act requires each conservation authority to develop agreements with its municipalities for programs and services which are Category 2 or Category 3 programs.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs)

The early draft MOU approved by the Board on May 25th with a few amendments, was circulated to all participating municipalities and used as a base for the MOUs with our municipalities. Complete versions of the draft agreements were approved at the October 26, 2023 Board meeting and these agreements were again circulated to our municipalities for discussion.

As of December 31, 2023, we had fully executed agreements with Trent Lakes, Cavan Monaghan, and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

For more information, please contact Mark Majchrowski at extension 215.



Agenda Item #9.4

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

Page 2 of 2

We have been in discussion with the Region of Durham regarding an update to the draft agreements circulated, which have gone through their internal staff and legal reviews. Several amendments to the agreement were proposed, and agreement amongst the changes were achieved at the staff level. Staff at the Region of Durham are bringing the MOU forward to their January 17th Committee of the Whole meeting for approval, and then plan on providing the MOU to Durham Region Council on January 31st, 2024, where they will approve the MOUs for all conservation authorities in their municipality. Noteworthy amendments to the draft agreements include:

- Inclusion of Region-specific budget policy, procurement and procedures for Category 2 programs and services (Clause 7)
- Special projects which are not a part of the mandatory/levy programs to be funded by the authority until project completion, or other such terms as agreed to (e.g., mirroring existing levy payment schedules or financial/project benchmarking) (Clause 8)
- Inclusion of a deferred revenue report by July 1st and joint review of opportunities to reallocate funding to priority program and service areas. (Clause 13)
- Dispute resolution – simplified dispute resolution identified, which includes negotiation in good faith; any dispute not resolved shall be referred to the senior management of the parties, and from there to Regional Council and our Board. (Clause 14)
- Removal of the existing schedules to the agreement, replacing it with a schedule identifying the programs and services mirroring the draft 2024 budget document, identifying the category of programs and services, apportionment method and specific participating municipality apportionment. (Schedule A)

The draft agreement with the Region of Durham is provided as an attachment to this report.

Timeline Transition:

The request to the Province to extend the deadline for agreements extended the transition period as defined in legislation to March 31, 2024.

We expect that we will have all agreements in place prior to this time, after which, we will notify all participating municipalities and the Ministry that we have entered into agreements for cost apportioning agreements and forward the current list of programs and services, which will conclude the transitory period identified in legislation.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”)

THIS AGREEMENT dated this 1st day of January, 2024 (“Effective Date”).

BETWEEN:

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM
(Hereinafter, “Participating Municipality”)

AND:

KAWARTHA REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
(Hereinafter, “Kawartha Conservation”)

WHEREAS Kawartha Conservation is a conservation authority established under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (“Act”) providing programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in its watershed;

AND WHEREAS the Participating Municipality is a municipality, located wholly or partly within the area under the jurisdiction of Kawartha Conservation, and is designated as a participating municipality under the Act;

AND WHEREAS in carrying out its mandate under the Act, Kawartha Conservation is required to provide mandatory programs and services (Category 1) set out under *Ontario Regulation 686/21*;

AND WHEREAS in carrying out its mandate under the Act, Kawartha Conservation provides non-mandatory programs and services (Category 2) at the request of or on behalf of its municipal partners within its jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS in carrying out its mandate under the Act, Kawartha Conservation provides non-mandatory programs and services (Category 3) that Kawartha Conservation implements to manage and conserve the watershed;

AND WHEREAS under the Act, Category 1 programs and services are to be funded through the annual budget and apportionment process in accordance with the Act;

AND WHEREAS under the applicable regulations, Category 1 operating expenses and capital costs may be included in the apportionment and provided without an agreement;

AND WHEREAS under the Act, Category 2 programs and services provided at the request of or on behalf of its municipal partners municipalities are delivered under a memorandum of understanding or such other agreement, such as a procurement agreement;

AND WHEREAS under the applicable regulations, Category 2 operating expenses and capital costs may be included in the apportionment under a memorandum of understanding or other agreement, and the operating expenses and capital costs shall be apportioned, in their entirety, to the participating municipality that requested the programs and services;

AND WHEREAS under the Act, Category 2 programs and services may be provided at the request of participating municipalities, outside of the annual budget and apportionment process, through a memorandum of understanding or individual procurement agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Act requires such memorandums of understanding or other agreements to be reviewed at regular intervals and to be made available to the public, subject to certain exemptions;

AND WHEREAS this MOU sets out the principles, terms and conditions governing the delivery of Category 2 programs and services funded by the Participating Municipality through the budget and apportionment, or otherwise requested outside of the budget and apportionment process;

AND WHEREAS under the Act, Category 3 programs and services implemented by Kawartha Conservation may be provided in accordance with the Act, within the budget and apportionment process, or otherwise requested outside of the budget and apportionment process;

AND WHEREAS under the Act and the Minister's Fee Classes Policy, the Kawartha Conservation may establish fees to be charged for the program or service where appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein and for other good and valuable consideration the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by the parties, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. This MOU shall commence on the Effective Date and shall continue for four (4) years (the "Initial Term"). Thereafter this MOU shall continue for additional four (4) year periods (each a "Renewal Term") on the same terms and conditions unless either party provides written notice of termination to the other party at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiry of the Initial Term or Renewal Term, as the case may be.
2. This MOU shall be reviewed by the Parties on an annual basis as part of the budget and apportionment process.
3. Kawartha Conservation agrees to provide the Participating Municipality with the programs and services outlined in the Inventory of Programs and Services

(Categories 1, 2, and 3) attached hereto as Schedule A, which shall identify the apportionment and assigned budget amount for each program and service.

4. When preparing its annual budget, Kawartha Conservation shall follow the prescribed budgetary process in accordance with the requirements of the applicable regulations, including preparation of a draft budget, consultations with participating municipalities, rules for voting to approve the apportionment, and preparation of the final budget.
5. Kawartha Conservation and the Participating Municipality shall identify and agree upon Category 1, applicable Category 2, and Category 3 program and services through the annual budget process.
6. Where requested Category 2 services are included in the budget process and apportionment, Kawartha Conservation shall apportion the operating expenses and capital costs, in their entirety, to the Participating Municipality that requested the programs and services.
7. Where Category 2 services are requested, all efforts will be made to include these in the annual budget. The Parties agree that funding requests for a program or service made outside the annual budget process will follow the Participating Municipality's approved policies and procedures, including but not limited to the Participating Municipality's Budget Management Policy and Procurement By-law, as amended.
8. Funding for special projects (i.e., not part of mandatory/levy programs) shall be approved by the Participating Municipality's Council through the annual budget process and billed upon project completion and accountability of project costs, or other such terms as agreed to between Kawartha Conservation and the Participating Municipality.
9. Category 1 programs and services shall be provided in accordance with any standards and requirements that may be prescribed under subsection 21.1(3) of the Act. Category 2 programs and services provided shall be in accordance with any standards and requirements, and any terms and conditions, that may be prescribed under subsection 21.1.1(4) of the Act. Category 3 programs and services provided shall be in accordance with any standards and requirements, and any terms and conditions, that may be prescribed under subsection 21.1.2(3) of the Act.

10. Where Category 2 and/or 3 programs and services funded by the Participating Municipality involve user fees, such user fees shall only be imposed in accordance with Kawartha Conservation's fee policy and fee schedules adopted in accordance with the provisions of the Act, or otherwise in accordance with provisions set out in an agreement between Kawartha Conservation and the Participating Municipality.
11. Revenues generated through fees and charges and other revenue streams, shall be used to offset the apportioned value required to be paid by the Participating Municipality for the program and/or service in accordance with the Act.
12. The programs and services outlined in the Inventory of Program and Services shall be paid quarterly in the calendar year, as per the following schedule:
 - 1st quarter – the later of: 30 days post budget approval, or April 1;
 - 2nd quarter – June 1;
 - 3rd quarter – September 1; and,
 - 4th quarter – December 1;

If any of the above dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the payment shall be provided on the next following business day.

13. Kawartha Conservation shall submit a variance report by July 1st each year that includes a summary of deferred revenue for all programs and services included in the apportionment, and the Parties will review unspent funding to determine opportunities to reallocate funding to other priority program and service areas on mutual agreement.
14. Kawartha Conservation and the Participating Municipality shall negotiate in good faith in an attempt to settle any dispute between the Parties in a timely manner. If a dispute cannot be resolved, the Parties agree that the dispute shall be referred to senior management of the Parties (the Parties' respective Chief Administrative Officers or their designate), who shall meet to attempt to resolve the dispute. If no resolution is obtained, the matter shall be referred to the Participating Municipality's Council and Kawartha Conservation's Board of Directors.
15. Amendments to the schedules of this MOU may be made, in writing by mutual agreement, periodically to ensure alignment with existing agreements and the annual budget process.
16. The Participating Municipality and Kawartha Conservation will continue to work together to identify opportunities for further collaboration to the benefit of both parties

and ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability in the use of public sector resources.

17. This MOU shall be made available to the public in accordance with the Act and any applicable regulations.
18. This MOU may be executed in counterparts and when each party has executed a counterpart, each of such counterparts shall be deemed to be an original and all of such counterparts, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this MOU as of the Effective Date.

**KAWARTHA REGION CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY**

Per: _____
Name: Mark Majchrowski
Title: Chief Administrative Officer

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

Per: _____
Name: Elaine Baxter-Trahair
Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Schedule A - Kawartha Conservation Programs and Services

Programs and Services	Category	Apportionment Method	2024 Draft Durham Apportionment
Provincial Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring	1	MCVA	\$ 18,626
Core Watershed Based Resource Strategy	1	MCVA	12,526
Flood Forecasting and Warning and Low Water Response	1	MCVA	22,293
Natural Hazard Planning Services	1	MCVA	36,180
Section 28 Permit Administration and Compliance	1	MCVA	37,215
Drinking Water Source Protection	1	MCVA	-
Conservation Area Management	1	MCVA	98,901
Durham East Cross Forest	1	Durham Benefit	105,750
Digitization of Corporate Records	1	MCVA	5,446
Tree Planting and Forestry Services*	2	Durham and City of Kawartha Lakes Benefit	6,000
Lake Management Plan Implementation	2	Durham Benefit	140,100
Durham Watershed Planning	2	Durham Benefit	30,500
Core Watershed Based Resource Strategy	3	MCVA	4,647
Local Environmental Monitoring	3	MCVA	17,224
Environmental Monitoring Strategy	3	MCVA	9,077
Fleetwood Creek Natural Area	3	N/A	-
Conservation Education and Community Outreach	3	MCVA	15,884
Habitat Restoration	3	N/A	-
Corporate Services	General Operating	MCVA	297,253
Information Services	General Operating	MCVA	77,606

*There is also \$9,000 of funding provided for this program through the MOU for Conservation Authorities Supporting Climate Action through Nature Based Solutions by the Region of Durham.

**The budget apportionment figures in this schedule are provided in draft form as the 2024 Budget process is in progress as of January 9th, 2024.



Agenda Item #9.5

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

Page 1 of 3

To: The Chair and Members of
Kawartha Conservation Board of Directors

From: Mark Majchrowski, CAO
Nancy Aspden, Acting Director, Integrated Watershed Management

Re: 10-Year Climate Change Strategy

KEY ISSUE:

Endorsement of the 10-Year Climate Change Strategy

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT, the 10-Year Climate Change Strategy be endorsed.

Background

In 2016, the Board of Directors endorsed a 5-Year Climate Change Strategy for Kawartha Conservation. That document has directed Kawartha Conservation's response to the challenges of protecting, managing, and enhancing the watershed's natural resources in changing climate conditions.

Starting in 2023, Kawartha Conservation staff began the work of developing a new 10-Year Climate Change Strategy. The goal of this updated Climate Change Strategy is to capitalize on the work previously done, recognizing the lessons learned, and opportunities for greater collaboration and synergy among member municipalities and Kawartha Conservation programming.

Our primary focus is on supporting our partner municipalities, emphasizing our strengths in science, data collection, precipitation monitoring, and understanding the impacts of our changing climate, while complementing the goals and strategic actions of our municipalities where the strategies align. It also seeks to identify gaps in our collective efforts, striving to address and bridge those gaps to develop a more comprehensive narrative surrounding climate change.



Agenda Item #9.5

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

Page 2 of 3

10-Year Climate Change Strategy Timeline



The following key activities were completed during the development of the 10-Year Climate Change Strategy.

- Conducted an internal working session to solicit input and feedback from staff across all departments at Kawartha Conservation.
- The summary of results from that session were incorporated into an internal survey soliciting and solidifying further input from staff.
- The results of the staff survey and feedback were used to generate a public-facing survey that resulted in approximately 170 responses from across the watershed, with approximately one quarter of responses from people living in an urban area and three quarters of responses from people living in rural areas from across the watershed.
- Undertook a comprehensive review of all member municipalities climate change and healthy environment documents, plans and strategies.
- Conducted an analysis of commonalities between existing member municipalities documents, plans and strategies, and internal and public facing feedback on climate change initiatives.
- Produced the draft 10-Year Climate Change Strategy, including initial recommendations. This document was circulated to the Kawartha Conservation leadership team for initial review and feedback and revised.
- The revised 10-Year Climate Change Strategy was circulated to all staff at Kawartha Conservation for their review and feedback and revised.

The culmination of this work is a series of recommendations that will ensure the organization is fit for the future and able to adapt to environmental and technological changes and challenges presented by our changing climate. The recommendations are set out paralleling our corporate strategic plan pillars, with specific themes of actions shown below. Please see the Climate Change Strategy for the specific actions (pgs. 28-35 of the strategy).



Agenda Item #9.5

BOD Meeting #1/24

January 25, 2024

Page 3 of 3

PROTECT AND RESTORE

- Strengthening water resilience through enhanced conservation and protection
- Nurturing agricultural resilience in a changing climate
- Cultivating climate resilience through comprehensive ecosystem restoration and monitoring
- Protecting and enhancing natural spaces for future generations
- Climate monitoring and natural hazard preparedness
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions for climate action
- Enhancing climate resilience through targeted science and data collection

ENGAGE AND INSPIRE

- Empowering communities through climate change education and engagement
- Amplifying local climate impact awareness through social media campaigns
- Empowering farming stewardship for climate-positive impact
- Engaging communities in stewardship-led climate action initiatives
- Engaging municipalities, committees, and municipal leaders
- Spearheading climate action through corporate services initiatives

INNOVATE AND ENHANCE

- Enhancing local climate understanding with expanded data collection
- Navigating climate-driven shifts in tourism dynamics across seasons
- Empowering communities with a web-based climate monitoring dashboard
- Promoting woodlot and wetland care and enhancement
- Measuring local and regional climate effects through key indicator monitoring
- Protecting and enhancing natural spaces

TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

- Monitoring the climate impact of tree planting

Summary

The 10-Year Climate Change Strategy has now been completed and we are seeking Board endorsement of the final strategy. Once endorsed, an implementation plan will be developed to help move the strategy and its recommendations forward over the next 10 years (2025-2034). A series of budget scenarios will be looked at and brought back to the board in the coming months for consideration.

Acknowledgements in the preparation of this report:

John Chambers, Marketing and Communications Specialist; Nathan Rajevski, Assistant Watershed Resources Technician

Climate Change Strategy

2025 - 2034

January 25, 2024



**KAWARTHA
CONSERVATION**

Discover • Protect • Restore

About Kawartha Conservation

Who we are

We are a watershed-based organization that uses planning, stewardship, science, and conservation lands management to protect and sustain outstanding water quality and quantity supported by healthy landscapes.

Why is watershed management important?

Abundant, clean water is the lifeblood of the Kawarthas. It is essential for our quality of life, health, and continued prosperity. It supplies our drinking water, maintains property values, sustains an agricultural industry, and contributes to a tourism-based economy that relies on recreational boating, fishing, and swimming. Our programs and services promote an integrated watershed approach that balance human, environmental, and economic needs.

The community we support

We focus our programs and services within the natural boundaries of the Kawartha watershed, which extend from Lake Scugog in the southwest and Pigeon Lake in the east, to Balsam Lake in the northwest and Crystal Lake in the northeast – a total of 2,563 square kilometers.

Our history and governance

In 1979, we were established by our municipal partners under the *Ontario Conservation Authorities Act*.

The natural boundaries of our watershed overlap the six municipalities that govern Kawartha Conservation through representation on our Board of Directors. Our municipal partners include the City of Kawartha Lakes, Region of Durham, Township of Scugog, Township of Brock, Municipality of Clarington, Municipality of Trent Lakes, and Township of Cavan Monaghan.



Kawartha Conservation
277 Kenrei Road, Lindsay ON K9V 4R1
T: 705.328.2271 F: 705.328.2286
GenInfo@KawarthaConservation.com
KawarthaConservation.com

Executive Summary

Kawartha Conservation is committed to addressing climate change challenges with this 10-Year Climate Change Strategy that prioritizes tangible results. This strategy focuses on activities such as data collection, information sharing, knowledge exchange, and support for climate mitigation and adaptation.

In response to the urgency of climate change, Kawartha Conservation presents this comprehensive strategy designed to confront the evolving climate conditions affecting communities in the City of Kawartha Lakes, the Municipality of Trent Lakes, the Township of Brock, Township of Scugog, the Municipality of Clarington, and the Township of Cavan-Monaghan. The goal is to foster collaboration among these municipalities, through the work that we do, enhancing regional resilience.

Kawartha Conservation's 10-Year Climate Change Strategy envisions a sustainable future that harnesses valuable data sources, such as climatedata.ca, and builds upon the work of member municipalities to create a roadmap for safeguarding natural heritage and promoting resilient ecosystems.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

Aligned with our Strategic Plan, the pillars of Protect and Restore, Engage and Inspire, and Innovate and Enhance underscore our approach, with specific objectives and outcomes for each:

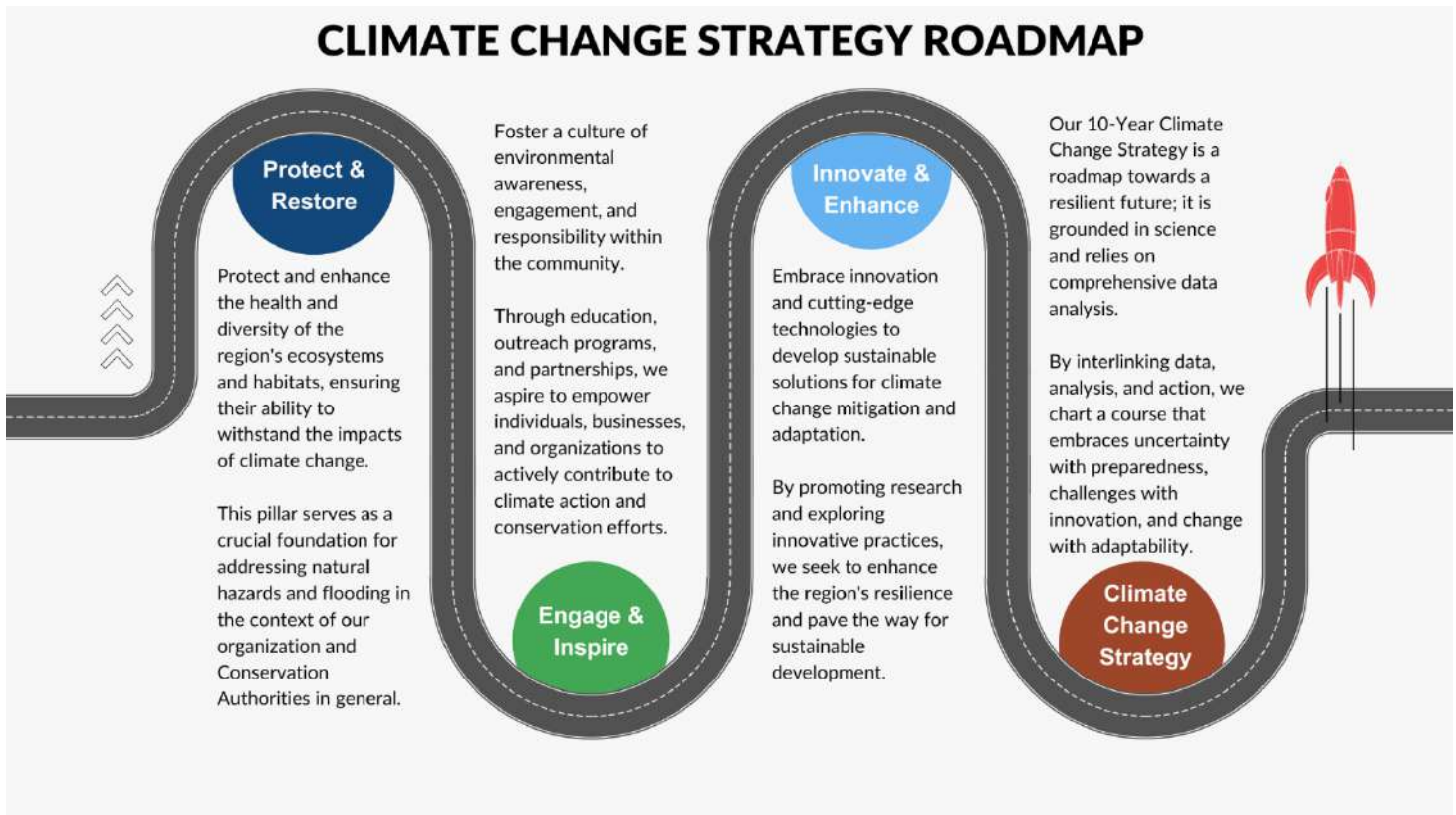


Figure 1. Climate Change Strategy Roadmap

1. Protect and Restore

Objective: To safeguard and rejuvenate the natural environment in our region.

Outcomes:

- Implement conservation measures to protect vulnerable ecosystems.
- Restore and enhance natural habitats, including reforestation and wetland restoration.
- Reduce environmental impacts through sustainable land management and water quality improvement initiatives.

2. Engage and Inspire:

Objective: To actively involve the public in climate change awareness and action.

Outcomes:

- Organize community outreach and educational programs to raise awareness of climate change issues.
- Foster a sense of stewardship and responsibility for the environment among residents.
- Encourage public participation in conservation efforts, such as volunteering, citizen science, and environmental education.

3. Innovate and Enhance

Objective: To drive innovation in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Outcomes:

- Develop and implement new technologies and practices for sustainable resource management.
- Promote green infrastructure and sustainable urban planning to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Facilitate research and development partnerships to create novel solutions for climate resilience.

By implementing these objectives and achieving these outcomes within the Protect and Restore, Engage and Inspire, and Innovate and Enhance pillars, we aim to create synergies that make the most of existing programs and services provided by Kawartha Conservation. Furthermore, we leverage the valuable work already undertaken by our member municipalities to establish robust partnerships and programming that effectively combat climate change in our region. This comprehensive and integrated approach ensures a holistic response to the challenges posed by climate change and fosters a sustainable and resilient future for our communities.

Kawartha Conservation's 10-Year Climate Change Strategy signifies a unified commitment and approach to watershed health and conservation. By recognizing the interconnectedness of our member municipalities, we forge a path towards a resilient and thriving future. Together, we can work hand in hand with the community and partners to protect our natural heritage.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which we are located.

Today, this area is home to many indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that our watershed forms a part of the treaty and traditional territory of the south-eastern Anishinaabeg.

It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we live and work. To honour this legacy, we commit to being stewards of the natural environment and undertake to have a relationship of respect with our Treaty partners.

This plan was written by Nathan Rajevski and John Chambers. Special thanks to all the staff at Kawartha Conservation for providing feedback into the development of this document, with special thanks and acknowledgement to:

Mark Majchrowski	Chief Administrative Officer
Nancy Aspden	Acting Director, Integrated Watershed Management
Jonathan Lucas	Director, Corporate Services
Tanner Liang	Water Quality Specialist
Brett Tregunno	Aquatic Biologist
Rob Stavinga	Watershed Resources Technician

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Kawartha Conservation
277 Kenrei Road, Lindsay ON K9V 4R1
T: 705.328.2271 F: 705.328.2286
GenInfo@KawarthaConservation.com
KawarthaConservation.com

The *Conservation Authorities Act*: A brief Overview

In the realm of tackling climate change, the legal framework that guides the actions of conservation organizations holds paramount importance. The *Conservation Authorities Act* stands as a pivotal piece of legislation that outlines the duties and responsibilities of entities like Kawartha Conservation in addressing and adapting to the challenges posed by our changing climate.

Enacted with the goal of safeguarding Ontario's natural resources and mitigating natural hazards, the *Conservation Authorities Act* sets forth a clear purpose for conservation authorities. Among its core provisions, the *Conservation Authorities Act* emphasizes the prudent management of natural resources, flood and erosion control, and land use planning to ensure the long-term sustainability of our environment.

Within the context of climate change, the *Conservation Authorities Act* plays a vital role in directing conservation authorities to acknowledge and incorporate climate change considerations into their planning and decision-making processes. This directive recognizes that climate change poses unprecedented challenges that necessitate comprehensive and proactive strategies.

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act's* umbrella, Kawartha Conservation assumes several key responsibilities and mandates in the realm of climate change adaptation and mitigation:

- I. ***Watershed Planning and Management*** – tasked with preparing plans that reflect the changing climate conditions. This involves assessing the potential impacts of climate change on water resources and communities within the watershed.
- II. ***Development Review and Regulation*** – Regulate development activities within the watershed to ensure they are built safely with respect to a climate-resilient understanding of natural hazard features and develop programs and services to achieve this. This includes consideration such as floodplain management, erosion control, and sustainable land use practices to mitigate climate-related risks.
- III. ***Public Awareness and Education*** – Engaging the public and promoting awareness about climate change and its potential ramifications. Kawartha Conservation is entrusted with educating communities, fostering collaboration, promoting sustainable behaviours that align with the climate change strategy.
- IV. ***Collaboration and Partnerships*** -Recognizing the interconnectedness of climate change impacts, the act encourages collaboration between Kawartha Conservation, other government agencies, and stakeholders. This collaborative approach facilitates the development of comprehensive and effective climate change strategies.

The legislated requirements articulated in the *Conservation Authorities Act* empower Kawartha Conservation to take a proactive stance in addressing and adapting to climate change. By embracing these mandates, Kawartha Conservation is poised to foster resilience, steward natural resources, and protect communities in the face of our changing climate.

In a broader sense, Kawartha Conservation has a responsibility and requirement to support its member municipalities through the additional following areas:

- **Floodplain Management and Regulation:** Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, Conservation Authorities have the authority to regulate and manage development in flood-prone areas. They establish regulations to guide construction and land use within floodplains to mitigate flood risks and safeguard lives and property.
- **Flood Forecasting and Warning:** Conservation Authorities in Ontario are mandated to monitor meteorological conditions, water levels, and other factors that could lead to flooding. They issue flood forecasts and warnings to inform the public and local authorities, enabling preparedness and effective response to potential flood events.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** Conservation Authorities, under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, must account for climate change projections and the associated risks as they relate to natural hazards. This involves integrating climate change data into flood forecasting, planning, and mitigation efforts to address evolving conditions and challenges.
- **Natural Hazard Mitigation:** Conservation Authorities are entrusted with a broader mandate, which encompasses the management of various natural hazards, not limited to floods. They must identify, assess, and develop strategies to mitigate these hazards, including erosion, landslides.
- **Emergency Management and Response:** Conservation Authorities play a pivotal role in emergency management and response during flood events. They collaborate closely with local emergency services and municipal governments by providing flood and weather information, helping to ensure a coordinated and effective response to flooding.
- **Environmental Protection:** The *Conservation Authorities Act* requires Conservation Authorities to protect and conserve natural ecosystems. This includes managing water resources and ecosystems susceptible to flood impacts and climate change effects.
- **Public Education and Outreach:** Conservation Authorities, as per the legislation, engage in public education and outreach programs to raise awareness about flood risks and promote community preparedness and resilience.
- **Resource Management:** Conservation Authorities have responsibilities related to water resource management, essential for mitigating the environmental consequences of flooding.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaboration with local communities, government agencies, and stakeholders is a fundamental aspect of the mandate outlined in the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Such collaboration ensures the effectiveness of flood forecasting, preparedness, and response efforts.

The risks associated with climate change, natural hazards, and flood forecasting and warning, as addressed by Conservation Authorities under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, include heightened flood frequency and severity, increased erosion, habitat loss affecting the resilience of landscapes, and infrastructure damage. To address these risks, Conservation Authorities in Ontario must continually adapt their strategies, stay informed about the latest scientific data, and continually monitor and collect local data, while adhering to best practices to protect communities and the environment.

Climate Change Vulnerabilities and Risks

Climate change poses a multitude of risks and vulnerabilities. As the earth's temperature continues to rise due to the accumulation of greenhouse gases, we are confronted with a range of interconnected challenges that affect our future, including changes in air temperature and precipitation trends.

Increases in air temperature have a wide variety of compounding effect that will have a significant impact on freshwater lakes, streams, forests, and wetlands.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

One of the other major risks of climate change is an increase in extreme weather events, including more intense rainfall, prolonged droughts, and devastating wildfires. These events can cause widespread damage to properties and infrastructure, disrupt essential services such as energy, drinking water, and transportation, and can result in the loss of life.

While acknowledging the challenges posed by fluctuating water levels and their impact on hydrological systems, it is important to consider the broader implications of climate change, including the potential benefits to the local agricultural community. Changes in climate patterns, particularly the reduction in colder days, can contribute to an extended growing season, providing a unique advantage for agriculture in the region.

This shift towards fewer cold days may enhance crop productivity and diversify agricultural opportunities, enabling farmers to cultivate a wider variety of crops or extend their growing periods. Such changes could lead to increased agricultural yields and potentially open new avenues for local economic development in farming communities.

However, it is crucial to balance these potential benefits with the challenges. Fluctuating water levels will affect hydrological systems including changes to stream flow and groundwater discharge. Increased runoff from urban and rural areas will further degrade water quality by introducing greater levels of nutrients, sediment, and contaminants into water bodies, while also increasing the risk of flooding within certain areas.⁴ Increased risks to freshwater fauna are also a major impact of climate change as habitat loss and degradation increases, alongside increases in pollution and the spread of invasive species.⁴

Environmental Impacts

In this critical section of our 10-Year Climate Change Strategy, we focus on unraveling the complex web of risks and vulnerabilities posed by climate change. Our aim is to provide a thorough understanding of how these changes impact ecosystems, economies, and the well-being of communities within our member municipalities. To achieve this, we delve into detailed climate projections, examining trends in temperature and total precipitation across various locations within the Kawartha Conservation watershed.

These projections are a window into our potential future climate realities. By incorporating a range of emission scenarios, we account for different levels of greenhouse gas emissions, offering a spectrum of possible outcomes. This approach allows us to not just anticipate but actively visualize the potential shifts in our climate.

Understanding these scenarios is crucial for our strategic planning. It enables us to tailor our efforts in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change. By comprehensively assessing these varied climate projections, we equip ourselves with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions and take proactive steps toward safeguarding our environment and communities against the imposing challenges of climate change.

Climate

- Changes in climate can contribute to changes in air temperature patterns.¹
- Changes in precipitation trends, shifting rainfall patterns, heavier rainfall, and a greater risk of flooding and low water/drought situations.²
- Changes in climate can contribute to more frequent extreme weather events, along with less predictable weather patterns.²
- Climate change can increase the frequency and severity of wildfires due to an increase in air temperature and extended periods of drought.³

Aquatic Ecosystems (lakes, streams, and rivers)

- Increased temperature due to a changing climate can result in an increased spread of more invasive species.⁴
- Climate change can cause degraded levels of biodiversity within waterbodies due to increases in temperature.⁴
- Alterations in climate can elevate water temperatures, leading to consequences for aquatic ecosystems, including habitat degradation and displacement.^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}
- Climate change can cause changes in the hydrological cycle, resulting in altered flow and water quality.⁴
- Climate change can lead to reduced survival rates of cold-water fish species as rising water temperatures not only create unfavorable conditions but also decrease dissolved oxygen levels, adversely affecting aquatic life.^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}

Wetlands

- Rise in air temperatures leads to increased evaporation and transpiration, ultimately causing the depletion of wetlands as water levels diminish.^{Error! Bookmark not d}

¹ [Government of Canada: Causes of climate change](#)

² [Conservation Ontario: Climate change](#)

³ [Government of Canada: Climate change and fire](#)

⁴ [A Summary of the Effects of Climate Change on Ontario's Aquatic Ecosystems](#)

efined. This can also result in poorer-quality wetlands and reductions in carbon sequestration capacities.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

- Changes to normal duration, timing and elevation of annual and seasonal water levels will cause alterations in habitat and natural succession of wetlands.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Economic Impacts

- Increased frequency and severity of weather events necessitate higher spending on infrastructure repairs and upgrades.
- Altered temperature and precipitation patterns negatively impact agricultural productivity, leading to decreased crop yields and higher costs for farmers, exemplified by drought-affected grain production.
- Extreme temperatures result in greater energy consumption for heating and cooling, increasing costs for households and businesses, as observed during prolonged heatwaves.
- The insurance industry faces higher premiums and payouts due to more frequent severe weather events, directly affecting the finances of individuals and businesses in areas prone to natural disasters.
- Climate change disrupts water supplies and water quality, leading to increased costs for treatment and impacting both municipal and industrial water users, particularly in regions experiencing altered rainfall patterns.

Significant economic burdens arise from managing and responding to climate-related emergencies like floods and wildfires, placing a heavy financial load on governments and communities.

Human Health

- Rising temperatures can cause more heat related diseases and illnesses.⁵
- Increased risk of human harm from natural disasters and extreme weather events.⁵
- Reduced air quality, resulting in breathing problems and higher risk of heart disease and strokes.⁵
- Increased diseases carried by insects, such as Lyme disease and West Nile virus.⁵
- Increased exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation (UV) that can cause skin related cancers and diseases.⁵

⁵ [Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit: Climate Change](#)

- Increased impacts on mental health in individuals more susceptible to climate change related impacts.⁵
- Changes in air temperature and precipitation can cause ideal environments for water-borne pathogens. Changes in water quality stemming from climate change can promote poor water quality and increase risk of algae and pathogen blooms.

Climate Projections

Climate projections involve modeling the Earth's future climate, often extending into the 2100s, by considering various scenarios for greenhouse gases and atmospheric conditions. All projections in this section have been sourced from an online portal ([Climatedata.ca](https://climatedata.ca)) that allows Canadians to access future projections for various climate scenarios for both temperature and precipitation information.

[Climatedata.ca](https://climatedata.ca) is a collaborative data portal that involves a wide variety of partners.

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- The Computer Research Institute of Montréal (CRIM)
- CLIMAtlantic
- Ouranos
- The Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC)
- The Prairie Climate Centre (PCC)
- HabitatSeven

All projections contain a level of uncertainty related to their estimates of the future due to the evolution of population, energy use, technology, and political choices. Climate projections function as a great tool for meteorologists and climatologists when looking for ways to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

The below tables and graphs outline a set of 30-year (2024-2054) projections for various locations within the Kawartha Conservation watershed that focus on the average annual temperature and average total precipitation. Low emission scenarios assume that greenhouse gas emissions are going to peak and then begin to decline, whereas a high emission scenario suggests that greenhouse gas emissions will continue to rise.

*Note that some datasets have significant differences from one location to another. These are not outliers; they are just representing the changes in data based off geographical location.

Annual Average Total Precipitation and Air Temperature Projections across all Municipalities

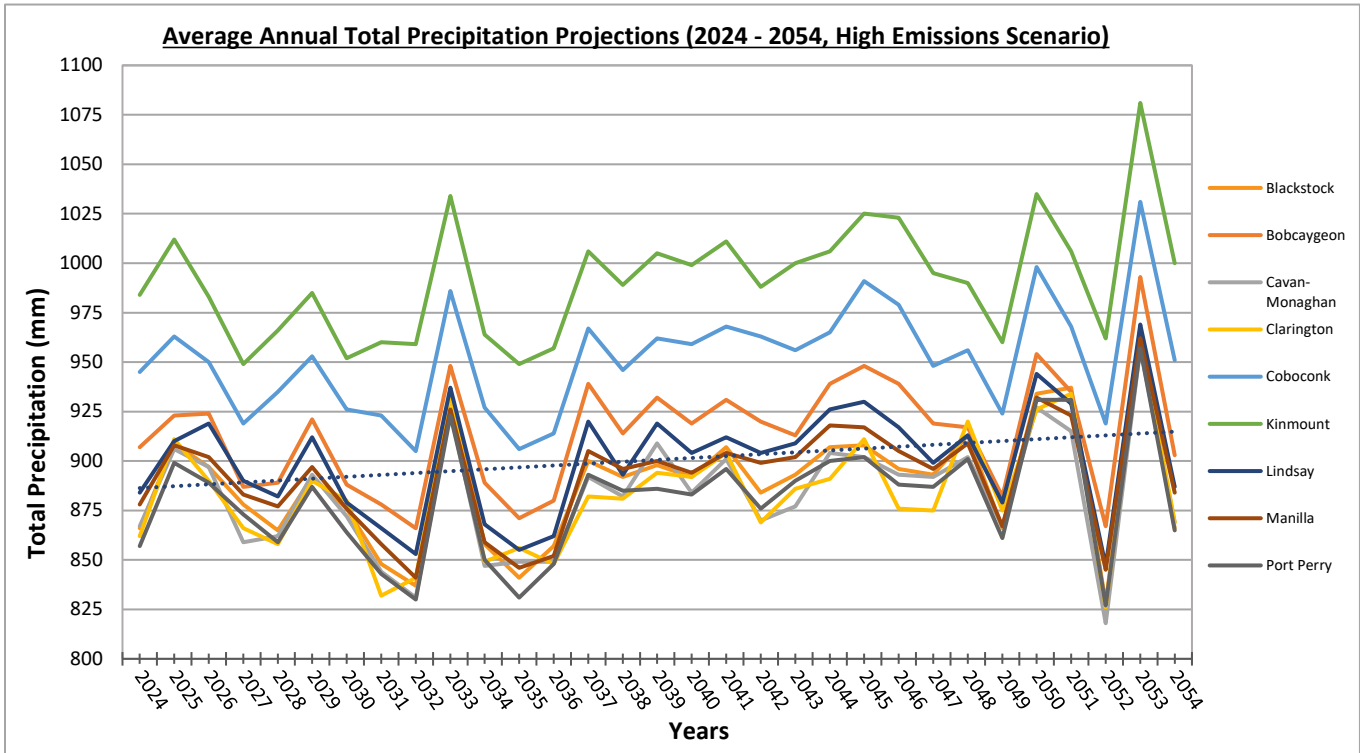


Figure 2. Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections (2024 – 2054, High Emission Scenario)

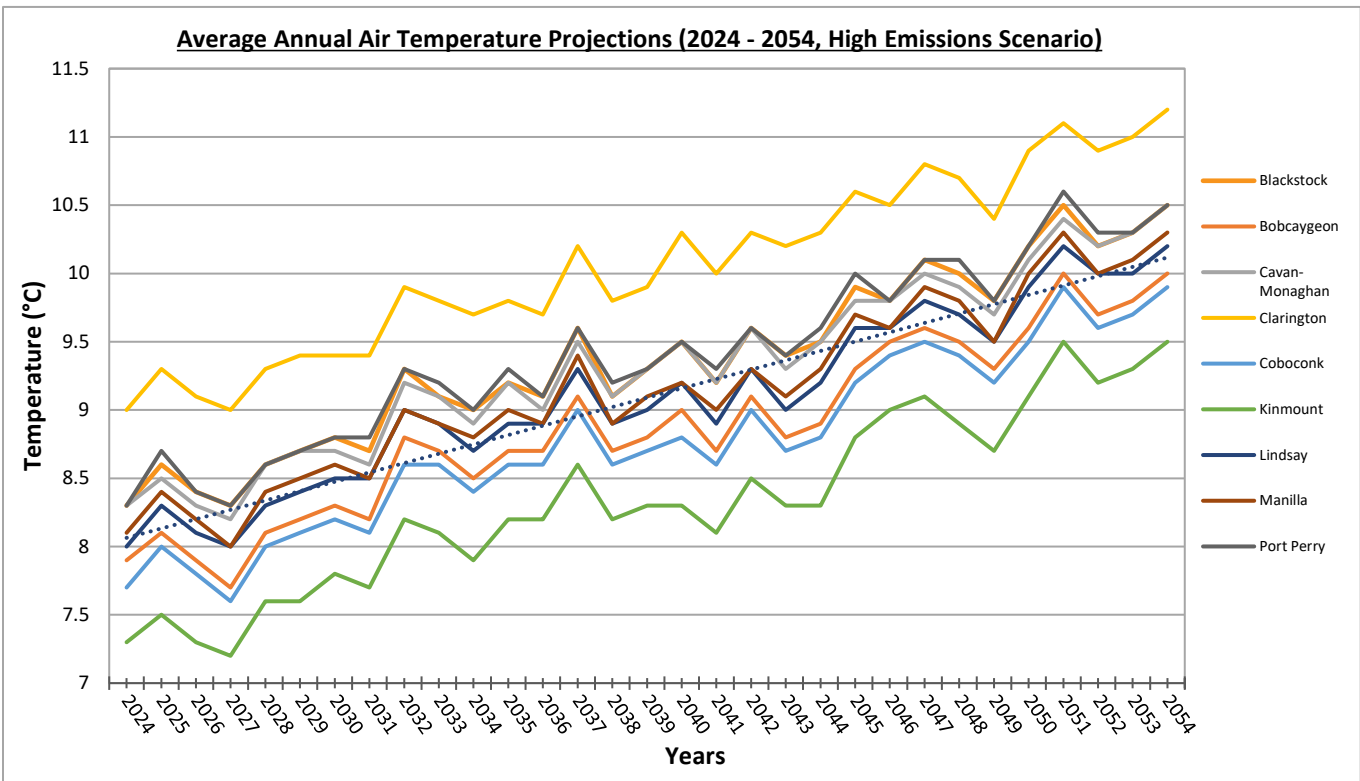


Figure 3. Average Annual Air Temperature Projections (2024 - 2054, High Emission Scenario)

Average Annual Temperature Projections Based on Emission Scenarios (30-Year, 2024-2054)

Table 1. 30-Year Average Annual Temperature Projections Based on Emission Scenarios (2024-2054). Shaded rows indicate similar or different regional municipalities.

<u>Location</u>	<u>1971-2000 Average Temperature</u>	<u>Low Emission Scenario Average Temperature Projection (2024-2054)</u>	<u>High Emission Scenario Average Temperature Projection (2024-2054)</u>
Kinmount	5.5 °C	7.8 °C	8.3 °C
Lindsay	6.2 °C	8.6 °C	9.1 °C
Bobcaygeon	6.0 °C	8.3 °C	8.9 °C
Coboconk	5.9 °C	8.2 °C	8.8 °C
Clarington	7.1 °C	9.5 °C	10.1 °C
Manilla	6.3 °C	8.6 °C	9.2 °C
Port Perry	6.5 °C	8.9 °C	9.4 °C
Blackstock	6.4 °C	8.8 °C	9.3 °C
Cavan-Monaghan	6.4 °C	8.8 °C	9.3 °C

30-Year Average Total Precipitation Projections on Emission Scenarios (2024-2054)

Table 2. 30-Year Average Total Precipitation Projections Based on Emission Scenarios (2024-2054)

<u>Location</u>	<u>1971-2000 Average Annual Precipitation</u>	<u>Low Emission Scenario Average Total Precipitation Projection (2024-2054)</u>	<u>High Emission Scenario Average Total Precipitation Projection (2024-2054)</u>
Kinmount	948mm	981mm	991mm
Lindsay	883mm	897mm	900mm
Bobcaygeon	892mm	907mm	914mm
Coboconk	929mm	941mm	951mm
Clarington	872mm	882mm	883mm
Manilla	873mm	889mm	892mm
Port Perry	857mm	878mm	881mm
Blackstock	878mm	886mm	888mm
Cavan-Monaghan	863mm	880mm	882mm

Climate Change and a Municipal Overview

This section examines the challenges local communities face while striving to provide vital services in line with their Strategic Plans, Healthy Environment Plans, and Climate Change Action Plans. These documents help manage risks and vulnerabilities related to a changing climate.

The information below highlights how Kawartha Conservation's 10-Year Climate Change Strategy and 10-Year Environment Monitoring Strategy¹⁷ aligns with our member municipalities' efforts. It's worth noting that the 10-Year Climate Change Strategy also considers various reports, management plans⁶, and technical reports⁷ in its recommendations and actions. These initiatives further support Kawartha Conservation's core mission and vision, which include environmental protection and restoration, community engagement, and ongoing innovation.

While the member municipalities within the Kawartha Conservation watershed share common climate change challenges, each area also faces its own unique set of vulnerabilities and risks. Our member municipalities include the City of Kawartha Lakes, the Municipality of Trent Lakes, the Municipality of Clarington, the Township of Scugog, The Township of Cavan-Monaghan, and the Township of Brock. These municipalities, collectively, confront issues like extreme weather events, shifting precipitation patterns, and habitat disruptions due to rising temperatures. However, the specific geography, ecosystems, and local characteristics of each municipality give rise to distinct challenges. For instance, some areas might be more prone to flooding, while others may face more drought or water quality concerns. Recognizing these differences is crucial for developing effective strategies to address the complex landscape of climate change within the Kawartha Conservation watershed.

⁶ [Kawartha Conservation Plans and Reports](#)

⁷ [Kawartha Conservation Technical Reports](#)

Kawartha Conservation Watershed Map

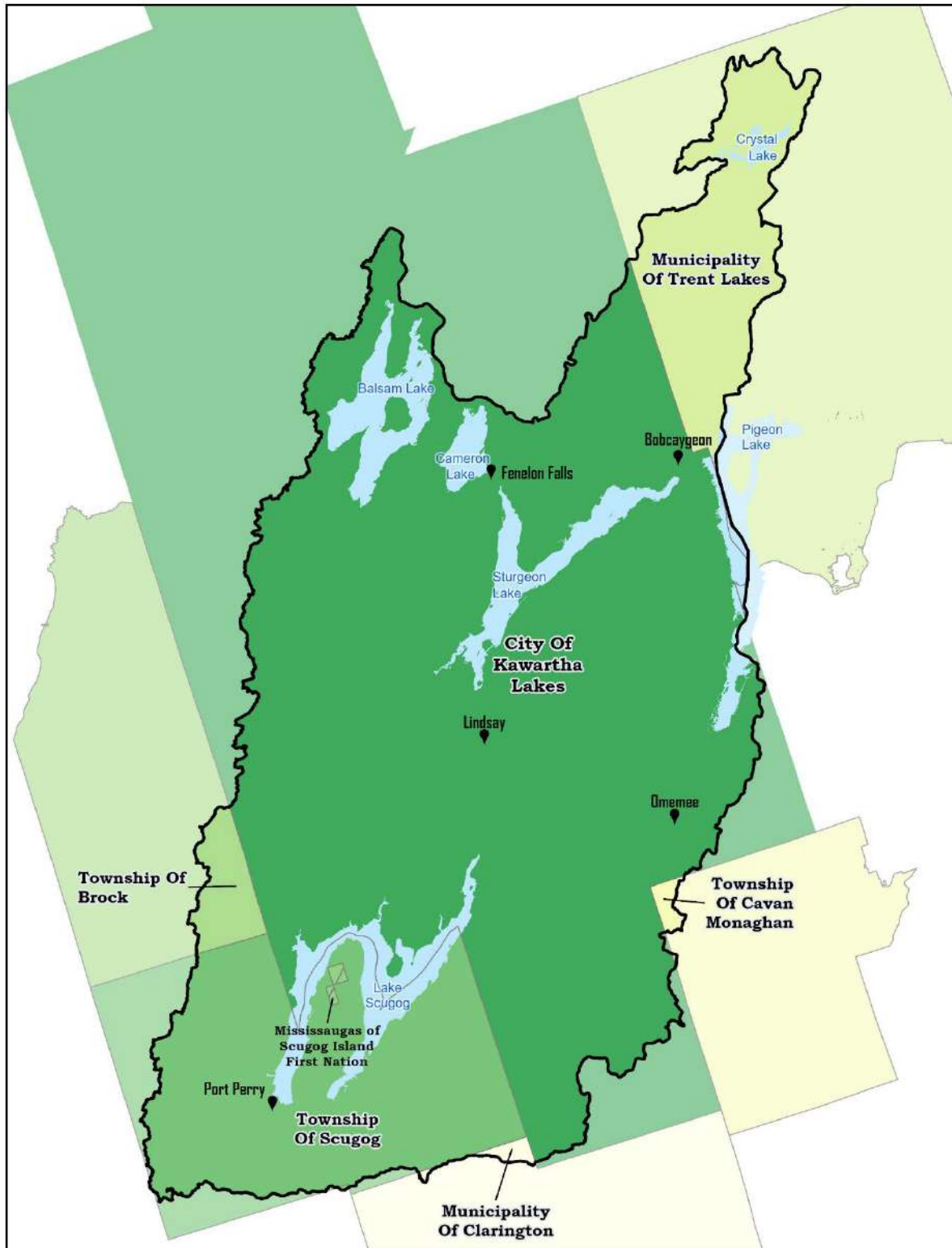


Figure 4. Kawartha Conservation Watershed and Member Municipalities Map

The City of Kawartha Lakes

The City of Kawartha Lakes is a single-tier municipality located in central Ontario. It has a population of approximately 80,000⁸. Its land area is roughly 3,059 km² in size and is the second largest single tier municipality in Ontario by land area after Greater Sudbury.

The main population centres are Lindsay (population 22,367)⁹, Bobcaygeon (population: 3,576)¹⁰, Coboconk, Kinmount (135)¹¹ and Manilla (9,102)¹²

Kawartha Lakes includes more than 250 lakes and rivers, as well as five Trent-Severn Waterway locks.

The majority of Kawartha Conservation's watershed, 1,788 km² or 72 per cent, is located within the City of Kawartha Lakes boundary.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

The City of Kawartha Lakes has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation in their 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. A cornerstone of this plan is 'A Healthy Environment', which focuses on key goals like increasing waste reduction and diversion, executing the Healthy Environment Plan, enhancing water quality, developing a Green City Charter, and safeguarding natural areas and prime agricultural land.

The Healthy Environment Plan of the City of Kawartha Lakes places significant emphasis on effectively managing and reducing the impacts of climate change. Central to this plan is the protection, management, enhancement, and restoration of critical natural resources, including forests, wetlands, and lakes. This focus on preserving vital ecological assets is a primary aspect of the Healthy Environment Plan¹³.

Kawartha Conservation's 10-Year Climate Change Strategy aligns closely with these objectives. Our strategy, as outlined in our Strategic Plan¹⁴ and Environmental Management Plans¹⁵, includes rigorous conservation efforts focused on essential areas such as lakes, shorelines, woodlands, and wetlands across the Kawartha Lakes region. The core aim of our plan is to protect and rejuvenate these crucial natural elements, ensuring the long-term health of the Kawartha Watershed. Our approach involves proactive engagement in environmental initiatives, such as reforestation projects, comprehensive wetland assessments, and the strategic evaluation of approaches to address climate change, resonating with the City of Kawartha Lakes' vision for a healthy environment.

⁸ [2021 Population Census: City of Kawartha Lakes](#)

⁹ [2021 Population Census: Lindsay](#)

¹⁰ [2021 Population Census: Bobcaygeon](#)

¹¹ [City Facts Population: Kinmount](#)

¹² [2021 Population Census: Manilla](#)

¹³ [City of Kawartha Lakes Healthy Environment Plan](#)

¹⁴ [Kawartha Conservation 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

¹⁵ [Kawartha Conservation: Lake and Environmental Management Plans](#)

Municipality of Trent Lakes

Nestled in the northwestern quadrant of the County of Peterborough, the Municipality of Trent Lakes boasts a distinctive natural landscape. Covering a vast land area of approximately 861 km², this region is characterized by the Precambrian Shield and numerous small lakes, including Crystal Lake, the only cold-water lake within Kawartha Conservation's jurisdiction. This unique geological and ecological composition presents a compelling opportunity for concentrated conservation efforts.

As the municipality's borders are shaped by remarkable landmarks like Gannons Narrows to the southeast and the village of Kinmount to the north, and the appearance of many smaller waterbodies and wetlands north of the chain of Kawartha Lakes, it becomes apparent that this area is a pivotal point for both ecological and economic activities, making it a strategic focal point for initiatives aimed at preserving these fragile ecosystems and promoting sustainable, tourism-driven economic growth.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Trent Lakes Climate Change Action Plan¹⁶, initiated by the Municipality of Trent Lakes, represents a proactive approach to tackling the health challenges posed by extreme climate events. This plan primarily focuses on adapting to the evolving climate dynamics and reducing contributions to climate change. Key initiatives include nurturing and protecting natural assets through restoration projects, tree planting campaigns, wetland protection, and shoreline revitalization on both private and municipal lands. These efforts are critical in informing the community about severe weather and flooding risks.

The Trent Lakes Climate Change Action Plan emphasizes the importance of community and partner awareness regarding climate change impacts and the vital role of youth education in fostering proactive responses. This aligns seamlessly with Kawartha Conservation's emphasis on community engagement and inspiration within the Kawartha Lakes communities. The plan involves comprehensive outreach through education and awareness initiatives, crafting strategies that yield community benefits and learning opportunities.

Kawartha Conservation's 10-Year Climate Change Strategy aligns with the Municipality of Trent Lake's efforts to address climate change. Our work advances strategic environmental and community initiatives, enhancing climate resilience, environmental preservation, and raising climate awareness. The plan particularly resonates with the "Protect and Restore" aspect of Kawartha Conservation's Strategic Plan¹⁴, focusing on preserving lake shorelines and natural features through Lake Management Plans and the implementation of those plans. It also includes a commitment to forest regeneration programs in partnership with landowners and communities.

Complementing these efforts, Kawartha Conservation's 10-Year Environmental Monitoring Strategy¹⁷ is instrumental in monitoring local weather and climate parameters for accurate flood forecasting. This involves tracking precipitation and water levels across the watershed and surveying snow courses in the region, providing a detailed understanding of local climate patterns. The strategy is crucial for managing extreme weather events and flooding and focuses on monitoring water quantity in rivers and streams.

¹⁶ [Greater Peterborough Area Climate Change Action Plan: Trent Lakes](#)

¹⁷ [Kawartha Conservation Environmental Monitoring Strategy](#)

This helps in assessing both high-water and low-water conditions, proactively addressing the long-term impacts of climate change on the environment.

Durham Region

The Region of Durham is a diverse and dynamic area characterized by its unique location, varied geography, and considerable size. Nestled in the heart of Southern Ontario, Durham encompasses a vast and vibrant expanse east of Toronto, with much of the population extending from Lake Ontario to the northern reaches of the Oak Ridges Moraine and more rural areas extending as far as the southeastern shores of Lake Simcoe. With a population of approximately 700,000¹⁸ spanning over 2,500 km², Durham's terrain ranges from picturesque waterfronts along Lake Ontario to rolling hills and verdant farmlands, offering a diverse range of natural landscapes that include urban centers, rural communities, and conservation areas. This multifaceted region, with its blend of urban and rural, fosters a rich diversity of cultures and opportunities for its residents and visitors alike.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

On January 29, 2020, Durham Regional Council voted to declare a climate emergency. To act on this direction, Region of Durham is implementing programs to:

- Build more resilient infrastructures, communities, and natural systems to reduce the impacts of climate change, and
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strive to be a carbon neutral community.

Durham Region's commitment to combat and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change closely mirrors key aspects of Kawartha Conservation's Strategic Plan. Notably, the Region's Climate Adaptation Plan¹⁹ seamlessly aligns with Kawartha Conservation's core pillars of "Protect and Restore," "Engage and Inspire," and "Innovate and Enhance."

Durham Region's dedication to environmental protection, as outlined in its Climate Adaptation Plan, merges with Kawartha Conservation's "Protect and Restore" pillar. By spearheading strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving natural areas, the region plays a pivotal role in the safeguarding and rejuvenation of essential ecosystems. This robust alignment mirrors the shared mission of both entities: to preserve and revitalize the natural environment and its invaluable resources.

Durham Region's Climate Adaptation Plan¹⁹ places a strong emphasis on community engagement, education, and outreach, firmly aligning with Kawartha Conservation's objective to "Engage and Inspire" communities to actively participate in conservation efforts. By fostering public awareness and inspiring residents to become responsible stewards of the environment, a strong alignment forms with Kawartha

¹⁸ [2021 Population Census: Durham Regional Municipality](#)

¹⁹ [Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan 2016](#)

Conservation's vision of fostering a collective sense of responsibility in the safeguarding and appreciation of the natural world.

Durham Region's forward-thinking approach, including substantial investments in sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and eco-conscious transportation solutions, neatly parallels Kawartha Conservation's commitment to innovation and the continual enhancement of environmental protection efforts. The shared objective is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these initiatives to meet the challenges posed by climate change head-on.

Township of Brock

The Township of Brock, a lower-tier municipality within the Region of Durham, is located on the eastern shore of Lake Simcoe approximately 1.5 hours northeast of Toronto. The municipality represents three distinct urban areas, numerous hamlets, and beautiful countryside. While agriculture is the largest employer, a full range of commercial and industrial businesses are located within the urban areas of Beaverton, Cannington, and Sunderland.

The geographical allure of Township of Brock is enhanced by its proximity to Lake Simcoe and the Trent-Severn Waterway, rendering it a popular year-round destination for both summer and winter tourism. The Township's geographical area spans approximately 423 km², providing a home to a population of around 11,645 residents²⁰.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Township of Brock has identified specific climate change concerns, which are integrated into the Durham Region Corporate Climate Action Plan¹⁹. This summary outlines key strategic initiatives to address these challenges. Many of these initiatives align with the core principles of Kawartha Conservation.

A significant aspect of the Township of Brock's Climate Action Plan is to reduce net carbon emissions and minimize the carbon footprint, which resonates with our commitment to addressing climate change within our "Protect and Restore" pillar. We plan to collaborate with local agricultural partners, support agricultural initiatives, and promote stewardship activities such as tree planting within our watershed, thereby reducing our carbon footprint across the watershed.

The Township of Brock's mission emphasizes leadership, collaboration, creativity, environmental stewardship, and delivering excellent services. These goals align with Kawartha Conservation's commitment to environmental protection, community engagement, and innovation within the Kawartha Conservation watershed region.

The Township of Brock aims to enhance the safety and quality of waterways, green spaces, parks, and farmlands while adopting eco-friendly practices to address climate change. We collaborate with the

²⁰ [2021 Population Census: Township of Brock](#)

Township of Brock and other partners to address local water challenges, implement lake management plans, and work towards improving the environment within our jurisdiction.

The Township of Brock also focuses on fostering vibrant communities and residents' well-being. This aligns with our initiatives to promote mental health and wellness, as well as our efforts to communicate the effects of climate change to a broader audience.

These aligned efforts, outlined in our Strategic Plan¹⁴, play a vital role in our work within the Kawartha Conservation watershed. Our commitment to support our partners through collaborative programs and initiatives will benefit both our communities and the environment we aim to protect as climate challenges evolve in our region.

Township of Scugog

The Township of Scugog is a distinctive township within the Regional Municipality of Durham that rests to the northeast of Toronto and lies just north of Oshawa. The vibrant heartbeat of the township is Port Perry, which stands as its anchor and most populous center. With a resident population of approximately 22,500²¹, the Township of Scugog covers an area of about 475 km².

A notable geographical feature within this township is Lake Scugog, poised between Port Perry and Lindsay, and serving as an integral component of the Trent Severn Waterway. The lake receives inflow from a network of streams and rivers, many originating in the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Flowing northward through Lindsay into Sturgeon Lake, the Scugog River serves as the conduit through which the lake's waters eventually exits. In totality, the watershed area spans 141 km², while Lake Scugog itself encompasses an area of 66 km².

Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Township of Scugog is strongly dedicated to looking after the well-being of its residents and the local communities. They've shown consistent support by making sure both the communities and the natural surroundings are protected. The blueprint guiding their endeavors is contained within their updated Strategic Plan²². This plan reflects their clear emphasis on protecting local infrastructure, promoting economic growth, building strong community relationships, all while coexisting in a balanced way with a healthy natural environment. The alignment between Scugog's plan and Kawartha Conservation's Strategic Plan is evident, with both plans supporting and complementing each other for the benefit of the communities they serve. An important part of the Township's updated strategic plan is about making communities stronger. They want to create safe and healthy places where people can connect and be involved. This commitment is similar to what we are trying to do through our Strategic Plan. We want to encourage and motivate local communities by showing how we can all make a good difference for the

²¹ [2021 Population Census: Township of Scugog](#)

²² [2023-2026 Township of Scugog Strategic Plan](#)

environment. We are also dedicated to offering programs and projects that help people's mental health and overall well-being in the areas around us.

The Township of Scugog is really focused on keeping the natural environment safe, improving it, and bringing it back to a good state. This shows their strong promise to leave something good for the future generations. They continue to work on several program areas, like working to improve water quality, anticipating, and preparing for a changing climate, and reducing the impact on the environment. This focus matches with what we are trying to do. We also care a lot about keeping the watersheds healthy and looking after the natural places. These similar goals are a big part of our own Strategic Plan²².

The Township of Scugog also outlined in their Strategic Plan that focusing on improving water quality, recreational opportunities and aesthetics is a critical part of their strategic priorities. One of the important things outlined in our Strategic Plan¹⁴ and the 10-year Climate Change Strategy is to make sure our lakes are healthy and well-looked-after, and we do this by carefully planning how we manage them, through Lake Management Plans and the implementation of actions identified in the plans.

Working together with Kawartha Conservation and other partnered groups, the Township of Scugog initiated the Lake Scugog Enhancement Project (LSEP) which is dedicated to elevating Port Perry Bay's recreational potential and enhancing water quality²³. LSEP's objectives encompass addressing diminished water depth, sediment accumulation, non-native aquatic flora, bay water quality, shoreline ecosystems, and tourism appeal. The project also presents opportunities to augment navigable depth, expand recreational access for boating, paddling, and fishing, improve stormwater treatment, reduce invasive plant growth, boost tourism, and enhance fisheries productivity in Lake Scugog.

Municipality of Clarington

The Municipality of Clarington is a large lower-tier municipality, covering about 611 km². It includes four main towns and 13 small communities. In this area, the Municipality of Clarington has a lot of wonderful things to offer. There are scenic waterfront trails along Lake Ontario, and numerous farm properties and operations that are protected by the Greenbelt, plus the beautiful Oak Ridges Moraine. The Municipality of Clarington is a part of the bigger Regional Municipality of Durham and has a population of 101,427²⁴.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Municipality of Clarington's Corporate Climate Action Plan is a comprehensive strategy that outlines key initiatives across various municipal departments, all aimed at addressing the challenges posed by climate change. This plan focuses on understanding the local impact of climate change on physical, ecological, social, and economic aspects of the community. The Municipality of Clarington's Climate Action Plan²⁵ lays out specific goals and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly regarding infrastructure, parks, and the local environment. In anticipation of higher temperatures,

²³ [Lake Scugog Enhancement Project](#)

²⁴ [2021 Population Census: Municipality of Clarington](#)

increased precipitation, and more extreme weather events, the municipality is proactively monitoring temperature, precipitation, and water levels to improve flood communication and protect residents, infrastructure, and the environment.

The Municipality of Clarington's Climate Action Plan²⁵ is dedicated to environmental sustainability, promoting tree growth in urban and rural areas, reducing road salt usage, and enhancing road surfaces to minimize environmental impact. The plan emphasizes the need for swift action and outlines clear steps to safeguard these critical aspects. Notably, the Municipality of Clarington's goals and strategies align closely with the objectives of Kawartha Conservation, whose Strategic Plan focuses on community involvement, environmental preservation, and watershed health. These efforts complement Kawartha Conservation's flood prediction and monitoring initiatives, reinforcing their shared commitment to proactive flood preparedness.

These collaborative efforts also harmonize with the objectives outlined in our 10-year Environmental Monitoring Strategy, which centers on gathering water quality data from streams and rivers through programs like the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) program, in partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks¹⁷.

The Municipality of Clarington's climate change plan is rooted in community engagement and education, much like our own mission. Both plans aim to strengthen the community's resilience by providing educational programs and support. This shared objective of raising awareness and empowering the community aligns seamlessly with our commitment to offer learning opportunities, educational programs, and activities that promote mental well-being.

Township of Cavan-Monaghan

Resting within Peterborough County, the Township of Cavan-Monaghan spans approximately 308 km² of mostly rural expanse with an approximate population 10,000²⁶. The landscape houses several hamlets and villages, including Bailieboro, Cavan, Fraserville, Ida, Mount Pleasant, Springville, Five Mile Turn, and the historical village of Millbrook.

The Township of Cavan-Monaghan lies twenty kilometres southwest of the City of Peterborough and is an approximately 90-minute drive northeast of Toronto.

Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Township of Cavan-Monaghan's Corporate Climate Action Plan is an important document that covers a lot of detailed strategies across several departments. Their focus is mainly on how to deal with the varying issues that might come with a changing climate. Their plan is all about making things better and helping the municipality handle the changes that will happen because of climate change, like how it affects the environment, people, and the broader municipality.²⁷

²⁵ [Municipality of Clarington 2021 Corporate Climate Action Plan](#)

²⁶ [2021 Population Census: Township of Cavan-Monaghan](#)

²⁷ [Canva Monaghan Community and Corporate Action Plan](#)

Improving ecological balance within the local community stands as a key objective in Cavan-Monaghan's Climate Action Plan. The municipality's targeted approach towards protecting and enhancing natural assets is a central point of focus within this action plan. Encouraging local communities to plant trees on public and private properties, while supporting local conservation authorities tree planting programs is a critical piece within this action plan **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

A main strategy the Township of Cavan-Monaghan has established within their Climate Change Action Plan²⁷ is to cultivate awareness and education around the impacts that climate change can have on our local infrastructures, environment, and people. Supporting local organizations' efforts in providing awareness to communities about climate change is a valued action outlined by the municipality.

Elements of the Cavan-Monaghan Climate Action Plan mirrors priority areas established within Kawartha Conservation's Strategic Plan, aiming to continuously implement forest regeneration programs within local communities and with private landowners, all while expanding connections with our municipal partners. We both believe that engagement and education emerge as a core component of climate action, where seeking to educate communities and individuals by providing data driven information, education and awareness is key.

Conservation Authority Mission

“The core purpose of Conservation Authorities is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits.”

The 10-year Kawartha Conservation Climate Change Strategy is firmly rooted in the purpose of conservation authorities, as reflected in provincial mandates and municipal priorities. This revolves around two key responsibilities: safeguarding people and property from natural hazards, particularly flooding, and conserving natural resources to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits.

In the context of climate change, our commitment to this purpose gains increased significance. Climate change poses a significant challenge that affects all aspects of our lives. Conservation authorities play a crucial role in responding to these challenges by devising targeted solutions to enhance resilience in communities, businesses, and individuals.

Our efforts go beyond environmental stewardship. We actively work to minimize risks associated with climate change and extreme weather events. Our focus is on protecting lives, property, and the fabric of our communities through practical programs and initiatives.

Our role also extends to balancing environmental conservation and economic growth. By advocating for sustainable practices, green infrastructure, and responsible resource management, we contribute to long-term economic stability and prosperity.

Our mandate includes education and empowerment. Through partnerships, educational campaigns, and capacity-building activities, we equip individuals, businesses, and local governments with the knowledge and tools needed to drive meaningful climate action.

The 10-year Kawartha Conservation Climate Change Strategy is a direct manifestation of our mandate and the pressing need to address climate challenges. It signifies our commitment to building resilience, progress, and environmental harmony. As we navigate the uncharted waters of climate change, we remain steadfast in fulfilling our mandate, securing a vibrant, and sustainable future for all.

Strategic Actions

This strategy is firmly anchored in our organization's overarching pillars of "Protect and Restore," "Engage and Inspire," and "Innovate and Enhance." These pillars serve as the guiding principles that steer our mission toward a sustainable and resilient future for our communities and the natural environment.

Within this framework, our Strategic Actions delineate the concrete actions that constitute the backbone of our Climate Change Strategy. These actions are purposeful steps toward addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change while staying true to our core values and strategic objective. We work to collectively strive to protect and restore our environment, engage and inspire our communities, and innovate and enhance our approaches for a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

The following are a listing of our Strategic Actions arranged by the pillars identified in our corporate strategic plan, and strategic actions sorted under common themes of relevance.

PROTECT AND RESTORE

Strengthening water resilience through enhanced conservation and protection

- Implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign to promote water conservation practices among households, businesses, and public institutions in the region. Provide educational materials, workshops, and online resources to raise awareness about the importance of responsible water use.
- Promote and encourage a collaborative program involving local communities, businesses, and government agencies to conduct regular clean-up and restoration events focused on water bodies. Engage volunteers and partners to remove litter, pollutants, and invasive species from lakes, rivers, and streams, while also implementing measures to prevent pollution and maintain water quality.
- Initiate an educational campaign tailored to schools and community organizations, emphasizing the significance of responsible water use and protection in the context of a changing climate. Craft compelling educational resources, coordinate workshops, and facilitate interactive, hands-on learning activities that empower the younger generation to champion local water resources.

Nurturing agricultural resilience in a changing climate

- Implement a comprehensive educational campaign targeting farmers and landowners to promote the adoption of sustainable agriculture and land management practices.
- Collaborate with local agricultural experts and community organizations to develop a series of targeted resources and workshops. These resources will provide farmers in the Kawartha Conservation watershed with practical guidance on integrating sustainable practices into their existing operations, focusing on techniques that improve soil health, water efficiency, and biodiversity.

Cultivating climate resilience through comprehensive ecosystem restoration and monitoring

- Implement a comprehensive native tree planting program across the Kawartha Watershed, focusing on both current suitability and future adaptability to changing climate conditions. Collaborate with local arborists, ecologists, and community groups to select a mix of native tree species that thrive in the region's current climate, while also considering species that are likely to flourish as warmer weather becomes more prevalent due to climate change.
- Collaborate with planning departments and developers to incorporate tree planting and greening of new construction and development projects. Develop guidelines for integrating trees and green spaces into urban designs, ensuring that new developments contribute to urban tree canopy growth and enhance overall ecosystem health.
- Continue tallgrass and wetland restoration projects to support climate resilience across Kawartha Conservation's administrative region.

Protecting and enhancing natural spaces for future generations

- Develop a detailed technical report to identify watersheds with lower resiliency, prioritizing them for conservation efforts. This report could involve collaboration with local communities, Indigenous groups, and conservation organizations to determine areas needing urgent protection and enhancement. The focus will be on identifying protected zones, restoring degraded ecosystems, and creating wildlife corridors to improve ecological connectivity.
- Consider exploring partnership opportunities with municipalities during the planning process, for long-term protection of lands within setback or buffer areas. This approach represents a potential opportunity to enhance conservation efforts and ecological stability in critical zones.
- Regularly review and update our program area strategic plans to integrate climate change considerations. These updates will focus on strengthening the role of natural spaces in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Strategies will include habitat restoration, invasive species management, and planting native species to enhance biodiversity and climate resilience, particularly in tallgrass prairies and wetlands.
- Support ecological research and monitoring programs to better understand the impacts of climate change on local ecosystems, including tallgrass prairies and wetlands. Use these insights to guide adaptive management strategies that bolster ecosystem health and resilience.
- Engage in community outreach and education initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and enhancing natural spaces like tallgrass prairies and wetlands. Encourage community involvement in conservation efforts and promote sustainable practices that support the health of these vital ecosystems.

Climate monitoring and natural hazard preparedness

- Develop a thorough climate monitoring network, in partnership with member municipalities, educational institutions, and local communities, in line with legislative requirements related to climate change, natural hazards, and hydrological cycle management. This system will supply

real-time data on crucial weather parameters such as air and water temperature, precipitation volume and intensity, and wind direction and strength. Such data is essential for responding to severe weather events and potential flooding, in adherence to natural hazard management mandates.

- Review future climate change impacts related to natural hazards, including existing and future floodplains, for inclusion of climate change considerations in their development or update.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions for climate action

- Implement carbon reduction actions through Kawartha Conservation's operations. These actions should include energy efficiency measures, replacement of gas operated equipment, transportation initiatives, and waste reduction efforts to minimize the organization's carbon footprint.
- Conduct a comprehensive 'carbon audit' of Kawartha Conservation's operations, potentially in partnership with academic institutions. This audit will assess and quantify the organization's current greenhouse gas emissions, providing a data-driven foundation to inform and guide future carbon reduction initiatives and strategies.

Enhancing climate resilience through targeted science and data collection

- Initiate focused research and data collection projects, such as conducting climate vulnerability analyses on regulated features, examining the impact of precipitation changes on runoff amounts, and understanding shifts in water quality in lakes and rivers. This data-centric approach will provide critical insights for informed decision-making and effective climate adaptation strategies.

ENGAGE AND INSPIRE

Empowering communities through climate change education and engagement

- Develop and implement a community outreach and education program that raises awareness about the local and regional impacts of climate change and promotes local actionable solutions. This program will include workshops, seminars, public forums, and online resources to empower community members to take informed steps towards mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects.
- Implement an educational campaign to raise awareness about the importance of source water protection and educate the public on what it entails. Develop educational materials, host community workshops, engage schools, and collaborate with local media to disseminate information about source water, its vulnerabilities, and the actions individuals can take to preserve and safeguard these vital resources.
- Develop and launch an educational initiative focused on raising climate change awareness within the community, highlighting how human activities impact lake health and contribute to climate change. Through workshops, public talks, online resources, and collaboration with local schools,

engage residents and businesses in understanding the interconnectedness of climate change and lake ecosystems. Promote sustainable practices that reduce carbon emissions and support lake resilience.

- Review and update existing Lake Management Plans to incorporate climate change considerations. Evaluate changes in water quality, temperature patterns, and other relevant factors caused by a changing climate. Develop adaptive strategies to safeguard lake ecosystems and water quality.
- Develop an educational campaign that emphasizes the critical role of wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Utilize a variety of communication channels, including workshops, webinars, informational materials, and interactive exhibits, to educate communities, decision-makers, and stakeholders about how wetlands can help absorb carbon, mitigate flooding, and enhance overall climate resilience.
- Continue to implement workshops and field trips in collaboration with local schools, community groups, municipal representatives, and landowners. These events will focus on showcasing the specific functions of wetlands in climate adaptation and mitigation, such as flood control, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity support. Use these opportunities to engage participants in hands-on wetland restoration activities, such as planting native vegetation and creating natural buffers.
- Develop and deliver a comprehensive educational campaign aimed at promoting the principles and benefits of Low Impact Development (LID) practices within the community. This campaign will involve workshops, webinars, informational materials, and interactive tools to inform residents, businesses, and local decision-makers about how LID techniques can mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as flooding and heat island effects, while fostering sustainable growth.

Amplifying local climate impact awareness through social media campaigns

- Launch a targeted social media awareness campaign focused on educating the local community within Kawartha Conservation jurisdiction about the specific impacts of a changing climate. Utilize engaging visual content, infographics, videos, and real-life stories to convey the effects of climate change on local ecosystems, water resources, agriculture, and communities. Facilitate online discussions and provide resources for individuals to take climate-friendly actions.

Empowering farming stewardship for climate-positive impact

- Collaborate on and seek opportunities for provision of programs that offer farmers within the region opportunities to participate in climate-resilient stewardship projects. Collaborate with local agricultural organizations, providing financial incentives and technical support for initiatives such as manure storage, livestock fencing, agroforestry, and soil health improvement. These projects will enhance farm sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote climate-smart agricultural practices.

Engaging communities in stewardship-led climate action initiatives

- Implement a community-driven stewardship program that engages local volunteers in active restoration activities, such as tree planting, shoreline restoration, and habitat enhancement, across Kawartha Conservation's managed lands.
- Launch a series of guided interpretive hikes and nature education programs on Kawartha Conservation's conservation lands, focusing on showcasing the impacts of climate change on local ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Work with youth-focused environmental stewardship programs that involves local schools and youth groups in hands-on conservation activities, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural habitats for climate resilience.
- Organize community workshops and forums that bring together residents, businesses, and local organizations to discuss climate change impacts and potential solutions related to watershed management and flood resilience.

Engaging municipalities, committees, and municipal leaders

- Enhance engagement with municipalities through active participation in municipal advisory committees, attendance at public information sessions, and provision of expert recommendations during their engagement processes. Additionally, conduct information sessions for councillors to build upon and extend the collaborative work already underway with local government bodies.

Spearheading climate action through corporate services initiatives

- Establish an internal Green Team comprising staff members from various departments to drive sustainability initiatives within Kawartha Conservation. Develop and implement a staff engagement program that encourages sustainable practices in the workplace.

INNOVATE AND ENHANCE

Enhancing local climate understanding with expanded data collection

- Collaborate with meteorological experts and research institutions to expand our network of weather monitoring stations, ensuring comprehensive coverage across the Kawartha watershed. This expansion will enable us to capture vital data on climate variables, including precipitation, air temperature, and wind patterns, laying a foundational base for other partners to build upon and contribute further data.
- Upgrade and extend the current water level monitoring network to address spatial data gaps and enhance its capability to record data during extreme events like floods and droughts. This enhancement will provide crucial insights into how these extreme climate events impact water levels across the watershed.

- Develop and implement a robust monitoring network for tracking climate impacts on streams, rivers, lakes, and forests. This network will utilize a combination of static monitoring locations and portable devices, such as temperature loggers. Data will be gathered on various environmental parameters like tree cover, soil moisture, and temperature. These efforts will align with addressing information needs to assess climate change impacts, ensuring a comprehensive approach to understanding and mitigating these effects.

Navigating climate-driven shifts in tourism dynamics across seasons

- Collaborate with local tourism associations and environmental organizations to develop educational campaigns that highlight the importance of sustainable and climate-resilient tourism practices. Create engaging content, including videos, brochures, and interactive workshops, to inform visitors about the local impacts of climate change and the role they can play in minimizing their ecological footprint. Encourage tourists to choose low-impact activities, support eco-friendly initiatives, and respect natural habitats.

Empowering communities with a web-based climate monitoring dashboard

- Develop and launch an interactive web-based dashboard that provides real-time access to climate change monitoring data and key metrics relevant to the local community. Collaborate with climate experts, data analysts, and web developers to design a user-friendly platform. Populate the dashboard with information on temperature trends, precipitation patterns, and other relevant climate indicators to promote informed decision-making and engagement.

Promoting woodlot and wetland care and enhancement

- Launch a community-driven initiative that provides incentives and technical support for conserving and restoring woodlots and wetlands within the watershed. This program, developed in collaboration with local landowners, conservation groups, and government agencies, will focus on preserving existing woodlots and wetlands, as well as encouraging the planting of new ones. Offer resources for tree planting, wetland rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and sustainable management practices, all aimed at enhancing carbon sequestration, supporting biodiversity, and bolstering climate resilience.

Measuring local and regional climate effects through key indicator monitoring

- Ensure that future monitoring programs include the measurement of climate-related variables such as air and water temperature, and precipitation. Ensure that future monitoring programs within the Kawartha watershed, include the measurement of climate-related variables such as air and water temperature, and precipitation. This initiative will involve setting up a strategic network of climate monitoring stations to collect localized climate data. Collaboration with climate experts and research institutions will be key to guarantee precise data collection and analysis. Additionally, creating an accessible online platform will be crucial to display this real-time climate data specific to the region.
- Integrate Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to create an interactive online platform that allows developers and the public to visualize climate vulnerability assessments for different areas within the Kawartha Conservation watershed. This platform will provide insights into potential climate risks for planning and decision-making.

Protecting and enhancing natural spaces

- Implement a pilot project that utilizes drone technology for assessing and monitoring the health of ecosystems within Kawartha Conservation's conservation lands. Drones will be used to collect high-resolution imagery, helping to identify potential stressors and changes caused by climate impacts.

TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

Monitoring the climate impact of tree planting

- Implement an annual reporting mechanism that consolidates flood and low water education, outreach efforts, and condition statements within the Kawartha watershed. Collaborate with local emergency management agencies, community organizations, and water resource experts to gather comprehensive data on public awareness initiatives, outreach events, and water level conditions. Develop detailed reports that highlight achievements, challenges, and the region's overall preparedness for climate-induced flood and low water events.
- Create an annual precipitation report for the Kawartha watershed, focusing on compiling and analyzing watershed-based precipitation data. Collaborate with regional conservation authorities and meteorological agencies to ensure the collection of accurate and current information. This report will present a detailed visualization of precipitation trends, capturing variations, anomalies, and long-term shifts to guide climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Integrate findings from the annual precipitation report into the tree planting report. Utilize the precipitation data to inform and enhance tree planting strategies, ensuring they align with the observed climate trends and contribute effectively to the region's climate resilience efforts.
- Develop a method to distill complex indicators of climate change into a few easily understood metrics, such as air temperature, water temperature, runoff amounts, and changes in a short-list of climate-sensitive organisms or habitats. This approach will involve synthesizing complex

climate data into accessible and relatable indicators, providing a clearer understanding of climate change impacts for both experts and the public. This initiative will enhance the communication and understanding of climate change issues within the Kawartha watershed, aiding in more effective public engagement and policy development.

- Establish a unified annual reporting system for tree planting initiatives across the Kawartha watershed, encompassing both urban and rural areas. This system will involve collaboration with municipalities, local governments, community groups, and landowners to collect detailed data on the number of trees planted, species diversity, and reforestation targets. The aim is to compile and publish a comprehensive report annually, highlighting the collective impact of these tree planting efforts on enhancing climate resilience and aiding in climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout the region.

Conclusion

In our 10-Year Climate Change Strategy for the Kawartha watershed, we envision a resilient future for our communities, residents, and businesses. This strategy is not just a vision, but a practical roadmap designed to inspire action and foster collaboration in facing climate challenges and seizing opportunities.

The strategy encompasses several key themes, all geared towards sustainability and adaptation. Under "Protect and Restore," we focus on preserving natural spaces, enhancing biodiversity, protecting watersheds, and strengthening ecosystems. We will measure success through clear strategies and performance indicators, guiding our actions and monitoring progress.

"Engage and Inspire" highlights the importance of community participation. We aim to educate, raise awareness, and motivate grassroots actions against climate change. Our performance indicators will track the effectiveness of community engagement, adoption of sustainable practices, and participation in climate initiatives.

Through "Innovate and Enhance," we commit to discovering creative solutions for climate resilience, leveraging technology, innovation, and partnerships. The impact of these innovative projects on the environment will be assessed through specific performance indicators.

Transparency and accountability are fundamental to our approach. We plan to consistently evaluate our progress and communicate these findings to stakeholders, ensuring that our actions remain aligned with our climate goals. Our strategy includes performance indicators to foster transparency and enhance collaboration with partner municipalities.

A more detailed document accompanying this strategy will outline specific approaches, timelines, and budgets for each activity, ensuring a comprehensive and actionable plan.

We call upon individuals, families, businesses, communities, and municipalities in the Kawartha watershed to join us in this transformative journey. Our strategy is an invitation to turn challenges into opportunities, inspire future generations, and safeguard our natural legacy.

We aspire to a future where our watersheds are thriving, climate resilience is ingrained in our actions, and our efforts benefit future generations. Through collaboration, innovation, and unity, we aim to create a sustainable legacy for the Kawartha watershed.

Let's move forward with hope and determination. In the face of challenges, our unity, innovation, and commitment to safeguarding our environment will enable us to overcome climate change. Our journey is purposeful, and our legacy will be one of resilience, courage, and dedication to a climate-resilient future for the Kawartha watershed and its communities. Together, we can achieve this vision.

Appendix

This appendix presents a series of graphs depicting 30-year projections for annual temperature and precipitation for specific locations in the Kawartha watershed. The data provided offers a detailed and scientific perspective on expected climatic changes, crucial for informed decision-making and strategic planning in the region.

The graphs within this appendix show the anticipated variations in temperature and precipitation on an annual basis across various areas of the Kawartha watershed.

The purpose of this appendix is to provide stakeholders, policymakers, and the community with clear, indications of the projected climate changes in the region.

In the sections that follow, municipality-specific climate projections are outlined, offering a snapshot of the low and high emission scenarios.

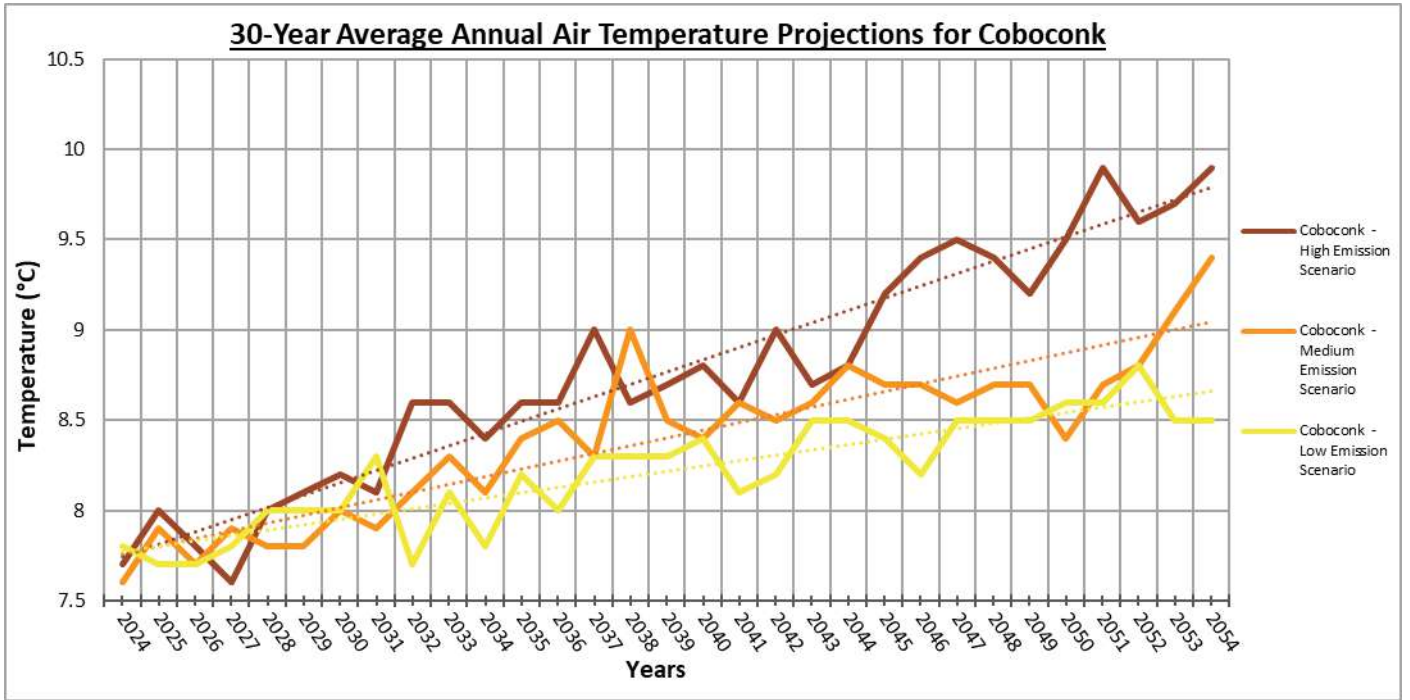


Figure 5. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Coboconk

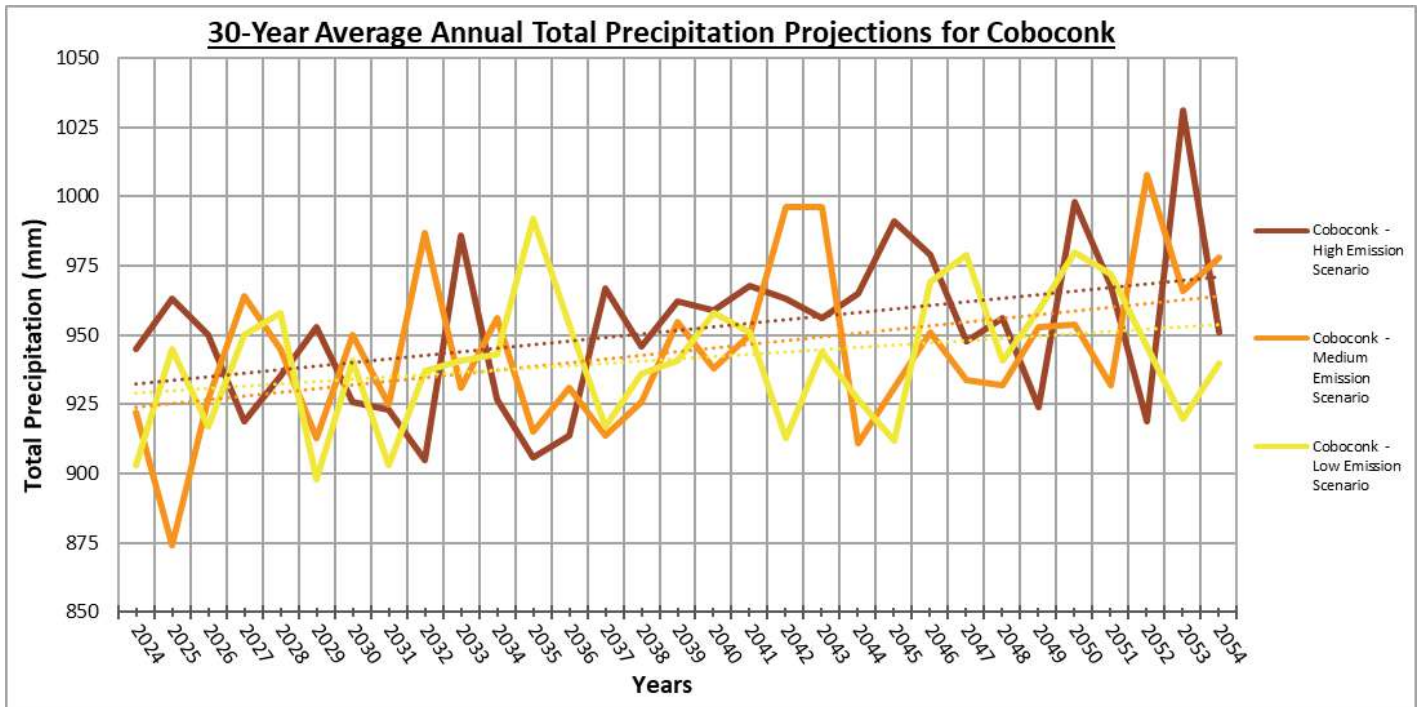


Figure 6. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Coboconk

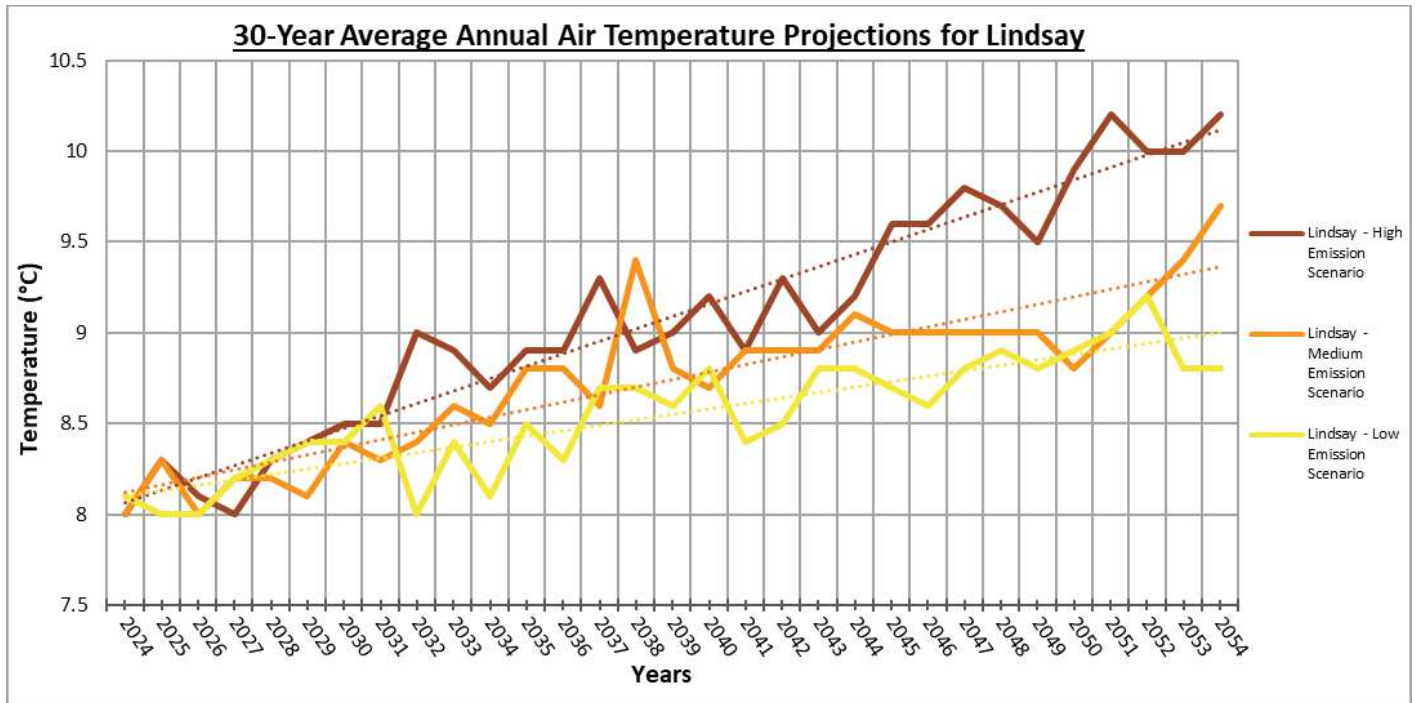


Figure 7. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Lindsay

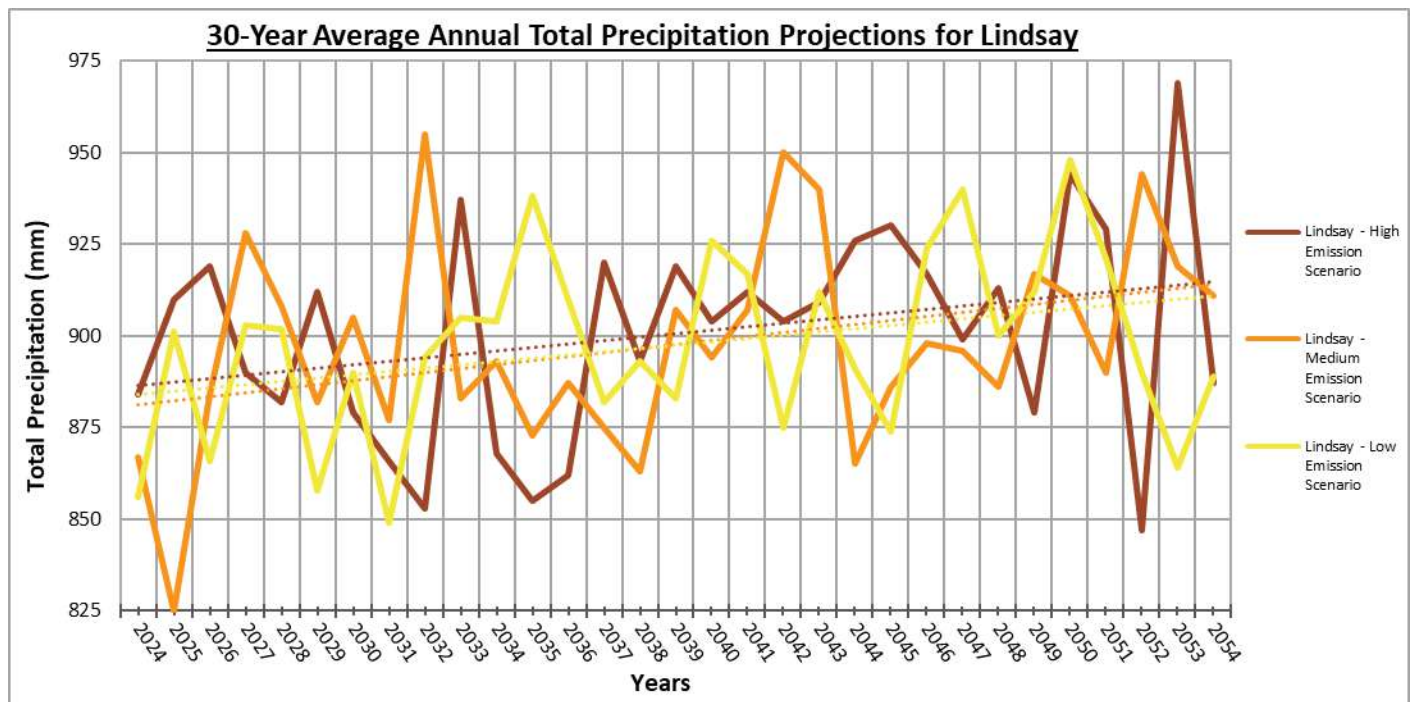


Figure 8. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Lindsay

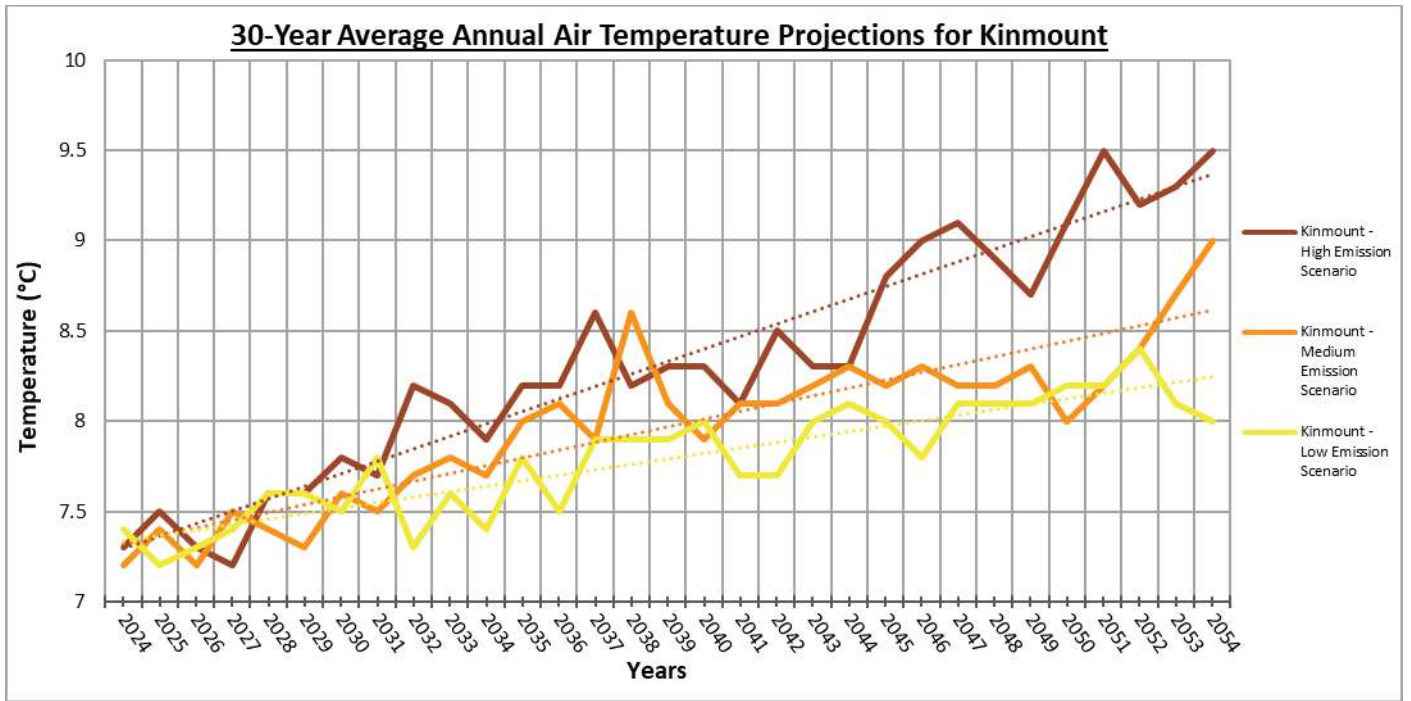


Figure 9. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Kinmount

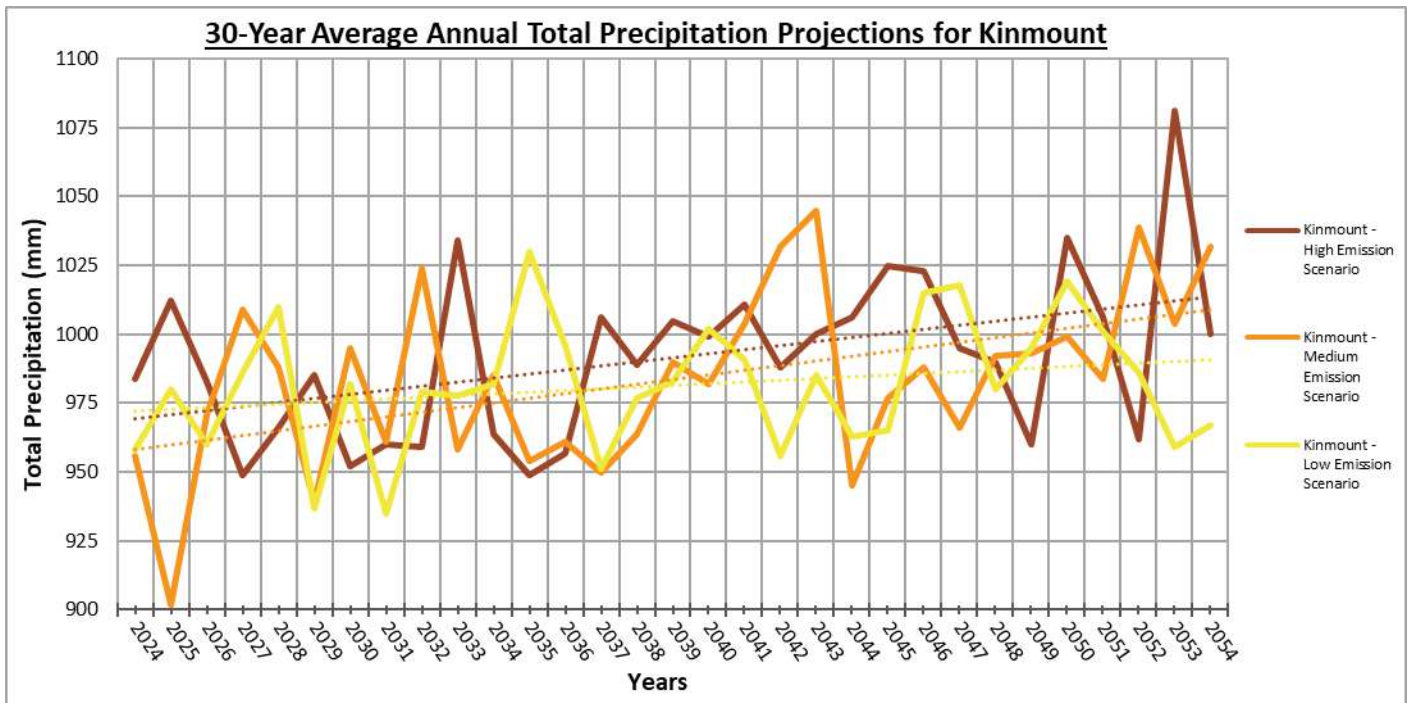


Figure 10. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Kinmount

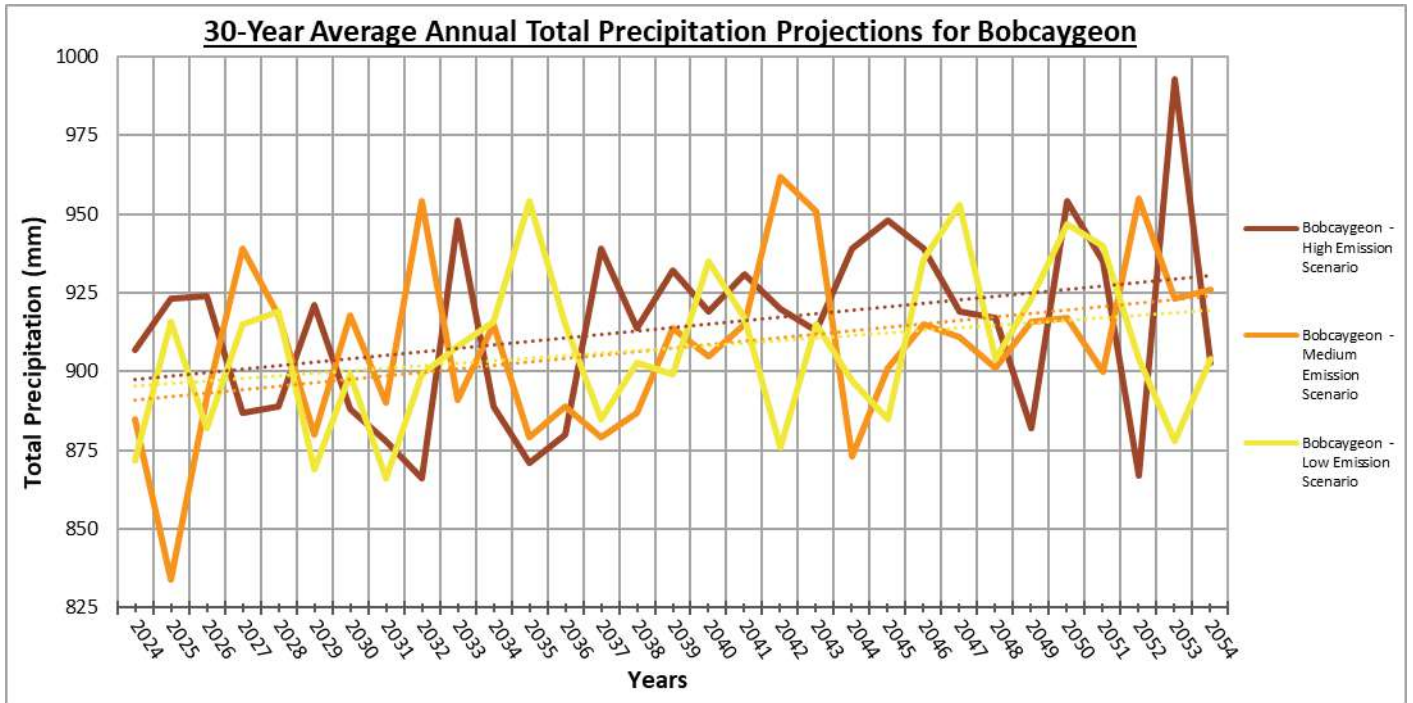


Figure 11. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Bobcaygeon

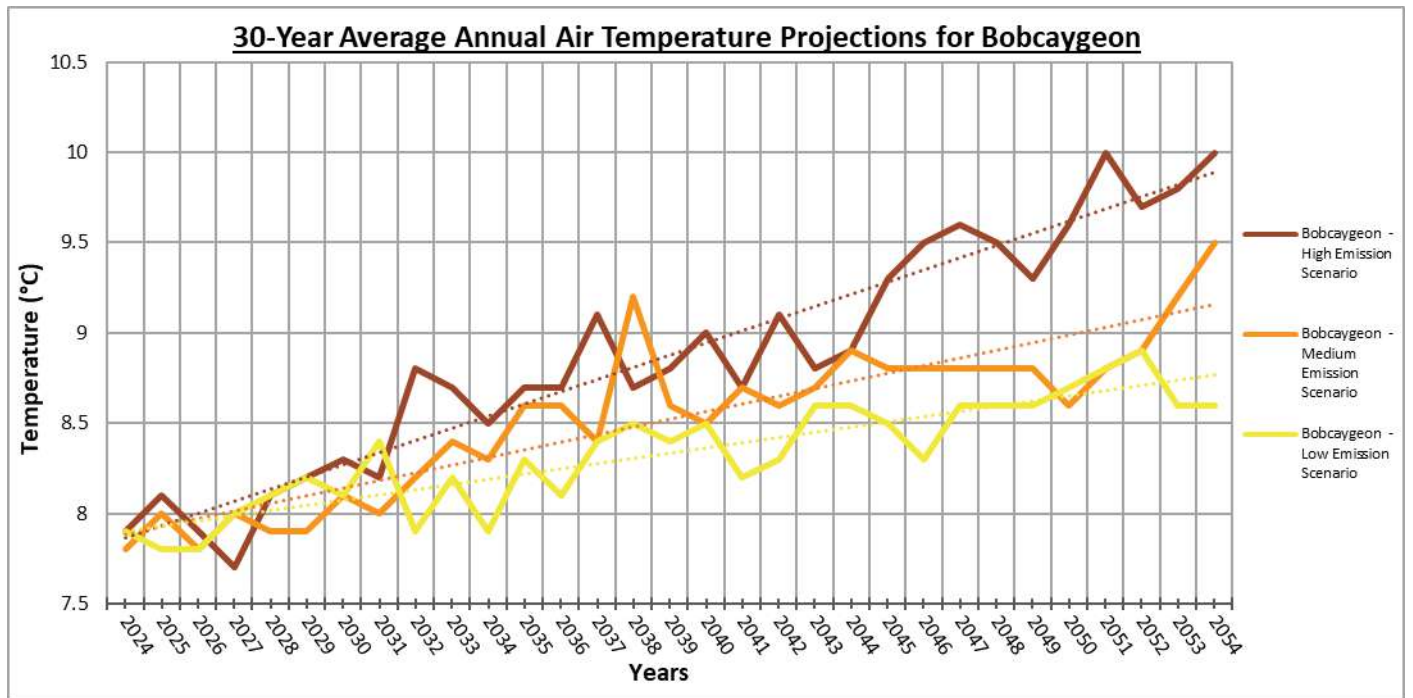


Figure 12. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Bobcaygeon

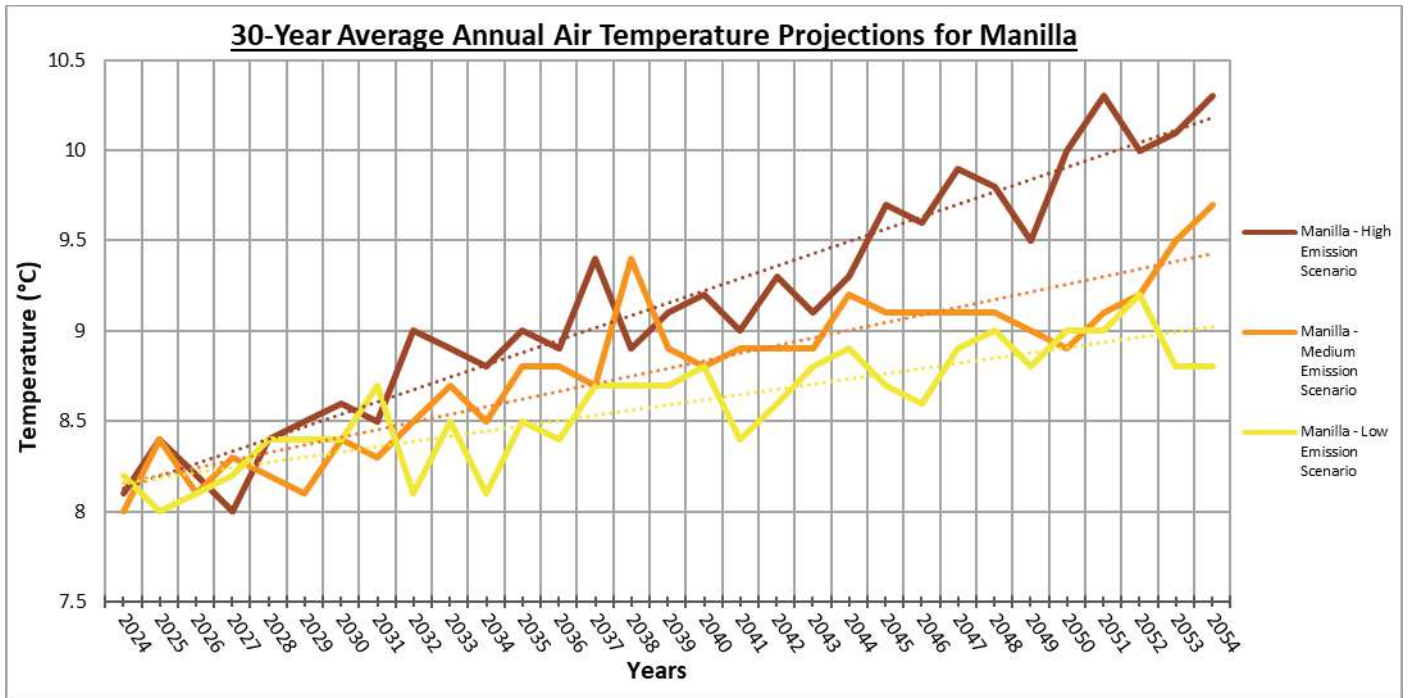


Figure 13. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Manilla

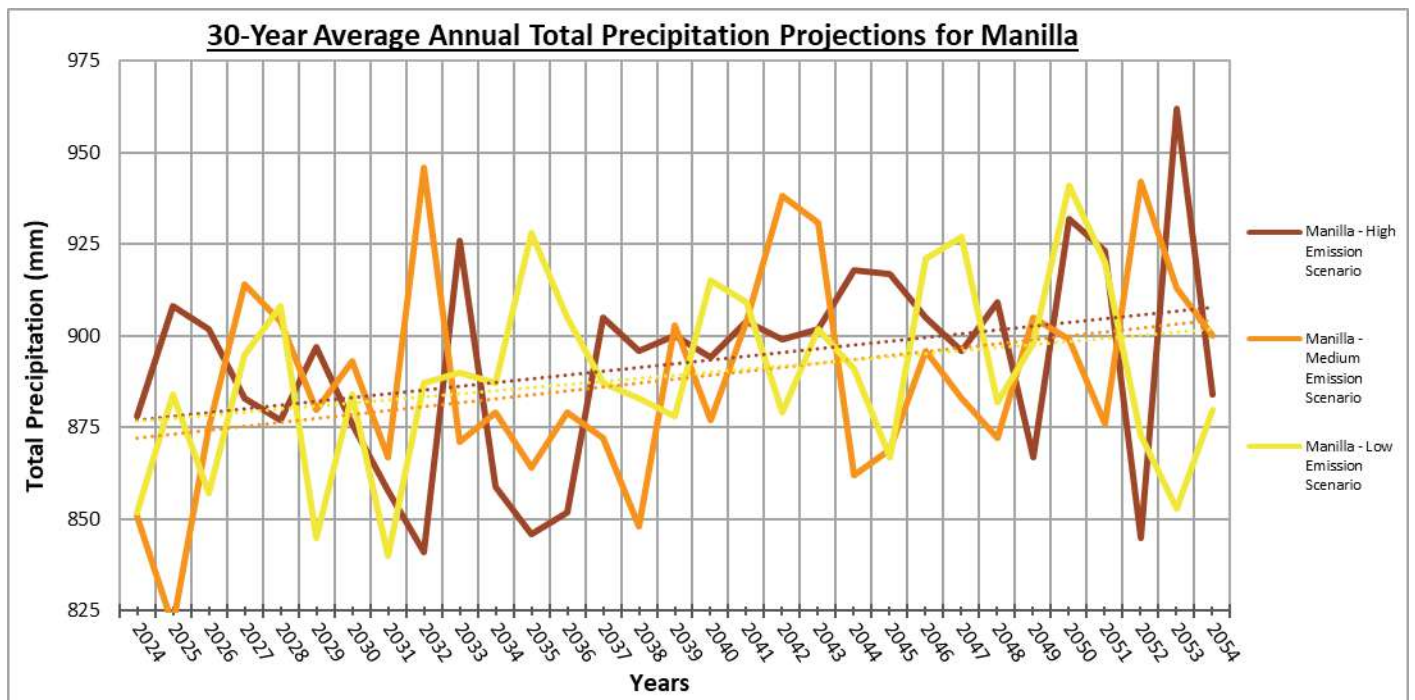


Figure 14. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Manilla

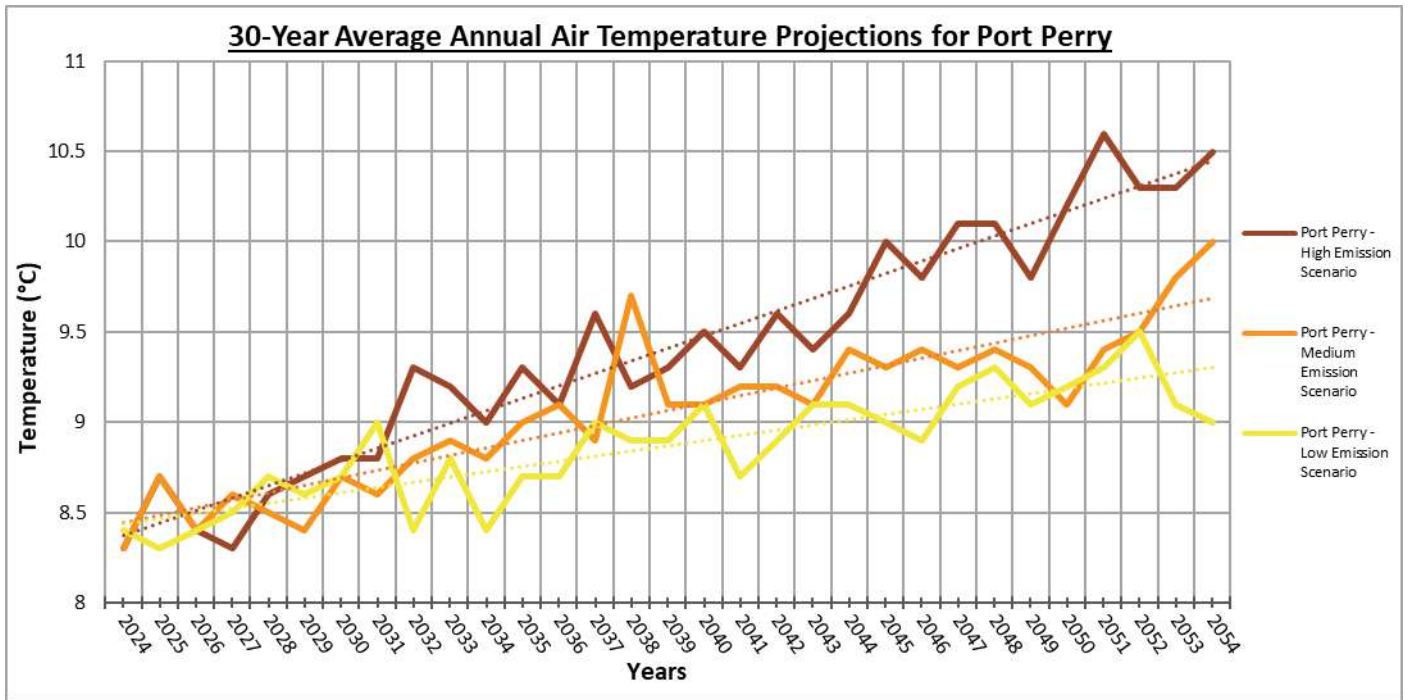


Figure 15. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Port Perry

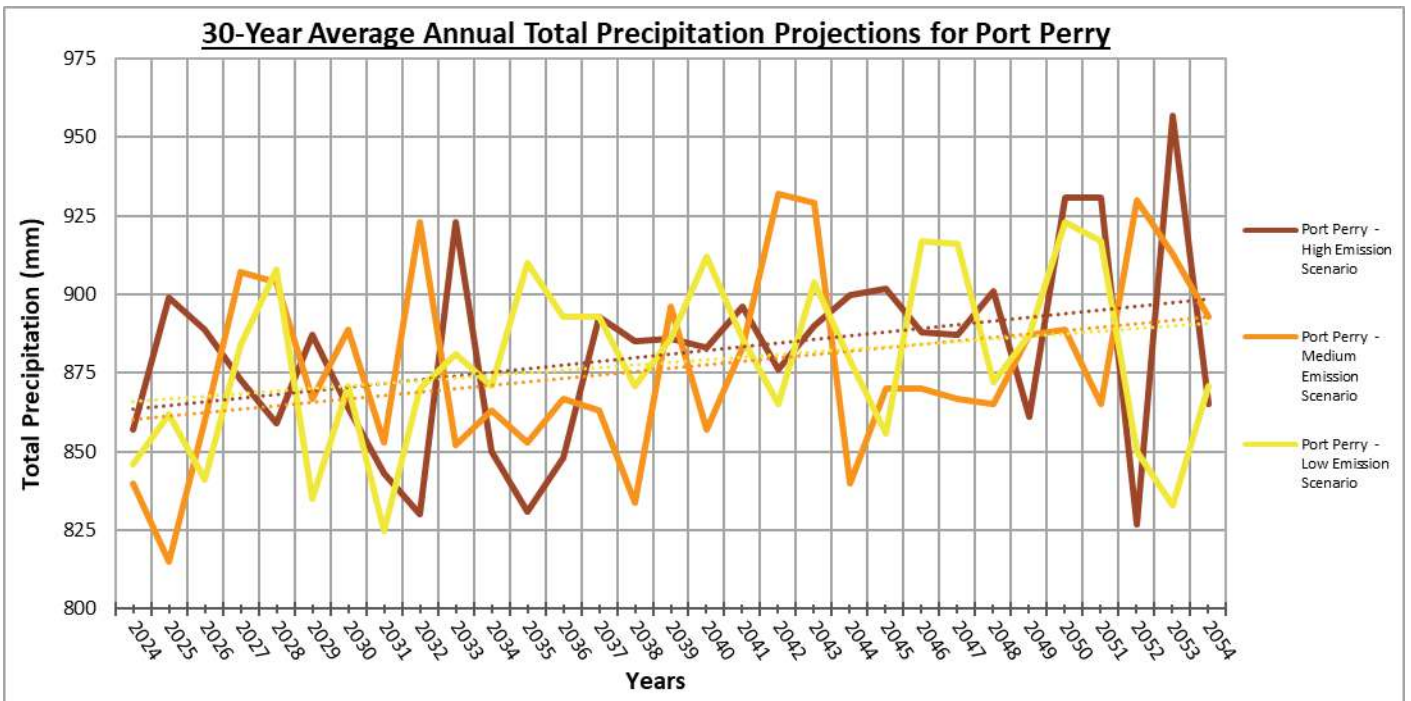


Figure 16. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Port Perry

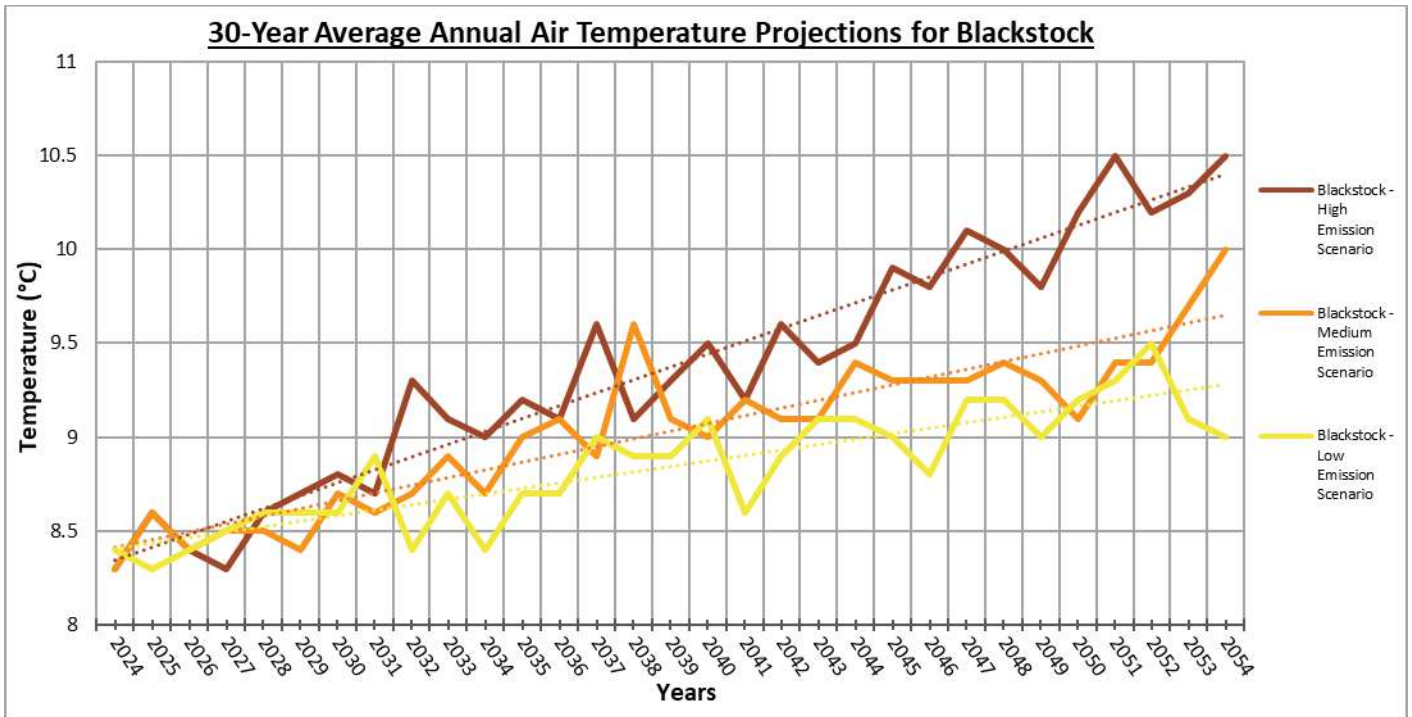


Figure 17. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Blackstock

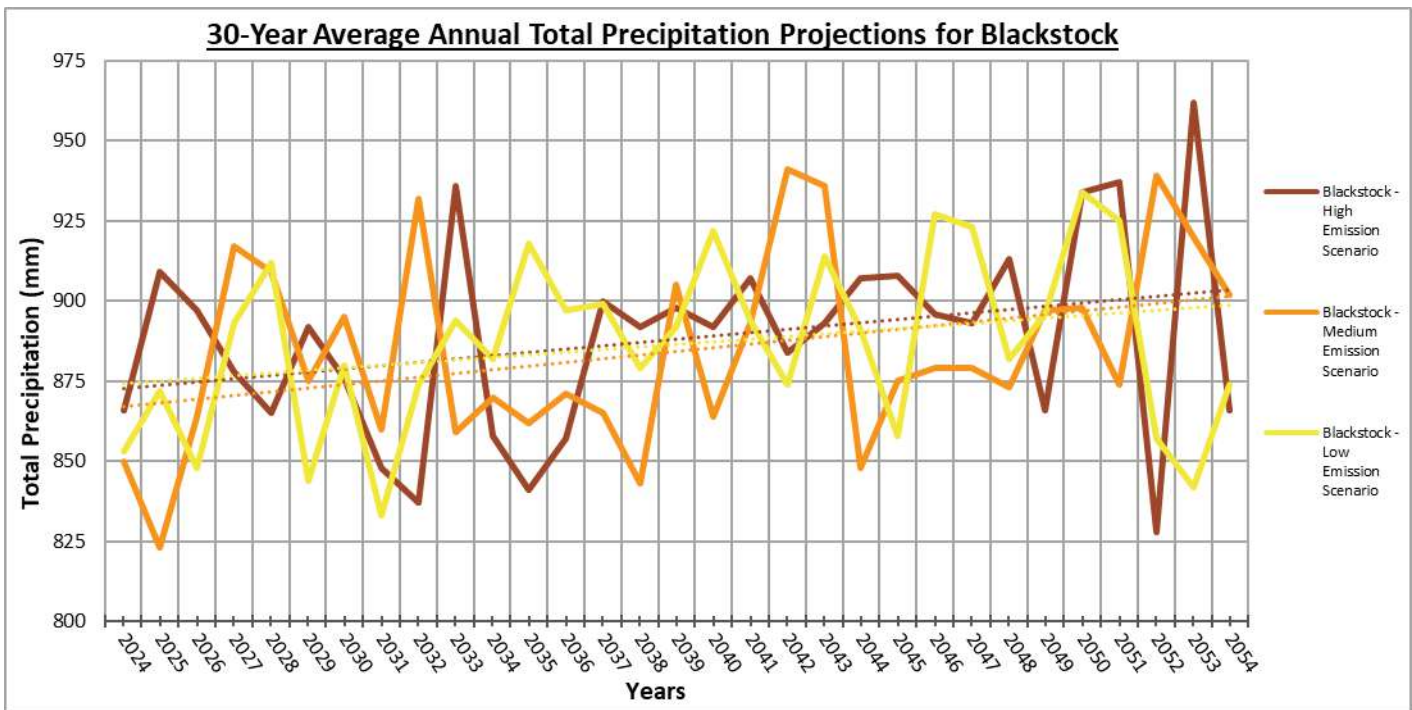


Figure 18. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Blackstock.

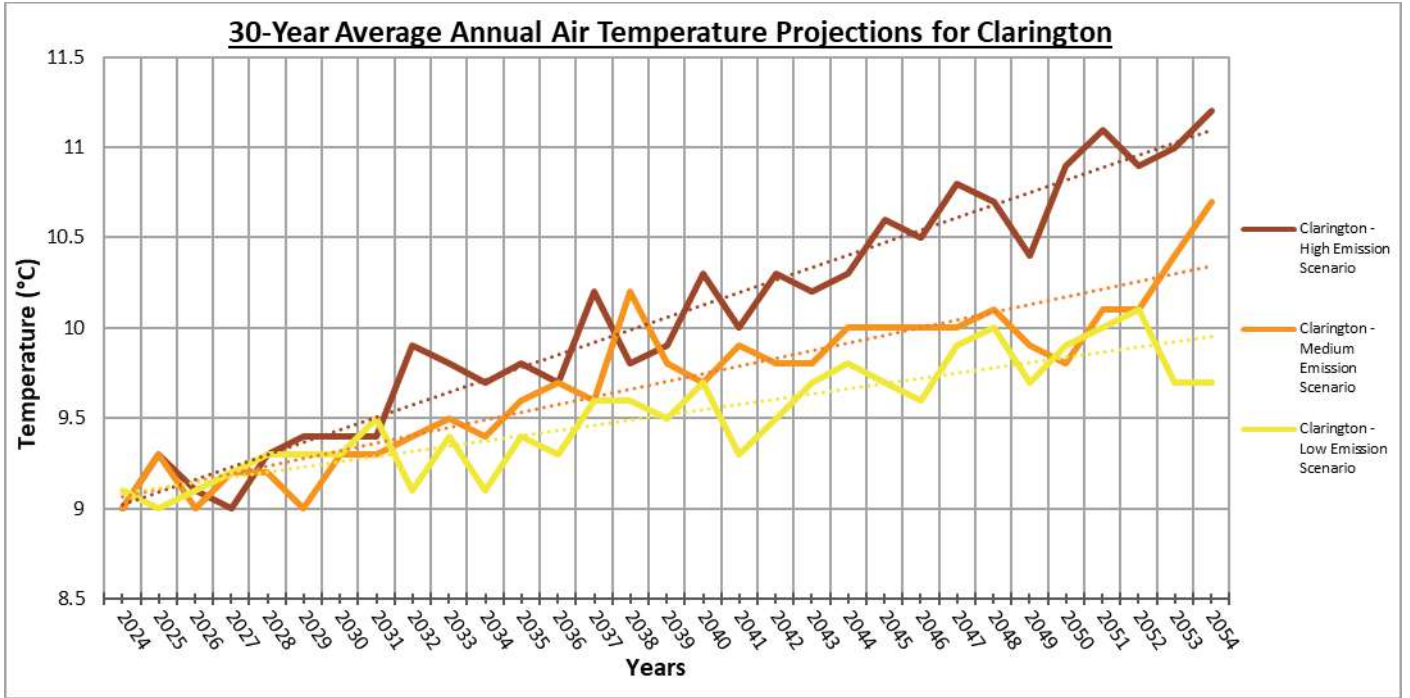


Figure 19. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Clarington

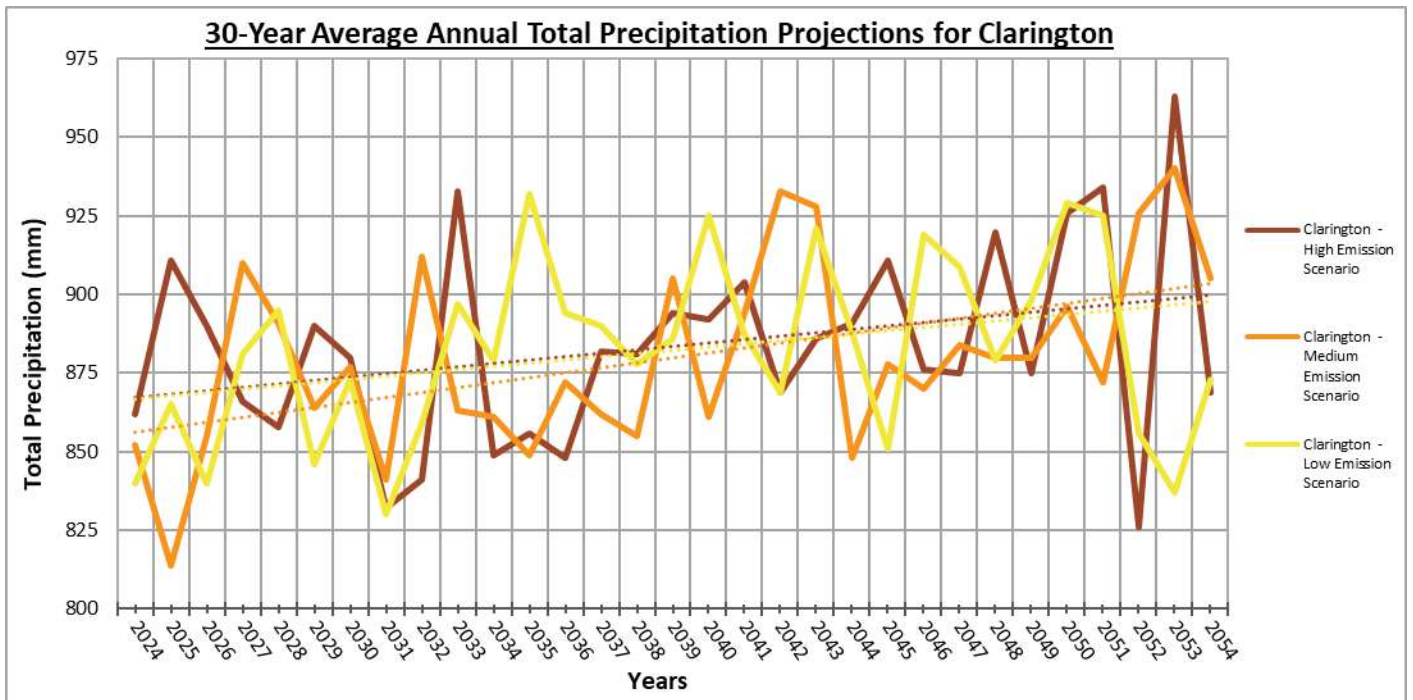


Figure 20. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Clarington

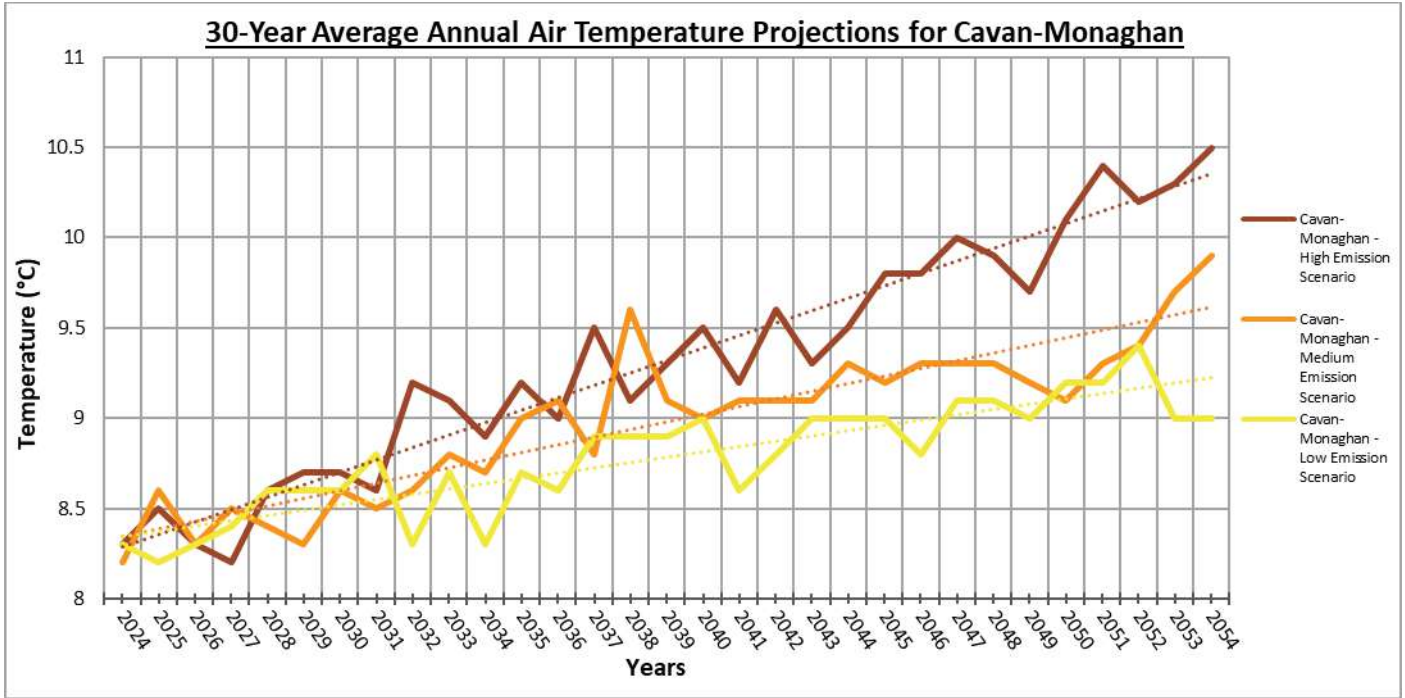


Figure 21. 30-Year Average Annual Air Temperature Projections for Cavan-Monaghan

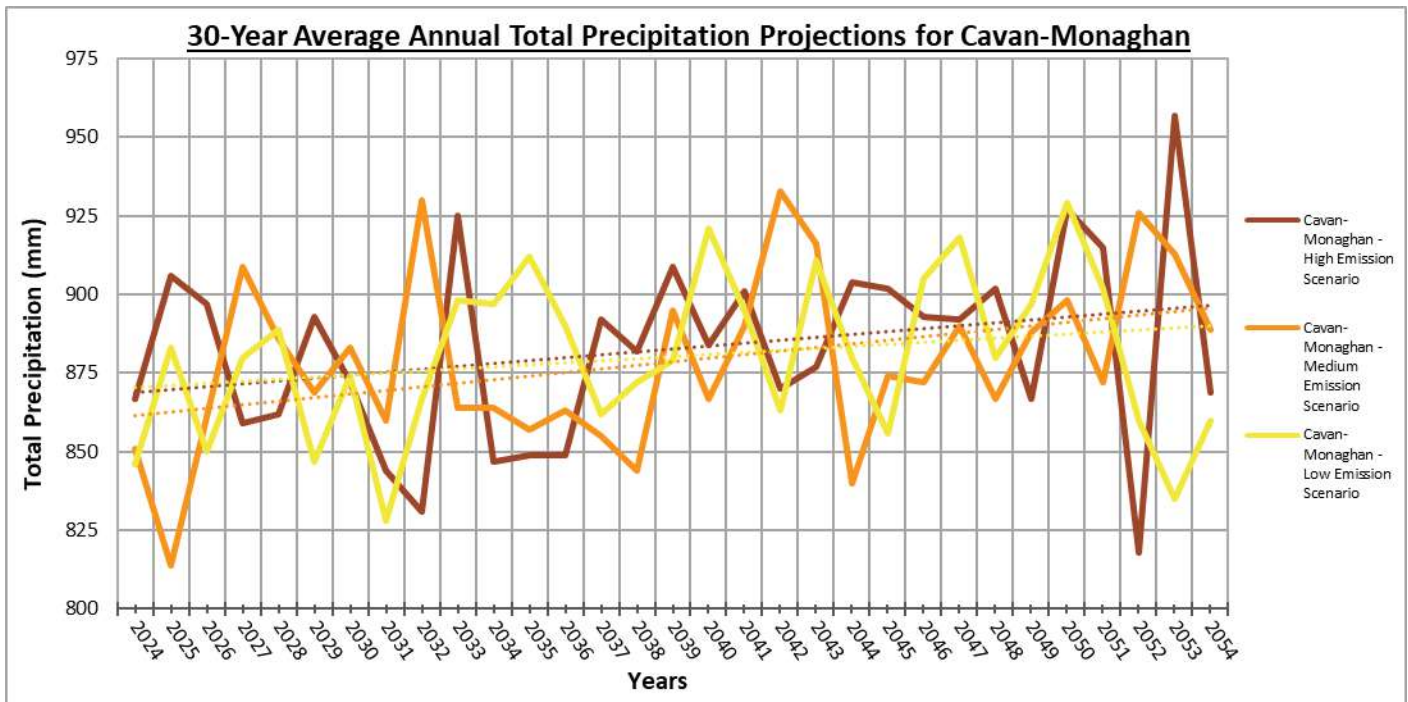


Figure 22. 30-Year Average Annual Total Precipitation Projections for Cavan-Monaghan