

LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

2013 BUSINESS PLAN



Cold Creek



LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

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Member of the Conservation Ontario Network

Meeting the Challenge ...Leading Conservation

A Message from the Chief Administrative Officer...



Glenda Rodgers

2013 will be a challenging but exciting year for Lower Trent Conservation. As a result of our restructuring exercise in 2012, Lower Trent Conservation is taking a fresh approach to how we deliver and market our services and programs. These changes are reflected in this business plan.

Our Watershed Science & Services includes everything from monitoring programs to planning, permitting, flood forecasting, and stewardship. It is mostly through these programs that Lower Trent Conservation staff interacts with the watershed community - local municipalities, agencies and organizations, and the people who live here. Our staff is eager to provide information to help advance environmental awareness and to provide advice to motivate environmental action. In 2013, we want to share what we know locally about climate change and potential mitigation and adaptation measures.

Many of you know us through our Conservation Lands – 1500 hectares on 17 properties where the natural world comes first. A number of our properties have trails where residents and visitors can experience the great outdoors. Stepping into nature has been proven to provide health benefits - doctors are starting to prescribe hikes to reduce anxiety, increase energy, and reduce risks of disease. Spending time in a local Conservation Area is a great place to reap these benefits! In 2013, we will promote the connection between the natural environment and your health.

Our Corporate Services support our Watershed Science & Services and our Conservation Lands program. Human resources, financial management, information & data management, and communications & marketing are all key to a successful organization.

Lower Trent Conservation continues to be involved in two significant partnership programs – the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan and Drinking Water Source Protection. Great environmental strides have been made in these programs through collaboration at all levels of government. In 2013, efforts will continue to address the outstanding concerns in the Bay of Quinte, with a focus on phosphorus inputs and associated issues. Source Protection Program efforts will focus on assisting municipalities and others prepare for implementation of the Source Protection Plan.

I encourage you to read this Business Plan to learn about the highlights of our 2013 program. And, if you want to know more about us and local conservation efforts, please visit our website, drop by the office, send us an e-mail, or give us a call. We are happy to share what we know.

Lower Trent Conservation – who we are...

Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority, also known as Lower Trent Conservation, was formed in 1968 under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Our area of jurisdiction covers 2121 sq. km. (819 sq. mi.) and includes all or portions of seven municipalities.

The *Conservation Authorities Act* of Ontario provides the mechanism for establishing and administering a conservation authority. The Act reads:

The objects of the authority are to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals. (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 27, Section 20)

Both the founding principles of the legislation and the legislation itself embody the three fundamental strengths of every conservation authority: local initiative, cost sharing, and watershed jurisdiction.

Local Initiative:

The conservation movement has been a movement by and for the people for the past sixty years. Community initiative is the strength and success of every conservation authority. Without this local motivation, an authority cannot be formed. People must first recognize the need for environmental action and request the provincial government to form a conservation authority. In making the request, watershed residents must be willing to contribute financially to the works of the organization and face the responsibility of directing it.

Cost Sharing:

Traditionally, municipalities within the conservation authority and the provincial government shared the costs of funding conservation programs. Over time, conservation authorities have expanded their partnerships to include other agencies and the community. A conservation authority flourishes only when local people have enough enthusiasm and conviction to support it financially.

Lower Trent Conservation is a member of Conservation Ontario - a network of 36 Conservation Authorities, all dedicated to conserving, restoring and managing Ontario's natural resources on a watershed basis. Through this network, Conservation Authorities are promoted as: coalition builders for integrated watershed management, proactive policy shapers for environmental conservation, trusted science brokers for healthy Great Lakes and climate change resilience, and quality of place experts for healthy living.

Watershed Jurisdiction:

A watershed – the area drained by a watercourse and its tributaries – is a natural geographic unit that crosses municipal boundaries. Conservation authorities can have jurisdiction over one or more watersheds. Since decisions and actions made in one location can affect upstream and downstream areas in other locations (or even other municipalities), watersheds are ideal units for protecting and managing the local environment. Conservation authorities are the only agencies in Ontario that manage natural resources on a watershed basis.

Our Conservation Strategy:

In 2008, our Conservation Strategy was updated to reflect the evolving internal and external challenges and opportunities affecting our business. The Conservation Strategy defines our vision, mission, and strategic priorities, and directs our annual Business Plan.

Vision – Our View of the Future

... to be the local leader in conservation – working with others towards healthy watersheds for now and future generations.

We see healthy watersheds as having:

- Excellent water quality
- Excellent water quantity
- Reduced flood and erosion risk
- Natural areas for all to share
- Abundant & diverse natural habitats
- Vibrant & productive communities
- People who appreciate the natural environment

Our Mission – What We Do

Lower Trent Conservation delivers conservation services to protect and manage our local environment on a watershed basis.

Our Strategic Priorities

The Strategy outlines seven strategic priorities to guide how we conduct our business for the next decade.

- *Building trust through consistency and accountability*
- *A solid financial base*
- *A dedicated team of directors and staff*
- *Customer focused programs*
- *Partnerships in conservation*
- *Leading innovation through technology, staff skills, and practices*
- *Public awareness and participation*

Conservation Business for 2013

Lower Trent Conservation is in the business of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural environment. It is a business that builds healthier communities, improves the quality of life for residents, makes our area more appealing to visitors and new business, and helps ensure a more diverse and vibrant regional economy.

Lower Trent Conservation maintains a business-like approach to ensure accountability and transparency to our member municipalities, other partners, and the general public. The services we provide are customer focused – local responses to local needs. They are delivered through creative funding in partnership with municipalities, other agencies, and the local communities.

This Business Plan outlines our approach and priorities for 2013.

Lower Trent Conservation's program is divided into three inter-related areas:

- ***Corporate Services***
 - Financial and Human Resources
 - Information Management & Geographic Information System
 - Communications
- ***Watershed Science & Services***
 - Environmental Planning & Regulations
 - Environmental Monitoring & Reporting
 - Flood Forecasting & Protection Works
 - Education, Outreach & Stewardship
- ***Conservation Lands***

In addition, Lower Trent Conservation is responsible for administering and managing:

- the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan, and
- the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Program.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services includes management of our finances, human resources and other assets, as well as program planning and development, customer relations, partnership building, information management and Geographic Information System, and communications.

Financial & Human resources

Lower Trent Conservation has established policies and procedures to set out administrative controls, to ensure fair, consistent treatment of staff, to provide guidance to staff for program implementation, and to ensure compliance with government legislation. These need to be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure they are relevant and compliant with legislation.

In terms of financial management, ongoing vigilance is needed to ensure that the funding we receive from our member municipalities, the provincial and federal governments, and other partners and agencies is spent wisely for the betterment of our watershed. Ongoing effort is put into establishing partnerships to collaborate on watershed projects, and to seek funding support from other organizations to help get conservation work done.



Information Management & Geographic Information System

Ongoing, sound information management is key to the success of any knowledge based, service orientated organization. Lower Trent Conservation's information must be organized, up to date, and accessible, with mechanisms in place for sharing data with others to assist with collaborative watershed management and protection. Some of our data is best displayed visually, as maps, through our Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS is a computerized system of organizing, storing, analyzing, editing, and displaying spatial data and is an important component of our information management. GIS is used by Lower Trent Conservation staff to assist with making decisions about land use planning, regulations, managing our own lands, and stewardship programs. Lower Trent Conservation also assists municipalities and others with GIS projects on a fee for service basis.

Communications

Corporate communication activities include media relations and production of quarterly reports, annual reports, displays, brochures, and other communications products. In addition to traditional media, we use our website and social media (e.g., Facebook) to keep our municipal partners, watershed residents and other stakeholders, as well as staff and the Board of Directors, up to date with our programs and events.

2013 Priority Projects

Financial & Human Resources

- Implement new fee schedule
- Implement new organizational structure
- Review administrative and personnel policies

Information Management & Geographic Information System

- Develop an information management strategy
- Promote knowledge transfer among staff
- Evaluate cost-benefits of participation in South Central Ontario Orthophotography Project
- Continue to expand interactive mapping resources for website
- Create a series of well-designed, attractive watershed wall maps

Communications

- Develop a corporate communications strategy
- Redesign website to align with new organizational structure
- Develop a publication that promotes the programs and activities of the Conservation Authority
- Finalize and promote the 2012 Watershed Report Card to align with Conservation Ontario direction
- Update communications products to align with Conservation Ontario's collective brand for Conservation Authorities

Beyond 2013...

- Implement the information management strategy and corporate communications strategy
- Continue to develop partnerships of mutual benefit to achieve organizational goals
- Seek opportunities to secure sustainable funding for Lower Trent Conservation programs

Through our Watershed Science & Services, we provide information and advice to municipalities and watershed residents on a wide range of environmental issues. This includes: municipal plan input and review, implementing the *Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (Ontario Regulation 163/06)*, monitoring and reporting on the health of our watershed, monitoring water levels and coordinating response to extremes (flooding and low water), and engaging our watershed residents in environmental education, stewardship and restoration. We also coordinate watershed strategies and plans, and assist municipalities with drinking water source protection planning.

Environmental Planning & Regulations

Lower Trent Conservation strives to provide our member municipalities and watershed residents with excellent customer service, both through the formal commenting process under the *Planning Act*, and on an informal basis through general inquiries and joint pre-consultation.



Planning Site Inspection

Through the *Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (Ontario Regulation 163/06)*, Lower Trent Conservation regulates development and activities in or adjacent to river or stream valleys, shorelines of Great Lakes and large inland lakes, watercourses, hazardous lands, and wetlands. By reviewing applications for activities near these areas, Lower Trent Conservation can ensure that development will not be impacted by flooding or erosion, and that new development does not aggravate flooding upstream or downstream. Environmental impacts are also taken into consideration before issuing a permit. Lower Trent Conservation also reviews proposed development and activities on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to identify and mitigate potential fisheries impacts.

Lower Trent Conservation promotes integrated watershed management and, as funding allows, completes watershed strategies and other long-term plans in conjunction with other agencies and the public. These broad, long-term plans include watershed and subwatershed plans, natural heritage strategies, and shoreline plans, and help to ensure that our watershed management program fulfills our vision of healthy watersheds.

The Source Protection Plans for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region were completed and submitted to the Minister of the Environment in 2012. In 2013, Lower Trent Conservation will continue to work with the municipalities to help prepare for implementation of the plan.

Environmental Monitoring and Reporting

Lower Trent Conservation's monitoring program is focussed on participating in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN), the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), the Ontario Low Water Response Program, as well as monitoring benthic macroinvertebrates (bugs that live in the bottom of the stream) and stream flow. Lower Trent Conservation collects and manages the watershed data and contributes to provincial databases.

Flood Forecasting & Protection Works

Lower Trent Conservation, in cooperation with local municipalities and the provincial government, plays a significant role in protecting life and property from natural hazards such as flooding.

Lower Trent Conservation is responsible for providing early warning of meteorological conditions that may produce flood emergencies within the watershed. Local in-depth knowledge of flood prone areas and watershed responses to rainfall and snowmelt events is required to implement this program.

Lower Trent Conservation has completed 16 flood control projects throughout the Lower Trent watershed region. These structures perform the function of protecting lives and properties within flood susceptible areas of the watershed from impacts resulting from a flood. The structures were constructed with the aid of the Province of Ontario and local municipalities on a cost sharing basis.

Education, Outreach & Stewardship

Engaging residents in environmentally sustainable behaviours and drawing attention to conservation issues are important components of our business. Through increased environmental awareness, as a result of education and outreach activities and landowner stewardship, the community helps Lower Trent Conservation achieve our vision of a healthy watershed.

Lower Trent Conservation recognizes that the students of today are the environmental stewards of tomorrow.

Young people are educated about the importance of our natural environment through a variety of educational activities. One example is the ***Quinte Children's Water Festival***. During this two-day interactive event, coordinated by Lower Trent Conservation in conjunction with various school boards and agencies, approximately 800 children from across the region learn about our most precious resource – water. The ***Caring for our Watersheds*** contest is also coordinated and delivered by Lower Trent Conservation. It is a competition funded by an individual donor and Agrium Inc., and is currently available for Grade 8 and 9 students in the Campbellford and Brighton areas. Students submit proposals on how they would improve an environmental issue in the community and funding is available to implement selected projects.



Flood 2008

The ***Healthy Shorelines – Clean Water*** initiative was launched in 2011. The program provides landowner outreach activities across the entire watershed to encourage proactive stewardship of our land and water resources, with a focus on our shoreline areas. Activities include providing information, technical advice, and incentives to undertake shoreline naturalization projects.

Lower Trent Conservation seeks opportunities to establish partnerships with other agencies, watershed residents, and community groups to do restoration projects. We also provide coordination and expertise to these groups.

To encourage tree planting and reforestation of private lands, Lower Trent Conservation provides seedlings at cost to watershed landowners through our tree seedling program.

2013 Program Priorities



Children's Water Festival 2012



Caring for our Watersheds 2012

Environmental Planning &



Shoreline with Natural Buffer

Regulations

implement revised
Study Guidelines

- Finalize and Environmental Impact
- Finalize Watershed Backgrounder and initiate Watershed Management Strategy
- Explore opportunities for initiating watershed plans/shoreline management plans with local municipalities
- Continued improvement of Ontario Regulation 163/06 mapping
- Update Regulations Policies & Procedures Manual
- Assist municipalities with interpretation of the Source Protection Plan and implementation requirements
- Establish a Risk Management Official/Risk Management Inspector office for interested municipalities

Environmental Monitoring and Reporting

- Implement changes to stream temperature monitoring program, based on monitoring program review conducted in 2012
- Review protocol for benthic invertebrate identification

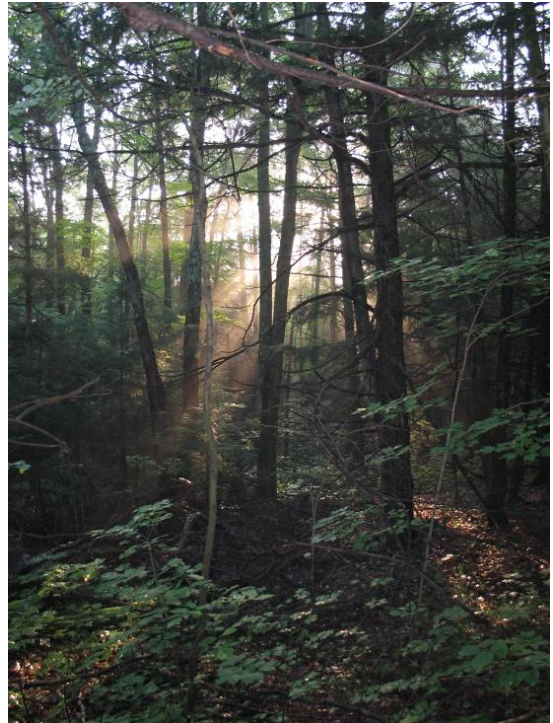
Flood Forecasting & Protection Works

- Undertake major maintenance for Mayhew Creek flood control structure
- Finalize semi-engineering pilot project for Mayhew Creek

Education, Outreach & Stewardship

- Continue to expand and seek opportunities to sustain our landowner stewardship initiatives
- Undertake a shoreline naturalization demonstration project for a local municipality

- Undertake landowner site visits and offer incentives for shoreline naturalization
- Continue coordinating Quinte Children's Water Festival
- Continue to promote and facilitate the Caring for our Watersheds competition in Trent Hills & Brighton schools
- Work with Agrium in the development of a watershed video to support Caring for our Watersheds
- Facilitate implementation of Caring for our Watersheds winning projects
- Attend local events to promote Lower Trent Conservation programs and services
- Develop environmental education opportunities for youth such as presentations for school groups and summer camps
- Develop a source protection education & outreach program in conjunction with interested municipalities
- Increase public understanding of climate change and how it may impact us locally



Burnley Creek Natural Habitat Area

Beyond 2013...

- Develop a Natural Heritage Strategy for the Lower Trent watershed
- Finalize the Watershed Management Strategy
- Initiate watershed plans for interested municipalities
- Initiate shoreline management plans for Quinte West and Brighton
- Seek to expand the Caring for our Watersheds program and maintain the Quinte Children's Water Festival
- Seek out incentive programs to fund source protection stewardship activities
- Identify and implement climate change adaptation/mitigation measures
- Prepare annual reports for local Source Protection Implementation

Conservation Lands

Lower Trent Conservation owns approximately 1500 hectares of natural areas. Conservation lands are living examples of natural areas which we strive to protect. They provide a number of

important values to our watershed: protection of natural ecosystems, outdoor recreation, and tourism opportunities. They are places where the public can experience a healthy, natural environment. Conservation lands are a reflection of our commitment to providing natural areas for all to share.

For many of our customers, our conservation lands are their main connection with Lower Trent Conservation. We strive to protect and maintain our conservation lands to a level that provides for user safety, demonstrates sound environmental management, meets public expectations, and provides a positive image of Lower Trent Conservation.

There is growing research and evidence that spending time in natural areas is beneficial for human health. In addition to the health benefits of taking a hike, just spending time in nature can help to relieve stress, lower blood pressure, and address other ailments.

2013 Priority Projects

In addition to general maintenance and improvements, priority projects for 2013 include upgrading facilities and enhancing natural heritage features on our conservation lands.

- Continue upgrades to entranceway at Bleasdel Boulder Conservation Area
- Upgrade access to trails, trail kiosk, and interpretive signage at Proctor Park Conservation Area
- Upgrade back bridge at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area
- Upgrade parking area at Barnum House Creek Natural Habitat Area
- Replace concrete in picnic shelter and new dock at Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area
- Initiate Management Plan for Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area
- Prepare reports with recommendations for each of our properties (where Master Plans/Management Plans do not exist)
- Develop and install educational signage for Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area and Warkworth Conservation Area Shoreline Naturalization Projects
- Expand opportunities to use geocaching as a means to increase public interest in, and use of, our Conservation Areas
- Organize hikes and events at Conservation Areas in conjunction with Conservation Ontario's Healthy Hikes campaign and local Doors Open/Trails Open events to promote Conservation Areas, Conservation Authority programs, and healthy lifestyles

Beyond 2013...

- Complete Management Plan for Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area
- Ensure that management of our conservation lands aligns with climate change adaptation/mitigation priorities
- Develop interpretative signage for some of our Conservation Areas to highlight special features, habitats, or species
- Replace ski shelters at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area



Alderville Woods Natural Habitat Area



Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area



the loss or destructi **Sager Tower** life
habitat. Impairments to beneficial uses, such as
drinking water, fish, and recreation, are termed
“Beneficial Use Impairments.”

A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) is the response of
government, industry, and the local community
to address the Beneficial Use Impairments and
remove the Area of Concern designation by the
International Joint Commission. In this process,
remedial actions are taken and the
environmental concerns monitored and
assessed so that ultimately the Area of Concern
can be delisted.

Significant Partnership Initiatives

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

Lower Trent Conservation administers the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan and provides communications and technical support aimed at the clean up of the Bay. Lower Trent Conservation also co-chairs the Bay of Quinte Restoration Council. The Restoration Council includes agencies from all levels of government, as well as local representatives who have come together to implement the Remedial Action Plan.

2013 Priority Projects

- Finalize and implement the Delisting Workplan
- Finalize Watershed Phosphorus Model and initiate development of a Phosphorus Management Strategy
- Finalize the Natural Heritage Strategy and promote implementation to municipalities and other stakeholders

- Develop and implement a Septic Inspection Program for the Bay of Quinte
- Continue to deliver Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Habitat Enhancement Program
- Engage municipalities and the Bay of Quinte Mohawks to assist with the delisting of the Bay of Quinte
- Develop a communications strategy for delisting the Bay of Quinte
- Work towards delisting individual Beneficial Use Impairments

Beyond 2013...

- Delist all Beneficial Use Impairments
- Complete a Delisting Report to remove the Bay of Quinte's Area of Concern status
- Develop plan to maintain improvements in the Bay of Quinte in the long-term

Source Protection Planning

In October 2006, the Ontario government passed the *Clean Water Act*. The Act is aimed at protecting drinking water at the source as part of the Province's overall commitment to human health and the environment. A key focus of the legislation is the production of locally developed science based assessment reports and source protection plans.

The legislation and regulations established source protection regions across the province. The Trent watershed is part of the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region. The region includes the Crowe Valley, Kawartha, Lower Trent, and Peterborough River watersheds in Peterborough County, outside of Conservation Authorities jurisdiction.

Lower Trent Conservation was designated by the Ministry of the Environment as the lead for the Trent Conservation Coalition Drinking Water Source Protection Program. Lower Trent Conservation was responsible for the coordination of the development of source protection plans for the region which were submitted to the Minister of the

Environment in August 2012. Now that the plans have been submitted, the focus has shifted to ensuring that those responsible for implementing policies in the plan are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge.



Bay of Quinte

2013 Priority Projects

- Assist Trent Conservation Coalition Conservation Authorities and municipalities with Source Protection Plan implementation
- Liaise with Ministry of the Environment, the Source Protection Committee, and Source Protection Authorities regarding approval of the Source Protection Plans
- Develop reporting processes for Source Protection Plan implementation
- Maintain provincial databases (i.e., Assessment Report, Policy)
- Assist in the development of implementation guidance
- Provide support to implementing bodies to ensure understanding of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan policies

Beyond 2013...

- Undertake technical studies to prepare for the next round of Source Protection Planning



Submitting the Source Protection Plan

Submitting the Source Protection Plan after 6 years of work

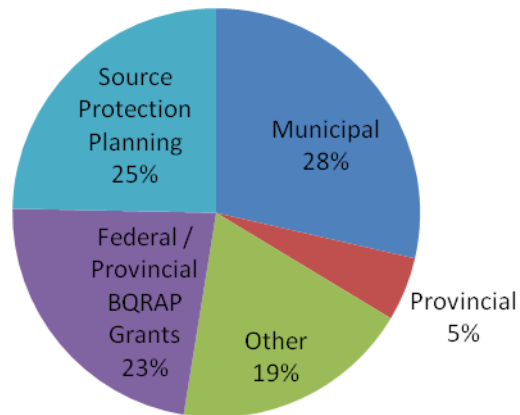
LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION
BUDGET SUMMARY FOR 2013

EXPENSES	BUDGET
CORPORATE SERVICES	544,500
(Administration, Communications, Information Management)	
WATERSHED SCIENCE & SERVICES	
Program Operations	384,000
Equipment, Materials, Supplies	56,500
Environmental Planning & Regulations	14,500
Environmental Monitoring & Reporting	18,000
Flood Forecasting & Protection Works	49,000
Education, Outreach & Stewardship	74,000
TOTAL WATERSHED SERVICES	596,000
CONSERVATION LANDS	
Program Operations	174,000
Taxes and Insurance	42,000
Workshop & Conservation Centre	21,000
Conservation Areas - Development	16,000
Conservation Areas - Maintenance	41,000
TOTAL CONSERVATION LANDS	294,000
BAY OF QUINTE REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN	600,000
SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING	600,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,634,500
REVENUES	
Provincial Grants	(133,329)
Fed./Prov. BQRAP Grants	(600,000)
General Levy	(753,095)
Special Benefiting Levies	(15,000)
Education, Outreach & Stewardship	(45,500)
Contracts and Agreements	(239,100)
Other Revenues	(122,176)
Source Protection Planning	(650,000)
LTC 2012 Year End Surplus	(76,300)
TOTAL REVENUES	(2,634,500)
NET DEFICIT/(SURPLUS)	0

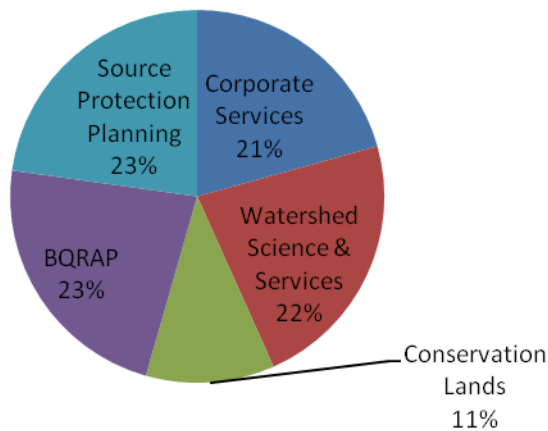
Your Investment in a Better Environment

This year, Lower Trent Conservation will spend _____ to provide flood protection services, improve water quality, protect water supplies, provide environmental education, promote stewardship and undertake restoration activities, operate conservation areas and maintain trails, and manage other sensitive environmental lands.

Estimated Revenues



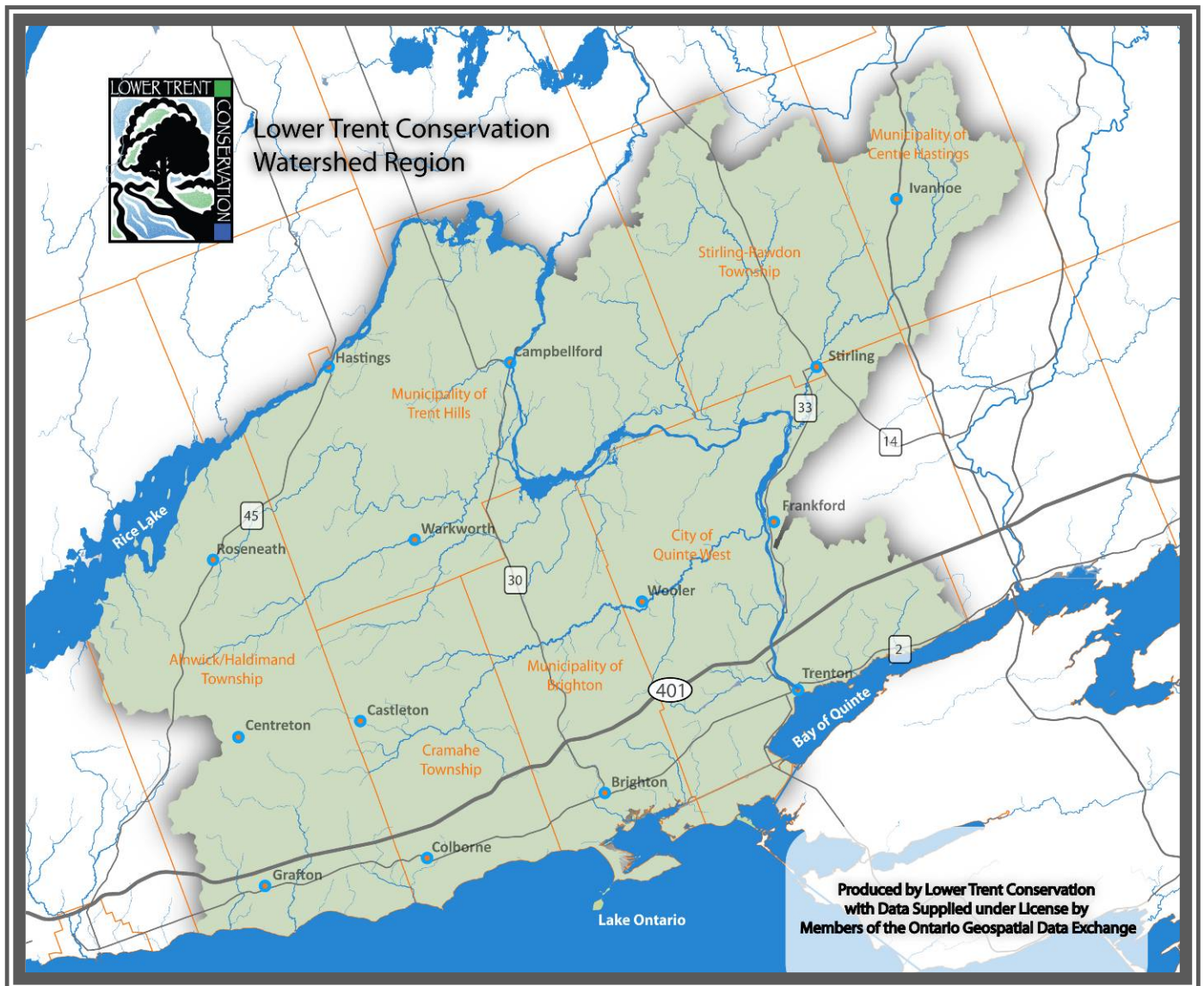
Estimated Expenditures



Member Municipalities

Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
Municipality of Centre Hastings
City of Quinte West
Municipality of Trent Hills

Municipality of Brighton
Township of Cramahe
Township of Stirling-Rawdon



Working with Others

Partners in Conservation

Lower Trent Conservation's Board of Directors and staff work with a growing number of partners who share our concern for the future of our region's environment. Lower Trent Conservation has worked with every sector of the community – from school children, individual landowners and service clubs to major corporations, colleges and government ministries – to achieve our collective vision of a healthy environment. Our partners provide information, ideas, labour, and funding.



*Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan
Partners*



Source Protection Committee



Rice Lake Plains Joint Initiative

Volunteers for Conservation

Lower Trent Conservation's ***"Volunteers for Conservation"*** offers opportunities for individuals to get involved with local environmental projects. These dedicated groups and individuals devote time and energy to various local conservation projects.



Hastings Marina Planting Day 2012



Warkworth Conservation Area Planting Day 2012

*We thank all of our partners and volunteers and look forward
to working with you and others toward our common vision of healthy watersheds.*