

Conservation Ontario

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Council Meeting
April 8, 2013

Conservation Authorities Contribute to

Healthy People & Watersheds





- IWM approach needs to be more fully developed
- CA programs and services need to continue to build eco-system resilience to help Ontario adapt to climate change
- More accessible, evidence-based science
- Scope out future 'green' economy and technology opportunities for Conservation Authority programs



CO 2012 Workplan Objectives

- ✓ Great Lakes agenda
- ✓ CA capacity to support Climate Change Adaptation
- ✓ Streamline regulations, planning & input to Pr'vl policy
- ✓ SP Implementation
- ✓ Green Economy Roadmap
- ✓ Develop new health partnerships
- ✓ Build & communicate local science
- ✓ Strengthen Collective Brand



Watershed Management Futures for Ontario

- Whitepaper developed to spur discussion between CAs and the Province
- How to more effectively manage Ontario's watersheds
- Want to leverage local and provincial resources to create efficiencies in Ontario's Watershed Management programs & services



Whitepaper Communication Tools for CAs:

- Communication Strategy
- Final Whitepaper
- Whitepaper Summary
- Presentation & speaking notes
- Template letter to municipalities
- Questions and Answers about the Whitepaper
- Key Messages for discussions with MPPs and others



Tapping into provincial
Great Lakes agenda
provided significant
opportunity to promote IWM
and CA Water Management
objectives

- CO/CA Input reflected in draft GL
Protection Act/ Strategy and new GLWQA
 - watershed approach, monitoring for climate
change impacts and importance of local data



- CO Communication products promoted the Conservation Authorities and their issues around GL
- And, encouraged Ontarians to provide their input to the draft Great Lakes Act and Strategy





- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement now specifically involves watershed management agencies in decision-making (NEW)
- CA Implementation of the Lake Ontario Biodiversity Strategy
- Also promoted CA Great Lakes interests via CO's Whitepaper.



- Established CO/CA Climate Change Working Group
- Hosted a November workshop for CA staff
- Conducted survey with CAs to inventory climate change actions
- CA Climate Change Primer being developed

**Climate
Change**





Planning & Regs / Input to Provincial Policy

- All CA Regulations approved by Minister of Natural Resources (Feb 2013)
- CA Liaison Committee (CALC) wrapped up
- Regulatory staff training session held in Nov
- DART Protocol finalized; training Jan 2013
- Large-Scale Fill Discussion Paper
- Positioning coordinated on 16 different provincial/federal policy initiatives



Source Protection Implementation

- Source protection plans for 24 SPAs were submitted to the Minister of Environment on schedule
- CO has been facilitating the transfer of source protection data to the province and supporting the development of data maintenance processes
- Developing materials to support CAs in the transition to source protection plan implementation
- Continued to support Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program





Defined and Scoped Out Green Economy

- Defined Green Economy as it relates to Conservation Authority business
- Scoped out focus areas and strategies
- Held CA Green Economy Workshop
- Surveyed CAs and new potential partners
- Web and communication products (backgrounder) created
- Draft Roadmap and Assessment Guide developed



Built Strategic Partnerships

- **Ecological Goods & Services** (Ontario Ecological Goods & Services organization)
- **Stewardship** (Stewardship Network of Ontario, Trees Ontario, Ontario Soil & Crop Association)
- **New health collaborations**
 - a) York/Guelph/CA/CO /Public Health collaborative around watershed/public health
 - b) Trees Ontario/other organizations around benefits of trees



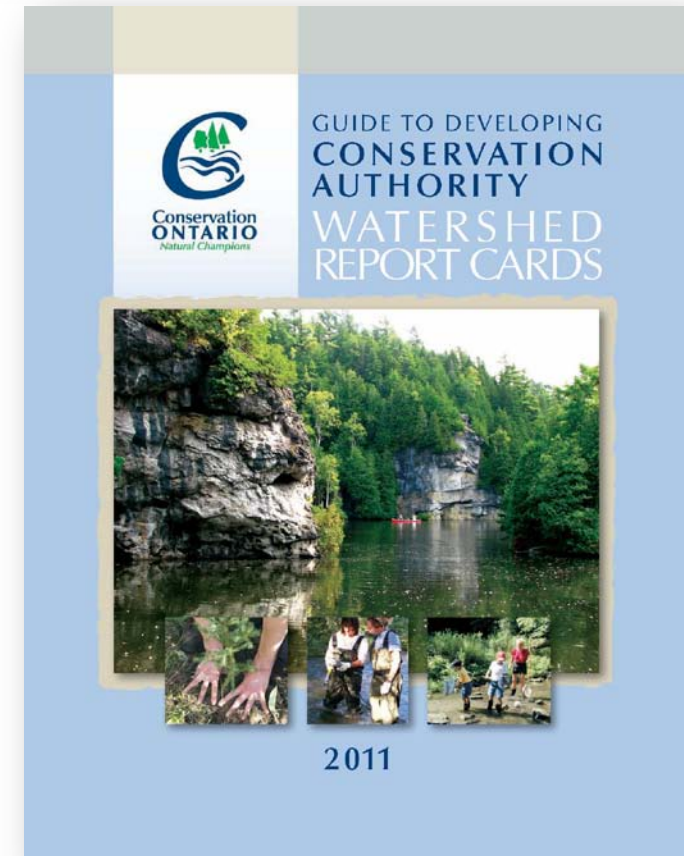
Built the Science: Information Management

- Implemented WRIP 2011-15 which is a roadmap guiding the development of CA GIS/IM Strategic Plan Template
- Coordinated the negotiation of the renewal of the MOE-CA PGMN agreements and continues to support the implementation of the network.
- Work continued on the development of CA – EMRB web portal



Ready to Communicate the Science

- CA watershed report card guidelines and template finalized and transferred to CAs
- Development of Source protection online interactive map underway – showcases local SP watershed info





Linked Ecosystem Health to Public Health

- Inventory of CA activities with health sector
- Participated in Trees Ontario Health Forum with broad range of NGOs and health sector
 - promoted CA activities around health
 - Participating on smaller strategic committee
- Developed initial health messaging – promoted to CAs via Sept meeting
- Health theme for Latonnell & CA Conservation Areas workshop – building CA knowledge



Strengthening Collective CA Brand

- CO Branding Committee established in 2012
- Hosted CA meetings in March and Sept: CAs helped to identify current successful collective branding and barriers
 - set of guidelines/protocols along with various communication tools for CAs will be finalized and circulated in 2013



www.conservationontario.ca
The Network of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities

Questions?