



Cataraqui
conservation

2022 Annual Report

Supporting Healthy & Resilient Communities



Cataraqui Conservation

About

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (Cataraqui Conservation) is a community based environmental protection and advisory agency, established in 1964 by the Province of Ontario at the request of municipalities within the Cataraqui watershed. Its role is to provide expertise and resources to aid in the protection of life and property from the growing risk of flooding and erosion of shorelines and waterways.

Our jurisdiction is over 3,800 sq km of land from the Town of Greater Napanee in the west to the City of Brockville in the east, encompassing 11 watersheds. Municipalities represented include the Cities of Kingston and Brockville, the Towns of Gananoque and Greater Napanee, and the Townships of Rideau Lakes, Leeds & the Thousand Islands, Athens, Loyalist, South Frontenac, Front of Yonge, and Elizabethtown-Kitley. When acting as the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority, Frontenac Islands Township is included in the membership.

Cataraqui Conservation's mandate is to provide programs and services with partner municipalities to further the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources in the Cataraqui Region watershed. Along with these programs and services we strive to promote sustainable living in our communities and work with our partners to ensure development actions upstream do not have detrimental impacts downstream.

Cataraqui Conservation also provides opportunities for nature appreciation and recreation for residents at our eight Conservation Areas and the Cataraqui Trail. Our staff work towards the goal of supporting healthy local watersheds, protecting public health, reducing the impact of natural hazards, and ensuring resilient communities.



Matt Smith
Athens

Garry Hewett (Jan-Apr)
City of Brockville

Cameron Wales (May-Dec)
City of Brockville

David Beatty (Jan-Dec)
City of Brockville

Katherine Hobbs (Dec)
City of Brockville

Jim Earle (Dec)
City of Brockville

Al Hanes
Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley

Al Barton
Township of Front of Yonge

Matt Harper
Town of Gananoque

Terry Richardson
Town of Greater Napanee

Wayne Hill (Jan-Nov)
City of Kingston

Jim Neill (Jan-Nov)
City of Kingston

Gary Oosterhof - Vice-Chair (Aug-Dec)
City of Kingston

Lisa Osanic
City of Kingston

Don Amos (Dec)
City of Kingston

Wendy Stephen (Dec)
City of Kingston

Board Members

Gordon Ohlke
Leeds & the Thousand islands

Paul McAuley - Chair
Loyalist Township

Nathan Townend (Jan-Nov)
Loyalist Township

Paul Proderick (Dec)
Loyalist Township

Claire Smith - Vice-Chair (Jan-July)
Township of Rideau Lakes

Jeff Banks (Aug-Oct)
Township of Rideau Lakes

Joan Delaney (Nov)
Township of Rideau Lakes

Alan Revill
Township of South Frontenac

Ross Sutherland
Township of South Frontenac





Message from Board Chair Paul McAuley

"May you live in interesting times."

The above comment is attributed by some as an ancient Chinese curse – I see it as a reflection of what Cataraqui Conservation has been living through over the last few years. We've been hit by three significant changes that have challenged our staff and board.

The past year staff and leadership have begun to understand what it means to provide service in a post-pandemic world where we have to deal with increased citizen expectations, high inflation, and supply and resource shortages. We are truly in a different environment as we try to build back from the pandemic and continue to offer services in a safe, cost-effective manner.

We were also faced with significant political change, in the form of both Provincial and Municipal elections, and significant legislative changes around Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act. Management and staff have spent significant time providing comment on legislative changes and planning for how those will impact the Authority and our partner municipalities going forward. This Act came on the heels of changes to the Conservation Authorities Act that are still being implemented. Combined, changes to these Acts will impact the role and expected deliverables for Conservation Authorities over the next few years.

Finally, the last year was also one where we continued to see the impacts of what seems to be increasing climate changes. Significant weather events

and increasing variability have impacted workloads for staff and heightened the need for good watershed planning. Unfortunately, I suspect we have only seen the beginning of this trend and it will be a topic of discussion well into the future. Despite the need to deal with all of these "interesting times", Cataraqui Conservation has continued to provide excellent services to our citizens and communities. Management and staff continue to work to find creative and innovative solutions. They have established excellent partnerships with our local municipalities, our Conservation Authority neighbors, Conservation Ontario, and ministry staff. Services have largely returned to normal after the pandemic and we continue to move ahead with our needed projects and capital planning. Of particular note is the work on the new Cataraqui Conservation administration offices in conjunction with Frontenac County. Renovations are well underway and hopefully will be available for staff in the next year.

Relating back to the aforementioned quote, I would add a corollary "If you must live in interesting times, may you be surrounded by able partners and move forward with optimism". We are fortunate to have dedicated and highly-qualified management and staff at Cataraqui Conservation and I want to recognize Katrina and the team for all the support they have provided to me as Chair, to the board, and to our municipalities. They have approached every change with a positive attitude and the goal of supporting Cataraqui Conservation.

I thank the board for the opportunity to be your Chair. We are in interesting times, and I remain optimistic that Cataraqui Conservation will continue to thrive and provide high-quality support to our communities.

Paul McAuley
Cataraqui Conservation Board Chair
Loyalist Township





Cataraqui Conservation Staff - 2022

Message From General Manager Katrina Furlanetto

In 2022, staff once again continued to adapt to changes in the community, legislation, and working in a hybrid environment. It was year prioritized to advance internal professional development, initiatives in the watershed, and partnerships with local municipalities.

Cataraqui Conservation's team moved forward on modernizing internal workflows through implementing a new financial software supporting timesheet management, updating databases to track development review metrics, streamlining website reporting for merchandise and registration purchases, purchasing new hardware to support in-field reporting, and updating health & safety and cyber security programming.

Staff continued to engage municipalities during the turnover of Council and improved Cataraqui Conservation's presence in the community through regional sign development, public consultation and notices for trail improvements and policy reviews, along with the launch of a Lake Reporting Dashboard.

Cataraqui Conservation will focus on strategic priority setting moving into 2023 and looks forward to working closely with our community partners to better understand the needs of the watershed.

Katrina Furlanetto
General Manager, Cataraqui Conservation

Devan Anderson	Administration Clerk
Jim Barber	Coordinator, Communications
Tom Beaubiah	Manager, Conservation Lands
Donna Campbell	Assistant, Chair & General Manager
Michael Dakin	Supervisor, Development Review
Laura Dietrich	Financial Analyst
Dianne Doyle	Coordinator, Little Cataraqui Creek
Hailey Esdon	Development Officer
Holly Evans	Coordinator, Watershed Planning
Shawn Fairbank	Technologist, Water Resources
Krista Fazackerley	Supervisor, Communications & Education
Eric Gallaway	Development Officer
Kelsey Guerette	Coordinator, Source Protection
Rick Knapton	Coordinator, Forestry
Steve Knapton	Coordinator, Operations Planning
Tessa Latchmore	Assistant, Source Protection
Stana Luxford Oddie	Senior Conservation Educator
Chelsea Penlington	GIS and Data Technician
Cheryl Rider	Supervisor, Finance
Rhonda Roantree	Resource Planning Clerk
Andrew Schmidt	Manager, Watershed Planning & Engineering
Emily Su	Resource Planner
Brock Sheen	Lead Hand, Conservation Operations
Cole Spence	Conservation Operations
Joey Stephenson	Conservation Operations
Janelle Treash	Resource Planner
Kristen Wozniak	Resource Planner
Mallory Wright	Technologist, Water Resources
Travis York	GIS & Corporate Technology Analyst

Corporate Services & Administration

Dedicated to governance accountability, transparency & customer service



Corporate Services and Administration is an inter-departmental team within Cataraqui Conservation that supports the business, financial, communication, information management and internal operational infrastructure of the organization. This includes, but is not limited to, finance and accounting (budgets, payroll, accounts payable/receivable), human resources, internal and external communications and marketing, information management and GIS (Geographical Information Systems) mapping support, as well as acting as a resource for the General Manager and Full Authority Board.

Staff are also responsible for document management, establishing and publishing corporate policies and regulations, customer service, and ensuring the overall sustainability of Cataraqui Conservation as a corporate entity. They also coordinate and provide administrative support for the Full Authority Board and its various Committees.

16 Full Authority Board Meetings with **96** staff reports

2 Source Protection Authority Meetings with **5** staff reports

15 Committee Meetings with **38** staff reports

434 Private donors in 2022 raising a total of \$38,071.00

2022 Projects & Initiatives

- Continued to provide a safe workplace through policy updates, health and safety audit, weekly discussions, and joining WSIB's Excellence Program.
- Continued to review, implement, and report on requirements for the Conservation Authorities Act such as the development of a Programs and Services Inventory.
- Increased capacity through two internal leadership promotions and hiring of three contract positions and one maternity leave backfill.
- Commenced construction on our new office building - Joint Administration Facility with Frontenac County.
- Installed new computer servers and implemented hardware and network replacements.
- Provided training on cyber security and created two new policies for risk management.
- Completed website updates and educational material to improve the user and customer experience.
- Implemented a new payroll, absence management, and timesheet platform to modernize internal workflows.
- New signage design and development for all properties through a partnership with regional tourism organizations.
- Partnered with the City of Kingston to modernize development application processing, online customer service, and update educational resources.
- Created three new policies for the organization along with updating two existing corporate policies.
- Completed a Compensation Review update for the organization.
- Increased engagement through social media and news stories on the website.



40 Press releases distributed
35 Blog posts and **20** events
121,415 Website visitors
4,089 Facebook likes/followers
3,847 Twitter followers
1,400 Instagram followers



Conservation Lands & Operations

Protecting lands and enhancing the ecosystem for generations to come

Cataraqi Conservation Lands and Operations staff play an integral part in the management and maintenance of all Cataraqi Conservation properties, including both public spaces and environmentally significant/sensitive lands through all four seasons. The Operations Team carry out tasks at all Conservation Areas (trail maintenance, building maintenance, garbage pick up, stocking privies, grooming trails, clearing snow, etc.), support the operation and management of water control structures, and support all departments to help them fulfill their work objectives. Staff have been focused on meeting Provincial Objectives through implementation of the Conservation Authorities Act and regulation changes, ensuring a positive use experience and supporting the needs of our neighbours, partners, friends groups, and visitors.

2022 Projects & Initiatives

- Created new shoreline trail at Lemoine Point Conservation Area to replace eroded sections.
- Resurfaced a section of the service road at Lemoine Point.
- Restored and resurfaced a section of the Cataraqi Trail from Perth Road to Opinicon via a partnership with Trans Canada Trail.
- Conducted trail improvements at Little Cataraqi Creek Conservation Area that included culverts and drainage work.
- Continued to install/replace gates on the Cataraqi Trail.
- Installed new signage at various properties across the watershed.
- Created a new rest stop at Chaffey's Lock on the Cataraqi Trail in partnership with Rideau Lakes Township, Chaffey's Historical Society, and Rideau Lakes Economic Development Committee.
- Concrete repairs were contracted and completed on the Wilton Road Dam.
- Performed Phase 1 rehabilitation of the south laneway entrance at Lemoine Point Conservation Area.
- Conducted emergency repairs to the septic system at the Outdoor Centre.



4 Bridges on the Cataraqi Trail had new decking installed

3 Bridges on the Cataraqi Trail had new safety barriers installed

2 New SUVs and one truck were purchased through the Fleet Program

10 Annual inspections conducted on managed water control structures.

5 Year review on Fleet Rationalization project.

45 Conservation Area use booking permits





Education & Public Programs

Cultivating a culture of conservation for today and tomorrow

Cataraqui Conservation's Education and Public Programs strive to connect learners of all ages to the environment through their head, heart, and hands. Instilling a sense of awe and respect for the natural world with watershed residents helps them become stewards for the environment in their own communities today, tomorrow and in the future. Our staff offer a wide range of quality outdoor and environmental education programs for all ages from pre-school to seniors. The curated conservation-focused program offerings take place around the Cataraqui Region watershed: in-person at conservation areas, special events, local greenspaces, school yards, and online to serve watershed residents wherever they reside.

808 Annual Passes sold

3,472 Students from the Limestone and Algonquin & Lakeshore Boards*

40 Forest School sessions taught at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area

20 Public Forest Therapy sessions hosted for 95 participants

719 Sets of skis (poles, boots & skis) rented during Jan. and Feb.**

131 Pairs of snowshoes rented during Jan. and Feb.***

2022 Projects & Initiatives

- Continued to evolve education and public programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure safe and engaging programming for the community.
- Hosted 56 online programs with two school boards and were regular contributors to the Limestone District School Board's Virtual School.
- Welcomed back students to outdoor field trips in late spring and fall of 2022. Staff visited school yards, nearby parks/greenspaces and hosted classes at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.
- Education Program mentored four Teacher Candidates from Queen's University.
- Continued to grow community partnerships by piloting a new program with Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre, Education staff co-chaired the Limestone District School Board's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, continued offering partner programs with Pathways to Youth for after school programs, and collaborated with the Kingston Indigenous Languages Nest (KILN).
- Public Programs balanced COVID-19 restrictions with health and safety measures to deliver family friendly programs on the weekends.
- Worked with Public Health to offer Maple Madness to the community in a safe way. Implemented new online registration and number capping per COVID-19 guidelines while still offering a safe space for the community to enjoy the festivities.
- Public Program staff provided support to other departments by assisting with document management, policy and standard operating procedure development, permits, and providing administration support for Education bookings.
- Staff continued to update website, point of sale, and payment technology to streamline workflow and provide enhanced customer service options for the community.

* COVID-19 restrictions and school restrictions were still felt in program area during 2022

** Rented skis on 9 days out of a possible 17 due to lack of snow or icy conditions

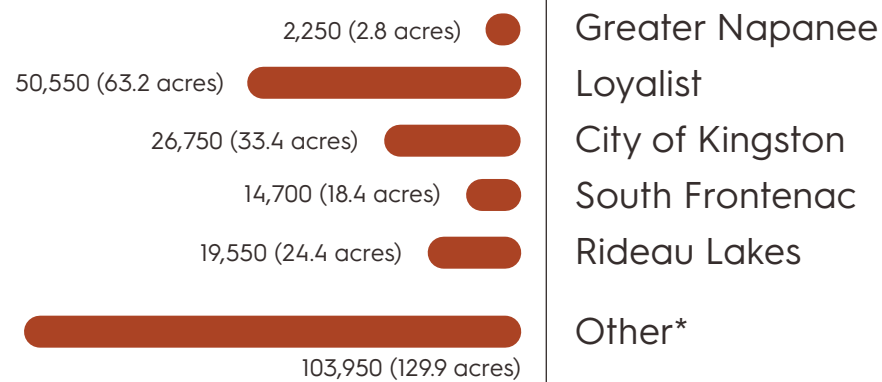
*** Rented snowshoes on 11 days out of a possible 17 due to lack of snow or icy conditions

Stewardship

Demonstrated leadership in tree planting, rural forestry management and shoreline protection

Cataraqui Conservation works with landowners and various forestry management partners to encourage stewardship of land and water. Staff provide information about tree planting, shoreline naturalization and invasive species. The program's main focus is on afforestation (new forests) and contributing to the overall forest cover in the Cataraqui Region to provide wind and water erosion protection, make poor land more productive and create/enhance wildlife habitat.

Number of Trees Planted by Municipality in 2022



Total: 217,750 trees (272.2 acres)

* Other: includes Wolfe, Simcoe and Howe Islands and a small section of Stone Mills.



2022 Projects & Initiatives



- Signed a **new planting partner contract with Tree Canada**
- **217,750 trees planted** in the Cataraqui Conservation watershed as part of Forest Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program, Highway of Heroes planting program, and Tree Canada's National Greening Program.
- **6,350 seedlings sold** over the counter to 15 landowners and groups.
- **Survival assessment completed on 376,150 trees** on 58 properties. This includes assessments for 2022 (1st year), 2021 (2nd year), and 2018 (5th year).
- Installed **new identification markers** on the **Assisted Migration Project** plots. **Forest Gene** staff visited the project to collect data on how the plots are doing.
- Initiated a **Hazard Tree Policy** for the Authority.
- **Natural Resources Canada** staff collected samples from the **Emerald Ash Borer parasitoid wasp research site** at Lemoine Point Conservation Area.



Development Review

Protecting people and property from natural hazards

Following the mandate outlined in provincial legislation and in accordance with service agreements with each of our member municipalities, Cataraqui Conservation's planning and permitting duties (collectively called Development Review) are focused on avoidance of natural hazards (e.g. flooding and erosion), protection of natural heritage resources (e.g. wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitat) and protection of the water quality and ecological integrity of the region's waterbodies and shorelines. Development Review responsibilities include providing comments on policy documents (e.g. Official Plans and comprehensive Zoning By-laws) and applications submitted under the Planning Act. In addition, Cataraqui Conservation is mandated to implement Ontario Regulation 148/06: Development Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses.*

Our planning and regulation services complement other Cataraqui Conservation resource management activities by directing development to areas that are not hazardous, maintaining natural features and ecological functions, and protecting water quality and quantity.

2022 Projects & Initiatives

- Initiated a five year update to the Guidelines for Implementing Ontario Regulation 148/06, the second of two key policy documents used for development review.
- Undertook several program improvements including development of electronic permit and plan review inspection forms, updates to key visual references, and a new application payments system with support from the City of Kingston through the Streamlining Development Approvals Fund.
- Staff provided input on a variety of new municipal planning documents including various Official Plans and Zoning By-laws. Most notably for 2022, South Frontenac Official Plan update and the County of Lennox & Addington Natural Heritage Strategy.
- Completed a research project in partnership with Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning for Ecological Offsetting in the Cataraqui Region that will form the basis for policy development.
- Held a Section 28 Permit Hearing for a large-scale, complex development file on the St. Lawrence River.
- Responded to a record number of formal and informal development inquiries, totaling 745.**

* Reflects Cataraqui Conservation's development role responsibilities for 2022, prior to Bill 23 changes that came into effect January 1, 2023.



826

Planning & Permit applications reviewed by staff

85.5%

of applications were met within municipal plan review targets

95.5%

of applications were met within Conservation Ontario service targets



2022 Plan Review and Permitting Activity

Number of Plan Review Files:

Athens	13
Brockville	12
Elizabethtown-Kitley	26
Front of Yonge	11
Gananoque	17
Greater Napanee	28
Kingston	45
Leeds & the Thousand Islands	90
Loyalist	34
Rideau Lakes	39
South Frontenac	52
Frontenac Islands	5

Number of Permit Application Files:

Athens	13
Brockville	10
Elizabethtown-Kitley	25
Front of Yonge	3
Gananoque	7
Greater Napanee	25
Kingston	65
Leeds & the Thousand Islands	128
Loyalist	21
Rideau Lakes	33
South Frontenac	68
Frontenac Islands	N/A

Total of 372 applications

85.5% met municipal review targets

Total of 398 applications

95.5% met guideline review targets

Watershed Science & Engineering

Maintaining the viability and sustainability of our most precious resources

Monitoring the health of our watersheds allows Conservation Authorities and their partners to better target programs and measure environmental change for the overall health and sustainability of our communities and their inhabitants. This includes an understanding of local flood, drought, and erosion hazards, conditions of local lakes and streams, forest and wetland cover, groundwater, and the health of fish and aquatic communities.

Cataraqui Conservation owns and/or operates 10 water control structures and uses data gathered from stream gauges, weather stations, snow survey sites, meteorologic forecasts, and computer models to forecast potential floods and drought conditions. As part of our responsibility to make the public aware of water levels, flood warning and drought condition messages are issued regularly to local municipalities, partner agencies, and the public.

2022 Projects & Initiatives

- Launched the Lake Reporting Dashboard to provide information on all lakes for the Cataraqui Region.
- Monthly review of low water thresholds and organization of the Low Water Response Team. No low water thresholds were indicated in 2022.
- Staff continued to support the planning and delivery of the annual Lake Links Workshop.
- Participated on a Sustainable Drainage Working Group to identify options to improve runoff quality in village settings.
- Assisted lake and watershed associations with technical advice and information.
- Staff dealt with high-water levels and flows on inland lakes and streams resulting from rainfall and wind events which were more frequent in 2022 than a "typical" year.
- Completed Operation Maintenance Safety and Surveillance (OMSS) Manual for the Buell's Creek Detention Basin.
- Staff led four spring freshet meetings with the four major water manager groups (Parks Canada, Portage Power, MNR, Cataraqui Conservation) to discuss watershed conditions, water levels, dam safety, coordination of operations, and inform flood messaging.
- Work began on the Wilton Road Dam Safety Study.
- Staff developed floodplain compensation guidelines to support the 2022 Regulations Update.



6 New remote water level sensors installed via watershed partnership

5 Locations monitored by staff and stream temperatures classified.

14 Watershed statements/flood messages issued

10 Annual inspections conducted on managed water control structures.





Drinking Water Source Protection

Dedicated to the quality of our municipal drinking water at its source

Clean, sustainable and abundant drinking water is important to us all. Under the Drinking Water Source Protection Program, Cataraqui Conservation staff work with local municipalities and stakeholders to implement the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan to ensure clean, safe and sustainable municipal drinking water sources (rivers, lakes, aquifers) are protected.

The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan is a locally developed plan of action to keep municipal sources of drinking water clean and plentiful. Implementation of the Plan is being carried out cooperatively amongst implementing bodies, through the Source Protection Committee, including municipalities, local health units, provincial ministries, Cataraqui Conservation, and others.

80 Per cent of Cataraqui Region residents that rely on municipal drinking water systems

68 Policies addressing drinking water threats in the Cataraqui Region

4 Risk management offices in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area

9 Intake Protection Zones

3 Wellhead Protection Areas



2022 Projects & Initiatives

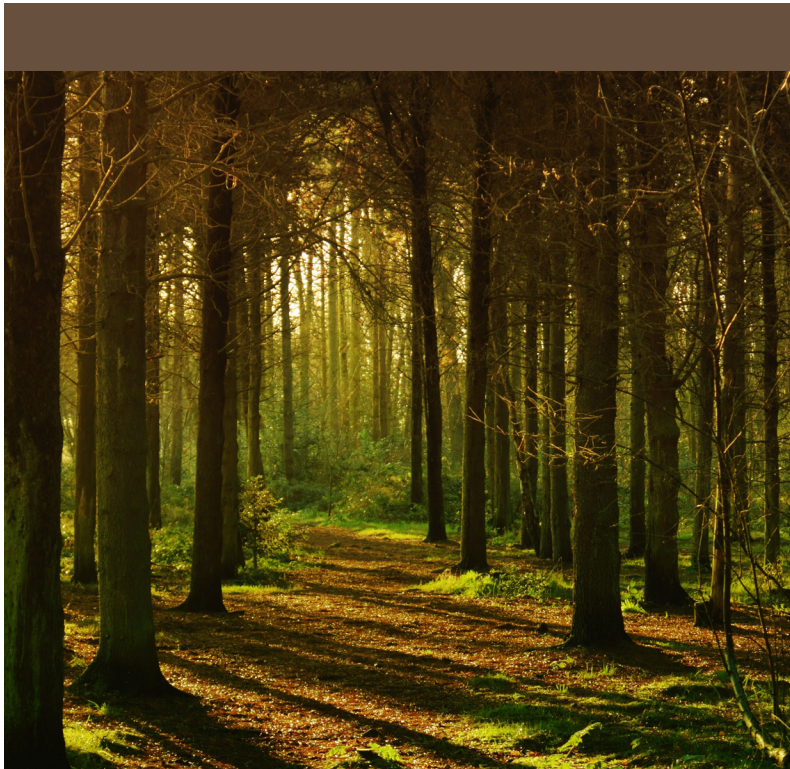
- Hosted a virtual municipal forum on Source Water Protection and Climate Change (impacts and mitigation) with speakers from Health Canada, Conservation Ontario, Lake Huron and Elgin Area Water Systems, and Loyalist Township.
- Hosted three Cataraqui Source Protection Committee meetings with eleven staff reports. Presented five staff reports at two Cataraqui Source Protection Authority meetings.
- Provided municipalities with information on the newly developed Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool through the Municipal Forum.
- Developed a municipal newsletter highlighting Source Protection efforts and information.
- Hosted working group meetings with Risk Management Officials and Municipalities to assist in the development of the ongoing amendment to the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan.
- Continued to provide resources such as the Groundwater Protection Workbook to the public and Cataraqui Source Protection Committee members and staff also took part in education and outreach at two fall fairs in eastern Ontario.

In 2022, staff worked to update the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report to include new provincial technical rules. The Plan and Assessment Report are undergoing a multi-year update process required under the Clean Water Act to refine policies, provide clarity, and include new data where applicable. Consultation for the amended Plan and Assessment Report will occur in 2023. Part of this work includes amendments regarding transportation corridors, salt management plans, handling and storage of fuel, and liquid hydrocarbon pipelines.

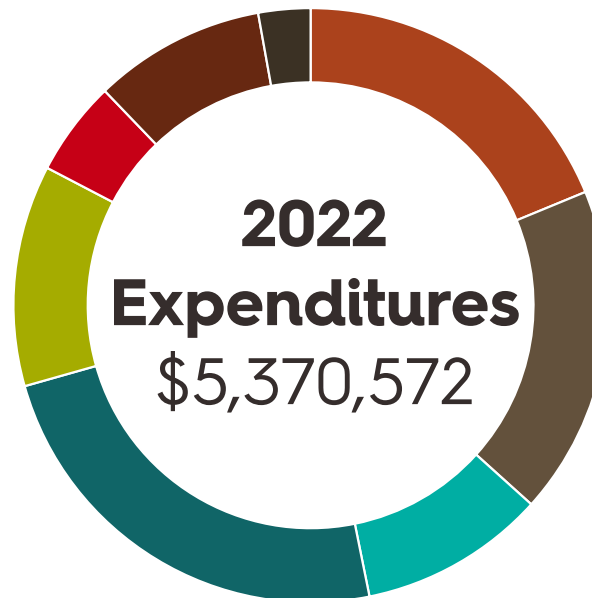
Conservation By the Numbers

Cataraqui Conservation was formed at the request of watershed municipalities and we rely on our partners to successfully implement our programs and services in the community. The foundation of Cataraqui Conservation's budget is a levy on partner municipalities. Staff strive each year to reduce costs, drive operational efficiencies and maximize other sources of revenue to supplement levy dollars and provide comprehensive and robust services to municipalities and watershed residents. Other sources that contribute to Cataraqui Conservation's budget include:

- Authority generated fees for education programs, rentals, conservation areas, permits and planning applications.
- Fundraising and support through the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation.
- Special levies to specific municipalities for projects and services.
- Grant dollars for students, projects, and infrastructure.
- Partnering with other Conservation Authorities on joint programming and grant opportunities for projects.



52%	Municipal Levy	\$2,788,752
1%	Federal Government	\$39,000
4%	Provincial Government	\$208,701
43%	Authority Generated	\$2,334,119



19%	Administration	\$1,008,330
18%	Corporate Services	\$961,633
10%	Education & Public Programs	\$544,715
24%	Conservation Lands & Operations	\$1,277,619
12%	Development Review	\$646,605
5%	Stewardship	\$277,765
9%	Watershed Science & Engineering	\$501,905
3%	Drinking Water Source Protection	\$152,000



Cataraqui
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