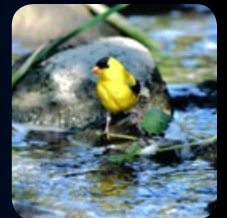


Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority



ANNUAL REPORT



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2009 brought with it many great triumphs for the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA); one in particular being the grand opening of the new Ganaraska Forest Centre (GFC).

After more than two decades of planning and development, we were proud to open the doors of the new Ganaraska Forest Centre on September 18th, 2009 to the public and the thousands of school children who visit each year. The new building is nearly 19,000 square feet and is an example of an environmental building featuring a green sod roof, solar energy, rain water harvesting and in floor radiant heating. The new centre allows for double the occupancy that the original Ganaraska Forest Centre offered. It is a multi-use facility that will continue to serve its main purpose of outdoor education, while bringing new ventures to the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority such as weddings, corporate retreats and hosting conferences.

The GRCA staff was busy with many other projects throughout the year. The staff continued to deliver the programs such as flood forecasting and warning, groundwater management and forest recreation. Watershed planning, geographical information systems and fisheries management also played an important role in the GRCA. Another initiative to continue with much success is the Clean Water – Healthy Land program which was offered by four participating municipalities in 2009.

While we look forward to another promising year ahead, we are proud of our achievements over the past year. This report details those accomplishments. At this time we wish to thank our members and staff for their dedication and support. Chair Brian Fallis would like to add his thanks to the Board members and staff for their support during 2009. He would like to express a special thank you to Ray Benns, Vice Chair who was able to step in to fill the Chair's role during Brian's absence.

We encourage you to review this report and we welcome your feedback.

Brian Fallis, Chair
Raymond Benns, Vice Chair
Linda Laliberte, CGA CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

THE GANARASKA FOREST

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE



SPECIAL THANKS

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority would like to extend our gratitude towards all those who provide their time to volunteer with our organization and support all of the programs and services offered through our authority. Thank you to those who assisted in the Ganaraska Forest recreational and forest management; especially the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club, as well as the individuals who provide continued effort towards our annual Ganaraska Forest Centre fundraising dinner, and especially those who took the time to be a part of the redevelopment of the Ganaraska Forest Centre. A special thanks goes to the *Building for Change* Fundraising Committee members, including; Paul Quantrill, Chair; Tom Behan; Penny Crawford; Kathy Foster; Jim Gilmer; Wendy Giroux; Trish Kulik; Elva Reid; Gord Robinson; Forrest Rowden; Kim Rudd; Dave Watson; Ted Watts; and Gary Woods. We thank you all very much.

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority would also like to thank the Ontario Federation of Trail Riders who partnered with the conservation authority and were responsible for securing federal funding through the National Trails Coalition, for trail work in the Ganaraska Forest.

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority would also like to express their sincere regret that long time Chair of the Ganaraska Forest Recreational Users Committee, Ian Tate, passed away in 2009. His hard work and dedication to the Authority has and will continue to be missed.



GANARASKA FOREST OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

The 2009 outdoor education program went through an exciting change moving in to the new Ganaraska Forest Centre in the fall. During 2009, 6,671 students visited the outdoor education centre, which is an increase of 500 students compared to the previous year and a 100% increase from 2004. All programs at the Centre are developed to meet expectations outlined in the Ontario Curriculum.

Once again our Nature Nuts summer camp met with great success with each camp running at capacity. Children ages 6-14 have the opportunity to participate in a multitude of activities, ranging from Crime Scene Investigation week to A Bug's Life.

2009 PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In 2009 the Ganaraska Forest Centre hosted several public programs including Family Ski Day; Owl Prowl; Maple Syrup Day; Mother's Day Wildflower Walk; Halloween Howl; Members Day and Open House. Response from the public was very positive and all events were well-attended.

FOREST RECREATION

The start of 2009 marked the second year in a row of excellent conditions for winter recreational activities in the Ganaraska Forest. Plenty of snow provided opportunities for great cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, and kept staff busy grooming over 40 km of ski trails.

May 1st is the official opening date of the forest for all recreational uses; the trails were busy with both passive and motorized users who were anxious to get out and enjoy the forest after a long winter.

Equestrian use seems to be increasing in popularity in the forest and in response to this, the horse trailer parking lot, located just east of the Ganaraska Forest Centre, was expanded in order to accommodate a larger number of horse trailers. Trailhead signage was improved at both the Forest Centre and the horse trailer lot with large full colour maps of the Central Forest.

While the construction of the new Ganaraska Forest Centre caused some disruption of the Forest Centre site, it had minimal impact on regular recreational use or on the many sporting events that were staged at the Forest Centre in 2009.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Ganaraska Forest continues to be managed under the direction of the 1998 Forest Management Plan, under the guidelines of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP).

There were no wild fires reported in the forest during the 2009 fire season. Many of the internal forest roads and trails were graded in the late summer and early fall in a joint operation between the Authority and the Ganaraska Snowmobile Club.

2009 showed no major outbreaks of any insects or disease in the forest, yet it continues to see endemic levels of both gypsy moth and pine false webworm. There is also an ongoing problem with red pine decline, especially in pockets in the older plantations.

Two timber contracts were awarded to selectively harvest various plantations in the Ganaraska Forest. The first contract was awarded to Gene Eng Forest Products of Uxbridge for the thinning of 146 hectares of red pine plantations in the east, central and west forests. The harvest included 5,454 cubic meters of posts, sawlogs and utility poles. The second contract was awarded to Herb Shaw and Sons of Pembroke to selectively harvest 1,020 red pine utility poles from 28 hectares in the central forest. Harvesting inspections were carried out on a weekly basis to make sure that contractors were complying with the terms and conditions of the contract, and minimizing damage during logging operations. A total of 193 hectares of plantation marking was completed for the selective harvest of conifer sawlogs and utility poles from the forest in 2010.

STEWARDSHIP

Clean Water–Healthy Land Financial Assistance Program

61 stewardship projects were funded in 2009 within local watersheds. Landowners, residents, community groups, schools and businesses within the Municipality of Clarington, Municipality of Port Hope, Township of Hamilton and Town of Cobourg can receive assistance to complete stewardship projects. Funding was also accessed through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program, Environmental Farm Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation and the Trees Ontario Foundation.

Tree Planting

40,500 trees were planted across the region in 2009. 8,700 trees were also purchased and planted directly by landowners. Some landowners received funding to subsidize the cost of planting.

Yellow Fish Road

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority, with the assistance of the 6th Cobourg Scouts, Notre Dame Elementary School and CDCI West, painted yellow fish next to 250 storm drains in the Town of Cobourg, and distributed fish-shaped brochures to households to educate residents about storm drain management.



WATERSHED MONITORING

The Gananaska Region Conservation Authority operates a comprehensive watershed monitoring program that includes surface water quality, baseflow, shoreline erosion, and wetland monitoring. From these programs the Authority gains a better understanding of the current watershed conditions and their long term trends. This information can be used to determine how watershed stressors such as road salt are impacting watershed health. Monitoring data forms the basis for many reports produced by the Gananaska Region Conservation Authority and their partners, such as Watershed Plans, which are created to protect and enhance natural watershed features that are important in maintaining watershed health.

WATERSHED PLANNING

The final stages of watershed management planning for Wilmot Creek, Graham Creek and the Gananaska River occurred in 2009. A watershed management plan was also initiated for Lovekin Creek, Bouchette Point Creek and Port Granby Creek watersheds. Four background reports were written to document the history and current conditions of the respective watersheds. Two Technical Review and Community Advisory Committees met to aid in the preparation of the Watershed Plans, which will be finalized in early 2010. Six public open houses were held to engage watershed residents in these important planning processes.

In conjunction with the watershed planning process, Check Your Watershed Day was held on July 18, 2009 in the Graham Creek, Lovekin Creek, Bouchette Point Creek and Port Granby Creek watersheds. Volunteers visited 92 stream-road crossings, taking basic measurements such as stream width, depth and flow. This information aids in the understanding of summer stream flow.





FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING

In 2009, two Flood Advisories were issued for high stream flows due to rain and snowmelt; while one Flood Advisory was issued for high water levels due to spring runoff to Rice Lake, which is part of the larger Trent River system. The Conservation Authority upgraded its monitoring network in 2009 by adding a stream gauging station on Graham Creek in Newcastle. Regular monitoring of snow conditions in the watershed and ice thicknesses in our river channels was conducted to understand the potential for flood situations.

GROUNDWATER PROGRAM

2009 was an exceptional year for the Groundwater Program. Staff completed analysis on long-term (2002 – 2009) groundwater level and groundwater quality data collected from the 17 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells. The PGMN wells were well-maintained, and two wells were instrumented with new telemetry systems. The surface water and groundwater interaction project continued to grow and seepage meters were used for groundwater discharge quantification in key watersheds.

The groundwater indicator project (Phase II) was completed and the final report was delivered to the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Steering Committee. During 2009, staff completed 59 site visits to residential water supply wells. Through these site visits, staff provided watershed residents with valuable technical support related to groundwater quantity, water sampling procedure, and domestic water treatment systems. Staff participated in the Ministry of Environment and Conservation Authority's Geosciences Group discussions, meetings, and workshops related to regulation of geothermal systems in Ontario.





TERRESTRIAL NATURAL HERITAGE

In 2009 extensive revisions and updates were completed for the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority's Ecological Land Classification (ELC) mapping. This product then served as the basis for analysis of habitat and land use cover, as well as natural heritage system mapping for the watershed reports.

It has been many years since studies were undertaken of the terrestrial coastal features of Lake Ontario, and with the demand for lakefront development, there is a growing need to document these. In 2009, the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority began inventorying species and mapping coastal vegetation for Durham region. Results of this study will lead to identification of sensitive features and recommendations for conservation and restoration.

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority has been involved in the Ganaraska Hills Area Caring for the Moraine partnership for 5 years. In this, the last year of the project, we helped to organize and participate in a series of workshops and walks designed to educate landowners about natural heritage features and issues on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

FISHERIES

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority conducted and partnered in a wide range of aquatic assessments, management, and research in 2009. Assessments focused on compiling aquatic resource data for the Wilmot, Graham, Lovekin, Bouchette Point, Port Granby, and Ganaraska watersheds into background reports, and worked towards completing Watershed Plans, Fish Habitat Management Plans, and Fisheries Management Plans, which are planned to be completed in 2010.

The sea lamprey weir on Cobourg Creek was monitored, and assisted researchers from the University of Guelph in examining sea lamprey movement and behaviour. Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority staff also adopted and monitored five long term fish monitoring sites from the Ministry of Natural Resources on Wilmot Creek, as well as continued to support the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program in Cobourg Creek watershed.





GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority's GIS department spent this year supporting many Watershed Services projects, including the continued partnership with the Town of Cobourg to manage the Town's GIS, as well as the Municipality of Port Hope to provide GIS and mapping support to all departments. The Authority has also expanded its GIS services to the Northumberland County GIS Cooperative; working with the other members of the Cooperative to develop a user needs assessment and a GIS Strategic Plan that will be reviewed and approved early in 2010. The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority is also host to the CAMaps.ca website in partnership with other Conservation Authorities, and Conservation Ontario, to provide a common Internet mapping application for Conservation Authorities.

PLAN REVIEW AND REGULATIONS

In 2009 the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority provided comment on a total of 52 municipally circulated Planning Act applications (i.e. severances, rezoning, minor variances). Comments with respect to natural hazards and recommendations on protection of natural heritage features and areas are provided to watershed municipalities, for consideration in their role as approval authority. Review and input on a total of 8 on-going subdivisions continued in 2009, in addition to 7 site plan applications for commercial or residential development. In addition, a total of 112 property information requests/legal inquiries were responded to.

Under this Authority's Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (Ont. Reg. 168/06) 60 permits for work around stream valleys or wetlands were issued. The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority continued to provide input and have involvement in the 407 East Environmental Assessment, sitting as members of the Regulatory Advisory Committee.



DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM

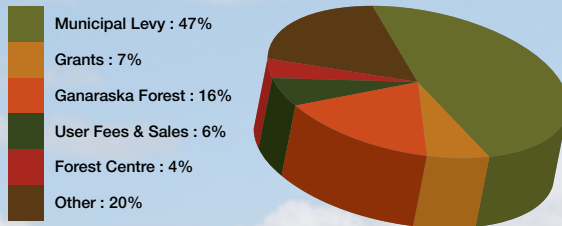
The Source Protection Committee asked for an extension on the submission date of the Assessment Report; with approval being granted for an extension to August 2010. Currently, a letter is being drafted by the Committee to seek a further extension to October 30, 2010; in part to allow for the appropriate length of time for consultation.

Within the Ganasaska Region Source Protection Area a public meeting took place at the Baltimore Community Centre on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 after the Source Protection Committee meeting. The purpose of this pre-consultation was to provide the general public and those that live in the vulnerable areas (who were formally invited), information regarding the science behind delineating the vulnerable areas, what it means to live in these areas, and the process to identify threats.

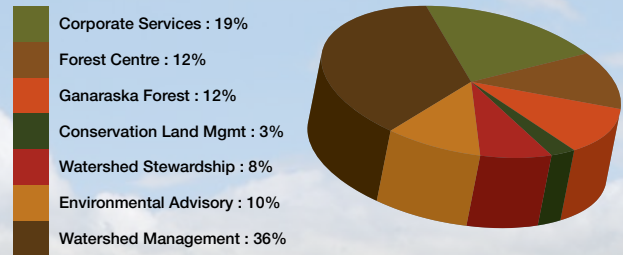
The introduction and watershed characterization chapter of the Ganasaska Region Source Protection Area Assessment Report has been drafted and is available for review. The watershed characterization chapter has been written to satisfy requirements of the *Clean Water Act*, its regulations and the technical rules.

The modeling for the Tier 2 Water Budget for Wilmot Creek (Orono Wellfield) was begun in 2009. The surface water model has been completed in house and is ready to be used. The groundwater model portion of the project is being currently prepared by consultants. The project is to be completed in early 2010.

REVENUES – (WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE BUILDING FOR CHANGE REVENUES/DONATIONS)



EXPENDITURES - (DOES NOT INCLUDE GFC REDEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES AND AMORTIZATION)



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2009 brought with it a change in accounting rules. The new reporting requirements introduced by Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB), section 3150, stated conservation authorities will be required to report tangible capital assets as assets (versus expenses) on the financial statements. In comparison to previous years' reporting, the financial statements will show how much has been spent on tangible capital assets, as well as the amount they have amortized (or decreased in value) since construction or purchase. In order to reflect comparative years, the 2008 column of the financial statements have been restarted to include the tangible capital assets and the corresponding amortization.

The 2009 budget totaled \$2,878,759. The general levy for 2009 was \$735,784.00 which represents about 27% of the total revenues for 2009.

This past year there were several capital projects within the Conservation Authority, which are mainly funded by the watershed municipalities. Some of the capital projects will be completed in 2009 while others will carry on into 2010.

The chart above shows the revenues for 2009. The levy shown is a combined total of general and benefiting levy. The Ganaraska Forest timber sales of \$277,268.00 and memberships of \$160,069.00 are included in the Ganaraska Forest revenue. The User Fees & Sales consist of the revenues from the stewardship programs, watershed services, as well as the water resources fees. The category of "Other" includes direct funded projects of the Conservation Authority. This includes \$293,679.00 for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Water Protection initiative for 2008. Also included in "Other" revenue is a \$174,964.00 for a direct funded project.

2009 GRCA Full Authority Board

Brian Fallis, Chair
Raymond Benns, Vice Chair
Mark Lovshin
Twila Marston
Cal Morgan
Linda Thompson
Bob Spooner
Miriam Mutton
Charlie Trim
Gord Robinson
David Marsh

Township of Cavan Monaghan
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
Township of Hamilton
Township of Hamilton
Municipality of Port Hope
Municipality of Port Hope
Town of Cobourg
Town of Cobourg
Municipality of Clarington
Municipality of Clarington
City of Kawartha Lakes

2009 Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Staff

Linda Laliberte
Mark Peacock
Magdi Widaatalla
Greg Wells
Jeff Moxley
Amy Griffiths
Bill Newell
Bob Penwell
Brian Curran
Brian Morrison
Christie Peacock
George Elgear
Jenny Dai
Joanne May
Ken Towle
Lisa Lawson
Madeline Whetung
Michelle Giddings
Mike Smith
Pam Lancaster
Ralph Shaw
Ryan Goodall
Sable Guttman
Shayne Pilgrim
Stephanie Hogg
Steve Nowak
Steve McMullen
Winnie Finnie

CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Director, Watershed Services
Manager, Watershed Services
Manager, Planning and Regulations
Manager, Geographical Information Systems/IT
Marketing and Communications Officer
Resource Technician (until July 2009)
Forester
GIS Technician
Fisheries Biologist
Water Resources Engineer
General Superintendent
Water Resource Technician (until Oct 2009)
Administrative Assistant, Planning and Regulations
Terrestrial Ecologist
Corporate Services Assistant (until Jan 2009)
Outdoor Education Instructor (as of May 2009)
Bookkeeper
Water Resource Technician
Stewardship Technician
Outdoor Education Instructor
Outdoor Education Instructor
Gatehouse Keeper (as of Sep 2009)
Forest Centre Technician
Gatehouse Keeper (until June 2009)
GIS Technician
Forest Recreation Technician
Forest Centre Cook

Welcome to the
GANARASKA
FOREST CENTRE



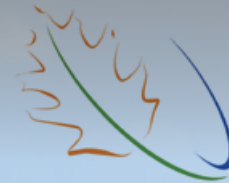


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Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority staff.



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