

February 23rd, 2024

Re: Changes to Section 28 and 29 Regulations effective April 1, 2024.

To the esteemed Councils of the Saugeen Watershed,

I wish to inform you of important legislative changes introduced by the Provincial Government, impacting Conservation Authorities. On February 16, 2024, Ontario Regulation 41/24, concerning "Prohibited Activities, Exemptions, and Permits," was announced and is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2024. This regulation alters the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's (SVCA) permitting process and the scope of activities permitted.

Key changes include narrowed review areas around significant wetlands and headwater streams and a reduction in SVCA's authority over wetlands and watercourse pollution. Conversely, enforcement capabilities for regulation violations have been strengthened, including the introduction of Stop Work Orders for SVCA Regulations Officers and increased fines for convictions, ranging from a maximum of \$50,000 for an individual to \$1,000,000 for a corporation per offense.

Additionally, Ontario Regulation 688/21 concerning "Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas" will be enacted.

No additional provincial funding will be provided to support the implementation of these changes, including the development of new maps, comprehensive policy documents, and public consultation efforts.

Saugeen Conservation staff are closely monitoring these developments and are committed to addressing the challenges posed by related deadlines. We will keep our member municipalities updated on our response and any further implications of these regulatory changes. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Erik Downing
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer (Acting)
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority