

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie,
Municipality of Brockton
Township of Chatsworth
Municipality of Grey Highlands
Town of Hanover
Township of Howick
Township of Huron-Kinloss
Municipality of Kincardine
Town of Minto
Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
Town of Saugeen Shores
Township of Southgate
Municipality of South Bruce
Township of Wellington North
Municipality of West Grey

October 31, 2025

Subject: Province of Ontario

To our Municipal Partners,

On October 31, 2025, the Province of Ontario issued a news release announcing its intent to create a new provincial agency to provide leadership and coordination for Ontario's Conservation Authorities. The announcement can be read here: [Ontario Creating New Conservation Authority Agency to Improve Service Delivery and Protect Communities](#)

At this stage, this is a proposal and will be followed by a 45-day consultation period through the Environmental Registry of Ontario. No legislative or operational changes have been made, and Conservation Authorities continue to operate as usual.

Saugeen Conservation, along with Conservation Ontario and our colleagues across the province, is reviewing the proposal and will provide comments during the consultation period. We appreciate the opportunity to be engaged and will share accurate information with our member municipalities as details emerge.

We want to assure you that there is no disruption to our programs, staffing, or services.

Our team continues to deliver all watershed-based programs and services under the Conservation Authorities Act and through our existing municipal agreements, including:

- Flood forecasting and warning, and natural hazard management
- Drinking water source protection
- Environmental planning and permitting
- Management of conservation areas and trails
- Stewardship and restoration projects
- Forestry and other land management work

It remains business as usual for watershed protection, and SVCA programs and services. Our staff remain focused on providing timely support to our fifteen member municipalities and local residents.

Conservation Authorities remain one of Ontario's most effective tools for balancing the province's urgent housing needs with the equally urgent imperatives of watershed protection and climate resilience. Across the province, CAs are already implementing standardized checklists, pre-consultation protocols, and clearer application requirements to streamline permitting and support housing delivery while protecting communities from flooding and erosion.

Saugeen Conservation will continue to:

- Deliver on all current municipal agreements
- Participate actively in the provincial consultation
- Provide clear and factual updates to our partners as new information becomes available

We value our strong relationships with our member municipalities and will continue to work collaboratively to protect our shared watersheds and communities.

Sincerely,



Erik Downing
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer
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