



Electronic Council Communication Information Package

Friday, December 5, 2025

The Electronic Council Communications Information Package (ECCIP) is an electronic package containing correspondence received by Staff for Council's information. This is an information package only and is not a meeting agenda for Council or Committee.

In accordance with the Procedural By-law, please advise the Municipal Clerk at Clerks@Kitchener.ca, if you would like to include one of these items on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee, along with the proposed resolution for disposition of the matter. Items will be added to the agenda if the Municipal Clerk is advised by Wednesday at noon the week prior to the appropriate meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. If you require assistance to take part in a city meeting or event, please call 519-741-2345 or TTY 1-866-969-9994.

	Pages
1. Region of Waterloo Correspondence	
1.1 None	
2. Other Municipal Correspondence	
2.1 GRCA - Correspondence Re Bill 68 and Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities (December 1, 2025)	3
2.2 Town of East Gwillimbury - Opposition to the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act (October 28, 2025)	16
2.3 Town of Parry Sound - Support Municipality of Wawa Re Alcohol Container Return System (December 2, 2025)	19
2.4 Town of Petrolia - Support City of Cambridge Re Rent Protection for Tenants (November 24, 2025)	24
2.5 Town of Rainy River - Support City of Kitchener Re Paper Billing (October 14, 2025)	25
2.6 Town of The Blue Mountains - Support Township of Tiny Re TC Energy	26

Pumped Storage (December 1, 2025)

2.7	Township of Puslinch - Support Other Municipalities Re Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (November 28, 2025)	27
2.8	Township of Southwold - Conservation Authority Consolidation (November 26, 2025)	35

3. Provincial / Federal Government Correspondence

3.1 None

4. Miscellaneous Correspondence

4.1 None



December 2, 2025

Re: Bill 68: *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2)* and the Proposed consolidating the 36 Conservation Authorities

Dear Grand River watershed Municipal Councils,

On October 31, 2025, the Province of Ontario announced its intention to create a new provincial agency, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to provide leadership and coordination across Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. These changes have now been enacted through Bill 68: *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2)*, which has received Royal Assent. As a result, the Conservation Authorities Act has been amended to formally establish the OPCA. Under this new framework, the OPCA will oversee governance, strategic planning, performance standards, and centralized permitting for all Conservation Authorities, led by a provincially appointed board.

On November 7, the Province also proposed consolidating the 36 Conservation Authorities into seven large regional authorities. While this proposal aims to address capacity gaps and improve consistency, it also poses several risks, including the potential loss of local priorities, watershed-specific expertise, and meaningful municipal input. Larger regional structures will distance decision-making from the local context, partnerships, and on-the-ground knowledge that have long supported effective watershed management. Their scale also raises concerns that diverse watershed needs may be overshadowed, local priorities diluted, and long-standing municipal relationships weakened. The GRCA encourages municipalities to submit comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) before the December 22, 2025 deadline.

The Province has indicated that these reforms aim to address long-standing challenges in the current system, including inconsistent capacity, outdated processes, and variability in permitting and service delivery. The GRCA acknowledges these challenges and supports efforts to improve consistency, efficiency, and technical capacity across Ontario.

On Friday, November 28, the GRCA Board of Directors met to formalize the organization's comments to the Province regarding both the creation of the new provincial agency and the proposed consolidation of the 36 Conservation Authorities into regional bodies. These comments reflect the GRCA's key concerns and recommended path forward.

The GRCA has identified several critical considerations to support a successful transition:

1. Scale of the Proposed Regional Model

The proposed regions are significantly larger than current watershed-based frameworks. This expansion of the proposed size could create new challenges, such as distance from local issues, slower decision-making, and difficulty maintaining local relationships; therefore, finding a balanced approach is essential. Smaller, regionally focused watershed models, such as the current Source Protection Regions, are proven regional models that demonstrate how a balanced governance structure can achieve consistency

and efficiency without sacrificing local responsiveness. By operating within manageable geographic areas, such as the Source Protection Regions, CAs can ensure that services are tailored to the unique environmental, social and economic characteristics of each watershed, while still benefiting from shared resources and standardized processes

2. Protection of Local Knowledge, Assets, and Investments

The GRCA maintains significant watershed-specific infrastructure, reserves, and land assets built through decades of watershed investment. Key concerns include the potential redistribution of well-developed GRCA reserves to support capital needs in other watersheds that have not made comparable investments, and the risk that the GRCA's mature and efficient infrastructure maintenance program could be weakened if resources become centralized or redirected. Clear assurances are required to ensure these resources remain dedicated to the watershed communities they were intended to serve.

3. Governance, Accountability, and Municipal Representation

The GRCA Board has significant concerns about the governance structure of the OPCA. The agency will report to a provincial ministry and be governed entirely by provincially appointed board members. At the same time, conservation authorities, and therefore municipalities, will be required to fund all or a portion of the agency's operations through the existing levy/apportionment process. This means that municipalities may ultimately contribute all or a significant share of OPCA's budget without having any meaningful role in shaping its governance, priorities, or strategic direction.

Additional clarity is also needed regarding the governance responsibilities of the new Regional Conservation Authority Boards. A strong Regional Conservation Authority Board must balance local accountability, fair representation, and operational efficiencies.

The GRCA supports modernization of the Conservation Authorities system but recommends a right-sized regional model more closely aligned with existing Source Protection Regions. This approach would advance provincial objectives for consistency and efficiency while preserving the strengths of watershed-based decision-making, municipal collaboration, and local responsiveness.

The GRCA Board has requested that this background information be shared with watershed municipalities along with a request for your support for the GRCA's concerns and proposed alternate model. A sample resolution for your consideration for submission is as follows:

"WHEREAS the Government of Ontario recently approved Bill 68, which establishes the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario is proposing the consolidation of the province's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional conservation authorities, including the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), which will be amalgamated amongst eight current authorities to become part of the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority (LERCA);

AND WHEREAS the 38 municipalities within the GRCA watershed boundaries today and the 81 municipalities that are proposed to make up the LERCA in 2027 will be levied to fund both the regional conservation authority as well as the provincial conservation agency;

AND WHEREAS the new organizations will result in the degradation of local governance, local fiscal accountability, local service delivery, local environmental focus

and unprecedented funding by local municipalities of both a large regional authority and a provincial agency;

AND WHEREAS the GRCA Board of Directors has responded to Bill 68 and the proposal for Conservation Authorities consolidation with a constructive and thoughtful alternative that retains local governance, local service delivery, local environmental focus and local fiscal accountability while responding constructively to the Government of Ontario's concerns about accountability, planning and responsiveness;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Chief Conservation Executive meet GRCA representatives to review the GRCA alternative proposal to Conservation Authorities consolidation;

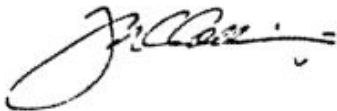
AND THAT the Minister and the Chief Conservation Executive seriously consider the GRCA proposal for conservation authorities as it enunciates a path forward that will address the Government's concerns most democratically and productively;

AND THAT this motion be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Environment, Conservation & Parks, Chief Conservation Executive and local Members of Provincial Parliament for their information and action, where appropriate."

The GRCA will continue to monitor the implementation of Bill 68 and the ERO proposal and will keep municipalities informed as additional details become available. The GRCA has already submitted its formal comments to the Province based on the Board-approved positions summarized above. A copy of the GRCA's comprehensive response to the ERO posting is attached for your reference.

If you have questions or would like a presentation to Council, please reach out to Samantha Lawson, CAO, at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Challinor II", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Challinor II, Chair
Grand River Conservation Authority

Grand River Conservation Authority

Report number: GM-11-25-104

Date: November 28, 2025

To: Membership of the Grand River Conservation Authority

Subject: Environmental Registry Posting 025-1257: Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities

Recommendation:

THAT Report Number GM-11-25-104 Environmental Registry Posting 025-1257: Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities be received as information.

Summary:

On October 31, 2025, Ontario announced its intent to modernize the Conservation Authorities system, including the introduction of Bill 68 to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA), a new provincial body intended to strengthen coordination and oversight. Shortly afterward, the Province released a proposal to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven larger regional bodies. Under this proposal, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) would become part of the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority, an area covering approximately 25,000 km² and 81 municipalities. The Environmental Registry posting invites feedback on proposed boundaries, governance structures, transition processes, and approaches to maintaining strong municipal and community relationships throughout the transition.

The GRCA Board recognizes the value in modernizing the current system and supports efforts to enhance consistency, improve permitting, modernize technical standards, and strengthen coordination across Ontario. A more cohesive framework has the potential to address long-standing capacity gaps and provide clearer expectations for municipalities, the development sector, and the public. However, the Board remains concerned that the scale of the proposed regional consolidation may be too large to preserve the strengths that have historically made watershed management successful in Ontario. Effective watershed governance relies on strong connections to local needs, priorities, and knowledge, which in turn guide natural hazard management, shape infrastructure decisions, and strengthen watershed health, stewardship programs, and community partnerships. A region spanning 81 municipalities risks weakening local accountability, distancing decision-making from watershed-specific realities, and diluting the local focus that is foundational to effective watershed management. Moreover, if municipalities are expected to continue funding conservation authority operations, including the new regional structures and potentially the OPCA, municipalities will require a strong governance model that ensures meaningful municipal input, influence, and direction on watershed issues.

The GRCA further notes that consolidation at this scale could impact long-standing watershed investments, including approximately \$1 billion in flood management infrastructure and 50,000 acres of conservation lands that have been managed in alignment with watershed priorities for decades. Maintaining the direct link between funding, local decision-making, and watershed needs is essential to sustaining this work.

The Board believes the Province's modernization goals can still be achieved more effectively through a refined, right-sized regional model aligned with the scale of existing Source Protection

Regions. Such an approach would strengthen province-wide consistency and capacity while preserving meaningful municipal involvement and ensuring that watershed management continues to be guided by the local priorities, expertise, and partnerships that have long supported effective conservation across Ontario.

Report:

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 36 Conservation Authorities. The stated aim of the agency is to improve consistency, accountability, and efficiency across the conservation authorities system, particularly in the areas of permitting, planning, and watershed management.

On November 6, the Province introduced Bill 68: *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2025 (No. 2)*. Schedule 3 of the Bill proposes amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* that would enable the establishment of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). Under the proposed framework, the OPCA would oversee the governance framework of the new regional conservation authorities, exercise authority over their operations, and recover costs and expenses through apportionment to those authorities. The agency would also be responsible for assessing, reporting on, and providing direction regarding regional finances, strategic planning, performance standards, and centralized permitting, as well as advising the provincial government on the progress of regional authorities. Governance of the OPCA would rest with a provincially appointed board of 5 to 12 members. Bill 68 has passed First Reading and is currently in its Second Reading, with Royal Assent anticipated in short order.

On November 7, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) seeking feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional conservation authorities, organized primarily along watershed boundaries. The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) is proposed to be included in the Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority. This Regional Conservation Authority will consolidate the following conservation authorities: Essex Region, Lower Thames, St. Clair Region, Upper Thames River, Kettle Creek, Catfish Creek, Long Point Region, and the Grand River. The area of this Regional Conservation Authority is approximately 25,000km² and includes 81 municipalities; no upper-tier municipalities are listed. The posting also contains five consultation questions relating to the transition into regional conservation authorities, governance considerations, and approaches to ensure strong relationships with municipalities and communities within the new structure. The ERO posting is open for public comment until December 22, 2025.

The Chair and the CAO have attended meetings with provincial staff and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to discuss the proposed OPCA and the associated ERO posting. The Chair and the CAO also participated in a recent special meeting of the Conservation Ontario Council on Schedule 3 of Bill 68 and the ERO posting to gain a clearer understanding of the perspectives and approaches of other conservation authorities and Conservation Ontario. The Province hosted a webinar for Conservation Authorities to highlight key components of the ERO proposal and answer questions. In addition, the GRCA's Conservation Authorities Act Ad-hoc Committee met to review the proposed legislative amendments and the ERO posting and provided direction to staff in preparing the comments outlined below.

ERO Questions and Responses

1. What do you see as Key Factors to support a successful transition and outcome of the regional conservation authorities consolidation?

A new regional conservation authority must be grounded in the fundamentals that ensure effective watershed management, which include:

- protecting life and reducing property damage from flooding and erosion;
- supporting municipal partners, the development community, and landowners with timely, reliable service;
- enhancing the economic, environmental, and community health of the watershed;
- providing meaningful opportunities for people to connect with nature; and,
- continually evolving as an organization to meet the demands of a rapidly growing region

Maintaining this clear, locally informed focus will be essential for the success of any new regional conservation authority. The following suggestions are some considerations to support a successful transition:

- I. Development of a Transition Plan: There needs to be a clear, phased transition plan to help avoid any service disruptions during the transition process. This plan must provide a detailed roadmap that clearly outlines timelines, milestones, and phasing. During this transition phase, the province will need to clearly identify roles and responsibilities during the “in-between” period when multiple similar but distinct organizations are merging. Communication of this plan must also be shared with regional watershed municipalities and other interest holders, such as the development/homebuilders' sectors, the agricultural sector, and other groups that require approvals or receive deliverables from various programs and services. This level of planning is essential because the proposed boundaries represent major watershed restructuring and the merging of multiple complex organizations, which requires coordinated efforts that cannot be rushed. A longer implementation timeline would ensure that these issues are fully considered and addressed. In addition, phasing in the required standards, guidelines, and directives across all conservation authorities before consolidation could provide greater stability. This phased approach would avoid multiple significant changes occurring at the same time, reduce the risk of disruptions to program delivery, and create conditions for a more effective and successful consolidation process.
- II. Retention of Local Knowledge and Staff Expertise: Retaining staff and preserving local watershed knowledge is critical to the success of the new regional conservation authorities. This knowledge is rooted in a deep understanding of historic and current land uses, cultural connections to watersheds, and the community values, needs, and stewardship priorities that shape local decision-making. Effective watershed management depends on integrated expertise in hydrology/hydraulics, natural hazards, ecology, creating connections to the watershed features and planning, as well as familiarity with the unique conditions of each sub-watershed. Conservation authorities depend on strong, established partnerships with a wide range of local groups and interest holders, including municipalities, community and stewardship organizations, private landowners, farmers, and the development industry, to deliver their programs and services effectively and address new or emerging watershed challenges. These partnerships are crucial for navigating complex regulatory frameworks, accessing funding programs, and advancing projects that provide both environmental and economic benefits. Preserving this network, and the staff who hold this knowledge, is vital during consolidation, as experienced personnel carry the institutional memory and trust that communities depend on. Staff retention ensures continuity, protects decades of cultivated relationships, and supports a smooth transition that maintains both service quality and community confidence in the new regional authority.
- III. Comprehensive Communication Strategy: A clear and well-coordinated communication strategy will be essential to support the transition from individual watershed-based

authorities to larger regional conservation authorities. This strategy must provide timely and accessible information on the new regional boundaries, updated points of contact, any changes to permitting or operational processes, and how municipal relationships and responsibilities will function throughout the transition period. Its success will depend on province-wide, consistent messaging that reinforces shared objectives while also incorporating region-specific details and local implementation examples to maintain familiarity and trust. Early outreach to municipalities, Indigenous communities, landowners, agricultural groups, developers, and other key interest holders will help set expectations and reduce uncertainty. A variety of communication tools, such as dedicated transition webpages, FAQs, newsletters, continued access to the province's interactive boundary maps, direct email briefings, and social media updates, can ensure information is accessible and tailored to different audiences. Personalized engagement, including town halls, small-group stakeholder meetings, and one-on-one conversations with municipal representatives, will provide opportunities to address region-specific questions and reinforce local connections. Establishing clear escalation pathways, contact lists, and creating a transition-specific regional service desk will further support clarity. Together, these measures will help create a consistent, transparent, and responsive communication approach that builds confidence and supports a smooth transition to the new regional watershed model.

Another key factor to consider during the transition to amalgamation is protecting watershed reserves, infrastructure, and land assets. Many watershed municipalities and the GRCA are concerned about how their locally funded reserves, land assets, and long-term capital programs will be treated within an amalgamated structure. Strong assurances are needed to ensure that assets built over decades through local investment are not diverted to support unrelated regional priorities.

The GRCA owns approximately \$1 billion in floodplain infrastructure, supported by an efficient maintenance and capital renewal program and healthy reserves intentionally built to support lifecycle and risk-management needs. In addition, the GRCA owns approximately 50,000 acres of land, including conservation areas, ecological lands, water management properties, and other lands, each acquired and managed in accordance with long-standing watershed-specific priorities.

In an amalgamation or consolidation into a larger regional entity, strong protective measures are required to ensure that the GRCA's resources and assets are maintained in ways that continue to support long-standing watershed priorities. Key concerns include the potential redistribution of well-developed GRCA reserves to support capital needs in other watersheds that have not made comparable investments, and the risk that the GRCA's mature and efficient infrastructure maintenance program could be weakened if resources become centralized or redirected. GRCA watershed municipalities have emphasized that the GRCA's 50,000 acres of land must receive the same level of stewardship attention as existing infrastructure and financial reserves, including the protection of passive recreation trails that hold significant local value. Long-standing conservation and land management priorities, along with the community benefits provided by these local trails, must remain stable under any regional model. Protective measures must also ensure that resources for flood protection, capital renewal, and land management remain dedicated to the watershed where they originated, and that high-performing programs are not required to subsidize deferred maintenance in less-resourced areas. Additional concerns relate to the possibility that reduced local decision-making authority could limit the ability of municipalities and the GRCA to safeguard the intent and priorities attached to these important assets. These concerns can be mitigated by establishing clear financial and reserve-protection policies, maintaining watershed-level tracking of revenues and expenditures, creating transparent and equitable capital prioritization frameworks, preserving local advisory roles through watershed-based committees, and ensuring that land,

infrastructure, and reserve management practices respect existing infrastructure needs, stewardship commitments, and long-standing community investments.

A further consideration is the amalgamation of organizations with separate supporting foundations; in such cases, ensuring the integrity of fundraising is critical. Donors often prefer to support initiatives at the watershed or community scale, where the impacts of their contributions are visible and tied to local priorities. A regionalized model risks diluting this connection, potentially affecting donor engagement and revenue. To maintain donor confidence, an amalgamated structure must include mechanisms to preserve watershed-based fundraising and reporting, and publicly acknowledge donors in ways that reflect the specific locations/projects they choose to support rather than treating all contributions as part of a single regional fund.

2. What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?

Consolidating conservation authorities into a regional framework can create more consistent permitting practices, technical standards, and service levels across municipalities, reducing the variation that currently exists between the 36 agencies. A unified structure also supports stronger alignment with provincial expectations through shared permitting systems, common GIS platforms, and standardized public portals that modernize service delivery and improve accessibility.

Consolidation can also lead to a more equitable distribution of resources, giving smaller or rural municipalities access to specialized expertise that may have been limited by local budgets or staffing. Larger organizations are generally better positioned to secure federal or provincial funding for broader, high-impact projects.

The administrative framework in place at larger organizations also provides an opportunity for efficiency, as they have subject matter experts who perform dedicated internal service roles. These roles can be leveraged in consolidation to provide dedicated attention to organizational compliance, such as health and safety legislation, and risk management.

The size of each regional unit is a very important consideration. Consolidating too many areas into one very large authority can create new challenges, such as distance from local issues, slower decision-making, and difficulty maintaining community relationships; therefore, finding a balanced approach is essential. A regional model can still support strong local representation and responsiveness when designed thoughtfully. Municipal priorities can be maintained through governance structures that include voices from all participating municipalities, supported by sub-regional offices and advisory committees that keep decision-making connected to local needs. Harmonizing policies and fee structures can be done collaboratively, providing opportunities for municipalities and interest-holder groups to help shape fair and consistent standards for the region. Setting clear service expectations, such as defined response times, local points of contact, and accessible public information, helps to ensure that a larger agency remains responsive and reliable.

Greater consistency across policies, standards, and processes also creates a more stable operating environment for municipalities, developers, and the public. When expectations are predictable (clear permitting requirements, uniform fees, and consistent timelines), people can plan with more confidence. By using its (proposed) authority to create directives that support these elements, the OPCA can further reinforce this predictability and clarity. This stability strengthens customer service because staff use the same tools and guidance across the region, reducing confusion and delays. Ultimately, consistent service delivery helps ensure that watershed communities receive the same level of support regardless of their size or location, provided the regional units are scaled in a way that supports both efficiency and meaningful local engagement.

3. Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up and the municipal representative appointment process?

A successful governance model for the new regional conservation authorities must balance local accountability, fair representation, and operational efficiency. In regions with very large numbers of municipalities, such as the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority, which would include at least 81 municipalities, a one-member-per-municipality board is unrealistic and would make strategic decision-making extremely difficult. A streamlined, revised Board of Directors is therefore essential.

A revised Board structure should be small enough to function strategically while still representing the diversity of the watershed. A board of approximately 25–30 members, similar to the Board of Directors for the GRCA, could achieve this balance if seats are allocated proportionally by population and geography and with regard to financial contribution. To avoid concentration of influence, no single municipality should be able to dominate board decisions. The new Board should contain elected officials only. Shorter board terms could be introduced to promote shared leadership, especially in cases where several municipalities are represented through a single grouped seat. At the regional level, the Board would retain independent responsibility for the budget, hearings, staffing decisions, policy approval, and overall governance authority.

To maintain strong local accountability while keeping the main board streamlined, the governance model should incorporate a clear subcommittee and advisory structure. Local Watershed Advisory Committees could be established for each major watershed or sub-basin (e.g., Grand, Thames, St.Clair, etc), composed of municipal councillors and/or citizen appointees. These committees would provide advice for local context on program policy, advise on watershed-level programs and services, and offer input on budget priorities. Additional advisory committees at either regional or watershed scale could be created based on local needs, such as agricultural advisory groups or home-builder liaison committees. Given the presence of approximately seven First Nations within the proposed regional area, an Indigenous Advisory Circle would support meaningful engagement and ensure that Indigenous perspectives are incorporated respectfully and consistently into decision-making.

Under a consolidated Conservation Authority framework, the governance model should:

- Maintain a small, strategic, and efficient board.
- Ensure strong local and watershed-specific input through subcommittees and grouped representation.
- Provide fair, transparent representation across the jurisdiction.
- Protect the voices of rural, agricultural, and small municipalities.
- Ensure that local program priorities (e.g., Wastewater Optimization, Rural Water Quality Programs, etc.) continue to be addressed.
- Deliver consistent, predictable, and accountable decision-making across the jurisdiction.

This structure supports efficiency and coordination while preserving meaningful local input. It helps ensure that the new conservation authority can operate effectively at a larger scale without compromising its responsiveness to the communities it serves.

The relationship between the Regional Conservation Authority Board and the OPCA is not clearly defined in the proposed model, and this lack of clarity may have significant implications for governance effectiveness. If the OPCA operates as a highly centralized umbrella board with substantial authority over regional conservation authorities, the independence and responsibility traditionally held by regional boards could be greatly reduced. A diminished governance role would make it far less likely that qualified individuals (both municipal representatives and, if permitted, citizen appointees) would be willing to serve on regional boards, as the scope for meaningful decision-making and local accountability would be substantially constrained. Clear

articulation of roles and authorities will be essential to avoid undermining board capacity, local engagement, and accountability.

4. Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?

A transparent and consultative budgeting process for a larger regional conservation authority requires a clear, consistent, and accessible approach that supports all participating municipalities, regardless of size or capacity. Establishing a standardized multi-year budget framework can improve predictability and help municipalities plan their own budgets effectively.

A transparent apportionment formula based on criteria such as assessment value, population, and portion of watershed area located within municipalities is currently used and could be used moving forward. Where portions of municipalities are in different conservation authority jurisdictions, consideration could be given to geo-referencing property tax assessment roll numbers so that the apportionment calculation is based on current value assessment (CVA) in a watershed rather than the percentage of geographical area applied to the municipality's total CVA.

To maintain meaningful local input within a large region, a Municipal Budget Advisory Committee could be established as a sub-committee of the Regional Board, and could include membership from the local watershed advisory committees, including both rural and urban municipality representation. Additionally, sub-regional or watershed-based consultation meetings could be held to ensure that local priorities and capital needs are considered in budgeting decisions. Budget documents should be publicly available, written in clear language, and shared/consulted on early enough to align with municipal budget cycles. Offering multiple engagement opportunities, for example, presenting at councils when requested, providing virtual workshop sessions, soliciting written feedback, and conducting one-on-one briefings, ensures that any municipality, regardless of size and location, can participate fairly in the process. Finally, reporting back on municipal input, producing accessible annual financial reports, and clearly and consistently distinguishing between Category 1, 2, and 3 program and service costs, revenues, and grant funding all reinforce transparency and accountability.

5. How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?

Regional conservation authorities can maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and interest-holders by staying deeply connected at the local municipal level, even as they operate on a broader scale. The size of each regional authority is critical: if the conservation authority becomes too large, municipalities risk being under-represented, and their specialized watershed needs, such as agricultural programs/issues, drinking water management, localized flooding concerns, or unique outdoor experiences and priorities, can become diluted within a large administrative structure. Municipalities want assurance that scaling up will not cause their distinct issues to be overshadowed by larger population centres or to become a lesser priority due to the increased diversity of issues and competing interests that will inevitably exist within a much larger jurisdiction. A balanced, right-sized regional framework preserves this visibility and ensures that local concerns remain central to decision-making.

Maintaining watershed offices, expertise in local issues and knowledge, ability to maintain on the ground presence, and consistent points of contact ensures that residents, businesses, farmers, and municipalities can easily access staff who understand their watershed's specific conditions and community priorities. With the proposed size of regional conservation authorities, establishing local watershed-specific advisory committees ensures that decisions are grounded in local knowledge and that specialized concerns are effectively addressed.

Finally, ensuring service delivery remains responsive, through timely permitting, accessible staff, and clear pathways for raising concerns, helps communities feel heard and supported during and after the transition to a regional model. A thoughtfully sized regional authority can achieve the benefits of consolidation while still preserving the visibility, voice, and specialized needs of every watershed and municipality.

Additional Comments

The GRCA is providing additional comments on the proposed OPCA and offering an alternative regional consolidation model that we believe will effectively address the Province's concerns while preserving strong local engagement and watershed-focused decision-making.

Modernizing Conservation Authorities While Preserving Local Responsiveness

The Board recognizes and respects the Province's concerns regarding the current state of Conservation Authorities. Over time, the conservation authority system has become fragmented, with varying levels of capacity, outdated processes, and inconsistencies in service delivery. Individual conservation authorities also face significant disparities in size and resources, with some lacking access to modern tools, technology, and technical expertise needed to deliver certain programs and services effectively, as well as the capacity to support evidence-based decision-making. We acknowledge that these capacity gaps mean some conservation authorities face challenges in sustainably delivering the full range of programs and services expected of them. Modernization is needed, and there is clear value in creating a permitting system that is further streamlined, more transparent and predictable, and better able to support economic growth, reduce delays, and protect watershed communities. Likewise, reducing duplication, adopting consistent standards, and leveraging shared technology and internal services are sensible and necessary steps toward strengthening Ontario's overall watershed management framework. From this perspective, consolidation can help address real issues by improving coordination, enhancing efficiency, and enabling more reliable service delivery across the province.

At the same time, the GRCA Board has significant concerns that the proposed regional model is too large in scale to be effective. While consolidation can help address capacity challenges, overly expansive regions risk weakening the very principles that have made watershed-based management successful. The Grand River watershed is a notable example. Established in 1934, the Grand River Conservation Commission, one of the founding organizations of today's GRCA, has long demonstrated that effective watershed management relies on strong collaboration with municipal partners and on programs designed to meet watershed-specific needs and issues. This locally grounded approach has allowed decisions to be informed by practical, locally based knowledge and supported by strong, responsive relationships with the municipalities and communities most directly affected. For example, the Grand River watershed has a network of flood-management infrastructure, including multipurpose reservoirs, dikes, and flood-control berms. These structures form an integrated system operated and maintained through close collaboration between the GRCA and watershed municipalities. Sustaining this partnership is essential to ensuring the effective operation and upkeep of flood-management infrastructure, as well as protecting lives and reducing property damage caused by flooding and erosion. A regional structure that is too broad may unintentionally distance decision-making from this essential local context. It can also reduce meaningful municipal participation, which is vital to maintaining public trust and effective environmental stewardship across Ontario.

Smaller, regionally focused watershed models, such as the current Source Protection Regions, are a proven regional watershed model and demonstrate how a balanced governance structure can achieve consistency and efficiency without sacrificing local responsiveness. This scale aligns well with having one effective governance board over multiple organizations, science-based watershed boundaries, and support for coordinated planning among municipalities. It also helps maintain decision-making at a scale where local knowledge and community involvement

remain strong and effective, while accounting for the need for grouped CAs to share and manage technical resources. The current number of Source Protection Regions in Ontario is 19. By operating within manageable geographic areas, they ensure that services are tailored to the unique environmental, social, and economic characteristics of each watershed, while still benefiting from shared resources and standardized processes.

In summary, the GRCA Board agrees that modernization is needed and that consolidation, when appropriately scaled, can address real capacity and consistency issues. However, a balanced approach that enhances efficiency without eroding local engagement is essential. A refined model aligned with the scale and logic of existing source water protection regions would better meet provincial objectives while preserving the strengths of Ontario's long-standing watershed-based planning and management system. Consideration could also be given at this stage to whether a Provincial Agency would be required to support and implement this model.

Assessing the OPCA: Benefits, Risks, and the Importance of Local Oversight

The GRCA Board recognizes the Province's intention in establishing the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to modernize the conservation authority system in a way that supports timely development and local infrastructure projects, while strengthening the essential role conservation authorities play in managing watersheds and protecting communities from floods and other natural hazards. These goals are both important and necessary. A system that delivers services more consistently, transparently, and predictably will benefit municipalities, developers, and communities alike, particularly as Ontario continues to grow and climate-related risks intensify. The GRCA Board agrees that modernization is needed and supports efforts to enhance both efficiency and environmental protection across the province.

The creation of the OPCA aims to provide centralized leadership, efficient governance, and strategic direction for all conservation authorities. In principle, this offers several clear advantages: a coordinated provincial body can help ensure faster, more consistent permitting and provide the oversight needed to align conservation authorities with modern standards and best practices. By strengthening core watershed management functions and focusing on natural hazard protection, the OPCA has the potential to reinforce the foundational mandate of conservation authorities. This direction is appropriate, as communities across Ontario depend on timely, science-based decisions to address increasing flood risks, aging infrastructure, and complex development pressures.

The OPCA will also lead several key modernization initiatives, including developing a single digital permitting platform, standardizing service delivery through province-wide performance expectations, and supporting updated floodplain mapping to ensure decisions are grounded in the best available data. These initiatives have the potential to significantly improve customer service, reduce delays, and enhance consistency across the province. Likewise, centralized data systems and modern tools can help staff make better, evidence-based decisions. Streamlining processes and reducing duplication are logical steps toward a more efficient and reliable permitting system.

The agency will also oversee the implementation of a regional, watershed-based consolidation of conservation authorities. The GRCA Board understands the rationale for consolidation, addressing disparities in size and capacity, modernizing outdated processes, and ensuring that all conservation authorities can meet provincial expectations. With stronger tools, shared technology, and enhanced technical resources, many of the conservation authorities will indeed be better positioned to deliver high-quality services. Ensuring that updated maps, hydrologic modelling, and modern data platforms are available across Ontario is essential support to help provide consistent natural hazard management.

The GRCA Board is concerned about the proposed governance structure of the OPCA. As currently designed, the agency will report to a provincial ministry and be governed entirely by

provincially appointed board members. At the same time, conservation authorities, and therefore municipalities, will be required to fund all or a portion of the agency's operations through existing levy/apportionment processes. This means that municipalities may ultimately contribute all or a significant share of the OPCA's budget without having any meaningful role in shaping its governance, its priorities, or its strategic direction. For municipalities that rely heavily on conservation authority guidance for land-use planning, hazard management, infrastructure development, and emergency response, this creates a disconnect between financial responsibility and decision-making influence.

Not only would this be a precedent-setting method for funding a provincial agency, it also establishes a system in which municipalities help fund a provincial agency but have no formal avenue to participate in its oversight, which raises significant concerns about accountability, responsiveness, and the long-term alignment of provincial direction with local needs. The scale of the proposed regional conservation authority consolidation model amplifies these concerns. Larger regional conservation authorities risk limiting opportunities for local input and reducing the nuanced, watershed-specific decision-making that has historically made conservation authorities effective.

The GRCA Board acknowledges the Province's desire for greater consistency, efficiency, and alignment across conservation authorities and supports these goals. This could be achieved under the current model through additional regulations and verifying compliance at all conservation authorities, or it could be achieved through the actions of the new agency. Regardless, modernization efforts must maintain a strong connection to local priorities, local expertise, and municipal perspectives. Achieving the right balance between centralized oversight and meaningful local involvement will be key to ensuring the OPCA strengthens watershed management across Ontario while preserving the collaborative principles that have long underpinned successful conservation work in the province.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the GRCA Board supports the Province's goal of modernizing Ontario's conservation authority system and acknowledges the value of enhancing consistency, efficiency, and technical capacity throughout the province. The Board has emphasized the importance of a thoughtful, well-planned transition, the preservation of local knowledge and municipal relationships, and the need for a governance model that ensures accountability to the municipalities that will both rely on and will continue to fund the new system. While consolidation offers meaningful opportunities, the scale of the proposed regional structure and the governance framework of the OPCA present risks that could weaken local responsiveness and watershed-based decision-making. A more balanced, right-sized regional model, grounded in strong municipal involvement and science-based watershed boundaries, would better achieve the Province's objectives while maintaining the strengths, partnerships, and community trust that have defined conservation authority work in Ontario for decades.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Other Department Considerations:

Not applicable.

Submitted by:

Samantha Lawson
Chief Administrative Officer

October 28, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: East Gwillimbury's Opposition to the *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*.

For your information and records, at its meeting of Municipal Council held on October 21, 2025, the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury enacted as follows:

WHEREAS on April 17, 2025, the Government of Ontario brought forth Bill 5: "Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy", a broad omnibus legislation that introduces sweeping changes to multiple environmental and planning statutes, including the Environmental Assessment Act, Endangered Species Act, Ontario Heritage Act, and others; and

WHEREAS this legislation was passed through the legislature in 49 days, thus limiting opportunities to provide feedback; and

WHEREAS Bill 5 received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

WHEREAS the "Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy" Act, 2025 enables the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which allow the provincial cabinet to exempt projects from compliance with municipal bylaws, environmental protections, and Indigenous consultation obligations; and

WHEREAS lands under protection through various provisions, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt Protected Countryside, constitute 83% of the total EG area, which makes EG relevant in environmental stewardship for the Region and the Province; and

WHEREAS the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan are foundational to protecting the ecological and hydrological integrity of the region, and the provisions in the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 directly conflict with the objectives of these plans; and

Town of East Gwillimbury

19000 Leslie Street, Sharon, Ontario L0G 1V0 | 905-478-4282 | Fax: 905-478-2808
www.eastgwillimbury.ca

WHEREAS in alignment with the 2022 – 2024 Strategic Plan, EG Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2023 and approved the EG's Thinking Green Environmental Strategy in 2024, highlighting EG's commitments and efforts to preserve and restore the environment as EG grows; and

WHEREAS the Town of East Gwillimbury achieved 92% of its 2024 housing target, regardless of current environmental provisions, demonstrating that promoting sustainable growth is not only responsible but necessary;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, but expresses serious concerns with the Act as it interferes with local planning, limits public consultation, is inconsistent with the principles of free, prior and informed consent in consultation processes with Indigenous communities, and weakens protections to heritage and species, and formally opposes the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 in its current form; and

THAT Council endorses the position of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in requesting that municipalities be included in the development of any regulatory frameworks related to Special Economic Zones; and

THAT Council directs staff to submit this resolution to:

- *The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario*
- *The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- *The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks*
- *The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs, President of the Treasury Board, and MPP for York-Simcoe*
- *The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*
- *All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration*
- *The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)*
- *Donna Big Canoe, Chief of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation*
- *Abram Benedict, Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) for the Chiefs of Ontario;*
and

THAT Council encourages residents to contact their MPPs to express concerns about the impacts of the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, on local governance, environmental protection, and Indigenous rights..

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Amanda McNeil, Hon. B.A., M.M.St.
Legislative Coordinator

CC:

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs, President of the
Treasury Board, and MPP for York–Simcoe
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario municipalities
The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Donna Big Canoe, Chief of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
Abram Benedict, Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) for the Chiefs of Ontario



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2025 – 160

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: December 2, 2025

Councillor **G. ASHFORD**
Councillor **J. BELESKEY**
Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**
Councillor **B. KEITH**
Councillor **D. McCANN**
Councillor **C. McDONALD**
Mayor **J. McGARVEY**

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED: ☒ DEFEATED: ☐ Postponed to: _____

That the Town of Parry Sound Council hereby supports the Municipality of Wawa's Resolution #RC25170 which supports the development of an accessible, province-wide, and publicly accountable alcohol container return system that:

Protects low-income earners and vulnerable residents who rely on bottle returns;
Closes gaps in the deposit-return cycle to reduce landfill waste and environmental harm;
Provides adequate infrastructure, training, and support to retailers participating in the return system;
Ensures strong, consistent enforcement and oversight of return program compliance;
Safeguards the public interest in recycling and waste diversion amid increasing privatization pressures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council urges the Government of Ontario to collaborate meaningfully with municipalities, retailers, environmental organizations, and experts to implement a fair, effective, and inclusive solution that ensures the long-term success of Ontario's deposit-return and recycling systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all Ontario municipalities for their support and consideration.

Mayor Jamie McGarvey



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Resolution # RC25170	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: <i>L. K. Gots</i>	Seconded by: <i>M. Hayfield</i>

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced new regulations, effective January 1, 2025, requiring grocery stores with over 4,000 square feet of retail space to accept empty alcohol containers and return deposits as a condition of maintaining their liquor licenses; and

WHEREAS many large retailers have raised concerns about this obligation due to logistical challenges, including costs, space limitations, and insufficient infrastructure to manage high volumes of returned containers and local residents in Wawa are very upset that there will be no location in the community or area accepting empty alcohol containers; and

WHEREAS this change may negatively impact vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals who depend on bottle returns as a modest yet vital source of income and will increase the amount of waste being dumped at the municipal landfill; and

WHEREAS the ongoing privatization and deregulation of Ontario's previously effective bottle return program threaten to undermine decades of progress in sustainable waste management, environmental stewardship, and circular economy practices; and

WHEREAS the lack of a clear, accessible, and equitable alternative for recycling alcohol containers may place additional strain on municipal waste systems and contribute to increased environmental degradation;

Page 2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa supports the development of an accessible, province-wide, and publicly accountable alcohol container return system that:

1. Protects low-income earners and vulnerable residents who rely on bottle returns;
2. Closes gaps in the deposit-return cycle to reduce landfill waste and environmental harm;
3. Provides adequate infrastructure, training, and support to retailers participating in the return system;
4. Ensures strong, consistent enforcement and oversight of return program compliance;
5. Safeguards the public interest in recycling and waste diversion amid increasing privatization pressures;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the Government of Ontario to collaborate meaningfully with municipalities, retailers, environmental organizations, and experts to implement a fair, effective, and inclusive solution that ensures the long-term success of Ontario's deposit-return and recycling systems;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all Ontario municipalities for their support and consideration.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL

This document is available in alternate formats.



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Resolution # RC25121	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: <i>Cathy Cannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>Joseph Opato</i>

WHEREAS The Beer Store has closed more than 70 of its store locations across the Province since the Ford Government made the decision to end its exclusivity agreement with The Beer Store and allowed other locations like convenience and grocery stores to sell beer, wine and mixed alcoholic drinks; and

WHEREAS many of the retail stores being closed are in small, northern communities such as Chapleau, Atikokan, Powassan and Blind River where The Beer Store is very important to the local community; and

WHEREAS the presence of The Beer Store in Northern Ontario communities and in Wawa, provides good paying jobs, convenient access to beer sales for tourists looking to purchase a variety of Canadian made beer products not carried in other locations and contributes to the local and provincial economy; and

WHEREAS The Beer Store closure in Wawa would lead to job losses in the community and negatively impact the local economy;

NOWHEREFORE Council of the Municipality of Wawa request that the Provincial Government take the steps necessary to preserve the presence of The Beer Store in small, rural and northern communities and that it request that The Beer Store reconsider its decision to close additional Beer Stores in Ontario, especially in small, northern communities.

AND FURTHER that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy the Minister of Finance, Honourable Victor Fedeli the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Bill Rosenberg the M.P.P. Algoma-Manitoulin, FONOM, NOMA, and AMO.

RESOLUTION RESULT	RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/> TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/> PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL
<i>M. Pilon</i>	<i>Maury O'Neill</i>

October 17, 2025

The Beer Store
Corporate Office | 2258 Coleraine Drive
Bolton, ON L7E 3A9

Attention: Roy Benin

Dear Mr. Benin.

The closing of The Beer Store is the final nail in the coffin for those of us in the town of Wawa who are interested in our environment and recycling. I am not a consumer of alcohol, but since 1992, I have picked up the sad, abandoned packaging others have thrown out on the sides of our roads.

As a volunteer, I have cleaned our outdoors of trash by the truckloads and most of it was made up of beer and wine containers. Having a European background and knowing that even pop cans have a deposit of 10 cents on them there, it is with tears in my eyes that I see the loss of a place to turn in recyclables.

I fought the bureaucracy, wrote to companies and ministers about the abuse of our environment and the renewable resources until finally a deposit was established here in Ontario. The program encourages people to turn in their recyclables rather than putting them in the landfill and the pennies add up.

Here in the north, we live in an "untouched" wilderness and try to promote this for tourism, hunting, and fishing. Often, one of the first stops in town is The Beer Store. Why is this now closed when the nearest store is over 200 km away and there is now no place to accept the empties? Our grocery store had beer and wine when that program was first introduced, but has now cut back as they don't want to accept the recyclables. The one convenience store is also not set up for recyclables and doesn't carry the selection of products The Beer Store did.

So, while it is still possible to purchase a limited selection in our town, the loss of the recycling program affects us deeply. Many organizations, such as skating clubs, hockey teams, Boy Scouts/Girl Guides and even retirees profit from the deposit through bottle drives. These assist the community and keep our outdoors clean to benefit the environment as well. Cans and bottles do not disintegrate in the outdoors. To the contrary, broken glass hurts people and wildlife both. Why are we going backwards on this important recycling project? Why are we in the North forgotten.

We will be drowning in beer cans without a recycling program. What is the solution? Please find one as it is you and this government that have made these changes.

Sincerely,



Karin Grundt
Garbologist
P.O. Box 1430
Wawa, ON P0S 1K0

November 24, 2025

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department, Clerk's Division
50 Dickson Street,
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W8

Via email: shawj@cambridge.ca

RE: RENT PROTECTION FOR TENANTS

On November 10 2025 at a regular meeting of council, a resolution letter from The Corporation of the City of Cambridge was brought forth and discussed regarding Rent Protection for Tenants and the following resolution was passed:

Moved: Liz Welsh

Seconded: Joel Field

THAT the Council of the Town of Petrolia for all the reasons stated, support the motion from City of Cambridge for the Province of Ontario to provide adequate protection against malicious and excessive rent increases for all units occupies for residential purposes while maintaining the ability for landlords a viable and sustainable business.

Further, that this motion be forwarded to the Premier, local MPP Bob Bailey and all other Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Kind regards,

Originally signed

Mandi Pearson
Director of Legislative Services, Clerk | Deputy Operations

cc:
Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
MPP Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton bobbbailey@pc.ola.org
All Ontario Municipalities

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca



MOVED BY *G. Prost*

RESOLUTION: **25-028**

SECONDED BY *ABH*

DATE: **Oct. 14, 2025**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of The Corporation of the Town of Rainy River fully supports the City of Kitchener in requesting that the Province of Ontario amend the Municipal Act to permit municipalities the ability to grandfather-out paper billing as the default option, and to permit municipalities to establish fees for paper billing for new accounts that opt for this method of delivery.

ABSTAIN

AYES

NAYS

CARRIED

DEFEATED

4
<i>1</i>

D. ARMSTRONG

D. EWALD

J. HAGARTY

B. HELGESON

M. KREGER

F. NEWMAN

G. PROST

Deborah J. Ewald
MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Tina Arbuckle, Deputy Clerk, Township of Tiny
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025
Time: 7:19 PM

Moved by: Councillor Hope
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the November 3, 2025, correspondence from Tina Arbuckle, Deputy Clerk, Township of Tiny, regarding TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project;

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains supports the October 29, 2025 resolution of the Township of Tiny, and reaffirms its commitment to representing the interests of our residents and protecting the natural heritage of Georgian Bay and stands ready to engage constructively with TC Energy, regarding TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide this resolution to all municipalities in Ontario

YES: 5

NO: 0

ABSENT: 2

The motion is Carried

YES: 5

Deputy Mayor Bordignon Councillor Ardiel
Councillor Porter

Councillor Hope

Councillor Maxwell

NO: 0

ABSENT: 2

Mayor Matrosovs

Councillor McKinlay



Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
VIA EMAIL:
premier@ontario.ca

Marit Stiles, MPP
Leader of the Official
Opposition
VIA EMAIL:
mstiles-qp@ndp.on.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

November 28, 2025

Hon. Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure
VIA EMAIL:
kinga.surma@pc.ola.org

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing
VIA EMAIL:
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

RE: 6.17 Municipality of South Huron Council Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund & 6.18 Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Council Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 19, 2025 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2025-382:

Moved by Councillor Hurst and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda item 6.17, 6.18 Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Council Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund be received for information; and

That the Township of Puslinch Council supports the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal September 29, 2025 Resolution and the Municipality of South Huron Resolution of October 20, 2025 regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

That this supporting resolution and originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier, Leader of the Official Opposition, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of



Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Finance, MPP Racinsky, ROMA, AMO, FCM, all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: Minister of Finance, MPP Racinsky, ROMA, AMO, FCM, all Ontario municipalities.



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

October 23, 2025

Via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Premier's Office
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

Re: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their October 20, 2025, Regular Council Meeting:

418-2025

Moved By: Aaron Neeb

Seconded by: Jim Dietrich

That South Huron Council supports the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal September 29, 2025, Resolution regarding Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

That this supporting resolution and originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Finance, MPP Thompson, AMO, OSUM, FCM, all Ontario municipalities.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator
Municipality of South Huron
kwebster@southhuron.ca
519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Kinga Surma, kinga.surma@pc.ola.org;
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rob Flack,
rob.flack@pc.ola.org; Minister of Finance, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy,
peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org; MPP Lisa Thompson,
lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca; OSUM,
osum@osum.ca; FCM, resolutions@fcm.ca; and all Ontario Municipalities

VIA EMAIL

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
All Upper- and Lower-Tier Municipalities in Ontario

Please be advised that at its Regular Council meeting held on Monday, September 29, 2025, the Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality and quality of life in Ontario’s rural and small urban communities;

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities;

WHEREAS in 2022 the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026;

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities' ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt;

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing;

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

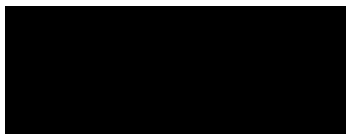
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.
5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.

6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.
7. The Clerk of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal forward this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 - The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
 - All upper- and lower-tier municipalities in Ontario

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email address below.

Sincerely,



Natalie Charette
Interim Clerk
clerk@twpec.ca



EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

Phone: 613-658-3055
Fax: 613-658-3445
Toll Free: 866-848-9099
E-mail: mail@twpec.ca

P.O. Box 129,
18 Centre St.
Spencerville, Ontario
K0E 1X0

November 26, 2025

The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Via email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Dear Honourable Minister McCarthy:

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Southwold, at its Regular Meeting on Monday November 24, 2025 passed the following resolution:

Conservation Authority Consolidation Resolution

2025-349 Councillor Fellows – Deputy Mayor Pennings

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Southwold established the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and Kettle Creek Conservation Authority;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide over 50% of total conservation authority funding;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of acres of land, much of which was donated by local residents and

entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Southwold calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipal[y governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND FURTHER THAT while the Corporation of the Township of Southwold supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;

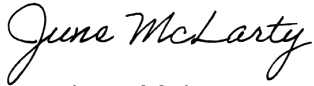
AND FURTHER THAT the Corporation of the Township of Southwold supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, to the local MP and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario

Municipal Association, and all municipalities and Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June McLarty".

June McLarty
Deputy Clerk

Cc: The Honourable Andrew Lawton, MP Elgin-Middlesex-London, via email
The Honourable Rob Flack, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London, via email
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, via email
The Rural Ontario Municipal Association, via email
Ontario Municipalities, via email
Mark Peacock, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, via email
Elizabeth VanHooren, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, via email