



ONTARIO BASIN NETWORK

Don Pearson, General Manager

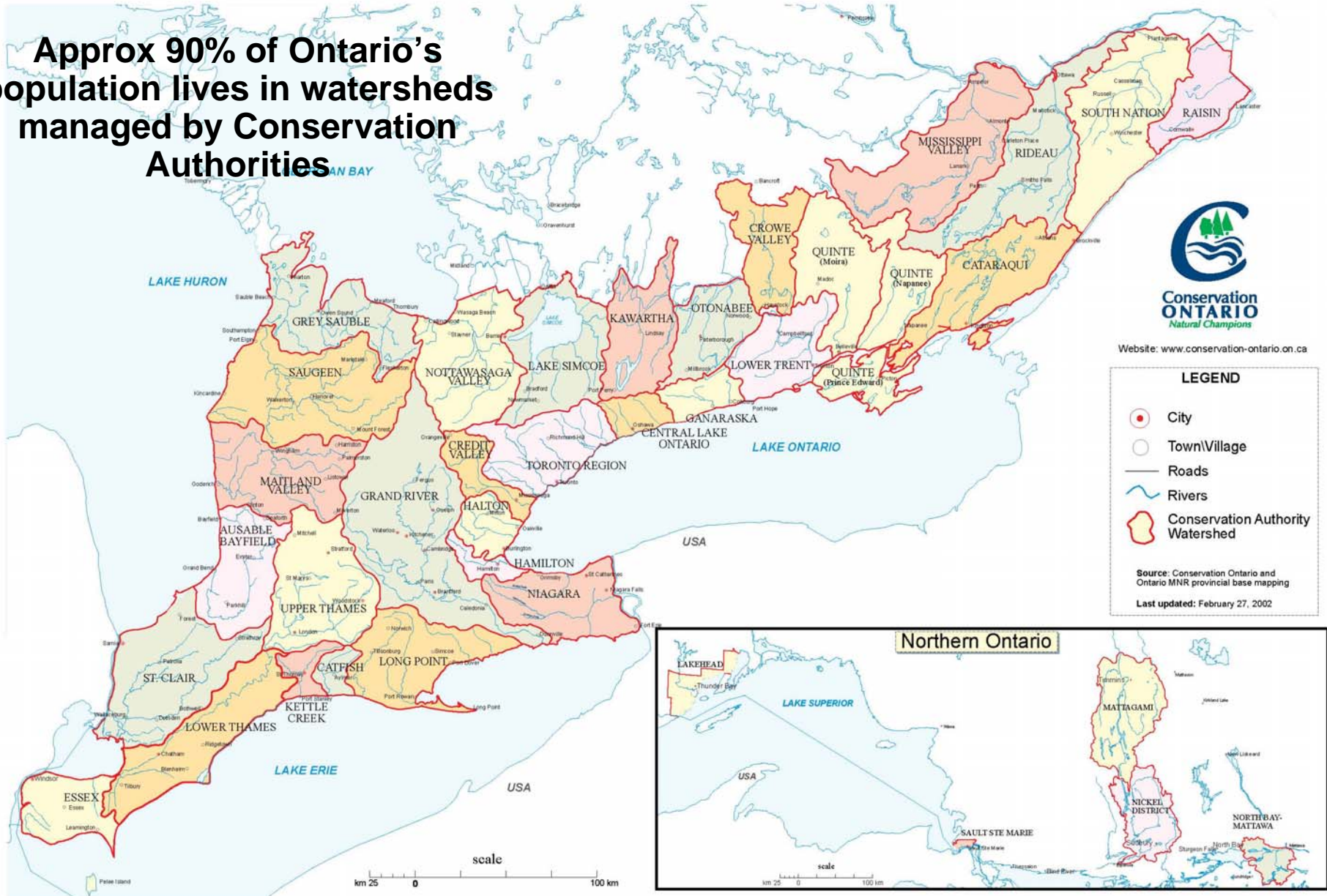
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT IN
THE GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN

September 13 – 15, 2007
SOREL-TRACY, QUEBEC



Conservation Authorities of Ontario

Approx 90% of Ontario's population lives in watersheds managed by Conservation Authorities





CONSERVATION ONTARIO...

- Non-profit corporation
- Represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities
- Funded by Conservation Authorities
- SWP Initiative Funded by Ontario





VISION

Conservation Authorities will be Ontario's recognized leaders in watershed management, working collaboratively with other partners to ensure healthy watersheds and healthy, sustainable communities.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Promote Value of Watershed Management
- Diversify Relationships & Funding Sources
- Build Capacity of Conservation Authorities
- Influence Policy Development
- Evolution of Conservation Ontario



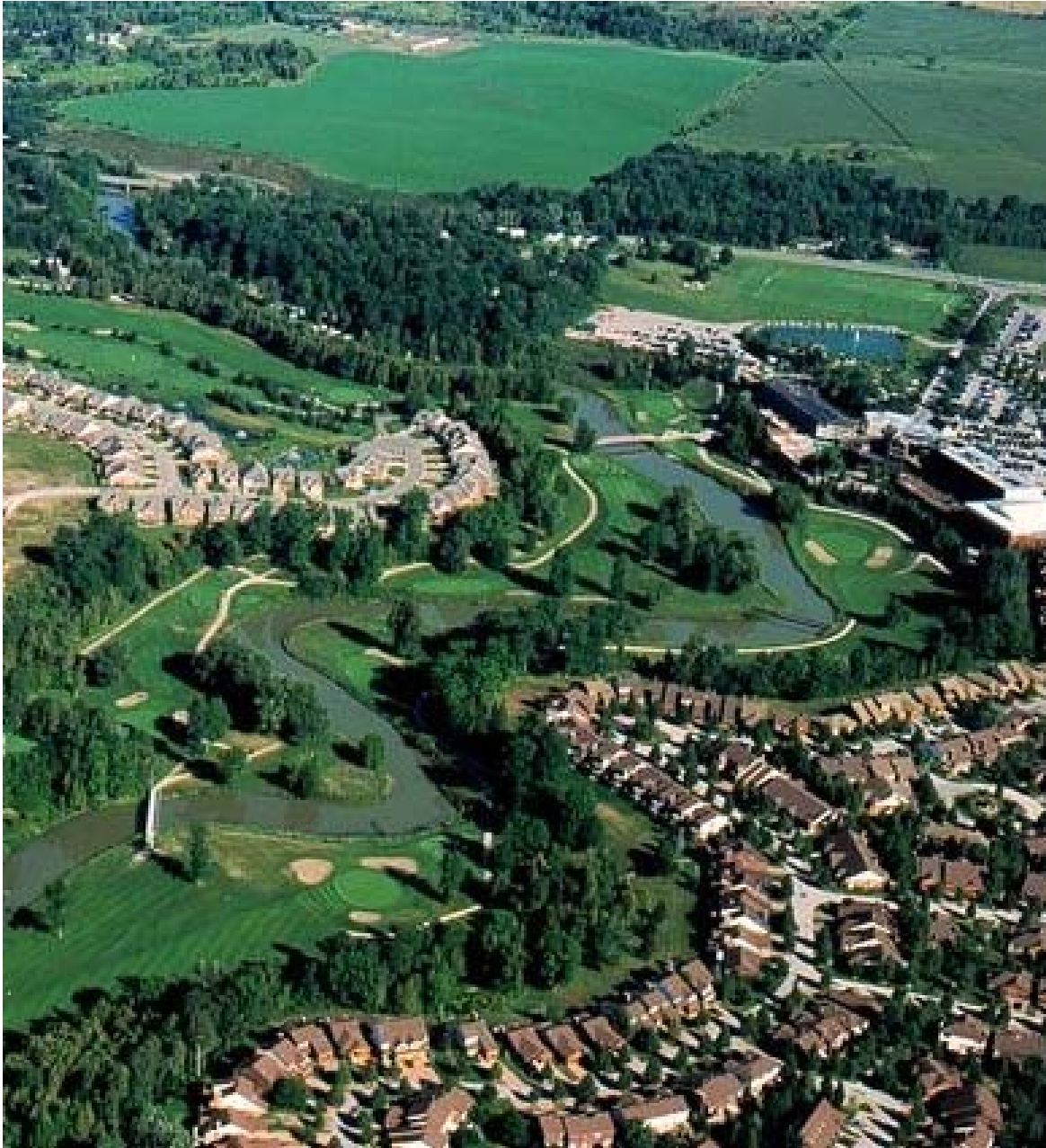
MISSION

- Build strategic partnerships
- Champion collective issues
- Develop strategic communications initiatives
- Pursue financial support



CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES...

- Local, science-based environmental organizations
- Watershed-based
- Work in partnership with Government, Industry, Agricultural & Environmental Organizations, and Local Communities



Nottawasaga River Photo Credit: Lou Wise

- **Manage watersheds which are home to almost 90% of Ontario's population**
- **10.5 million people**
- **98,000 km² area of jurisdiction**



VALUES – FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

- Organized on a watershed basis
- Formed by local initiative, governed and managed locally
- Cost shared on a provincial-municipal partnership basis



CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES' MANDATE

“Ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario’s water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs.”

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES' GOALS



- Safeguard Ontario's rivers, lakes & streams
- Protect & manage Ontario's woodlands, wetlands & natural habitats.
- Protect life and property from natural hazards.
- Promote learning & respect for Ontario's environment



CA WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- Watershed/Sub-watershed Planning
- Environmental land use planning
- Control of flooding and erosion
- Management of water quality, quantity



- Reforestation, sustainable woodlot management, ecosystem regeneration, habitat protection & restoration
- Environmental education and information programming; outdoor recreation
- Agricultural and rural landowner assistance; soil and water conservation
- Protection of sensitive lands - wetlands, flood plains, valley lands



GOVERNANCE

- CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES' Boards are comprised of municipally appointed members (75% of whom are municipal councillors)
- CONSERVATION ONTARIO Council is comprised of CA representatives



FUNDING

- Combined annual expenditures exceed \$240 million
- Funded through self generated fees (40%) and municipal levies (35%)
- Additional sources include special municipal projects (8%), provincial (12%) and federal (5%) grants or contracts.



STRENGTHS

- Network – strong collective voice
- Watershed-based
- Scientific Expertise
- Grassroots
- Partnerships
- 60 years experience

FOCUS FOR IMPROVEMENT



- Build individual/collective capacity
- Strengthen technical competency
- Promoting consistency
- Innovative resource sharing



COLLECTIVE PRIORITIES

Promotion of Integrated Watershed
Management

Source Water Protection

Watershed Stewardship

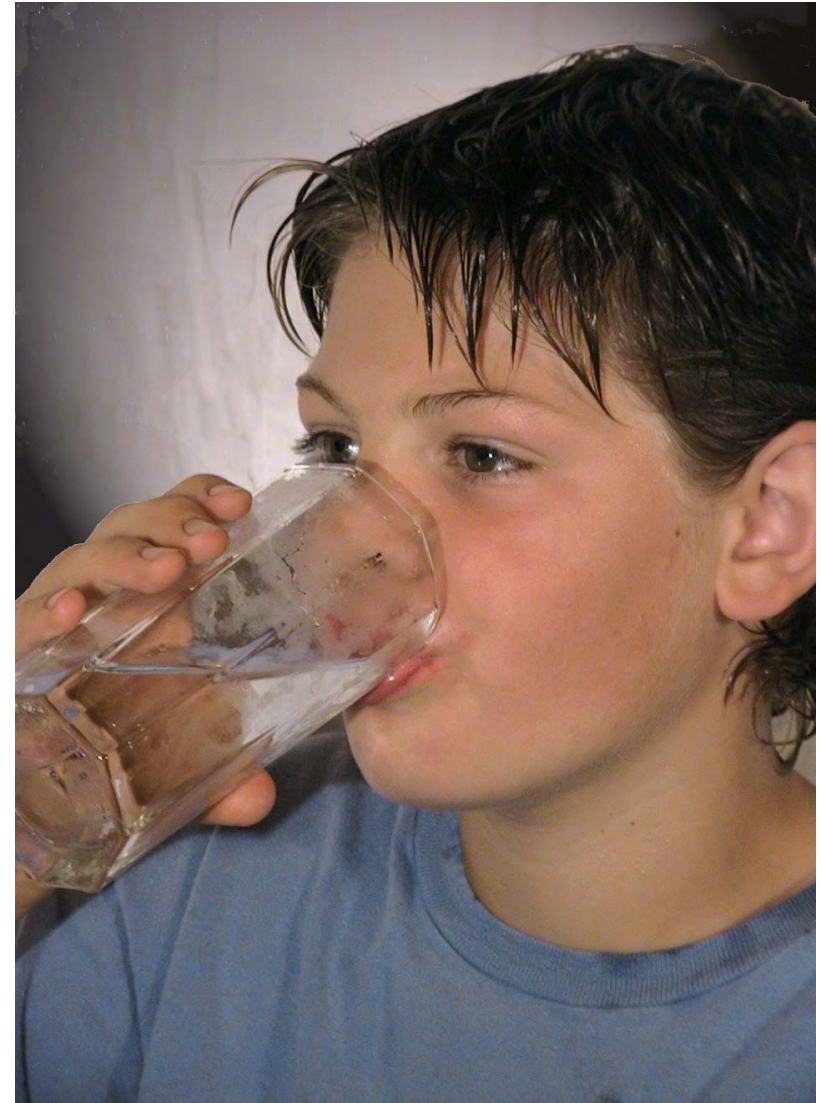
Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation

Great Lakes



SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

- Capacity building, watershed characterization underway, funded by Ontario Government
- Clean Water Act passed in July 2007
- Source Protection Planning Committees to be established this fall





WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP





WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

Caring for our land, water, air and biodiversity on a watershed basis, recognizing that everything is connected in a watershed and is affected by natural and human activities.



GOAL OF WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

Protect and improve the health of watersheds in Ontario



2000-2006 CONSERVATION AUTHORITY WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

- 9,420 water quality projects
- 7,714 landowners involved
- \$29 million
- 12 million trees planted
- 6,387 landowners
- \$6.7 million





2006 WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

- 661 water quality improvement
- 710 landowners
- 1,923 reforestation projects/landowners
- 1.9 million trees planted
- 347 hectares restored.
 - 56 wetlands projects
 - 165 habitat restoration
 - 96 shoreline projects (72 km)



KEYS TO SUCCESS WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

- Local involvement
- Partnerships – agencies, landowners, government, organizations, etc.
- Collaboration, eg. Stewardship Network of Ontario (SNO)



CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

Greencover Canada

- 15 Million (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada funding)
- Ontario Soil and Crop Association leading
- CAs helping to deliver – provided on-farm technical assistance
- Beneficial best management practices





CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

Source Protection Stewardship Program

- Ontario Ministry of Environment
- \$2 million – Outreach & Education
- \$5 million – Stewardship Practices
- Geared to landowners, residents & commercial enterprises located within municipal well head & intake protection zones)



CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

Oak Ridges Moraine Environmental Enhancement Program (ORMEEP)

- 1.4 million in grants
- Assist farmers to pay their share
- Geared to farmers on Oak Ridges moraine
- CAs providing technical assistance



CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

Trees Ontario (TO)

- Supported planting of 600,000 trees in 2007
- \$4million available through Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and TO in support of planting 2 million additional trees in 2008/9
- CO/CAs key delivery agents
- Planning for 50 million trees by 2020

Agricultural / Rural Water Quality Programs

The most common program areas include:



- Manure storage
- Restrict livestock access
- Cropland erosion
- Create buffer strips
- Replace faulty septic systems
- Clean water diversion
- Decommission abandoned wells

Shoreline and Riparian Restoration

The most common program areas include:

- Erosion control
- Naturalization
- Tree & shrub planting
- Establishing riparian buffers



Watershed Connections

