



PORT COLBORNE

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Public Input Coordinator
MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch
300 Water Street North tower, 5th floor
Peterborough, ON
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Canada

Re: Comments on Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities (ERO Posting: 025-1257)

The City of Port Colborne appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Province's proposal regarding potential changes to conservation authority boundaries under the Conservation Authorities Act.

The City wishes to highlight several operational considerations that are important to municipal service delivery and should be considered in any governance or structural changes.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, which serves the Niagara Region, provides valuable technical capacity, local expertise, and collaborative support that municipalities rely on to meet evolving regulatory, environmental, and community expectations.

In particular, the City values:

- Access to specialized technical expertise, including hydrology, stormwater monitoring, watershed science, and natural heritage, which supports municipal compliance and evidence-based decision-making.
- Support for capital projects and grant applications, including natural infrastructure and wetland initiatives that require conservation authority input.
- Local watershed knowledge and historical context, which is especially important in environmentally unique areas such as Niagara.
- Collaborative delivery of environmental programs, such as tree planting initiatives, public education programs, and source water protection.
- Responsiveness and relationship-based coordination that allows municipalities to work efficiently and proactively on local issues.

To provide an exceptional small-town experience in a big way.

As regulatory requirements related to stormwater management, climate resilience, and environmental protection continue to increase, municipalities will remain reliant on these operational supports. Any future conservation authority model should ensure that:

- Local expertise and watershed-based decision-making are retained;
- Technical capacity is not diluted or centralized in a way that reduces responsiveness;
- Opportunities for municipal collaboration and cost-sharing are maintained or enhanced; and
- Municipal access to specialized services remains timely and affordable.

The City appreciates the Province's consideration of these operational perspectives and encourages that they be reflected in any future conservation authority framework.

Sincerely,



Bryan Boles

CAO- City of Port Colborne

