



December 16, 2025

Public Input Coordinator
MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch
300 Water Street North Tower, 5th Floor
Peterborough ON K9J 3C7

Dear Public Input Coordinator:

Re: ERO Posting 025-1257 Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula (the Town) is a municipality within the jurisdiction of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. The Town thanks the Province of Ontario for continued efforts to streamline processes, eliminate red tape and encourage development of residential housing.

The proposal to amalgamate conservation authority boundaries leaves the Town worried that the protection and management of our local watershed will be jeopardized if the amalgamations are not conducted with considerable municipal consultation.

At their meeting held on December 16, 2025, Council adopted the attached resolution asking the Province to consider its proposal and ensure that municipalities are not negatively impacted by any amalgamation which may occur. Council's resolution details their concerns. We respectfully request that Council's position is considered as part of the ERO evaluation/notification process.

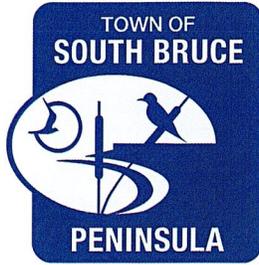
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours very truly,

Angie Cathrae
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com
519-534-1400 ext 122

Enclosure (1)

cc: Premier Ford, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks McCarthy, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, MPP Paul Vickers, AMO, Conservation Ontario



Excerpt from Council Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2025

18. Notice of Motion - Councillor Durst - Conservation Authority Amalgamation

Discussion included how we have some of the most valuable recreational areas in all of the region, that we will lose our voice on protection of lands, how bigger isn't always better, concerns over the management of the watershed regionally without having the budget affected and not being able to manage what cannot be controlled.

R-345-2025

It was **Moved** by K. Durst, **Seconded** by C. Hull and **Carried**

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 Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency whose objects include overseeing conservation authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities in Ontario with municipal cost contribution yet to be defined;

And whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has posted Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1257 ("Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities"), proposing to reduce Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to 7 regional entities as part of a broader restructuring;

And whereas under this proposal, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) would be consolidated into a new "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" that is over 23,000 square kilometres in size and consists of 80 municipalities;

And whereas the Province of Ontario has been changing various pieces of legislation in order to support the reduction of red tape, the strengthening of our economy and the construction of new residential dwellings and has stated that changes to conservation authorities will "help get shovels in the ground faster on homes and other local infrastructure projects, while strengthening the vital role conservation authorities play in managing watersheds and protecting communities from floods and natural hazards";

And whereas the Town of South Bruce Peninsula has supported the reduction of barriers to local development;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula calls on the Province of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities;

And that the Province ensures that strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of local watersheds and conservation lands are maintained;

And that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula does not support the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models;

And that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula submits that the scale of regional consolidation legislated by the Province introduces substantial transition costs, diverts future resources away from frontline watershed programs, erodes local decision-making, weakens municipal accountability and disrupts long-standing community partnerships;

And that while the Town of South Bruce Peninsula supports the Province’s legislated goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, the Town urges the Province to strengthen centralized standards, resources and tools rather than undertaking broad structural amalgamation;

And that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula requests that the Ministry engage meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities and conservation authorities before advancing any consolidation, ensuring that the changes support local needs and the practical realities of implementation and any impact on local levies;

And further that this resolution be included in the Town’s ERO response and forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, GSCA, MPP Paul Vickers, AMO, and Conservation Ontario.