

Quinte Conservation Strategic Plan



2010
to
2020

Who We Are

Quinte Conservation is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. We are a community based environmental protection agency. Our main goal is to ensure the healthy co-existence between the community, its environment and its economy. Our area of jurisdiction includes the watersheds of the Moira, Napanee and Salmon Rivers and all of Prince Edward County. We provide important conservation advisory services to our 18 local municipalities within our 6,000 square kilometer region. We own over 12,000 hectares of land and 39 water control structures. Our success is based on local initiative, watershed jurisdiction and partnerships in resources management.

Quinte Conservation's History and Role

"What happens upstream, affects what happens downstream" is a phrase you will often hear at Quinte Conservation. This is true not only of our watersheds, but also our history of conservation in the Quinte region. We are fortunate to have more than 60 successful years "upstream", so we can count on continued achievements "downstream" in the future.

In response to changing circumstances, Quinte Conservation came into being in 1996 through the strategic alliance and subsequent amalgamation of three conservation authorities; Moira, Napanee, and Prince Edward, established in 1947 and 1965 respectively. We serve the environmental protection needs of 18 municipalities within three watersheds. Watersheds are areas of land drained by a river and its tributaries into a particular body of water, such as a lake.

With the well-being of future generations always front and centre, we strive to sustain and improve the natural endowments of our three watersheds. Quinte Conservation nurtures many partnerships to help achieve its goals. These include municipal and provincial staff and politicians, private landowners and citizens and a diverse array of land and lake associations, other community groups and institutions.

To ensure that we are truly connected to the common and varying needs of the citizens within our watersheds, we are governed by a board representing the 18 municipalities. Members guide strategic direction, priority-setting and resource allocation for the different and interconnected watersheds.

Quinte Conservation has five broad program areas which serve as a foundation and framework for our strategic planning:

- Water management for the protection of life and property from the damages of flooding
- Water management for the protection of water quality and quantity
- Watershed planning
- Conservation land management
- Conservation education

Since our first strategic plan for the period of 1996 to 2010, we have increased our staff complement of experienced environmental specialists enabling us to achieve many notable successes with our partners.

This leads us to our 2010 - 2020 strategic direction in conjunction with new emerging trends.



OPERATING PRINCIPLES

A Guide for Everyday Actions

- Passionate about preserving and protecting the environment for future generations
- Innovate continuously
- Adapt to change to best serve the emerging needs of the community
- Use an ecosystem approach to managing the health of our watersheds; the linkages among the natural, social, cultural and economic environments will always be considered in our programs and day-to-day actions
- Collaborate on environmental issues and priorities in teams, partnerships and at the grassroots level
- Provide quality service with fiscal responsibility
- Enthusiastically embrace the leadership challenge

Forces of the 21st Century Shaping Our Goals



- Climate change is an environmental challenge of unknown potential impact facing our communities
- Communities are embracing renewable energy as a better way of life to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels

- The Quinte Region's economic growth and urbanization presents an ongoing challenge for local decision-making in staying the course on sustainable development
- The complexity of environmental issues requires more partnering, collaboration and sharing of expertise
- Each age group in our community has to be treated as a different culture with its own needs and interests
- Technology is dismantling hierarchy, increasing information sharing everywhere and putting more pressure on organizations to provide real time service delivery

Our Mission

Creating a sustainable ecosystem where people and nature live in harmony

Our Vision

The premier ecologically sustainable watershed



We will achieve our vision through



- **Creative and Value Added Funding**
- **Comprehensive Conservation Management**
- **Aware and Involved Community**
- **Growing and Connecting Expertise**

Our Action Plan

We need to go beyond the question of “what future is most probable?” to more powerful questions like “what future do we want to create?” We involved a range of stakeholders, staff and board members in trying to answer these and other questions about our potential future role. The following are our ideas for initiatives to create the future Quinte Conservation would like to see for our watersheds.

CREATIVE AND VALUE ADDED FUNDING

- Build an active Foundation; sponsorships, grants and endowments
- Provide conservation expertise; regional planning, groundwater advice, local consultations
- Provide advice to landowners/homeowners on sustainable development technologies (such as renewable energy, reuse of wastewater and rainwater, maintenance of wells and septic systems, and storage of hazardous materials)
- Provide fee for service technical advice and inspections

COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

- Monitor and report on water quality in surface waters (lakes, rivers, streams and Bay of Quinte)
- Continue to work with all expertise available to ensure safe drinking water for all watershed residents
- Expand on the “Watershed Watchers” program to include such things as rain, lake water levels and harmful algae blooms
- Move forward with green energy projects; produce and promote green energy
- Enhance the technology of flood forecasting and mapping
- Revitalize Conservation Areas for eco-tourism and education, while preserving nature

AWARE AND INVOLVED COMMUNITY

- Expand conservation education for developers, landowners, associations, agencies and businesses
- Promote the creation of an accredited course for real estate agents about permits, regulations and floodplains
- Be a “go to”, high value, one window environmental resource
- Build an interactive centre that provides local information (on, for example, water quality, flood warnings, species at risk), facilitates business processes such as permits and educates both children and adults on conservation, the environment and the Bay of Quinte
- Reach and involve residents, staff, board members and municipal councils using a range of communications media and campaigns
- Reach out to watershed residents, including new Canadians, to encourage them to become environmental stewards

GROWING AND CONNECTING EXPERTISE

- Streamline processes with municipal partners, other levels of government and grassroots organizations
- Partner with colleges, universities and boards of education to advance environmental science
- Share and leverage science expertise and monitoring work through joint projects with teachers, faculty and students
- Nurture and foster inter-agency, staff and board member expertise in climate change evolution and adaptation
- Keep and attract high calibre, professional staff and board members



PRIORITIES 2010 - 2020

- Collaborate in ecosystem monitoring, research and reporting
- Expand conservation education for developers, landowners, associations, agencies and businesses
- Build an active Foundation
- Produce and promote green energy
- Enhance the technology of flood forecasting and mapping

Streamline processes with municipal partners and others

EXISTING Core Capabilities

- Watershed-based
- Locally connected
- Partnering and Collaboration
- Ecosystem focused

NEW Core Capabilities

- One-window customer service
- Advancing environmental science
- Championing sustainability

2010 Board Members

George Underhill Quinte Conservation Chair
John Wise Quinte Conservation Vice-Chair

Moira River Watershed Advisory Board

Robert Sager, Chair
 Jackie Denyes, Vice-Chair
 Tom Lafferty
 Egerton Boyce
 Terry Cassidy
 Stead Covert
 Eythel Grant

Rita Cimprich
 Dale Grant
 Tom Simpson
 Justin Bray

Napanee Watershed Advisory Board

John Wise, Chair
 Fred Lang, Vice-Chair
 Gary Smith
 William Robinson
 Carl Bresee
 Roger Cole
 Edgar Tumak

Prince Edward Region Watershed Advisory Board

George Underhill, Chair
 John Drechsler, Vice-Chair
 Monica Alyea
 Stacey Hatch
 Brian Marisett
 John Thompson
 Nathan Koutroulides

2010 Conservation Staff

Terry Murphy

Paul McCoy

Bryon Keene
 Keith Taylor
 Lucille Fragomeni
 Tammy Smith
 Harry Stinson
 David Smallwood

Catherine Sinclair
 Brad McNevin
 Tim Trustham
 Darrin Tone
 Amy Dickens
 Mark Boone
 Julie Munro
 Lynette Lambert

Alana Bancroft

Nancy Marshall

Terry Sprague
 Maya Navrot

Jennifer May-Anderson

Liping Kong
 April Brant

Anne Carr
 David Dies
 Jennifer White

General Manager / Secretary
 Treasurer
 Planning and Development Manager
 Water Resources Manager
 Source Water Protection Manager
 Communications Manager
 Corporate Services Manager
 Field Operations Manager
 Forestry and Field Operations Manager
 Regulations Officer
 Regulations Officer / Biologist
 Ecologist / Planner
 Water Resources Engineer
 GIS Database Specialist
 Hydrogeologist
 Surface Water Specialist
 Environmental Water Quality Technician
 Conservation Stewardship Coordinator
 Source Water Protection Administrative Assistant
 Naturalist
 Conservation Education Coordinator
 Communications and Marketing Assistant
 Accounting Clerk
 Executive and Corporate Services Assistant
 Technical Administrative Assistant
 Field Operations Supervisor
 Environmental Technician

Contact Us

R.R. # 2
 2061 Old Highway 2
 Belleville, ON
 K8N 4Z2

phone: 613-968-3434

fax: 613-968-8240

quinteconservation.ca

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