

Fee Policy and Schedules

This policy outlines Quinte Conservation's guidelines for setting and charging fees

Approved by the Quinte Conservation Board of Directors

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POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of the Fee Policy and Schedules is to inform the public and our municipal partners of the fees charged for programs and services delivered by Quinte Conservation.

Legislative Framework

The Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) Section 21.2 allows for conservation authorities to charge fees for services.

The CAA Section 21.1 Mandatory programs and services and Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 686/21 Mandatory Programs and Services outline mandatory (Category 1) programs that may be funded by municipal apportionment, provincial grants, or self-generated revenue with the user pay principal as appropriate.

Section 21.1.1 of the CAA outlines Category 2 Municipal programs and services, “An authority may provide, within its area of jurisdiction, municipal programs and services that it agrees to provide on behalf of a municipality situated in whole or in part within its area of jurisdiction under a memorandum of understanding, or such other agreement as may be entered into with the municipality, in respect of the programs and services.”

Section 21.1.2 of the CAA defines Category 3 Other programs and services, “In addition to programs and services described in sections 21.1 and 21.1.1, an authority may provide, within its area of jurisdiction, any other programs and services that it determines are advisable to further the purposes of this Act.”

Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services

These programs and services include:

- Administration of Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) Section 28 and 28.1 including technical advice and studies;
- Enforcement and compliance;
- Response to legal, real estate and public inquiries regarding a CAA Section 28 and 28.1 and natural hazard inquiries under the Planning Act;
- Review and commenting on applications under other legislation noted under the Mandatory Programs and Services Regulation (O. Reg. 686/21) and associated inquiries;
- Access to authority owned or controlled land for recreational activities not requiring direct authority or other staff involvement.
- Flood forecasting and warning;
- Flood and Erosion Control Infrastructure Operation, Management, and Maintenance;

- Low water response;
- Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN);
- Provincial Groundwater Quality Monitoring (PGMN);
- Drinking Water Source Protection
- Conservation Land Management and activities requiring a permit made pursuant to section 29 of the CAA;
- Enabling Services for the Organization including administration, finance, fleet management, communications, IT.

Category 2 Municipal Programs and Services

Municipal programs and services are offered throughout the watershed to all our partnering municipalities. These programs and services are provided by Quinte Conservation on behalf of our municipal partners.

These programs and services include (but are not limited to):

- Commenting on Planning Act applications for technical and policy matters related to stormwater management or other matters requested by a municipality, county, corporation or individual. This commenting/peer review service provides for a consistent approach across the watershed.
- Drinking Water Source Protection Risk Management Official Services including Education and Outreach.

Category 3 Advisable Programs and Services

Quinte Conservation offers programs and services to our watershed residents that provide an overall benefit to the environmental health of the region.

These programs and services include (but are not limited to):

- Extension Services (e.g. technical advice/implementation of erosion control measures, forest management/tree planting, wildlife/fisheries habitat management, management of forests/recreational land owned by others, technical studies)
- Recreational activities that are provided on land that is owned or controlled by the authority with the direct support or supervision of staff employed by the authority or by another person or body, or with facilities or other amenities maintained by the authority, including equipment rentals and renting facilities for special events.
- Community relations to help establish, maintain, or improve relationships between the authority and community members.
- Public education services to improve awareness of issues relating to the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario.

Policy Principles

This Fee Policy and associated Schedules have been prepared in conformity with the Conservation Authorities Act. The Fee Schedules are based on the user-pay principle. The fees and revenues for planning and permitting services are designed to assist with recovering the costs associated with administering and delivering the services on a program basis. These fees do not exceed the cost of the service.

Process and Public Notification

The Fee Policy and Schedules have been established by the Quinte Conservation (QC) Board of Directors following consultation with local stakeholders and the public.

Consultation includes direct e-mail to key stakeholders (e.g., municipalities) and posting the notice for comment/review and/or revisions to the Fee Policy and Schedules on the QC website for a minimum of 30 days. Comments received will be presented to the Board of Directors prior to any approval.

Implementation

It is the objective of QC to provide an effective and efficient delivery of services. To achieve this objective:

- Land use proposals will be reviewed in a timely fashion.
- Comments on applications under the Planning Act will be provided in time for the legislated public meeting or hearing.
- Permit applications under the CAA generally will be processed within timelines outlined in Conservation Ontario's "Annual Reporting on Timelines Template for permissions under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act". These timelines were developed by the Timely Review and Approvals Taskforce and received endorsement by the CO Council in December 2019.
- Fees will not exceed the costs to deliver the service.

Exemptions to the application of these fees include:

- Non-profit conservation and/or environmental groups contributing to the protection and restoration of the natural environment, provided the work is occurring on their private lands. Exemptions would be considered for fees associated with permit applications, Planning Act applications, legal inquiries, and site assessments.

Refunds

Quinte Conservation does not issue refunds for services or products once the application process has started or order is submitted, and the payment has been processed. Under exceptional circumstances, refund requests will be considered and may be approved by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). If a refund is approved, a 20% refund fee will apply.

Appeal

The fee appeal process will be based on the principles of fairness, opportunity, and notification. The only fees that would be considered for an appeal are those found under planning and permitting.

Consideration of appeals will be directed to the CAO. The appellant must submit in writing to the CAO the reasons for the appeal request. The CAO will review the request, consult with staff and the proponent. The appeal will be dismissed, upheld or the fee altered. If the appeal is dismissed, the proponent is required to pay the fee amount. If the appeal is upheld, the fee could be waived or varied from the original amount. The applicant will be notified of the CAO's decision.

If the applicant is dissatisfied with the decision from the CAO an appeal to the QC Board of Directors can be requested.

The appellant must submit in writing to the CAO the reasons for the appeal request to the Board of Directors. The written request must identify a request to present the appeal before the Board of Directors. Once heard, the appeal will be dismissed, upheld or the fee altered. If the appeal is dismissed, the proponent is required to pay the fee amount. If the appeal is upheld, the fee could be waived or varied from the original amount. Any appeal decision requires a resolution passed by the Board of Directors. The appellant will be notified of the Board's decision.

Date of Effect

The Fee Policy and Schedules becomes effective as of the date set by the QC Board of Directors.

Transition

The establishment of this Fee Policy and Schedules supersedes and replaces all previous fee policies and/or schedules. The Policy also applies to proposals not previously invoiced, such as draft approved plans of subdivision which predated any fee schedule.

Review Process

This Fee Policy and Schedules will be reviewed annually by QC staff to monitor effectiveness, and any changes will be brought forward to the Board of Directors for consideration. Consultation is required if changes are applied to the Policy or Schedules (as noted under Process and Public Notification) prior to Board approval. Approval of the updated Fee Policy and Schedule will require passage of a resolution by the Board of Directors.

FEE SCHEDULES

Schedule 1: Quinte Conservation Planning and Regulations Fees

Schedule 2: Quinte Conservation General Fees

Schedule 3: Quinte Conservation Monitoring, Stewardship and Education Services Fees

SCHEDULE 1 Planning and Regulations Fees

Fee Type	Current	Proposed*	Notes
Pre-Consultation			
Site Visit – Project Specific	\$450	\$475	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Site Visit – Standard (1 lot)	\$450	\$475	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Site Visit – Complex (2 or more lots severed)	\$900	\$955	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Legal Inquiry	\$200	\$215	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Planning Service Fees			
Technical Study Review (cost per study)	\$500	\$530	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Consent to sever – Standard (1 lot)	\$450	\$475	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Consent to sever – Complex (2 or more lots)	\$900	\$955	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Minor Variance/Zoning By-law amendment	\$450	\$475	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Official Plan amendment	\$705	\$750	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Standard Site Plan review	\$3580	\$3800	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Minor Site Plan review	\$865	\$920	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Subdivision review	\$7990	\$8475	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Subdivision phase review - minor	\$1390	\$1475	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Subdivision phase review - complex	\$3580	\$3800	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Permit Applications Fees			
Minor work	\$250	\$265	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Standard work	\$450	\$475	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Major work	\$835/\$1335	\$885/\$1420	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Permit amendment/Permit re-issue	\$100	\$106	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Request for a Hearing	\$1840	\$1950	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Violations	Double the normal application fee		

Risk Management Official Services			
Enforcement of Part IV of the Clean Water Act	\$25942	\$26720	Split between those municipalities that require Part IV duties (Belleville, Centre Hastings, Deseronto, Marmora and Lake, Town of Greater Napanee, Prince Edward County, and Tweed)

*Proposed fees are based on the understanding that the Minister’s freeze on fees for planning and development charges will expire on December 31, 2024, and not be renewed for a third consecutive year.

SCHEDULE 2 General Service Fees

Fee Type	Current	Proposed	Notes
Staff Charge out Rates (per hour)			
Management/Project Management	\$93	\$96	Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Engineering/Technical Resource Staff	\$77	\$80	Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Specialists – IT, GIS, Biologist/Ecologist	\$67	\$70	Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Administration/Technicians	\$52	\$54	Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Conservation Lands			
Group rates for property usage (<50 ppl)	\$258	\$266	These rates do not include closure of property
Group rates for property usage (>50 ppl)	\$464	\$475	These rates do not include closure of property
Special Event rates Requiring Closure of Gathering Area within Property (Weekend)	\$2060	\$2122	These rates will not include any special accommodations (delivery of picnic tables, garbage service, etc.) or additional staffing
Special Event rates Requiring Closure of Gathering Area within Property (Weekday)	\$1545	\$1591	These rates will not include any special accommodations (delivery of picnic tables, garbage service, etc.) or additional staffing
Frink Center	\$154/day	\$159/day	OR \$75 /half day or evening; subject to CAO approval based on number of visitors
Depot Lakes Office Building	\$154/day	\$159/day	OR \$75 /half day or evening; subject to CAO approval based on number of visitors
Main Office Boardroom	\$154/day	\$159/day	OR \$75 /half day or evening; subject to CAO approval based on number of visitors
Annual Access Pass	\$62	\$64	Increase reflective of COLA and Market/Demand
Daily Access Pass – Little Bluff	\$15	\$16	Annual Passes will be accepted
Daily Access – All CA’s (except Little Bluff) – regular passenger vehicle	\$6	\$7	

Daily Access – All CA's (except Little Bluff) – Other types of vehicles	\$12	\$13	Buses, vehicles with trailers (i.e., horse trailers, boat trailers, canoe racks, etc.)
DEPOT LAKES CAMPGROUND			
Seasonal Sites (annual rate)			
Waterfront Site	\$2060	\$2150	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Non-waterfront Site	\$1545	\$1600	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Interior Sites	\$50	\$52	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Hunting Leases			
Cost per Acre	\$3.60	\$3.75	COLA, cost recovery; applies to new leases
Administrative Services			
Shipping and Handling	\$15.45	\$16	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
NFS Cheques	\$50.52	\$55	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Printing – all printing and sizes	CR	CR	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Mileage (per km)	.66 cents	.70 cents	Government rate set in January
Freedom of Information Requests	\$5.00	\$5.00	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Project Fees	18%	20%	Increase for COLA and cost recovery

SCHEDULE 3 Monitoring, Stewardship and Education Service Fees

Fee Type	Current	Proposed	Notes
Tree Seedlings and Shrubs			
Conifer Stock	1.13	1.16	Sold in bundles of 10 or 25 (minimum order of 100 total trees); COLA
Deciduous Stock	1.54-2.06	1.60-2.12	Sold in bundles of 10 or 25 (minimum order of 100 total trees); COLA
Shoreline Planting Kits (QC provides a stewardship site visit and customized planting plan)			
	Minimum fee of \$438	Minimum fee of \$451	A kit is a minimum of 50 plants and is subsidized by grants. Kit price may exceed minimum cost pending grants received.
Shoreline Planting Services			
	\$7.21/plant + 0.67/km	\$7.42/plant + 0.70/km	Landowners can hire QC to have their shoreline kit planted; COLA
Large Scale Tree Planting Program (heavily subsidized for 2023 through grants)			
	\$0.31 to \$0.51 per tree for landowner	\$0.33 to \$0.53 per tree for landowner	Large scale tree planting program is subsidized by Forest Ontario grants as well as other grants and sponsors. Landowner fee will vary depending on subsidies acquired
Education/Outreach			
In-school Watershed Workshop	No Cost	No Cost	40-minute curriculum-connected watershed workshops K-8
Outdoor Education Programs K-12	\$8.24-\$14.42 per student	\$8.48-\$14.85 per student	We charge for outdoor programs either per student for half or full day programs
Stream of Dreams - School Water Education Program	\$3/student	\$5 /student	Minimum fee of \$300

Aquatic Science Equipment Rental (Daily Rates)			
AbraScan	\$6.18	\$6.36	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Backpack Electrofishing Unit	\$167	\$172	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Benthic Gear	\$22.06	\$23	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Electrofishing Boat	\$335	\$345	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Boat Stanley	\$227	\$234	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Canoe	\$8.24	\$8.48	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Flow Tracker	\$22.66	\$23	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
GPS Unit	\$22.66	\$23	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
John Boat	\$22.66	\$23	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Kayak	\$8.24	\$8.50	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Larval Net	\$56	\$58	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Passive Netting Gear	\$111	\$114	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Pygmy Meter	\$22.66	\$23	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
YSI Multimeter	\$22.66	\$23	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
PGMN Workbook	\$11.33	\$11.66	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
PGMN Generator	\$22.66	\$23	Increase for COLA and cost recovery
Water Quality Monitoring			
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network in the Moira Region (per event - monthly)	\$1432	\$1475	QC performs this monitoring once per month at 13 stations; Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network in the Napanee Region (per event - monthly)	\$746	\$768	QC performs this monitoring once per month at 3 stations; Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network in Prince Edward County (per event - monthly)	\$1133	\$1170	QC performs this monitoring once per month at 12 stations; Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery

Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (average cost per well per visit)	\$1022	\$1053	QC has 23 wells as part of the provincial program, increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Ontario Benthos Bio-monitoring Network (average cost per station per visit)	\$350	\$360	QC samples 47 stations to ensure water quality changes can be tracked; Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery
Baseflow (average cost per day)	\$667	\$687	QC samples at multiple locations throughout a given sub-watershed that are completed in a single day; Increase reflective of COLA and cost recovery