Cataraqui conservation

2025 Annual Report

Supporting Healthy & Resilient Communities

Cataraqui Conservation

About

The Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (Cataraqui Conservation) is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. We are a community-based environmental protection and advisory agency, created in 1964 by the Province of Ontario at the request of municipalities within the Cataraqui Region watershed. Our programs and services are offered on a watershed scale that focus on natural hazard management (flooding and erosion), source water protection, land conservation, outdoor recreation, education, monitoring, and community stewardship.

Our purpose is to work in partnership with local municipalities, provincial and federal government agencies, environmental organizations, and the public to further the conservation, restoration, development, and management of natural resources in the Cataraqui Region watershed as per the Conservation Authorities Act.

As a watershed-based conservation organization, Cataraqui Conservation has a responsibility to act as a regional leader in environmental protection and sustainability. The organization is committed to reducing its environmental impacts, where possible, at both an operational and governance level.

Mission

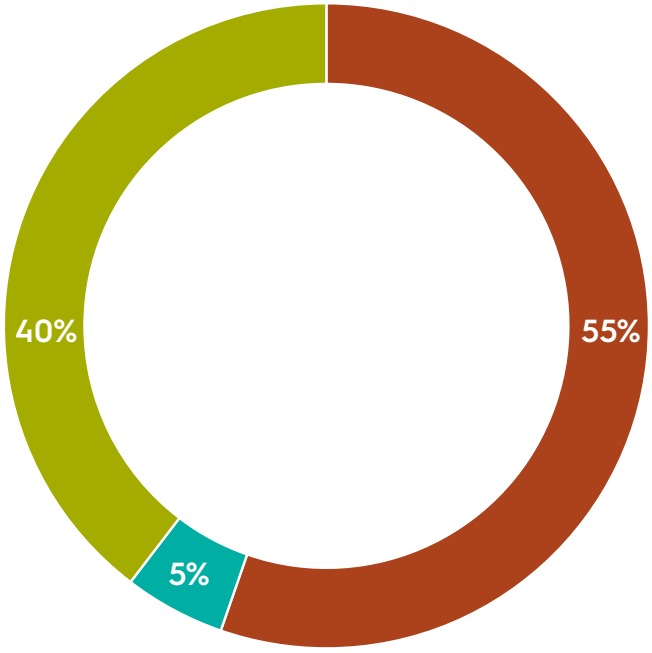
To deliver environmental services that support watershed conservation, respond to our changing climate and educate and engage with our communities.

Vision

The Cataraqui Region watershed is healthy, resilient and conserved for today and tomorrow.

Budget Summary

2025 Budget: $6,817,153



2025 Budget - Actuals $5,853,384

Municipal Apportionment	$3,237,575
Provincial Government	$297,317
Authority Generated	$2,318,492

Top three 2025 self-generated revenue sources:

1) Tree planting program revenue from Tree Canada
2) Tree planting program revenue from Forests Canada
3) Planning & Permitting Fees

2025 Board Members

Paul Proderick - Chair
Loyalist Township

Gary Oosterhof - Vice Chair
City of Kingston

Matt Smith
Athens Township

Jeff Earle
City of Brockville

Katherine Hobbs
City of Brockville

Vacant
Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley

Margaret Fancy
Front of Yonge Township

Matt Harper
Town of Gananoque

Angela Hicks
Town of Greater Napanee

Don Amos
City of Kingston

Lisa Osanic
City of Kingston

Wendy Stephen
City of Kingston

Corinna Smith-Gatcke
Leeds & the Thousand Islands

Jake Ennis
Loyalist Township

Joan Delaney - Jan. to March
Linda Carr - April to Aug.
Dustin Bulloch - Aug. to Dec.
Township of Rideau Lakes

Ron Sleeth
Township of South Frontenac

Scott Trueman
Township of South Frontenac

Message from Board Chair & General Manager

2025 was a year defined by transition, resilience and forward-looking planning for Cataraqui Conservation. The organization continued to deliver essential watershed-based programs while navigating a rapidly evolving provincial landscape, shifting climate realities, and growing community expectations. 2025 achievements reflect a strong commitment to environmental protection, public service and responsible governance across the Cataraqui Region watershed.

Strengthening Core Mandates in a Changing Environment
Cataraqui Conservation's foundational responsibilities - natural hazard management, watershed monitoring, land conservation, outdoor recreation, and environmental education - remained central to our work in 2025. Throughout the year, staff delivered programs that support:

- Flood forecasting and warning, including real-time monitoring of inland lakes, streams.
- Erosion and hazard management, ensuring municipalities and landowners receive technical guidance for safe development.
- Watershed data collection, supporting long-term environmental planning and climate adaptation.
- Conservation area operations, including trail maintenance, visitor services and seasonal recreation.

Climate Resilience & Hazard Infrastructure Planning
A major focus in 2025 was long-term infrastructure planning. The 2025-2034 Capital Forecast, approved in late 2024, outlines a decade-long investment strategy for water control structures, dams, and other critical assets across the watershed. Key highlights include:

- Broome-Runciman Dam safety review and structural updates.
- Ongoing maintenance of water control structures.
- Strategic use of reserve funds, provincial contributions and federal support to reduce pressure on municipal apportionments.

Community Engagement & Expanded Public Programming
2025 saw meaningful growth in community-focused programming, with a particular emphasis on accessibility and lifelong learning. One of the most notable initiatives was the launch of free nature programs for adults and seniors that ran from fall 2025 through to spring 2026. These programs include: guided hikes, bird and wildlife tracking, medicine walks, snowshoeing, reconciliation focused walks/programming, and virtual education sessions with watershed partners. In addition to this programming, conservation areas remained popular destinations for residents and visitors.

Governance, Provincial Policy & Organizational Adaptation
One of the most significant developments of 2025 was the Ontario government's proposal to create a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and consolidate the province's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional bodies. Cataraqui Conservation responded publicly to this proposal, emphasizing the importance of local watershed knowledge, municipal partnership and community-based governance in effective environmental management.

Conservation Lands, Trails & Visitor Experience
Cataraqui Conservation's network of conservation areas continued to serve as vital community assets. In 2025, staff focused on trail maintenance and safety improvements, visitor education and signage updates, habitat protection and ecological restoration, and seasonal programming. Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area remained a flagship destination, offering year-round outdoor experiences supported by dedicated staff and volunteers. Winter recreation - particularly skiing and snowshoeing - continued to draw strong participation.

Thank you to the staff, board members and volunteers of Cataraqui Conservation for their dedication and professionalism. Your work matters - to our residents, to our councils and to the future of our watershed.

Paul Proderick
Chair, Full Authority Board

David Ellingwood
General Manager

Cataraqui Conservation Launches Natural Shoreline Recognition Award

During the summer of 2025, Cataraqui Conservation recognized landowners who went above and beyond to ensure the health, stability and long-term viability of their shorelines through good shoreline stewardship.

The initial idea for the award came from Cataraqui Conservation's Coordinator of Watershed Planning, Holly Evans.

"We're hoping by awarding these signs and publicly recognizing landowners we, as an organization, will be better able to promote good shoreline practices. It's also a way to spread the word out into the community a bit and encourage neighbours to speak to each other about this kind of thing."

"By natural shoreline, we mean something that mimics conditions that you would find alongside a lake that has been undisturbed by people. So, that means plants along the shore which can include wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. And it refers to a sort of natural sloping shoreline and vegetated area also known as a 'ribbon of life' or riparian zone that would allow for turtles or other aquatic animals to move from water to land as they live their daily lives."

Hailey Esdon, Cataraqui Conservation Development Officer, talked about why it is important to keep shorelines as close to their natural state as possible providing so many practical and ecological benefits.

"We want to promote vegetated shorelines because native vegetation specifically has deep, thick root systems that will retain soil with fluctuating water levels or boat wake and other wave action. It's a way to create a resilient shoreline that will hold up through many years of the typical pressures that we see from the forces of water bodies. We want people to either leave their shoreline as is or work to restore it. Both of those actions have benefits for the watershed. That's why we think it's important to recognize people who have made efforts to restore maybe a previously degraded shoreline," she said.

"In terms of the criteria for this award, we want to see a shoreline that has a mostly continuous buffer of primarily native or at least non-invasive vegetation. Of course, people can have pathways to get to their dock, get into the water, that kind of thing. And I think with this program, one of our focuses is not making perfect the enemy of the good, right?"

The first winner was Gary who lives on Charleston Lake in Leeds & The Thousand Islands Township. He was selected by Esdon earlier this summer.

"Charleston Lake is a very heavily developed lake in our watershed. It's one where I would say we're seeing lots of applications for people wanting to do shoreline alterations, large marine facilities, that kind of thing. Gary is involved in the Charleston Lake Cottagers Association and has a cottage that is built quite close to the shoreline. It's closer than what would be permitted under today's legislation. But it's been there for a long time. He's planted a strip of native vegetation along the shoreline between his cottage and the water – the rest of the property he's basically left totally natural," she said.

For his part, Gary said it's important for shoreline property owners to understand the perils caused by over development, and that it's a responsibility for everyone to do their part to ensure the continued viability of shorelines, not only on Charleston Lake or within the Cataraqui Region, but everywhere.

Esdon's colleague, Development Officer Eric Gallaway talks about the second recipient of the Natural Shoreline Recognition Award, who lives in the western end of Cataraqui Conservation's jurisdiction, on Hay Bay in The Town of Greater Napanee – Marc.

"His main objective of preserving the vegetation along his shorelines is the riparian habitat that the willows create, specifically creating shading and fish habitat. Marc said he really enjoys fishing and enjoys the other ecological benefits and habitat it creates. For example, he often sees ducklings within the willows as it is a good habitat that offers them protection from predators. He also sees many bird species in the trees along his shoreline and appreciates the privacy the vegetation creates. As well as this shoreline work, Marc has also done several other things which provide water quality and ecological benefits in our watershed, including building his new house on the property a good distance from the shoreline (approximately 45 metres). He has also planted a significant number of trees on his property."

Congratulations to our 2025 recipients Gary and Mark. Thank you for your continued efforts to support healthy lakes and shorelines in our region.

Corporate Services & Administration

Dedicated to accountability, transparency & customer service

Corporate Services and Administration is an inter-departmental team within Cataraqui Conservation that supports the business, financial, communication, information management, and internal operational infrastructure of the organization.

2025 Highlights

- Reviewed and reorganized corporate file structure, naming practices and retention policies, as well as continued document management.
- Improved health and safety programs.
- Participated in the Excellence Program offered by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.
- Updated the Employee Handbook to include maternity and parental leave benefits.
- Integrated a new social media strategy to educate and connect with watershed residents.
- Fostered strong relationships with the watershed community by attending events and speaking engagements.
- Continued implementation of the corporate signage strategy at conservation area properties.
- Implemented successful grant applications for facility upgrades, studies, and new community programming.
- Supported departments with staff transitioning, maternity leaves, hiring and retirements of long-serving staff.
- Updated the Administration By-Law to include legislative updates to the Conservation Authorities Act.

57	Releases & news posts
109,073	Website visitors
7,632	Facebook followers
3,611	X (Twitter) followers
2,135	Instagram followers
13	Board Meetings with **73** staff reports
10	Committee meetings with **23** staff reports
4	Source Protection Authority meetings with **4** reports

Marginal Lands Initiative Funding

The Eastern Ontario Farm Stewardship Collaborative launched the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) – Marginal Lands Initiative. This new funding opportunity supports farmers and rural landowners in implementing on-the-ground projects that improve soil and water health, restore habitat, and build climate resilience. The Collaborative brings together Conservation Authorities, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Forests Canada, Watersheds Canada, Just Food, and other partners.

In Eastern Ontario the RALP initiative is being delivered by Cataraqui Conservation, South Nation Conservation, Quinte Conservation, Mississippi Valley Conservation, Rideau Valley Conservation, and Raisin Region Conservation. It builds on decades of Conservation Authority leadership in helping landowners across Eastern Ontario through cost-share environmental improvements that protect water quality and strengthen agricultural operations.

The multi-year program began in fall 2025 where landowners could access funding of up to 90% of eligible project costs for on-farm and rural initiatives. Free site visits are available to help inform project design and support applications, with Conservation Authorities able to help coordinate work activities.

“The program is a great opportunity for local landowners to enhance the health of their land while contributing to climate change mitigation,” said David Ellingwood, General Manager of Cataraqui Conservation. “It supports practical projects that help farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve soil and water health, and protect the natural features that make our region unique. Our team is here to work with landowners every step of the way to turn their ideas into action.”

The Marginal Lands Initiative supports a variety of on-the-ground stewardship projects, including:

- Planting trees and shrubs to improve soil and water health.
- Establishing grasslands and pollinator-friendly habitats.
- Installing vegetated buffers and fencing to protect waterway.
- Restoring wetlands and creating water retention ponds.

With support from all levels of government and technical guidance from local stewardship experts, the program reduces financial barriers for farmers while targeting marginal lands where projects will deliver the greatest environmental benefits.

Applicants do not need to have all project details finalized to apply; landowners can simply share property details, the area they hope to enhance or restore, and their goals or ideas. Conservation Authority staff will then work directly with farmers to help design and deliver projects that meet program requirements.

This funding represents an important regional investment in Eastern Ontario’s farmland. The RALP Initiative will help to strengthen rural economies while protecting the shared water resources that sustain our communities.

Conservation Lands & Operations

Protecting lands and enhancing the ecosystem for generations to come

In 2025, Cataraqui Conservation Lands and Operations staff had a busy year working on projects with our partners and making improvements to conservation areas with the help of funding from successful grant applications.

The impacts of the emerald ash borer kept staff busy identifying, addressing and responding to hazard trees at Cataraqui Conservation properties. The Operations team also completed several trail improvement projects and an upgrade and expansion to parking lots at Marble Rock Conservation Area and Lemoine Point Conservation Area.

The Friends Groups were also very active working with Conservation Lands and Operations staff throughout the year at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area, Lemoine Point Conservation Area and on the Cataraqui Trail. Their support, dedication and work is greatly appreciated by staff and the community. The Native Plant and Tree Nurseries at Lemoine Point and Mac Johnson were also very busy in 2025 with successful sales and comunity tree planting initiatives.

2025 Highlights

- Completed trail improvements and sugar bush laneway upgrades at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area thanks to the City of Kingston Samsung Solar LP Community Benefit Fund.
- Construction of a new parking area and entry to the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery.
- New shed/garage building constructed at the Lemoine Point Native Plant Nursery to house equipment. Thanks to the Nursery Volunteers and Friends of Lemoine Point.
- Staff completed upgrades and an extension to the Marble Rock Conservation Area parking lot with funding provided by the Cataraqui Conservation Foundation.
- Upgrades and additional trail signage and km markers for the Cataraqui Trail with help from the Friends and Trans Canada Trail funding.
- Staff succession planning and transitioning after a long-standing staff retirement and onboarding a new member of the operations team.

10 Conservation Areas and the 104 km **Cataraqui Trail**

6 Forest Protection Areas and **6** Environmental & Water Management Areas

8 Boat Ramps and **9** Water Access Points

3 Active Friends groups with **2** Native Tree/Plant Nurseries

44 Conservation Area use booking permits issues to groups

Education & Public Programs

Cultivating a culture of conservation for today and tomorrow

Cataraqui Conservation's Education and Public Programs strive to connect learners of all ages to the environment through their head, heart and hands. Instilling a sense of awe and respect for the natural world with watershed residents helps them become stewards for the environment in their own communities today, tomorrow and in the future.

In 2025, education and public program staff continued to deliver quality outdoor and environmental education programming across the watershed and with community partners. A highlight for the year was the development of new outdoor education programs for adults and seniors thanks to a grant from the Province of Ontario. Staff worked with community partners to develop and facilitate courses that touched on birding, reconciliation, medicine walks, astronomy, snowshoeing, guided hikes, forest bathing, and wilderness survival. Staff also partnered with Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre to develop a new education program around slow birding, tracking, and expanding habitat and biodiversity programs for grades four to six.

Public Programs staff hosted several guided hikes, events and educational talks throughout the year and were instrumental in delivering another successful Maple Madness program and winter recreation season.

2025 Highlights

- Education staff hosted 4,240 students on field trips at Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Mac Johnson Wildlife Area and across the watershed.
- Successfully delivered fall programming for adults and seniors through a Provincial grant.
- Continued to mentor Queen's University Teacher Candidates who helped with winter and maple programs.
- Started the implementation of visitor upgrades and pilot bus transportation program for Maple Madness with the help of the City of Kingston Samsung Community Fund.
- Worked with the Friends Groups and Foundation on merchandise and fundraising.
- Continue to support staff and the community with wellness offerings and Forest Therapy Walks.
- Sold 642 Annual Passes to the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.
- Welcomed 13,170 visitors to the Maple Madness program and flipped over 17,345 pancakes.
- 105 days of room rental bookings at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area Outdoor Centre.

Cataraqui Conservation Launches Nature Programs for Adults & Seniors

In the fall of 2025, Cataraqui Conservation launched a new suite of outdoor and environmental education programs for adults and seniors thanks to a Seniors Community Grant from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility.

The Seniors Community Grant Program supports local community groups and not-for-profit organizations to deliver programs and learning opportunities for Ontarians aged 55 plus. The grant program focuses on:

- Providing opportunities for older adults to stay active and connected in their communities.
- Developing technology and digital solutions to support seniors' social engagement and access to programs and services.
- Increasing access to information and supports for health prevention and promotion.

The funding enabled Cataraqui Conservation to help bridge a gap in the Cataraqui Watershed for outdoor recreational and educational programming and activities for area seniors, including indigenous partners and veteran communities. Staff collaborated with key community partners to help facilitate programs that helped enrich the lives of adults and seniors through diverse, stimulating and active outdoor nature-based programming. Programs were hosted at a mix of Cataraqui Conservation owned Conservation Areas and were geared towards encouraging an active healthy lifestyle, social interactivity, wellness and community connection. Programs included guided nature hikes, birding, tracks, medicine walks, reconciliation, astronomy, wilderness survival, snowshoeing, and forest bathing introduction sessions.

Thank you to our program facilitators and partners:

- Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network
- Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre
- Aanii Nichii Drones
- Amanda Wilson
- Anne Bown
- The Wild Edge Nature Immersion
- Firefly Adventures
- Stana Luxford Oddie, Cataraqui Conservation
- Kelly McGann, Cataraqui Conservation

Stewardship & Tree Planting

Leadership in tree planting, forestry management & shoreline protection

Cataraqui Conservation works with landowners and various forestry management partners to encourage stewardship of land and water. Staff provide information about tree planting, shoreline naturalization and invasive species. The program's main focus is on afforestation (new forests) and contributing to the overall forest cover in the Cataraqui Region to provide wind and water erosion protection, make poor land more productive and create/enhance wildlife habitat.

In 2025, we planted our 6 millionth tree! Cataraqui Conservation planted a total of 301,500 trees on 38 properties in the watershed resulting in the afforestation of 153 hectares (377 acres). The trees planted in 2025 bring our running total to 6,201,457 since the inception of our planting program in 1982. One notable site planted was 13,700 trees planted on a former landfill site owned by the City of Kingston, as part of a long-term environmental restoration project. Further highlights include:

- 143,800 trees planted in the Cataraqui watershed as part of Forest Canada's 50 Million Tree Program.
- 157,700 trees planted as part of Tree Canada's National Greening Program
- 11,330 seedlings sold through the over-the-counter tree sales program to 18 landowners.
- Survival assessments completed on 5,483,450 trees across 70 properties. This includes assessments for trees planted in 2021, 2023 and 2024.

Number of Trees Planted by Municipality in 2025:

- 39,800 trees (49.8 acres) in Elizabethtown-Kitley Township.
- 23,800 trees (29.9 acres) in Front of Yonge Township.
- 37,600 trees (47 acres) in Leeds & the Thousand Islands.
- 52,750 trees (66 acres) in South Frontenac Township.
- 35,350 trees (44.2 acres) in the City of Kingston.
- 19,950 trees (24.9 acres) in Loyalist Township.
- 92,150 trees (115.2 acres) other (e.g. Frontenac Islands).

Total = 301,500 trees (377 acres)

Development Review

Protecting people and property from natural hazards

Following the mandate outlined in Provincial legislation, Cataraqui Conservation's planning and permitting duties (collectively called Development Review) are focused on avoidance of natural hazards (e.g. flooding and erosion), protection of the hydrological functions of wetlands, protection of drinking water sources, and protection of overall watershed integrity. In addition, Cataraqui Conservation is mandated to implement Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.

In 2025, Cataraqui Conservation development review staff reviewed a total of 631 applications. This includes 300 planning applications and 331 permit applications. Total plan review and permit applications show that development review volume is returning to pre-pandemic levels following exceedingly high volumes of applications during 2020 to 2024. Development Review staff remained busy with large-scale, complex files and ongoing compliance and enforcement efforts. High service standards were upheld in 2025 during a year of staffing transition, with municipal and provincial application review timelines met or exceeded greater than 80% of the time. The volume of development inquiries, as noted in the right hand column, remained high in 2025.

2025 Inquiry Statistics

49
Property Inquiries

63
Legal Inquiries

755
General Correspondence or Pre-Consultation Files

867
TOTAL INQUIRIES

2025 Highlights

- Began implementation on updated Policies for Implementing Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits.
- Began implementation of updated flood hazard mapping for Cataraqui Conservation's Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River shorelines to help guide safe development in the region.
- Led community and agency outreach and education events relating to watershed planning and natural hazards, including a professional event in collaboration with the Latornell Conservation Symposium and Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.
- Continued to navigate challenging enforcement files with positive outcomes for many, including restoration of disturbed sites and relocation of buildings and structures ensuring development occurs in a safe and responsible manner.
- Initiated a shoreline recognition program across the region with several waterfront landowners recognized as positive examples of shoreline stewards.

Phragmites Shoreline Survey Cruise

Over the summer months of 2025, the Cataraqui Region Invasive Phragmites Working Group called on local lake and watershed associations, residents, cottagers, anglers and boaters to assist in identifying and reporting invasive Phragmites along lakeshores and streambanks.

Phragmites is widely considered one of Canada's worst invasive plants. To create a more comprehensive understanding of how Phragmites are impacting the Region, the Cataraqui Region Invasive Phragmites Working Group launched a citizen science initiative using the Cataraqui Invasive Phrag Survey powered by the Survey123 app. The survey enables users to document sightings of the aggressive plant species.

"This type of community involvement is essential," said Nick Sterling, Watershed Conservation Technician with Cataraqui Conservation, who helped lead the project. "By gathering on-the-ground information, we can fill in important data gaps and plan more effectively to manage and, where possible, remove invasive populations. The best time to submit observations to the app is late July and early August when the tall reeds are most visible."

Invasive Phragmites is a non-native perennial grass that spreads rapidly, outcompeting native plants, damaging habitats, and reducing shoreline access. Their presence has been growing throughout the region, including along lake shores, wetlands, and drainage areas. The data collected through the survey will allow the Working Group to update its regional inventory and better assess where and how these plants are spreading.

Over the past two years the Working Group successfully earned grants through the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund for collaborative planning, education, monitoring and management of invasive Phragmites. A key to this year's success has been getting help to map populations that have become established in more sensitive areas by spreading from roadsides where they first became established.

"We wanted to map them now and see what can be done to help before they have time to grow to an unmanageable level," said Holly Evans, Watershed Planning Coordinator with Cataraqui Conservation. "Early detection and action are critical for invasive species like Phragmites".

The survey results will help determine where future control efforts can be implemented in coordination with lake associations and private landowners. Any future management actions will be developed in collaboration with the community to ensure they align with local priorities.

To participate, residents were encouraged to download the free survey app, which provides identification tips and GPS tagging tools. While cruising around the lake or walking along a stream bank, users recorded locations of invasive Phragmites and their surrounding environmental conditions.

Together, local knowledge and environmental stewardship can help protect the region's valuable natural spaces from the spread of this harmful invader.

Watershed Science & Engineering

Maintaining the viability and sustainability of our most precious resources

The first step toward meaningful conservation is learning about conditions through watershed monitoring. Staff collect information using a variety of methods and equipment to understand local floods, droughts, erosion hazards, conditions of local lakes and streams, forest and wetland cover, groundwater, and the health of fish and aquatic communities.

In 2025, Watershed Science staff completed the first regional invasive phragmites control project with community partners including South Frontenac Township and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to treat 143 patches to curb the spread from roadsides into more sensitive areas like wetlands and along shorelines. Also, data was added to the 1,200 plus invasive phragmites observations to improve understanding of the presence and extent of invasive phragmites outside of areas along roadsides including lakeshores; 28 lakes were monitored with the help of 13 partners.

Staff also operate and manage 10 water control structures and use data gathered from stream gauges, weather stations, snow survey sites, meteorologic forecasts, and computer models to forecast potential floods and drought conditions. As part of our responsibility to make the public aware of water levels, flood warnings and drought condition messages are issued to local municipalities, partner agencies and the public.

2025 Highlights

- Led The Cataraqui Low Water Response Team through major low water conditions over the late summer and into the fall.
- Inventoried the shoreline of Cranberry Lake in partnership with Parks Canada - Rideau Canal using a customized Foreshore Inventory and Management Planning method where observations for 89 unique segments were recorded to identify special features, important habitats and levels of disturbance.
- Continued hosting a special Invasive Species Hit Squad summer crew. Work was done to monitor 122 km of shoreline, collect eDNA samples, complete a grid search and hand pull over 2,400 kg of water soldier from 23 patches on Redhorse Lake.
- Assessed and will be including an additional monitoring well in the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network to represent the Gull River formation in the City of Kingston.
- Hosted and led 20 Water Manager Freshet meetings to discuss watershed conditions, water levels, dam safety, operations and inform flood messaging.
- Completed operator access safety improvements at the Wilton Road Dam.
- Fred Grant Dam safety and cattle exclusion fencing project was completed to improve operator/public safety and protect the earthen berm from erosion.
- Completed Collins/Glenvale Creek Flood Hazard Mapping project.
- Tested and implemented new and improved streamflow forecasting tools to support the Flood Forecasting and Warning Program.
- Ten annual inspections conducted by Cataraqui Conservation Engineering and Operations staff on Cataraqui Conservation managed water control structures.
- Hosted two Eastern Ontario Flood Forecasting & Warning Committee meetings to facilitate on-going collaboration for Eastern Ontario Conservation Authority Staff.

Drinking Water Source Protection

Dedicated to the quality of our municipal drinking water at its source

Clean, sustainable and abundant drinking water is important to us all. Under the Drinking Water Source Protection Program, Cataraqui Conservation staff work with local municipalities and stakeholders to implement the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan to ensure clean, safe and sustainable municipal drinking water sources (rivers, lakes, aquifers) are protected.

2025 marked 25 years since the Walkerton drinking water contamination event. This tragedy led to the creation of Source Water Protection in Ontario, which was commemorated in an informative video, creation of a children's colouring page and hosting of an informational webinar.

2025 Highlights

- In partnership with other Conservation Authorities, Cataraqui Conservation hosted four Drinking Water Wise Webinars throughout the year. Topics included: Well Maintenance & Safety, History of Source Water Protection, Cisterns 101, Septic Systems 102 and Karst Geology's connection to source water.
- Social media campaigns in 2025 tackled Water Conservation, Road Salt Use and Well Decommissioning.
- The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report continued its multi-year update process as required under the Clean Water Act to incorporate new provincial technical rules, refine policies, provide clarity and include new data where applicable.
- Resources were created to educate residents, municipal staff and developers on drinking water Transportation Pathways and associated reporting requirements.
- Staff continue to review development near drinking water sources, supporting the updating of Official Plans and engaging in pre-consultation with regards to new and upgraded drinking water systems.

CleanWaterCataraqui.ca

Cataraqui
conservation

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