The TOWNSHIP of WAINFLEET

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

October 28, 2026

1. **C-2026-241**
   Correspondence dated October 27, 2026 from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding Conservation Authority Consolidation and Municipal Representation.

2. **C-2026-242**
   Correspondence dated October 27, 2026 from Birchway Niagara and Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District regarding the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Received October 27, 2026
C-2026-241

October 27th, 2026

Re: Conservation Authority Consolidation and Municipal Representation

Dear Watershed Municipalities,

On February 1, 2027, Ontario's 36 conservation authorities will be consolidated into nine regional conservation authorities. As part of this transition, changes to the role of participating municipalities will take effect. This letter provides an overview of those changes, including key responsibilities and important dates municipalities should be aware of.

For additional information on consolidation and transition activities currently underway, please refer to the attached Consolidation Update.

Summary of Changes

Historically, single-tier and lower-tier municipalities served as the participating municipalities of their respective conservation authorities. In this role, municipalities:

- Appointed members to the Board of Directors;
- Received draft budgets for review and comment; and
- Were invoiced for their share of the conservation authority levy.

Recent Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* have changed the participating municipality structure for the new regional conservation authorities. Effective February 1, 2027, single-tier and upper-tier municipalities will become the participating municipalities and will assume responsibility for these functions. Additional details are provided below.

Appointment of Board Members

Following the yesterday's municipal election, single-tier and upper-tier municipalities will be responsible for appointing members to the Board of Directors of the new regional conservation authority, subject to the final governance and seat allocation direction from the Province.

- Appointments must be made by Council resolution, with a copy provided to the conservation authority once approved.
- Resolutions should be submitted no later than January 31, 2027, as the inaugural Board will need to meet in early February to support the establishment and operationalization of the new regional conservation authority.

- While appointments typically align with the four-year term of Council, municipalities may appoint members for a shorter term or make changes during the term as required.

The Province recently consulted on a proposed governance model, including municipal representation on the new Boards of Directors. Once provincial direction is finalized, additional information will be communicated to municipalities. Future transition updates will include details regarding:

- Board seat allocations for participating municipalities;
- Any eligibility requirements for appointed members; and
- Additional governance and onboarding information to support municipal appointments.

Continuation of Current Board

The *Conservation Authorities Act* states that current members will continue to serve on a conservation authority's Board of Directors until a municipality appoints or reappoints a member for the new term. Appointment of Board members is not automatically tied to the municipal election cycle, and current appointments remain in effect until municipalities make new appointments or reappointments. With the consolidation and new Boards not taking effect until February 1:

• Maintaining current Board membership until January 31 would provide continuity and stability throughout the transition period.

• Single-tier and lower-tier municipalities could support this continuity by deferring new appointments until the consolidated Board structure comes into effect on February 1.

• This approach would minimize governance disruption and maintain organizational knowledge during the final stages of the transition.

Budget and Levy

Conservation authorities were directed by the Province to complete their 2027 budgets and issue levy invoices to single-tier and lower-tier municipalities before January 31, 2027. This means:

• Single-tier and lower-tier municipalities will receive draft conservation authority budgets in September for review and comment and can expect levy invoices to be issued by year-end following budget approval in October.

• Beginning with the 2028 budget cycle, single-tier and upper-tier municipalities will receive draft conservation authority budgets for review and comment. Levy invoices will subsequently be issued to these municipalities under the new funding and governance structure.

Best Regards,

Jacqueline Johnson
Project Executive, Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) | Ontario Public Service
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Ontario

Conservation Authority Consolidation Update #1

Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

On February 1, 2027, Ontario's 36 conservation authorities will be consolidated into nine regional conservation authorities. Locally, Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC), Conservation Halton (CH), Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), and Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) will be consolidated to form the new Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (WLORCA).

To keep local partners updated on the transition process, the WLORCA project team will provide written updates to share progress and key milestones as we move towards a consolidated regional conservation authority on February 1.

Project Executive

To lead consolidation efforts at the local level, the province has selected a Project Executive for each region who will become the CAO of the new regional conservation authority. Project Executives are responsible for leading the transition process and ensuring their new regional conservation authority is operational on February 1.

For the Western Lake Ontario region, the province selected Jacqueline Johnson as Project Executive. With more than 15 years of public sector leadership experience, Jacqueline has led large-scale organizational transformation initiatives at the Region of Peel and the City of Burlington, overseeing complex operations, governance, and stakeholder engagement. Jacqueline is a certified Project Management Professional who brings a collaborative, people-centred approach to leading the transition and establishing the foundation for the new regional authority.

Transition Committee

Each Project Executive is being supported by a Transition Committee that will meet monthly from September to January to support the development of a Transition Plan for their region. Each committee is made up of two representatives from each conservation authority – the General Manager/CAO and a Board member.

The Transition Committee for the Western Lake Ontario region has begun meeting. They received Terms of Reference for the Committee and an overview of the transition process and timeline. Members provided input on how to keep stakeholders and

partners informed throughout the transition process and are now supporting progress and providing input on the development of the Transition Plan.

Transition Committee for Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

CVC	Michael Palleschi: Board Chair (Councillor, City of Brampton)
	Terri Hamilton: Chief Administrative Officer
CH	Gerry Smallegange: Board Chair (CEO, Burlington Hydro)
	Chandra Sharma: President & CEO
NPCA	Robert Foster: Board Chair (Councillor, Town of Lincoln)
	Leilani Lee-Yates: Chief Administrative Officer
HCA	Brad Clark: Board Chair (Councillor, City of Hamilton)
	Lisa Burnside: Chief Administrative Officer

Key Deliverables

Project Executives will be responsible for completing a Go Live Plan which is a list of critical tasks that need to be completed for the new regional conservation authority to be operational on February 1. Completion of this list will ensure the new organization is functional on Day 1 and there are no interruptions to operations, programs or services.

At the same time, Transition Committees will develop a Transition Plan which lays out the longer-term work plan to achieve steady state in the newly consolidated regional conservation authority. The plan will identify key governance, operational, financial and organizational matters to be addressed in 2027 to 2029.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the new regional conservation authority will be responsible for implementing the Transition Plan while governing the new organization and ensuring business continuity. The new Board of Directors will be appointed by single and upper tier municipalities in the region. The participating municipalities in the new Western Lake Ontario region are:

Peel Region
Halton Region
Niagara Region
City of Hamilton
Haldimand County
Wellington County
Dufferin County

Recently the province consulted on a draft proposal outlining how many seats each single and upper tier municipality could receive on the new regional conservation authority Boards of Directors. Once the province finalizes a governance model, we will inform municipalities of how many seats they have and work with them to appoint members prior to February 1.

To ensure conservation authorities remain operational and the transition is smooth:

- Current Board members should continue to serve on their local conservation authority board until January 31, 2027 (this is permitted under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and there are a limited number of meetings left before Feb 1)
- Current conservation authority Boards were also instructed by the province to complete 2027 budgets for their conservation authorities and issue levy invoices before Feb 1 (this is the last time lower tier municipalities will receive a levy invoice as 2028 levies will be issued to upper and single tier municipalities).

Summary of Changes

Below is a list of what is changing when, as well as a summary of what will stay the same following the consolidation of conservation authorities:

How Things are Changing	What Stays the Same
• **2027 Budget and Levies:** These budgets and levy invoices will be sent to single and lower tier municipalities for a final time. • **2028 Budget and Levies:** Next fall, draft budgets and levy invoices for 2028 and onward will be sent to single and upper tier municipalities • **Board of Directors:** Single and upper tier municipalities will appoint members to the regional conservation authority Boards of Directors following the municipal election (instead of single and lower tier municipalities)	• **No changes to programs and services**: What conservation authorities do and the programs and services they provide to residents and municipalities are not changing. • **No office closures**: Programs and services will continue to be delivered out of all four CA offices • **No boundary changes**: Only land that is currently in a conservation authority will be in the jurisdiction of the new regional conservation authority. If only part of a municipality is currently in a CA, only that part will be in the new CA as no boundaries are expanding.

Watershed Councils

The province will also require regional conservation authorities to establish one or more watershed councils with representation from local partners, sectors and stakeholders. The province will provide further details on the establishment, size, membership and role of these councils following consolidation.

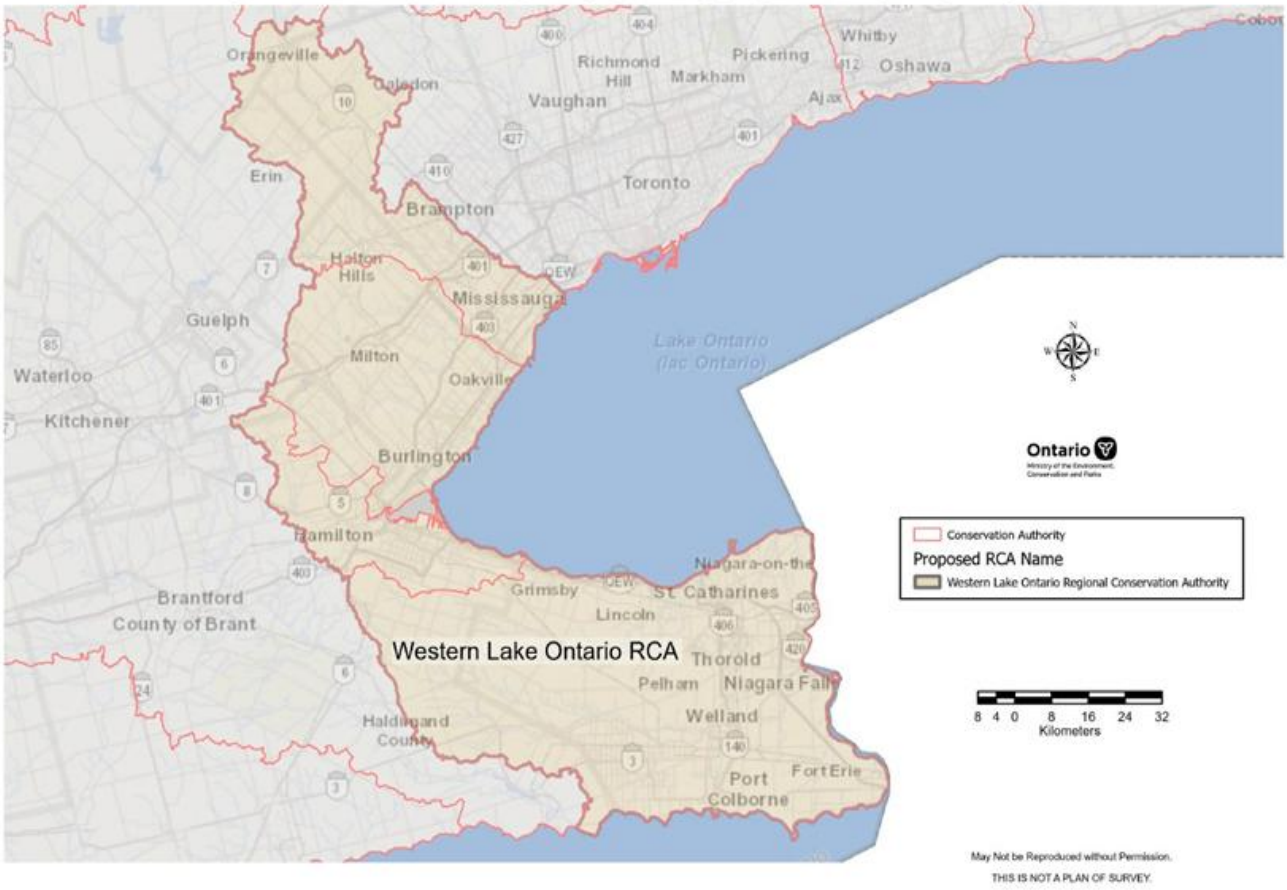
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks created a new provincial agency to provide oversight over conservation authorities. The Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) is currently responsible for overseeing the regional consolidation of conservation authorities and is providing direction, tools and resources to all Project Executives and Transition Committees to guide a consistent and organized approach to consolidation.

For More Information:

Jacqueline Johnson, Project Executive
Western Lake Ontario RCA
jacqueline.johnson@ontario.ca

WESTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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THIS IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY.

Received October 27, 2026
C-2026-242

September 28, 2026

To: Mayor Grant and Members of Council

On behalf of Birchway Niagara and Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District, we look forward to your continued participation in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign which begins Tuesday, November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends December 10, International Human Rights Day.

We are asking you to proclaim November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and to raise OAITH's Wrapped in Courage* flag (purple) to create awareness and promote gender equality.

As well, we are requesting permission to display Red dresses at various locations to acknowledge Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2S+ (MMIWG2S+). This is an opportunity for each mayor and council to issue a reaffirming statement of support and promote awareness of this violence and the need for resources and help for survivors.

Please inform us at what time you will be raising the flag on the 25th. We respectfully request that you consider scheduling your flag raising in the afternoon of the 25th, if possible, to allow more people to also attend the flag raising at the Region that morning. However, whatever you decide, we will be in attendance to support you and, if you wish, Birchway will provide a speaker.

Should your Council decide to recognise November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women please see the example of a proclamation below.

We wish to thank you for your consideration of this request and for all you have done other years to raise awareness of domestic violence and to support our organizations. If there is additional information which we can provide, please let us know. If your town is planning any additional activities during the 16 Days of Activism, we will be happy to participate and assist in any way possible. Birchway Niagara is also happy to promote any events related to Woman Abuse Prevention Month and the 16 Days of Activism on their website.

Please confirm your receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

Gwenn Alves
Advocacy Committee CFUW Welland and District
gwennralves@gmail.com 905-892-6988

You may also contact Jennifer McQuestion, Communications Manager, Birchway Niagara at: JenniferM@birchway.ca 905-356-3933 Ext 239

**To learn more about the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses and their annual Wrapped in Courage campaign, visit oaith.ca or wrappedincourage.ca*

Proclamation: NOVEMBER 25, 2026
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

WHEREAS November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month, and November 25 is recognized around the world as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; and

WHEREAS gender-based violence is a serious barrier to equality and safety for women, girls and gender-diverse people; and

WHEREAS femicide continues to claim lives in Ontario; and

WHEREAS Indigenous, Black, South Asian and Southeast Asian women and girls, as well as members of 2SLGBTQI+ communities, experience disproportionately high rates of violence, including femicide; and

WHEREAS our community is committed to ending femicide and all forms of gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS greater investment and action are urgently needed from all three levels of government to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors in our community and across Ontario; and

WHEREAS a Wrapped in Courage campaign flag will be raised in Wainfleet to raise awareness of gender-based violence and the community action needed to prevent it and support survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, , Mayor Brian Grant,, hereby proclaim November 25, 2026, as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Wainfleet and urge all residents to mark this day by supporting survivors and taking part in efforts across Ontario to end gender-based violence.