

Municipality of Arran-Elderslie,
Municipality of Brockton
Township of Chatsworth
Municipality of Grey Highlands
Town of Hanover
Township of Howick
Township of Huron-Kinloss
Municipality of Kincardine
Town of Minto
Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
Town of Saugeen Shores
Township of Southgate
Municipality of South Bruce
Township of Wellington North
Municipality of West Grey

November 10, 2025

Subject: Environmental Registry Posting on Conservation Authorities

To our Municipal Partners,

The Province of Ontario has posted a new Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) notice titled [“Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities.”](#) The posting was released on November 7, 2025, and the public comment period is open until December 22, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

For background, the Environmental Registry of Ontario is the Province’s official online platform for public consultation on environmental legislation, regulations, and policy changes. Ministries use the Registry to post proposals, receive comments, and record decisions. Conservation authorities (CA), municipalities, community organizations, and members of the public are invited to participate in this process.

Summary of the ERO Notice:

- The Province is seeking feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria to consolidate Ontario’s 36 CAs into 7 regional CAs, aligned along watershed boundaries. This is a proposal only, not a finalized decision.
- The stated intent is to improve consistency, reduce duplication, and direct more resources to front-line watershed work, while aligning with provincial priorities.

- The notice identifies seven proposed regional groupings and provides both a detailed map (attached) and supplemental information outlining how these boundaries might be applied.
- SVCA is identified within the proposed “Huron–Superior Regional Conservation Authority,” which would merge the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority with Ausable Bayfield, Maitland Valley, Grey Sauble, Nottawasaga Valley, Lake Simcoe Region, and Thunder Bay Conservation Authorities.
- While the majority of this proposed regional jurisdiction would encompass watersheds along the southwestern shores of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, the inclusion of the Thunder Bay watershed extends the region’s reach to Lake Superior, approximately 1,400 kilometres to the northwest, encompassing a total of 78 municipalities.
- The criteria used to draw the proposed boundaries includes intent to maintain watershed-based jurisdictions, simplifying relationships with municipalities, balancing technical capacity across authorities, and ensuring continuity of key programs such as permitting, flood forecasting and warning, and source water protection.
- The notice states that no changes are proposed to the overall extent of conservation authority jurisdiction and that regional CAs would remain independent organizations operating under municipal governance and oversight. Mandated programs would continue.
- The Province is requesting feedback on boundaries, transition considerations, governance options, transparent budgeting across multiple municipalities, and the maintenance of strong local relationships.

At this stage, there are no immediate changes to Saugeen Conservation’s programs, staffing, or governance as a result of this posting. The *Conservation Authorities Act* remains fully in effect.

SVCA will review all materials, coordinate closely with Conservation Ontario and our neighbouring CAs, and prepare a response to the ERO posting within the consultation period.

We will continue to participate in this process, engage constructively on behalf of our member municipalities, and share updates as new information becomes available.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping to maintain balanced communication during this consultation period.

Sincerely,



Erik Downing
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