



**Conservation Authorities
Moraine Coalition**

Central Lake Ontario Conservation
Credit Valley Conservation
Ganaraska Region Conservation
Kawartha Conservation
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
Lower Trent Conservation
Otonabee Conservation
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation
Toronto and Region Conservation

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES MORAINE COALITION

STRATEGIC PLAN

MAY 2011



Central Lake Ontario Conservation
Credit Valley Conservation
Ganaraska Region Conservation
Kawartha Conservation
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
Lower Trent Conservation
Otonabee Conservation
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation
Toronto and Region Conservation

Table of Contents

(1)	The Formation of the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition.....	1
(2)	A Vision for the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC).....	2
(3)	CAMC Mission and Principles	3
(4)	CAMC Goals – 2000 – 2010.....	4
(5)	CAMC Goals & Objectives – 2011 – 2020	4
	Appendix A.....	7



Central Lake Ontario Conservation
Credit Valley Conservation
Ganaraska Region Conservation
Kawartha Conservation
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
Lower Trent Conservation
Otonabee Conservation
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation
Toronto and Region Conservation

(1) The Formation of the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition

The Oak Ridges Moraine is a significant environmental feature, formed by glacial sediments some thirteen thousand years ago. It represents one of Ontario's most complex and largest glacial remnants.

The Oak Ridges Moraine is approximately 160 kilometers long and varies in width from 3 to 23 kilometers. The Moraine is the drainage divide between Lake Ontario/Lake Huron and Lake Simcoe/Kawartha Lakes, supporting the headwaters for over 65 rivers that drain into these lakes. The Moraine serves to recharge groundwater and contains some of the Greater Toronto Areas' most valuable forests and wetlands

Conservation Authorities were created starting in 1946, under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, to conserve and protect the valuable features and functions of the natural environment.

The objectives of an Authority are to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals.

Nine of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities have their headwaters along the Oak Ridges Moraine. These Conservation Authorities are:

- Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
- Credit Valley Conservation Authority
- Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
- Kawartha Region Conservation Authority
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- Lower Trent Region Conservation Authority
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

In 1999, Conservation Ontario, the association of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, requested the nine Authorities located along the Oak Ridges Moraine to develop a position on how the Authorities could assist with the Moraine's protection.

With the approval of the Board of Directors of each of the nine Conservation Authorities, the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition was formed in 2000.



Central Lake Ontario Conservation
Credit Valley Conservation
Ganaraska Region Conservation
Kawartha Conservation
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
Lower Trent Conservation
Otonabee Conservation
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation
Toronto and Region Conservation

(2) A Vision for the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition

The Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition will be:

Forward Looking

Take a long-term view to ensure an environmentally healthy moraine for future generations.

Holistic

Maintain a broad and comprehensive perspective and consider the implications of our actions and the actions of others on the Oak Ridges Moraine as a whole.

Balanced

Recognize that growth is occurring in and around the moraine and that there is a requirement to balance environmental protection and economic development with the needs of the communities. CAMC members will work to achieve a consensus between competing interests, values and demands, based on sound environmental science.

Proactive

Take a proactive approach to ecosystem management. Where there is uncertainty, risk or irreversibility we will be cautious and err on the side of the environment.

Foster Understanding

Make decisions and take action based on our knowledge, skills and experience. The Coalition will work continually to improve our understanding of the functioning of the Oak Ridges Moraine, its important features and the links that make the moraine one system.

Action Oriented

Implement management by providing services. Through partnerships with our member Conservation Authorities and others, we will provide services to many.

Locally Driven

Involve the local community. If the local community builds an understanding, appreciation and commitment to the conservation of the moraine, then the environmental health of the moraine will be ensured.

Partnership Driven

Recognize that the responsibility to manage the Oak Ridges Moraine is shared by many. The conservation, restoration, development and management of the moraine's natural resources will only be achieved through successful partnerships with municipalities, agencies, groups and individuals.

Practical & Innovative

Pursue reasonable, practical approaches for complex problems. We will strive to foster innovation and creativity in our Coalition, our partners and our communities. We believe in continuous learning and are always seeking innovative approaches to cost effective resource management.



(3) CAMC Mission and Principles

The mission of the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition is to *advance the science and understanding of the Oak Ridges Moraine and to work towards government, agency and community support for the conservation and protection of the form, function and linkages of the Oak Ridges Moraine.*

Carrying out this mission will provide for the conservation and preservation/restoration of the Oak Ridges Moraine including, but not limited to its:

- groundwater
- surface water
- landform/landscape
- ecology
- wildlife (flora and fauna).

This mission is founded on our collective and applied understanding that effective natural system management is still best accomplished through comprehensive planning on a watershed basis. The Coalition will provide the watershed planning process currently underway in all nine Authorities with a forum for discussion and a vehicle to share information on the moraine between the organizations. Enhancement and application of the knowledge gained on the science of the moraine is a key tool to conserve and protect a larger system that forms the headwaters of many of southern Ontario's watercourses.

The relationship between the Coalition and the authorities is based on three themes:

1. The Coalition will assist staff in dealing with issues regarding the moraine. Specific planning application review will remain the task of individual Conservation Authorities.
2. The Coalition will be developed as a value-added organization. It will not reinvent the wheel and will not duplicate services being provided by others.
3. The Coalition, working with the nine Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Authorities and their member municipalities, will facilitate consistent and effective Oak Ridges Moraine conservation.

The CAMC will operate on the principles of:

- timeliness
- credibility
- relevancy
- consistency, and
- sustainability.



(4) CAMC Goals – 2000 – 2010

In 2000, the Coalition defined its goals for the decade, as follows:

- 4.1 Provide focus to the definition of the Oak Ridges Moraine Natural Heritage System
- 4.2 Support an Accessible Trail System
- 4.3 Provide Data and Support to Land Use and Policy Planning on an Oak Ridges Moraine Scale
- 4.4 Provide Enhanced Land Conservation on the Oak Ridges Moraine
- 4.5 Gather Data and Monitor
- 4.6 Ensure Effective Conservation Services
- 4.7 Provide Education and Information.

Each year, from 2000 to 2010, the CAMC provided an Annual Report outlining how the above goals were achieved.

(5) CAMC Goals & Objectives – 2011 – 2020

In 2011, the CAMC developed new goals and objectives for the next decade.

5.1 Goal 1:

To work in partnership to protect and restore an integrated natural heritage, land form and water resource system on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

1. Improve water quality and aquatic habitats by restoring native vegetation to riparian corridors.
2. Increase terrestrial natural cover and wildlife habitat by restoring forest, wetland, prairie and rare species habitats in accordance with defensible standards and ecologically-based watershed targets.
3. Encourage municipalities to integrate Natural Heritage System plans and Watershed Plan recommendations into official plans to achieve a consistent policy regime across the ORM.
4. Support a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation for the ORM to promote awareness, protection and restoration efforts that are integrated with broader provincial strategies to address biodiversity, climate change, invasive species and species at risk.

5.2 Goal 2:

To undertake science-based research and monitoring through an integrated watershed management approach.

1. Collaborate with partners to ensure a long term monitoring and data collection program is in place for a variety of parameters in order to periodically report on ORM-wide health and trends over time, on a comparative watershed basis.
2. Encourage, support and integrate the application of the knowledge and activities of the CAMC to other moraines.

5.3 Goal 3:

To promote healthy communities and provide opportunities for public use, enjoyment and outdoor recreation by contributing to an accessible, linked public green space and trail system across the Oak Ridges Moraine.

1. Promote the use of public green space and trail systems on the ORM for their contribution to broader social goals and values such as ecological goods and services and public health.
2. Work with ORTA and other organizations to identify and secure off road trail routes featuring a diversity of habitats, views and vistas to maximize educational and interpretive opportunities.
3. Utilize public lands to demonstrate the value and significance of the ORM and promote their use for public enjoyment, recreation and health.

5.4 Goal 4:

To advocate for and take action to protect and restore the Oak Ridges Moraine through stewardship, land securement and education.

1. Mobilize others to advocate for the protection of the ORM through their delivery of resource education and messaging to key audiences.
2. Identify and secure significant lands through partnerships.
3. Empower a team of partners to identify needs and effective actions, seek funding support and invest in stewardship activities on both public and private lands.
4. Collaborate with municipal and other partners to ensure adequate funding to maintain educational facilities and programs at conservation lands to provide family and youth oriented environment-based experiential learning and recreational opportunities.



5.5 Goal 5:

To provide expert advice on environmental planning and policy matters to support a robust and resilient natural environment as the foundation for sustainable community planning on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

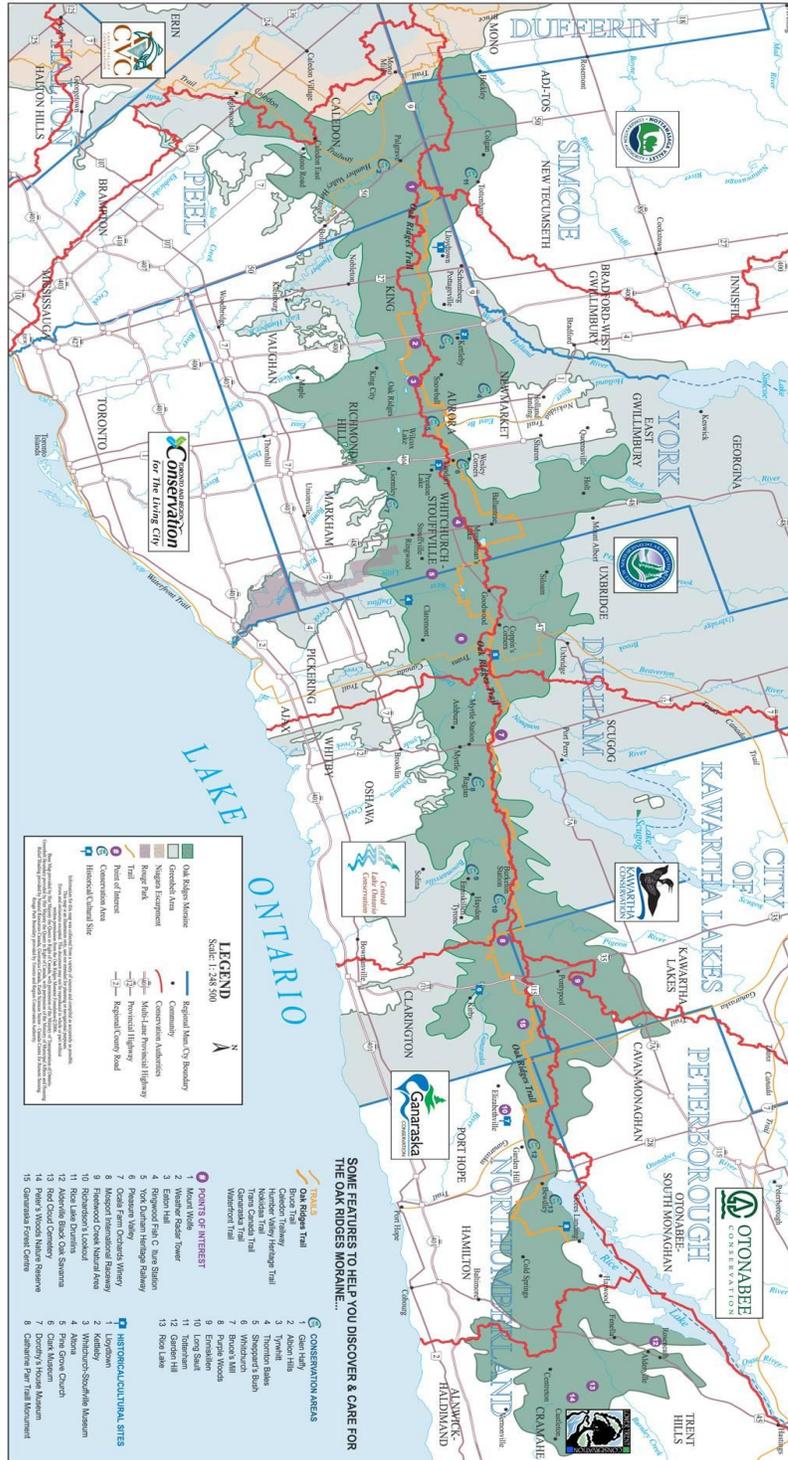
1. Develop strategic partnerships to establish roles, responsibilities and funding mechanisms to support effective implementation of planning and policy matters for sustainable communities and the 2015 ORMC Plan review.
2. Establish a team of planning and policy experts, who will research, develop and offer consistent effective science/knowledge to support sustainable ORM environment /community needs.
3. Develop/maintain CAMC member capacity to deliver expert planning and policy advice.
4. Develop a strategy to enhance communications with key stakeholders, critical to effective planning and policy implementation.
5. Educate and transfer science and monitoring information to stakeholders and decision makers to empower them to make wise planning decisions and implement stewardship programs.



**Conservation Authorities
Moraine Coalition**

- Central Lake Ontario Conservation
- Credit Valley Conservation
- Ganaraska Region Conservation
- Kawartha Conservation
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation
- Lower Trent Conservation
- Otonabee Conservation
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation
- Toronto and Region Conservation

Appendix A



THE OAK RIDGES MORAINES

