

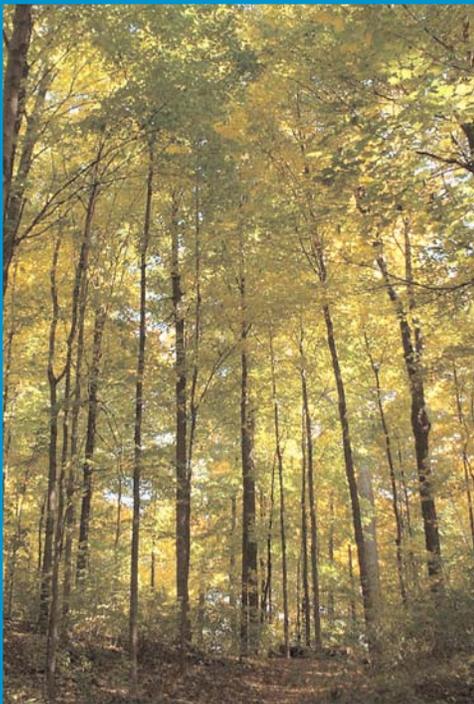


Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition

2004 Accomplishments

The Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC) includes the nine Conservation Authorities whose watershed boundaries include the Oak Ridges Moraine.

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



CAMC Mission

To advance the science and understanding of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

To work toward government, agency and community support for the conservation and protection of the form, function and linkages of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

CAMC Goals

To define and protect natural heritage and water resource systems of the Oak Ridges Moraine through watershed studies and monitoring.

To support an accessible trail system.

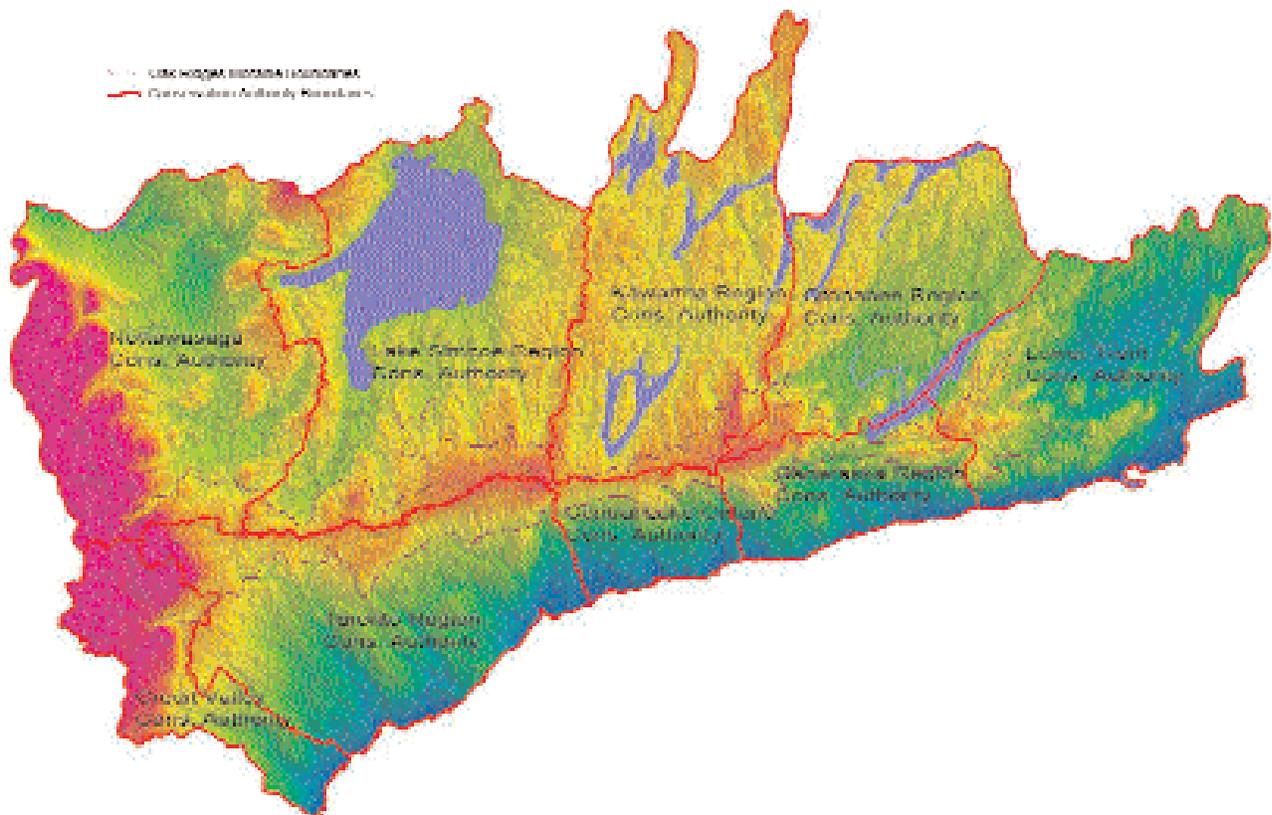
To ensure effective stewardship services on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

To build partnerships to provide education, information and land securement opportunities on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Introduction

The Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC) was established five years ago, as nine Conservation Authorities with watersheds extending onto the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) came together to advance the science and understanding of the Moraine. Our mission is to work towards government, agency and community support for the conservation and protection of the form, function and linkages of the ORM. A groundswell of public, agency, and government support, as well as media attention, culminated in legislated protection and a provincial plan for the ORM much sooner than anyone had expected.

Although the Moraine is no longer front page news, the implementation of the ORM Conservation Plan and resulting protection/enhancement efforts are on-going. Together, with the support of many dedicated individuals and organizations, the CAMC has accomplished a great deal. Some of the highlights from 2004 are featured in this report.



Thank You To Our Partners

ORM Municipalities

Nature Conservancy of Canada

Seneca College - King Campus

Ontario Nature

ORM Foundation

South Simcoe Groundwater Study

Academic Institutions

Various Private Sector Agencies,
Foundations and Corporations

Province of Ontario

Ontario Geological Survey

Geological Survey of Canada

ORM Stewardship Councils

ORM Land Trust

Landowners

Oak Ridges Trail Association

Groundwater & Hydrogeological Activities

The CAMC continued to work with the Regions of York, Peel and Durham, as well as the City of Toronto (YPDT) on a groundwater program that focuses on data management, geological understanding, numerical groundwater modeling and policy development. Achievements in 2004 include:

- ongoing expansion of the core groundwater model west into Peel and east into Durham Region;
- application of the model in critical projects such as the York Region deep trunk sewer and related water-taking permits;
- seismic studies to locate additional water supplies for the City of Barrie and the Town of Port Perry;
- increasing the accuracy and extent of groundwater information through the addition of data collected by the Ontario Geological Survey, Geological Survey of Canada and South Simcoe Groundwater Study;
- release of version 1.0 of the database, modeling files and geological interpretive layers to all CAMC/YPDT partners to provide all partners with a consistent level of knowledge and suite of tools to understand and manage water resources within their jurisdictions;



- participation on the MOE's Technical Experts Committee for Source Protection Planning; and
- CAMC/YPDT groundwater project presentations made to eight professional associations/conferences.

Research Activities

Central to the mission of the CAMC and the mandate of individual conservation authorities, a number of research projects were completed or initiated in 2004 to advance the science and understanding of the Oak Ridges Moraine and ensure its protection in the future. These projects include:

- water budgets, fisheries and benthic assessments, natural heritage inventories and fluvial geomorphology (the science of stream channel dynamics) required by the ORM Conservation Plan;
- an assessment of the benefits of porous pavement - which could be used to control surface runoff and reduce watercourse degradation;
- a biological inventory of the East Cross Forest (1,362 ha) and computer modeling to determine priority areas for acquisition and restoration;
- a biological inventory of the Ganaraska Forest and computer modeling to determine priorities for the restoration of degraded tall grass prairie communities;
- a biological inventory and development of a management plan for the Alderville Woods Natural Habitat Area; and
- an assessment of the water chemistry and biotic community of the Tottenham Pond, by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and local community groups.

Natural Heritage Activities

CAMC advanced partnerships and natural heritage science on the ORM in 2004 by:

- developing principles for Aquatic Natural Heritage Conservation and Restoration in the ORM;
- working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Authorities to produce detailed regional mapping for the entire ORM at the community series level of Ecological Land Classification;
- serving on a committee to generate a Restoration Strategy for the ORM which will, in turn, help the ORM Foundation prioritize funding for stewardship projects;
- workshop presentations, in partnership with Ontario Nature, to municipal planners on the methodologies used to define natural heritage features in official plans; and
- participating in the development of an Invasive Species Strategy for the ORM and in the review of the draft Ontario Biodiversity Strategy.

Watershed Planning, Policy and Promotional Activities

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan requires that municipalities with lands extending onto the Moraine conduct watershed plans, and then incorporate the results into their official plans. As a result, the CAMC and its members have been actively involved in:

- managing the watershed plan process and undertaking required technical studies on behalf of our municipal partners;
- mapping environmental features for the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand and Township of Cramahe;
- developing model policies for official plan amendments;
- presenting the model policy project to the Canadian Institute of Planners; and
- defending the ORM Conservation Plan policies at Ontario Municipal Board hearings.

In 2004, CAMC members reviewed and commented on ORM-related provincial policy initiatives and technical documents including:

- Bill 27, Greenbelt Protection Act and Greenbelt Task Force Discussion Paper;
- MNR's ORM Conservation Plan natural heritage-related and landform technical guidance documents;
- MOE's ORM Conservation Plan water budget and related technical guidance documents; and
- MTO's ORM Highway Design, Construction, Operation & Maintenance guidance document.

The CAMC also participated in planning and promotional activities led by the:

- Oak Ridges Trail Strategic Plan Advisory Committee;
- ORM Biosphere Reserve Committee; and
- ORM Foundation Education and Communication Project.

Stewardship and Land Securement Activities

As a founding member of the Oak Ridges Moraine Stewardship Partners Alliance (ORMSPA) the CAMC was involved with:

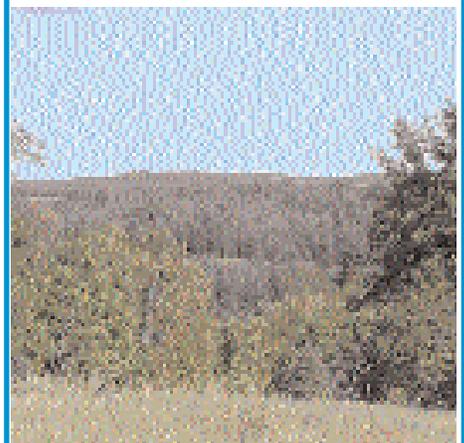
- co-hosting 2 consultation workshops and generating a Long Term Stewardship Strategy for the ORM;
- developing a program/strategy to contact landowners and monitor projects consistently across the moraine;
- funding, reviewing and field testing a draft "Caring for Your Land" guide for private landowners; and
- contributing funds needed to hire a Moraine Project Research Officer.

With the assistance of more than 30 organizations, plus private landowners, the CAMC was able to:

- restore over 56 hectares of wildlife habitat on the ORM through the completion of 35 projects;
- permanently protect more than 140 hectares of habitat, by acquiring two large parcels of land, in the Central Lake Ontario watershed; and
- permanently protect an additional 75 hectares of land through 4 conservation easements and 8 land acquisitions by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Powell Property On Oak Ridges Moraine To Be Preserved

On May 17, 2004 Russ Powell (CLOCA Chief Administrative Officer) and Dawn Sword donated a 198 acre conservation easement on the Oak Ridges Moraine.



The property is designated a Natural Core Area in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. It borders a 365 hectare parcel owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation called the Fleetwood Creek property, which is part of an extensive 940 hectare Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) called the Fleetwood Kames.