

Session Title

Ontario Conservation Authorities: Watershed Management – A Proven Solution to Building Flood Resilience

Format

Panel Session

Participants

Jo-Anne Rzakki, Conservation Ontario (Moderator)

Angela Coleman, LL.B., B.A., Conservation Ontario

Mark Peacock, P. Eng. B.A., B.Sc. (Eng.), Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Rob Baldwin, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

Description

Conservation Authorities (CAs) are unique to Ontario and formed on a watershed basis. The mandate of CA's is the protection of people and property from flooding and natural hazards through the delivery of watershed-based programs. CAs enable economic, social, and environmental benefits through the conservation of natural resources. CAs' deliver and support programs that minimize or prevent the impacts of flooding and erosion, conserve and restore water resources, woodlands, wetlands, natural habitats and the relationship between people and their natural environment. Conservation Ontario (CO) represents the 36 Conservation Authority network. CO's mission is to promote and continuously strengthen a watershed based conservation coalition in Ontario. This 90-minute panel session will be led by CO and its member CAs. The panelists will address the following flood management activities provided by CAs.

- Floodplain mapping, modelling, and monitoring streamflow, rainfall and snowpacks
- Regulation of development in flood prone areas in cooperation with municipalities and the Province
- Provision of planning support and advice to municipalities to minimize flood impacts and issue warnings
- Acquiring and managing important floodplain lands and flood vulnerable structures
- Operation of over 900 dams, dykes, channels and erosion control structures

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