

Conservation Authority

Role in the Planning Process



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Unique to Ontario, Conservation Authorities are local watershed management agencies that deliver services and programs to protect and manage impacts on water and other natural resources in partnership with all levels of government, landowners and many other organizations. Conservation Authorities are responsible for representing provincial interests regarding natural features and hazards such as flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, unstable bedrock/soils, wetlands, and steep slopes.

Conservation Authorities are active in the review of planning policy and regulations such as the Township Official Plan and Zoning By-law and also review planning applications.

In the Township of Frontenac Islands, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) supports the planning process as a non-regulatory body. This means that the CRCA reviews planning policy and regulations and planning applications, but does not issue permits.

How do I know if I need to include the local Conservation Authority?

For planning applications, the relevant commenting agencies will be identified during the pre-application meeting with Township staff. Generally, if your property is on or near a waterbody or wetland/marsh, has a steep slope, or is within a natural feature such as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) the Conservation Authority will be asked to comment. The type of application and scale of development will determine the comments required from the Conservation Authority. The Conservation Authority also completes peer reviews of studies submitted in support of a planning application such as an environmental impact statement or stormwater management plan.

Often permits are also required from the Conservation Authority for works in or near natural features even if no planning or building permit application is required. Visit [Frontenac Maps](#) to identify the Conservation Authority the property is located within by using the Boundary layer.

Do I need to contact my Conservation Authority before submitting my application?

Yes, it is best to consult with the Conservation Authority prior to submitting the application. This ensures that you are aware of all of the requirements needed for ensuring that the application is accurate and complete. Please make sure that you share all details of your proposal with the Conservation Authority so that they can provide you with the best information.

The CRCA can be reached in the following ways:

[Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority](#)

1641 Perth Road, P.O. Box 160, Glenburnie, Ontario, K0H1S0

Telephone: 613-546-4228 or 1-877-956-CRCA (2722)

Email: info@crca.ca

How does the Conservation Authority receive the application and is there a fee?

Township staff will circulate the complete planning application to the Conservation Authority once the application is deemed complete. The Conservation Authority will reply directly to the township with their comments and will also forward a copy to the applicant. Fees for the Conservation Authority review for planning applications are required at the time the application is submitted to the Township. The Township will provide a copy of the required fees at the pre-application meeting. Visit the Conservation Authorities website to learn more about the role of the Conservation Authority in the planning process.