



Hours of Operation

Conservation Authority Office

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday thru Friday

Conservation Areas

9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Hiawatha Highlands

Fort Creek

Marks Bay

Shore Ridges

Gros Cap

Enjoy the outdoors at one of our conservation areas. Visit our web site at www.ssmrca.ca to find the conservation area closest to you.

There are recreational opportunities spring, summer, fall and winter at the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority.

New Chamber Member

On February 24, 2006 the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce (SSMCOC) welcomed their newest members including the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority (SSMRCA).

As part of a renewed commitment to community relations, the SSMRCA will be taking a more prominent role in marketing the services they offer to local residents.

The Chamber of Commerce offers a unique opportunity for its members to promote and educate local residents about what the businesses in their area have to offer.

Clean Water Act

The first reading of the Clean Water Act, 2005 was introduced to legislature on December 5, 2005. This multi-faceted strategy takes a watershed based approach to source protection and would establish Ontario as a leader in the delivery of safe drinking water. The Government of Ontario has made a commitment to ensure that every watershed in the province has a Source Protection Plan.

Because Conservation Authorities are structured on a watershed basis, they provide a unique opportunity to stream line the local delivery of source protection planning. The province has specified that the role of Conservation Authorities is to co-ordinate the scientific research, facilitate data gathering and analysis, develop computer models, bring local residents and stakeholders together as well as providing opportunities for public involvement and comment.

Currently the Act and corresponding compendium can be viewed by visiting the Ministry of the Environment Web Site located at www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/cwa.htm.

Additional information on source protection planning is available by contacting Rhonda Bateman, Source Protection Planning Coordinator at the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority or from the Conservation Ontario website at www.conservation-ontario.on.ca.

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Conservation Authority Board

Ernie Gulyas, Chair

Ken Lamming, Vice Chair &
Councillor Township of Prince

John Rowsell, Mayor of Sault Ste. Marie

Neil DelBianco, Councillor Sault Ste. Marie

Frank Manzo, Councillor Sault Ste. Marie

General Manager

Linda Whalen

Assistant Manager

Christine Aasen

Source Protection Planning Team

Rhonda Bateman, Coordinator

Trisha Westman, Technical Advisor

Marlene McKinnon, GIS

Christine Aasen, Communications

Conservation Authority Staff

Jerry Boyle, Field Supervisor

Jamie Eaton, Field Assistant

Frank Tesolin, Technical Advisor

Deane Greenwood, Trails Coordinator

Debbie Tomas, Bookkeeper-Secretary

Member of





SSMRCA Technical Staff assess a development project where erosion and siltation must be minimized.

New Employees Join SSMRCA Team

Six new employees have joined the SSMRCA since early 2005.

Rhonda Bateman joined the Source Water Protection Planning Team as the Project Coordinator. She comes to the SSMRCA from a background rich in experience from the Ministry of Natural Resources. She is a graduate of York University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Geography.

Trisha Westman, Source Water Protection Planning Technical Advisor completed her degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Guelph and has attained her Masters Degree in Engineering from Carleton University. She brings to the team strong research and analytical skills gained over six years of working in industry in the field of water and wastewater treatment.

Marlene McKinnon is a Sault College alumness of the GIS Specialist Post Graduate Diploma Program. She was part of the municipal ground water study for the Township of Michipicoten and the Trent Conservation Coalition. To date her work has been published in the ESRI Canada Map Calendar and Volume 19 of the ESRI Map Book.

Deane Greenwood has an extensive background in local recreation including having run a local recreation-based business. Deane has experience in trail development and event planning through his former employment as Manager and ski school director at Stokely Creek Resort and Sault Trails and Recreation.

Jamie Eaton joined the SSMRCA in the summer of 2005 as Field Assistant. Jamie assists with channel maintenance, snow plowing, conservation area maintenance. He is a jack of all trades.

When you call or visit the SSMRCA Office you'll be greeted by our friendly Bookkeeper/Secretary, Debbie Tomas. Debbie received her B.A. Honours in Accounting from Algoma University.



This E-Newsletter was made possible through the generous support of the Ontario Government.



Regulation Updates

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities are currently updating the regulation which applies to municipal planning and development.

"The Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation" is proceeding through the approval process and is expected to be approved by June 2006.

On December 6th and 8th, 2005 the SSMRCA held two public open houses for review and comment on the new regulation as it will apply locally. Late in February, a peer review committee comprised of representatives from conservation authorities and Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources examined the draft regulations and public consultation completed to date.

All of Ontario's conservation authorities have been enforcing similar regulations, however they were not standardized until this process began in 2005. The changes will ensure continuity from one conservation authority to the next across the province and were a result of a provincial "Red Tape Reduction" initiative.

GIS in Conservation

Over the past year the Geographical Information System (GIS) at the SSMRCA has undergone dramatic changes. Through provincial funding provided by the Ministry of the Environment for the Source Water Protection Program, computer hardware and software have been extensively updated.

The SSMRCA is now using the latest version of GIS software from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI).

We also foresee, in the near future, the potential for establishing modeling technology that will assist with the administration and enforcement of the Fill & Alterations to Waterways Regulations as well as in the development of Source Protection Plans.

The GIS data for mapping and inquiries has been updated with the latest information from the City of Sault Ste. Marie Engineering and Planning Department and other agencies such as the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Northern Development and Mines and other Ontario government ministries. With this data the Source Water Protection team has produced draft maps for the Watershed Characterization Report and the Water Budget as well as the production of multimedia presentations.

Knowledge is a Terrible Thing to Waste.

Astronomy, Forestry, Horticulture, Fish & Wildlife.

If you are an outdoor aficionado, an environmental professional or an amateur nature nut, you have what we are looking for.

**Become a Volunteer ...
The Possibilities are Infinite.**

To find out more contact Christine Aasen at the SSMRCA 705-946-8530.