



Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

2022 Board of Directors
Recruitment Package



PROTECT. RESPECT. CONNECT.

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The Basics:

What is a Conservation Authority?

Conservation Authorities are community-based watershed management agencies, whose mandate is to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding, and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits. Conservation Authorities are legislated under the *Conservation Authorities Act, 1946*.

Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Directors and AGM

The inaugural meeting of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors will occur on February 22, 2023. New and returning members will attend a morning orientation session, enjoy lunch and the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon.

We are waiting until February this year to ensure that all Councils have had a chance to assign members to the Board.

Length of Term on GSCA Board of Directors

The typical term of a Board Member, as defined in the Conservation Authorities Act, is four (4) years. Your term will begin once you are appointed by your municipal council and may be extended/renewed by your municipal council following the end of the term.

Number of Representatives from Each Municipality

Each municipality within the Grey Sauble watershed may assign 1 or 2 members depending on the population of that municipality within the watershed. For municipalities with a population of up to 9,999 within the watershed, those municipalities may assign one (1) member. For municipalities with a population between 10,000 and 49,999 within the watershed, those municipalities may assign two (2) members.

Members appointed to the GSCA Board of Directors by municipal councils must be elected officials. Additionally, the Minister may appoint an Agricultural Representative to the GSCA Board of Directors.

Typical Time Commitment for Board Members

As a Board Member, you can typically expect BOD meetings to occur on the 4th Wednesday of each month and they will take 2-3 hours of your time, plus preparation time. Board meetings occur at the GSCA Administrative Office on the beautiful Inglis Falls Conservation Area property, but virtual access is also provided. These meetings typically start at 1:15pm and typically last for two or three hours.

Board members may also choose to join one or more sub-committees.

Who Else is on the GSCA Board of Directors

As a member of the GSCA Board of Directors, you will share the Boardroom with representatives from GSCA's other participating municipalities. These municipalities include Arran-Elderslie, The Blue Mountains, Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs, Grey Highlands, Meaford, Owen Sound and South Bruce Peninsula.

Responsibility of Members

Participating Municipalities appoint Members to the Authority as their representatives. Members have the responsibilities of Directors of the corporation that is the Authority to represent the best interest of the Authority and the watershed.

While the CAO is responsible for the day-to-day operations, the Board of Directors is responsible for matters of governance, ensuring compliance with applicable legislation, ensuring appropriate policies are in place and for financial soundness of the Authority.

Additional Opportunities:

Some Potential Sub-Committees or Groups to Join as a Board Member

- Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation
- Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance
- GSCA Forestry Committee
- GSCA Indigenous Relationships Committee
- GSCA Ad Hoc Administration Centre Renewal Committee
- Property Management Plan Committee(s)
- Source Protection Region Management Committee
- Conservation Ontario Council
- Agricultural Advisory Committee

New and Exciting Projects that GSCA is Starting on

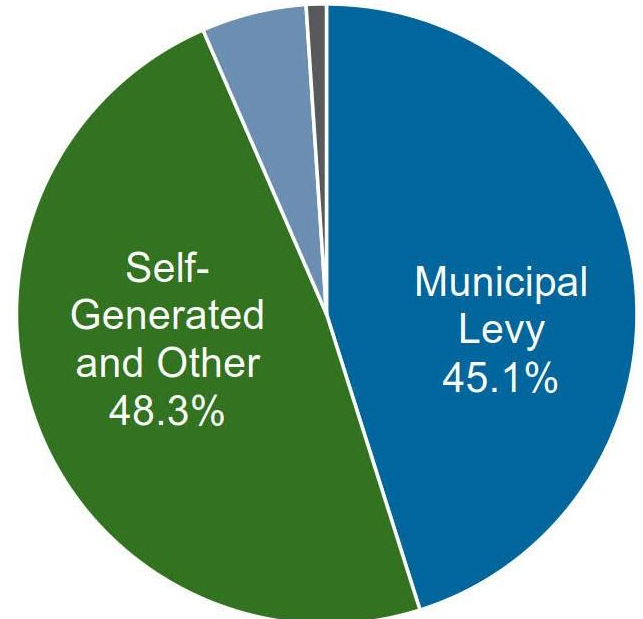
- New 2024-2034 Strategic Plan (work to be completed in 2023).
- New property management plans.
 - Inglis Falls Complete
 - Eugenia Falls and Spirit Rock underway
- Administrative Office Renovation and Addition
- Implementing projects required under the updated Conservation Authorities Act
- Capital asset renewals
- Watershed Report Card

Some Perks for GSCA Board Members

- A chance to make a positive difference in your watershed.
- Interactive on-site orientation sessions.
- Interesting and engaging subcommittees.
- Annual Conservation Ontario Pass for access to conservation areas all across Ontario.
- Inclusion in Authority bus tours of the watershed, highlighting GSCA's properties and program areas.
- Your choice to attend meetings either virtually or in-person.
- Build your network with other members at the Board table.
- An opportunity to learn more about the watershed that you live in.

BACKGROUND INFO

- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) employs a team of experts who are passionate about protecting, managing, and conserving our natural resources and habitats and sharing their appreciation and understanding of the environment with others.
- By working together with the people and organizations in our community, we're able to help to protect people and property from natural hazards like flooding and erosion and address specific environmental challenges we face locally.
- Our many natural areas offer incredible opportunities to explore and learn more about our natural world and deliver many economic, social and environmental benefits to the watershed communities and ecosystems we serve.
- GSCA is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors made up of elected officials from our eight member municipalities (Arran-Elderslie, The Blue Mountains, Chatsworth, Georgian Bluffs, Grey Highlands, Meaford, Owen Sound, and South Bruce Peninsula).
- The GSCA watershed is over 3,100 square kilometres in size, contains 5 primary river systems (Sauble, Pottawatomi, Sydenham, Bighead, and Beaver) and over 155 kilometres of Great Lakes shoreline.
- \$3.4M Annual Budget
- Approximately 28 Full-time Staff, plus several seasonal staff.



■ Municipal Levy (45.1%) ■ Self and Other (48.3%)
■ DWSP (5.5%) ■ Section 39 (1.1%)



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit our website at: www.greysauble.on.ca



Natural Hazard Management

Environmental Planning and Regulations

- GSCA provides expertise and input into planning decisions on behalf of municipalities and the Province of Ontario to direct development away from natural hazards, like flood and erosion areas, in order to prevent loss of life and property damage.
- GSCA staff support appropriate development that balances the needs of the community with meeting legislative compliance and protecting our ecological features through municipal service agreements.
- Our Staff at GSCA review over 900 applications per year under the Conservation Authorities Act, the Planning Act, the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, the Aggregate Resources Act, and the Environmental Assessment Act.

Flood Forecasting and Warning

- Proactive monitoring and early flood warnings help prevent loss of life and allow people to act in mitigating flood damage to public and private property. GSCA employs a network of volunteer rain gauges and water level monitoring sites to support flood warning decisions and provides real-time and online data to ensure watershed residents and GSCA staff have the most up-to-date information.
- GSCA works collaboratively with local municipalities to ensure that proper planning and maintenance activities are in place to reduce the risk and potential impacts of flooding.

Flood and Erosion Control Structures

- GSCA manages 2 flood and 11 erosion control structures throughout the watershed to help keep people and property safe.

GSCA Land Management

- GSCA owns and manages nearly 30,000 acres of land that are home to thousands of species of plants and animals.
- Our 172 km of trails and over 80 conservation and management areas offer visitors a peaceful escape, opportunities to learn and explore, and beautiful settings for fitness excursions.
- GSCA's land holdings provide an estimated \$72 million per year in ecosystem services such as flood protection, air quality, climate regulation, water supply and quality, soil quality and food production.

- These properties contribute to healthy living, provide habitat for numerous plant and animal species and host over 300,000 visitors annually, contributing to the important local recreational tourism industry which benefits the local economy.
- GSCA forests are managed using ethical and sustainable forest management practices to ensure the long-term health and diversity of our forest ecosystems. These practices are communicated to the public on GSCA's website and through GSCA's Forest Management Plan.
- In addition to managing GSCA's lands, trails, and forests, GSCA staff manage Grey County's trails and forest properties under a service agreement with the County of Grey.

Drinking Water Source Protection

- The *Clean Water Act* and local Source Water Protection Committee are in place to ensure communities across the region are taking appropriate measures to ensure protection of our municipal drinking water supplies. Continued Provincial funding of these efforts will keep Ontario residents safe and protect our municipal drinking water sources.
- Through careful monitoring, inspections and management, Source Water Protection is the first line of protection to help ensure the continued supply of safe, clean drinking water for our communities.
- GSCA has a responsibility to help protect municipal sources of drinking water under the *Clean Water Act* and is committed to helping ensure the safety of the community. Non-compliance with regulations on private property can have a serious negative impact on the safety of drinking water sources.
- GSCA provides Risk Management Official services through agreements on behalf of 14 municipalities across Grey and Bruce Counties.
- 153 Risk Management Plans addressing site-specific threats with affected landowners are currently in place within the Source Protection Region.
- New/amended municipal drinking water systems need to be incorporated into the local Source Protection Plan, including updated source protection areas and threats assessments.

Other Programs and Services

Environmental Education

- GSCA delivers high-quality educational programming that help individuals appreciate their natural environment and embed environmental stewardship into their lives.
- Through programs such as GSCA's Environmental Summer Camp, the Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival and the Bruce Grey Forest Festival, environmental education opportunities are provided to thousands of children annually.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Mapping and Data Management

- GSCA acquires, stores, manages, analyzes and displays dozens of terabytes of spatial and non-spatial data.
- GIS tools, applications and data are used by all staff to make efficient informed decisions. We use the most current data to improve base mapping information to reflect accurate ground conditions.
- Elevation data creation and capture is a key component of conservation authority information and is used as a base for natural hazard mapping. GSCA consistently strives to improve this information by leveraging partnerships and outside funding sources.

Grey Sauble Forestry Services

- Forests, including those on private property, improve air quality, reduce household energy bills, provide habitat for wildlife, and reduce flooding. Our staff help landowners nurture and manage forests on their property with affordable services and can assist with applying for property tax incentives.
- Over the past 20 years, GSCA has planted nearly 3 million trees throughout the Grey Sauble watershed area. These partnerships with local landowners are helping to provide important ecological, social, cultural, and economic benefits to our communities and to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Watershed Monitoring

- We use watershed monitoring and reporting to identify trends in watershed health. This practice allows us to identify where efforts should be targeted to improve the overall health of our watershed.
- To help us understand the watershed in which our communities live and work, GSCA staff analyze samples from 35 surface water sites, 10 groundwater wells, and 34 benthic invertebrate sites.

Watershed Stewardship

- Understanding our watershed health can help us plan and undertake stewardship activities to improve water quality and enhance aquatic habitat, including working with landowners to encourage actions that can be taken on private property.
- Over the past five years, GSCA has supported:
 - The planting of over 34,000 trees along stream banks (riparian)
 - The installation of over 12,000 metres of livestock exclusion fencing
 - The planting of over 1200 acres of cover crops
 - Over 900 hours of phragmites removal with community groups
 - Removal of over 27 acres of phragmites
 - Over 450-hours of Invasive species mapping for municipal partners
- Further, GSCA has secured almost \$600,000 in grant funding to support these projects.
- GSCA has assembled an Agricultural Advisory Committee in an effort to better engage with our agricultural communities on these, and other, mutually beneficial projects.



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LEARN MORE?**

Visit our website at www.greysauble.on.ca