



Essex Region  
Conservation  
Authority



# Accountability Report 2011





The Essex Region Conservation Authority is a community based organization dedicated to protecting, restoring and managing the natural resources and environmental needs of Windsor, Essex County and Pelee Island. We make decisions on a watershed basis, recognizing that we are all connected. The projects and programs that we implement each year evolve from our community based Strategic Plan and our vision for 2020:

*To achieve a sustainable environment with healthy watersheds, highlighted by clean creeks, rivers and Great Lakes , thriving natural areas, productive agricultural lands, and vibrant places.*

We present our first Accountability Report as a companion to our Annual Report, and as a snapshot of the breadth of the programs and services we implement to create a healthier future for the Essex Region.

# Connect



ERCA strives to connect people to our landscape, waterfronts, and our Great Lakes and rivers with attractive natural areas, trails, and Conservation Areas as part of a vibrant and sustainable community. The following projects contributed to an enhanced connection to our environment.

|   | 2009        | 2010      | 2011       |
|---|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Number of trees planted & distributed             | 154,842     | 163,843   | 170,500    |
| Acres of habitat restored                         |             |           |            |
| Detroit River Watersheds                          | *           | 39        | 57         |
| Lake St. Clair Watersheds                         | *           | 33        | 21         |
| Lake Erie Watersheds                              | *           | 83        | 64         |
| Acres of natural areas acquired                   | 13          | 357       | 81         |
| Value of acquisitions by ERCA (fair market value) | \$1,539,600 | \$199,000 | \$225,000  |
| Cost of ERCA's contributions                      | \$541,000   | \$91,000  | \$126,000  |
| % of ERCA's contribution                          | 35%         | 46%       | 56%        |
| \$ contributed to partnership acquisitions        | \$600,000   | \$600,000 | \$343,000  |
| Acres of land owned and managed                   | 3601        | 3959      | 4039       |
| Metres of Shoreline Stabilized and Enhanced       | 0           | 200       | 550        |
| Kilometres of Trail owned and managed             | 73.5        | 75        | 79         |
| Number of Visitors to John R. Park Homestead      | 10794       | 11664     | 14000(est) |
| Number of Day Use Visitors to Holiday Beach       | 10692       | 10764     | 8142       |
| Number of camping nights                          | 1931        | 1782      | 1273       |
| Number of seasonal campsites purchased            | 32          | 40        | 46         |
| Number of ERCA hosted special events              | 29          | 25        | 23         |

\* Data is not available for this year.

# Engage



Engaging our community to increase awareness of conserving and enhancing our environment continues to be a focus. The following community outreach was undertaken in order to leave a legacy of a clean and healthy natural world for generations.

|  | 2009    | 2010    | 2011    |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Watershed Population   | 353,545 | 348,617 | 338,595 |
| Number of Students Participating in Conservation Education Programs                  | 7250    | 7340    | 7631    |
| Number of Volunteers   | 1866    | 2659    | 1661    |
| Number of Public Meetings/Workshops Hosted   | 3       | 4       | 3       |
| Number of Friends of Watersheds Events   | 52      | 49      | 39      |
| Number of Schoolyard Naturalization Projects Completed                               | 18      | 21      | 11      |
| Number of Local Committees, Boards and Advisory Panels with ERCA representation      | 13      | 14      | 14      |
| Number of Provincial Committees, Boards and Advisory Panels with ERCA representation | 9       | 11      | 11      |
| Permanent Full-Time Staff  | 29      | 29      | 29      |
| Average Full-Time staff length of service  | 13      | 12      | 14      |
| Seasonal and Contract FTE  | 17      | 16      | 15      |

# Collaborate



Reaching out to engage existing and new stakeholders to create a partnership for a sustainable environment is another top priority.

|  | 2009      | 2010        | 2011       |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Number of Planning Applications Reviewed and Processed   | 460       | 471         | 499        |
| General Inquiries for Planning and Regulations   | 1401      | 1485        | 1567       |
| Average Response Time for Permits: Minor Development (Single Family residential, clearances, etc.)               | *         | *           | 10.68 days |
| Average Response Time for Permits: Major Development (Requiring engineering or other detailed analysis)          | *         | *           | 33.23 days |
| Average Response Time for Permits: Alteration to Waterways (Requiring engineering/DFO/MNR approvals or analysis) | *         | *           | 14.55 days |
| Number of Violations Issued  | 21        | 24          | 16         |
| \$ Value of Water and Infrastructure Control Contributions to Municipalities                                     | \$619,375 | \$1,788,738 | \$356,000  |
| Number of Flood/Wind Advisories Issued   | 8         | 3           | 11         |

# Discover



ERCA also works at developing greater scientific knowledge of our region in order to adapt to climate change and respond to its impact on the safety, health and economic wellbeing of residents.

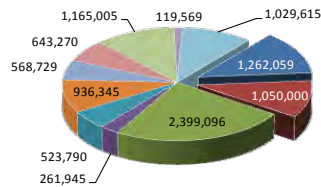
|   | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Number of Water Quality Improvement Projects Implemented (rock chutes, buffer strips, etc.) |      |      |      |
| Detroit River Watersheds  | 18   | 18   | 13   |
| Lake St. Clair Watersheds   | 14   | 11   | 4    |
| Lake Erie Watersheds  | 27   | 24   | 16   |
| Number of Surface Water Quality Sites monitored   | 60   | 60   | 24   |
| Number of Groundwater Quality Sites monitored   | 8    | 8    | 8    |
| Number of Stream Cleanups Conducted   | 7    | 6    | 3    |

ERCA is accountable to its watershed residents, our municipal partners, and senior levels of government. Our Board of Directors is comprised of municipally elected officials who direct the Authority's policies and approve our budgets. On average, for each dollar contributed through the municipal levy for the past three years, ERCA has returned \$1.47 to their partner municipalities through grants and other sources. This is in addition to the work that ERCA undertakes to protect and restore our regional environment. As well, over the past three years, the levy received from our municipal partners is an average of only 24% of ERCA's budget. A contribution toward environmental protection and restoration through ERCA provides a solid return on investment.

### Revenues

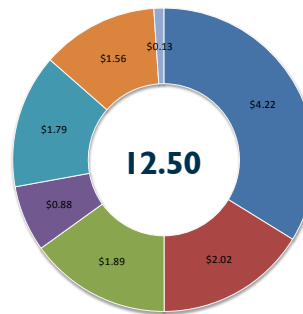
#### 2009 Audited Revenues- \$9,959,424

- GENERAL LEVY FUNDING
- CWGS LEVY
- PROVINCIAL GRANTS
- FEDERAL GRANTS
- MUNICIPAL FUNDING
- FEE FOR SERVICE/EARNED INCOME
- OTHER GRANTS, DONATIONS OR MISC FUNDING
- CORPORATE RECOVERIES
- IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
- INTERDEPT REVENUES/TRANSFERS
- FUND TRANSFER-DEFERRED REV/RESERVES/WARRANTY



### How is your investment used?

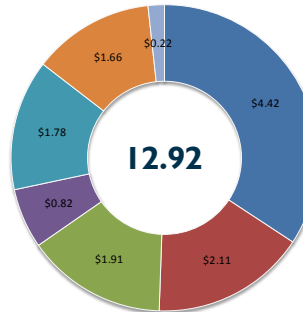
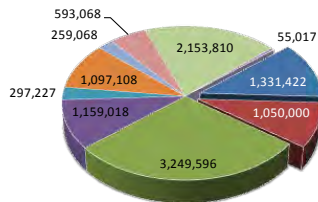
The following represents how your tax dollars are used for environmental protection and restoration in the Essex Region, based on a home valued at \$200,000.



- CONNECT: Protecting Natural Areas
- CONNECT: Managing Conservation Areas
- CONNECT: Restoring Landscapes
- ENGAGE: Education and Communications
- ENGAGE: Administering Programs and Shared Services
- COLLABORATE: Protecting People and Homes
- DISCOVER: Providing Clean Water

#### 2010 Audited Revenues- \$11,245,336

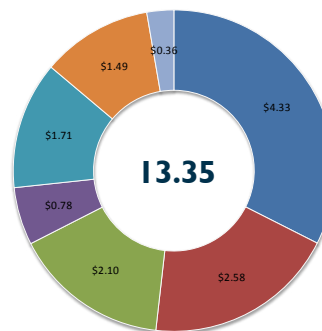
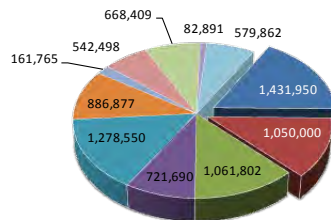
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#### 2011 Draft Projected Revenues- \$8,466,295

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Note: The 2011 unaudited revenues and expenses are based on information available as of January 10, 2012 and as such the numbers are subject to change. These numbers also represent the information which will appear in the Statement of Operations, however due to the accounting for tangible capital assets (PSAB 3150) and non-cash items such as amortization, the Statements of Net Debt and Cash Flow should be referred to in the audited Financial Statements. Amortization of infrastructure is included in totals shown for Managing Conservation Areas. After factoring in non-cash items and increases in non-financial assets such as capital asset additions, the net debt is expected to increase by approximately \$120,000. The Audited Financial Statements will be available in June 2012 and include all Statements and Schedules as required by GAAP for public sector entities.



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**Conservation  
ONTARIO**  
Natural Champions