

NANBO International Symposium on IWRM

The Model of IWRM Worldwide
The IWRM in Ontario

May 23, 2012



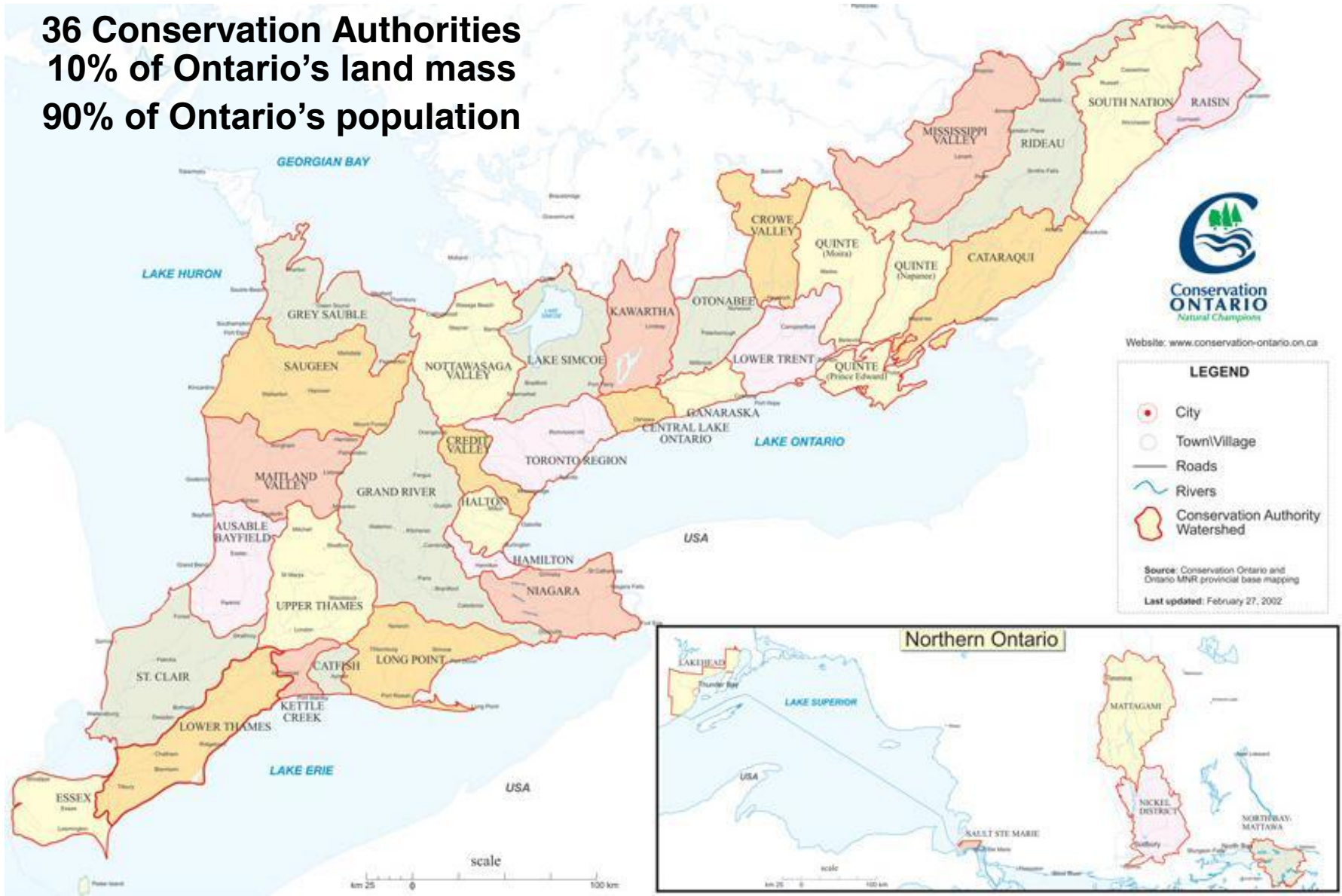
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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- The Practice of Watershed Management in Ontario
 - Strengths and Weaknesses
- Observations on Ontario's IWRM Culture
- The Need for a more Integrated Approach
- The Future

ONTARIO'S 36 CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

36 Conservation Authorities
10% of Ontario's land mass
90% of Ontario's population



The Practice of WATERSHED MANAGEMENT in Ontario

Legislative Framework

- “to undertake a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, coal, oil and minerals.” Section 20, Conservation Authorities Act
- Broad operational powers under Section 21
- Regulatory powers to restrict development in hazardous areas; interference with wetlands
- Act is enabling; CA is formed by majority vote of watershed municipalities; governed by appointed municipal representatives



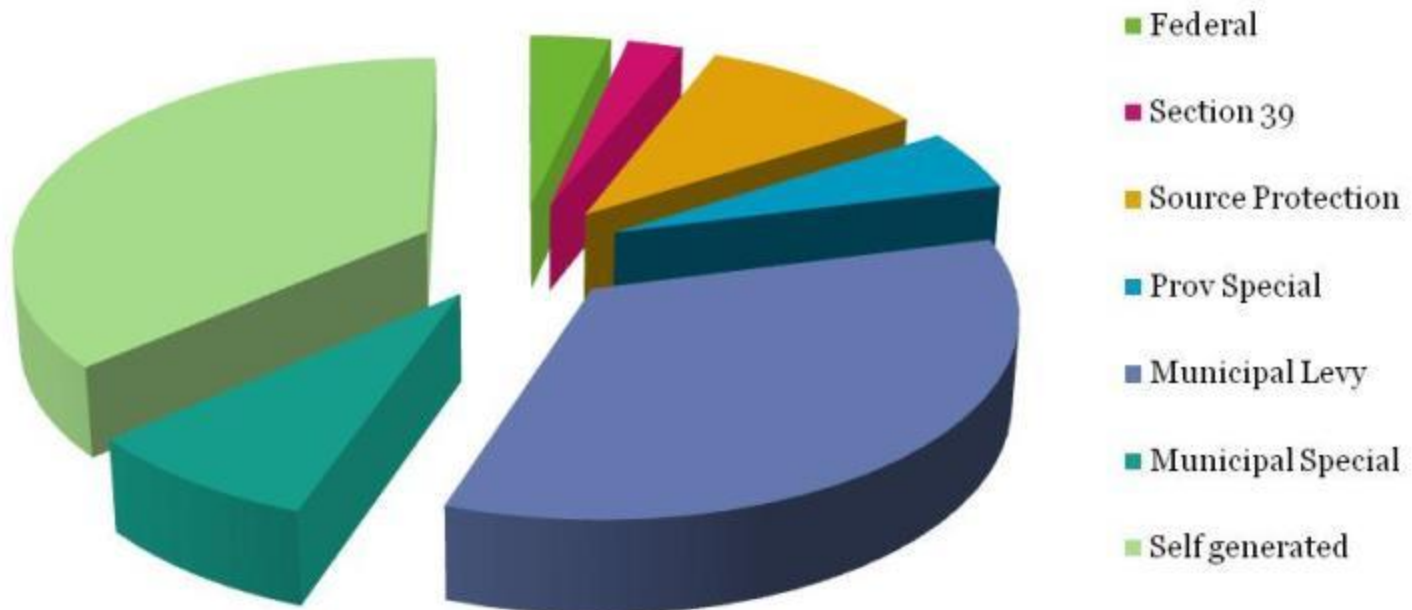
The Practice of WATERSHED MANAGEMENT in Ontario

Conservation Authority Profile:

- Annual Expenditures of \$312 Million
- Average budget is \$8.6 M; median is \$3.8 M
- Governed by 495 municipal representatives, 2/3 are also elected municipal councilors
- Member appointed proportional to population; budget vote weighted to property assessment
- Power to levy municipal portion of budget
- 2000 full time staff; 1000 seasonal



The Practice of WATERSHED MANAGEMENT in Ontario



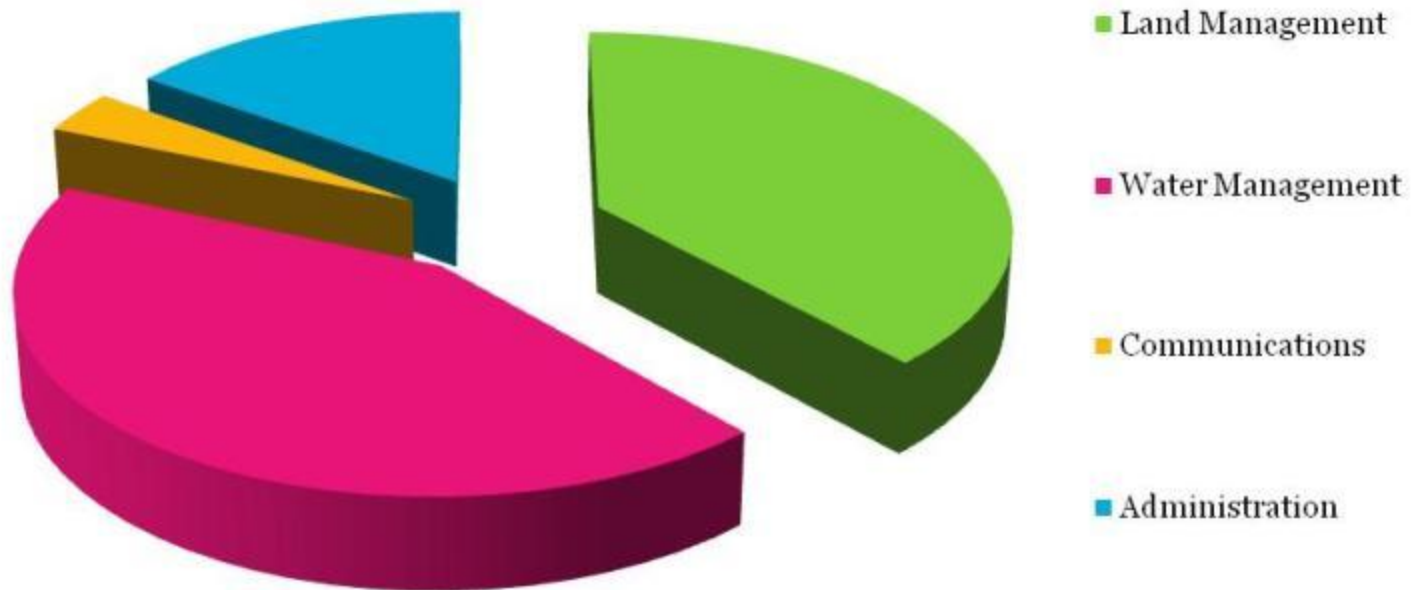
Sources of revenue for
\$312 million annual expenditures

The Practice of WATERSHED MANAGEMENT in Ontario

CA Program Areas:

- Water quality/quantity monitoring & modeling; drinking water source protection
- Control of flooding & erosion; protection of sensitive & hazardous lands – wetlands, flood plains, valley lands
- Land use planning input and review
- Natural heritage, reforestation, stewardship, education, and recreation

The Practice of WATERSHED MANAGEMENT in Ontario



Program expenditure categories

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Strengths of Ontario IWRM

- Watershed agencies created by legislation, well established presence in the community
- CA Boards are municipally appointed – local
- Program, budget determined by CA Board
- Ability to “levy” municipalities to pay for program
- “Loose” provincial oversight (policy framework)
- Stakeholder engagement in watershed planning

CA is custodian of Watershed Plan, Data, provides continuity of programs, implementation

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Weaknesses of Ontario IWRM

- Municipal funding is single largest source, provincial funding has eroded
- Municipalities may resent being forced to pay for greater share of program
- Stakeholder engagement in watershed planning may not be sufficient or able to satisfy all interests
- Accountability is not always clear (Minister, Municipality, CA Board, Administration)

OBSERVATIONS ON ONTARIO'S WATER MANAGEMENT CULTURE

- Sector or issue-based
 - Flood control
 - Fisheries
 - Drought
 - Water taking
 - Nutrient management
 - Drinking Water Source Protection, etc.
- Operate within patchwork of federal & provincial legislation



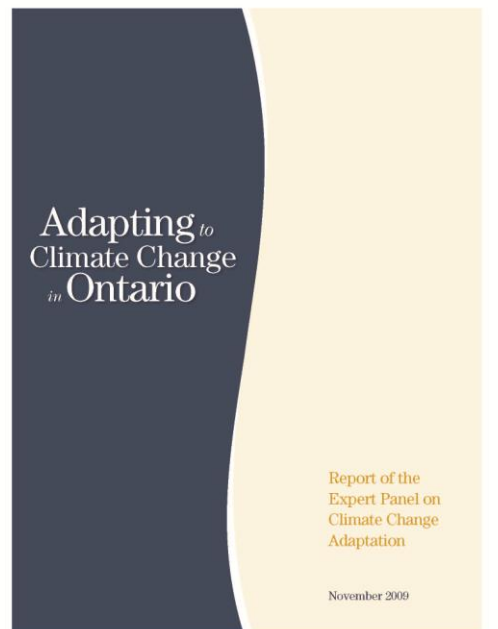
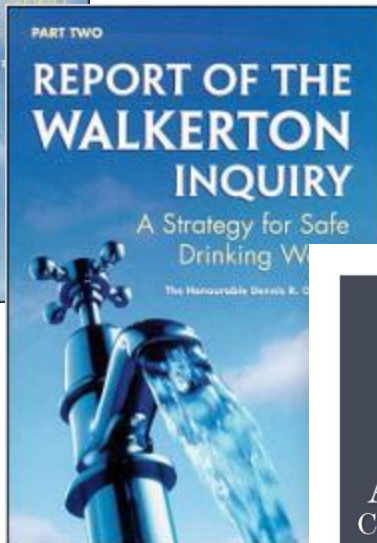
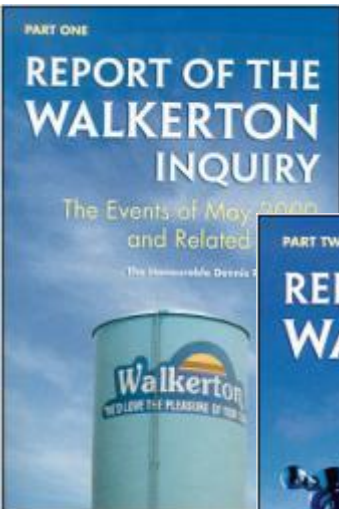
OBSERVATIONS ON ONTARIO'S WATER MANAGEMENT CULTURE

Challenges of Sector/Issue-based Approach

- No overriding strategic direction
- Duplication of efforts/Conflicting objectives
- Inefficient in terms of time and money
- Frustrates effective response to overriding threats such as climate change

THE NEED FOR A MORE INTEGRATED APPROACH

- **Walkerton Inquiry** recognized need for comprehensive approach & broad watershed management strategy (2002)



- **Expert Panel Report on Climate Change Adaptation** called for more integrated approach to help adapt to climate change (2009)

THE NEED FOR A MORE INTEGRATED APPROACH

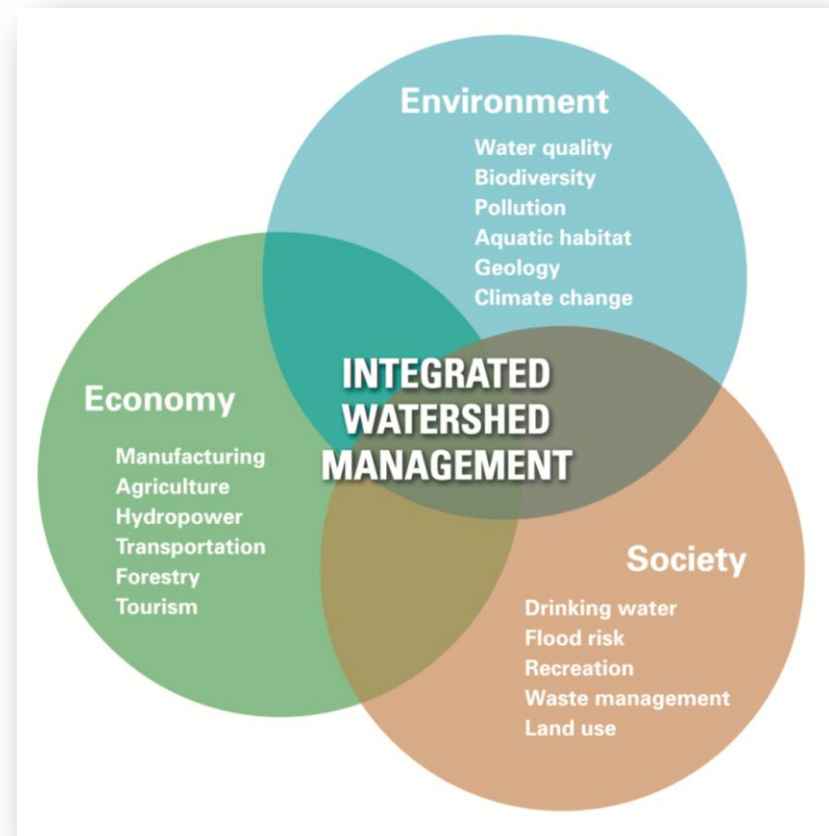


What is driving change in Ontario?

- Climate Change
- Rapid Population Growth
- Aging 'built' infrastructure, stressed 'natural' infrastructure
- Lack of Monitoring & investment in new science
- Water agenda is becoming more complex

THE NEED FOR A MORE INTEGRATED APPROACH

- Need a **Watershed-based approach** that addresses both land and water related resources
- More effectively assess and balance ecological, social and economic interests



THE NEED FOR A MORE INTEGRATED APPROACH

- 2010: **Integrated Watershed Management in Ontario: Navigating Ontario's Future**
- Series of reports developed (IWM in Ontario; A Water Framework for Ontario; and A Water Budget Overview for Ontario; Summary)
- Looks at IWM globally, nationally and provincially
- Reviews the barriers, gaps and shifts that are required to update IWM in Ontario



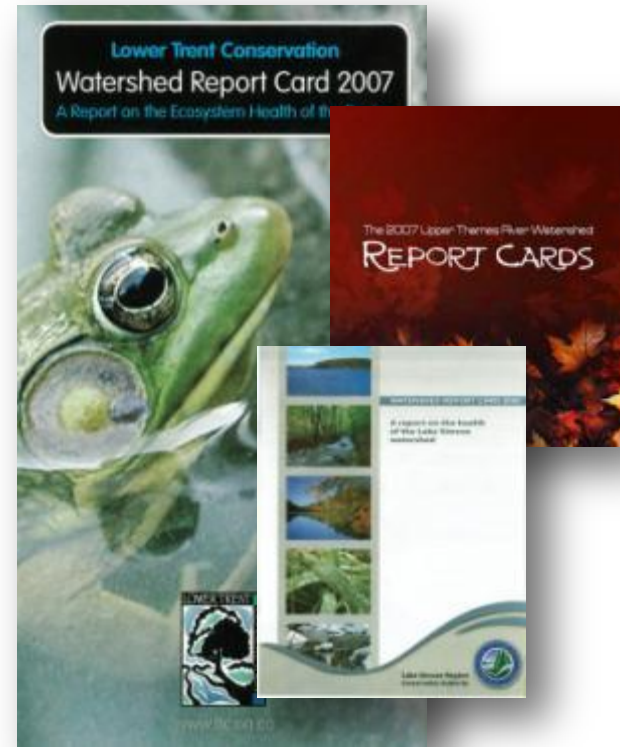
MOVING FORWARD: What does successful IWM look like?



- Establish **Science-based** watershed action plans:
- Use effective collaboration ***across sectors*** (business, environment, agriculture, gov't etc.), sharing responsibility for plan development & implementation (reduces conflict/duplication)
- Transparent - **share knowledge**, resources & priority setting

MOVING FORWARD: What does successful IWM look like?

- Stronger Stakeholder & Public Involvement
 - Be inclusive from onset and at all key points
 - Nurture 'local ambassadors' who can motivate, educate & serve as watchdogs
 - Use good visual tools to explain the science and make it relevant
 - Develop reports that are engaging, easy to read & understand





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