

## **General Manager's Report**

The General Manager's report provides a brief update for the Board Members prior to the Board meeting bringing forward additional information and/or progress on initiatives or current issues for the Board members consideration.

### **1. Current Water Level and Flow Conditions**

- Water levels since the last Board meeting have been drawn down to winter levels on most of the lakes in the watershed.
- Flows have remained consistently high late in the fall and early winter since fall rains have replenished the watershed right up to the colder winter weather.
- Most notably, inquiries have focused on Kasshabog Lake with concerns the water level is too low heading into the winter season.
- The CVCA communicated to a number of individuals and Jim Martin, HBM representative that the Kasshabog Lake level is well within its seasonal range and is at levels normally seen in the winter.
- A summary of the draw down process has been included in the agenda package to help familiarize the Board with CVCA seasonal operations in the event there are further inquiries between now and the spring runoff.

### **2. Conservation Authorities Act Review**

- The Conservation Authorities Act has now been passed by the Ontario Provincial Government.
- The following Conservation Ontario press release is provided for your information:

*The Conservation Authorities Act has been passed.*

*Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities fall under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Authorities Act.*

*The Act was created by the Ontario Provincial Legislature in 1946 to ensure the conservation, restoration and responsible management of Ontario's natural resources through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs. The Act authorizes the formation of Conservation Authorities.*

*Conservation Ontario and the Conservation Authorities provided input to the review and are pleased with the changes being proposed by the government.*

*Working with Conservation Authorities, Conservation Ontario submitted June 2017 comments to the EBR posting.*

*The revised Act was introduced as part of Bill 139 Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds.*

*The act is accompanied by a new document entitled, Conserving Our Future: A Modernized Conservation Authorities Act. (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) Provincial objectives for the CA Act Review:*

*Strengthen oversight and accountability  
Increase clarity and consistency in Conservation Authority programs and services  
Increase clarity and consistency in regulatory requirements  
Improve collaboration and engagement  
Modernize funding mechanisms*

*Throughout the review, Conservation Ontario has focused on ensuring that the Conservation Authority Integrated Watershed Management Approach is recognized and that the broad mandate of Conservation Authorities is confirmed.*

*Conservation Authority watershed management programs and services are integral to building effective climate change adaptation and resilience across watersheds and municipalities in the province.*

- Section 19.1 of the CA Act now requires updates to the by-laws of the conservation authorities in the province. Staff will provide a copy of an updated by-law per Section 19.1 for the Board's consideration. The Act requires the adoption of an updated by-law within one year of the passage of the CAA.

#### **4. Conservation Areas Update**

- The installation of the yurt at the McGeachie Conservation Area has been completed with the assistance of a group of volunteers and the students from Norwood District High School and CVCA staff, Lou Young. The students were under the direction and supervision of Mr. Mike Sherwin. Without their assistance, the work could not have been completed. Staff have presented the class with certificates thanking them for all of their hard work and dedication to the McGeachie Conservation Area.
- Mr. Sherwin has indicated he would be more than willing to have future classes participate in additional projects at the CVCA.