



CAMC Partners with the ORMF for the 2015 Review

Newmarket, ON– March, 2013 --The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation (ORMF) and the Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC) have formed a strategic partnership to examine the effectiveness of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP). Unanimously passed by the Province of Ontario in 2002, the ORMCP was hailed as one of Ontario's most successful and innovative "environment-first" pieces of legislation, and has provided a pathway to better planning on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The ORMCP, along with the Greenbelt Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan, are scheduled for their 10 year reviews in 2015.

In 2011, the ORMF released a series of eight reports called Measuring Success on the Oak Ridges Moraine. These reports assessed how effective the provincial government, the ORMF and all other Moraine partners have been in meeting the purpose and objectives of the ORMCP. Although there were many accomplishments to be cited in the reports, there were still some gaps and deficiencies identified in the ORMCP that threaten the future of the Moraine's ecological and hydrological integrity.

The CAMC worked with the ORMF on the Measuring Success project in 2011 to compile existing data and produce one of the eight documents titled Assessing the Health of the ORM within a Watershed Context. This series of reports detailed several findings of concern, including:

- Only one-third of all streams on the ORM are functioning as healthy, natural ecosystems with adequate amounts of streamside vegetation and good water quality;
- Grassland birds are in decline; rare prairie and savannah habitats are threatened, as is interior woodland habitat for bird species and endangered wildlife; and
- Increasing threats to the water quality of the aquifers under the moraine from the dumping of contaminated fill into areas of high aquifer vulnerability on the moraine;

In 2013, the ORMF and CAMC will work together to prepare for the review of the ORMCP. ORMF will work alongside all Moraine stakeholders, including the public from local communities, to focus their work on the identification of policy gaps and deficiencies within the plan so it is better at achieving its original

objectives. The CAMC will focus its work in collecting the necessary scientific data to report on ORM-wide health and trends overtime. Together, the efforts of both the ORMF & the CAMC will help the Province to make informed decisions about any changes required to the ORMCP in 2015 to ensure it continues to protect and enhance the environment and water resources on the Oak Ridges Moraine.