



Grey Sauble Conservation Authority 2027 Draft Budget

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Grey Sauble Conservation Authority



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Purpose and Overview

- **Purpose:**
 - To provide some highlights from 2026 and an overview of the Draft 2027 budget
- **Overview:**
 - Highlights of 2026
 - 2027 Funding Breakdown and Budget Changes
 - What does this mean for levy and taxpayers
 - Changes with Amalgamation
 - Next Steps and Questions or Comments

Strategic Plan 2025-2035



Effectively Monitor and Manage the Risk of Natural Hazards



Enhance GSCA Land Management



Achieve Organizational Excellence



Improve Watershed Health



Strengthen Environmental Education and Communication



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2026 Highlights Overall



- **GSCA has 146 Strategic Deliverables in 2026. Some key items are:**
- Finalized the Administration Renewal Project.
- Improved communication and outreach, including Strategic KPIs on website and Client Feedback Loop.
- Acquired a new Conservation Area – The Glen Quarry.
- New recreational opportunities at our Sawmill (Hepworth) property.
- Securing grant funding for several projects (Almost \$400,000 this year).
- Distributed over 50,000 trees throughout the watershed.

2026 Highlights in Owen Sound



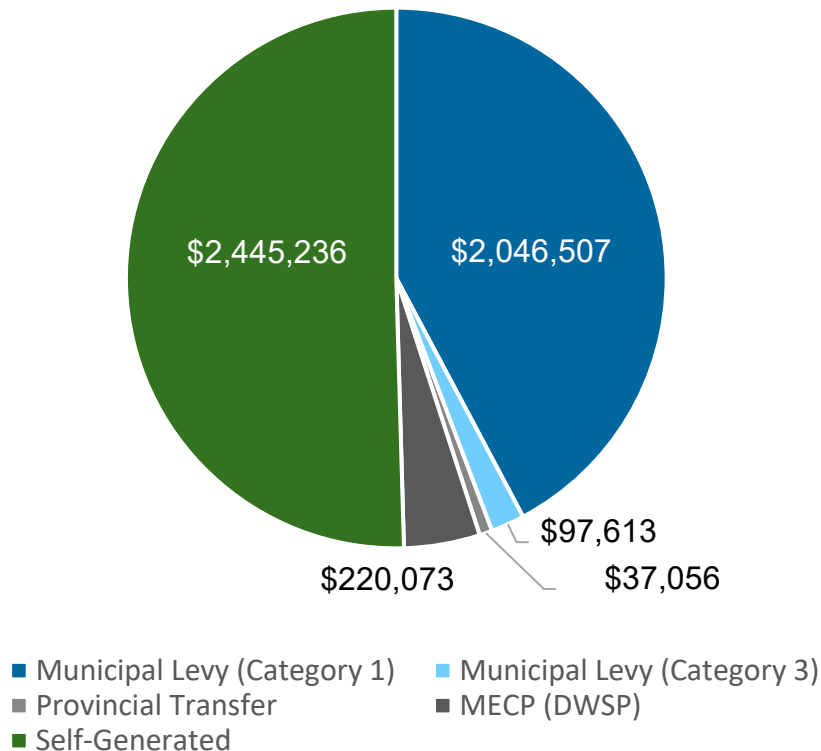
- New trail head signage for the Inglis Falls and Arboretum properties at the edge of Harrison Park – encouraging more recreation for visitors.
- In discussions with City about a West Rocks Climbing Plan.
- Negotiating a new planning agreement with the City.
- Returned our very popular Day Camp to GSCA's Administration Centre.
- Continued to manage over 266 acres of green space within the City and close to 15,000 acres in the immediately adjacent municipalities.

2027 Funding Breakdown



Overview - \$4.85M

- We deliver vital conservation work across the region to enhance our watershed.
- Our jurisdiction covers five major rivers, numerous smaller tributaries and over 155km of shoreline
- We serve eight member municipalities
- We own and manage over 28,000 acres of land
- 50.5% of Funding is Self-Generated
- 44.2% Municipal Levy Funding
- 5.3% Provincial Funding



Changes for 2027



- The proposed Category 1 and General levy increase for 2027 is **\$66,214** across eight member municipalities.
- The total proposed Category 3 levy increase for 2027 is **\$3,558**
- This increase is largely driven by increases in basic operating costs and a reduction in available self-generated revenues within levy supported departments.
- Efforts have been made to keep the 2027 budget roughly static with a 0.8% increase in overall operating costs.
- Capital costs have almost doubled in 2027 over 2026. This difference is funded by grants, donations, and existing reserves.

Draft 2027 Levy Apportionment*



Municipality	Proposed 2027 Levy	Increase from 2026 (\$)
Arran-Elderslie	\$57,297	\$2,259
Blue Mountains	\$629,568	\$23,543
Chatsworth	\$64,420	\$2,274
Georgian Bluffs	\$267,422	\$7,139
Grey Highlands	\$181,783	\$9,051
Meaford	\$289,972	\$10,350
Owen Sound	\$374,751	\$7,375
South Bruce Peninsula	\$278,907	\$7,781
Total	\$2,144,120	\$69,772

*The levy formula uses the past year's Modified Current Value Assessment, based on MPAC values as provided to GSCA by the Province

2027 Levy – Cost to Taxpayers

Overview – Modified Current Value Assessment (MCVA)

- Conservation authority levies are based on the current value assessment (CVA) of properties within a municipality.
- This assessed value is modified based on the percentage of a municipality within the watershed.
- The levy rate per \$1000 of assessment is the same across the watershed. In 2027, that cost is proposed to be \$0.1300 per \$1000 of assessment.



This means that a house assessed at \$400,000 would pay \$52.00 per year toward the levy.

This is up \$0.81 from 2026.

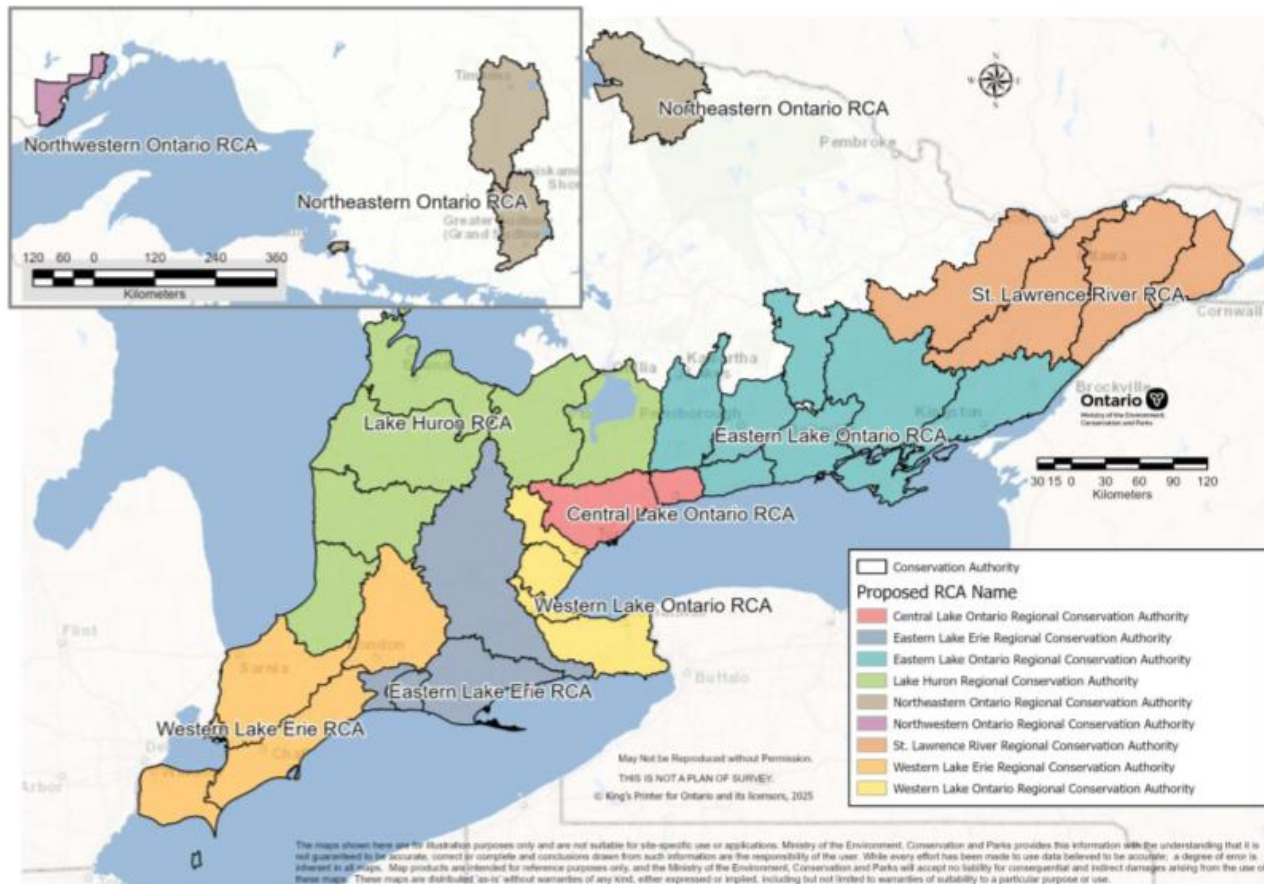
Budget Next Steps:

- Municipalities were circulated this draft budget on **July 24th** and have been provided approximately **60 days** to review the draft budget and provide any input.
- GSCA Board of Directors will meet on **September 23rd** to consider municipalities' input and review the budget
 - Levy vote weights are based on the modified CVA formula
 - Total Budget vote is one-member, one-vote

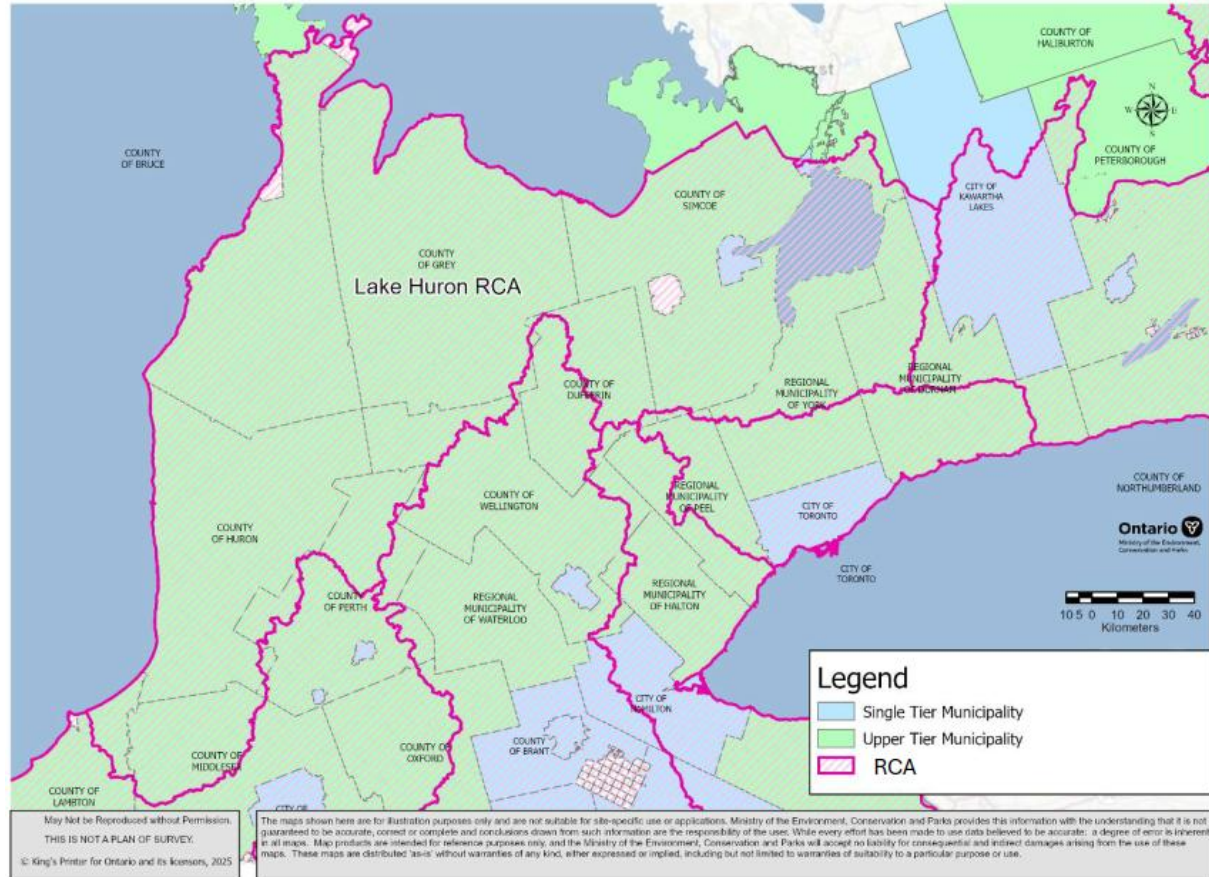


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Proposed 9 Regional Conservation Authorities



Proposed Lake Huron Regional CA



Governance and Apportionment



- New governance structure to take place on February 1, 2027.
- Lower tier municipalities cease to be participating municipalities.
- Upper tier and single tier municipalities become participating (Grey/Bruce).
- Governance reps will be provided from each upper or single tier municipality.
- Rep by Pop is proposed, with option for alternate agreement.
- Apportionment proposed to be determined in same general way.
- Post 2027, new participating municipalities will be apportioned costs.
- In 2027, existing municipalities will be apportioned costs.

Governance and Apportionment



- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing a Tiered Allocation Formula for governance representation by population.

Tier	Percent of RCA Pop	Number of Members
4	$\geq 30\%$	4
3	$\geq 15\%$ to $< 30\%$	3
2	$\geq 5\%$ to $< 15\%$	2
1	$< 5\%$	1

Lake Huron RCA – Rep by Pop

Municipality	Total Pop.	% Mun in RCA	Pop in RCA	# of Members
York Region	1,173,103	52.96%	621,275 (40.1%)	4
Simcoe County	350,222	70.39%	246,521 (15.9%)	3
Durham Region	696,942	31.02%	216,191 (13.9%)	2
Barrie	147,829	100.00%	147,829 (9.5%)	2
Grey County	100,905	98.69%	99,583 (6.4%)	2
Huron County	58,459	99.12%	57,945 (3.7%)	1
Bruce County	72,071	80.17%	57,736 (3.7%)	1
Dufferin County	66,257	47.95%	31,770 (2.0%)	1
Middlesex County	78,110	32.54%	25,417 (1.6%)	1
Wellington County	97,286	20.45%	19,895 (1.3%)	1
Perth County	40,947	34.31%	14,049 (0.9%)	1
Lambton County	126,273	7.91%	9,988 (0.6%)	1
Kawartha Lakes	79,247	3.47%	2,750 (0.2%)	1
Total			1,550,949	21

Transition and Transformation Periods



- Transition Plans to be developed by Transition Committee.
- Transition Committee comprised of CAO and elected member from each existing CA.
- Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) has appointed Project Executive.
- Transition Plans to be prepared and approved by February 1, 2027.
- Minister has issued temporary directions to prohibit certain decisions within the Transition Period.
- Following February 1, 2027, the Project Executive becomes inaugural CAO of new RCA for 2-years.
- These 2-years are expected to be the Transformation Period in which all substantial change and integration occurs.

Timeline from MECP

Key Milestones

Royal assent
of Bill 97

Municipal
elections

Transition
date

OPCA leads
improvements to CA
system by providing
centralized leadership
and oversight of 9
regional CAs

Spring 2026

Early summer
2026

Summer to
fall 2026

Late 2026 to
early 2027

Spring 2027
onward

within 90 days

Minister issues
directions

Appointment
of Project
Executives

Formation of
Transition
Committees

Transition
Committees develop
transition plans for
OPCA review

CAs complete
2027 budgets

Appointment of
first members

Regional CAs
implement transition
plans; report to OPCA
on progress

Information requests
from OPCA*
*OPCA will be requesting
baseline information from CAs to
inform the transition playbook

OPCA reviews transition
plans; transition
committees revise plans



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THANK YOU

BUDGET COMPANION DOCUMENT LINK: [https://www.greysauble.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/DRAFT 2027 Grey Sauble budget companion JULY-16-2026.pdf](https://www.greysauble.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/DRAFT%202027%20Grey%20Sauble%20budget%20companion%20JULY-16-2026.pdf)