



News Release

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Release Date: January 19, 2017

Mayor Mitchell Re-Elected to 3rd Term As Chair Of Central Lake Ontario Conservation

At the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's (CLOCA) 60th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 17, 2017, Mayor Don Mitchell of the Town of Whitby was re-elected as Chair and Councillor Bob Chapman of the City of Oshawa, was re-elected as Vice-Chair, both for a third term.

In recognition of CLOCA's 60th AGM, the meeting was held at Durham Region Headquarters with guest speaker Dianne Saxe, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario. Ms. Saxe provided some sobering facts facing our community as the impact of climate change becomes part of our everyday life. The audience participated in a brief question and answer session with the Commissioner, who commended the Region of Durham as a leader in addressing climate change issues with their Community Climate Adaptation Plan.

Congratulatory greetings were received from Jennifer French MPP Oshawa, Lorne Coe MPP Whitby-Oshawa and Councillor Derrick Glead on behalf of Roger Anderson and the Region of Durham. Chris Darling, CLOCA CAO provided some highlights and insights into CLOCA's milestones over the past 60 years. Mayor Don Mitchell spoke on behalf of the CLOCA Board of Directors and staff to highlight the outcomes of their collaborative efforts in 2016.

"It has been a pleasure to Chair CLOCA in 2016 and I would like to share some of the year's highlights which support our corporate vision for "Healthy Watersheds for Today and Tomorrow". Most are about our efforts to protect and restore the environment. The rest are about community engagement and the tremendous support we receive from our partners, stakeholders and volunteers.

- *We continued to undertake significant restoration efforts for Oshawa Second Marsh, McLaughlin Bay and Bowmanville Marsh to improve habitat, water quality and quantity and public access features.*
- *We undertook environmental restoration in the Enniskillen and Enfield Conservation Areas.*
- *We addressed Invasive Species in our watershed with 2 new active management projects for phragmites in Whitby and Clarington and we hosted 3 hands on workshops. For the 8th year in a row, we hosted a summer student in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to deliver invasive species awareness programs to our watershed.*
- *Removed 500 Hazard Trees and as part of forest management plan, harvested 75 hectares of pine and spruce plantations at Long Sault*
- *Produced 1250 litres of Maple Syrup from 1200 taps at Purple Woods Conservation Area for a record breaking season*
- *We planted 22,616 native trees on our lands in partnership with CN Railway, TD Tree Days and the RBC Foundation to restore 16 hectares of forest.*

- *Through our environmental monitoring program identified several Species at Risk Piping Plovers, American White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Bobolink and Bank Swallow, just to name a few.*
- *CLOCA hatched 54 native snapping turtles in partnership with 2 volunteers who participated in our nesting protection program in local wetlands.*
- *We experienced extreme drought conditions in their watersheds in 2016, issuing 2 low water responses and collected monitoring data on conditions like dry creek tributaries, wetlands, ponds and low groundwater levels.*
- *With the assistance of the National Disaster Mitigation Program we have initiated several studies to build a solid foundation for informed mitigation investments to reduce or negate the effects of flood events in the future.*
- *CLOCA issued 220 permits under the Ontario Regulation 42/06 to help protect the environment and people and property from natural hazards*
- *CLOCA won the Conservation Area Workshop Innovation Award for the development of a simulated water drainage sandbox.*
- *Championed the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the CN Railway to receive a Durham Environmental Advisory Committee Award for contributions to the health and wellness of our watersheds.*
- *In partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Royal Ashburn Golf Club, raised \$20,000 for wetland education.*
- *Engaged 3,458 grade 4 and high school students, at the 19th annual Durham Children's Groundwater Festival.*
- *1082 volunteers contributed an estimated 5,685 hours of their own time in community stewardship activities in our watersheds.*
- *With our partners, we hosted 19 corporate events, provided 21 community and corporate presentations, attended 15 community events, delivered 9 curriculum based education programs to 13,058 students, produced 6 corporate communication products, engaged 954 volunteers who provided 5,429 hours of their time, and we hosted 440 people in our summer camp programs in partnership with the YMCA GTA and OPG Darlington.*

So it has been a busy and productive year and I want to thank our Board of Directors, our CAO Chris Darling and his great staff, all of our supporting partners (many of whom have been mentioned) and last, but very far from least, the Region of Durham and our Chair and Regional Council for their strong support, financial and otherwise, for the work of CLOCA."

At the conclusion of the election, Chair Mayor Mitchell conducted the remainder of the meeting with the following opening address, "It is a pleasure to serve again as Chair and I look forward to 2017 as we work closely with our municipal partners, Durham Region and the community to protect and enhance the watersheds in which we live."

Upon being re-elected, Vice-Chair Councillor Chapman stated, "I look forward to serving a third term as Vice-Chair of Central Lake Ontario Conservation and I would like to express my appreciation and say thank you to the Directors for their support."

For more information please contact the Conservation office at (905) 579-0411 or visit our web site at www.cloca.com.

**2017 Central Lake Ontario Conservation
Board of Directors**

Chair
Mayor Don Mitchell
(Town of Whitby)



Vice-Chair
Councillor Bob Chapman
(City of Oshawa)



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