



Annual Report 2024

OUR MISSION

The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority provides leadership through coordination of watershed planning, implementation of resource management programs and promotion of conservation awareness in cooperation with others.

OUR VISION

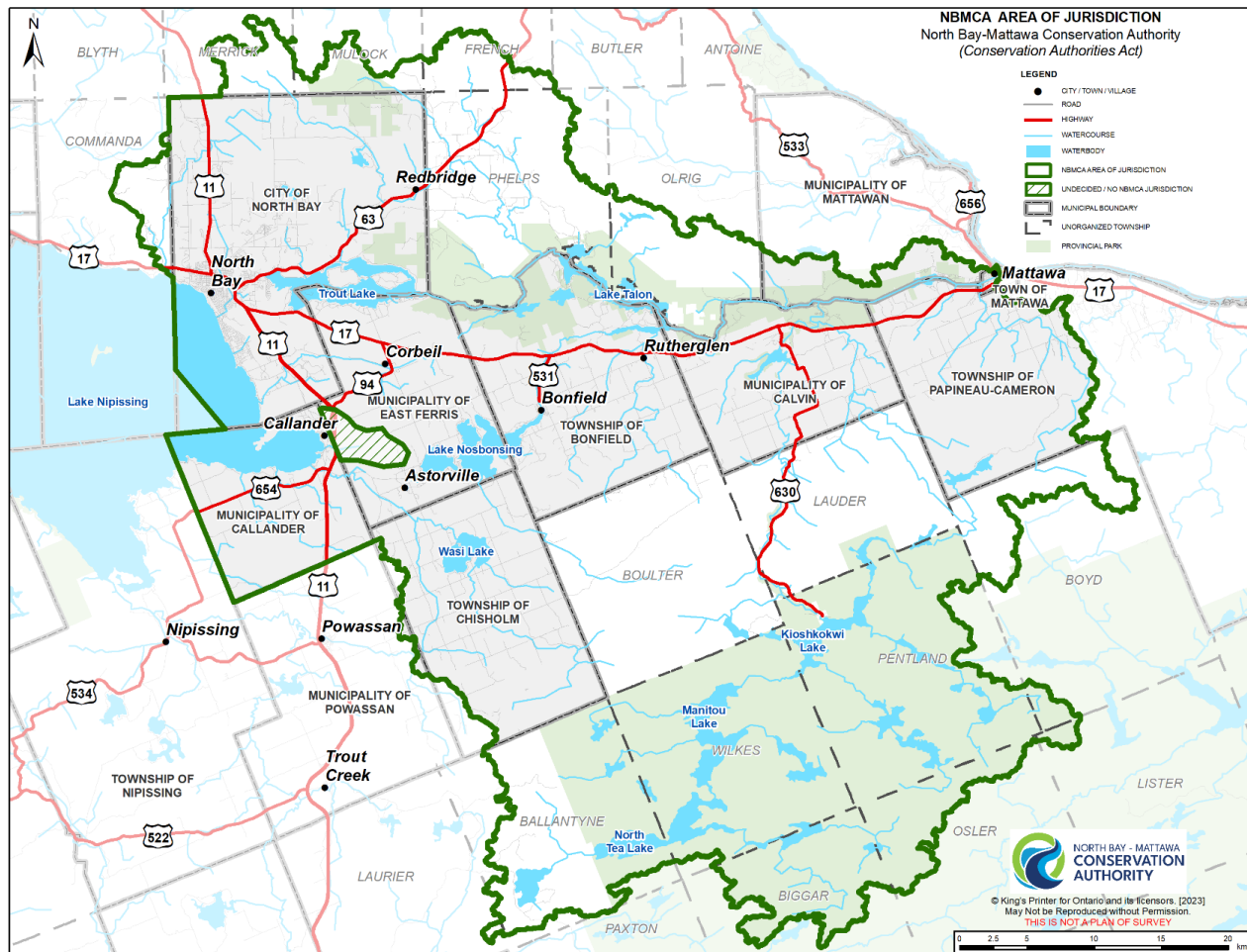
Providing effective leadership in the management of our watersheds where partners and communities are actively engaged in balancing human needs with the needs of the natural environment.

OUR VALUES

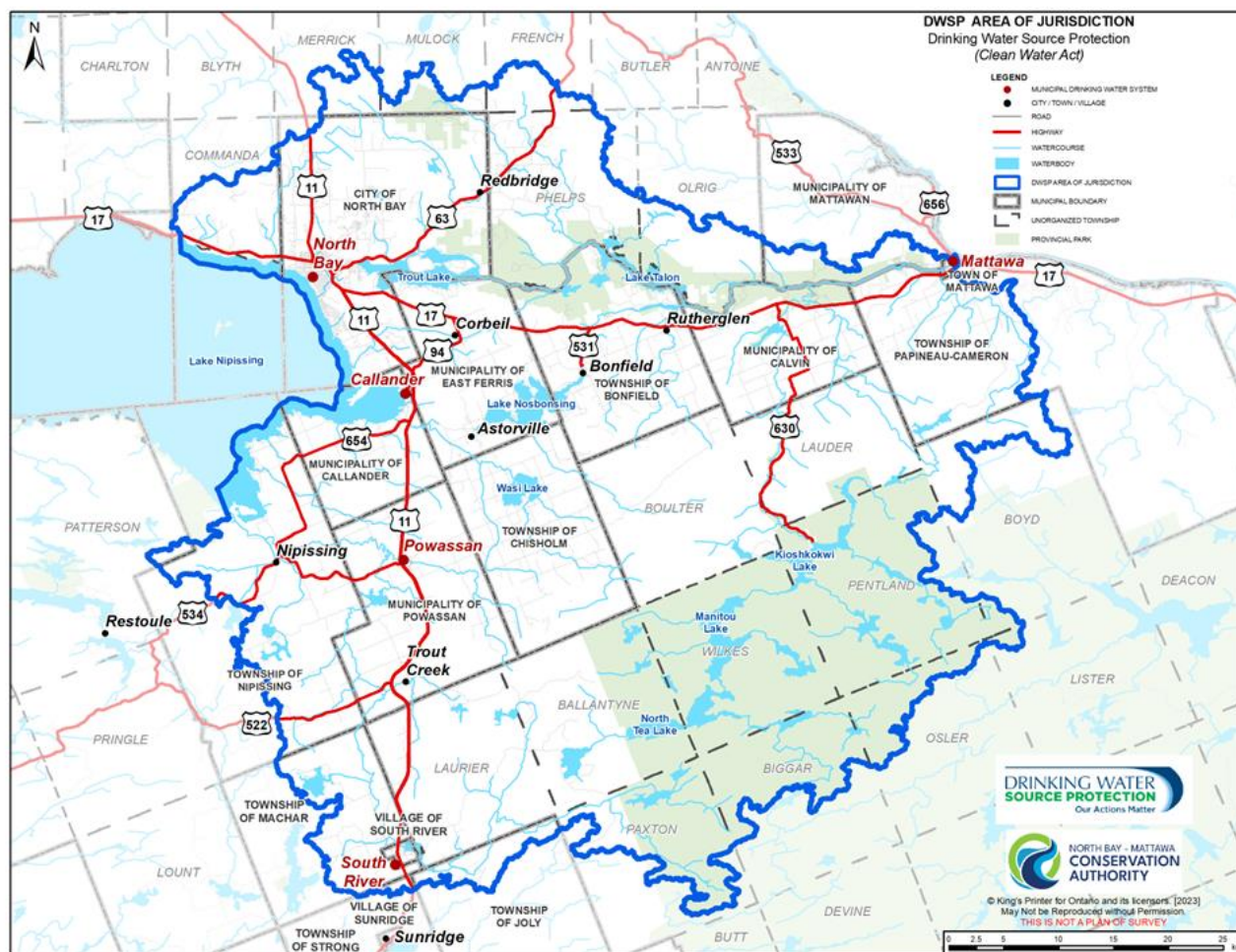
- **Action:** Establish priorities and undertake initiatives based on desired results, ensuring that actions or decisions are undertaken individually and collectively in an accountable and timely manner.
- **Collaboration:** Work together with our partners and communities to strengthen our approach and create synergy for improving watershed management.
- **Innovation:** Be a leader in science-based integrated watershed management that accommodates taking new approaches to our business.
- **Transparency:** Communicate and share information and ideas using appropriate language and outreach techniques to bring about clear understanding.
- **Integrity:** Ensure that actions or decisions do not compromise our fundamental values or principles.

The NBMCA has responsibilities under three pieces of legislation:

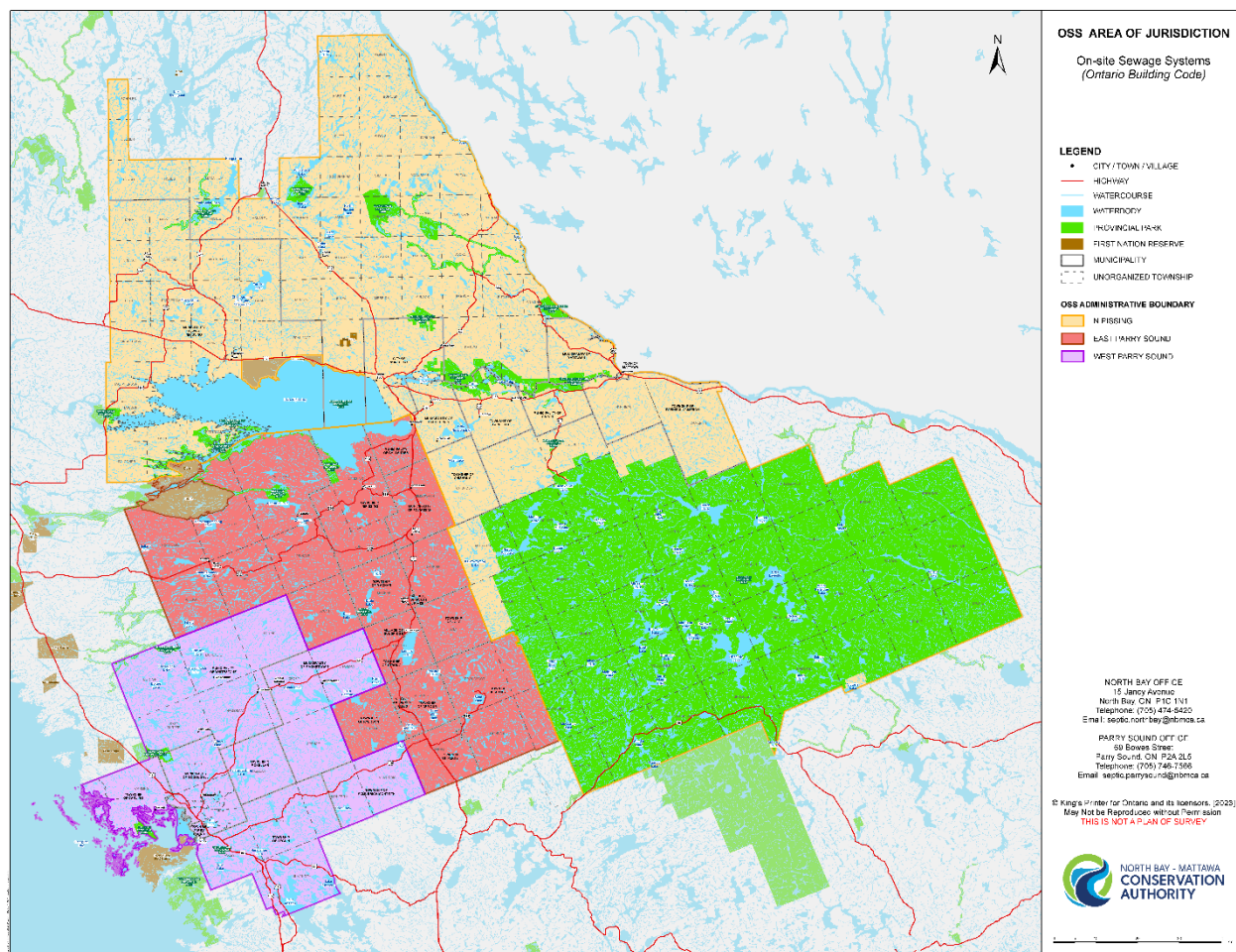
Map 1: NBMCA Jurisdiction under the Conservation Authorities Act



Map 2: NBMCA Jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act



Map 3 - NBMCA Jurisdiction under Ontario Building Code (OBC)



Corporate Services

Corporate Services supports the whole conservation authority, enabling it to perform its functions and deliver programs in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Corporate Services is comprised of these key elements:

- Administration of staff and operations, including managing changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and related changes
- Governance (Board of Directors, related committees) support
- Strategic Planning
- Finance and Budgeting
- Human Resources
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Information Technology (IT).

Through 2024, the Corporate Services team managed a budget of approximately \$5.14 million, with a staff complement of around 18 staff and 4 summer students. The team supported a governance Board of 12 members representing 10 municipalities, as well as its Executive Committee and Human Resources Committee. The Source Protection Authority Board's functions were also supported by staff.

The Corporate Services team supported sound budgeting and audit processes; and managed human resources needs including successional planning and reassessing staffing complement to meet increased business demands.

The Corporate Services team helped to meet the requirements as set out in the Conservation Authorities Act. These requirements included the development and approval of the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy and the Conservation Areas Strategy.

GIS staff provide online mapping for both internal use and for the public's convenience. GIS services assist in planning and development, septic systems program applications, lands management, drinking water source protection, floodplain mapping projects, and development of the lands inventory.

The Corporate Services team, in conjunction with the Septic team, responded to over 60 legal inquiries.

Planning & Development

Planning - Approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, Order in Council No. 1099/2024. The [Provincial Planning Statement](#) was issued under section 3 of the Planning Act and came into effect on October 20, 2024. It replaces the Provincial Policy Statement that came into effect on May 1, 2020.

NBMCA provides this plan review service to Municipalities through MOUs or Plan Review Agreements. NBMCA has Plan Review Agreements with Bonfield, Callander, Chisholm Twp, East Ferris, East Nipissing Planning Board (which covers Calvin, Mattawan, and Papineau-Cameron), Mattawa and North Bay completed in 2024.

Section 28 - NBMCA administers Ontario Regulation 41/24 - Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits - pursuant to [Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act](#). This was updated on April 1, 2024 from Ontario Regulation 177/06, Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses.

Mandatory Maintenance Inspections - Staff completed 104 mandatory maintenance inspections of septic systems identified in the Source Protection Plan as having a potential impact on a municipal drinking water system.

Ontario Building Code (OBC) - On-site Sewage System program

Sewage System Permits Issued

Total # 704

East Parry Sound # 209

West Parry Sound # 273

Nipissing # 222

OBC Clearance & Lands to Be Sold

Total # 8

OSS File Reviews

Total # 148

OSS Planning Comments

Total # 87

2024 Permit Activity - Member Municipalities

Municipality	Section 28 Permits Issued 2024	Plan Review Comments 2024	OSS Permits Issued 2024
Bonfield	0	4	22
Callander	6	19	16
Calvin	1	5	11
Chisholm	5	6	20
East Ferris	15	11	30
Mattawa	5	0	0
Mattawan	0	1	4
North Bay	45	58	21
Papineau-Cameron	2	8	16
Powassan	0	6	14
Other- Phelps	1	0	5
Totals	80 ↓	118 ↓	159 ↓

↓ Decrease from 2023

↑ Increase from 2023

Integrated Watershed Management

NBMCA undertakes an Integrated Watershed Management approach that requires us to manage human activities and natural resources on a watershed basis, taking into consideration the connected interests and needs of the environment, economy and society.



Floodplain mapping was completed for Chippewa Creek, Parks Creek and Jessup's Creek in the City of North Bay, as well as Lansdowne Creek within Municipality of Callander and East Ferris. Public consultations will be scheduled in 2025.



Drinking Water Source Protection helps protect municipal drinking water sources. Drinking water Source protection progressed through S.36 (periodic review) update of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan. Two open houses were held in May for public comments. The major updates are adapting to the 2021 Technical Rules outlining conditions surrounding drinking water threats and their significance and adopting updated wetland mapping to refine boundaries for intake protection zone mapping. It is anticipated that the updates will be finalized in early 2025. This program is currently funded by the province of Ontario.



Flood control structure (Parks Creek) – A Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure Capacity Study was completed in 2024. A detailed review of hydrological characteristics and associated subcatchment area was done.



Watershed-wide monitoring and analysis –

NBMCA samples water as part of Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network. NBMCA is also part of the Ontario Lake Partner Program. Staff collected water samples from 19 sites on five lakes, 22 stream and river sites and three groundwater sites, totalling 246 water samples. Telemetry installed at a PGMN site to enable real-time data availability for groundwater level and precipitation data.



Flood Forecasting and Warning continued to take place year-round. Flood management is a shared responsibility in Ontario. Conservation Authorities, including NBMCA, are on the front lines of the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning program. NBMCA issued 18 flood messages in 2024. Spring water levels on Lake Nipissing were 10th highest since 1949. Ottawa River at Mattawa was 14th highest since 1953. NBMCA confirmed a Level 1 Low Water Condition for November through December.



Snow Surveys continued as part of NBMCA's flood forecasting program. Snow depth and snow water content are measured in the Kaibuskong River, Chippewa Creek, and La Vase River watersheds to help forecast the potential impact of snow melt during the spring freshet. The snow survey data is shared with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Surface Water Monitoring Network. All stations recorded new historic low snow water equivalent and snow depth measurements for at least one measurement through the winter.

Conservation Areas, Lands and Stewardship



Parks Creek Backflood Control Structure on Lakeshore Drive in North Bay protects around 500 properties from flooding when high water occurs on Lake Nipissing. It was operational in 2024 from April 19 to May 13.



Maintenance and improvement projects for trails and conservation areas.

Due to lack of staff, Field Operations staff did not have the capacity to take on additional projects. Only routine maintenance activities were completed.

Communications & Outreach

Since our establishment in 1972, NBMCA has learned that protecting and conserving our watershed relies on collaboration and cooperation with individuals, organizations, community groups, volunteers and communities.



Mattawa River Canoe Race

The Mattawa River Canoe Race returned with an earlier date of June 7 and a dinner and banquet. Fifty-nine teams in the 64 km race with an additional 10 teams in the 13 km race, paddling in kayaks, canoes and stand-up paddleboards from North Bay to Mattawa through the spectacular beauty of the Trout Lake, Mattawa River subwatersheds. Three records were broken – C2 Stock Men's, Open Kayak and Stand-up Paddleboard (SUP).



Miskwaadesi

In the spirit of Reconciliation, NBMCA partnered with the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre and the City of North Bay in the creation of **Miskwaadesi** (Painted Turtle), a granite petroform with four cedar poles marking the four directions and a flagpole for the display of Indigenous flags throughout the year. Miskwaadesi was “**officially opened**” with a ceremony in collaboration with the NBIFC on September 19.



Community Events

North Bay Home & Garden Expo, Friends of La Vase Portages Canoe Night, East Ferris Tradeshaw, Enbridge volunteer day (weeding on Chippewa Creek EcoPath), Louise de Kilirine Festival in collaboration with Friends of Laurier Woods, Clean, Green Beautiful North Bay volunteer appreciation on Chief Commanda with Communities in Bloom judges, Laurentian Escarpment Conservation Area funding announcement by Discovery Routes at their AGM. Communications staff had an opportunity to attend the World Trails conference with over 500 delegates from around the world.

Media Releases

- Mentioned in 90 media articles.

Social Media

- **Facebook (increase of 1000 page likes/followers)**
130 posts, 2900 engagements, 3900 Page Likes/Followers
(2023 – 113 posts, 1297 engagements, 2900 Page Like/Followers)
- **Instagram (increase of 137 followers)**
108 posts, 894 post likes, 850 followers
(2023 – 85 posts, 821 post likes, 713 followers)
- **X (increase of 31 followers)**
75 posts, 72 likes/retweets, 698 followers
(2023 – 85 posts, 130 like/retweets, 667 followers)



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