



**Town of Saugeen Shores**  
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box  
820  
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

January 14, 2026

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queens Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**Re: Motion Regarding the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority**

At the January 5, 2026, Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, the following motion was passed:

**Resolution 010-2026**

**Moved by:** Councillor D. Myette  
**Seconded by:** Councillor R. Stack

**Whereas** the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority “The Authority” was established in 1950, 75 years ago by a group of municipalities, as a response to problems associated with flooding; and

**Whereas** the Town of Saugeen Shores is the single largest member by apportionment in this collection of 8 member municipalities, comprising of the main channel and mouth of the Saugeen River at Southampton. The Town of Saugeen Shores is the largest contributor of annual levies that cover the operation of the Authority; and

**Whereas** the member municipalities cover 44% of the operational costs of the SVCA, 7% coming from the Provincial funding and the remaining is generated through internally generated revenue and permitting fees; and

**Whereas** the fees charged by Conservation Authorities have been frozen for 3 years which has had the effect of shifting the financial burden onto levies and by extension the property tax payers; and

**Whereas** the Provincial Conservation Authorities Association (Conservation Ontario) has and continues to provide the respective Authorities with guidance, oversight, and consistency of regulation application; and

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**Whereas** the development of the “Agency” is proposed to be funded by municipalities and serves only to add another layer of Government bureaucracy, which by definition will serve only to increase financial burden on member Municipalities; and

**Whereas** one of the stated objectives of the “Agency” is development of a single digital permitting platform. This approach will serve to alienate a significant portion of our residents who do not have access to internet services, due to rural location or due to religious beliefs; and

**Whereas** the SVCA is located in a primarily rural geographic region, that due to the proposed consolidation of 7 Authorities will be seemingly overshadowed by much larger and more densely populated authorities with much larger urban components; and

**Whereas** the SVCA has worked hard to achieve a streamlined and efficient operation and service delivery model, due in large part to the direct oversight by a Board comprised of member municipalities appointed elected officials; and

**Whereas** the proposed consolidated Huron-Superior Authority would be comprised of up to 80 municipalities, 23,000 sq/km and by extension, a Board of Directors that would be so large as to be unmanageable, and would surely result in smaller rural municipalities losing direct control over the operation of the Authority; and

**Whereas** the inclusion of Lakehead Region CA in North West Ontario, could have detrimental repercussions arising from travel distance and geographic differences alone; and

**Whereas** the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority owns and manages thousands of acres of CA land, many of which are income generating, through user fees, land leases, managed forest harvest, and campground fees. The Amalgamation plan does not address how these assets, which by extension belong to member Municipalities, would be equitably divested. Many of these properties were granted to the Authority, specifically detailing the nature and terms of ownership which legally must be maintained going forward; and

**Whereas** Authorities across the province have liquid assets in the form of trusts, and reserves that belong to member municipalities which run the risk of being swallowed up by large Authorities with larger budgets and resources.



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**Now Therefore, be it Resolved** that the Town of Saugeen Shores requests that the Amalgamation into the "Huron Superior Regional Conservation Authority" as outlined in ERO 025-1257 be reconsidered. This in order to maintain the local oversight and protect against as yet unforeseen consequences which will serve to undermine the SVCA's ability to provide regional knowledge-based service delivery and management of properties under our stewardship and ownership; and

**Further** ensure that should the amalgamations go forward that consideration be given to grouping Rural Authorities with similar watershed characteristics together, while grouping more Urban Authorities together for similar reasons; and

**Further** ensure that any transitional costs are fully funded by the Province and not borne by member Municipalities, and that Municipalities are provided with clear funding models in 2026 so as to allow for sufficient planning data for the 2027 budgets; and

**Further** that Saugeen Shores Council urges the Province to engage with affected municipalities and First Nations communities in a meaningful way to collaboratively review the service delivery model and standardize only where necessary paying attention to the different needs of Rural and Urban Authorities. That the Province use this approach rather than develop another level of administration and the associated financial burden that would surely result; and

**Finally** that this resolution be included in the Municipalities ERO response and be forwarded to the:

- Premier of Ontario;
- Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks;
- Bruce County Council;
- All of Ontario's Municipalities;
- Huron Bruce MPP/ Minister of Rural Affairs;
- The board of Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- AMO; and,
- Conservation Ontario.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Ashlyn Kennedy".

Ashlyn Kennedy  
Licensing and Records Clerk

cc: Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks;  
Bruce County Council;  
All Ontario Municipalities;  
Huron Bruce MPP/ Minister of Rural Affairs;  
The board of Rural Ontario Municipal Association;  
AMO; and,  
Conservation Ontario.

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