



*West Credit River, Photo by Steve Noakes.*

# **ONTARIO RIVERS ALLIANCE**

**2021 – 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**22 October 2022**

**Linda Heron, Chair and CAO**



**Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA)**  
**Board of Directors**

Linda Heron, Chair & CAO

Ken Buchan, Vice Chair

Terry Little, Secretary - Treasurer

Robert Huber, Board of Directors

Karlo Bobinac, Board of Directors

Christian Laidlaw, Board of Directors

Eric Chaplin, Board of Directors

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**A BIG thank you to ORA's Board of Directors for their dedicated service!**

## Letter from the Chair

Greetings everyone,

First, I would like to thank all our supporters for your ongoing support! We owe our success to you!

ORA is looking for new dedicated Board Members to fill 4 vacancies on our Board of Directors, so please let us know if you are interested in serving Ontario rivers!

While we are living in very challenging times, the ORA has managed to keep an even keel, and move forward in fulfilling our mission to protect, conserve and restore Ontario rivers.

In October of 2021 the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) was proclaimed into force and requires all not-for-profit corporations to come into compliance with its new rules by October of 2024. ORA has chosen to comply early and is presenting our new ONCA compliant Articles and ByLaws at this Annual General Meeting for approval.

The only major change to how ORA will operate is that we will have two types of membership – Voting Members and Supporting Members. Voting Members are the Board of Directors, and any person or group that requests voting rights, has paid a \$100 annual membership fee, and has been approved as a member by the Board. Supporting Members are those who have paid a \$25 annual fee, would like to attend and participate in ORA General Meetings, and be kept in the loop.

In 2021 and 2022, the ORA has continued to build upon our collaborative network of like-minded organizations, commented on a number of key policy and legislation proposals, and is involved in two dam removal projects in southern Ontario. ORA is working as a funding partner with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in the Mill Creek Weir Removal project, in Orangeville, and most recently the East Credit River Dam Removal project, in Caledon.

**Breaking News:** Since 2013, Unbeknown to the public, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has been selling [Carbon Credits for their hydroelectric facilities](#), because of what it calls its “environmental attributes”. OPG ignores the multitude of studies reporting that hydroelectric with reservoirs, even in temperate climates such as ours, contributes approximately 6% of world greenhouse gas emissions, with methane being the primary culprit.

Also, in a replay from the past, the [Minister of Energy has charged OPG to work with the Ontario Waterpower Association](#) to review the potential for new hydroelectric projects in the north. ORA is working to discourage these notions.

We will continue to speak up for Ontario rivers, and we thank you for your ongoing support!

Yours in Conservation,



ORA Chair & Chief Administrative Officer  
Ontario Rivers Alliance

## **About ORA:**

The Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) is a not-for-profit grassroots volunteer organization with a mission to protect, conserve, and restore Ontario riverine ecosystems. ORA works to ensure that development affecting Ontario rivers is environmentally and socially sustainable.

ORA has a broad overarching perspective in our approach to protecting, conserving, and restoring Ontario's freshwater resources. We collaborate with other organizations, agencies, municipalities, individuals and Indigenous citizens throughout the province to share, communicate, assist, and join our voices, experience and strengths in a coordinated effort to address risky or threatening developments and unhealthy river ecosystems. ORA's success and accomplishments are entirely the result of the efforts of a dedicated team of volunteers and members.

Since our beginnings, ORA has worked tirelessly to address concerning developments, influence policy, process and legislation, to improve the environmental assessment and approvals process, to increase public awareness of the impacts development may impose, and the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring riverine ecosystems.

ORA works to raise awareness through our website, E-newsletter, Action Alerts, public speaking engagements, and other communication and outreach initiatives. We work to build a strong and engaged network of like-minded individuals and organizations.

ORA has assisted numerous individuals and groups in advocating for river protection, conservation and restoration. This wouldn't be possible without the assistance of our network of volunteers and partners which provide scientific and technical expertise.

ORA has a solid track record of providing evidenced-based and reasoned advice on policy and development that affects Ontario rivers.

## **Challenges to Ontario Rivers:**

ORA is concerned with all issues affecting Ontario rivers and lakes, including the cumulative and ongoing negative effects of hydroelectric, waste water treatment facilities, mining and industry releasing effluent into our waterways, diminished water quality and water quantity, forestry impacts, blue-green algae, invasive species, overdevelopment of our shorelines, endangered species, threatened fisheries, old dams that no longer serve any useful purpose and block our waterways, and the most daunting challenge of all, climate change.

Healthy rivers provide drinking water, food, flood protection, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and economic benefits to local and First Nation communities. They are a vital part of our heritage and are sources of community identity and pride. In an era of global warming, effective long-term protection for rivers must begin at the headwaters and encompass the entire watershed.

For an overview of what ORA and its dedicated volunteers have achieved since our inception in 2011, you can check out our [previous Annual Reports and website Blog](#), located [here](#).

What follows is a list of ORA's Activities since the fall of 2021 up to this date. You can click on the live links embedded in the text of each item to access those documents on our website Blog, where you will find more detailed information.

## **ORA Activities – November 2021 to October 2022:**

### **1. Regulatory Submissions:**

- 24 January 2022 – ERO 019-4219 - Draft Project List Approach under the EAA
- 11 March 2022 – ERO 019-4978 – Subwatershed Planning Guide
- 12 March 2022 – ERO 019-4108 - Expanding Administrative Penalties for Environmental Contraventions
- 28 March 2022 – ERO 019-4967 – Municipal Wastewater and Stormwater Management in Ontario – Discussion Paper
- 15 April 2022 – A Clean Electricity Standard in Support of a Net-Zero Electricity Sector – Federal Discussion Paper
- 27 April 2022 – ERO 019-4971- Draft Low Impact Stormwater Management Manual
- 16 September 2022 – ERO-019-5816 – Development of a Clean Energy Credit Registry
- 4 October 2022 – IESO - Northeastern Ontario Electricity Planning

### **2. Project Submissions:**

- 2 October 2021 – ORA comments to IAAC - Upper Beaver Gold Mine Project
- 10 March 2022 – Coniston Generating Station Upgrade – OPG Life Expansion Project
- 12 March 2022 – Upper Beaver Gold Project – Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Public Participation Plan
- 14 April 2022 – OPG response to ORA – Coniston GS Upgrade
- 27 April 2022 – ERO-019-4971 – Draft Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Manual
- 13 May 2022 – Hydroelectric Program Development and Assessment – IESO Small Hydro Program

### **3. Outreach Submissions:**

- 16 October 2022 – ORA Celebrates 10 years of Service to Ontario Rivers
- 2 February 2022 – WWF and Nature Conservancy Support Adding Turbines to Non-powered Dams

### **4. Coalition for the West Credit River:**

- 2 November 2021 – CWCR Response to Auditor General on MECP Decision on EBR Application for Investigation
- 27 January 2022 – CWCR Recommendations for an Adaptive Management Plan
- 3 June 2022 – CWCR to Aziz Ahmed, MECP – Re: Environmental Compliance Approval #7877 CALRZU – Erin Water Resource Recovery Facility
- 3 June 2022 – Environmental Compliance Approval Number 7877-CALRZU – Erin Water Resource Recovery Facility
- 3 June 2022 – Delegation Request – Erin Water Resource Recovery Facility

- 24 August 2022 – CWCR to Aziz Ahmed, MECP – Re: Environmental Compliance Approval – Thermal Impacts

## **5. Joint Submissions:**

- 8 December 2021 – Bradford Bypass Designation Request by 63 Organizations
- 25 January 2022 – ERO-019-4219 - Draft Project List Regulation under the EAA
- 8 February 2022 – Ending Plastic Pollution – A Call to Action
- 28 February 2022 – EA Requirements for Advancing Recycling Facilities
- 22 April 2022 – Bill C-28, An Act to amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999
- 16 May 2022 – Renomination of Radionuclides as Chemicals of Mutual Concern Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- 13 July 2022 – Minister Guilbeault - Put Nature at the Centre of Canada's National Adaptation Strategy

## **6. Dam Decommissioning Updates:**

- East Credit River Dam Removal Project – Grant Application - \$250,000
- Mill Creek Weir Removal Project – In Progress – Contributed \$5,000 from a Lush Grant
- Springbank Dam, Thames River – Awaiting removal
- Howson Dam, North Maitland River – Removal of Howson Dam is out to tender
- Riverside Dam, Speed River – Dam replacement on hold indefinitely due to cost overruns

## **7. Grants:**

- 21 March 2022 – Lush Grant Approval – Mill Creek Weir Removal - \$5,000
- 21 March 2022 – Lush Grant Approval for a Communications Assistant - \$5,000
- 27 September 2022 – Natural Infrastructure Grant Application – East Credit River Dam Removal - \$250,000

## **8. Coalitions:**

- Healthy Great Lakes Coalition
- Coalition for the West Credit River
- American Eel Conservation Coalition
- Upper Beaver Gold Mine – Coalition of environmental organizations and individuals

## **8. Subscribe to ORA's online news sources:**

- ORA Website: <https://ontarioriversalliance.ca/blog/>
- Contact Email: [info@ontarioriversalliance.ca](mailto:info@ontarioriversalliance.ca)
- E-newsletter: <https://www.ontarioriversalliance.ca/take-action/> - join-our-newsletter
- RSS Feed: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/ontarioriversalliance/KpBY>
- Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/OntarioRivers>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OntarioRivers>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/OntarioRivers>

## **In Conclusion:**

We will continue to build on our successes and explore innovative ways to better serve our membership and Ontario Rivers.

A big thank you to all those who have assisted ORA by way of membership dues, donations and volunteer work! We couldn't do what we do without your continued support!

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Heron", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Linda Heron, Chair & CAO  
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