

Central Basin Watershed

The Central Basin Watershed is made up of East Davignon Creek, Central Creek, West Davignon Creek and Bennett Creek.

The headwaters of the basin are within the Townships of Dennis and Pennefather north of the city limits. The watercourse flows south, via deep ravines through the groundwater recharge areas to the lower portion of the watershed prior to emptying into the upper St. Marys River.

Flood Control In Sault Ste. Marie Area

The concept of Conservation Authorities (CAs) originated in the 1930's and 1940's when the province identified a need to improve resource management and the devastation of Hurricane Hazel was on the mind of everyone. Control of flooding was the most serious concern as well as other natural phenomena such as drought, and erosion. As a result individuals in government, university and the private sector combined to form the Guelph Conference in 1941. They decided to utilize the Ganaraska watershed for a feasibility study of resource management. Recommendations that followed the completion of this project led to passing a Conservation Authorities Act in 1946.

Soon afterwards CAs were developed by the province in partnership with 2 or more municipalities to form CAs in urban centres throughout the province. They became known as independent corporate organizations involved in conservation and resource management. Their initial jurisdictions were in water resource management, which later became integrated with wise land use. Recently CAs have become involved in drought response.

As the CAs grew, three basic principles were formed;

- to enhance public knowledge and participation
- to combine municipal (community) and provincial (government) involvement
- to maintain jurisdiction within a watershed area.

Conservation Authorities have recently begun to play an important part in water quality and quantity as the facilitators of Source Water Protection Planning.

Since 1948 CAs have increased in number and size to thirty-six, encompassing 400 municipalities and covering 16,063 square kilometres. Five of these thirty-six are located in Northern Ontario. Of Ontario's population, ninety percent live within the jurisdiction of a Conservation Authority. With the remaining 10 percent of the population are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Since its inception in 1963 the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority (SSMRCA) has completed flood control projects such as, Bennett-West Davignon diversion channel, Fort Creek dam, reservoir and flood control channel and Clark Creek, East Davignon and Central Creek flood control channels. Flood control services are provided through debris and vegetation removal, maintenance and repairs to the five flood control channels as well as the Fort Creek Dam. This maintenance is essential to ensure the unobstructed flow of water from the northern portion of the watershed, through the City to the St. Marys River.

The flood control structures have proven to be a worthwhile investment with the Fort Creek Dam alone protecting more than 400 residences and numerous commercial properties.



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Watershed Legend

- Flood Control Channels
- Lake
- Wetland Area
- River
- Intermittent Stream
- Vegetation
- Street Centerline
- Municipal

This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of boundaries, routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.

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