



# Measuring Success on the Oak Ridges Moraine

Presented by:  
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- Stopped funding in 2009
- Considered closure/overwhelming response from stakeholders/still a role to play!
- Key focus
  - ORM co-ordination
  - Legacy projects i.e. trail kiosks
  - Preparation for 2015 ORMCP Review
  - Seek re-investment from the Provincial and Federal Governments



# Preparing for 2015

- **Health of ORM in a Watershed Context**
- **Health of ORM in a Landscape and Municipal Context (Ecological Baseline)**
- **Improvements to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail**
- **Compliance Monitoring- Assessing Policy and Regulatory Agency Compliance to the ORMCP**
- **Assessment of Stakeholder Awareness, Support and Concerns**
- **Progress in Land Securement**
- **Progress in Land Stewardship**
- **Progress in Education and Research**



# Key Findings – Stakeholder Survey

- ORMCP is a good plan but changes needed at 2015
  - Harmonization of provincial policies and plans
  - Long term governance
  - Effective monitoring
  - Aggregate extraction
  - Hardship on local municipalities and local economies
  - Transition policies
  - Simplification of small-scale development
  - Boundary adjustments
  - Administration and relationship of the permit to take water
  - Expansion of urban development into countryside area designations



## Key Findings – Stakeholder Survey

- Over 80% felt that the ORMF has provided positive contributions
- Weaknesses – promotion of successes and achievements, partnerships with development, aggregate industry
- Funding Priorities – land securement (43%), public education (36%) and land restoration (23%)



# Key Findings – Compliance



- A tremendous amount of effort has been expended by municipalities and others to ensure their respective policies, procedural and regulatory documents address the requirements of the ORMCP
- Province has met many of its obligations i.e. approval of all official plans, release of 17 technical guidelines, mapping
- Still outstanding obligations – commitment to consult with Aboriginal people, commitment to work with municipalities in developing site alteration by-laws and tree conservation by-laws
- Some municipalities have not completed watershed plans
- Lack of a monitoring or audit capability to track, assess and report on the compliance of various agencies to the ORMCP



## Key Findings – Ecological Health of the ORM

- Simple and easily collected datasets that can be used to monitor trends in ecological integrity of the ORM and the effectiveness of the ORMCP
- Will need to be updated before 2015
- This report can serve as a baseline against which future changes in natural features can be compared

## Key Findings – ORM within a Watershed Context



- Natural Terrestrial cover in good shape but more emphasis on restoration of forest interior, prairies and grassland habitat
- Streams on the ORM in poor shape – more restoration needed
- Lack of sufficient monitoring stations
- Lack of committed funding
- Excellent basis for establishing monitoring baseline



# Improvements to the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail



## Findings:

- Policies of Section 39 of the ORMCP met
- Main east-west trail connected across entire ORM
- Significant improvements in infrastructure
- Establishment of 4 trail gateways
- Identification of opportunities for future improvements i.e. off of roads
- Maintenance of present trail and realization of potential expansions are probably not attainable under current ORTA model

An aerial photograph of a river or stream with a bridge in the background. The water is a light blue-grey color, and the surrounding land is a mix of green and brown. The bridge is a simple structure with a few arches. The title "Securement and Stewardship" is overlaid in yellow text.

# Securement and Stewardship

- More than 5,582 acres of conservation lands have been protected through acquisition, donation and conservation easements
- More than 1,000 acres of conservation lands have been enhanced through stewardship projects such as tree planting, wetland creation, habitat management, prairie restoration and livestock diversion



# Research and Education

- ORMF has supported research efforts by universities, colleges and non-government organizations in order to fill knowledge gaps on the ORM
- More than 5,700 school children have learned about the importance of water and wildlife protection on the ORM
- 1,000s more have been educated through a variety of Moraine programs



## Provincial Obligations Not Yet Met

- A data management system has yet to be developed in cooperation with municipalities, conservation authorities and appropriate stakeholders
- The proposed monitoring program for the Greenbelt (including the ORM) has fallen short of expectations insofar as it has identified an insufficient number of effective performance indicators
- Provincial assistance has been insufficient to assist municipalities in the interpretation and application of policies and technical aspects of the ORMCP
- Lack of provincial oversight or tracking of decision-making to comply with the requirements of the ORMCP

An aerial photograph of a natural landscape. On the left, a calm lake reflects the sky. To its right is a dense green forest. In the center, a small, light-colored building with a dark roof is visible, surrounded by trees. The background shows a vast, flat expanse of land under a clear sky.

## Still Work to Be Done

- Trail still on public roads
- Continued land restoration – focus on streams, interior forest and grassland areas
- Securement to protect key water resources
- Continued education and outreach
- Monitoring in preparation for 2015





# **Why the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation**

- We have a role to play leading up to 2015
- Dependable facilitator of meaningful/substantive results (\$15 million into \$50 million)
- Catalyst for partnership, collaboration and cooperation
- Best positioned/equipped to do the work that remains to be done

# Our Request to the Province

- To continue and expand policy and monitoring, land restoration, land securement and education and outreach until review of the ORMCP in 2015
  - \$4 million                      policy and monitoring
  - \$3 million                      land restoration
  - \$2 million                      land securement
  - \$2 million                      education and outreach
- \$11 million