

**Just 1 in 4 historical wetlands remain on Ontario's landscape.** The wetlands we save today aren't just for ducks; they're for all of us.

# ONTARIO

Hullett Marsh © SkyF (istockphoto.com)

**More than 120,000 Canadians choose to support the health of our shared landscapes by supporting Ducks Unlimited Canada. Why? Because all people who care about the future of water, wildlife or wilderness share our conservation mission.**

Ducks Unlimited Canada delivers wetland conservation that benefits every Canadian. Our vision is to replenish the landscape with healthy habitat and fill the skies with waterfowl—a conservation mission that embraces the entire continent of North America. No other conservation organization has a greater impact on Canada's land, water and wildlife than we do.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Stewarding the land is in our nature. Is it in yours too?** More than 72 per cent of southern Ontario's wetlands have been drained, filled in, paved over and degraded. In southwestern Ontario, the loss is even greater. DUC's conservation vision is to conserve remaining wetlands for future generations and restore lost wetland habitats. We can't do it without the dedication and passion of our supporters. [ducks.ca/how-to-help](https://ducks.ca/how-to-help)

**Donate** — Every dollar makes a difference. DUC needs everyone's help to protect our shared landscapes. The wetlands we save aren't just for ducks; they're for all of us.

**Volunteer** — Share your talents. Volunteer in your community, meet people and have fun while supporting wetland conservation.

**Secure land** — Securing land keeps wetland habitat tucked safely under our wing. We can help you decide if your land is right to donate or sell to DUC.

**Leave a legacy** — We can offer you guidance on leaving a lasting gift through your estate that will conserve wetlands for waterfowl, wildlife and people well into the future.

**Be a voice for conservation** — No one knows your home, your land and your values better than you. Let your friends, family, neighbours and local government representatives know why wetlands are important to you.



Wetlands are part of Ontario's watersheds, connecting across the province in a natural mosaic that sustains plants, animals and people alike. To drain or degrade wetlands here and there across the province is like chipping a hole in the collective water pipe that sustains all of us.

Almost every living creature depends on water. Picture the Ontario that you want to live in. Now picture this beautiful province without all of the things that need clean water to function or live.

Pollution, climate change and competing land uses are affecting forests, wetlands, lakes and streams. Wetlands are a natural solution. **The need for wetland conservation to support a healthy and prosperous Ontario has never been greater.**

## OUR CONSERVATION RESULTS

	National	Ontario
Secured Acres <sup>1</sup>	6,400,000	980,693
Projects <sup>2</sup>	34,211	4,152

Current to March 31, 2019

<sup>1</sup> Cumulative. Lands where conservation measures are applied to protect or improve habitat through land purchase, management agreements, conservation easements and leases.

<sup>2</sup> Project segments cumulative since 1938.

## OUR COMMUNITY

DUC is backed by a conservation community of more than 120,000 people. Of these, 25,000 supporters in Ontario are an active part of our conservation mission.

	National	Ontario
Annual Fundraising Events <sup>1</sup>	320	74
Volunteers	5,228	992
Landowner Partners	18,846	3,364

<sup>1</sup> Our fundraising events in Ontario were attended by 11,956 supporters.



### Ontario offices

Barrie 705-721-4444  
Kingston 613-389-0418  
Ottawa 613-565-2525

[ducks.ca](https://ducks.ca)



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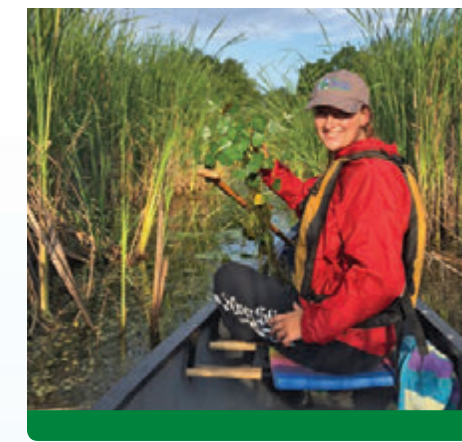
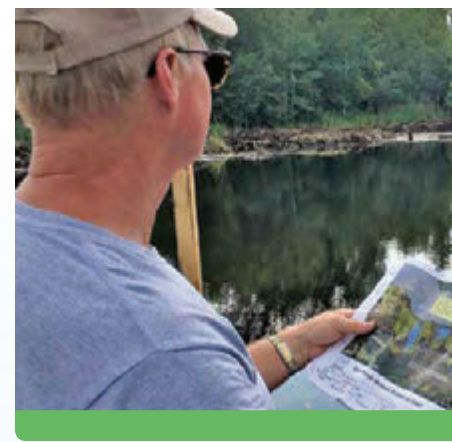
Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is the leader in wetland conservation. A registered charity, DUC partners with government, industry, non-profit organizations and landowners to conserve wetlands that are critical to waterfowl, wildlife and the environment.

[ducks.ca/annualreport](https://ducks.ca/annualreport)

Charitable Registration No. 11888 8957 RR0001



**We're inspired by Ontario's diverse landscapes and beautiful waters. The pursuit of a healthier world is a journey with no end but our road is marked with progress.** We take great pride in our solid relationships—with government, industry, environmental groups and other sectors. We're committed to collaboration as a path to practical solutions for complex issues.



### Using science and research as our guide

We continually develop our knowledge of the most productive ecosystems in the world: wetlands. We're increasing our understanding of wetlands and their contributions to clean water, and how wetlands help to reduce flooding in communities. We pride ourselves on a scientific approach to today's important questions about wetlands: How do they support the health of the landscape, the economy and our daily lives?

Warming seasonal temperatures have aggravated the problem of excess nutrients, particularly phosphorus, in watersheds. Recent research is quantifying the extent to which restored wetlands protect downstream water quality to obtain maximum benefit for clean water—plus the host of other functions and values that wetlands provide to communities.

### Strategic watershed restoration

We're harnessing the cumulative impact of small, strategically placed wetlands in highly populated southern Ontario. Restored wetlands provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife, such as pollinators and medicinal plants, and provide other benefits to the landscape—including flood reduction, improved water quality and groundwater recharge. We met a milestone in 2019 with more than 500 wetland projects in the Lake Erie watershed. But this is just a beginning to recover from centuries of human impacts on habitat in southern Ontario.

### Public policy for wetland conservation

Ontario needs clear, effective wetland policies and ongoing investment in habitat restoration and management. Wetlands are critical natural infrastructure that capture and store carbon, enhance and protect water quality, help prevent floods and drought, and thereby increase community resilience to climate change—without imposing financial penalties on anyone. DUC has long advocated for strong policy in Ontario to provide higher protection and require any inevitable wetland losses to be offset by newly created habitat.

### Conserving habitat

Our time-tested formula is simple, but effective. We secure important at-risk wetlands, restore habitats that have been damaged, and manage land under our care. We put solutions into practice, on the ground, in a fiscally responsible manner. Our work delivers tangible results that you can wade in and walk on.

DUC has secured nearly one million acres in Ontario, through restorations, acquisitions, leases and easements. We provide technical expertise and financial support to protect existing wetlands and we manage projects of all sizes for wetland conservation and restoration. Our methods are collaborative, including landowners, district authorities and local conservation specialists.

### Environmental consulting

DUC's Conservation Solutions employs natural processes and native vegetation to create and remediate landscapes with the ability to withstand variable environmental conditions. Our techniques deliver cost-effective results with immediate ecological benefits. We design, construct and manage rehabilitation projects for wetland, aquatic and upland ecosystems, including aggregate pit rehabilitation, industrial site naturalization, stormwater pond naturalization, and habitat mitigation or compensation (offsets) for unavoidable habitat loss.

Our environmental consulting work operates on a cost-recovery basis with net revenues directed to our conservation

programs. When you do business with us, you invest twice—once to meet your conservation needs and once to support even more on-the-ground results in Ontario.

### Defending wetlands from invasive species

Invasive species are an ever-growing environmental and economic threat. Defined as harmful, non-native plants and animals, invasive species can be extremely difficult and costly to control or remove from ecosystems. The spread of invasive species is now considered second only to habitat loss as a cause of biodiversity decline in Ontario.

We work with landowners and other partners to address wetland invaders, including phragmites, parrot feather and European water chestnut.

DUC's central goals are to find effective tools to address the problems of invasive species and to head off future problems by focussing attention on pathways for the accidental introduction of non-native species into wetland environments.

### Connecting with nature

DUC's education programs bring the wonder of wetlands into young people's lives by creating a place where they can apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world experiences. Our education programs provide safe, interactive and inspiring educational content for use both inside and outside the classroom.

Working with our Ontario partners, we help students develop leadership skills by undertaking direct-action conservation projects in their own communities. A fundamental aspect of our programs, mentored field trips benefit older students who share their knowledge and enthusiasm with their younger peers, inspiring their interest in helping to conserve Ontario's natural heritage.

**Wetlands are "dangerously undervalued" in today's world, vanishing three times faster than forests.**

—Global Wetland Outlook (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2018)

