

# What is HCA's Role?



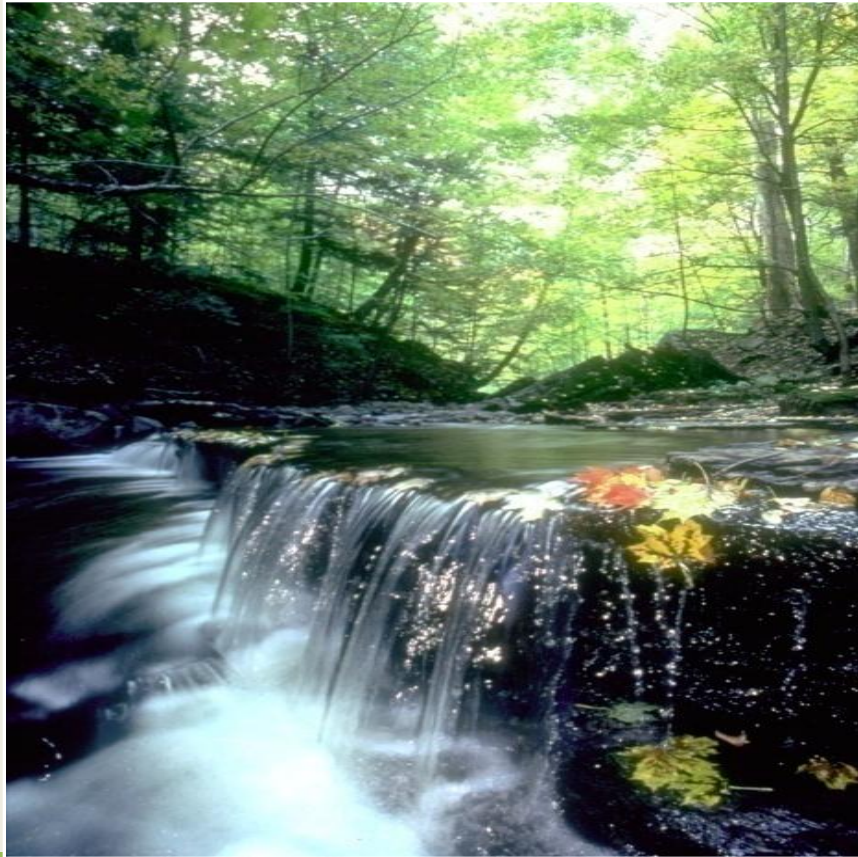
**Building Resilience and Managing  
Change in our Watersheds**  
**Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in  
the Hamilton Conservation Authorities**  
**Watersheds Workshop**  
**June 16, 2011**

# HCA's Programs



**HCA's**

**Focus**



- Water Management
- Natural Areas and Built Heritage
- Outdoor Recreation
- Conservation Education and Awareness
- Corporate Sustainability

# HCA Core Mandate



- ❖ Regulatory responsibilities for Hazard Management for Flooding and Erosion
  - Prevention
  - Protection
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response
  
- ❖ Legal Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding with various agencies for ecosystem protection

# Our Principles: Some Terms



## Adaptive Environmental Management

Learning by doing and making adjustments to our actions when we learn

## Information-based Decision –making

We will seek out and use information on which to base our decisions

## Precautionary Approach

We will err on the side of the environment in our deliberations

## Collaboration

We will seek out and build partnerships from all sectors on common goals and end points

What have we been seeing lately.....



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# Projected Changes and Associated Impacts in Ontario

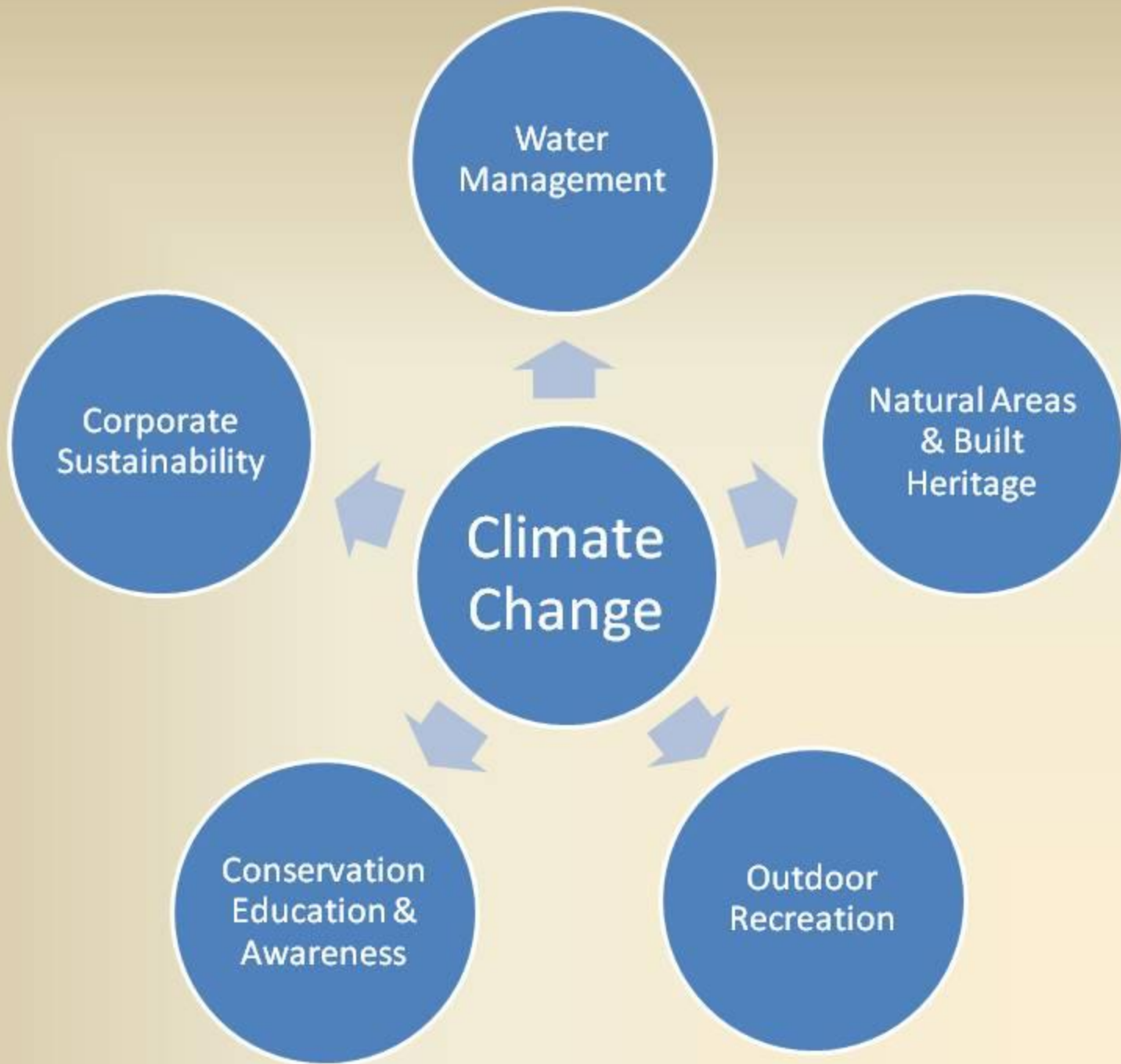


- Infrastructure
- Water
- Agriculture
- Health
- Communities at Risk
- Forests
- Ecosystems

# What are CAs Considering for Adaptive Strategies



- Implementing riparian buffers
- Enhancing and restoring wetlands
- Reforesting
- Putting more storage back on the landscape
- Raising awareness of the impact of northward migration of flora, fauna and disease
- Reviewing and if needed adjusting dam operations
- Implementing good risk management policies
- Maintaining a current watershed plan
- Building Demonstration Projects -Education



Water  
Management

Corporate  
Sustainability

Natural Areas  
& Built  
Heritage

Climate  
Change

Conservation  
Education &  
Awareness

Outdoor  
Recreation

# *Understand the Science*

## *Climate Adaptation and Mitigation*

1. Improved Understanding of the Climate
2. Integrated Climate Assessments
3. Mitigation and Adaptation
4. Literate Public

## *Weather Ready State*

1. Reduced loss of life and Property
2. Improved Water Management
3. Healthy People, communities
4. Secure Reliable Infrastructure

## *Resilient Communities and Economy*

1. Reduced Impacts from extreme events
2. Adopt Adaptive Risk Management Approach

## *Healthy Watersheds*

1. Improved understanding of ecosystems
2. Healthy Habitats
3. Safe Drinking Water

## *Deliver the Information and Understanding*

- *Seek opportunities to influence and collaborate*  
*(Ontario Climate Change Directorate is not formed, policies, advice and assistance not available)*

# What does this mean to HCA and our Partners



We need to continue to manage:

- Our watersheds (features, their functions and linkages) in the face of ongoing and future issues
- Our contributions of loading to Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour
- Future issues including growth, redevelopment, aging infrastructure, deterioration in water quality, flooding and changing climate
- Within the context of Integrated Watershed Management to address these issues in a proactive manner
- Our programs with climate change as an additional but integrated consideration. These will be small changes initially as we work towards our endpoints



# Next Steps



- Continue to dialogue with staff, HCA Board, CA Foundation and our partners to work towards a Strategy by December 2011
- Increase HCA's understanding of how the climate is changing and the potential impacts on a local basis e.g. downscaling and vulnerability analyses
- Apply this understanding to HCA's plans and operations with "no regrets" integrated adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Assess the need for policy and guidelines e.g. Stormwater management
- All of the above will be periodically reviewed and updated.



# Thank You

