

FINANCING

Three classes of financing are mentioned in the Conservation Authorities Act. The first is for capital expenses such as dams, reservoirs, reforestation land and conservation areas. The Authority's share of payment for these must be borne by the member municipalities which benefit from the scheme. The second is maintenance on capital costs and is paid entirely by the Authority in the same way. The third is called "Administration Costs", and includes all those activities which an Authority might be expected to engage in except capital and maintenance costs, such as salaries and travelling expenses, office rent and equipment, tree-planting machines, exhibits, visual equipment, printed matter, farm ponds, the investigation of reforestation lands and other small conservation projects.

Grants are made by the Ontario Government to all types of conservation schemes except maintenance. Grants are a matter of policy and may change from year to year. At the present time grants for flood control schemes costing less than \$5 million are 50 per cent; for large-scale reforestation 50 per cent for land purchases and 100 per cent for management. For conservation areas in which parks are situated, the acquisition of flood plain lands and all items included in "Administration Costs", the grants are also 50 per cent. In other words, for practically everything the Authorities do the Government of Ontario makes a dollar-for-dollar contribution.

For flood control schemes which cost \$5 million or more, the Government of Canada, under The Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act, may contribute on the basis of 37½ per cent Canada, 37½ per cent Ontario and 25 per cent Authority. It should be pointed out, however, that the Government of Canada is under no legal obligation to assist the province in such work because, by the terms of The British North America Act, 1867, the control of natural resources was placed under the jurisdiction of the provinces, and consequently grants for Authority work can only be obtained by, shall we say, permission of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

ADVISORY BOARDS:

While all important decisions must be made by the full Authority and while, in the case of large Authorities, an executive carries out the routine work, in most cases the most active unit is the advisory board. Under the Act provision is made for appointing advisory boards (committees) for any subject which is considered necessary by an Authority. Such boards deal with the preliminary work, at least, in the following subjects: flood control, public relations, farm ponds and little dams, reforestation, land use, parks and recreation, and historical properties. As the membership of these boards is not limited to the Authority, it provides a splendid opportunity for assistance from groups of all kinds in the area which are interested in conservation; and while the final decisions must be made by the accredited members appointed by the municipalities, nevertheless, through the operation of advisory boards the work of conservation can become the personal concern of each individual living in the valley.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Conservation Authorities movement in Ontario is still a comparatively recent program. Much has been done in the fifteen years since the Act was passed, but a great deal more is necessary. It may be too early to appraise the shortcomings and successes of all Authorities, but three observations may be made.

The Authorities which have become most active are those in which, prior to their establishment, there was a healthy interest in conservation among the