

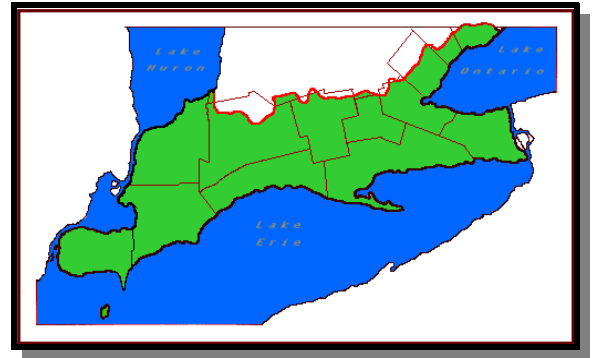


Carolinian Canada

Canada's Deep South

Quick Facts About Carolinian Canada

- 25% of Canada's population on 0.25% of its area
- More endangered and rare species than any other life zone in Canada.
- A great diversity of wildlife of all kinds, including many species not found elsewhere in Canada.
- Less than 2% of the landscape is in public ownership.
- 73% of the landscape is in highly productive agriculture.
- Forest cover has been reduced from 80% to 11.3%.
- Forest interior has been reduced to just 2%.
- Wetlands reduced from 28.3% to 5.1%



Major Conservation Issues

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Species at Risk
- Water Quality/Quantity
- Human Health
- Healthy Economy

Conservation Challenges

- Multiple and overlapping jurisdictions
- Privately-owned Landscape
- Highly populated and intensively productive
- Competing Demands

Dynamic Partnerships are the key to effective program delivery in this complex region. Since 1984 Carolinian Canada has provided a mechanism for cooperation between different levels of government, agencies, conservation authorities and non-government organizations. Carolinian Canada offers an established partnership with a proven record. To find out more turn the page.

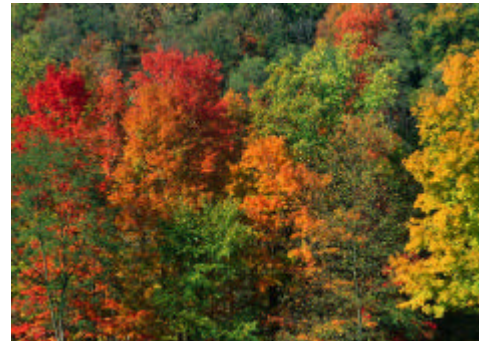
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Carolinian Canada Program Highlights

- 38 Critical unprotected sites identified. Basis of future projects.
- Natural Heritage Stewardship Program: Carolinian Canada was the first major conservation program that used a private stewardship approach in Canada. This approach is now widely accepted as a necessary and effective means of land protection in regions that are predominantly privately owned.
- 52% of the privately owned land in the 38 Carolinian sites was enrolled in the stewardship program.
- Publications for landowners: Fact Sheet Series; Caring For Your Land : a stewardship guide; Tree Planting Guide to Carolinian Canada; and Walks In Carolinian Canada.
- 600 ha. Of threatened properties were purchased, including outstanding portions of Skunk's Misery (Middlesex County), Windsor's Ojibway Tallgrass Prairie and Pelee Island.
- Property acquisitions under the program are protecting the habitat of Canadian endangered species, such as the Kerner Blue butterfly, Blue Racer snake, and the Acadian Flycatcher, to name just a few.
- Sponsorship of over 40 local conservation field projects to protect endangered species and threatened habitats.
- Annual Regional Conservation Forum: brings together conservation interests to focus on key issues.
- The Big Picture: a digital, bioregional conservation blueprint to guide the restoration and recovery of Carolinian Canada's natural heritage systems.

What is Carolinian Canada?

A coalition of groups, agencies and individuals working to halt the loss and achieve a substantial increase in the size and quality of natural communities characteristic of Carolinian Canada.



Conservation Strategy and The Big Picture

- In 1996, after 12 years of program activities, our review found that biodiversity remained at risk and that serious threats to the land and water loomed on the horizon. Carolinian Canada commissioned its Conservation Strategy to map out a new approach to conservation. This approach is community oriented, addresses the entire landscape rather than individual sites, and builds broad support by including non-traditional partners.
- The key to implementing a bioregional vision for conservation and recovery is **The Big Picture**. The best available natural heritage data for the region was combined, and then subjected to an analysis to project a network of core areas and connecting links. The resulting vision of a sustainable natural heritage network provides a framework for restoration and recovery efforts.
- The state of the environment in Carolinian Canada is seriously degraded. The losses of forest, wetland and other natural areas has been profound. In particular, concerns about water quality and quantity now threaten human health, agricultural land and industrial productivity. **The Big Picture** was developed with input from more than 20 conservation organizations and agencies and represents a guide to our “best bets” for conservation work in the future.

Opportunities For Action

While the threats to Carolinian Canada may be great, so too are the opportunities to take action that will benefit the environment and the economy of this special region.

Species and Spaces at Risk

40% of all of Canada's vulnerable, threatened or endangered species are found in Carolinian Canada. Of the more than 800 species identified as rare in Ontario (S1, S2, S3), 34% occur only within Carolinian Canada. The region's remaining tallgrass prairie, savanna and alvar sites are globally imperiled ecosystems.

The steps taken, and lessons learned, in protecting species and spaces in Carolinian Canada will have broad application across the rest of the country. The natural diversity of the landscape coupled with the dense population and competing land uses, makes this region a laboratory for effective programs and policies.

Great Lakes Water Quality

The restoration of the Carolinian Zone will involve:

- Wetland Protection and Restoration
- Forest Restoration
- Stream Protection and Rehabilitation
- Lakes Erie, Ontario, St Clair and Huron

Carbon Sequestration

To meet Canada's commitments under the Kyoto Protocols, one need not look to tropical rainforests or northern tree plantations for carbon sinks. Carolinian Canada offers one of the most richly productive landscapes in Canada. The Big Picture Project calls for significantly increasing the natural vegetation cover across Carolinian Canada to maintain and enhance biodiversity. To achieve this goal new tracts of Carolinian forest will be created, producing a carbon sink in the midst of the source for much of our nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

The revegetation within Carolinian Canada is a winning proposition that addresses such environmental issues as climate change and species at risk, while at the same time protecting the landscape to ensure future productivity.

Biodiversity

Advances in our understanding of conservation science has made biodiversity the accepted measure of the health of our natural systems. In spite of the cumulative effects of generations of settlement, Carolinian Canada still possesses a richness of native species unequalled in Canada. This legacy is ours to lose or to protect.

The success of our national efforts to protect biodiversity will be greatly influenced by our success in Carolinian Canada.

Progress Begins with Partnerships

Carolinian Canada Management Committee

- Sydenham Field Naturalists
- Hamilton Halton Watershed Stewardship Project
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Ontario Heritage Foundation
- Parks Canada
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute
- Lambton Wildlife Incorporated
- Conservation Ontario
- Association for Canadian Educational Resources
- Canadian Botanical Association
- Federation of Ontario Naturalists
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario Forestry Association
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- www.carolinian.org



Planning New Conservation Initiatives in Southwestern Ontario?

Join the Carolinian Canada Partners and realize your program goals quickly, efficiently and economically.

- In operation since 1984 with a proven track record that ensures local support and participation.
- A ready-made mechanism for federal/provincial cooperation.
- Develop joint projects with non-government conservation bodies.
- A pioneer in working cooperatively with private landowners.
- An established Conservation Strategy developed from local experience.
- The Big Picture: the map to a sustainable future.