



January 16, 2024

Township of North Huron

Attention: Reeve Heffer and Council

Dear Reeve Heffer and Council

Re: 2024 Draft Work Plan and Budget

MVCA's 2024 draft work plan and budget has been developed based upon the services and programs included in the agreement that has been approved by all 15 of our member municipalities. This agreement allows MVCA to have the stability it needs to plan its activities until 2026. In 2024 all conservation authorities must prepare the following plans and strategies. These documents must be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by December 31, 2024:

1. Watershed Resource Management Strategy.
2. Conservation Areas Strategy
3. Conservation Lands Inventory
4. Flood & Erosion Asset Management Plan.
5. Ice Management Plan

The preparation of these plans and strategies will take a significant amount of time and funding to complete.

The attached newsletter provides additional information on MVCA's 2024 priorities.

A copy of Maitland Conservation's draft budget and cost apportionment is attached to this letter. The draft 2024 budget includes a cost apportionment increase of \$175,000. This increase is driven by cost-of-living increase, the phase in of the 2023-2027 salary grid, cost to increase capacity to improve stewardship extension and watershed health assessment services.

MVCA's Members will be finalizing the 2024 work plan and budget on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. If your municipality would like to submit any comments on the draft work plan and or budget, please submit your comments to us by March 7, 2024.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your support in 2023 and we look forward to working with your municipality in 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Duncan".

Matt Duncan
Chair

2023 Highlights



FLOOD & EROSION SAFETY SERVICES

- Monitoring of weather and gauge data 24 / 7. Molesworth and Harriston rain gauge stations relocated.
- Draft North Perth floodplain mapping completed.
- Updated Shoreline Hazard Mapping now available.
- Coastal Resiliency Project - connecting with shoreline communities to explore nature-based approaches to improve resiliency in a changing climate.
- Responded to high numbers of development inquiries and drain reviews - 55 Drainage Act reviews, 203 general inquiries, 120 development and alterations permissions, 83 planning reviews with comments.

CONSERVATION AREAS SERVICES

- Galbraith - lease agreement finalized with the Town of North Perth.
- Wawanosh Valley - demolition of barn and shed structures. Nine bat houses installed and monitored. Invasive species removal work.
- Lucknow Waterworks - decking on bridge replaced with support from the Township of Huron-Kinloss.
- Naftel's Creek - boardwalk and trail improvements.
- Falls Reserve - accessible washrooms and showers added.
- Brussels - severance of Logan Mill site completed.
- Over 2,000 seedlings planted at Conservation Areas.



Naftel's Creek Conservation Area

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

- Updated Source Protection Plans submitted to the province for approval
- Review of changes to Lucknow wellhead protection area.
- Planning staff inclusion of DWSP in application reviews.
- Communications support for the implementation of Source Protection Plans.
- Water Wise events held at the shoreline as well as in Goderich, Moncton and Dublin. Focus on providing DWSP information and facilitating sampling of private well water. Held in conjunction with local Lions clubs.



DWSP Water Wise event, 2023

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

- 173 new Huron Clean Water Projects approved and six new Wellington Rural Water Quality projects approved in 2023.
- Six cover crop workshops held over the summer and three peer-to-peer stewardship workshops.
- Facilitated the planting of over 26,500 trees, 47 planting projects completed and inspected.
- Two wetland creation projects undertaken with support from the landowners and agency partners. Two dam removal projects completed, one along Naftel's Creek and one near Dungannon.
- Rural landowner and shoreline stewardship workshops held.



WATERSHED HEALTH ASSESSMENT

- Draft Forest Health Study report completed, peer review of the report also completed.
- Forest bird assessment undertaken by staff, along with 10 community volunteers and Birds Canada.
- Forest pollinator assessment and spring wildflower survey completed.
- Extensive water sampling done through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network and Pesticide Project. On-going water quality data management work.
- Preliminary surveying of watercourses done to prepare for upcoming Aquatic Health Assessment project.
- Watershed Monitoring story map added to website.

CORPORATE SERVICES

- Tours and information sessions provided for Maitland Conservation Members, municipal councillors and area MPPs.
- Draft 3-year work plan and budget developed and reviewed by Members in October.
- MOUs for Maitland Conservation services and programs now in place for all member municipalities.

Questions?

Contact your Maitland Conservation Member. Contact information is posted on our website at mvca.on.ca or email us at maitland@mvca.on.ca.



2023 Maitland Conservation Members

Back row (left to right) – Alvin McClellan (Municipality of Huron East), Sharen Zinn (Municipality of Morris-Turnberry), Myles Murdock (Town of Goderich), Andrew Fournier (Township of Perth East, Municipality of West Perth), Matt Duncan (Municipality of North Perth), Evan Hickey (Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh)

Front row (left to right) – Ed McGugan (Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of South Bruce), Alison Lobb (Municipality of Central Huron), Anita van Hittersum (Township of North Huron)

Missing from photo – Ed Podniewicz (Township of Mapleton, Town of Minto, Township of Wellington North), Megan Gibson (Township of Howick)

2024 WORK PLAN PRIORITIES

MAITLAND CONSERVATION • JANUARY 2024

Vision:
Working for a
Healthy
Environment

Mission:
To protect and
enhance water,
forests and soils



BACKGROUND

Maitland Conservation is jointly governed by its member municipalities.

Conservation Authorities are established by the provincial government at the request of municipalities. The activities of Maitland Conservation are driven by municipalities, landowners and community partners.

We are committed to providing effective community-based conservation services in a cost efficient manner.



KEY 2024 PRIORITIES

1. Ensure Conservation Areas are safe for visitors and showcase best management practices.
Undertake a Conservation Areas Strategy and Land Use Inventory.
2. Keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.
3. Reduce the risk of loss of life and community damage from flooding and erosion.
4. Complete a Watershed Strategy under the updated Conservation Authorities Act.
5. Develop a stable financial base for services and infrastructure.



1. FLOOD & EROSION SAFETY SERVICES

Helping municipalities reduce the risk to life and property in areas prone to flooding and erosion.

Conserving features and functions of the river system and Lake Huron shoreline.

- Planning and implementing the replacement of radio telemetry equipment is a priority for the flood monitoring network in 2024.
- Finalize the Floodplain Mapping Update for the Listowel Ward in North Perth.



Repairs to precipitation gauge

Meet the provincial requirements for changes set out in the Conservation Authorities Act by December 31, 2024, including:

- Develop an ice management plan for areas prone to ice jamming.
- Develop an asset management plan for flood and erosion control structures (Goderich Bluffs, McGuffin Gully, Listowel Conduit).
- Develop a drought monitoring plan.
- Develop an outreach and education plan related to natural hazards.



Land Use Planning Support & CA Development, Interference & Alteration Regulations

To ensure that development does not increase risk for flooding or erosion and protects the river and shoreline.

Coastal Resiliency Project followup:

- Sediment restoration strategy for Goderich Harbour
- Assist shoreline municipalities to:
 1. Develop future development policies for the Lake Huron shoreline.
 2. Develop policies and procedures for dealing with the relocation of shoreline development from eroding bluffs.

2. DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION - 2024

- Governance: Maitland Source Protection Authority meetings; renewal of agreement with ABCA; approval of budget for program.
- Implementation/Technical Support: review of planning and development applications located within municipal well head and intake protection areas; amendments to Maitland Source Protection Plan to incorporate changes in wellhead protection area around wells in Century Heights subdivision located in the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, and in Lucknow. Issue confirmation notices for new wells planned in Harriston and Palmerston.
- Communications: promotion of drinking water source protection program to the public.



George Taylor Conservation Area

3. CONSERVATION AREAS

Maitland Conservation owns 28 properties encompassing 1,862 hectares. Key priorities include:

- showcasing best management practices on conservation lands,
- ensuring properties are safe for public use,
- dealing with aging and surplus infrastructure.

Conservation Areas Strategy and Land Use Inventory: mandatory requirement of the Conservation Authorities Act to be completed by December 31, 2024. Strategy will include:

- The objectives, programs and services offered on lands owned by Maitland Conservation including policies for land acquisition and dispositions.
- Stakeholder and public consultation during the development of the strategy.
- Land use inventory of all parcels owned by Maitland Conservation.



Conservation Areas Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan

Development of this plan will guide asset management including future financial needs.



Administrative Office Renovations and Repairs

Washroom and front entrance door renovations to improve accessibility. Radon mitigation and improved air filtration.



Invasive Species Control

Buckthorn and phragmites removal and control will continue in 2024.



Falls Reserve Conservation Area Improvements

Renovations to the gatehouse will improve accessibility. Roadway and parking lot replacement at the park entrance will get underway in 2024.

4. WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

Maitland Conservation is working with municipalities, landowners and partners to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses. Priority for restoration of natural areas along watercourses as well as on floodplains, river valleys and wetlands. Promote practices that improve soil health.

- Natural Areas Restoration: provide technical and financial support to landowners to plant buffers along watercourses, restore wetlands, plant windbreaks and establish natural areas on marginal farmland.
- Promote the use of cover crops to keep soil covered during the winter months.
- Tree and shrub order program for landowners and municipalities.
- Delivery and administration of County Stewardship Programs: Huron Clean Water Project, Wellington Rural Water Quality Program and assistance with Perth County Stewardship Program.
- Healthy Lake Huron: delivery of stewardship services on behalf of OMAFRA and MECP to improve Lake Huron nearshore water quality.
- Middle Maitland Restoration Project: targeted stewardship efforts to restore natural areas along the Middle Maitland River and its tributaries upstream of Wingham.



5. WATERSHED HEALTH ASSESSMENT & MONITORING

On-going assessment and monitoring identifies how the health of forests and streams are changing and pinpoints problems and opportunities.

- Surface and Groundwater Monitoring - continue field work to collect water samples for the provincial surface and groundwater monitoring program. This is a mandatory service.
- Forest Health Improvement - working with landowners and practitioners to identify strategies for improving forest health.
- Aquatic Assessment Project evaluating the health of local streams and rivers gets underway in 2024.



6. CORPORATE SERVICES

- **Watershed Strategy:** The preparation of a Watershed Strategy is a mandatory requirement and must be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by December 31, 2024. Corporate Services will lead the design and public consultation component of the strategy.
- **Healthy Lake Huron Terms of Reference:** Encourage MECP and OMAFRA to expand the terms of reference to include improving the health of watersheds, people, and wildlife.
- **First Nations and Metis Relationship Building:** Continue to explore interest in developing a working relationship with First Nations and Metis.
- **2025-2027 Work Plan and Budget Forecast:** Update Maitland Conservation's three-year forecast.



Falls Reserve Conservation Area, photo by Tom Samworth



Naftel's Creek Conservation Area, photo by Jesse Paul

Comments or Questions?

If you have questions please contact your Maitland Conservation Member.

If your municipality would like to submit comments on the work plan or budget, please submit them to us by March 7, 2024. Comments may be sent to:

Phil Beard, General Manager - Secretary Treasurer
pbeard@mvca.on.ca

Connect With Us

[w] mvca.on.ca
[e] maitland@mvca.on.ca
[t] 519-335-3557



[maitlandconservation](https://www.facebook.com/maitlandconservation)



[@maitlandvalley](https://twitter.com/maitlandvalley)

Operating Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Table 1

ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Reserve Funds	Expense	NET Surplus/ Deficit
Corporate Services						
Administration	77,349	294,296			371,645	
Financial Management		114,256			114,256	
Governance		16,600			16,600	
Services Areas Support		57,450			57,450	
Communications, IT, GIS	2,000	230,824			232,824	
Total	79,349	713,426			792,775	
Flood Safety Services						
Flood Control Structures		3,026			3,026	
Erosion Control Structures		1,600			1,600	
Flood Forecasting and Warning	36,424	260,710			297,134	
Hazard Prevention		24,507			24,507	
Natural Hazard Information		68,935			68,935	
Regulations	90,000	223,059			313,059	
Total	126,424	581,837			708,261	
Watershed Stewardship Services						
Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	2,000	140,832			142,832	
Extension Services		171,573			171,573	
Forestry Services	142,200			29,584	171,784	
Total	144,200	312,405		29,584	486,189	
Conservation Areas Management Services						
Management/Development/Operations	10,250	297,513			307,763	
Motor Pool	47,414				25,570	21,844
Total	57,664	297,513			333,333	21,844
Campgrounds						
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	658,100				644,847	13,253
Wawanosh Park Conservation Area	20,532				19,938	594
Total	678,632				664,785	13,847
Drinking Water Source Protection Implementation						
Source Water Protection	22,950				22,950	
Total	22,950				22,950	
Net Operating Budgets	1,109,219	1,905,181		29,584	3,008,293	35,691

Project Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Table 2

ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Special Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Working Capital Reserves	Forest Management Reserves	Motor Pool Reserves	Expense	Net Surplus / Deficit
Corporate Services Projects									
Administration Centre		74,800			59,200			134,000	
GIS/IT Management/Communications		25,200			30,800			56,000	
Total		100,000			90,000			190,000	
Flood and Erosion Safety Services Projects									
Flood Forecasting Monitoring Network		20,000						20,000	
North Perth Shoreline Mapping Update (FHIMP)	113,000							113,000	
Total	113,000	20,000						133,000	
Watershed Stewardship Services Projects									
Watershed Health Assessment Project	64,200			11,975	14,492			90,667	
Carbon Footprint Initiative				3,262				3,262	
Garvey Glenn Coordination	85,000			39,930				53,004	71,926
Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration	5,000			50,000				50,050	4,950
Huron Clean Water	504,055							504,055	
Watershed Stewardship Projects				4,786				4,786	
Nature Based Climate Solutions	97,998							90,000	7,998
OMAFRA COA	8,000			8,000				8,000	8,000
ECCC Stream Restoration and Natural Hazards Outreach &	10,000							10,000	
Total	774,253			117,953	14,492			813,824	92,874
Conservation Area Projects									
Forestry Management	6,000					15,000		21,000	
Vehicles/Equipment Replacement	13,000						57,000	70,000	
Carbon Sequestration Planting							500	500	
Conservation Area Projects	2,500				10,400			10,400	2,500
Total	21,500				10,400	15,000	57,500	101,900	2,500
Net Project Budgets	908,753	120,000		117,953	114,892	15,000	57,500	1,238,724	95,374

2024 Draft Cost Apportionment Schedule Increase Amount: \$175,000 Municipality	% of Municipality In Watershed	2023 CVA (modified) in Watershed \$	Municipal Population in CA jurisdiction	CVA Based Apportionment Percentage	2023 Approved General Levy	2024 Draft General Levy	\$ Increase from Prior Year	2024 Draft Total Levy
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Twp.	100	\$1,338,594,680	4,620	12.4257	\$ 231,534	\$ 251,643	\$ 20,109	\$ 251,643
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$1,025,418,790	4,710	9.5186	\$ 178,147	\$ 192,769	\$ 14,622	\$ 192,769
Goderich Town	100	\$1,145,982,784	6,245	10.6378	\$ 198,931	\$ 215,435	\$ 16,504	\$ 215,435
Howick Twp.	92	\$476,723,985	2,672	4.4253	\$ 82,896	\$ 89,620	\$ 6,724	\$ 89,620
Huron East Municipality	72	\$1,124,550,003	5,760	10.4388	\$ 194,807	\$ 211,405	\$ 16,598	\$ 211,405
Huron-Kinloss Twp.	43	\$647,570,164	2,511	6.0112	\$ 111,827	\$ 121,738	\$ 9,911	\$ 121,738
Mapleton Twp.	5	\$96,841,174	385	0.8989	\$ 16,689	\$ 18,204	\$ 1,515	\$ 18,204
Minto Town	64	\$748,757,259	4,155	6.9505	\$ 129,241	\$ 140,760	\$ 11,519	\$ 140,760
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$560,702,290	2,741	5.2048	\$ 97,207	\$ 105,407	\$ 8,200	\$ 105,407
North Huron Twp.	100	\$603,628,746	3,935	5.6033	\$ 104,361	\$ 113,477	\$ 9,116	\$ 113,477
North Perth Municipality	98	\$2,447,981,384	10,828	22.7238	\$ 410,187	\$ 460,196	\$ 50,009	\$ 460,196
Perth East Twp.	9	\$189,777,262	857	1.7616	\$ 33,177	\$ 35,676	\$ 2,499	\$ 35,676
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$20,804,299	71	0.1931	\$ 1,309	\$ 3,912	\$ 2,604	\$ 3,912
Wellington North	16	\$294,847,208	1,472	2.7370	\$ 51,124	\$ 55,429	\$ 4,305	\$ 55,429
West Perth Municipality	3	\$50,586,083	225	0.4696	\$ 8,744	\$ 9,510	\$ 766	\$ 9,510
Total		\$10,772,766,111	51187	100.0000	\$ 1,850,181	\$ 2,025,181	\$ 175,000	\$ 2,025,181