

Maitland Conservation MUNICIPAL UPDATE January 2017

WHO WE ARE

- The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority is jointly owned 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 local municipalities, landowners and community organizations.
- We are committed to providing effective community-based conservation services in a cost efficient manner.



Grassed waterway installed in the Garvey-Glenn watershed, 2016.

OUR PRIORITIES

Maitland Conservation is working to protect and enhance water, forests and soils in the Maitland and Nine Mile River watersheds. We are focussing our services on the impacts of a rapidly changing climate. Specifically we are:

1. Strengthening Flood & Erosion Safety Services to help municipalities reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption due to flooding, as well as bluff and gully erosion along the Lake Huron shoreline. Several thousand people live and work in flood-prone areas across the watershed. Along the shoreline there is over \$366 million dollars worth of land and development in areas prone to bluff erosion. An additional 2,000 acres of land, worth close to \$90 million, is at risk from gully erosion.
2. Strengthening Watershed Stewardship Services to reduce the potential for soil erosion, nutrient loss, and damage to drainage and road infrastructure located in vulnerable areas.
3. Developing a stable financial base to provide the support municipalities and landowners need to develop a more resilient and prosperous watershed.



2017 KEY ACTIVITIES

Flood and Erosion Safety Services

Key Functions: regulation of activities in hazardous areas to prevent the loss of life and reduce property damage due to flooding and erosion; flood forecasting; assisting municipalities with flood and erosion emergency preparedness.

- Updating of regulation policies for wetlands and watercourses.
- Update of shoreline and gully erosion mapping to improve the accuracy of erosion risk information.
- Harriston Floodplain Mapping Project - collection of flow data to improve floodplain mapping for the area.
- Develop an awareness strategy about the MVCA's development regulation. The intent is to improve understanding about the risks of developing or altering floodplains, river valleys, shoreline areas, wetlands and watercourses.
- Develop a climate trends and impacts education strategy for municipalities, staff and Directors.

Watershed Stewardship Services

Key Functions: assist municipalities and landowners to manage rural stormwater and to develop conservation systems (reforestation, berms, etc.) that reduce damage to drainage infrastructure and cut soil and nutrient losses from farmland.

- Identify areas at high risk for runoff and erosion. Develop strategies to encourage landowners to adopt conservation practices that will reduce erosion and build soil health.
- Promote living snow fence opportunities in priority areas.
- Identify lower cost approaches to reducing non-point source pollution, especially methods to prevent, trap and treat runoff.
- Develop a water quality monitoring plan for the Middle Maitland Headwaters area.

Conservation Area Services

Key Function: management of 28 Conservation Areas (4,600 acres).

- Develop direction on status of Logan & Maitland Mills with the MVCA Board.
- Naturalization plantings at Administration Centre.
- Reforestation of marginal agricultural land at Saratoga Swamp.
- Ash tree removal and replacement at several Conservation Areas.

Questions? Contact your MVCA Director or Phil Beard, General Manager-Secretary Treasurer, at 519-335-3557 ext. 231. We would be pleased to make a presentation to your Council about our services.



Flood and Erosion Safety Services

- Provided watch and warning messages to municipalities during flood and erosion events. Seven flood messages issued in 2016: 2 Flood Warnings; 2 Flood Watches; 3 Watershed Conditions – Water Safety Statements.
- Assisted municipalities with emergency response training. Participated in flood exercises at North Perth and Huron-Kinloss.
- MNRF Snow Survey - bi-weekly surveys completed from January to March.
- Concrete foundation replaced at the Listowel Gauging Station.
- Brush and woody vegetation clear from the area downstream of the Listowel conduit.
- Stream flow monitoring conducted in Lucknow during high flow events.
- Ice monitoring – HWY 21 trial of Campbell Scientific field camera carried out from August to October. Permanent camera will be installed in Jan. 2017.
- Initial phase of project to update shoreline and gully erosion rates undertaken with GIS consultant.
- Implementation of MVCA Development and Interference with Shoreline, Wetlands and Watercourses (Ont. Reg. 164/06) - increase in inquiries and applications received. Revisions to Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Watercourses Regulation Policies approved in June.
- Survey of Planning and Regulations clients undertaken to investigate ways to improve our service.



Bluff seepage, 2016

Watershed Stewardship Services

- Forestry Services - Total trees planted in 2016 = 53,098. 23 projects (14 block plantings, 7 windbreaks, 2 living snowfences). 23 ha restored.
- Carbon Footprints Initiative launched with six local partners.
- Agreement reached with MTO for living snowfence program. MTO has identified priority areas and will cover stock and replacement costs. Landowners eligible for an incentive payment. Maitland staff will deliver the program.
- Staff are working to encourage the incorporation of erosion control/rural stormwater management into projects being undertaken under the Drainage Act.
- GLASI edge-of-field monitoring site set up. This site provides data on agricultural water and soil quality. Both tile-flow and overland-flow are being monitored.
- In the Garvey-Glenn watershed, construction was completed on 7 Water and Sediment control basins, 2 km of grassed waterways and 1.2 km of a 2-stage ditch.
- Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project - planting projects completed on 3 properties + Listowel Memorial Park and a stormwater pond in Listowel. Students and community involved in 2 planting days.
- Scott Municipal Drain Demonstration Project - wetland and drain buffering with 2,690 trees planted on 3.2 acres. Planting of nut tree plot (200 trees and shrubs) completed in Oct.
- 344 new projects approved for HCCWP grants in 2016 (MVCA + ABCA) for an estimated total of \$547,000 in grants (all-time high).
- Extensive surface and groundwater sampling undertaken.
- Over 7,400 participants in education programs.



Stormwater management Scott Farm, 2016

Conservation Areas Services

- 17.5 acres of marginal farmland at the Blind Lake Bog was planted in trees. Wildflowers and cover crop planted at Saratoga Swamp to prepare for 2017 reforestation.
- Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plans completed for the Kilgour Tract and Falls Reserve Conservation Area.
- Brussels Dam maintenance - fabricated and installed 16 new stop logs. Expense shared with Huron East, Brussels Trust and MVCA.
- Mill buildings in Brussels and Gorrie - Maitland Mills Committee received a Trillium grant to complete feasibility study on both mills. Structural studies completed on the mills. Feasibility report expected in July, 2017
- Wawanosh Valley C.A boardwalk replacement - completed 2nd phase of 3 year project. Funding provided by the Maitland Conservation Foundation.
- FRCA Campground Options - the MVCA Board provided direction to continue campground operations at the site. Group Campsite 1 was closed permanently at the end of 2016 to protect water quality and species at risk habitat.
- Galbraith and Turnberry C.A Lease Agreements Five-year lease agreements renewed.
- Carbon Footprint Project - planted 320 trees at Lake Wawanosh C.A. to offset the greenhouse gas emissions from Authority vehicles, propane and electricity use. An additional 80 trees planted at the site through the public Carbon Footprints to Forests program.
- Gorrie Conservation Area Naturalization - 10 large stock trees and 40 native shrubs planted with members of the Gorrie Conservation Area Rejuvenation Committee.



Boardwalk replacement Wawanosh Valley C. A., 2016