

KEY PRIORITIES for 2023

- 1. Reduce the risk of loss of life and community damage from flooding and erosion.
- 2. Keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.
- 3. Ensure Conservation Areas are safe for visitors and showcase best management practices.
- 4. Develop a Watershed Strategy under the updated Conservation Authorities Act. This process will include opportunities for public review and comment.



Maitland Conservation 2023 Work Plan Priorities

CORPORATE Services

- Development of a Watershed Strategy. The strategy is a regulatory requirement that will outline watershed issues and how Maitland Conservation plans to address them. The strategy must be completed and submitted to the MNRF by Dec. 31, 2024.
- Development of a MOU for services and programs with the Township of Wellington North. This MOU must be approved by the end of 2023. MOUs for programs and services are in place for 14 of our 15 member municipalities.
- Update three-year work plan and budget and levy forecast (2024-2026). The plan will outline the activities and projects that Maitland Conservation plans to undertake and the budget and levy requirements needed for the work identified.
- Contacting local First Nations and Métis to determine their interest in working together on issues and projects of common interest. These communities need to be consulted with respect to the Watershed Strategy.

CONSERVATION AREAS Services

- Decommissioning and disposal of surplus infrastructure. Projects include the removal of barn structures at Wawanosh Valley C.A. and the storage building at Turnberry Floodplain C.A., finalizing the severance and disposition of the Brussels Mill and working with Municipality of North Perth to determine their interest in leasing Galbraith C.A.
- Develop a Conservation Areas land use strategy and land inventory. The land use strategy will outline how Conservation Areas will be used and managed. The land inventory will provide the MNRF with information on the properties owned by Maitland Conservation and to determine if any of these properties could be used for housing. Both the land use strategy and land inventory are required to be completed by Dec. 31, 2024.
- Develop agreement relating to the cost sharing of maintenance and repair of recreational dams in the Municipality of Huron East (Brussels dam) and Municipality of Morris-Turnberry (Bluevale dam).





Collecting stream data, 2022

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP Services

- River Valley and Floodplain Restoration - Assist landowners to restore river corridors by planting native trees, shrubs and herbaceous species. Maitland Conservation staff provide technical support to landowners and help with accessing grant funding for restoration projects (e.g. Huron Clean Water Project, Wellington Rural Water Quality Program, Nature Smart Climate Solutions).
- Rural Storm Water Management - Support landowners to develop rural storm water projects to reduce the potential for flooding and erosion on their land. Staff provide technical support and assistance with funding applications.
- Cover Crop Projects - Encourage landowners to incorporate cover crops into their cropping systems to reduce soil erosion over the winter season. Staff provide technical support and assistance with funding applications.
- Watershed Monitoring and Reporting - The Forest Health Assessment will determine the health of local forests and identify how improvements can be made. In 2023 the Forest Health Assessment will be completed and work will begin on developing an aquatic health assessment.



Repaired picnic shelter at Gorrie Conservation Area

FLOOD and EROSION SAFETY Services

- Develop Asset Management Plan for flood and erosion control structures in the Municipality of North Perth (Listowel flood control structures), Town of Goderich (Bluff Stabilization Project) and Municipality of Central Huron (McGuffin Gully Stabilization Project). Plan to be submitted to the MNRF by the end of 2024. The plan will identify how these structures will be maintained and monitored over the long term.
- Develop Maintenance - Management Agreements for flood and erosion control structures. Maitland Conservation will work with the municipalities of North Perth and Goderich as well as landowners adjacent to the McGuffin Gully Stabilization Project in Central Huron to develop agreements outlining how these structures will be operated and maintained.
- Begin development of Ice Management Plans for areas prone to ice jams (mouth of Nine Mile River at Port Albert, mouth of the Maitland River upstream to Highway 21 bridge at Goderich). These plans are to be submitted to the MNRF by the end of 2024.
- Floodplain mapping update - Work with the Municipality of North Perth to update flood hazard mapping for Listowel and downstream rural portions of the Middle Maitland River.
- Shoreline Hazard Mapping Update will be completed. This mapping will identify areas of the shoreline at risk of flooding and erosion. Design and implementation of an outreach strategy to ensure the lakeshore community is aware of the risks of flooding and erosion.