

2022 Highlights

MAITLAND CONSERVATION MISSION:

Providing leadership to protect and enhance local water, forests and soils.

ENDS:

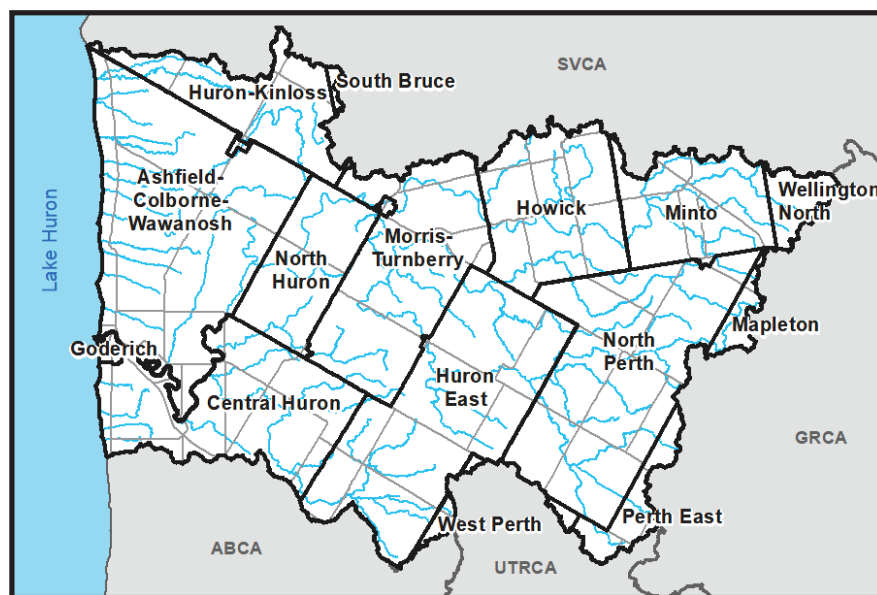
- To protect life, property and prevent social disruption from flooding and erosion hazards.
- To protect water and related resources for present and future generations.
- To protect and expand natural areas.

OBJECTIVES:

- Help member municipalities reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas.
- Help member municipalities and landowners develop and implement soil and water conservation systems that will help keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses and Lake Huron.
- Ensure that management of our Conservation Areas sets high standards of conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.
- Develop a stable financial base so we can assist member municipalities to develop a healthy, resilient and prosperous watershed.



Working for a healthy environment!





Flood and Erosion Safety Services

Maitland Conservation monitors for potential flood and shoreline erosion events. Warnings of potential events are provided to municipalities so they can undertake emergency response actions.

■ **Flood Forecasting System** - On-going maintenance of rain gauges and stream gauging stations. Monitoring of weather and gauge data 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Snow surveys undertaken through winter months.

- Operation of flow models when required. Messages issued for 7 events in 2022.
- Assisted the County of Perth and the Municipality of Perth East with testing their flood emergency response plans.
- Refurbishment of a number of tipping buckets at Listowel and Harriston stations.

■ **Harriston Flood Damage Reduction Support** - Assisting the Town of Minto with developing a project to reduce flooding in Harriston. The project involves the construction of a flood control channel around Harriston to increase the capacity

of the floodplain and river downstream to handle high flows.

■ **Community Driven Coastal Resilience Project** - Funding agreement reached with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to develop a strategy to protect and restore the Lake Huron shoreline. The project will involve:

- community driven discussions to create planning strategies focused on building a healthy and resilient coastline,
- making shoreline hazard mapping resources accessible on-line.

■ **Land Use Planning & Drainage Support** - Staff review development applications that are proposed in or near areas at risk of flooding or erosion as well as proposals for municipal drainage works. In 2022 we received over 1,000 inquiries for information related to development and drainage.

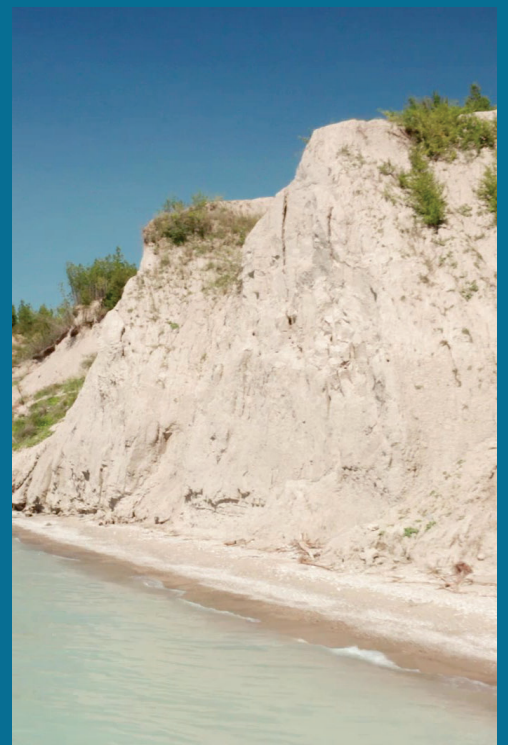
Shoreline Hazard Mapping

High water levels over the past several years have caused extensive erosion and inland flooding along Lake Huron.

To reflect these changes to the shoreline, Maitland Conservation is undertaking a project to update existing shoreline hazard mapping within our jurisdiction. Updating the mapping will give us an improved tool to assist municipalities in determining safe locations for shoreline development and identifying where development is most at risk of flood and erosion damage.

During 2022 staff worked with consultants on several project components:

- LiDAR imagery of the shoreline was delivered and reviewed. Data collection was completed,
- A Public Information Centre was held to provide an update on the mapping project,





Conservation Areas Services

28 properties encompassing 1,862 hectares

- Showcasing best management practices on conservation lands
- Ensuring properties are safe for public use
- Dealing with aging and surplus infrastructure

■ Gorrie Conservation Area Site Remediation

Community Planting Day held with 60 trees, 300 shrubs and 100 wildflowers planted along the river corridor and in floodplain areas. Wildflower mixture planted on the former mill site. Picnic shelter repaired and painted. Kiosk with information signs installed.

- ### ■ Administration Centre
- Construction of a new workshop building completed. This area will provide vehicle and equipment storage as well as an outdoor storage area for tree and shrub order pick ups.

- ### ■ Wawanosh Valley C. A.
- Harvesting of plantation areas and removal of ash trees. Removal of invasive buckthorn along the Belgrave Creek by Trout Unlimited. New seasonal wooden bridge installed at the mouth of the creek.

- ### ■ Falls Reserve C.A.
- Located just west of Benmiller, FRCA provides day-use

and camping opportunities. The park operates on revenue raised from users. A surge in use in recent years has enabled facility upgrades to be made including the installation of a controlled access gate, a new septic system and some campsite sewer hookups.

- ### ■ Naftel's Creek C. A.
- This is a high use property located south of Goderich. With funding support from the Maitland Conservation Foundation a bridge and section of boardwalk was replaced.

- ### ■ Conservation Areas Support
- Regular inspections of day-use areas, trails and infrastructure undertaken. Staff worked with the OPP and MNRF Conservation Officers to reduce damage from ATVs at Conservation Areas. Illegal structures and garbage dealt with at several properties.



New workshop



Naftel's Creek C.A.



Falls Reserve C.A. entry gate



T.D. Trees Day planting event, Listowel

Huron County Clean Water Project and Wellington Rural Water Quality Program

A wide range of funding grants are available to landowners for projects that will protect or enhance water quality. The Counties provide the funding and Conservation Authority staff deliver the programs.

In the Maitland portion of Huron County, over 150 new projects were approved in 2022 and over 140 were completed and paid out. The highest number of applications were for:

- Fragile Land Retirement
- Forest Management Plans and
- Cover Crops

Since the inception of the program over 3,600 projects have been completed throughout Huron County.

In Wellington, three new projects got underway in 2022.



Watershed Stewardship Services

Working with landowners and partners to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.

- **Forestry Programs** - 144 customers ordered a total of 11,200 seedlings and 5,200 large stock trees. Several community planting events held. Tree survival assessments completed at demonstration sites.
- **Cover Crop Leaders Program** - New CCLP launched for 2022 - 2024. Program is now fully allocated.
- **Rural Stormwater Management** - Seven new erosion control and wetland projects initiated.
- **Healthy Lake Huron (HLH)** - HLH support agreement developed with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Staff provided HLH presentations to OMAFRA. Proposals submitted to MECP and OMAFRA for 2023-2024 HLH funding.
- **Stream Restoration** - proposal successfully submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada for 2023 stream restoration funding. Landowner contact work underway for this project.
- **Monitoring and Reporting** - Extensive sampling and data collection conducted.
 - Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) sampling conducted monthly from April to November. Mercury and pesticide samples also collected during PWQMN sampling runs.
 - Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells checked, data sent to MECP, sampling equipment updated.



Melanie Pletch at the July 2022 celebration marking the completion of the Scott Project.



Water slowed by berms and constructed wetlands at the Scott Project.

Watershed Stewardship Services

- **On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring** - Tracking soil health and water quality in the Garvey-Glenn watershed. This data will help to assess the impact of stewardship projects undertaken in the watershed. The initiative is part of a larger provincial soil health monitoring effort. In 2022 land management surveys were completed with 23 landowners. Data was prepared and sent to project modelers. Runoff events were sampled at the stream and edge-of-field stations for the On-Farm project.
- **Nature Smart Climate Solutions** - Funded by ECCC, Nature Smart Climate Solution projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by conserving and restoring wetlands, peatlands and grasslands to store and capture carbon. In our watersheds this project focuses on supporting cover crops and restoration efforts. In 2022 staff worked with landowners to complete 15 vegetation surveys.
- **Scott Municipal Drain Watershed Restoration Project** - Working with the Scott and Pletch families, the restoration of the Scott Municipal Drain as a brook trout stream was completed. As part of this long-term project, numerous stewardship measures were implemented to control runoff and reduce erosion in the watershed. These measures have been incorporated into the report for the Scott Municipal Drain so they will be maintained in the future.

FOREST Health Study

2022 was the second year of the Forest Health Study. Maitland Conservation staff have assessed over 200 plots in woodlots across our watersheds. The data gathered builds on work undertaken in 2000 that revealed local forests were at risk because of limited

species diversity and uniform small size and age. The plot assessments will help us to identify the challenges impacting local forest health. This information will be used to assist forest managers and landowners to determine how forest health can be improved.

Initial data analysis shows a wide variety of forest disturbances are impacting local woodlots including invasive plants, insects, disease, pathogens, tree cutting, trails, and soil compaction. Stay tuned for the Forest Health Assessment Report in 2023.

Corporate Services



Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

- An inventory of programs and services was circulated to member municipalities for review as required by the MNRF. Fourteen municipalities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding supporting Maitland Conservation's services and programs for the next four years. Starting in 2024 Conservation Authorities will only be able to apportion costs to member municipalities for those services and programs included in the MOU.
- Meetings with MPPs to discuss amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and provincial support needed for Conservation

Authority services. The Chair and first Vice Chair met with Matthew Rae, MPP Perth-Wellington and the Honourable Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce.

Three-year Budget for 2023 - 2025

- Draft three-year budget and work plan developed and reviewed by Members in December.

Salary and Benefits Review

- All positions were reviewed by a consultant and recommendations made to Members.

IT Updates

- New server units installed. One older server repurposed as a backup unit. Updated security protocols implemented for remote



*Hon. Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce,
Matt Duncan, MVCA Chair and
Ed McGugan, MVCA First Vice-Chair*



maitland@mvca.on.ca
519-335-3557
mvca.on.ca

Questions?

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