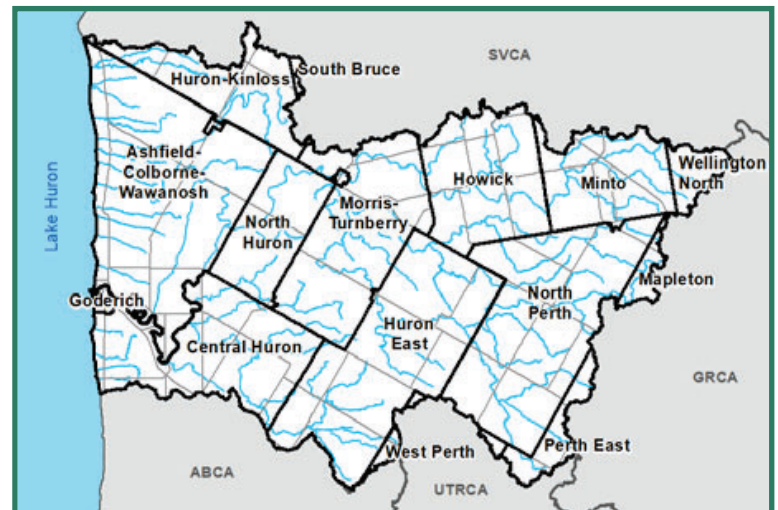


Working for a healthy environment!

UPDATE REPORT



MISSION

Maitland Conservation is working to protect and enhance water, forests and soils in the Maitland and Nine Mile River watersheds.

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.

1. FLOOD and EROSION SAFETY SERVICES

Purpose:

To help municipalities reduce the risk to life and property in areas prone to flooding and erosion.
To conserve features and functions of the river system and Lake Huron shoreline.

- Monitoring of weather and gauge data 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Messages issued for 6 storm events.
- Consultant selected for North Perth floodplain mapping project.
- Molesworth and Harriston rain gauge stations relocated.

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

Purpose:

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

Staff continue to respond to an elevated number of inquiries relating to development, often in unsafe areas. To date this year 85 permissions have been issued, 10 drain reviews completed, comments provided on 36 planning inquiries and 145 additional development and planning inquiries dealt with.

2. 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.

Wawanosh Valley - demolition of barn and shed structures set for October. Nine bat houses constructed and installed. Bat survey work being undertaken by the Toronto Zoo.

Brussels - severance conditionally approved. Well at site decommissioned.

Turnberry Floodplain - building demolition completed.

Galbraith - a lease agreement with the Town of North Perth has been finalized.

Saratoga & Stapleton - gates and barrier posts installed to restrict ATV access.

Falls Reserve - camping season in full swing. Accessibility renovations to day-use area washroom facility underway.

Wawanosh Park - 50 large stock trees planted to buffer pond.

Coastal Resiliency Project



Project to update to Shoreline Hazard Mapping is nearing completion. This project has provided an improved understanding of the state of the shoreline and coastal processes. The mapping is posted on the Maitland Conservation website at mvca.on.ca.

Two public workshops are being held this summer to discuss the challenges facing the shoreline and to build an understanding of the values of shoreline stakeholders. The workshops are part of an initiative to explore ways to improve the resiliency of the coast to the changing climate. The goal is to connect with the shoreline community to consider what a healthier, less hazardous shoreline could look like in the future.





3. WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

Purpose:

To work with municipalities, landowners and partners to:

- implement stewardship practices that help to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses,
- improve the health of the river system.

Stewardship Activities

- 43 tree planting projects completed and inspected.
- 26,225 trees planted by landowners and Maitland Conservation's tree planting services.
- 51 acres of river valley and floodplain land restored through planting. Three km of windbreaks and four km of stream buffers planted.
- Tree survival assessments completed at project sites.
- 70 new applications initiated and approved through the Huron Clean Water Project and Wellington Rural Water Quality Program.
- Two Environment and Climate Change Canada funded dam removal projects underway.

Rural Stormwater Management

- Two erosion control projects initiated
- Healthy Lake Huron municipal drain tour held for engineers and drainage superintendents
- Over 100 spring cover crop residue checks completed for the Huron Clean Water Project and Cover Crop Leaders Program. Working with 67 landowners on cover crop projects involving over 6,600 acres.

Healthy Watersheds Programming

- 40 landowners participated in three focus groups. Peer-to-peer cover crop mentoring initiative underway.

Watershed Health Assessment

Purpose:

To assess the health of forests and rivers.

A three-year intensive study of forest health was completed this spring. Key outcomes include:

- Local forest health is at risk.
- Our forests are losing resiliency.
- 20 % of standing trees were found to be dead during survey. This level of mortality will substantially lower the overall health and resilience of our remaining forests.
- The key disturbances in the woods are:
 - Invasive pests like Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Bark Disease
 - Invasive plants like buckthorn, garlic mustard and periwinkle
 - Woodlot management and wind events (climate change).

The next step is to work with our partners to evaluate how we manage and steward local forests to determine how we can improve their health.

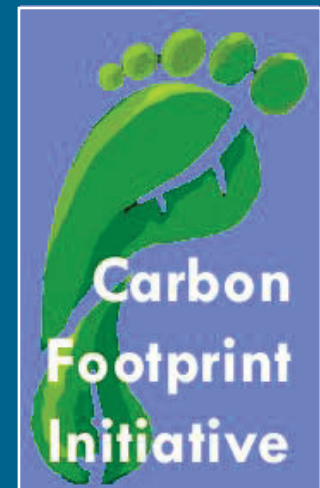
Staff are also in the process of developing a framework to undertake a health assessment of watercourses in the Maitland and Nine Mile River



ADAPTING to the IMPACTS of a CHANGING CLIMATE

Carbon Footprint Initiative

Maitland Conservation is collaborating with local businesses, municipalities and counties to reduce the use of fossil fuels and to sequester carbon by planting trees and shrubs. At our Conservation Areas tree planting efforts continue. This spring 1,500 seedlings were planted at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area. We're also continuing to transition the motor pool to electric vehicles.



4. CORPORATE SERVICES

- To date 14 member municipalities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding supporting Maitland Conservation's services and programs for the next four years. Staff are currently working with the Municipality of Wellington North to have the final MOU signed. Wellington North has indicated they would like to review the MOU's from their three Conservation Authority partners at the same time.

5. DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Purpose:

To assist municipalities to protect sources of drinking water.

- Source Protection Committee met in March to review Annual DWSP Progress Report and finalize updates to the Source Protection Plans.
- Updated Source Protection Plans were submitted to the province in for approval per section 36, Clean Water Act. No concerns have been noted to date.