



MAITLAND CONSERVATION 2026 WORK PLAN PRIORITIES

Vision:

Working for a healthy environment!

Mission:

Providing leadership to protect and enhance 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.



Maitland
CONSERVATION

MAITLAND CONSERVATION KEY PRIORITIES

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

1951 - 2026
75 years of watershed
conservation. We're
celebrating the
future of conservation!



Construction of Listowel
Conduit - 1987



Constructed Wetland
Scott Municipal Drain Project
2009



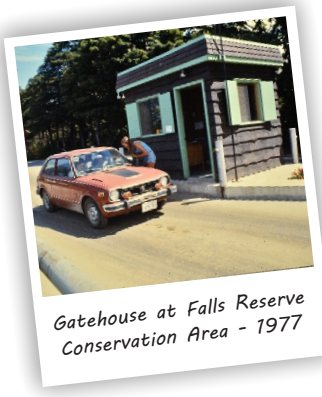
Farm Pond Tour
1963



Community Planting Day
Lucknow - 1994



Goderich Bluff - 1994
Bioengineering Project



Gatehouse at Falls Reserve
Conservation Area - 1977

1. CORPORATE SERVICES

- **Municipal Agreements:** Renewal of the agreement for services and programs with member municipalities. The new agreement will need to be approved by all 15 municipalities by June 17, 2026.
- **Government Relations:**
 - a) Corporate Services will focus on dealing with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks with respect to the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities. MVCA may need to develop a 2027 work plan and budget prior to the end of October.
 - b) Member Municipalities: Continue to make presentations to each municipality regarding the proposed consolidation of Conservation Authorities as well as the 2027 work plan and budget.
 - c) Conservation Ontario: Work with Conservation Ontario Council and Executive to provide input to the proposed consolidation.
- **Maitland Conservation Foundation:** Encourage the MCF to support watershed health science, stewardship projects that restore the health of natural areas and infrastructure projects in Conservation Areas.
- **MVCA's 75th Anniversary:** To organize a variety of events and activities to celebrate MVCA's anniversary.

2. FLOOD AND EROSION SAFETY SERVICES

- Helping municipalities to 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.

1. **Regional Hydrology Model:** developing a watershed wide hydrology model that will help MVCA better forecast the potential for flood events.
2. **Floodplain Mapping Projects:** updating floodplain plain mapping for the ward of Lucknow in the Municipality of Huron-Kinloss. Updating floodplain mapping in the Wingham ward of the Township of North Huron to recalculate flood elevations in the area where the dam was located.
3. **Coastal Resilience Project:**
 - **Sediment Bypass Project, Town of Goderich:** Project will determine how to move sand from the north side of the harbour to the south of Goderich so it can replenish the beaches.
 - **Planned Relocation Manual:** This component of the project will focus on identifying actions shoreline communities can take to address development at risk from flooding, erosion, bluff collapse and gully erosion.
 - **Planning Policy Task Force:** This aspect of the project will focus on identifying where it is safe to direct future development along the Lake Huron shoreline and the planning tools available to municipalities.



Tim Prentice checking the water content of the snow pack, 2025.



Launch of the Coastal Resiliency Project, July 2025.



Daniela Klicper presenting at the Lake Huron Coastal Centre shoreline workshop, August 2025.



TD Tree Days planting event, September, 2025.



Electrofishing for the Aquatic Health Study, August 2025.

3. WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES

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

1. **Restore River Corridors and Tributaries:** Provide technical and financial assistance to re-establish natural buffers in floodplains and river valleys and to buffer watercourses.
2. **Rural Stormwater Management:** Provide technical and financial assistance to develop stormwater management systems to reduce the potential for soil and nutrients to be washed into watercourses and Lake Huron.
3. **Soil Health:** Provide technical and financial assistance to improve the health of soil on agricultural land so it's more resilient to the impacts of runoff and drought conditions.

WATERSHED HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING:

1. **Water Quality Monitoring** - monitor water quality in watercourses and groundwater across local watersheds.
2. **Aquatic Health Assessment Project** - assessing the health of rivers and streams. In 2026 the project will focus on the health of biological life in watercourses throughout the Maitland, Nine Mile and Eighteen Mile River watersheds.
3. **Watershed Health Knowledge Transfer Strategy** - develop a strategy for transferring knowledge gained from the Forest Health Assessment and physical assessment of aquatic systems to other service areas within Maitland Conservation as well as MVCA Members, the Maitland Conservation Foundation and interested community partners
4. **Ecosystem Health Restoration Program Identification:** determine the types of programs and services needed to restore the health of local forests and rivers.

4. CONSERVATION AREAS SERVICES

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

1. **Conservation Areas Infrastructure:** Construct a new pavilion at Wawanosh Valley Conservation Area considering accessibility requirements and available funds provided by the Maitland Conservation Foundation.
2. **Administrative Centre Renovations and Improvements:** Replace wooden siding on the south-east side of the office to maintain the building in good repair. Naturalize an area of turf not suitable for mowing at the front of the Administrative Centre using native shrubs and wildflowers.
3. **Invasive Species Control:** To showcase good forestry management practices, buckthorn and phragmites control will continue in 2026 to suppress the encroachment of these invasive species on C.A land. Buckthorn control along the agricultural land at Wawanosh Valley CA will also continue to



Lake Wawanosh Conservation Area, October 2025.

prepare for future naturalization of marginal farmland areas.

4. **Falls Reserve Conservation Area Improvements:** Several infrastructure repairs are planned to maintain essential buildings including the Gatehouse, Maple Campground washroom and two sheds. Campsite development will occur in the former group camp area to create additional RV sites. Accessibility improvements are also planned to provide access to the day-use facilities/washrooms and pavilion.
5. **Wawanosh Park Conservation Area:** Planning will get underway to identify surplus infrastructure and to naturalize previous campground areas. Additional monitoring and security measures will be implemented to prevent unauthorized activities.



Entranceway improvements at Falls Reserve C. A., October 2025.



Trail improvements at Naftel's Creek C. A., September 2025.



Donna Clarkson and Joy Rutherford, Elementary School Fair, 2025



Donna Clarkson and Joy Rutherford, Elementary School Fair, 2025



5. DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

- Working with municipalities to protect municipal sources of drinking water.

1. Governance and Leadership:

- Maitland Source Protection Authority meetings - to receive annual progress reports and program updates;
- Joint Management Committee meetings as needed. Recruitment of Source Protection Committee (SPC) member.

2. Communications: promotion of drinking water source protection program to the public.

3. Implementation & Technical Support:

- Review of planning and development applications located within municipal well head and intake protection areas;
- Issue confirmation notices for new wells in Harriston and Palmerston in the Town of Minto, and initiate amendment to the Maitland Source Protection Plan.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

For additional information please contact your Maitland Conservation member.

If your municipality would like to submit comments on the 2026 work plan priorities or budget, please submit them by March 5, 2026. Comments may be sent to:

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MVCA Members - Alvin McLelland (Huron East), Anita van Hittersum (North Huron), Matt Duncan (North Perth), Ed McGugan (Huron-Kinloss & South Bruce), Alison Lobb (Central Huron), Andrew Fournier (Perth East & West Perth), Vanessa Kelly (Town of Goderich)