



Volunteers at the River Clean Up event, April 25, 2009 in Listowel. This event was sponsored by the Middle Maitland Rejuvenation Committee.

Upcoming Events

- May 3 John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund's Compost and Plant Sale, Goderich
- May 4 Spring programs begin at the Wawanosh Nature Centre
- May 14 Official unveiling of the Middle Maitland Rejuvenation Committee's Information Kiosk, 7:00 p.m. at Listowel Memorial Park
- May 30 Kids, Cops and Canadian Tire Fishing Derby at Falls Reserve Conservation Area
Begins at 9:00 a.m. at the stocked pond. OPP vehicles on display, lots of prizes for children.
- June 10 Healthy River Day, Listowel
Supported by the Middle Maitland Rejuvenation Committee

Conservation Update

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
May 2009



Bluevale, December 29, 2008

Mission

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) is a local organization dedicated to providing leadership to protect and enhance our water, forests and soils.

Key Facts

1. Conservation Authorities are jointly owned by the municipalities in the watershed.
2. The purpose of the MVCA is to help people protect water and related resources for present and future generations.
3. Conservation Authorities were established by the provincial government at the request of municipalities, to be funded jointly by the province and municipalities.
4. The activities of the MVCA are driven by local municipalities, landowners and community organizations. We are committed to providing effective community-based conservation services in a cost-efficient manner.

2009 MVCA Priorities

The Directors of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority have developed the organization's 2009 draft budget and identified key priorities for the year.

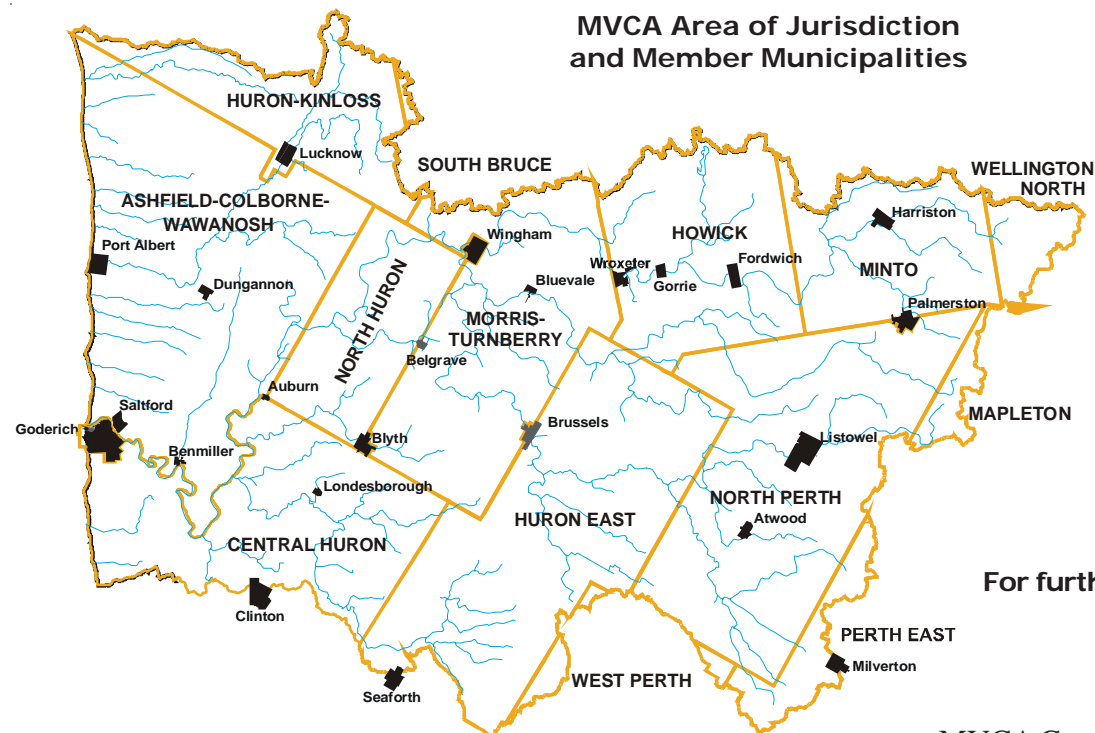
A review of local climate data has shown a trend of more intense thunderstorms and rapid snow melt events. The MVCA is working to ensure that current services will assist landowners and municipalities to successfully deal with these trends. This will entail building the resiliency of the watershed to cope with the increased risk of soil erosion and flooding and the resulting impact on infrastructure. In particular, the MVCA is focusing on approaches for increasing the storage of water on the land, reducing soil erosion and maintaining the productivity of agricultural land. In addition, the MVCA is working to investigate how municipalities can reduce the impact of flooding on infrastructure.

To meet these challenges the Soil and Water Environmental Enhancement Plan service is being launched in 2009. The SWEEP service will help landowners and municipalities develop plans that identify the causes of erosion, pollution and flooding as well as opportunities to restore and manage natural areas and watercourses.

Additional MVCA priorities for 2009 include:

- Assisting municipalities that have major flood damage centres to develop flood emergency plans.
- Implementing conservation education programs at sites in the communities where schools are located and at school learning ground areas.
- Integrating the MVCA's Development Regulation with municipal land-use planning policies and bylaws.

The 2009 levy increase will enable the MVCA to continue to implement and evaluate these strategic shifts. The MVCA Directors would like to extend their thanks to the member municipalities for their support over the past year.



For further information please contact:

Your MVCA Municipal Director
or Phil Beard

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2008 MVCA Accomplishments

The MVCA has developed programs and services that assist landowners, municipalities and community groups to undertake conservation projects on the ground. Some recent achievements include:

Flood Emergency Planning for Municipalities - The MVCA assisted the Township of Howick, the Municipality of Huron East and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry to undertake mock flood exercises. Two significant flood events occurred in 2008, one in April and one at the end of December. Staff have undertaken an evaluation of MVCA Flood Safety Services based on these events.

Rural Water Quality Projects - MVCA staff assist landowners undertaking projects to improve water quality. Grants are available for selected best management practices. These programs are financially supported by local municipalities and delivered by MVCA staff. In 2008, 243 site visits were undertaken and 150 projects were approved in Huron County and 10 in Wellington County. The grants allocated for these projects totaled \$202,642. The total value of the approved projects is estimated at \$607,800.

Community Education Programs - Conservation education programs are delivered to watershed schools, community groups and at MVCA special events. In 2008, there were over 8,000 participants in these programs.

Reforestation/Windbreak Assistance Programs - 50,000 seedlings were planted through the Reforestation Assistance Program and 5,500 large stock trees were planted by landowners and municipalities participating in the Roadside/Windbreak program.

Stewardship Demonstration Projects - Staff worked on a variety of stewardship projects in 2008 including the implementation of natural channel designs, installation of nitrate filters and constructed wetlands.

Shoreline Working Group - In 2008 the revised shoreline Erosion Risk Mapping was completed in draft format. The Working Group also began fine tuning the shoreline development policies adopted in 2007.

Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Planning Project - The Proposed Terms of Reference for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Efforts continue to ensure that the knowledge gained through the project is transferred to relevant staff and partners.

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program - Phase 1 of the ODWSP was undertaken in 2008, in partnership with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. Phase 1 focused on properties within 100 metres of municipal wells and provided grants for stewardship projects that will help protect groundwater. In addition a variety of activities were undertaken to provide landowners with information about their role in protecting drinking water.

Integration of MVCA's Development Regulation with Municipal Land-use Planning Policies and Bylaws - Staff are continuing to work with municipalities to identify ways to integrate and coordinate the permit process for landowners. This will help to reduce time and costs for both landowners, municipalities and the Conservation Authority.



Steenstra Demonstration Project - Before



Flood services area at the MVCA office, Wroxeter.



Doug Hocking, Water Quality Extension Coordinator.



2008 tree seedlings planting site.



Dallas Campbell at an ODWSP Open Well event.



Following an intense rain at the Steenstra Project.



East of Molesworth, December 28, 2008.



Daw erosion control project in North Huron.



Tour of the Scott Project for elected officials.



Nathan Garland, MVCA Planner, reviewing a map.

2009 MVCA Priorities

Soil and Water Environmental Enhancement Plans - This service is being developed to help landowners and municipalities to cope with the impacts of climate change. Staff will assist landowners to create plans that focus on their entire property. MVCA staff will also assist landowners with developing specific projects and identifying funding to implement these plans. SWEEP activities may include the implementation of riparian buffers, planting windbreaks, retiring fragile lands and the development of rural stormwater management plans. In 2009 SWEEP activities will focus on developing a strategy for determining what adaptive measures need to be implemented and where. Staff will also be investigating how municipalities can reduce the impact of flooding on infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

Flood Emergency Planning for Municipalities - Conservation Authority staff will continue working with municipalities that have major flood damage centres to develop flood emergency response plans. The Town of Minto has completed a Flood Emergency Plan, the Township of Howick has completed a draft plan and the Municipality of North Huron is currently developing one.

Strategic Planning Process - The MVCA will be developing a strategic plan to ensure that resources are being focused on the major conservation issues in the watershed. This process will also enable the organization to review how the needs of member municipalities can best be met.

Watershed Report Cards - Draft summaries of each major watershed sub-basin outlining current water and forest conditions were developed in 2008. Final versions of the report cards will be produced in 2009. Data collection for the 2012 Watershed Report Cards is underway.

Improved Mapping - More detailed mapping of lands that are regulated under the MVCA's Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation are being developed. The draft shoreline Erosion Risk Mapping will be finalized in 2009.

Community-Based Conservation Education Programs - In 2008 staff investigated the barriers and potential solutions relating to programming at community sites. Efforts are underway to support and assist schools and groups interested in participating in conservation education programs in their local communities.

Shoreline Working Group - In 2009 the Working Group will be developing a public information strategy on development policies, shoreline hazards and ecological resources along the shoreline.

Watershed Conservation Fund Feasibility Project - This project is investigating the feasibility of developing a conservation fund to be used to support soil and water conservation projects on public and private lands. Other objectives of the project include strengthening the Maitland Conservation Foundation and gathering information on the conservation issues key donors are interested in supporting. The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities is supporting this initiative.

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program - Phase 2 of the ODWSP is now underway. Grants for selected stewardship actions are now available to landowners located within the 2-year time-of-travel around municipal wells or the Intake Protection Zone 1 of municipal water intakes.