

Update on Gorrie Conservation Area



November 2017

During September and October work has continued at Gorrie Conservation Area to clean-up damage from the June 23- 24, 2017 flood. Maitland Conservation staff and Directors have also been working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to clarify the process that must be used to assess options for the Gorrie Dam.

- In order to determine the technical requirements for assessing options for the Gorrie Dam (repair, reconstruction, decommissioning), Maitland Conservation needs assistance from an engineering firm with expertise in small dams. At the Sept. 27, 2017 Board of Directors' meeting, the Board directed staff to obtain quotes for the cost of retaining an engineering consultant to investigate the technical requirements, and associated costs, under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act.
- The Board also directed staff to add a new Gorrie Conservation Area section to the Maitland Conservation website. This area can now be accessed through the homepage at www.mvca.on.ca. It contains board reports, newsletters and technical drawings of the dam structure. Additional material will be added as we move through the process of assessing options for the dam.
- At the end of October staff met with a representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to discuss the dam assessment process. The MNR suggested that Maitland Conservation submit a letter of inquiry to the MNR Guelph District Office. This inquiry will seek further clarification on the technical requirements under the Lakes and River Improvement Act that need to be satisfied for each of the three options being considered for the Gorrie Dam.

Feedback from the MNR will assist Maitland Conservation in developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) document. The RFP will be used to obtain proposals from qualified consultants to undertake the assessment study.

- It is expected that the assessment of the three options for the dam will take a considerable length of time.



- Recent clean-up work at the site has included filling in the scour hole, regrading the berm to protect it from further erosion and removing damaged sections of the mill turbine bay. This work was completed under a work permit issued by the MNRF. The permit was issued with the condition that the stabilization of the berm is to be considered a temporary measure to protect the remainder of the berm while options for the site are assessed. Based on engineering recommendations, the contractor graded the eroded berm to a 2:1 slope so that higher flows can pass through without damaging the berm further. Rip rap stone has been used to make the eroded area more resilient to high flows.
- Rye grass has been seeded around the eroded berm to assist with erosion control. A low maintenance turf grass seed mixture has been planted to the west of the picnic shelter.
- The installation of new barrier posts in the parking area is expected to be completed in November, weather permitting.
- Repairs to the Picnic Shelter are still to be completed. Staff are in the process of obtaining quotes to repair the Picnic Shelter deck and supports.
- Please note that the south side of the Conservation Area remains closed. We will be following up on a request from a Gorrie resident that picnic tables be placed on the north side of the river. Two picnic tables will be placed at the site in the spring.



Questions?

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