



**Kriss Snell, CAO of the Municipality of North Perth, is passionate about his community. He works towards a vibrant rural economy, and believes that it is based on having a healthy environment.**

## QUICK FACTS

- **Established in 1999**
- **Office in Listowel, ON**
- **12,600 residents**
- **Area first settled in 1857**
- **150 ac of public grass to cut**

### What makes North Perth unique?

North Perth is a very prosperous area for agriculture. We have a lot of high value agricultural land and associated businesses. Listowel is a hub for many agricultural services and is growing rapidly in terms of new homes and subdivisions. This growth is putting a strain on our existing services, but also provides an opportunity for North Perth to introduce low impact development policies to deal with climate change and build resiliency into the new services associated with this growth.

### What impact will a changing climate have on your municipality?

We've already seen the impacts here, with two ice storms in 2013. These ice storms cost North Perth over \$385,000 in damages and clean up costs. During the first one, we had to declare a state of emergency and some members of our community were without power for four days. Our existing stormwater infrastructure was designed for a 1-in-5 year storm, but over the past few years we have experienced three 1-in-25 year storms in a single month. We've even had a 1-in-50 year event in 2014. Our systems are simply not designed to handle so much water and this has caused some roads to be washed out. We're going to need a new approach to stormwater management, both in town and on farms. Extreme weather, be it flooding or drought, will also affect agriculture and anything that affects agriculture, will affect our entire community.



Current North Perth council (2014-present)

Below: the aftermath of April 2013 ice storm



### What are you doing to reduce your impact on the environment?

We are working with MVCA to develop a climate change strategy that we will help us to determine how we need to change our storm water management policies and flood/severe weather emergency services. We have been planting trees at our storm water ponds to help to reduce grass cutting costs and to naturalize these areas. We are also restoring the Middle Maitland River at the Listowel Memorial Park to improve water quality and streamflow. We are working with the Middle Maitland Rejuvenation Committee to restore the headwaters of the Middle Maitland River upstream of Listowel.

