

# UPDATE on Gorrie Conservation Area

August 2020

## Upcoming Public Information Centre

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is expected to be held this fall to obtain community feedback on the proposed plans. The format of this outreach will be determined by the status of the COVID-19 situation.

Details about the PIC will be mailed to the Gorrie community and posted in the What's New section of our website ([mvca.on.ca](http://mvca.on.ca)) and on our Facebook and Twitter feeds. You may also call 519-335-3557 ext. 234 for information.

## Gorrie Dam Decommissioning

In June 2019, after reviewing a study of alternatives for the Gorrie Dam, the Conservation Authority membership decided to begin the process of decommissioning the dam.

The Members of Maitland Conservation recently approved the submission of a conceptual plan for decommissioning the dam to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). This is the next step in the process of decommissioning the dam and developing a remediation plan for the site.

Prior to decommissioning the dam, the Conservation Authority must obtain approval from the MNRF and meet requirements set out in the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act.

GSS Engineering was contracted to develop a draft conceptual plan for the site. Through this process it was determined that a full decommissioning plan that allows for continued community green space is best suited for the Gorrie property.

The draft plan includes a number of components:

- Removal of all in-water concrete structures to provide a natural river corridor
- Channel design that includes vortex weirs to improve fish habitat with riffles and pools. Maintaining narrow channel sections to create flow and a variety of river habitats.
- Retain sections of the earthen berms to provide protection to the picnic shelter and parkland. Lowering the southern berm height and re-grading the slopes.
- Use onsite materials to fill and level the old sluiceway and level the area.
- Regrading and adding topsoil to the island. Using a stepped bank design to allow river flows to pass over this area.

Plan details are available in Report 30/20 - June 17, 2020 on our website: [mvca.on.ca/gorrie-conservation-area](http://mvca.on.ca/gorrie-conservation-area)

The decommissioning plan will be used to create site restoration plans for the property. Phase 1 will include the removal of the dam and restoration of the parkland and Phase 2 will involve remediation of the pond area after the river corridor has adjusted to the removal of the dam.

For the remainder of 2020 efforts will focus on completing the studies and design reports required to meet MNRF requirements. The proposed dam removal and site restoration is planned for spring 2021 pending MNRF approval.



# Using the Park

The south side of the Conservation Area remains closed for public use due to damage from flooding. Both the parking lot and the north side of the Conservation Area are open for use. Thank you to the Township of Howick for their assistance with grass cutting.

Phragmites control is planned for later this fall in the pond area to prevent the spread of this invasive species.

## Gorrie Mill

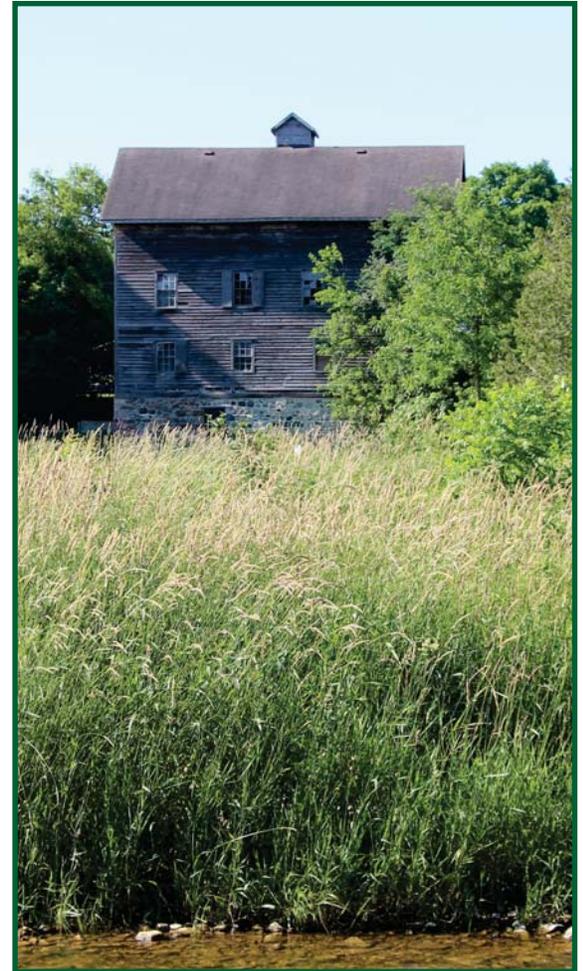
Over the past several years, a community group has been working with Maitland Conservation on potential re-use of the mill buildings located at Gorrie and Brussels Conservation Areas. The group became incorporated in 2019 as the Maitland Mills Association.

A report was recently presented to Members of Maitland Conservation from the Maitland Mills Association with the following proposals regarding the Gorrie Mill:

- preserve the mill by dismantling the building, stone foundation and removing the mill equipment and machinery
- store building materials and contents in a safe, dry location until a suitable location can be found for re-assembly
- undertake the dismantling project in a timely manner due to the current condition of the building.

The proposal to remove the mill from its current location is based on the building's structural condition, site conditions and location of the building in the floodplain.

Maitland Conservation Members have approved the Maitland Mills Association's proposal to proceed with the project. Staff informed the Township of Howick of the details of the project at the July 21, 2020 council meeting.



### Questions?

If you have questions please contact:

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or

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