



# GORRIE CONSERVATION AREA

## PROPERTY UPDATE

May 2, 2018

## Impacts of Winter Weather

Last fall, clean-up work was undertaken at Gorrie Conservation Area to repair damage from the June 2017 flood. This work included filling in a large scour hole, regrading the berm to protect it from further erosion and removing damaged sections of the mill turbine bay.

Mild temperatures and rain in January and February resulted in high river flows and ice moving through the repaired spillway. This caused erosion of the spillway and damage to numerous trees.

In March, an engineer reviewed the site damage and provided options for dealing with the scour hole that reformed after the high flows. If another high water event occurs, the success of any repair work undertaken is uncertain. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) agreed with the engineer's assessment that high

flows could wash the area out again. The MNRF indicated that the dam could remain in its current state as we investigate options for the structure. The MNRF also outlined that the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act (LIRA) does not require Maitland Conservation to repair the scour hole because it is located on land we own and the scour hole itself does not increase the present risks to the dam structure.

Based on the engineer's report and discussions with the MNRF, the Maitland Conservation Board of Directors decided to leave the south side of the park including the scour hole, gravel deposits and picnic shelter in its current state for the immediate future. This area, beyond the parking lot, will remain closed to public access and fencing will be installed. Work is continuing on assessing options for the dam structure.

## Next Steps

- Maitland Conservation staff will remove winter debris from the north side of the park and set out picnic tables. The entrance way and parking lot will be open for use. Damaged trees will be assessed this spring and removed if necessary.
- Maitland Conservation applied to the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure program for funding to assist with the cost of engaging an engineering consultant. The consultant would outline the technical study requirements for the three options for the dam (repair, rebuild, decommission) and provide cost estimates for the technical studies. This application was not successful. Staff are currently investigating alternative funding options for the study requirements and considering if the scope and cost of this work can be reduced.

### Questions? Please contact:

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