

# REVIEW of 2021

A snapshot of key activities undertaken in the past year.



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# “We are focussing our services on mitigating the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.”

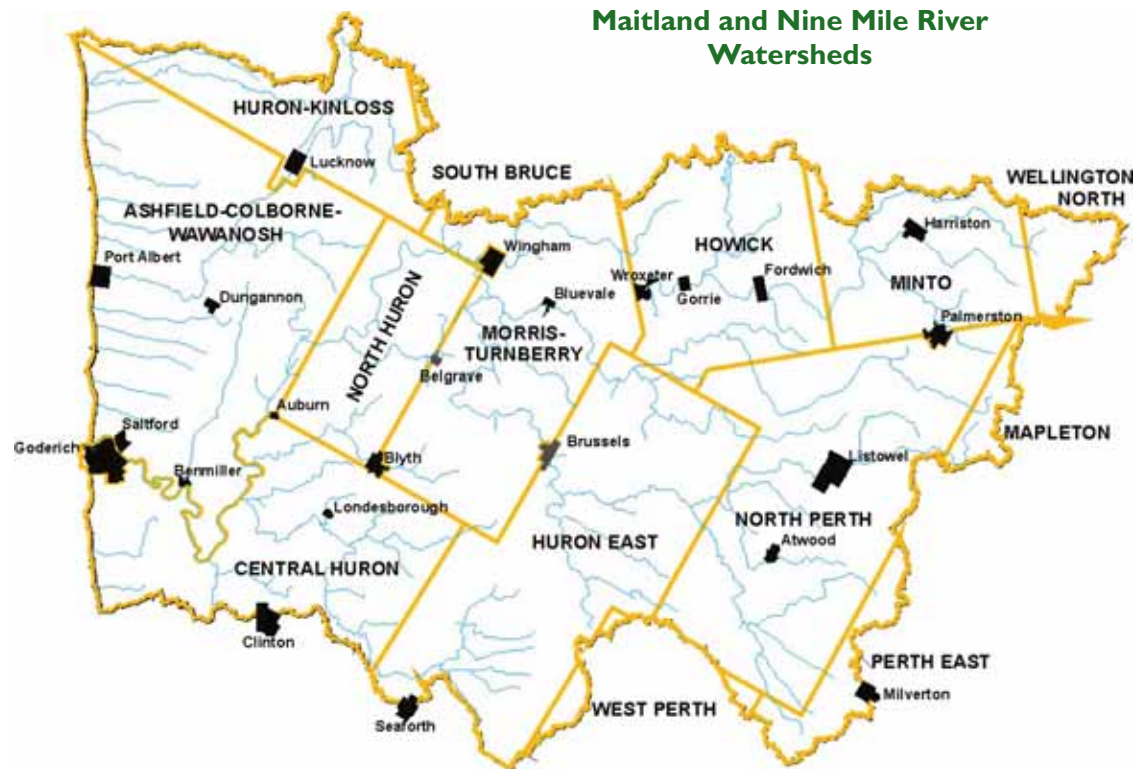
## BACKGROUND

Maitland Conservation is jointly governed by its member municipalities.

Conservation Authorities are established by the provincial government at the request of municipalities. The activities of Maitland Conservation are driven by municipalities, landowners and community partners.

We are committed to providing effective community-based conservation services in a cost efficient manner.

Maitland Conservation is working to protect and enhance water, forests and soils in the Maitland and Nine Mile River watersheds.





## FLOOD & EROSION SAFETY SERVICES 2021

- **Harriston Flood Damage Reduction Support** - Continued technical support provided to the Town of Minto in selecting appropriate options for reducing the potential for flood damages in the community. Fisheries assessment completed in area of proposed downstream work.
- **Shoreline Hazard Mapping Update** - Lidar data delivered and reviewed. This precise, 3-D information will be used to create updated hazard mapping. RFP process completed for the mapping project.
- **Flood Forecasting System** - On-going maintenance of rain gauges and stream gauging stations. Monitoring of weather and gauge data 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Messages issued for 11 events.
- **Wingham Flood Progression Mapping for the Township of North Huron and the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry** - The development of flood progression mapping is underway to assist municipal staff during flood events.

### Lake Huron Water Level and Erosion Risk Support

The water level of Lake Huron dropped during 2021 but continues to be above average. Staff delivered information on coastal processes and erosion risks to municipalities and landowners throughout the year including:

- Impending bluff failure mapping to ACW and Central Huron. Follow-up meetings held with municipal staff and emergency services.
- Bluff failure webinar delivered to the public over Zoom.
- Presentations made to two cottage associations.
- Over 1,100 newsletters mailed to shoreline landowners. Over 250 landowners completed a survey to gauge shoreline priorities and concerns.
- Lake level projection factsheet regularly updated and posted on website.

“Our stewardship efforts are focussed on keeping sediment and nutrients on the land and out of waterways.”



Matthew Shakespeare assessing a forest plot - July 2021

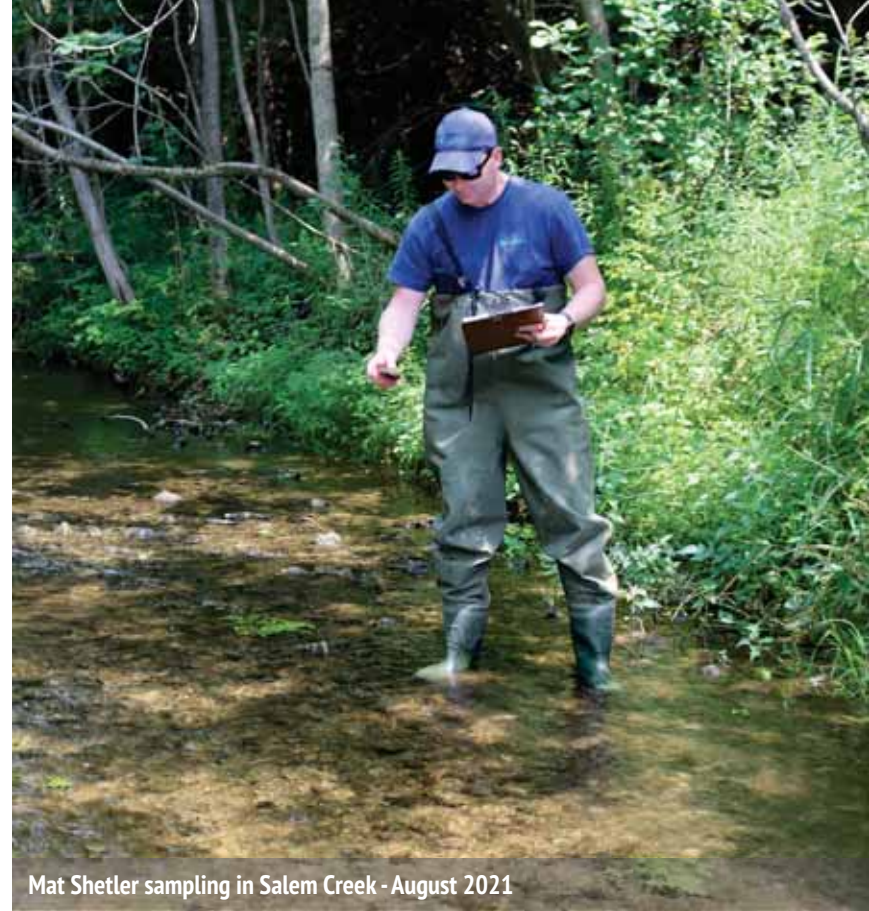
## WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP SERVICES 2021

- **Wellington Rural Water Quality Program and Huron Clean Water Project** - 198 new projects approved this year. Grants totalling \$253,618 allocated with total estimated project costs of \$990,394. Top projects in 2021:
  - Cover crops (79)
  - Tree Planting (40)
  - Forest Management Plans (22)
- **Rural Stormwater Management** - 17 new erosion control and wetland projects initiated in 2021. New agreement with St. Clair Region C.A. for green infrastructure municipal drain demonstrations and case studies. Supported Pine River Watershed Initiative Network on wetland restoration proposal.
- **Forestry Program** - Tree and shrub order program had 129 customers totalling 18,078 trees. Assisted with 67 planting projects that saw 37,529 trees and shrubs planted, including 10.8 km of stream buffering.
- **Forest Health Study** - Assessments completed on 103 forest plots on 42 private properties across the watershed. Research being undertaken in partnership with the University of Toronto Forestry Conservation.
- **Healthy Lake Huron** - The Conservation Authorities involved in Healthy Lake Huron worked collaboratively to develop consistent approaches to:
  - erodible soil mapping
  - estimated adoption of vegetation cover and crop rotationStaff also developed detailed mapping for the Eighteen Mile River watershed that included information on the erosion potential of gullies.

- **Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration Project** -Nine new planting projects were completed in 2021 including 5 1/2 km of new watercourse buffers.
- **On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring (ONFARM)** - Focussed on monitoring soil health and water quality within the Garvey-Glenn watershed. This initiative is part of a larger provincial soil health monitoring effort. Water sampling was done at the watershed outlet and at the edge-of-field station. WISKI data management platform

implemented to improve efficiency and allow for future public access to data.

- **Monitoring and Reporting** - Extensive water sampling conducted throughout the year including:
  - 102 samples for the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network
  - 11 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells
  - Benthic invertebrate sampling at one site
  - Six sites in the Eighteen Mile River watershed were sampled and flow data collected.



Mat Shetler sampling in Salem Creek - August 2021



Jacobsen Restoration Project - Lucknow

## CONSERVATION AREAS

2021

### Best Management Practices on Conservation Lands

- Second phase of invasive Buckthorn removal from meadow areas at Wawanosh Valley completed.
- Phragmites control work undertaken at Galbraith and Gorrie.
- Naturalization of grounds at office continued with the planting of native species in the front garden.

### Maintain Conservation Areas for Safe Public Use

The sharp rise in public use of properties seen in 2020, continued in 2021.

- Hazardous trees removed from Brussels and Gorrie.
- Inspections completed on day-use areas, trails, and dam infrastructure.
- New benches installed at Naftel's Creek.

### Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy

- 356 trees and 100 shrubs planted at Conservation Area
- Continued reduction of fossil fuel use through the purchase of fuel efficient and electric vehicles.



Gorrie Conservation Area following removal of the dam - September 2021

### Gorrie Dam and Conservation Area

A major milestone was completed in 2021 with the decommissioning of the Gorrie Dam. The structure was damaged in a flood in June 2017.

- The contractor completed removal of the dam structure and site rehabilitation of the Conservation Area.
- Picnic shelter renovation was started with completion expected in spring 2022.
- A community planting day was held at the site in October.
- The Maitland Mills Association removed historical artifacts from the Gorrie Mill. A salvage company dismantled the mill building and undertook site restoration.

## Falls Reserve Conservation Area

It was a late start to the camping season again in 2021, but both camping and day-use visits continued to rise.

- Operational procedures were adjusted based on local public health and provincial directives.
- Exterior siding was replaced on the washroom in the Maple Campground. New day-use sites were developed and made available for rent. The Cedar Campground was designated as radio/audio free and 15 sites closed to limit pressure on facilities.
- MECP approved the FRCA application for a septic system replacement. A contractor was selected and the project got underway in the fall. It is expected to be completed in late May, 2022.



Jason Moir, FRCA Superintendent, at new day use picnic site - July 2021



Installation of leaching cell for new septic system at FRCA - November 2021





Healthy Watersheds Tour with Clint Jacobs, Natural Heritage Coordinator for Walpole Island First Nation, Dan Krause, Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada, Dr. Justina Ray, WCS Canada, Erin Gouthro, Maitland Conservation and Ted Briggs, MECP



Maitland Conservation Members' Tour of Falls Reserve Conservation Area - August 2021

## CORPORATE SERVICES 2021

### Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

- Chair and General Manager/Secretary Treasurer met with Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce, to review MVCA's comments on the mandatory services consultation paper. Comments were sent to:
  - Randy Pettepiece, MPP, Perth Wellington,
  - Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks,
  - Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.
- A Transition Plan has been developed in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21 - Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Act. This plan is being circulated to member

municipalities. An inventory of programs and services is also being developed and will be provided to municipalities by the end of February 2022.

### Three-Year Budget for 2022-2024

- Draft three-year budget and work plan developed and reviewed by Members in October.

### Infrastructure Plan

A five-year infrastructure and equipment strategy was developed for the organization.

## Questions?

Contact your Maitland Conservation Member. Contact information is posted at [mvca.on.ca](http://mvca.on.ca) or email [maitland@mvca.on.ca](mailto:maitland@mvca.on.ca).