



## 2018 PROGRESS REPORT

*This Progress Report provides a summary of the achievements accomplished by Lower Trent Conservation between January and September of 2018. Progress on Business Plan priorities, everyday business, and emerging opportunities is reported.*

### ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & REGULATIONS

The *Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (Ontario Regulation 163/06)* gives Lower Trent Conservation the responsibility to regulate development and activities in or adjacent to river or stream valleys, shorelines of lakes and bays, watercourses, hazardous lands, and wetlands.

By reviewing applications for activities near these sensitive areas, Lower Trent Conservation can ensure that development will not be impacted by flooding or erosion, and that new development does not aggravate flooding upstream or downstream. This includes discussion of development proposals with landowners, developers, and municipal staff; conducting site inspections; compiling environmental information and creating maps; drafting comments; enforcing the *Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (Ontario Regulation 163/06)*; landowner negotiations; and legal proceedings.

Lower Trent Conservation staff also provide comments to our municipalities regarding natural hazards and natural heritage features on *Planning Act* applications.

#### Accomplishments on 2018 Priorities

- Renewed Planning Service Agreements with Municipalities
- Added new position (Development Services Technician) to Lower Trent Conservation team to provide better service delivery
- Initiated Updated Shoreline Management Plan for Lake Ontario municipalities in conjunction with Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

#### Highlights

- ✓ **Commented on 184 new planning applications, including 14 subdivision files, 9 site plans**
- ✓ **Provided site specific advice regarding environmental & hazard land constraints to 526 inquiries**
- ✓ **Approved 195 permits under Ontario Regulation 163/06**
- ✓ **Responded to 18 legal requests**
- ✓ **Conducted 101 site inspections to support planning & regulations reviews**
- ✓ **Conducted enforcement investigations related to 18 new violations**
- ✓ **Participated in one Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Hearing and two legal court cases**
- ✓ **Two Ontario Regulation 163/06 Hearings were held**

## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING & REPORTING

Lower Trent Conservation participates in provincial monitoring programs that contribute to knowledge of our local watershed and provincial databases.

Through the *Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Program (PGMN)*, Lower Trent Conservation collects groundwater water quantity and quality data at 11 sites. Nine surface water quality sites are sampled monthly through the ice-free season through the *Provincial (Stream) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN)*. The *Low Water Response Program* is triggered during times of below normal precipitation.

In addition to these programs, each spring Lower Trent Conservation samples benthic macroinvertebrates, which are small bugs that live in the bottom of streams and are indicators of water quality, and installs temperature probes in local streams to monitor water temperature through the growing season.

Lower Trent Conservation uses monitoring data to help establish priorities for protection and rehabilitation activities, and to produce a Watershed Report Card every five years.

### Accomplishments on 2018 Priorities

- Enhanced environmental water monitoring program
- Worked with surveyors to re-survey Erosion Monitoring Stations on Lake Ontario shoreline (Alnwick/Haldimand, Cramahe)
- Completed 2018 Watershed Report Card

### Highlights

- ✓ Released Lower Trent Conservation's 2018 Watershed Report Card
- ✓ Monthly measurements of groundwater levels at 12 wells at 11 PGMN well sites
- ✓ Collected 63 water quality samples from 9 PWQMN sites
- ✓ Collected 63 water quality samples from additional sites
- ✓ Collected benthic macroinvertebrate samples from 20 sites
- ✓ Deployed 30 temperature probes in local streams
- ✓ Expanded surface water monitoring to include 9 new sites
- ✓ Added e.coli sampling to all our surface water monitoring sites
- ✓ Enhanced benthic sampling program by refining sampling locations and analyzing all samples to the family level
- ✓ Issued two low water response bulletins



Summer staff benthic sampling

## FLOOD FORECASTING & PROTECTION WORKS

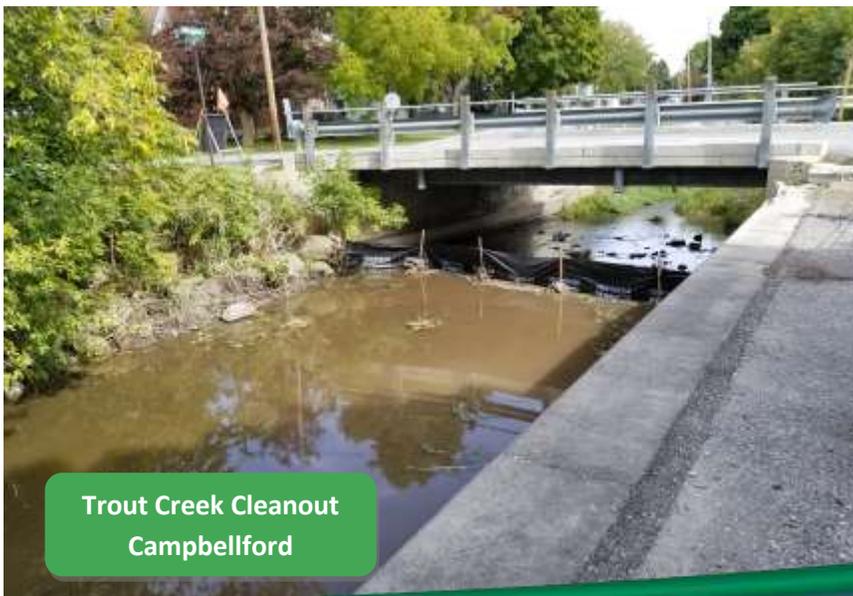
Lower Trent Conservation, in cooperation with local municipalities and the provincial government, plays a key role in reducing the risk of property damage and loss of life from natural hazards such as flooding.

Weather forecasts and water conditions along the region's waterways are monitored daily, as part of a flood forecasting and warning system, in order to provide the earliest possible notification to municipalities and the public of the potential for flooding. During times of potential flooding, Lower Trent Conservation maintains communications with municipalities, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Parks Canada (Trent-Severn Waterway), and neighbouring conservation authorities.

In addition, 10 flood control structures, including a dam, flood walls, berms, weirs, and overflow channels, have been constructed to help protect existing development in flood susceptible areas from potential damages resulting from a flood. The structures were constructed with the aid of the Province of Ontario and local municipalities on a cost-sharing basis. Staff conduct regular inspections of the structures to ensure they are safe and functioning properly.

### Accomplishments on 2018 Priorities

- Initiated the Warkworth Dam Safety and Public Safety Assessment
- Worked with the Municipality of Trent Hills to clean out Trout Creek Flood Channel improving conveyance capacity of Trout Creek through Campbellford



Trout Creek Cleanout  
Campbellford

### Highlights

- ✓ Issued 13 bulletins regarding high water level concerns
- ✓ Conducted daily risk assessments for flood forecasting
- ✓ Conducted 7 snow surveys at 4 snow sampling sites



Snow Surveying

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH, AND STEWARDSHIP

Through our education & outreach programs and activities, we strive to engage residents in environmentally sustainable behaviours and draw attention to environmental issues.

*Tri-County Children's Water Festival* is a two-day outdoor event with ~35 activity centres providing students from Grade 3-5 with interactive learning opportunities related to water. One-thousand and fifty students, teachers and parent volunteers participated in our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Water Festival on May 24 & 25. High school students, partner agency staff, and volunteers donated over 1,300 hours of time.

*Caring for Our Watersheds™* asks Grade 7-9 students to answer the question "What Can I Do to Improve My Watershed". Thirty proposals from 72 students were submitted for the Caring for Our Watersheds™ contest in 2018. Over \$10,000 in cash prizes was awarded to students and schools at the Final Competition celebration event on April 25.

### Accomplishments on 2018 Priorities

- Draft framework developed outlining Lower Trent Conservation's Education and Outreach priorities



Indigenous Water Blessing  
Tri-County Children's Water Festival



Tri-County Children's Water Festival

### Highlights

- ✓ Engaged over 3,500 youth in our environmental education activities
- ✓ Our staff reached more than 3,450 people during participation in community outreach events
- ✓ Supported implementation of 5 Caring for Our Watersheds™ projects



2018 Final Competition 1<sup>st</sup> place winners  
Caring for Our Watersheds™

## STEWARDSHIP

Lower Trent Conservation staff provide advice and assistance to adopt good stewardship practices through the *Healthy Lands – Clean Water Program*. Site visits are conducted to provide residents with advice on the stewardship of their property and incentives to implement selected best management practices.

To encourage tree planting and reforestation of private lands, Lower Trent Conservation provides tree seedlings to landowners at cost through our over the counter tree seedling program.



Volunteers sorting & packing tree seedlings



Tree Seedling Sale

### Highlights

- ✓ Landowners planted 14,000 trees through our annual tree seedling program
- ✓ Conducted 8 Healthy Land – Clean Water site visits
- ✓ Co-hosted a soil health workshop with the East Central Stewardship Collaborative at Alderville First Nation
- ✓ Investigated enhancements to Stewardship Programs for launch in 2019
- ✓ Installed special bird collision deterrent tape on LTC office windows to reduce bird mortality



## DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION – LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

The Trent Source Protection Plan was effective on January 1, 2015. Since then, the focus of the program has been on providing support to municipalities and other implementing bodies with implementing the policies of the source protection plan.

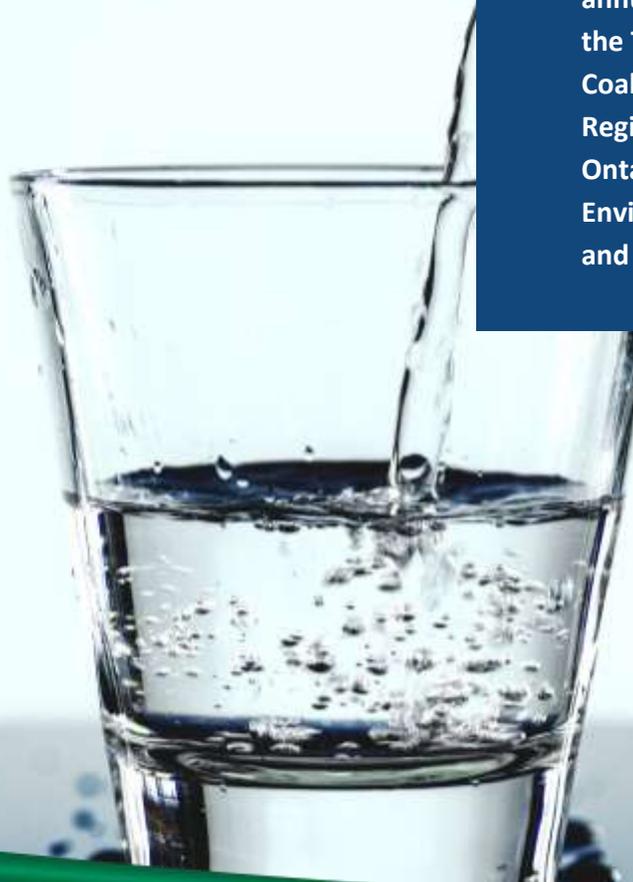
We continue to fulfil our role and responsibilities as a member of the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region (Crowe Valley, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha, Lower Trent, and Otonabee).

Lower Trent Conservation has agreements with 5 municipalities (Alnwick/Haldimand, Brighton, Cramahe, Stirling-Rawdon, and Trent Hills) to provide Risk Management services. The Risk Management Official/Inspector is required to implement and enforce policies that use Part IV procedures of the *Clean Water Act* including Risk Management Plans, Prohibition, and Restricted Land Use.

Lower Trent Conservation also delivers a Source Protection Education & Outreach program on behalf of 6 municipalities (Alnwick/Haldimand, Brighton, Cramahe, Quinte West, Stirling-Rawdon, and Trent Hills).

### Highlights

- ✓ **Completed 3 Risk Management Plans and issued 14 Section 59 Notices**
- ✓ **Promoted the local Drinking Water Source Protection program at 11 community events**
- ✓ **Completed Risk Management Official Annual Report and assisted municipalities with their annual reports as per the required deadline of February 1**
- ✓ **Contributed to the first annual Progress Report for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region submission to Ontario's Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks**



## CONSERVATION LANDS

Lower Trent Conservation owns 1,540 hectares of natural open space. These forests, valleys, meadows, and wetlands are part of a regional system of protected areas that depict the natural diversity of the region. They are special places in the watershed that are protected from development, where the natural world comes first.

There are 17 properties ranging in size from small parkettes to over 650 hectares. Ten properties are classified as Conservation Areas and provide venues for healthy, active lifestyles such as hiking, bicycling, fishing, canoeing, and other recreational activities to residents and tourists. These properties require ongoing maintenance of sites, trails, and other facilities such as parking lots, privies, boat launches, picnic shelters, and the Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Centre.

The other 7 properties are Natural Habitat Areas which, while they are open to the public, are left in a natural state with no maintained trails or recreational activities.

### Accomplishments on 2018 Priorities

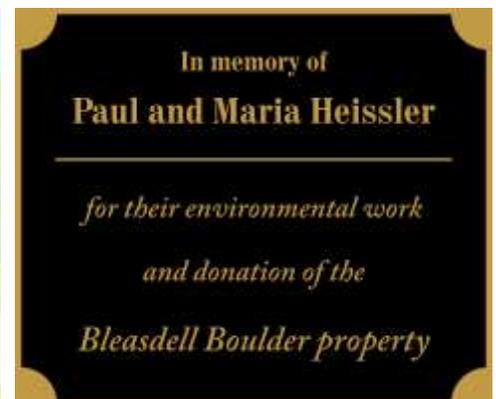
- Repaired and upgraded trail sections in Seymour Conservation Area and planted trees to naturalize decommissioned trail
- Initiated a partnership with Family Space Quinte for the implementation of Wildwood play group programs at Sager Conservation Area
- Restored the entrance archway at Proctor Park Conservation Area
- Updated and installed interpretive signage at Trenton Greenbelt Conservation Area with regard to the 'Greening the Greenbelt' project
- Updated interpretive signage and memorial plaque at Bleasdell Boulder Conservation Area in honour of Paul & Maria Heissler, as per family's request based on memorial contributions

### Highlights

- ✓ Painted gates, picnic tables, and benches in conservation areas
- ✓ Applied water seal on all bridges in conservation areas
- ✓ Coordinated weddings, fundraisers, and recreational events in conservation areas
- ✓ Completed 2 bats surveying exercises at King's Mill Conservation Area



Pillar Restoration by Mayhew Masonry  
Proctor Park Conservation Area



## CORPORATE SERVICES

Corporate Services is an important part of day-to-day operations and provides support to all Lower Trent Conservation programs. This includes management of our finances, human resources and other assets, as well as program planning and development, customer relations, partnership building, information management and Geographic Information System, and marketing & communications.

### Accomplishments on 2018 Priorities

- Enlarged Lower Trent Conservation's jurisdiction by 20 km<sup>2</sup> in the Municipality of Trent Hills following process set out in the Conservation Authorities Act
- Released new Strategic Plan for Lower Trent Conservation
- Revised the Personnel Policy to include the Province's Fair Work Places & Better Jobs Plan (Bill 148)
- Replaced the Governance & Administrative Policies & Procedures with a new Administrative By-Law to incorporate changes to the Conservation Authorities Act
- Updated the Accessibility Policy and Accessible Customer Service Plan
- Purchased and installed new network server
- Developed an internal Asset Management Tool for computers, equipment and vehicles
- Hired new Communications Specialist and new Manager, Conservation Lands to replace retired staff
- Reorganized communications, fundraising and outreach programs to establish greater synergies and simplify deliveries
- Fulfilled planned deliveries with respect to Lower Trent Conservation's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations through various events and communications
- Refreshed the Lower Trent Conservation Logo
- Carried out Fund Development initiatives (e.g., secured new donors, renewed existing donor contributions, researched and submitted grant applications, and fulfilled memorial requests)
- Released proposed 2019 Fee Policy & Schedules for public consultation
- Launched the Lower Trent Conservation Instagram page in June

Cutting the  
50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
cake at  
Trent Port  
Marina



### Highlights

- ✓ Received anonymous donation of \$100,000 to support Education Programs and Fundraising
- ✓ Distributed 20 Mainstream E-News & 17 Press Releases
- ✓ 8 summer students hired to assist with various programs
- ✓ Engaged 23 volunteers who provided 143 hours of assistance to 7 projects
- ✓ Hosted 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration event with \$1,310 raised during the silent auction
- ✓ High visibility marketing for conservation lands via the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration online Selfie Contest
- ✓ Released '50 in 50' blog series with 28 blogs posted to date
- ✓ \$32,457 raised in donations and grants
- ✓ Celebrated the retirement of Marilyn Bucholtz, Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- ✓ Recorded highest ever monthly reach in September on Twitter (18.6 K) and Facebook (20.2 K)

## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

### REGIONAL DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

As the lead Source Protection Authority for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region (which includes Crowe Valley, Ganaraska Region, Kawartha, Lower Trent, Otonabee Authorities and areas outside conservation authority jurisdiction in Haliburton and Peterborough Counties), we were responsible for coordinating the development of source protection plans for the region. The Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plans were approved in October 2014 and effective as of January 1, 2015.

Supporting municipalities, partner conservation authorities, and others with implementation and reporting is an ongoing priority. Additionally, the team has been working with the Source Protection Committee and other stakeholders to review source protection plans and identify required policy updates.

#### Drinking Water Source Protection Highlights

- ✓ **Edited the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plans to enhance clarity**
- ✓ **Produced both the Trent 2017 Annual Progress Report and Ganaraska 2017 Annual Progress Report**
- ✓ **Held 3 SPC meetings**
- ✓ **Conducted website improvements**
- ✓ **Coordinated the development of Work Plans to guide next phase of Source Protection**
- ✓ **Appointed Kristin Muskratt as a interim First Nations representative on the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee**



Drinking Water Source Protection Road Sign

## BAY OF QUINTE REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN

The Bay of Quinte was designated an Area of Concern in 1985 by the International Joint Commission under the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* between Canada and the United States. The environmental concerns included excess nutrients, persistent toxic contamination, bacterial contamination, and the loss or destruction of fish and wildlife habitat. A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) is the response of government, industry, and the local community to address the Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) and remove the Area of Concern designation.

Lower Trent Conservation provides the local administration of the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan which includes communications and technical support aimed at the clean-up of the Bay. Lower Trent Conservation also co-chairs the Restoration Council. The Restoration Council includes agencies from all levels of government, as well as local representatives, who have come together to implement the Remedial Action Plan.

The current focus of the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan is facilitating the process for removing the Area of Concern designation for the remaining BUIs and coordinating actions to address the outstanding recommendations.

### Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan Highlights

- ✓ **Degradation of Fish & Wildlife Populations BUI, Degradation of Benthos BUI, and Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat BUI were re-designated as 'not impaired'**
- ✓ **Public input was sought and obtained on the 'not impaired' status of the Beach Closures BUI**



Bay of Quinte at  
Centennial Park  
Trenton