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July 10, 2015



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2015 Business Plan Update - April to June 2015

Lower Trent Conservation's Quarterly Report provides a summary of work accomplished for the period. In addition to the highlights provided, staff worked on ongoing projects and responded to numerous public and agency inquiries.

The Quarterly Report has been circulated to the CAO & Clerk for each of our 7 member municipalities. Please share with members of council & staff - they can [subscribe](#) if they wish to receive the report directly.

Watershed Science & Services

Environmental Planning & Regulations

- Reviewed & commented on 29 [municipal planning](#) applications
 - review & input to 6 ongoing subdivision files, including stormwater
 - 7 site plan control applications
 - 10 meetings with municipal staff to discuss planning applications
- [Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation](#)
 - approved 32 permits
 - conducted enforcement investigations related to 8 new violations
 - working with landowners on 6 ongoing violations
 - prepared Crown Brief for 2 violations
- Conducted 40 site inspections to support planning & regulations reviews
- Completed 122 general development inquiries to provide site specific advice & information regarding environmental/hazard land constraints
- Preparation for Ontario Municipal Board Hearing
- Attended Department of Fisheries & Oceans training workshop

Flood Forecasting & Warning

- Conducted [daily monitoring](#) of water levels & weather, ice & snow conditions
- Issued one [Flood Outlook Statement](#) and one Water Safety Statement to raise awareness with municipalities & the public about the potential for change in water conditions
- Compiled detailed information on LTC floodplain mapping for Conservation Ontario and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Environmental Monitoring & Reporting

- Collected data to support long term [water monitoring program](#)

- o Measured groundwater levels & downloaded data from 4 [Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network](#) well sites
- o Collected monthly stream water samples & water quality measurements from 10 [Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network](#) sites
- o [Benthic macroinvertebrate](#) sampling at 20 Lower Trent Conservation sites and 15 Provincial Biocriteria project sites
- o Installed water temperature loggers at 26 locations in the watershed

Education, Outreach & Stewardship

- [Quinte Children's Water Festival](#) held on May 20 & 21
 - o 850 students from 40 Grade 3-5 classes
 - o featured 34 water-themed activity centres and a traditional native water blessing
- [Caring for our Watersheds](#) final celebration event held April 22
 - o Students with the 6 top proposals presented their ideas to judges, teachers, dignitaries, family and friends
 - o \$4,500 in awards given to students and matching funds given to their schools
- Continued the 2015 'Hike with Us!' Series
 - o 'Ground Awakening' hike at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area and 'Heart of the Watershed' hike at Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area
 - o Over 40 people attended each hike
- Launched the 2015 Healthy Hikes Challenge in conjunction with Conservation Ontario
- [Yellow Fish Road](#) event in Brighton
 - o 1st Brighton Pathfinders stencilled yellow fish beside storm drains on Main Street & distributed 40 door hanger brochures to serve as a reminder that any materials going down storm drains can impact water quality of local waterways
- Sold 15,000 tree seedlings
- Met with the MNRF hosted Canadian Lands Directors conference field tour at the mouth of the Trent River to provide an overview of Conservation Authorities, Lower Trent Conservation programs, and the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan.
- Guest speaker for 2 special interest groups
 - o 'Gardening with Native Plants' at the Grafton Horticultural Society
 - o '7 Wonders of the Watershed talk' at the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario and the Belleville Probus Club
- 10 stewardship site visits with landowners
- Native wildflower meadow planting at the Lower Trent Conservation office to demonstrate gardening with native plants
- Live staking of willow and dogwood on Cold Creek with the Cold Creek Fly Fishers to reduce bank erosion
- Healthy Shorelines - Clean Water revamped to Healthy Lands - Clean Water to include new project categories

Conservation Lands

- Completed a sign inventory for properties including road signs
- Installed new kiosk and signage at Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area
- Upgrades to bridge at Bleasdel Boulder Conservation Area for increased accessibility & safety
- Upgrades to the Beaver Loop trail at Goodrich-Loomis Conservation Area
- Privy installed at Haldimand Conservation Area
- Completed routine spring maintenance of Conservation Areas
- Held a bioblitz at the Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area - guest ecologist attended to conduct species & habitat inventories

Drinking Water Source Protection

Local Activities

- Produced threat factsheet, banner and promotional materials for education & outreach
- Attended Alnwick/Haldimand Council meeting to provide an overview and provide technical support to decision-making
- Attended meeting with Hastings County planners regarding Official Plan and Zoning By-law

updates

- Attended Source Protection Committee meeting
- Risk management activities
 - developed template for Agricultural Risk Management Plans to mitigate home heating agricultural threats
 - letters and phone calls to agricultural landowners with significant threats
 - completed 6 site visits with agricultural landowners
 - verified that no significant threat activities were occurring within the vulnerable area on 4 agricultural properties
 - established 2 Risk Management Plans to mitigate a home heating oil tank threat

Regional Activities

- Initiated work on renovations to the Trent Conservation Coalition website
- Held a Source Protection Committee meeting on June 26
 - first meeting since the plan came into effect on January 1, 2015; focused on current implementation efforts
- Lower Trent Source Protection Authority passed a resolution to appoint all members of the Source Protection Committee, whose membership is to expire, as interim members until Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change proposed amendments to the [regulation](#) governing the Source Protection Committee are finalized

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

- Distributed 3 monthly newsletters
- Initiated landowner site visits for stewardship programs
- Initiated South Sidney Healthy Soils pilot project
- Held annual algae/water quality meeting
- Presentation on Phosphorus Management Strategy at the St. Lawrence River Institute Conference
- Updates to website
- Initiated a campaign to solicit public feedback on the quality of fish & wildlife populations and habitats

Corporate Services

- Held 3 Board of Directors meetings and a Hearings Committee meeting
- Hired several summer students/contract positions
- Hosted retirement party for Don Campbell, who retired from Lower Trent Conservation after 37 years of exemplary service. Don was hired as Secretary-Treasurer in 1978
- Kelly Vandette was hired to replace Don Campbell as Manager, Corporate Services. Kelly's most recent work was with the Town of Aurora and Region of York
- Board of Directors approved an updated Employee Recognition Program at its May 14th meeting. The program is in place to recognize staff for ongoing and long term service
- Board of Directors approved minor updates to its Purchasing Policy at its May 14th meeting

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