

April 9, 2015



2015 BUSINESS PLAN QUARTERLY Report

LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION

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2015 Business Plan Update - January to March 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 38 [municipal planning](#) applications
 - review & input to 7 ongoing subdivision files, including stormwater
 - 7 site plan control applications
 - 17 meetings with municipal staff to discuss planning applications
- [Development, Interference with Wetlands & Alterations to Shorelines & Watercourses Regulation](#)
 - approved 19 permits
 - conducted enforcement investigations related to 2 new violations
 - prepared Crown Brief for a violation
- Conducted 30 site inspections to support planning & regulations reviews
- Completed 52 general development inquiries to provide site specific advice & information regarding environmental/hazard land constraints
- Launched electronic record keeping system

Flood Forecasting & Warning

- Conducted [daily monitoring](#) of water levels & weather, ice & snow conditions
 - snow surveys every two weeks through winter & early spring
- Issued [Flood Outlook Statement](#) to raise awareness with municipalities & the public about the potential for change in water conditions due to ice jamming on local creeks & streams

Environmental Monitoring & Reporting

- Collected data to support long term [water monitoring program](#)
 - Measured groundwater levels & downloaded data from 5 [Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network](#) well sites
 - Collected stream water samples & water quality measurements from 10 [Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network](#) sites

Education, Outreach & Stewardship

- Registration opened Feb 2 for [Quinte Children's Water Festival](#)
 - all spaces filled with 42 Grade 3-5 classes
 - 2 new activity centres constructed

- Deadline for [Caring for our Watersheds](#) contest (Mar 31)
 - Received 38 proposals from 6 schools
- Launched 2015 'Hike with Us!' Series
 - 'Surviving Winter' hike at Seymour Conservation Area was 1st of 5 events
 - 15 people attended
- Participated in Brighton History Open House with display on ecological & cultural history of the Murray Marsh
- Guest speaker at 6 special interest groups ranging from 10-65 participants
 - Codrington Women's Institute
 - Quinte Field Naturalists Club
 - Trenton Probus Club
 - Cramahe Horticultural Club
 - Warkworth Service Club
 - Cold Creek Fly Fishers Club
- Participated in stewardship partnership activities
 - Kawartha Farm Stewardship Workshop (Bethany)
 - [Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan](#) Marsh Monitoring Workshop (Belleville)

Conservation Lands

- Prepared background reports for Sager, Trenton Greenbelt & Glen Miller Conservation Areas
 - includes overview of acquisition, natural features, facilities & future management issues
- Conducted winter maintenance of equipment in preparation for field season
- Completed routine winter maintenance of Conservation Areas
- Designed interpretive sign for Murray Marsh Natural Habitat Area

Drinking Water Source Protection

Local Activities

- Finalized Education & Outreach Strategy
 - produced door hanger brochure for landowners with verified threats
- Coordinated a meeting for municipal planners to incorporate source protection policies into Official Plans
- Finalized implementation guidance on signage, land acquisition, emergency response policies, septic and transport pathway bylaws for municipalities to address source protection plan policies
- Risk management activities
 - developed template for Residential Fuel Risk Management Plan to mitigate home heating oil tank threats
 - completed 3 site visits with landowners having home heating oil tanks & initiated negotiation of risk management plans
 - established 1 Risk Management Plan to mitigate a home heating oil tank threat

Regional Activities

- Initiated implementation of the [Trent & Ganaraska Source Protection Plans](#) effective Jan 1
 - provided support to partner Conservation Authorities & municipalities
 - minor amendments made to documents to provide clarity & correct errors
 - printed copies of Plans for distribution to municipalities & Source Protection Committee
- Prepared tabloid summarizing Source Protection Planning process
- Prepared Business Plan for 2015/16 fiscal year
 - approved by Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change
 - agreement established between Province & Lower Trent Conservation

Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan

- Completed year end reporting & project planning for next fiscal year
- Held municipal working group meeting to appoint representatives to Restoration Council
 - Matt Tracey, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services, City of Quinte West
 - Todd Harvey, Operations Manager, Water/Wastewater, Town of Deseronto (alternate)
- Distributed 3 monthly newsletters
- Held annual Community Wildlife Monitoring presentation
 - 50 people interested in volunteering to monitor local wetlands attended

Corporate Services

- Held Board of Directors Orientation session
 - welcomed 7 new members to Board of 10
- Annual financial audit completed
- Held 2 Board of Directors meetings, including Annual Meeting
 - 2015 [Business Plan](#) & Budget approved
 - 2014 Financial Statements approved
 - conducted elections for Officers
 - new Chair, Ray Bennis from Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
 - new Vice-Chair, Jim Alyea from City of Quinte West
- Prepared [2014 Annual Report](#) providing highlights of conservation program & summary of expenditures/revenues
- Staff recruitment & hiring
 - developed job descriptions & advertised for 6 summer/2 contract positions
 - hired Chris Wilkinson, Source Protection Program Coordinator
 - hired Corinne Harris, Education & Outreach Technician
- Launched Mainstream News, an electronic bulletin providing updates on volunteer opportunities, events and program updates

Contact Us

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