



## **CONSERVATION MATTERS Annual Appeal**

Thank you for your contribution to nature conservation and support for watershed-based resource management.

Water resources and habitat health cannot be taken for granted. Our changing climate and increased settlement place continuous pressure on lakes and groundwater, shoreline habitats, and the ecologic processes that support our communities and the wildlife we cherish. When you contribute to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation you are helping to ensure continued management and protection of natural resources in your community. Your contribution supports and provides:

- children with the opportunity to learn about their environment in an outdoor classroom and to experience first-hand the wonders of nature and the importance of individual stewardship;
- sustainable management of conservation lands and heritage resources held-in-trust for the enjoyment of current and future generations;
- scientific research to better understand how climate change, invasive species, and human settlement are impacting our watershed environment and potential risks to the local economy and jobs;
- development and delivery of community stewardship programs including shoreline plantings and reforestation of fallow land;
- update of predictive modeling to reflect our changing climate and to identify and plan for flood and drought risks and other changes on the landscape; and
- advice to property owners on how to mitigate flood and drought risks, protect and reinstate shoreline habitat, and prevent ground and surface water contamination.

Provincial Bill 108, adopted earlier this year, places many of these services at risk by dramatically changing the funding model of Conservation Authorities (CAs). This change coupled with cuts in provincial transfers announced in April are forcing many CAs to reallocate funds away from natural resource management and conservation—their mandate since the 1940s. At this time, it is unclear whether any of the services identified above will be eligible for sustainable baseline funding from member municipalities.

2020 will be a year of transition for Conservation Authorities including MVCA. Regulations spelling out funding limitations are to be released early next year and the Foundation will be monitoring the situation closely to determine where and how best it can support continued conservation at the local level.

By contributing to Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation you will help to ensure continuity in service delivery regardless of changes occurring in funding and the funding model. You are also demonstrating to the government and your community the importance of ensuring robust and integrated watershed-based programming that supports conservation of local natural resources.



Here's how your donation helps to monitor, assess and conserve natural resources in your community:

- \$50 allows for laboratory analysis of 3 lake water samples
- \$100 buys 30 shrubs for shoreline plantings
- \$150 pays a summer student for a day to conduct field investigations
- \$250 allows us to develop and distribute information on stewardship
- \$500 buys enough supplies to deliver the Outdoor Education program for one season
- \$1,000 allows for installation of a new sign at one of our five conservation areas
- \$3,000 buys a software license to perform advanced system modeling
- \$5,000 allows for annual maintenance to boardwalks or construction of a new wetland lookout
- \$10,000 will allow us to build a new maintenance shed to protect equipment at the Mill of Kintail

At this time of year, all of us are reflecting on life's priorities and where and how we want to dedicate our time and resources. This letter asks that you include nature conservation and the health of your watershed on your donation list this season, and to contribute to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation.

There are **THREE EASY WAYS** to donate:

1. **Visit** [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org) and search for *Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation* to make a one-time or monthly contribution.
2. **Send a cheque** made out to *Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation* to:  
10970 Highway 7, Carleton Place, ON., K7C 3P1
3. **Call or email** Angela Millar, Treasurer to arrange for credit card payment or monthly bank transfers ([amillar@mvc.on.ca](mailto:amillar@mvc.on.ca); 613-253-0006 ext. 224.)

Donations of \$10 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt.

Thank you again for being a proponent of nature conservation and education. Your financial support directly contributes to the health of our watershed and the sustainability of your community.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Lehman".

Paul Lehman  
MVCF President