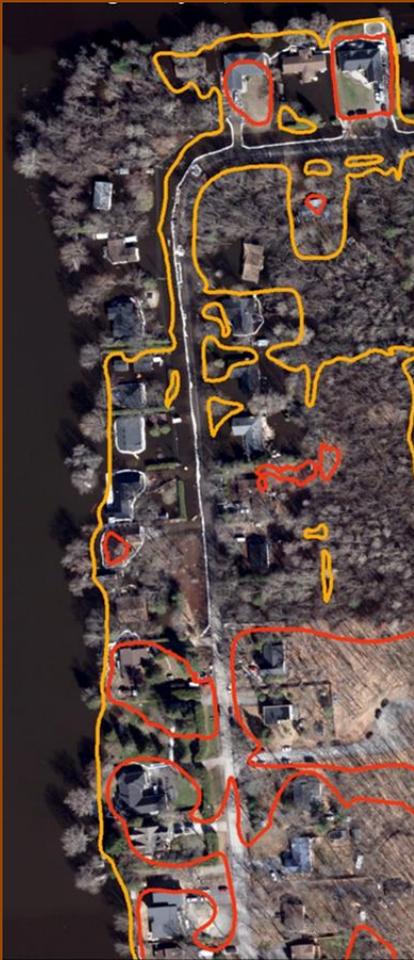


MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION UPDATE

July 2019



The City of Ottawa arranged for aerial photography of the Ottawa River shoreline during the freshet that provides the MVCA, Rideau Valley CA and South Nation Conservation with imaging of the extent of flooding within our areas of jurisdiction.

This information will be used to verify modelling results, answer questions from the public and assist in future planning and permit review.

2019 SPRING FLOOD

April-May 2019 saw record water levels in the Mississippi and Ottawa watersheds.

LAKE	2019 PEAK (m)	HISTORIC PEAK (m)
Dalhousie	158.13	157.86 (April 1998)
Kashwakamak	261.50	261.42 (June 2002)
Mazinaw	268.59	268.37 (June 2002)
Mississagagon	268.50	268.42 (June 2002)
Ottawa River	60.75	60.44 (May 2017)

MVCA experienced washout of the by-pass at the Mazinaw Lake water control structure, but limited damage at other structures. A more comprehensive inspection will be carried out of all structures in the fall when water levels are low.

Open Houses

MVCA organized three open houses in the hardest hit areas to provide homeowners the opportunity to understand why severe flooding occurred, and information and assistance regarding next steps for shoreline restoration and rebuilding applications and permits. The open houses in Carleton Place, McDonald's Corners and Constance Bay were well attended. A fourth is planned for the upper watershed later this year.

Board Approves Discounted Fees

At its May meeting, the MVCA Board of Directors approved a 50% reduction for those applying for permits associated with recovery from the flood event. Call 613-253-0006 for details.

Provincial Taskforce

On May 10, the provincial government announced it had created a special task force to improve Ontario's resilience to flooding and that it would consult with affected municipalities, including the City of Ottawa. Later that month, GM Sally McIntyre attended a by-invitation-only meeting organized by the Province and identified the following key needs:

- financial support for flood plain mapping targeting growth municipalities;
- sustained capital funding for water control assets;
- watershed approach to flood and drought management; and
- conservation authorities to be involved in the formulation of a provincial flood management strategy.

At the Constance Bay open house on July 9, Kanata-Carleton MPP Merrilee Fullerton stated that a provincial announcement would be forthcoming regarding next steps.



Netting demonstration, Watershed Tour



Poole Creek, Stittsville



Snapping Turtle, Dalhousie Lake

Contact Us

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Bill 108

In June the Government of Ontario passed Bill 108, the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*. The Act amended several environmental statutes, including the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

The legislative changes define core responsibilities of conservation authorities (CA) and put in place new transparency and accountability processes that will change the way CAs are funded.

As a result, MVCA and all other CAs will begin to develop transition plans for implementation over the next 2 years. MVCA will work closely with member municipalities throughout this process.

June Board Tour

From Dalhousie Lake and the height of High Falls, to Palmerston-Canonto Conservation Area and the cottage country lakes of Ardoch and Malcolm, the MVCA Board of Directors toured the western portion of the Mississippi River watershed where the majority of water structures are located.

Mississippi Watershed Plan - Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

The MVCA is embarking on development of a Watershed Plan and will be forming an advisory committee to provide comment, information and recommendations to staff and the Board of Directors. The watershed plan involves three key phases:

Scoping & Characterization (On-going thru to Oct. 2019)

Analysis & Evaluation (Sept. 2019 - Feb. 2020)

Watershed Plan Development (Mar. 2020 - Oct. 2020)

MVCA will publish notices regarding the Public Advisory Committee in the summer and confirm membership in September. Contact Alyson Symon for more information at asymon@mvc.on.ca.

Summer Stewardship Program

Upper Poole Creek in the community of Stittsville is set to benefit from a restoration plan. Stewardship activities include shoreline planting, stream clean up, invasive species removal and fish habitat enhancement. Work will occur throughout the summer and volunteers are welcomed to participate. Contact Amy Tenbult for more information: atenbult@mvc.on.ca

Did you know that...

All eight species of turtles found in Ontario are endangered, threatened, of special concern, or extirpated under the Province's Species at Risk list. Turtles account for a large portion of animals killed on Ontario's roadways each year; nesting females are particularly vulnerable. Take care while driving and report sightings to: www.ontarionature.org/atlas