

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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February 2021



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# Chair's Report

JANET MASON

## Opportunity knocks

Let's quickly review the highlights from 2020.

First, we had to direct significant time and resources to operate effectively under the constraints of the pandemic. That's all I'm going to say about this topic.

The board reviewed and approved an updated, multi-million dollar 10-year capital plan to renew the Authority's aging water control structures, and ensure renewal of other assets such as conservation areas and our office building. We also committed to developing a long-term asset management plan to address capital renewal over the long term.

We continued to develop the Mississippi River Watershed Management Plan under the leadership of Alyson Symon working with a Public Advisory Committee. More on that later.

And, finally I must mention the Carp River! In November MVCA launched a new conservation area in Kanata - the Carp River Conservation Area. It showcases how a degraded system can be restored into functional and beautiful green infrastructure in a high-density suburban area, offering recreation for people and habitat for wildlife. MVCA also launched Phase 1 of the Carp River Living Classroom, an education and discovery program at the conservation area that will be enjoyed by residents and used by schools.

This conservation area with its Living Classroom program is a strategic asset. It will highlight MVCA's profile in Ottawa with goals of attracting partners and donors.

### **A few acknowledgements are in order:**

- Thank you to Sally and staff at MVCA for having the flexibility and fortitude to get the job done while dealing with inconveniences and health concerns and family life disruptions. And all those planning permits!
- Thank you to Glen Gower for serving as Vice Chair and offering valuable feedback and advice, especially during the early stages of the pandemic.
- Thank you to the board committee chairs and vice chairs for all the work you did to prepare for and lead the many meetings and discussions. Your work made the work of the board so much easier. Finance and Admin: Chair Christa Lowry and Vice Chair Phil Sweetnam. P&P: Chair Jeff Atkinson and Vice Chair Kirby Thompson.
- Thank you to John Karau for the many hours of guidance and advice as our board representative and as the Chair of the Public Advisory Committee for the Watershed Management Plan.
- Thank you to Bev Holmes, Jeff Atkinson, and Christa Lowry for your leadership in exploring options for preserving the Naismith and McKenzie museum collections at the Mill of Kintail.

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## Enough of 2020

I'm a forward looking individual so let's look at what's in store for MVCA in 2021. Three big focus areas.

First, this will be a Transition Year in capital letters. We will move to implement Bills 108 and 229 with respect to the core mandate to be ready for 2022. We had hoped that the Province would wait until 2023 to align with the municipal election cycle, but it looks like they will push forward with 2022 as the implementation year.

- Transition means that municipalities will need to decide what non-core services they will opt into. MOUs with MVCA will be developed.
- It means that MVCA will need to review its bylaws and processes to ensure they reflect changes in the regulations.
- It means we must rethink our budget as there will be an impact on levy revenue. Sally already began this process with the 2020 budget by separating out core and non-core line items.
- And it means we will need to have a plan for ensuring that the Naismith and McKenzie museum collections remain available for public enjoyment under new stewardship. They are part of our local cultural heritage and Canadian treasures. Their preservation is of national significance.

Second, we will be completing the Mississippi River's Watershed Management Plan, which the board will review for approval this summer. The plan has been informed by input from a Public Advisory Committee with representation from stakeholders across the watershed: Agriculture, Aggregates & Mining Development, Environmental Groups, Forestry, Hydro Producers, Lake Associations, Tourism, and Watershed Ratepayers.

- As board members, you are stewards of this 200 km long river and its 3750 km<sup>2</sup> watershed. The WMP will guide your municipalities' plans and activities over many years.
- Our plan must deal with the unpredictability of future conditions resulting from climate change: drought, floods, temperature extremes, flora and fauna diseases and extirpation. We need resilience in our green infrastructure and team work from our municipalities to manage our watershed for the future of all our stakeholders. As I said last year, we are all neighbours sharing a valuable natural resource.
- We just published eight Discussion papers and are currently holding public webinars. I encourage you to read these papers as they provide three or four page summaries about the key components of our watershed: Agriculture, Growth & Development, Forestry, Municipal Infrastructure, Natural Systems, Tourism, Water Management, and Waterfront Properties.

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Third and finally, we will be developing a new 5-year strategic plan. I am glad this was delayed a year, because it means that the goals and objectives of the organization will be informed by the new legislation, new regulations, and the watershed management plan.

I am a pragmatic optimist. I think we can view the new legislation and the watershed management plan as opportunities to transform the organization for the future. I have two quotes that capture my thinking. They both use the word “crisis”, which may be too strong a word for our situation, but the sentiment is valid.

*"When written in Chinese, the word crisis is composed of two characters -- one represents danger, and the other represents opportunity."* John F. Kennedy

*"Never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before."* Rahm Emanuel

All this means that there will be lots of work for MVCA and for the board. So buckle up, it's going to be another wild ride. Opportunity is knocking!

## General Manager's Report SALLY MCINTYRE

### Highlights from 2020

#### Mississippi River Watershed Plan

The Chair has shone light on this milestone project, which has been a tremendous accomplishment for the organization. Involvement from the community and staff is allowing MVCA to develop a plan that will be relevant, useful, and reflect the shared vision of a cross-section of watershed users. We look forward to completing the Watershed Plan in 2021!

#### Risk Management

Almost all staff at MVCA are involved in risk management activities in various ways. Work carried out in 2020 including the following:

- Shabomeka Lake Dam:
  - Conducted technology review
  - Commenced detailed design
  - Implemented new monitoring procedures
- Conducted risk analysis of Kashwakamak Lake Dam
- Installed temporary fencing at Widow Lake Dam
- Managing water erosion control EA on Carp Creek for City of Ottawa
- Installed 4 auto-gauges across the watershed
- Completed 204 log operations

- Obtained approval-in-principle from North Frontenac to obtain permanent easements at Shabomeka Lake Dam and Mazinaw Lake Dam
- Received 262 permit applications; issued 222 permits; conducted >220 inspections
- Reviewed 297 planning applications
- Surveyed entire Carp River in preparation for floodplain mapping update
- Produced flood frequency maps for Constance Creek and Huntley Creek
- Created a hydrologic model for the Casey Creek sub-watershed
- Completed bathymetric surveys of Farm Lake, Marble Lake, and upper Mississippi River

### **Conservation Areas & Programming**

The pandemic necessitated change in operations and program delivery to provide safe access and alternative service delivery. This included:

- Temporary closure of all CAs due to COVID-19 lockdown
- Enhanced washroom cleaning at all sites per Public Health recommendations
- Enlarged temporary parking area at Mill of Kintail
- Produced videos for the Mill of Kintail, Purdon, Morris Island, and Carp River CAs.
- Museum visits down from ~8,700 to ~500 (2019 to 2020)
- Implemented MOK event limits and revised fees
- Parking/pass revenues increased from \$25,164 to \$51,364 (2019 to 2020)
- Addressing on-road parking with Mississippi Mills
- Delivered summer outreach events: at 2 provincial parks, 7 boat launches, 7 beaches, and 3 of our conservation areas across the watersheds.

Despite the pandemic, we were able to complete several capital projects including:

- Conducted structural assessment of K&P Bridge over the Clyde River; and replaced railings with SRSC
- Signed 5-year Licence of Occupancy for the Carp River Restoration area including the right to call it the “Carp River Conservation Area” (CRCA)
- Installed 9 signs at CRCA and maintained over 18 km of trails across portfolio

### **Source Water Protection**

2020 was the 6th year implementing the *Mississippi Rideau Source Protection Plan*. Work included:

- Plan amendments to allow for:
  - new surface water intake for Ottawa’s Lemieux Island Water Purification Plant
  - new well in North Grenville
- Obtaining approval of revised chemical policies and new well in May 2020
- Continuing to work on Section 36 Workplan to update Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report
- Consulting with the Province on proposed amendments to the Directors Technical Rules



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## System Monitoring

Monitoring programs were delayed and curtailed because of the pandemic, but key activities proceeded, including:

- Main Stem lakes: Kashwakamak, Dalhousie, Mississippi
- Focus on Buckshot Subwatershed: Buckshot Lake, Mississagagon Lake and Grindstone Lake.
- 21 temperature loggers were launched: 6 lake sites, 4 sites in the City, and 11 on-shield sites.
- COVID-19 impacts:
  - Stream monitoring and habitat classification work was limited
  - No electrofishing or City Stream Watch program delivery

## Water Quality monitoring:

- The City's baseline monitoring program resumed in July.
- The provincial water quality monitoring program (PWQMP) resumed in October.

## Septic system Re-Inspections:

- 8 voluntary inspections
- Central Frontenac on-hold due to COVID-19

## COVID-19 Response

The pandemic posed operational challenges and required constant adaptation throughout the year as understanding of the virus evolved and new regulations and advisories were issued and updated.

- Developed and implemented Emergency Response Plan
- Board approved 2 weeks sick-leave and discretionary COVID leave
- Amended by-laws to allow for Zoom board meetings and formation of Executive Committee
- Developed and implemented pandemic-specific business practices and Health and Safety SOPs
- Obtained hardware and software to enable remote work; obtained dedicated internet service
- Maintained regulated service levels throughout
- Coordinated response with E. Ontario CA caucus
- 1 person/vehicle cost ~\$46,000 across all service areas

## Financial and Asset Management

- Adjusted programming per provincial Section 39 funding cut
- Carried out capital and operational needs assessment
- Developed 3-year *Interim Financial Plan*
- Updated *10-year Capital Plan*
- Updated policies regarding vacation time; gifts and gratuities

## Corporate Planning

- Commenced Corporate Strategic Planning process
- Began reallocation of resources per new categories under *Bill 108 / Bill 228*

# Financial Statements CROSS STREET, FEBRUARY 2021

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31,	2020	2019
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,335,801	973,835
Short-term investments (note 3)	1,605,160	1,096,421
Long-term investments (note 3)	-	501,447
Accounts receivable, trade and other (note 4)	520,284	401,631
	<u>3,461,245</u>	<u>2,973,334</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	285,400	191,988
Deferred revenue (note 5)	490,698	365,509
Current portion of long-term debt (note 6)	144,759	139,960
Long-term debt (note 6)	3,780,705	3,925,464
Retirement benefit liability (note 7)	152,376	150,916
	<u>4,853,938</u>	<u>4,773,837</u>
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<u>(1,392,693)</u>	<u>(1,800,503)</u>
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Tangible capital assets (note 8)	6,548,656	6,720,642
Prepaid expenses	22,037	3,048
	<u>6,570,693</u>	<u>6,723,690</u>
Contingent Liabilities and Commitments (note 14)		
Subsequent Events (note 15)		
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (note 9)</b>	<u>\$ 5,178,000</u>	<u>4,923,187</u>

Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31,	Budget (Note 10)	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>			
Municipal levy - general	\$ 3,132,320	3,046,450	3,027,850
Municipal levy - special	61,500	36,352	55,961
	<u>3,193,820</u>	<u>3,082,802</u>	<u>3,083,811</u>
Other revenue (Schedule 1)	1,045,476	639,165	879,574
Government grant - Ministry of Natural Resources	128,438	128,436	128,438
Government grant - other provincial	13,445	13,445	13,445
Conservation area - fees, sales and rental	78,000	62,949	80,180
Supplementary programs	15,000	25,871	22,224
Donations	15,500	16,743	8,582
	<u>4,489,679</u>	<u>3,969,411</u>	<u>4,216,254</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Corporate services (Schedule 2)	606,469	609,972	705,061
Watershed management (Schedule 2)	1,485,131	1,304,537	1,515,467
Flood and erosion control (Schedule 2)	705,579	700,571	672,624
Stewardship services (Schedule 2)	849,262	646,307	644,767
Supplementary programs (Schedule 2)	-	16,026	22,224
Interest on long-term debt	-	148,167	141,685
Amortization of tangible capital assets	-	289,018	303,755
	<u>3,646,441</u>	<u>3,714,598</u>	<u>4,005,583</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<u>843,238</u>	<u>254,813</u>	<u>210,671</u>
<b>Accumulated Surplus, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>4,923,187</u>	<u>4,923,187</u>	<u>4,712,516</u>
<b>Accumulated Surplus, End of Year (note 9)</b>	<u>\$ 5,766,425</u>	<u>5,178,000</u>	<u>4,923,187</u>



Your partner in risk management, resource conservation, and stewardship.



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