



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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# Chair's Report

JEFF ATKINSON, CARLETON PLACE

## Another Busy Year!

This past year was another busy one for the Board of Directors, but more significantly the hard-working staff at the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

In February, the province released long-awaited new regulations that brought changes to the way Ontario's Conservation Authorities are governed, operated, and funded. Among these new rules were two-year term limits for the people that serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors. As a result, Janet Mason stepped aside after two years as Chair and I was chosen to succeed her.

I want to acknowledge Janet's leadership over her shorter-than-expected term, in particular her drive to establish the Carp River Conservation Area. This new conservation area, with its living classroom, is a wonderful asset for the MVCA within the City of Ottawa that will be enjoyed by residents and used by schools. I also want to thank Janet for stepping into the Vice-Chair position and continuing to share her good advice and wisdom.

The new regulations also brought with them new reporting requirements, new deadlines for permit applications, and – most significantly – new definitions for the “core” functions performed by Conservation Authorities and how member municipalities will fund them going forward. Adapting to these changes will take time. For programs no longer considered “core” —such as the museum and education centre at the Mill of Kintail, or summer camp programs — MVCA will seek to secure funding through agreements with local municipalities where possible. By-laws and policies are being updated. Staffing levels and workloads across the MVCA are also being reviewed to ensure that it can deliver these refocused priorities efficiently and sustainably.

The past year was not only about adapting to change. It was also a year of some significant accomplishments. Among those was the completion of the Mississippi River Watershed Management Plan. Forward-looking, well researched, and informed by voices from across the watershed, this foundational document will serve as a guide for local municipal planning and activities for years to come.

Floodplain mapping for the lower Mississippi River was reviewed and updated using state-of-the-art mapping technology. MVCA also embarked on a major data acquisition project in partnership with the counties and other eastern Ontario CAs. Detailed geo-referenced elevation data obtained using LiDAR technology will allow for the development of models vital to the design and operation of the system to mitigate the impacts of future floods and drought. Structural reviews and repairs to key water control structures were also completed in 2021, most notably the dams at Shabomeka Lake and Kashwakamak Lake.

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As we move into 2022, MVCA will continue to adapt and adjust its planning and operations to align with the new priorities set by the province. On the horizon will be the establishment of permanent Public Advisory Committees for the Mississippi and Carp watersheds, the start of negotiations with local municipalities towards MOUs and Cost Apportionment Agreements (CAAs) for the funding of non-core programs, and further tweaks to by-laws where necessary.

And, as always, the dedicated and hard-working staff at the MVCA will continue to deliver programming and services to municipalities and residents within the Mississippi and Carp river watersheds. I want to specifically acknowledge the good work that our staff do. The past few years have been challenging – significant staff turnover including changes in senior management, changes in regulations and work priorities, a hundred-year flood, an unprecedented building boom, and then wave after wave after wave of plague. Despite that, the work gets done, and done well. Thank you!

## General Manager's Report SALLY MCINTYRE

### Highlights from 2021

The pandemic continued to pose operational challenges and required periodic adaptations during the year as understanding of the virus evolved and lockdowns were imposed and lifted. Despite this, productivity at the Authority was largely unaffected in 2021 with staff tackling projects on various fronts and achieving significant accomplishments, as summarized below.

#### **Risk Management**

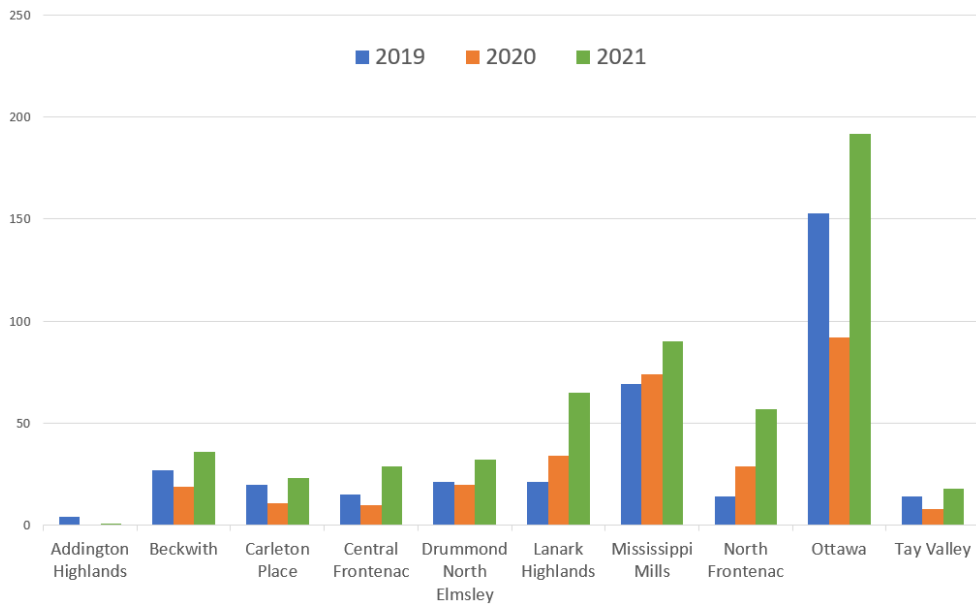
Almost all staff at MVCA are involved in risk management activities in various ways. 2021 saw a record number of permit and planning applications as shown on the following page. Permits and plan reviews help to prevent damage to people and property from natural hazards, and protect habitat and wildlife from the cumulative impacts of land development. Other risk management work carried out in 2021 including the following:

- Reconstruction of the Shabomeka Dam embankments was tendered twice due to extraordinary pricing being experienced because of the pandemic and construction boom.
- A Dam Safety Review (DSR) was completed of Kashwakamak Dam, which resulted in update of its Hazard Potential Classification (HPC) from Low to High.
- An erosion control project on Carp Creek for the City of Ottawa was completed successfully.
- Regulatory mapping was prepared and approved for Casey Creek, a tributary to Constance Creek in the City of Ottawa.
- Review and update of Lower Mississippi River flood plain mapping commenced.
- High resolution geo-referenced elevation data was collected using LiDAR technology in the upper watershed.
- Completed 195 dam operations and installed 2 new auto-data gauges for system monitoring.

## 2021 Planning Applications

	Severance	Zoning Amend't	Minor Variance	Site Plan	DPA	OPA	Subdiv.	Condo	TOTAL
Addington Highlands			1						1
Beckwith	5	6	6	18			1		36
Carleton Place	2				18	1	2		23
Central Frontenac	17	2	10						29
Drummond North Elmsley	17	6	9						32
Lanark Highlands	41	9	10	2		3			65
Mississippi Mills	35	18	21	11		2	3		90
North Frontenac	28	8	20	1					57
Ottawa	80	34	29	36		3	8	2	192
Tay Valley	10	1	2	5					18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>543</b>

## Volume of Applications 2019-2021



### LiDAR Flight Lines

MVCA jurisdictional boundary

Flown in 2021

Planned for 2022

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## **Conservation Areas & Programming**

The pandemic continued to impact program delivery in 2021, however, the public continued to patronize our sites at record numbers. While no education programs ran for a second year, many homeschool groups made use of the site and trails throughout the year. The museum saw about 1,500 visitors; and several small weddings occurred during the summer and fall at the Cloister on the Hill. Our friends at Haunted Walk Ottawa partnered with Phantoms of Yore and held two sold-out events with proceeds going to the museum. And, buildings and grounds were beautifully decorated for the December festive season to boost attendance and community morale.

Several capital improvements were made at our sites including the following:

- Phase 1 work began on rebuilding the boardwalk through Purdon Conservation Area fence.
- Painting and final renovations of the Boy Scout Cabin at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area.
- Renovation of the verandah on the historical gatehouse at the Mill of Kintail.

## **Mississippi River Watershed Plan**

In July, the Board approved the watershed plan for the Mississippi River. Forward-looking, well researched, and informed by voices from across the watershed, this foundational document will serve as a guide for local municipal planning and activities for years to come.

## **System Monitoring**

Due to the pandemic, field monitoring was curtailed for a second year, with activities focused on completing a full season of the provincial water quality monitoring network (PWQMN) and the City's baseline monitoring program. Provincial groundwater monitoring network (PGMN) sites were checked throughout the year, however, end of season sampling was reduced to 7 of the 9 wells. Seven lakes were sampled, and stream monitoring was reduced to the temperature monitoring protocol while fish and benthic sampling continued to be on hold. Additionally, the City Stream Watch program was not conducted in 2021.

## **Stewardship Program**

A Stewardship Plan was prepared to guide activities over the coming years with the goals to:

- maintain, enhance, and restore natural features and systems so that they may continue to provide ecological services to communities
- mitigate the impacts of urban and rural settlement and climate change
- engage communities and landowners in affecting improvements to publicly and privately-owned lands.

The Stewardship Program saw nine planting events on private properties along the Mississippi River and Ottawa River that included enhancement to a wetland area and replacement of shrubs in the riparian buffer of Centennial Park in Carleton Place. Shrubs were planted along 369 metres of shoreline, with 1514 m<sup>2</sup> of riparian area restored. And tree planting days were held on both Sharbot and Dalhousie Lakes in association with community partners.



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## Corporate Planning

The Board approved a new 5-year [Corporate Strategic Plan](#) with a focus on the following goals:

- Asset Management – revitalize watershed management activities and invest in our legislated mandate.
- Community Building – engage local partners to foster connections, leverage our resources, and strengthen our “social license” to operate.
- People and Performance – support the operational transformations required to achieve MVCA’s priorities and to address legislative changes.

## Workforce Plan

Given continued growth in planning applications, regulatory mapping needs, and the Authority’s capital program, a review of staff requirements was carried out that resulted in Board approval of a Workforce Plan in October. The Plan provided for the addition of 3.33 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff to support existing employees in delivering the Authority’s mandate.

## Managing Stress in the Workplace

Recognizing the amount of change and pressures occurring in the workplace, a survey of employees was carried out mid-year to identify stressors and to continue to identify ways to reduce and mitigate workplace stress. It pointed to many areas requiring improvement, and work in this area continues.

## Regulatory changes

In October, the province released the following regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*:

- O. Reg. 686/21 - prescribes the mandatory programs and services CAs are to provide.
- O. Reg. 687/21 - requires each CA to have a Transition Plan, to develop an inventory of programs and services, and to enter into agreements with participating municipalities.
- O. Reg. 688/21 – consolidates rules of the 36 CAs that govern conservation areas into one document, with no significant changes.

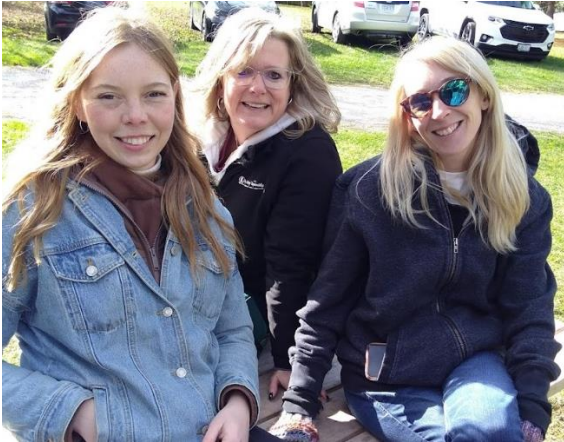
A Transition Plan setting out the process to be followed for moving to the new funding model was approved by the Board in December and submitted to member municipalities for information.



# Approved 2021 Financial Statements CROSS STREET, FEBRUARY 2022

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31,	2021	2020
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 4,331,890	1,335,801
Short-term investments (note 3)	-	1,605,160
Accounts receivable, trade and other (note 4)	369,265	520,284
	<u>4,701,155</u>	<u>3,461,245</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	770,993	285,400
Deferred revenue (note 5)	671,654	490,698
Current portion of long-term debt (note 6)	149,722	144,759
Long-term debt (note 6)	3,630,983	3,780,705
Retirement benefit liability (note 7)	151,794	152,376
	<u>5,375,146</u>	<u>4,853,938</u>
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	(673,991)	(1,392,693)
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Tangible capital assets (note 8)	6,842,473	6,548,656
Intangible assets (note 9)	51,338	-
Prepaid expenses	22,714	22,037
	<u>6,916,525</u>	<u>6,570,693</u>
Contingent Liabilities and Commitments (note 15)		
Subsequent Events (note 16)		
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (note 10)</b>	<u>\$ 6,242,534</u>	<u>5,178,000</u>

Statement of Operations for the year ended December 31,	Budget	2021	2020
	(Note 11)		
<b>Revenue</b>			
Municipal levy - general	\$ 3,244,667	3,330,540	3,046,450
Municipal levy - special	62,000	62,000	36,352
	<u>3,306,667</u>	<u>3,392,540</u>	<u>3,082,802</u>
Other revenue (Schedule 1)	1,640,259	1,427,865	639,165
Government grant - Ministry of Natural Resources	128,438	128,436	128,436
Government grant - other provincial	13,445	13,445	13,445
Conservation area - fees, sales and rental	46,000	94,440	62,949
Supplementary programs	-	19,908	25,871
Donations	15,500	21,077	16,743
	<u>5,150,309</u>	<u>5,097,711</u>	<u>3,969,411</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Corporate services (Schedule 2)	677,585	696,913	609,972
Watershed management (Schedule 2)	1,786,562	1,687,597	1,304,537
Flood and erosion control (Schedule 2)	679,853	626,912	700,571
Stewardship services (Schedule 2)	647,662	581,687	646,307
Supplementary programs (Schedule 2)	-	20,416	16,026
Interest on long-term debt	-	131,835	148,167
Amortization of assets	-	287,817	289,018
	<u>3,791,662</u>	<u>4,033,177</u>	<u>3,714,598</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>	1,358,647	1,064,534	254,813
<b>Accumulated Surplus, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>5,178,000</u>	<u>5,178,000</u>	<u>4,923,187</u>
<b>Accumulated Surplus, End of Year (note 10)</b>	<u>\$ 6,536,647</u>	<u>6,242,534</u>	<u>5,178,000</u>



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



10970 Highway 7, Carleton Place ON, K7C 3P1  
(613) 253-0006 | [info@mvc.on.ca](mailto:info@mvc.on.ca)