



# Land Conservation Strategy

## Public Information Session

July 16 2024

# Welcome

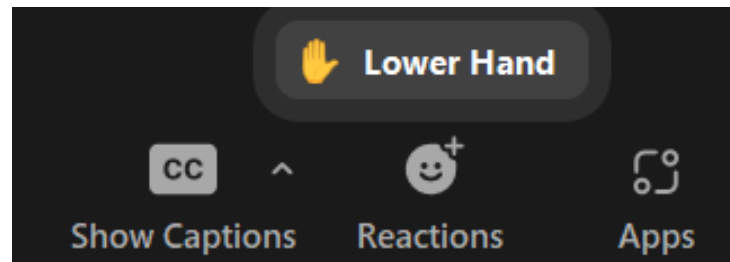
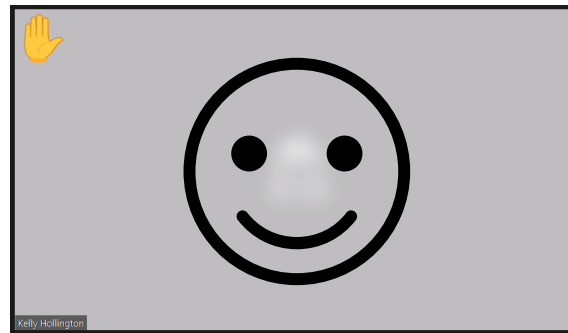
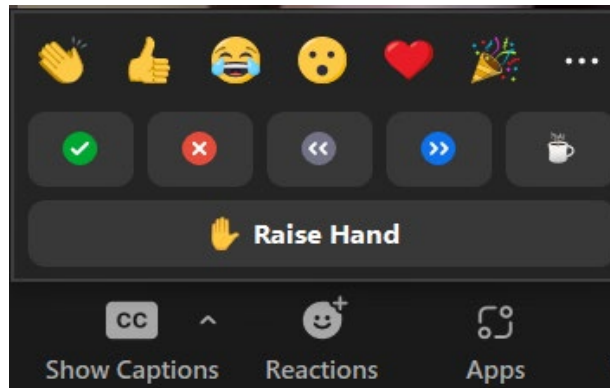
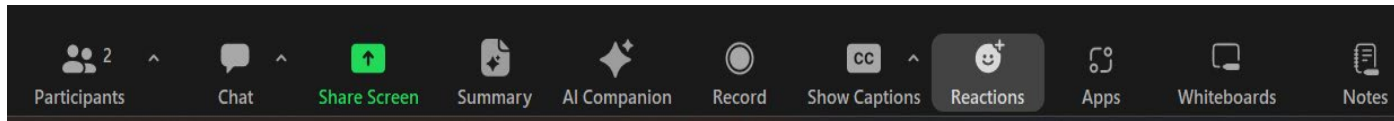
- Sally McIntyre, General Manager
- Kelly Hollington, Zoom Moderator & Tech. Support
- Rachel Clouthier, Chatroom Moderator

Today's Zoom session and the presentation will be posted to our website tomorrow.

Any questions/comments not addressed today can be sent to [info@mvc.on.ca](mailto:info@mvc.on.ca) *RE: Land Conservation Strategy*

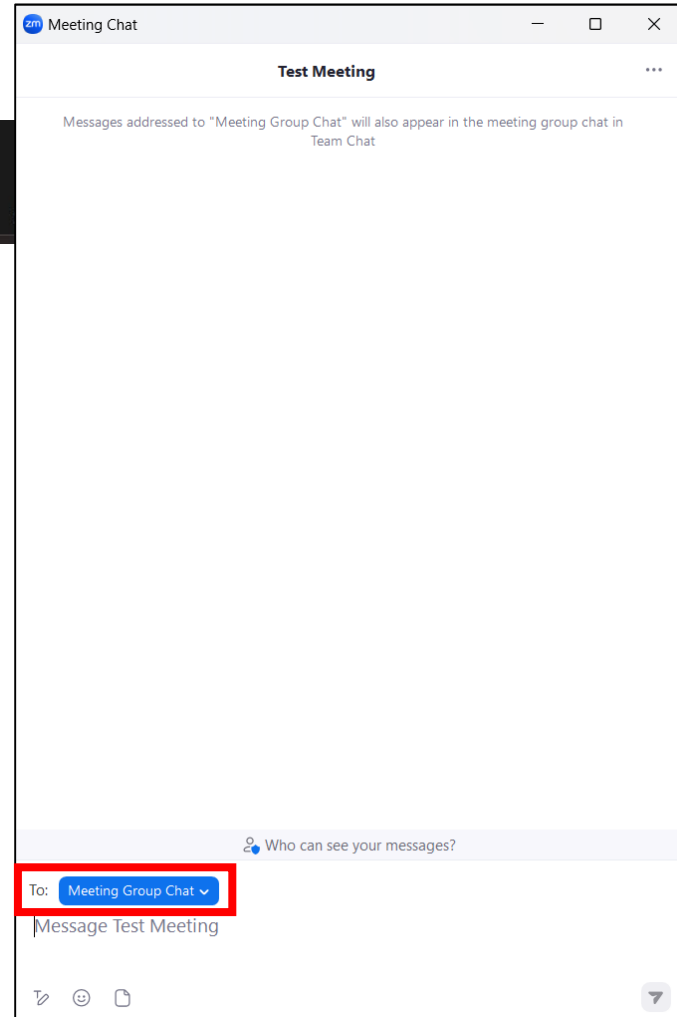
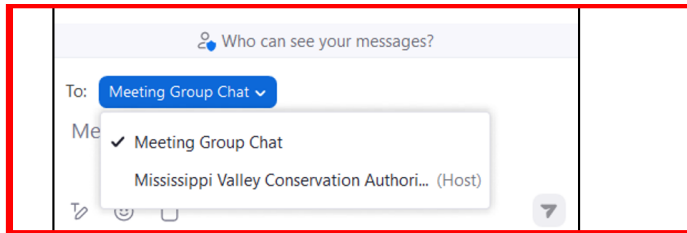
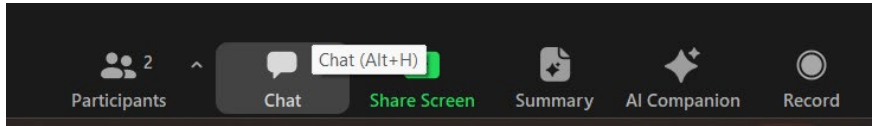
# Addressing the Group

## Raising/Lowering Hand



# Addressing the Group or Moderator

## Using the Chatroom



# Voting & Sharing Results

zm Polls/Quizzes

## Test Poll

1. Test Question (Single Choice)

- Choice 1
- Choice 2
- Choice 3
- Choice 4

0 of 1 answered

Submit

Who can see your responses?

zm Polls/Quizzes

## Test Poll

1. Test Question (Single Choice)

- Choice 1
- Choice 2
- Choice 3
- Choice 4

1 of 1 answered

Submit

Who can see your responses?

zm Polls/Quizzes

You are viewing the poll results (shared by host)

## Test Poll

1. Test Question (Single Choice)

Choice 1	100%
Choice 2	0%
Choice 3	0%
Choice 4	0%

Your answer: Choice 1

Close

# Purpose of Discussion Paper / Today

- Tasked with considering MVCA's future
- Lots of questions could be posed
- Provide everyone with consistent baseline information
- Initiate discussion
- Identify community needs and priorities
- Identify appropriate niche for MVCA
- Inform development of the Land Conservation Strategy

# Conservation Authorities

## Who are we?

- Not for profit governmental agencies created by the province.
- 36 CAs across the province
- Formed at the request of local municipalities
- Governed by municipal representatives:
  - MVCA was established in 1968 at the request of local municipalities.
  - Originally comprised of 29 municipalities. Post amalgamation: 11 municipalities
  - MVCA funded by those municipalities as well as user fees and grants.
  - MVCA Board meets at least 9 times annually.
  - Updates provided to municipalities following every meeting.
- Support interjurisdictional planning and cooperation on issues of shared interest at watershed level.

# Legislated Mandate

## **1. Mitigate risks associated with natural hazards**

- Flooding
- Erosion
- Unstable soils (marine clays)
- Unstable slopes (riverine and other)

### **How?**

- Identifying and mapping hazards
- Regulating alterations/development within those areas
- Commenting on planning applications within those areas
- Operating and maintaining water control structures
- Operating a flood forecasting and warning (FFW) system



# Legislated Mandate

## **2. Protect the hydrologic functioning of wetlands**

### **How?**

- Identifying and mapping wetlands
- Regulating alterations/development within those areas

## **3. Source Water Protection**

### **How?**

- Assisting with the implementation of Source Water Protection Plans
- Only in communities with municipal drinking water systems: Carleton Place, Almonte, and Carp

# Legislated Mandate

## **4. Conservation and management of land**

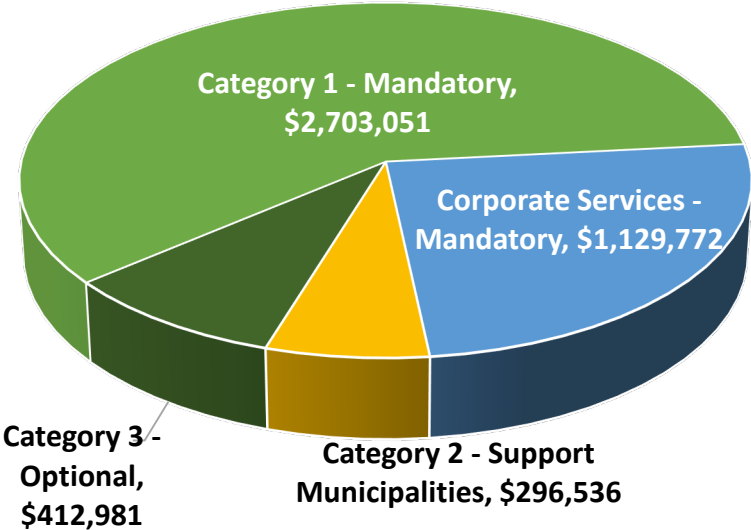
“further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources”

### **How?**

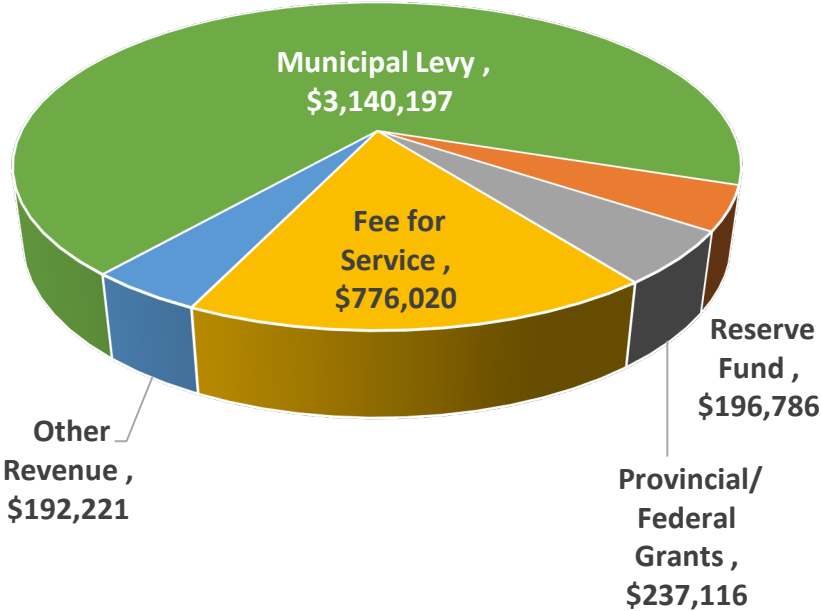
- Acquiring or otherwise managing land for conservation or preservation.
- Collecting, analyzing, and providing baseline water quality data on behalf of the province.

# 2024 Operating Summary

### Expenditures



### Revenues



# Direction Setting

**O. Reg. 686/21** requires CAs to:

- Inventory and assess their properties (own or have a legal interest in)
- Conduct a needs assessment and gap analysis of their programs and services
- Develop a policy framework for delivery of programs and services and land management:
  - Conservation Area Strategy (WIP)
  - Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy (WIP)

This project will meet the regulatory requirements.

# MVCA Land Interests: Conservation



## **Own 4 conservation areas:**

- Mill of Kintail
- Purdon
- Palmerston-Canonto
- 35km of K&P Trail



## **Lease 2 properties from the City of Ottawa:**

- Morris Island
- Carp River Restoration Area

# MVCA Land Interests: Water Control



- MVCA owns 12 water control structures.
- Most do not provide significant flood control
- None are used for power generation.
- Most on public lands with easements across public and private property, including Municipal Shoreline Allowances.
- MVCA also operates 2 OPG facilities and 6 MNR facilities.

Figure 1

# Conservation Lands and Trails

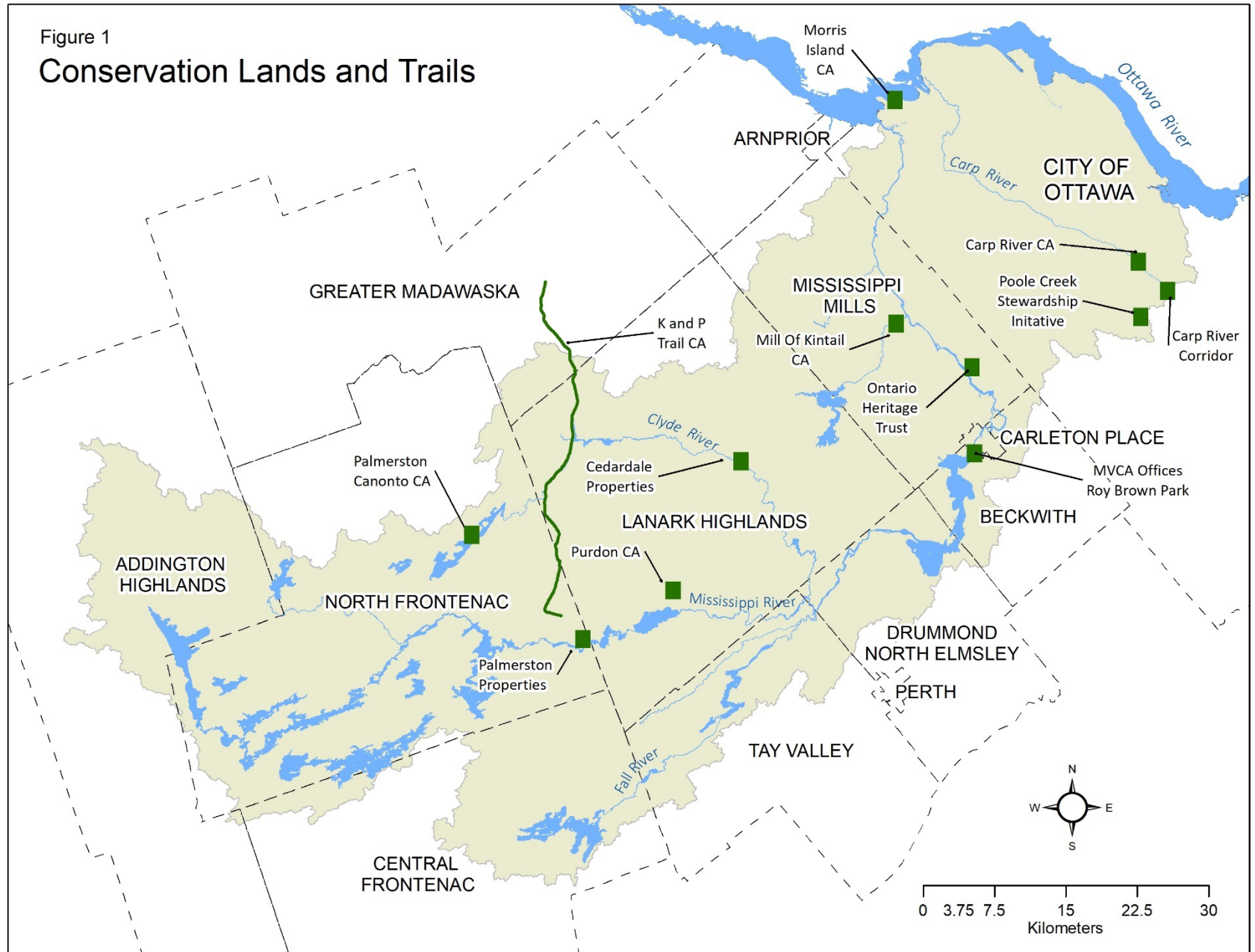


Figure 2

# Water and Erosion Control Structure Infrastructure and Monitoring Sites

## Legend

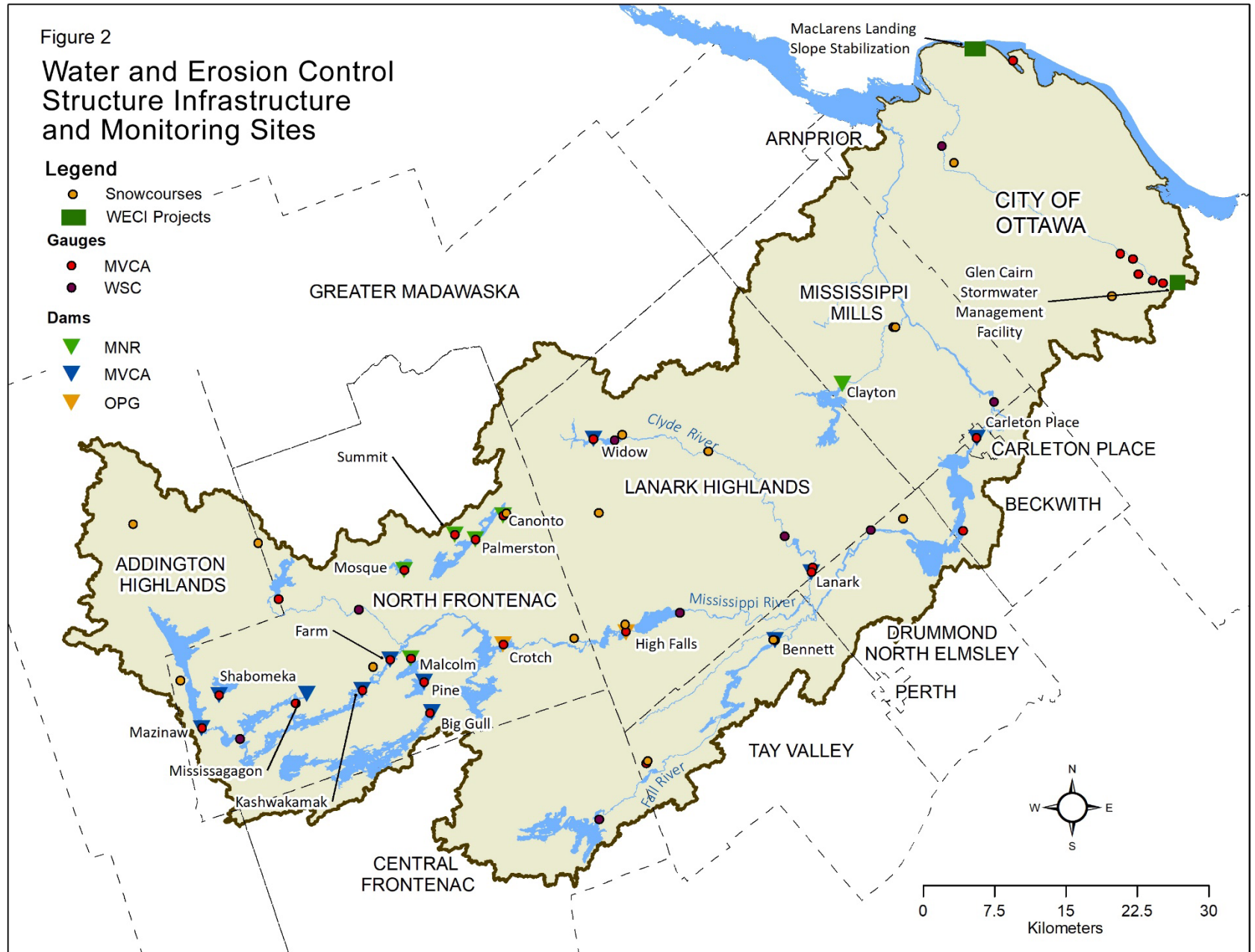
- Snowcourses
- WECEI Projects

## Gauges

- MVCA
- WSC

## Dams

- ▼ MNR
- ▼ MVCA
- ▼ OPG





# Pressures on the Watershed



6 large flood in past 21 years



4 droughts in past 7 years



aging infrastructure



harmful algae blooms in recent years



high growth rates



invasive species on the rise

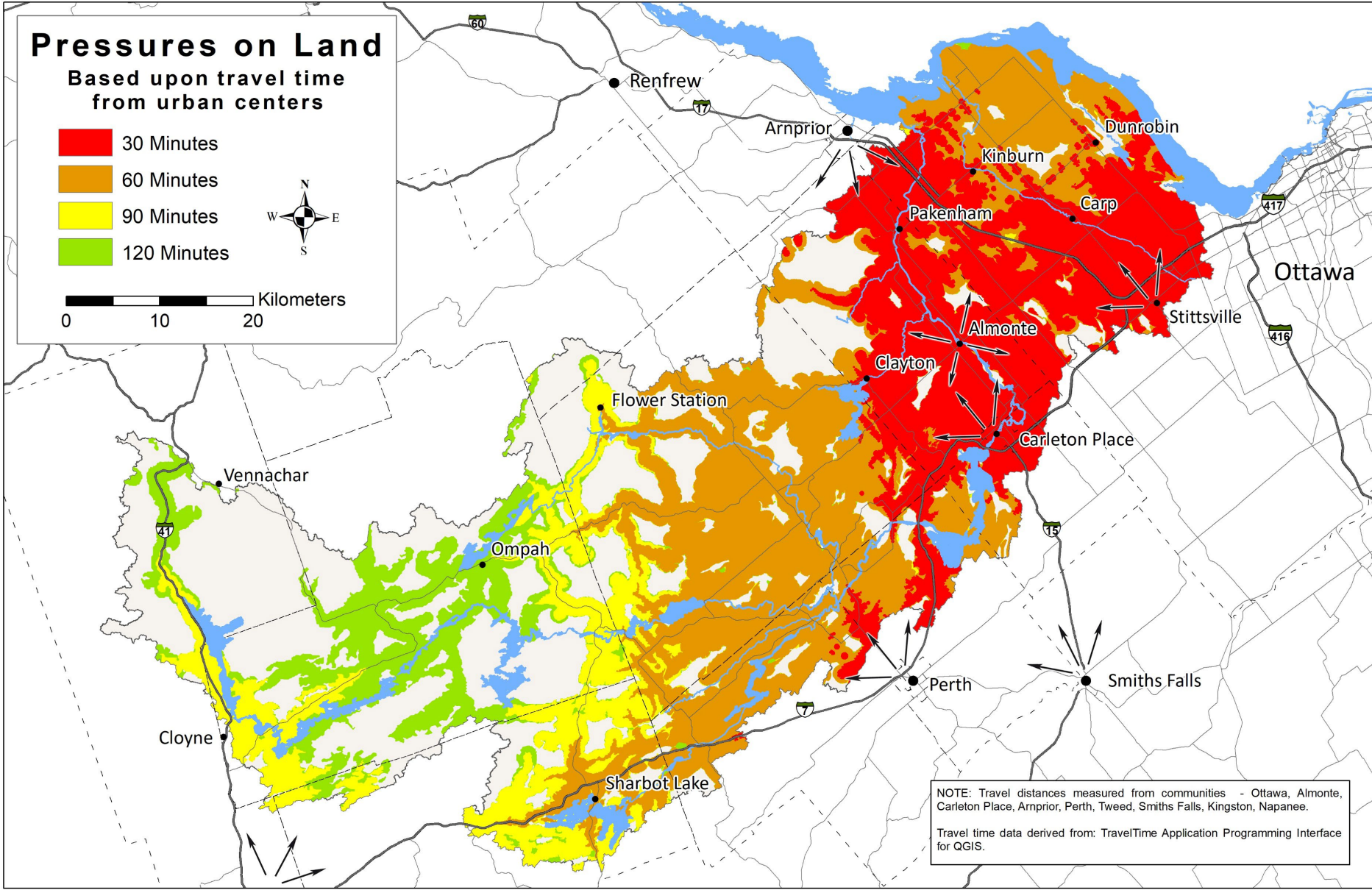
# Pressures on Land

Based upon travel time from urban centers

- 30 Minutes
- 60 Minutes
- 90 Minutes
- 120 Minutes



0 10 20 Kilometers



NOTE: Travel distances measured from communities - Ottawa, Almonte, Carleton Place, Arnprior, Perth, Tweed, Smiths Falls, Kingston, Napanee.

Travel time data derived from: TravelTime Application Programming Interface for QGIS.

# Conservation vs. Preservation

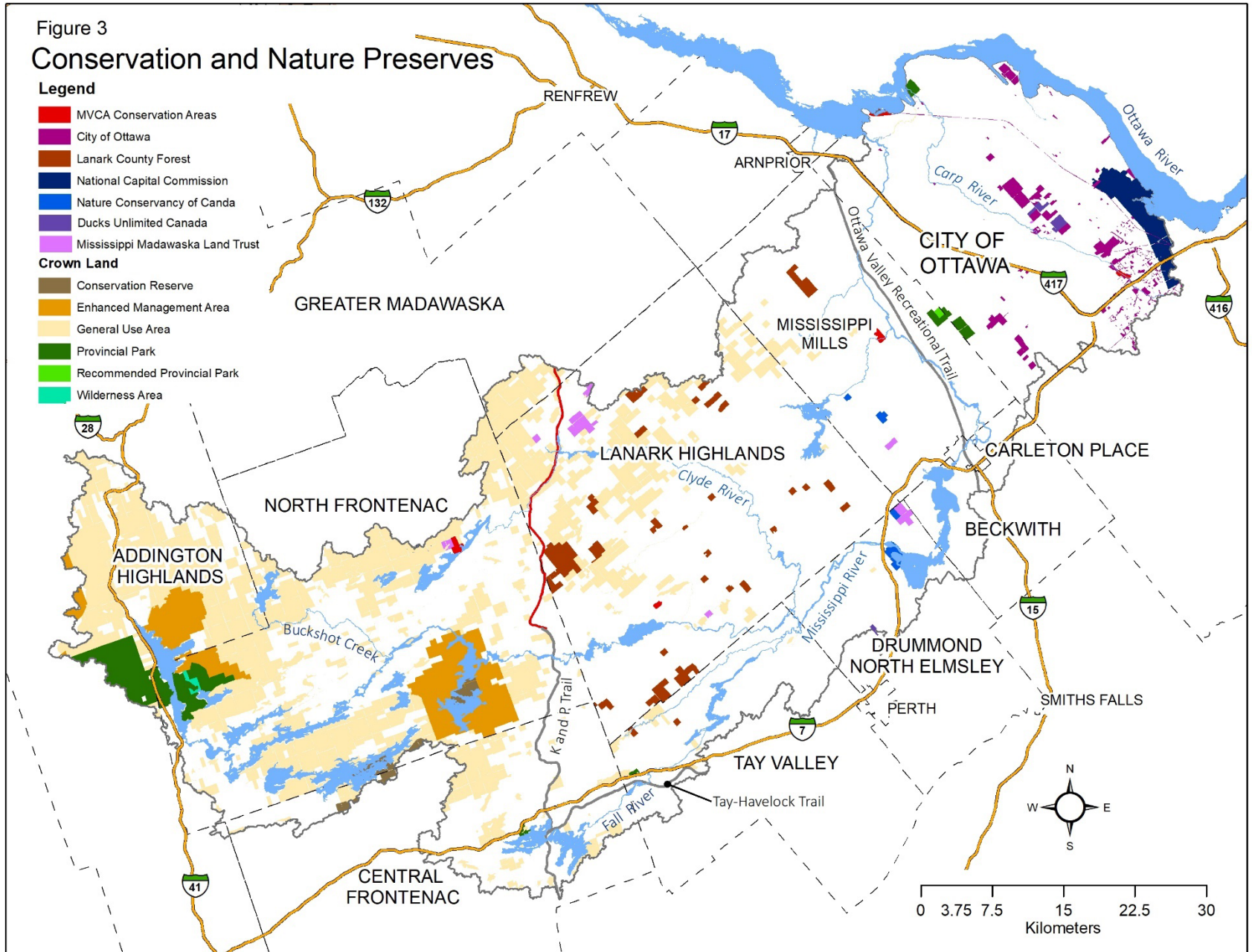
**Question:** *What role should MVCA play in land conservation within its jurisdiction?*

- *Conservation versus preservation*
  - *Hydrologic function / control*
  - *Ecological features / functions*
- *MVCA's current properties*
  - *Conservation areas*
  - *Dams*
  - *Other*
- *Who else operates in this space.*
  - *Other levels of government: municipal, county, provincial and federal*
  - *NGOs*
  - *Private landowners*

Figure 3  
**Conservation and Nature Preserves**

**Legend**

- MVCA Conservation Areas
- City of Ottawa
- Lanark County Forest
- National Capital Commission
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust
- Crown Land**
- Conservation Reserve
- Enhanced Management Area
- General Use Area
- Provincial Park
- Recommended Provincial Park
- Wilderness Area



# Acquiring Land

**Question:** *Should MVCA acquire more land for conservation purposes?*

## MVCA at present

- *Own*
- *Lease/License (agreements with owners to use land)*
- *Conservation Agreement (long term agreements to manage/protect land)*
- *Land and Forest Management Agreements (contracted service)*
- *Stewardship Agreement (short term related to grants such as Rural Clean Water, ALUS, Trees Canada)*

## Others operating in this space

- *Provincial Tax Incentive Programs (conservation/forest)*
  - *CLTIP - portions of private property that have eligible natural heritage features may qualify for a 100% property tax exemption.*
  - *MFTIP - a property tax reduction to eligible landowners who prepare and follow an approved Managed Forest Plan.*
- *NGOs (Ducks, MMLT, NCC)*
- *Other levels of government: municipal, county, provincial and federal*

# Facility Types

**Question:** *What type of facilities should MVCA operate?*

## MVCA at present

- *Passive recreation – trails, boardwalks parking lots, washrooms, signage, shelters*
- *Active recreation – basketball court, playground*
- *Cultural/Heritage – Museum, Education Centre, Gate House, picnic shelter, Cloister*

## Other Conservation Authorities

- *Managed forests*
- *Portage routes*
- *Scenic Lookouts/Rest-stops*
- *Camp sites and campgrounds*
- *Boat Launches*

## Others operating in this space

- *Private sector*
- *NGOs (Ducks, MMLT, NCC)*
- *Other levels of government: municipal, county, provincial and federal*

# Permitted Uses

**Question:** *What type of uses should MVCA permit at its Conservation Areas?*

*MVCA at present (in addition to facilities mentioned previously)*

- *Fred P. Lossing Observatory*
- *Men's Shed and Ramsay Women's Institute Tea on the Lawn*
- *Mississippi Field Naturalist Clubs and local Scouts and Guides programming*
- *Summer camps*
- *Rentals for Orienteering races, festivals, filming movies*

*Other Conservation Authorities*

- *Ice rinks and groomed cross-country ski trails*
- *Dedicated mountain bike trails*
- *Tree top trekking and zip-lining*
- *Watercraft rentals*
- *Music and related entertainment*
- *Native tree and plant nurseries*

*Others operating in this space*

- *Private sector*
- *Other levels of government: municipal, county, provincial and federal*

# Water Control Infrastructure

**Question:** *How should MVCA approach the acquisition and use of water control structures?*

## History

- *12 structures acquired between 1973 and 1990 when MVCA 85% funded by province (O&M and capital). Today less than 3% O&M, and maximum of 50% for capital renewal.*
- *Most lie on Crown land or must be accessed by Crown, municipal or private land.*

## Purpose of MVCA Structures

- *Flood control (significant reservoir capacity)*
- *Flood mitigation (some reservoir capacity)*
- *Habitat Management (supports spawning, primarily of cold water species)*
- *Recreational levels*

## Other Water Control Structures

- *Hydro generation, e.g. High Falls, OPG*
- *MNR and private landowner dams and weirs*

## Others operating in this space

- *Private sector*
- *Other levels of government: municipal, county, provincial and federal*



# Next Steps

- Complete the online survey.
- Request to be put on our mailing list for project and other updates (below email address).
- Provide information you believe we will find helpful and additional comments to: [info@mvc.on.ca](mailto:info@mvc.on.ca) *RE: Land Conservation Strategy*

**COMMENT PERIOD CLOSES September 6, 2024.**

- We will summarize and consider community input during development of draft policy in September.
- A draft document will be tabled for Board and community input in October.
- A final document will be tabled for approval by the Board in December.