

# MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



# MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MVCA is one of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. For the past 50 years, we have worked closely with municipal, provincial and federal government partners, landowners and community groups to maintain and improve natural resources in the Mississippi Valley and Carp River watersheds.

## OUR VISION

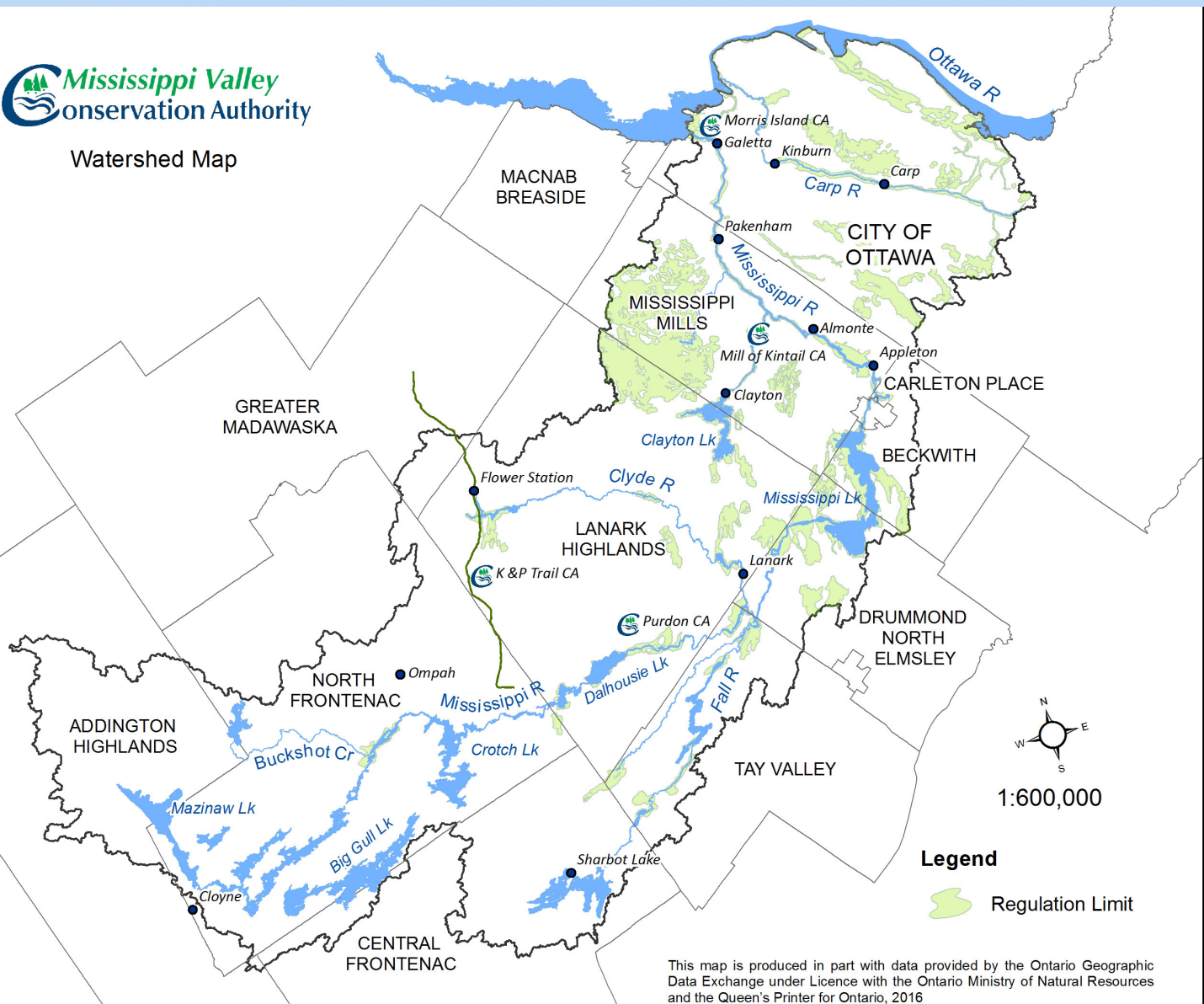
A watershed in which ecological integrity is maintained and human needs are met, now and in the future, in balance with the needs of the natural environment.

## OUR MISSION

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority will assume a leadership role in the conservation, enhancement and development of the Mississippi Valley by way of watershed planning, integrated resource management programs and conservation awareness.



Watershed Map



# A Message From the Chair

*Duncan Abbott*

*2018 marked an important year for MVCA as it celebrated 50 years of conservation and stewardship in the watershed.*

Since inception in 1968, MVCA has made significant progress in the protection of our local creeks, rivers, forests and lakes, and protection of hundreds of kilometres of shoreline and thousands of homes from flooding and erosion through science-based programs and services.

More than 100,000 young people have been educated about the importance of conserving our environment and protecting our heritage. Thousands of people have visited our Conservation Areas and enjoyed some of the finest features of our environment.

We work with the public, our 11 member municipalities and other environmental agencies and partners. We will continue to create a large pool of knowledge and an extensive communications network that provide a basis for the protection of the health of the watershed.

Congratulations to everyone who played a role in this work over the last half century. More particularly I would like to offer special thanks to the staff who have over the last year, as they have always done, guided the board through our work with detailed and focused reports that have allowed us to make important policy decisions.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention one major announcement that will impact the organization in 2019: Paul Lehman is retiring a long and very successful term as General Manager. I would like to thank the Board and the hiring committee who, along with Joanne Glaser of Cornerstones Management, have seen us through the very challenging job of finding our new General Manager, Sally McIntyre. I am confident she will lead us through the challenges that we face now and in the future. Our most heartfelt thanks to Paul for his years of service and our sincere welcome to Sally as she takes on her new role.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and MVCA staff, I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report.

There are many interesting and challenging things happening right now that make the future of our watershed programs and services ever more relevant and important. I know MVCA staff will, under Sally's leadership, continue to meet these challenges and accomplish the important work they do.

## 2018 Board of Directors

### City of Ottawa

Eli El-Chantiry

John Karau

Janet Mason (Vice-Chair)

Phil Sweetnam

Marianne Wilkinson

### Addington Highlands

Kirby Thompson

### Beckwith

Faye Campbell

### Carleton Place

Doug Black

Jerry Flynn

### Central Frontenac

Bill MacDonald

### Drummond/North Elmsley

Gail Code

### Greater Madawaska

Garry McEvoy

### Lanark Highlands

John Hall

### Mississippi Mills

Duncan Abbott (Chair)

Alex Gillis

### North Frontenac

Gerry Martin

### Tay Valley

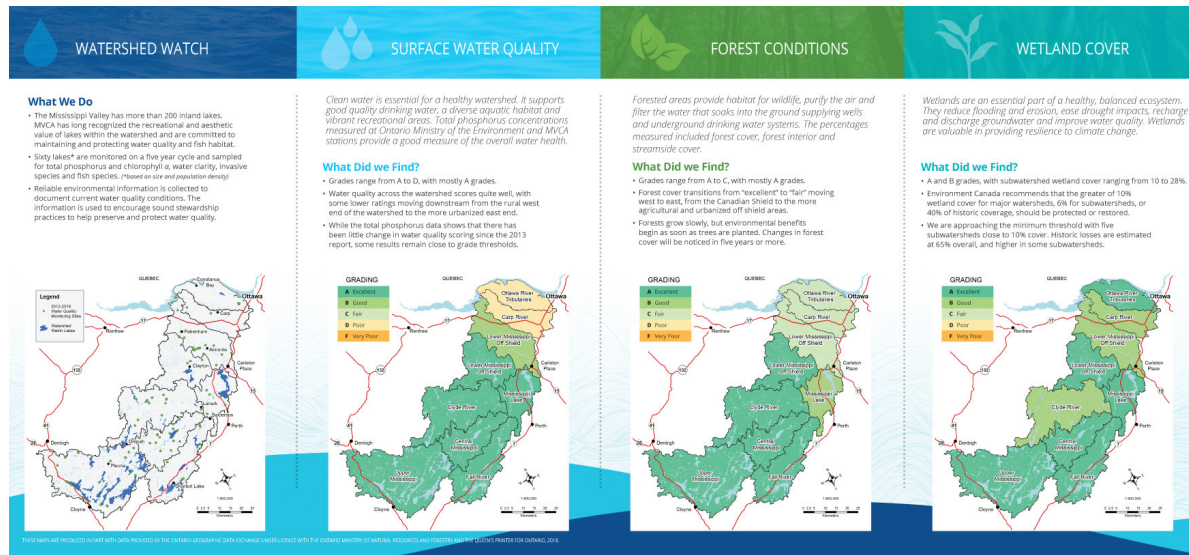
Mark Burnham

## MVCA RECEIVES "A" GRADE ON WATERSHED REPORT CARD

Ontario Conservation Authorities (CAs) report on watershed conditions every five years using Conservation Ontario guidelines and standards developed by CAs and their partners. The report card enables CAs to evaluate its efforts and target areas of concern.

Forest cover and wetlands health transitions from excellent to fair, moving west to east from the Canadian Shield to the more agricultural and urbanized areas.

Subwatersheds in the eastern portion of the watershed score lower in many of the indicators but can be improved with continued stewardship initiatives.



## CARP RIVER WETLAND ENVIRONMENTAL AREA



Grand opening of the Carp River Wetland Environmental Area - June 2018

After years of restoration work, the Carp River is now a thriving recreation and education destination for thousands of City of Ottawa residents.

The restoration included reconstructing the channel into a meandering river, creating fish habitat pools and wetland meadows, planting native riparian vegetation and reconnecting the floodplain. Future plans for the site include connecting the trail system, parking and an outdoor educational facility.

The area is managed by the City of Ottawa in partnership with MVCA and the Ottawa Stewardship Council to provide educational opportunities to schools and the general public.

## MVCA SELECTED TO HELP MUNICIPALITIES IN EASTERN ONTARIO MAKE STRONGER INFRASTRUCTURE DECISIONS

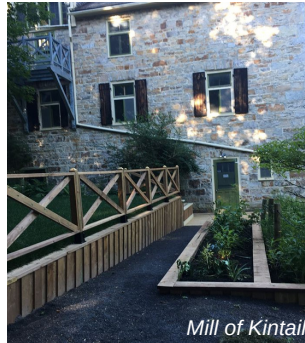
In 2018, MVCA was chosen by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to collaborate with conservation authorities and their municipal partners in Eastern Ontario to provide asset management training tailored to the unique asset management requirements of water control structures and their vulnerability to climate change. Through presentations at watershed management board meetings, the conservation authority will also brief elected officials and municipal staff on the need for municipalities and conservation authorities to integrate their asset planning in order to protect natural assets (waterways) and address their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

## CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT & VISITOR SERVICES

In 2018, more than 50,000 visitors took advantage of our three conservation areas to hike, picnic, bird watch, snowshoe, hone their photography skills and enjoy nature at its finest.

2018 was a big year for the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area (MoK), as well as for the grist mill on site which houses the R. Tait McKenzie and Dr. James Naismith Museum. Although the Mill has been home to the James Naismith Museum since 2009, MVCA took over as the owner of the collection in 2018 thanks to a partnership with the Dr. James Naismith Basketball Foundation.

The MoK also received a bit of a face lift with new entrance signage and the construction of a wheelchair accessible ramp to access the lower level of the museum.



Mill of Kintail



Purdon Conservation Area



Wildlife Watchers Day Camp



Winter Programming

## EDUCATION

- Delivered curriculum-based outdoor education programs to more than 2,000 students with a focus on conservation and stewardship.
- Provided conservation-based nature exploration summer camps for six weeks at maximum capacity.
- Delivered the Spring Water Awareness Program safety message to more than 3,000 students in 13 schools.
- Provided transportation grants to six schools for winter outdoor education field trips thanks to support from the Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation.

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

### Monitoring and Reporting

- 11 lakes were sampled for the **Watershed Watch** program, which collects reliable environmental data to determine the nutrient status of 45 lakes on a rotational basis.
- Through the **City Stream Watch** program, 5.1 kilometres of Poole Creek and 5.6 kilometres of Cody Creek were assessed for water quality parameters as well as stream habitat and stream bank characteristics.
- In 2018, 21 temperature loggers were launched at sites across the watershed on a rotating basis to expand our understanding of the thermal habitat classifications of our streams. Stream temperature is vital to understanding the sensitivity of the stream to impacts and what sort of animal and plant life we may expect to find.

### Stewardship

- Partnered with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority to plant more than 121,500 trees in the Mississippi Valley watershed in 2018.
- Partnered with Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association and the Kashwakamak Lake Association to distribute more than 1,200 trees and shrubs to 97 shoreline properties.
- Partnered with 10 private landowners to plant 240 trees and shrubs.
- Planted 2,000 stems, trees and shrubs in areas throughout our jurisdiction within the City of Ottawa.





### SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MVCA protects and regulates important environmentally sensitive areas such as floodplains, wetlands, shorelines and waterways. In 2018, 216 planning applications were reviewed and 206 permits were issued. In 2018, staff also completed the delineation of flood lines and depth maps for Poole Creek and the Ottawa River, and completed the Class Environmental Assessment for the reconstruction of Shabomeka Lake Dam.



### A "REELY" COOL FIND

An exciting discovery in Poole Creek when our monitoring crew captured an American Eel; an endangered species in Ontario. It's known to be found in the Ottawa River but is a new recorded sighting in this area of the Carp River watershed.



### MVCA GOES ELECTRIC

To help reduce our carbon footprint, MVCA purchased a Chevrolet Volt in 2018. When fully charged, the Volt has a range of approximately 85 kilometres, using a 111-kilowatt electric motor powered by an 18.4 kilowatt/hour lithium-ion battery. It's anticipated that greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 81 percent.



### RURAL CLEAN WATER

Rural Clean Water, a program funded by the City of Ottawa, encourages and assists rural landowners to complete projects that improve surface and ground water quality, such as well decommissioning, erosion control and buffer planting. In 2018 there were 25 projects approved totalling \$65,651.40 in grants.



### FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING

MVCA is the lead agency for monitoring the potential for local flood threats and to alert emergency response agencies and the public. In 2018, 18 watershed conditions, water safety and flood statements were issued for the MVCA jurisdiction and an additional two in response to the Ottawa River flooding.

MVCA also owns and/or maintains several water and erosion control structures such as dams and weirs.

# MVCA CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

## Our Story



Clockwise: MVCA's 1st office in Carleton Place; MVCA's 2nd office in Lanark; 2018 MVCA staff; MVCA's current office in Carleton Place.

Following the formation of a conservation authority in the neighbouring Rideau watershed in 1966, the Almonte Citizens Planning and Housing Committee started inquiries regarding the advantages of a similar organization for the Mississippi area.

A number of public meetings were held and a favourable vote of the municipalities concerned resulted in the establishment of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority by Order-in-Council 1802/68 dated May 2, 1968, "with jurisdiction over the watersheds of the Mississippi River and all other streams entering the Ottawa River between the point where the north-west boundary of the Township of Fitzroy meets the shore of the Ottawa River and the point where the west boundary of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority meets the shore of the Ottawa River."

Since this time, it has been MVCA's responsibility under the Provincial Conservation Authorities Act to protect, restore and manage our watersheds for today and tomorrow.

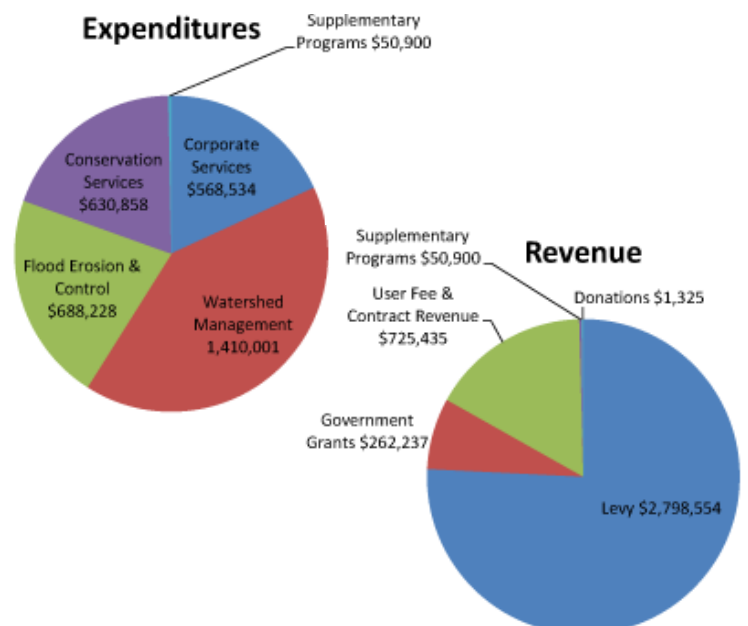
## MVC FOUNDATION



The Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation (MVCF) is a charitable organization whose mission is to raise funds and provide volunteer support for the conservation and education programs of the MVCA.

The funds raised are applied to programs such as school bussing grants, shoreline planting, water quality monitoring, the Carp River Wetland Environmental Area and conservation area improvements and enhancements.

## 2018 BUDGET SUMMARY



# HOW TO REACH US

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*Kashwakamak Lake*