



January 20, 2023

Township of Huron Kinloss

Dear Mayor Murray and Council

Re: 2023 Draft Work Plan and Budget

On behalf of MVCA's Members I would like to thank the Township of Huron Kinloss for entering into an agreement with MVCA in 2022 in support of our services and programs. This MOU provides the stability that we need to plan for the future.

MVCA's 2023 draft work plan and budget has been developed based upon the services and programs included in the MOU.

MVCA continues to focus on our four key priorities:

1. Flood and Erosion Safety: Helping our member municipalities to reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas of the watershed.
2. Watershed Stewardship: Helping our member municipalities and landowners to develop soil and water conservation systems to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses and Lake Huron.
3. Conservation Areas: Ensuring that our conservation areas set a high standard for conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.
4. To stabilize our operating and capital budget to deliver our core services and maintain our essential infrastructure and equipment.

In 2022 we were able to complete some important long-term projects, the Scott Municipal Drain Watershed Project, the revitalization of the Gorrie Conservation Area and the construction of our new workshop building. We have enclosed a newsletter that includes more information on the work undertaken in 2022.

2023 is shaping up to be a challenging year for both municipalities and conservation authorities. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry requires all conservation authorities to develop the following reports and strategies:

1. Watershed Resource Management Strategy
2. Conservation Areas Strategy

3. Conservation Lands Inventory
4. Flood & Erosion Asset Management Plan
5. Ice Management Plan

These strategies and reports must be completed and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry by December 31, 2024. We will be starting work on these requirements in 2023.

Other priorities for 2023 include the completion of the update to the shoreline hazard mapping. We also plan to work with our shoreline municipalities to develop and implement an outreach and education strategy to inform the lakefront community about the updated mapping.

We will also continue to decommission and dispose of infrastructure and equipment that is surplus to our needs.

Additional information on 2023 priorities is outlined in the attached newsletter.

A copy of Maitland Conservation's draft budget and levy is included with this letter. MVCA has updated its salary and benefits. The updates will be phased in over five years to keep increases manageable. Cost of living increases to salaries have been capped at 3% for 2023. MVCA applies this 3% to the mid-point of the salary grid and uses that dollar amount as the increase to be applied to all employees. We think that this is a fairer approach than applying a percentage increase to all employees.

The proposed levy increase for 2023 is \$89,777. This increase is primarily driven by the phase in of the 2023-2027 salary grid, projected insurance increases and expenses related to the growth in demand for services related to conservation areas, stewardship, and planning and regulations.

MVCA's Members will be finalizing the 2023 work plan and budget on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. If your municipality has any comments or concerns with respect to the draft work plan and or budget, please submit your comments to us by February 28, 2023.

In closing I would like to thank you for your support in 2022 and we look forward to working with your municipality in 2023.



Matt Duncan  
Chair

# 2022 Highlights

## MAITLAND CONSERVATION MISSION:

Providing leadership to protect and enhance local water, forests and soils.

## ENDS:

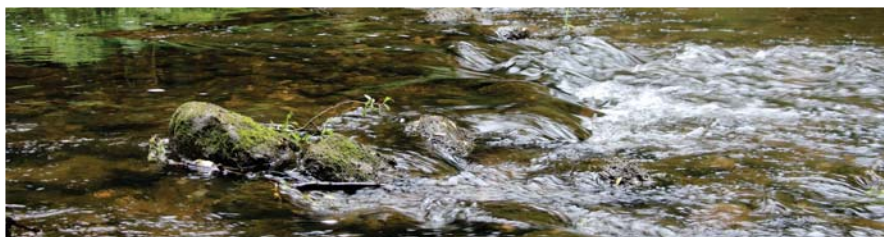
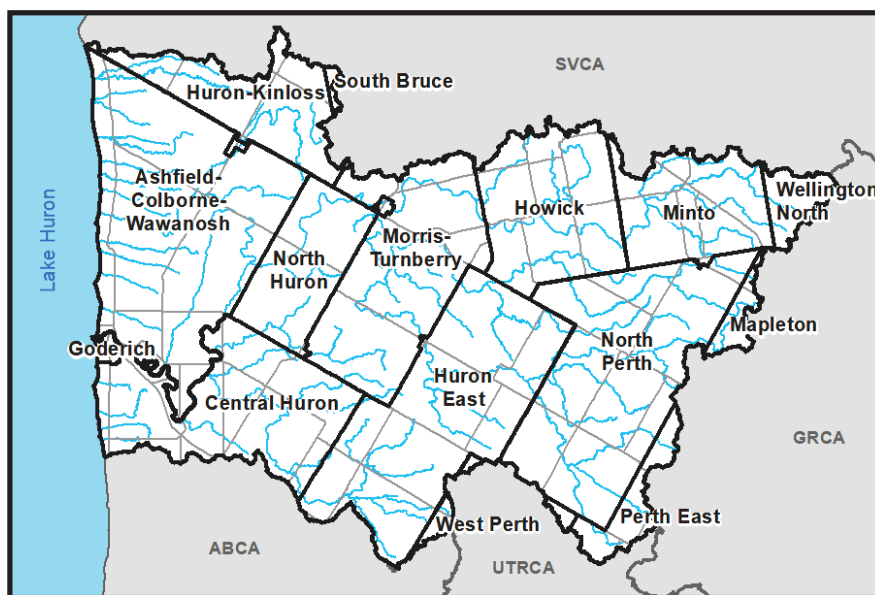
- To protect life, property and prevent social disruption from flooding and erosion hazards.
- To protect water and related resources for present and future generations.
- To protect and expand natural areas.

## OBJECTIVES:

- Help member municipalities reduce the potential for loss of life, property damage and social disruption in flood and erosion prone areas.
- Help member municipalities and landowners develop and implement soil and water conservation systems that will help keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses and Lake Huron.
- Ensure that management of our Conservation Areas sets high standards of conservation practices and are safe for the public to use.
- Develop a stable financial base so we can assist member municipalities to develop a healthy, resilient and prosperous watershed.



*Working for a healthy environment!*





# Flood and Erosion Safety Services

Maitland Conservation monitors for potential flood and shoreline erosion events. Warnings of potential events are provided to municipalities so they can undertake emergency response actions.

■ **Flood Forecasting System** - On-going maintenance of rain gauges and stream gauging stations. Monitoring of weather and gauge data 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. Snow surveys undertaken through winter months.

- Operation of flow models when required. Messages issued for 7 events in 2022.
- Assisted the County of Perth and the Municipality of Perth East with testing their flood emergency response plans.
- Refurbishment of a number of tipping buckets at Listowel and Harriston stations.

■ **Harriston Flood Damage Reduction Support** - Assisting the Town of Minto with developing a project to reduce flooding in Harriston. The project involves the construction of a flood control channel around Harriston to increase the capacity

of the floodplain and river downstream to handle high flows.

■ **Community Driven Coastal Resilience Project** - Funding agreement reached with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to develop a strategy to protect and restore the Lake Huron shoreline. The project will involve:

- community driven discussions to create planning strategies focused on building a healthy and resilient coastline,
- making shoreline hazard mapping resources accessible on-line.

■ **Land Use Planning & Drainage Support** - Staff review development applications that are proposed in or near areas at risk of flooding or erosion as well as proposals for municipal drainage works. In 2022 we received over 1,000 inquiries for information related to development and drainage.



## Shoreline Hazard Mapping

High water levels over the past several years have caused extensive erosion and inland flooding along Lake Huron.

To reflect these changes to the shoreline, Maitland Conservation is undertaking a project to update existing shoreline hazard mapping within our jurisdiction. Updating the mapping will give us an improved tool to assist municipalities in determining safe locations for shoreline development and identifying where development is most at risk of flood and erosion damage.

During 2022 staff worked with consultants on several project components:

- LiDAR imagery of the shoreline was delivered and reviewed. Data collection was completed,
- A Public Information Centre was held to provide an update on the mapping project,
- Technical team sessions were held and mapping approaches confirmed.







## Conservation Areas Services

28 properties encompassing 1,862 hectares

- Showcasing best management practices on conservation lands
- Ensuring properties are safe for public use
- Dealing with aging and surplus infrastructure

### ■ Gorrie Conservation Area Site Remediation

Community Planting Day held with 60 trees, 300 shrubs and 100 wildflowers planted along the river corridor and in floodplain areas. Wildflower mixture planted on the former mill site. Picnic shelter repaired and painted. Kiosk with information signs installed.

- ### ■ Administration Centre
- Construction of a new workshop building completed. This area will provide vehicle and equipment storage as well as an outdoor storage area for tree and shrub order pickups.

- ### ■ Wawanosh Valley C. A.
- Harvesting of plantation areas and removal of ash trees. Removal of invasive buckthorn along the Belgrave Creek by Trout Unlimited. New seasonal wooden bridge installed at the mouth of the creek.

- ### ■ Falls Reserve C.A.
- Located just west of Benmiller, FRCA provides day-use

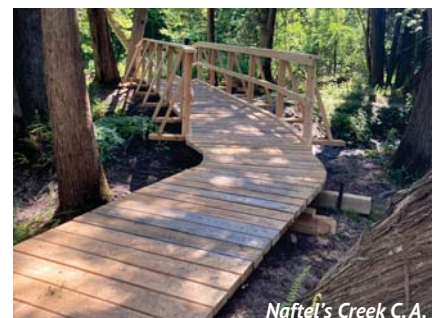
and camping opportunities. The park operates on revenue raised from users. A surge in use in recent years has enabled facility upgrades to be made including the installation of a controlled access gate, a new septic system and some campsite sewer hookups.

- ### ■ Naftel's Creek C. A.
- This is a high use property located south of Goderich. With funding support from the Maitland Conservation Foundation a bridge and section of boardwalk was replaced.

- ### ■ Conservation Areas Support
- Regular inspections of day-use areas, trails and infrastructure undertaken. Staff worked with the OPP and MNRF Conservation Officers to reduce damage from ATVs at Conservation Areas. Illegal structures and garbage dealt with at several properties.



*New workshop*



*Naftel's Creek C.A.*



*Falls Reserve C.A. entry gate*





*T.D. Trees Day planting event, Listowel*

## Huron County Clean Water Project and Wellington Rural Water Quality Program

A wide range of funding grants are available to landowners for projects that will protect or enhance water quality. The Counties provide the funding and Conservation Authority staff deliver the programs.

In the Maitland portion of Huron County, over 150 new projects were approved in 2022 and over 140 were completed and paid out. The highest number of applications were for:

- Fragile Land Retirement
- Forest Management Plans and
- Cover Crops

Since the inception of the program over 3,600 projects have been completed throughout Huron County.

In Wellington, three new projects got underway in 2022.



## Watershed Stewardship Services

Working with landowners and partners to keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.

- **Forestry Programs** - 144 customers ordered a total of 11,200 seedlings and 5,200 large stock trees. Several community planting events held. Tree survival assessments completed at demonstration sites.
- **Cover Crop Leaders Program** - New CCLP launched for 2022 - 2024. Program is now fully allocated.
- **Rural Stormwater Management** - Seven new erosion control and wetland projects initiated.
- **Healthy Lake Huron (HLH)** - HLH support agreement developed with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Staff provided HLH presentations to OMAFRA. Proposals submitted to MECP and OMAFRA for 2023-2024 HLH funding.
- **Stream Restoration** - proposal successfully submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada for 2023 stream restoration funding. Landowner contact work underway for this project.
- **Monitoring and Reporting** - Extensive sampling and data collection conducted.
  - Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) sampling conducted monthly from April to November. Mercury and pesticide samples also collected during PWQMN sampling runs.
  - Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells checked, data sent to MECP, sampling equipment updated.





Melanie Pletch at the July 2022 celebration marking the completion of the Scott Project.



Water slowed by berms and constructed wetlands at the Scott Project.

## Watershed Stewardship Services

- **On-Farm Applied Research and Monitoring** - Tracking soil health and water quality in the Garvey-Glenn watershed. This data will help to assess the impact of stewardship projects undertaken in the watershed. The initiative is part of a larger provincial soil health monitoring effort. In 2022 land management surveys were completed with 23 landowners. Data was prepared and sent to project modelers. Runoff events were sampled at the stream and edge-of-field stations for the On-Farm project.
- **Nature Smart Climate Solutions** - Funded by ECCC, Nature Smart Climate Solution projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by conserving and restoring wetlands, peatlands and grasslands to store and capture carbon. In our watersheds this project focuses on supporting cover crops and restoration efforts. In 2022 staff worked with landowners to complete 15 vegetation surveys.
- **Scott Municipal Drain Watershed Restoration Project** - Working with the Scott and Pletch families, the restoration of the Scott Municipal Drain as a brook trout stream was completed. As part of this long-term project, numerous stewardship measures were implemented to control runoff and reduce erosion in the watershed. These measures have been incorporated into the report for the Scott Municipal Drain so they will be maintained in the future.

## FOREST Health Study

2022 was the second year of the Forest Health Study. Maitland Conservation staff have assessed over 200 plots in woodlots across our watersheds. The data gathered builds on work undertaken in 2000 that revealed local forests were at risk because of limited

species diversity and uniform small size and age.

The plot assessments will help us to identify the challenges impacting local forest health. This information will be used to assist forest managers and landowners to determine how forest health can be improved.

Initial data analysis shows a wide variety of forest disturbances are impacting local woodlots including invasive plants, insects, disease, pathogens, tree cutting, trails, and soil compaction.

Stay tuned for the Forest Health Assessment Report in 2023.



# Corporate Services



## Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

- An inventory of programs and services was circulated to member municipalities for review as required by the MNRF. Fourteen municipalities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding supporting Maitland Conservation's services and programs for the next four years. Starting in 2024 Conservation Authorities will only be able to apportion costs to member municipalities for those services and programs included in the MOU.
- Meetings with MPPs to discuss amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and provincial support needed for Conservation

Authority services. The Chair and first Vice Chair met with Matthew Rae, MPP Perth-Wellington and the Honourable Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce.

## Three-year Budget for 2023 - 2025

- Draft three-year budget and work plan developed and reviewed by Members in December.

## Salary and Benefits Review

- All positions were reviewed by a consultant and recommendations made to Members.

## IT Updates

- New server units installed. One older server repurposed as a backup unit. Updated security protocols implemented for remote work.



*Hon. Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce,  
Matt Duncan, MVCA Chair and  
Ed McGugan, MVCA First Vice-Chair*



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## Questions?

Contact your Maitland Conservation Member. Contact information is posted at [mvca.on.ca](http://mvca.on.ca) or email [maitland@mvca.on.ca](mailto:maitland@mvca.on.ca).



# KEY PRIORITIES for 2023

- 1. Reduce the risk of loss of life and community damage from flooding and erosion.
- 2. Keep soil and nutrients on the land and out of watercourses.
- 3. Ensure Conservation Areas are safe for visitors and showcase best management practices.
- 4. Develop a Watershed Strategy under the updated Conservation Authorities Act. This process will include opportunities for public review and comment.



## CORPORATE Services

- Development of a Watershed Strategy. The strategy is a regulatory requirement that will outline watershed issues and how Maitland Conservation plans to address them. The strategy must be completed and submitted to the MNRF by Dec. 31, 2024.
- Development of a MOU for services and programs with the Township of Wellington North. This MOU must be approved by the end of 2023. MOUs for programs and services are in place for 14 of our 15 member municipalities.
- Update three-year work plan and budget and levy forecast (2024-2026). The plan will outline the activities and projects that Maitland Conservation plans to undertake and the budget and levy requirements needed for the work identified.
- Contacting local First Nations and Métis to determine their interest in working together on issues and projects of common interest. These communities need to be consulted with respect to the Watershed Strategy.

## CONSERVATION AREAS Services

- Decommissioning and disposal of surplus infrastructure. Projects include the removal of barn structures at Wawanosh Valley C.A. and the storage building at Turnberry Floodplain C.A., finalizing the severance and disposition of the Brussels Mill and working with Municipality of North Perth to determine their interest in leasing Galbraith C.A.
- Develop a Conservation Areas land use strategy and land inventory. The land use strategy will outline how Conservation Areas will be used and managed. The land inventory will provide the MNRF with information on the properties owned by Maitland Conservation and to determine if any of these properties could be used for housing. Both the land use strategy and land inventory are required to be completed by Dec. 31, 2024.
- Develop agreement relating to the cost sharing of maintenance and repair of recreational dams in the Municipality of Huron East (Brussels dam) and Municipality of Morris-Turnberry (Bluevale dam).







Collecting stream data, 2022

### WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP Services

- River Valley and Floodplain Restoration - Assist landowners to restore river corridors by planting native trees, shrubs and herbaceous species. Maitland Conservation staff provide technical support to landowners and help with accessing grant funding for restoration projects (e.g. Huron Clean Water Project, Wellington Rural Water Quality Program, Nature Smart Climate Solutions).
- Rural Storm Water Management - Support landowners to develop rural storm water projects to reduce the potential for flooding and erosion on their land. Staff provide technical support and assistance with funding applications.
- Cover Crop Projects - Encourage landowners to incorporate cover crops into their cropping systems to reduce soil erosion over the winter season. Staff provide technical support and assistance with funding applications.
- Watershed Monitoring and Reporting - The Forest Health Assessment will determine the health of local forests and identify how improvements can be made. In 2023 the Forest Health Assessment will be completed and work will begin on developing an aquatic health assessment.



Repaired picnic shelter at Gorrie Conservation Area

### FLOOD and EROSION SAFETY Services

- Develop Asset Management Plan for flood and erosion control structures in the Municipality of North Perth (Listowel flood control structures), Town of Goderich (Bluff Stabilization Project) and Municipality of Central Huron (McGuffin Gully Stabilization Project). Plan to be submitted to the MNRF by the end of 2024. The plan will identify how these structures will be maintained and monitored over the long term.
- Develop Maintenance - Management Agreements for flood and erosion control structures. Maitland Conservation will work with the municipalities of North Perth and Goderich as well as landowners adjacent to the McGuffin Gully Stabilization Project in Central Huron to develop agreements outlining how these structures will be operated and maintained.
- Begin development of Ice Management Plans for areas prone to ice jams (mouth of Nine Mile River at Port Albert, mouth of the Maitland River upstream to Highway 21 bridge at Goderich). These plans are to be submitted to the MNRF by the end of 2024.
- Floodplain mapping update - Work with the Municipality of North Perth to update flood hazard mapping for Listowel and downstream rural portions of the Middle Maitland River.
- Shoreline Hazard Mapping Update will be completed. This mapping will identify areas of the shoreline at risk of flooding and erosion. Design and implementation of an outreach strategy to ensure the lakeshore community is aware of the risks of flooding and erosion.



**Operating Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority 2023 Draft**

**Table 1**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Levy Funds</b>	<b>Deferred Revenue</b>	<b>Reserve Funds</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>NET Surplus/ Deficit</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>						
Administration	68,693	274,013			342,706	
Financial Management		119,298			119,298	
Governance		14,100			14,100	
Services Areas Support		53,350			53,350	
Communications, IT, GIS	6,971	220,877			227,848	
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,664</b>	<b>681,638</b>			<b>757,302</b>	
<b>Flood Safety Services</b>						
Flood Control Structures		5,972			5,972	
Erosion Control Structures		1,488			1,488	
Flood Forecasting and Warning	36,424	215,571			251,995	
Hazard Prevention		28,478			28,478	
Natural Hazard Information		64,485			64,485	
Regulations	77,000	190,338			267,338	
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,424</b>	<b>506,332</b>			<b>619,756</b>	
<b>Watershed Stewardship Services</b>						
Watershed Monitoring and Reporting	2,000	108,766			110,766	
Extension Services		150,367			150,367	
Forestry Services	153,600				146,217	7,383
<b>Total</b>	<b>155,600</b>	<b>259,133</b>			<b>407,350</b>	<b>7,383</b>
<b>Conservation Areas Management Services</b>						
Management/Development/Operations	6,100	278,078			284,178	
Motor Pool	52,075				27,900	24,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,175</b>	<b>278,078</b>			<b>312,078</b>	<b>24,175</b>
<b>Campgrounds</b>						
Falls Reserve Conservation Area	692,500				568,853	123,647
Wawanosh Park Conservation Area	14,372			2,397	16,769	
<b>Total</b>	<b>706,872</b>			<b>2,397</b>	<b>585,622</b>	<b>123,647</b>
<b>Net Operating Budgets</b>	<b>1,109,735</b>	<b>1,725,181</b>		<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,682,108</b>	<b>155,205</b>



Draft 2023 Project Budget Summary - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Table 2

ITEM	Revenue	Levy Funds	Special Levy Funds	Deferred Revenue	Working Capital Reserves	Forest Management Reserves	Motor Pool Reserves	Expense	Net Surplus / Deficit
<b>Corporate Services Projects</b>									
Administration Centre					200,000			200,000	
GIS/IT Management/Communications		44,500						44,500	
<b>Total</b>		<b>44,500</b>			<b>200,000</b>			<b>244,500</b>	
<b>Flood and Erosion Safety Services Projects</b>									
Flood Control - Preventative Maintenance		18,000						18,000	
Shoreline Hazard Mapping	80,000							80,000	
Natural Hazards Outreach & Education Project	10,000	27,500						37,500	
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>45,500</b>						<b>135,500</b>	
<b>Watershed Stewardship Services Projects</b>									
Watershed Health Assessment Project	57,564			41,568				89,151	9,981
Carbon Footprint Initiative									
Garvey Glenn Coordination	85,000							78,505	6,495
Garvey Glenn Demos	43,750							43,750	
Middle Maitland Headwaters Restoration	5,000			70,000				75,000	
Huron Clean Water	500,000							500,000	
Watershed Stewardship Projects									
Nature Based Climate Solutions	161,368							86,368	75,000
OMAFRA COA	60,000							57,221	2,779
ONFARM	9,000							5,336	3,664
ECCC Stream Restoration	101,037							101,037	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,022,719</b>			<b>111,568</b>				<b>1,036,368</b>	<b>97,919</b>
<b>Conservation Area Projects</b>									
Forestry Management						6,000		6,000	
Vehicles/Equipment Replacement							15,000	15,000	
MVCA Carbon Offset							500	500	
Footprints to Forests Carbon Offsetting					500			500	
Conservation Area Projects	10,800	35,000			24,500	4,500		74,800	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>35,000</b>			<b>25,000</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>96,800</b>	
<b>Net Project Budgets</b>	<b>1,123,519</b>	<b>125,000</b>		<b>111,568</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>1,513,168</b>	<b>97,919</b>

December 15, 2022 2023 Draft Levy Schedule	% of Municipality In Watershed	2020 CVA (modified) in Watershed \$	Municipal Population in CA jurisdiction	CVA Based Apportionment Percentage	2022 Approved General Levy	2023 Draft General Levy	\$ Increase from Prior Year
<b>Municipality</b>							
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Twp.	100	\$1,305,434,530	4,597	12.5141	\$ 219,658	<b>\$ 231,534</b>	<b>\$ 11,876</b>
Central Huron Municipality	76	\$1,004,428,199	4,767	9.6286	\$ 171,488	<b>\$ 178,147</b>	<b>\$ 6,659</b>
Goderich Town	100	\$1,121,624,169	6,247	10.7520	\$ 189,772	<b>\$ 198,931</b>	<b>\$ 9,159</b>
Howick Twp.	92	\$467,378,754	2,701	4.4804	\$ 80,945	<b>\$ 82,896</b>	<b>\$ 1,951</b>
Huron East Municipality	72	\$1,098,368,607	5,779	10.5291	\$ 188,569	<b>\$ 194,807</b>	<b>\$ 6,238</b>
Huron-Kinloss Twp.	43	\$630,506,601	2,466	6.0441	\$ 107,084	<b>\$ 111,827</b>	<b>\$ 4,743</b>
Mapleton Twp.	5	\$94,089,931	385	0.9020	\$ 15,812	<b>\$ 16,689</b>	<b>\$ 877</b>
Minto Town	64	\$728,685,452	4,141	6.9853	\$ 121,012	<b>\$ 129,241</b>	<b>\$ 8,229</b>
Morris/Turnberry Municipality	95	\$548,077,768	2,754	5.2539	\$ 92,583	<b>\$ 97,207</b>	<b>\$ 4,624</b>
North Huron Twp.	100	\$588,413,367	3,946	5.6406	\$ 99,781	<b>\$ 104,361</b>	<b>\$ 4,580</b>
North Perth Municipality	98	\$2,312,725,807	10,710	22.1701	\$ 383,789	<b>\$ 410,187</b>	<b>\$ 26,398</b>
Perth East Twp.	9	\$187,066,957	864	1.7932	\$ 31,457	<b>\$ 33,177</b>	<b>\$ 1,720</b>
South Bruce Municipality	1	\$7,377,831	51	0.0707	\$ 1,232	<b>\$ 1,309</b>	<b>\$ 78</b>
Wellington North	16	\$288,251,036	1,470	2.7632	\$ 48,881	<b>\$ 51,124</b>	<b>\$ 2,243</b>
West Perth Municipality	3	\$49,301,733	225	0.4726	\$ 8,341	<b>\$ 8,744</b>	<b>\$ 403</b>
<b>Total</b>		\$10,431,730,742	51103	99.9999	\$ 1,760,404	<b>\$ 1,850,181</b>	<b>\$ 89,777</b>