

# **PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK**

## PRWIN ANNUAL REPORT

*A Review of our 2023 In-ground Projects & Programming  
Challenges & Opportunities*



# **PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK**



## **PRWIN'S MANDATE**

- **To research, organize and participate in projects designed to improve and preserve the environment as it relates to the Pine River Watershed.**
- ▶ **To educate and increase the public's understanding of the Pine River Watershed and its importance by offering presentations, participating in conferences, meetings and disseminating information to the public on our website, newsletters and social media.**
- ▶ **To provide information to the public on programs and funding opportunities that will improve the water quality within the Pine River as it flows into Lake Huron.**

## **In-ground Projects**

### **COA 2022-23 Project**



- Last spring, we planted over 6,000 cedar and spruce seedlings to create windbreaks and to reforest landowners properties in Huron-Kinloss.
- Seedlings were sourced from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.
- Our current in ground project involves a livestock crossing, ditch clean up and rip rap to stabilize and protect the soil surface against erosion. This project is supported by COA funding, a grant from Environment Canada.

## In-ground Projects

### Wetland & Restoration Project

Project



- Last fall, a multi-year project was completed on retired pasture land. The property was transformed into two livestock crossings with riffle-pool habitat to protect the creek bed and banks from erosion and limit cattle access to surface water. The landowner contributed to the project by installing the wetland, grass seeding on the property and the removal of dead ash trees. MVCA provided the fencing and variety of trees for the project.
- PRWIN would like to thank Bruce Power, MVCA and the landowner for their support to complete this rewarding project.

**Bruce Power**<sup>™</sup>

 **Maitland**  
CONSERVATION

# **PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK**

## **In-ground Projects**

### **PRWIN 2023 SEEDLING PROGRAM**

B. M. Ross & Associates  
Baywood Interiors Millwork  
Corteva Agriscience

Enbridge

Greenfield Global

Howick Mutual Insurance

K2 Wind

Meridian

NWMO

OPG

Society of United Professionals

GRANT: Community Foundation Grey Bruce

- In the spring of 2023, seedlings were handed out during our annual "FREE Seedling Give-Away Program." The selection of seedlings included white cedar, white spruce, Norway spruce, red pine, tamarack, silver maple, red oak, white oak, black cherry and black walnut. PRWIN Spring Seedling Program offered over 120 personal seedling orders.
- Donations and sponsorship for the seedlings were purchased from Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

# PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

## In-ground Projects

### 2023 Spring Seedling Planting Day



- PRWIN directors organized a community seedling planting day with the Ripley 4-H Conservation Club, Kinetic Knights, Kincardine 2nd Scouts, Sawjan Samanvay Sanatan Centre, sponsor representatives and PRWIN families. Everyone worked together planting seedlings at Pine River Food along the river flats.
- The volunteers hand planted over 2000 white cedars with a mix of Norway spruce and hardwoods.

## **PRWIN PTARP**



- This fall, we had 24 recipients receive a tree, courtesy of our Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program (PTARP). Our program provides the lakeshore communities with trees to replace ash trees that die due to Emerald Ash Borer.
- PTARP program has enabled us to make a significant impact to the lakeshore area. Our program has offered shoreline residents 166 mature potted trees.
- The mature trees are sourced from Smeltzer's Garden Centre and the Beach Associations supported our 2023 fall tree program.

# **PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK**

## **PRWIN Programming**



- **PRWIN distributes a quarterly newsletter for PRWIN community members. PRWIN added “Get Soil Smart” a new section to our newsletter, to learn more about soil.**
- **PRWIN hosts an annual Award of Merit. Our awards highlight the importance of our community members and connect with local youth.**
- **Our committee has supported articles in The Rural Voice - Grey Bruce Federation of Agriculture and Healthy Lake Huron newsletters.**
- **PRWIN has created educational videos about berms and wetlands to showcase our projects.**
- **Banquet.**



## **PRWIN Engagements With Community**



- **Our organization participated in the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Community Action Initiative - Webinars: Our Shore Your Shore and Connecting Land to Lake.**
- **Directors attended Healthy Lake Huron meetings and the Lake Huron Coastal Centre's 25th Anniversary Conference.**
- **PRWIN provided a letter of support to OPG for their upcoming Wildlife Habitat Council Application.**
- **PRWIN attended “Great Plains to The Bottom of the Great Lakes” hosted by Bruce County Historical Society and the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO) Watershed Conference.**

# PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

## PRWIN Outreach



- A partnership with MVCA provided over 600 mature trees and shrubs to reforest retired pasture land, along with the installation of fencing to border a wetland area. Thank you to our PRWIN directors for their in-kind hours planting at this project site.



# **PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK**

## **PRWIN Outreach**



- **PRWIN directors and the Ripley 4-H Conservation Club teamed up to plant seedlings at reforestation sites.**
- **Chairperson David Grant was a guest speaker at the Ripley 4-H Conservation Club spring meeting to talk about our local watershed.**
- **PRWIN is connected with the Ripley Huron Community School - Green Team to offer support and engagements with their school projects.**
- **In celebration of Earth Day, PRWIN was invited to the Ripley Huron Community School Earth Day Assembly to share with students our programs, initiatives and opportunities for our community.**

# PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

## PRWIN Outreach



- PRWIN hosted a Sponsorship Day to recognize our sponsors contributions to PRWIN community programs.
- PRWIN provides spring maintenance of the rain garden at the Ripley Library.
- Directors supported the Kincardine Naturalization Project Committee with seedlings and tree guards for Savage Park in Kincardine.
- PRWIN sponsored public skating, a free tree raffle and participated at the Ripley Fall Fair with an information exhibit table.

## **PRWIN Outreach**

### **McLarty Environmental Study Area**



- This area is designed for our community to learn about the Pine River; wetland creation and the education of the local wildlife and plants that this area supports. PRWIN has installed a trail system throughout the area, created two wetland ponds, an osprey nest and planted over a thousand tree seedlings.
- Community groups have enjoyed outdoor classroom experiences at the site. The Ripley 4-H Conservation Club, Ripley Huron Community School, Ripley Wolf Cub Summer Camp and the Ripley & District Horticultural Society's "For Our Youth" have stopped in to explore in nature.
- Our current initiative is "Green Elements – Friends of the McLarty Centre." The project will support a picnic shelter and picnic tables at the McLarty Centre.

# PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

## PRWIN Investment In Huron-Kinloss

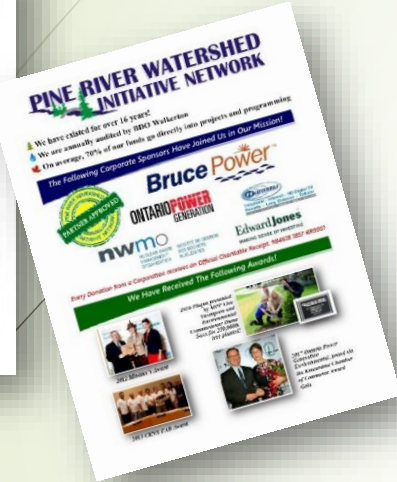


- Our 2023 operation expenses was spent directly on projects, contract services, professional fees, programming, as well as education and outreach. The remainder of expenses provided administration, auditing and other overhead.
- PRWIN has installed 16 berms, 10 livestock river crossings, 5 bank restorations, planted over 357,000 trees (windbreaks, riparian areas, reforestations), installed 24 km of livestock exclusion fencing, 4 nitrate filters, and improved 7 wetland areas.
- Since 2013, when PRWIN started auditing with BDO Walkerton, over a million dollars has been invested in Huron-Kinloss alone on in-ground projects and programming by PRWIN.

# PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK



## PRWIN 's Challenges and Opportunities



### Challenges:

- The COA (Canada Ontario Agreement) grant administered by MOECP was approved January 2023. This funding was outlined for the following PRWIN budget:
  - \$20,000 for human resources.
  - \$30,000 for reforestation projects.
  - \$10,000 administered to SVCA for local water monitoring.
- The ECO Action Community Fund Program and the OCEF grant application was not successful.
- Community Non-profit groups stated at a meeting it was a common theme that the most challenging funding to obtain is support for covering "Administrative Costs". Corporate donors want their funds to go directly to specific projects in the community.

### Opportunities:

- PRWIN is contacting businesses to help fund projects/programming moving forward in 2024. We have a legacy fund and apply to sponsorship programs and grant opportunities.
- COA 2023-24 funding announcements are expected early in the new year.

SEEDLINGS	2018	2024
White Pine	\$ 0.75	\$1.60
White Cedar	\$ 1.00	\$2.60
Red Maple	\$ 1.30	\$3.00

# PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

*PRWIN would not be where we are today without our past/present director's leadership and dedication to our vision of "Clean water and a healthy ecosystem within the Pine River watershed."*





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*Thank-you for your time!*

