

Municipal Newsletter

May 2024

This is the May 2024 municipal update about the work we do, in partnership with you, to protect municipal drinking water sources in Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield source protection areas.

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1. Source Protection Plans updated

The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Committee (SPC) has developed two separate updates to the source protection plans to better protect sources of drinking water.

a. The broad update submitted to the Province of Ontario in 2023 was approved by the Province March 26, 2024. Approval of the amendment is posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

(<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-8314>) Key changes include:

- New and revised policies to align with the 2021 provincial *Technical Rules* (under the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*), and to address policy implementation challenges.
- Revised wellhead protection areas for Belgrave, plus minor changes to Auburn, Palmerston and Wingham wellhead protection areas.
- Updated SGRA – Significant Groundwater Recharge Area – to align with updated provincial *Technical Rules*.

b. A separate update, to incorporate changes to the Lucknow and Century Heights drinking water systems, was submitted to the Province April 4, 2024. Approval is pending.

Thanks to all our local municipalities for their input on the proposed changes.

About Us

Source Protection Committee

- 12 members plus a Chair
- Represents local municipalities; economic sectors; and Other/Public

Source Protection Plans (SPP)

- Developed locally
- Approved by Province in 2015
- Updates approved in 2024
- Policies to protect municipal sources of drinking water
- Area covered – Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley source protection areas

Goal: To protect region's municipal sources of drinking water – aquifers and lakes – from contamination and overuse

2. Annual Progress Report prepared for year 2023

Our source protection region recently completed its seventh Annual Progress Report for drinking water source protection in the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley areas. This was for the 2023 reporting period and it is available on our [local source protection website](#).

The annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing the source protection plans (SPPs) for the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley source protection areas, as required by the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) reviewed the recent implementation results, noting that significant progress has been made since the SPPs came into effect in 2015. All of the policies in the SPPs are implemented, in progress or require no further action. In addition, 100 per cent of significant drinking water threats have been addressed. The SPC is pleased to see that the objectives of the *Clean Water Act* are being achieved.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the local municipalities, stakeholders and landowners for their ongoing efforts to protect our sources of drinking water. The great progress made to date on SPP implementation would not have been possible without their strong support.

3. Passing of Source Protection Committee member

Bert Dykstra

“Many of us have had the pleasure of working with Bert on various committees and through local politics,” said Matt Pearson, Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee. “He was a past member of the Central Huron Council for two decades and a past Warden of Huron County. As the Chair of the Huron County Water Protection Steering Committee for three years he was quite proud of their achievements.”



More details are in the [note of condolence](#) on our source protection website. Chair Matt remembered Bert as a friendly and helpful person. “Bert’s smile walked into the room before he did,” Matt said. Bert was featured in a video (<https://youtu.be/Jf2ZdSBMZjk?t=191>) we prepared encouraging the use of online mapping apps to help protect municipal drinking water sources.

4. Water Wise Water Sampling and Testing Events Promoting Best Practices for Wells and Septic Systems

Property owners know that testing their well water is important but it isn’t always as convenient as it could be. In 2023 and early 2024, source protection staff, with assistance from Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH), organized several *Water Wise* water sampling and testing events in partnership with local community and service groups. The goal was to make enable well water testing by providing a drop-off point for residents in their community. Participating community groups included the Ashfield-Colborne Lakefront Association; Goderich, Dublin, Monkton and Londesboro Lions Clubs; and the Kirkton-Woodham Optimists. Community volunteers with these groups assisted with distributing water sampling bottles, signage, promotions, staffing and event locations. During the six events, more than 300 residents brought in their well water samples.

At these events, private well owners also received information about protecting and maintaining their wells and septic systems, how to interpret their water sample results and they could ask experts specific questions about their own systems. Provincial funding for this pilot project was provided to promote Ontario's Best Practices for non-municipal water (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/best-practices-source-water-protection>). The message to the public, at these events, was to **Test, Protect and Maintain**: test your well water; protect your well water; and maintain your well and septic system.

(Below are images of some of the local media coverage of the Water Wise events).



5. Source Protection Committee champions water testing

At the January 31, 2024 Source Protection Committee meeting a motion was passed to send a letter to the provincial ministers of Agriculture; Health; and Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding the committee's concern about a recommended phase-out of free private drinking water testing in the December 2023 Auditor General's report. This letter was also circulated to all municipalities in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region as well as other source protection regions in Ontario. Many municipalities and other source protection committees provided letters of support in response to this letter.

The letter garnered a great deal of interest and media response. Chair Matt Person was interviewed by several media regarding concerns raised about the proposed phase-out of free water testing for private wells. In April 2024 Minister Jones responded to the Ontario Legislature with assurances that free well-water testing for rural households will continue. (<https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/ontario-health-minister-vows-not-to-end-free-private-well-water-tests>)

6. Public outreach through videos, local media, and social media

The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region reaches out directly to the public in person, at events, and by phone. Source protection staff also educate and engage the public through local media, websites, and social media including videos.

Every current member of our source protection committee has appeared in one of our source protection [public information videos](#). There are 12 videos in total and they have received more than 35,000 views by members of the public.

Since April of 2023, we have added four new videos to our video series:

- [The Worth of Water](#): Why it's so important for businesses to protect drinking water sources, with Philip Keightley, M.Sc., P. Eng., commercial representative on the SPC.
- [Your Well, Your Responsibility](#) – Tips to keep your well water safe and clean, with Doug Hocking, property owner representative on the SPC.
- [Water Wise Well Water Testing Event along Lake Huron shoreline](#), with John Thompson, municipal representative on the SPC.
- [Be Part of the Water Team](#), with Paul Heffer, municipal representative on the SPC.

In addition to the video series, we have shared **#WaterWednesdays** public information and education posts, about drinking water source protection, on four social media platforms.

(In photos below, left to right, committee members Philip Keightley; Doug Hocking; John Thompson; and Paul Heffer in videos helping to educate the public).



6. Call for applications for Source Protection Committee member

On June 6, 2024, our source protection region will be issuing a call for applications for an agricultural representative on the ABMV Source Protection Committee.

For full posting and details, visit: www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca in early June.

To learn more call 519-235-2610 or toll-free 1-888-286-2610.

To find out more visit the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee web page (<https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/the-committee/>) on the local source protection region website at <https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca>

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region
 c/o Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
 71108 Morrison Line, R.R. 3
 Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

Tel 519-235-2610
 Toll-free 1-888-286-2610
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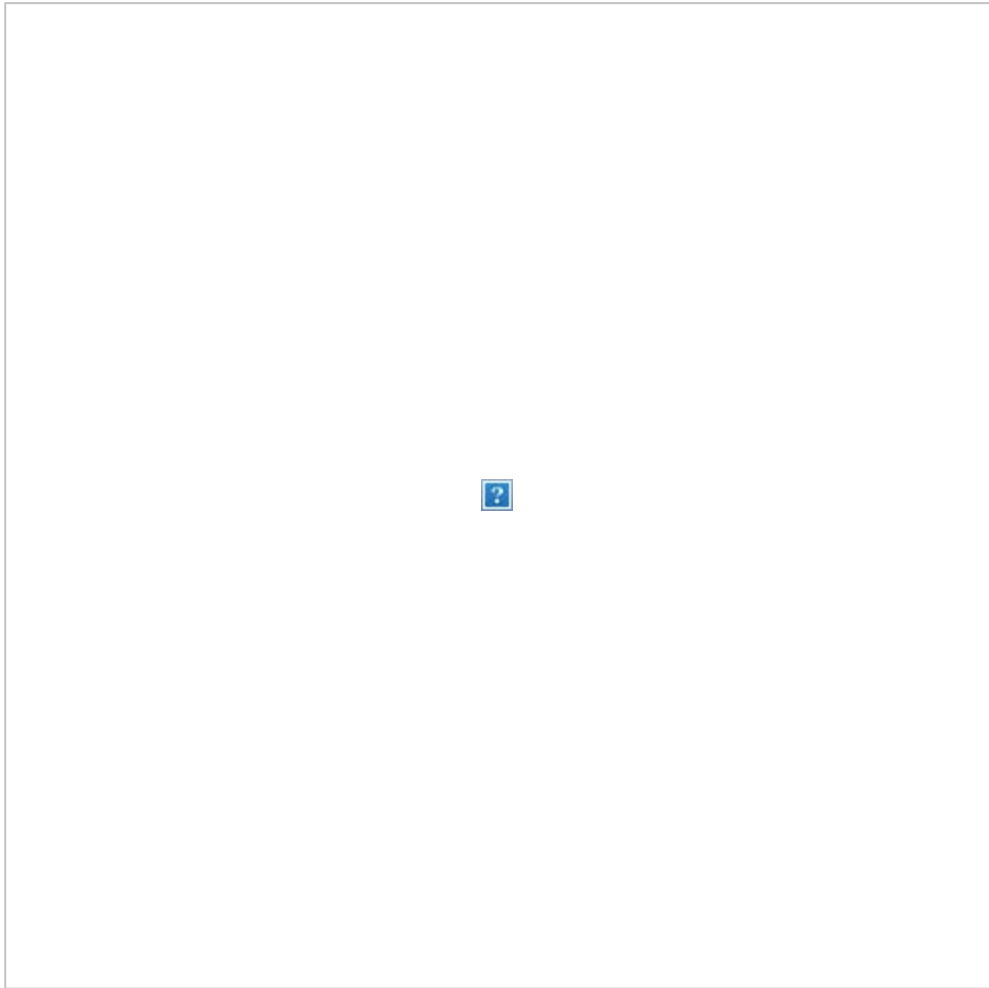
This project has received funding support from the Government of Ontario.
 Such support does not indicate endorsement of the contents of this material.

From: [Community Living Kincardine & District](#)
To: [Kelly Lush](#)
Subject: CLKD's May 2024 newsletter is here!
Date: May 2, 2024 9:59:56 AM

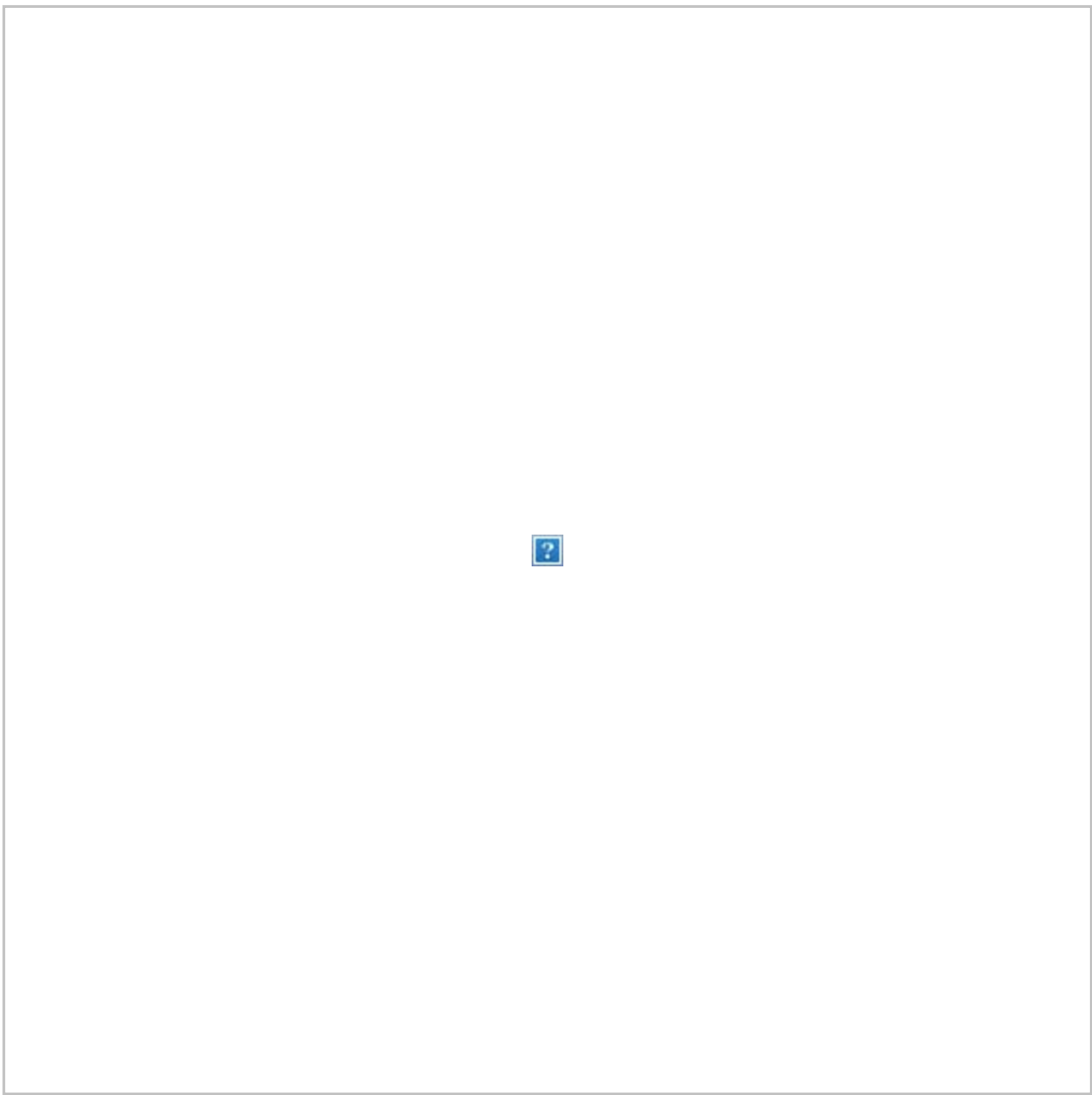



May 2024 Newsletter

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An inclusive caring community.





Community Living Month is a province-wide, annual awareness campaign to recognize the accomplishments of the Community Living movement.

Founded by families who wanted more for their children born with a disability, Community Living Kincardine and District has been supporting people with developmental disabilities for over 60 years.

In the municipality of Kincardine and the Township of Huron-Kinloss, we are fortunate to have a great network of businesses, organizations and community members who share our vision of an inclusive caring community.

Thank you for helping us *Inspire Possibilities* while creating a community that is welcoming for people of all abilities.

Karen Cruises with Mickey and Mini!



Late last year, Karen's sister surprised her with the news that they were going on a Disney Cruise together!

In the weeks leading up to her departure date last month, Karen packed and pampered herself with a manicure and pedicure to get ready for her vacation; she was bursting with excitement!

While on the cruise ship, Karen danced with Mickey and Mini Mouse, was delighted with the Disney themed entertainment and enjoyed a variety of delicious foods. The cruise ship docked in Cozumel, Jamaica and Grand Cayman Island. Karen spent time soaking up the sun poolside, cruising around Cozumel and adored seeing the dolphins in Grand Cayman Island. It was clear that Karen was not ready to leave anytime soon.

When we asked about her vacation, through her ear to ear smiles, she simply said, "amazing". The memories made on this vacation will most definitely last a lifetime.

Meet "Doug" the Sourdough Starter!



"I like making sweets for my good friends" said Jeffrey as a declaration of his love for baking. As a method of extending his time in the kitchen and taking a healthy approach to baking, Jeffrey decided to make a sourdough starter. "Because it's alive", said Jeffrey, the starter has to be carefully prepared and fed so it will grow.

As all good sourdough caretakers do, Jeffrey named his sourdough starter "Doug". After 2 weeks of caretaking, "Doug" had reached maturity and was ready to bake with. Jeffrey surprised and delighted his parents with half of the starter so they could bake together during visits.

Although this is Jeffrey's first dive into the world of sourdough, he has already made his first successful batch of dinner rolls.

If you would like to start your own sourdough, here are Jeffrey's instructions:

Day 1

- Thoroughly clean a glass jar
- Add: 1 cup whole-wheat flour and 1 cup warm water to the jar
- Stir with a fork
- Cover with a cloth
- Keep on counter

Day 3-7

- Discard half of your sourdough contents
- Add 1/2 cup flour (whole-wheat or white unbleached)
- Add 1/4 cup warm water (add a little more if needed but, sourdough feeds on new flour).
- Stir with a fork
- Cover with a cloth
- Keep on counter

When the contents in your jar doubles in size and is bubbling after 4 hours, your sourdough is ready to bake with.

Celebrating Inclusion in the Classroom



During Inclusive Education Month, Mrs. Graham's grade 6 class caught our attention with their

remarkable dedication to learning about stereotypes and inclusion.

They explored stereotypes, inspired by Rick Hansen's journey, understanding the challenges individuals face due to preconceived notions about their abilities. They also gained insight into the friendship shared between Rick Hansen and Terry Fox, recognizing that genuine friendship knows no boundaries.

Their education wasn't just about facts. They passionately engaged in discussions, eager to share their understanding with others. Their commitment to embracing inclusion was admirable.

Out of many contenders, Mrs. Graham's class won a pizza party for their efforts. It's a celebration of not only their academic achievement but also their commitment to creating a more inclusive world.

We extend our thanks to all the classes who participated in the competition. Your enthusiasm exemplifies the spirit of inclusivity that we strive for.

Magnet Collection



I like to collect fridge magnets from the places that I have been to in North America and Europe

Two months ago, I went to England for a wedding then we had a vacation in Rome with my family and added to my magnet collection.

I also have magnets from Ireland, England and Austria from when I got to travel to those places. Some places I visited through Special Olympics. Most of my magnets are from the UK when we go to visit family. The rest of my magnet collection comes from my parents. They will bring me back a magnet as a souvenir from their trips.

I also have lots of magnets from places all around Canada. They are a good way for me to remember my trips.

- Rosie Laidler

Upcoming Events & Activities



Baby & Me Groups

Running the first 3 Thursdays of the Month!

Baby & Me programs will rotate each week through Baby & Me Music, Baby & Me Messy Art and Baby & Me Gross Motor and Movement.

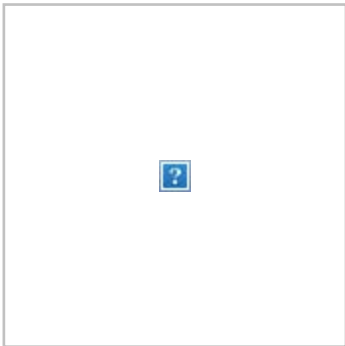
Please visit our [website](#) and/or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to stay up-to-date!



Annual General Meeting

June 18th, 10:00 am

Join us at the Community Living Kincardine & District Annual General Meeting. The meeting will take place on June 18th at 10:00 am at the Kincardine Legion.



Annual CLKD Charity Golf Classic

July 19th, 2024, Ainsdale Golf Course

Save the date! CLKD's Annual Golf Classic will be held on Friday, July 19th at Ainsdale Golf Course. This event sells out every year so watch our website and facebook page as registration will be opening soon!

If you wish to sponsor this event, please email: cmc@clkd.ca

To learn more about CLKD's services and events, visit our website!



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Our mailing address is:
Community Living Kincardine & District
286 Lambton St.
Kincardine, On N2Z 2Z3
Canada

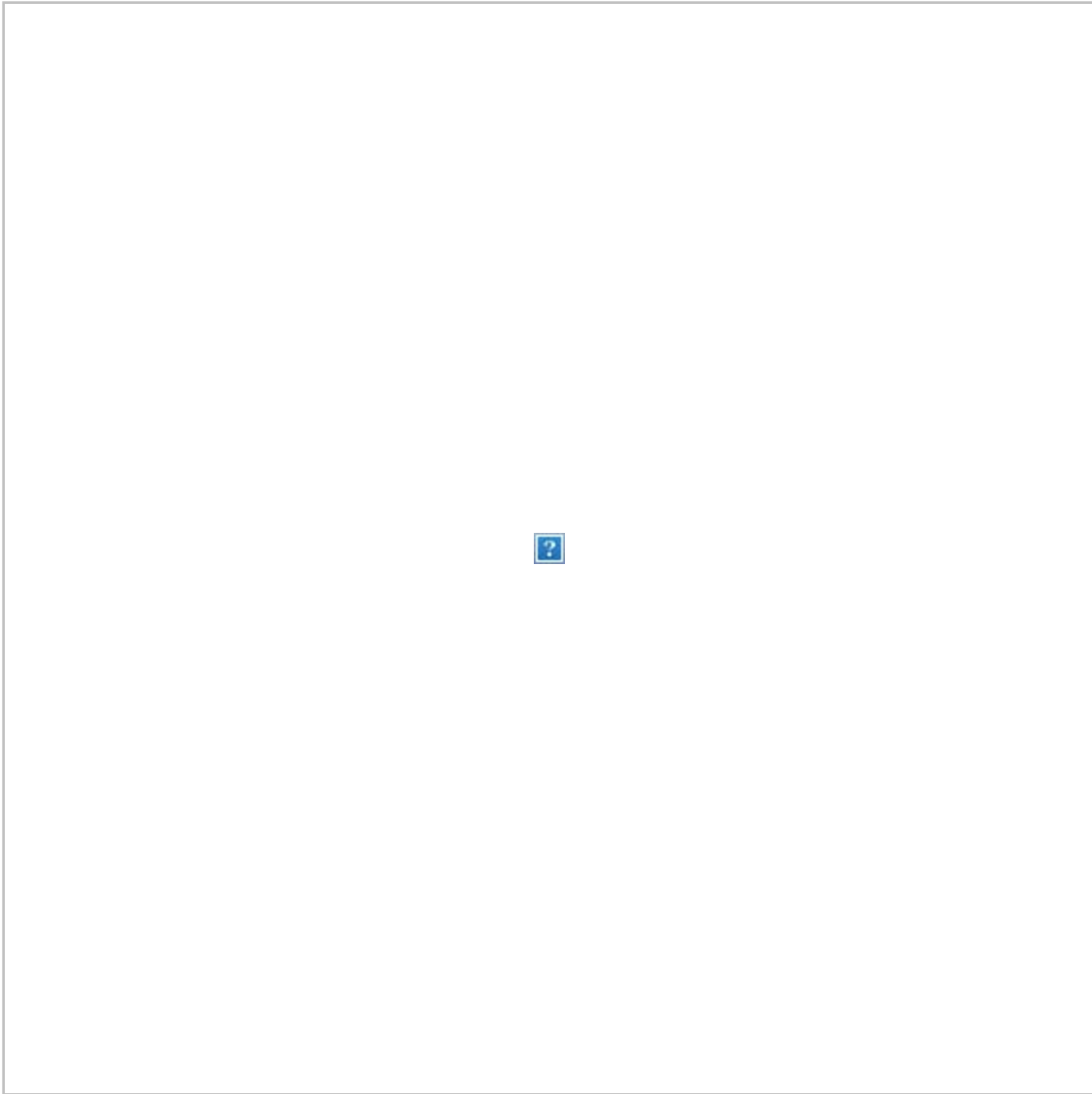
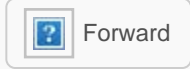
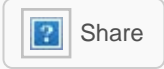
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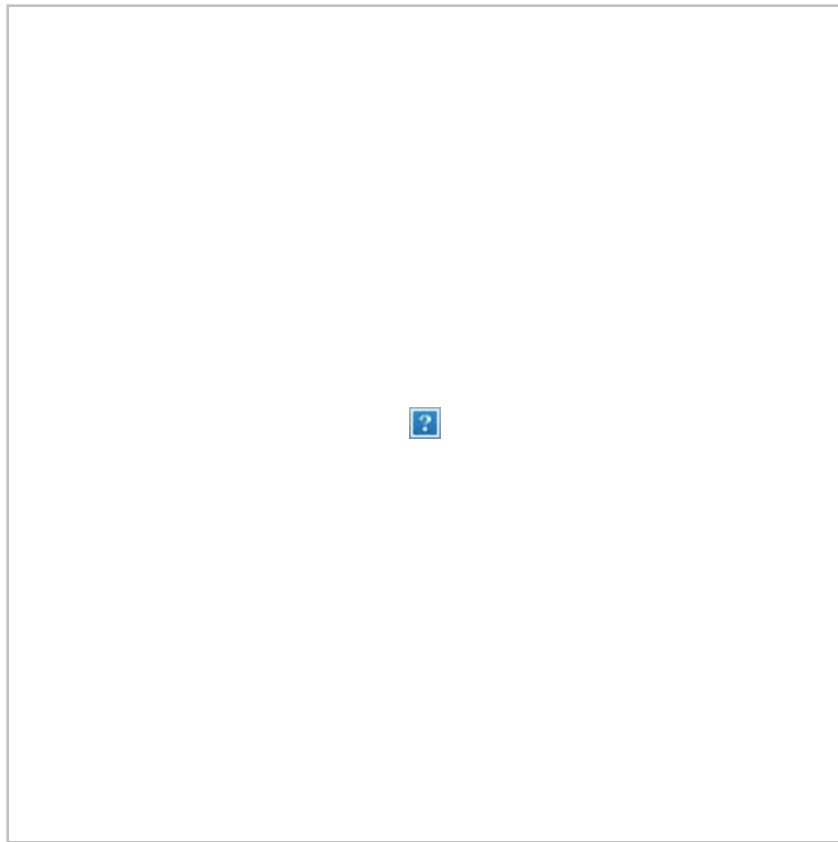
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From: [Pine River Watershed Initiative Network](#)
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: Pine River Watershed Initiative Network Spring 2024 Newsletter
Date: May 8, 2024 7:59:29 AM



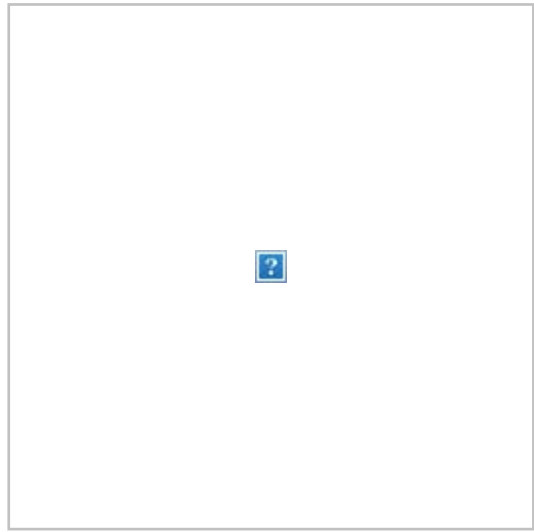
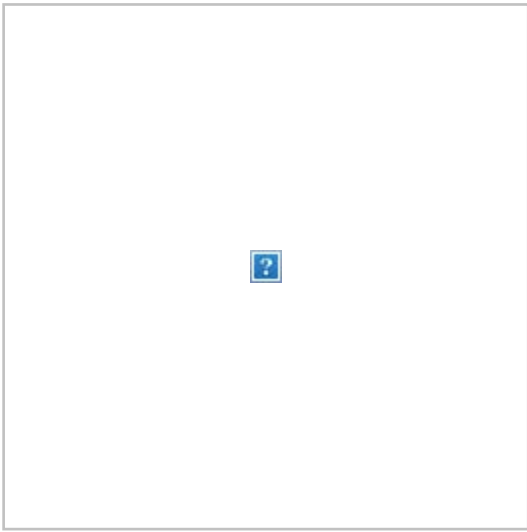
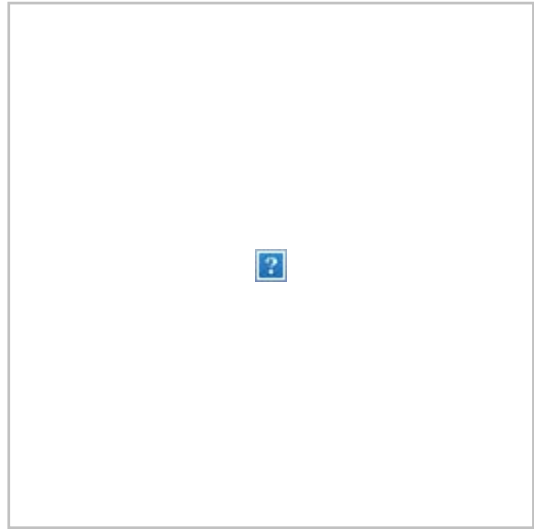
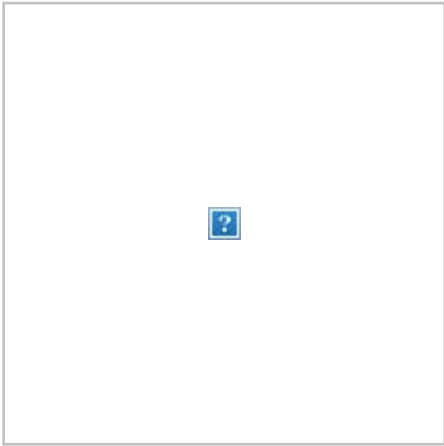
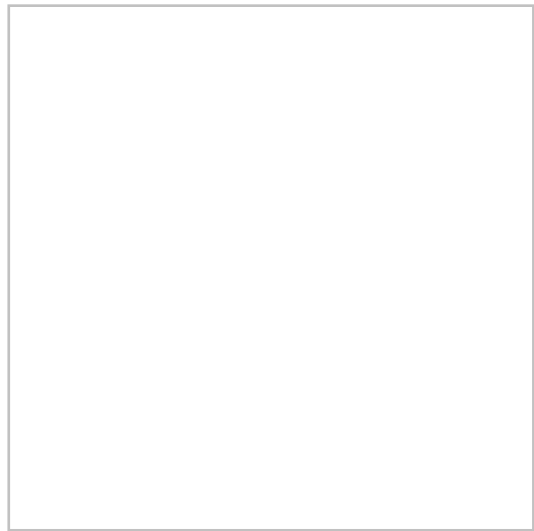
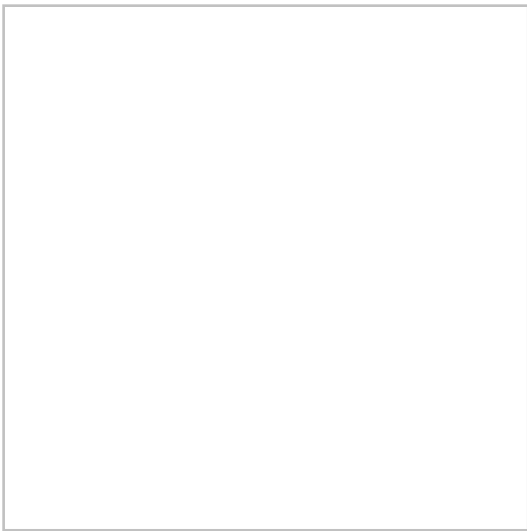
2024 "FREE SEEDLING GIVE-AWAY PROGRAM"

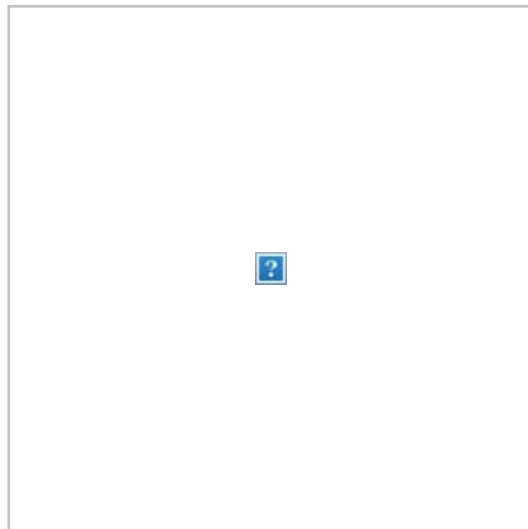
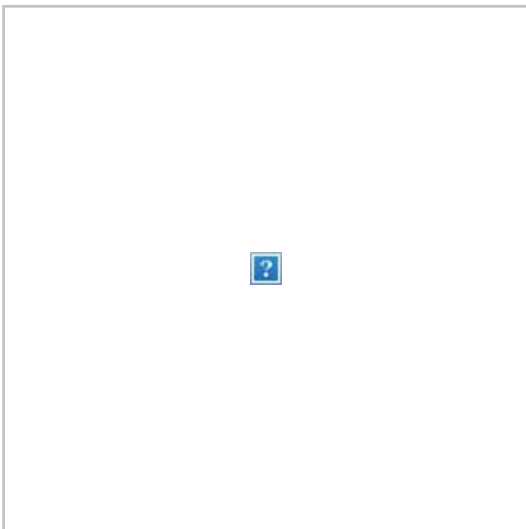
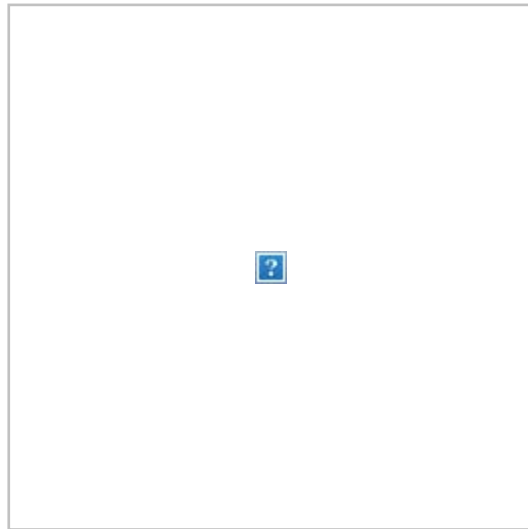
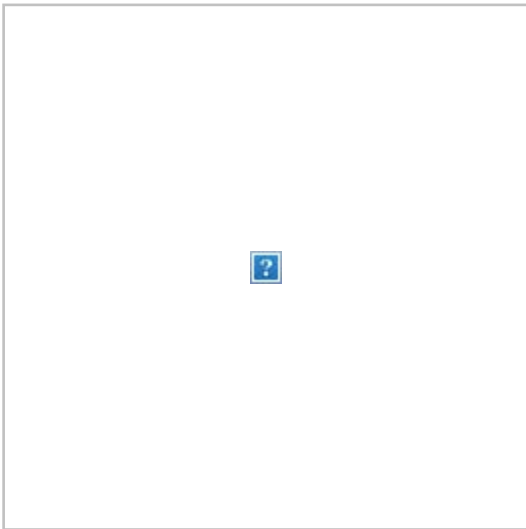
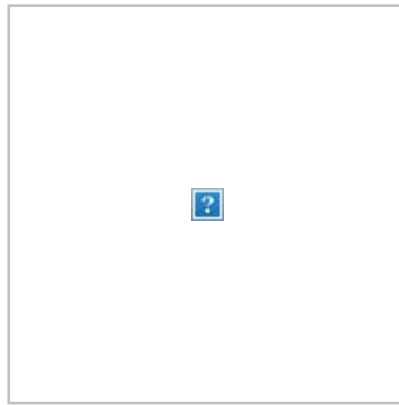


This spring, 5500 seedlings were handed out during our annual "FREE Seedling Give-Away Program." The program was created in 2014 and is a very popular community outreach program.

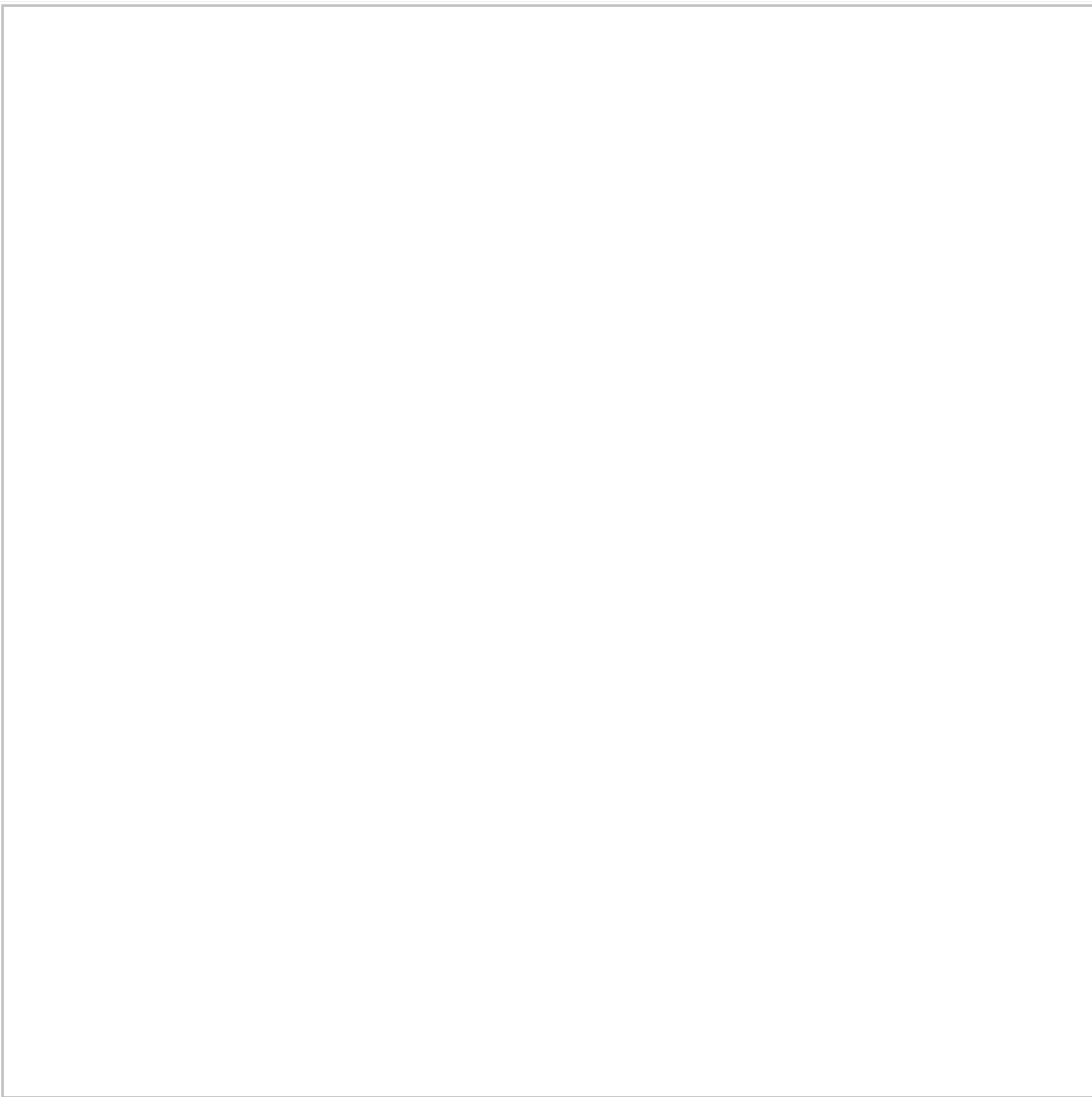
PRWIN directors and volunteers sorted and packaged 90 personal orders. Some of the orders supported the Kincardine Naturalization Project - Savage Park, 2nd Kincardine Scouts and the Ripley Huron Community School Green Team.

Donations and sponsorship from Armow Wind, B. M. Ross & Associates, Baywood Interior Millwork, Corteva Agriscience, Enbridge, Greenfield Global, Howick Mutual Insurance, K2 Wind, Meridian, NWMO, OPG and Society of United Professionals.





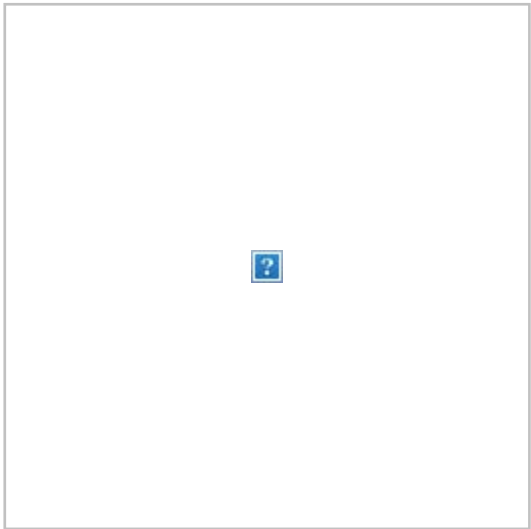
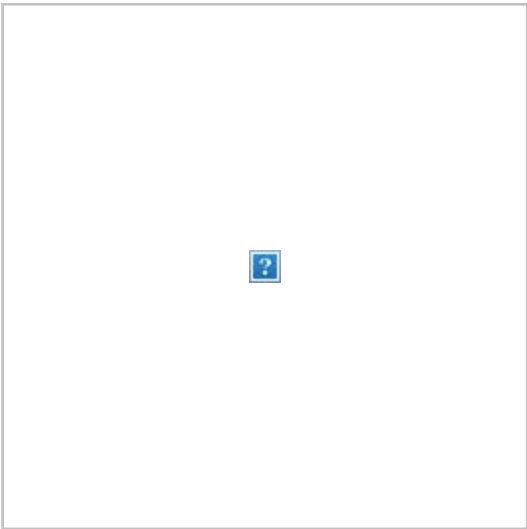
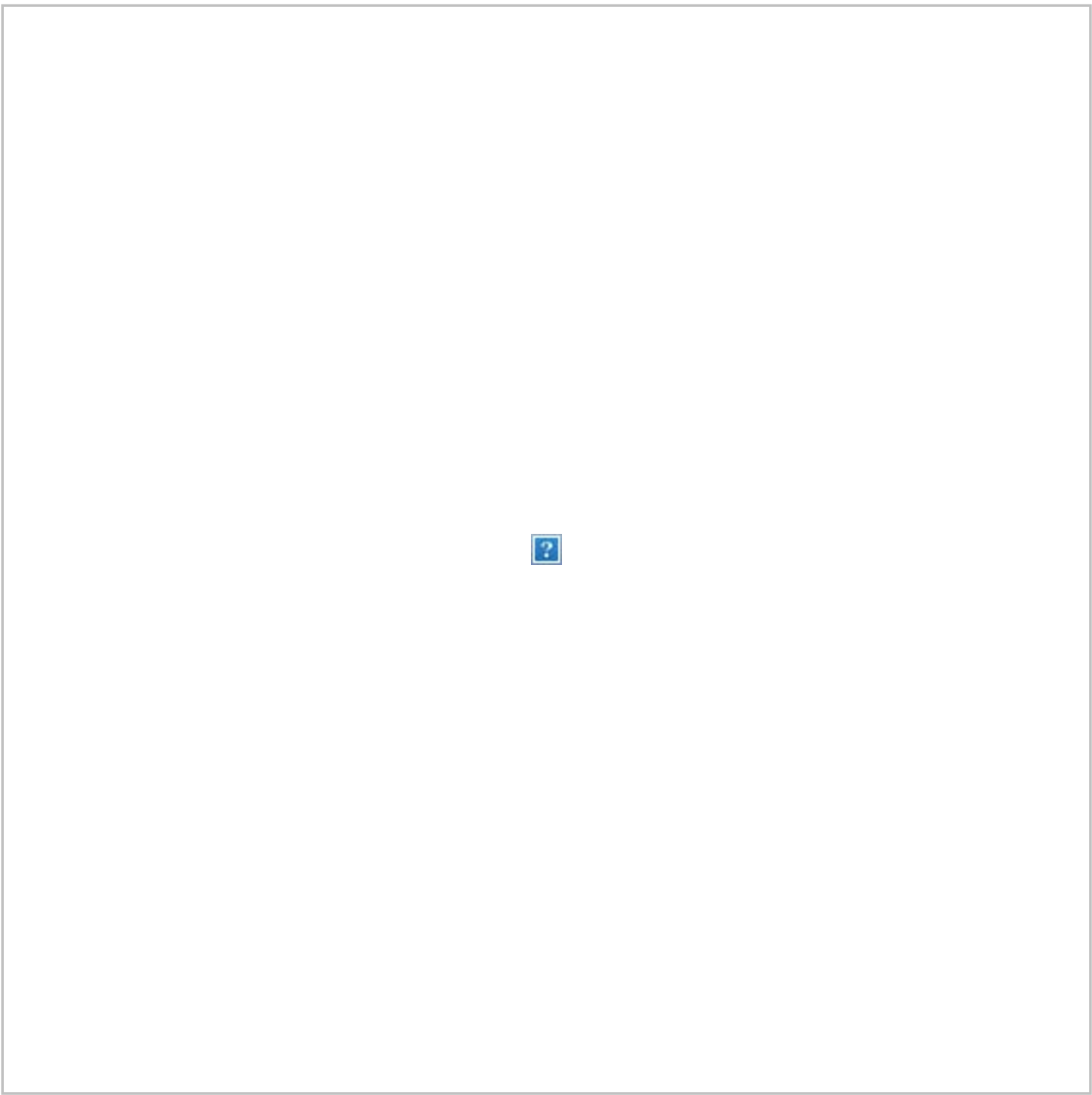
PRWIN SEEDLING ORDERS



**Thank you to our directors and volunteers for their time and efforts
to help sort the custom personal seedling orders for our
"FREE Seedling Give-Away Program."**

**Thank you to Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority for sourcing the
seedlings for our annual community program.**

PRWIN COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY



Saturday, May 4th, was a beautiful day for PRWIN's Annual Community Tree Planting Day. The Kinetic Knights, Kincardine 2nd Scouts, Sawjan

Samanvay Sanatan Centre, Point Clark Beach Association, Enbridge, 4-H Conservation leaders and PRWIN families worked together planting seedlings at our upcoming project site.

The planting site is supported by the 2023 Bruce Power's Environment and Sustainability Fund and by COA funding, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks through the Great Lakes Program.

The volunteers hand planted seedlings, large stock trees and shrubs along with plants to create a pollinator garden around an existing pond area. To wrap up the morning planting session, Mercato Pizzeria provided pizza for our hard-working crew!

Thank you to our tireless and energetic directors and volunteers!

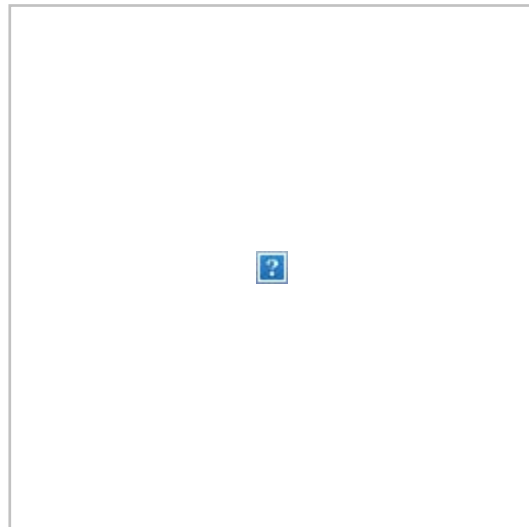
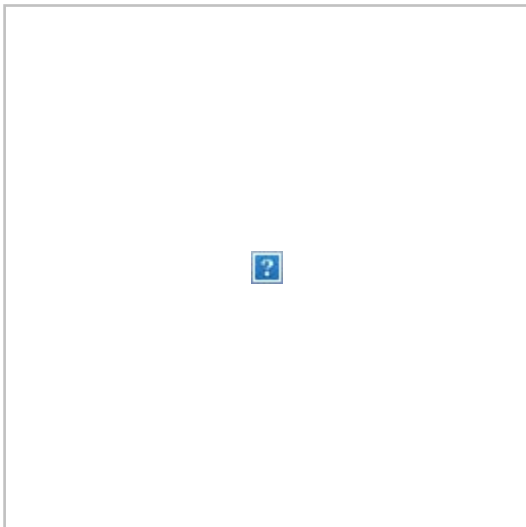
PRWIN COA 2023 PROJECT



Last year, we started the planning phase of our COA 2023 Project. The first step of this project involved tree planting along a ditch, serving the purpose of stabilizing the ditch banks, reducing the volume of water entering the ditch and impacting the vegetative growth and water flow i.e. soil erosion resulting in soil collection in the ditch. Mature trees are planted throughout the property to help deal with excess water and wind reduction.

The next phase of this project is to construct a livestock crossing, complete a ditch cleanout to improve its water flow function and perform a berm improvement. These two pieces of the project will also contribute to improving water movement at this location and reduce its impact on the soil and its useability.

This project is funded by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks through the Great Lakes Program.



2023 BRUCE POWER FUND



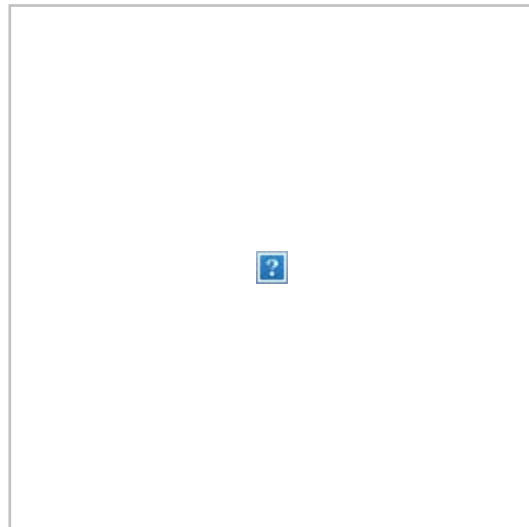
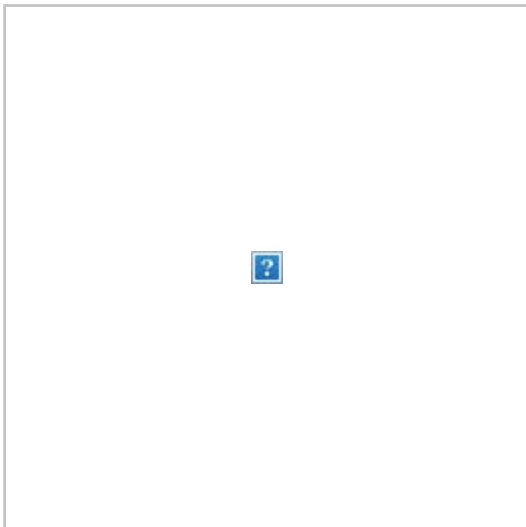
2023 Bruce Power's Environment & Sustainability Fund

This project started off with planting a windbreak between cropland and a stretch of the ditch that crosses a landowner's property. Not only will the trees be helping to reduce wind and its deleterious actions on the soil and other land features, it will also help to reduce the amount of water entering the ditch from surrounding cropland. These trees will uptake the water and nutrients coming towards the ditch from the cropland, while also slowing down its flow by acting as a barrier, all of which will reduce its physical impact on the soil of the ditch bank.

A pollinator garden was created surrounding a pond to provide season long flowers and food source to the existing pollinators and will bring new pollinators to the area. This property has experienced the monarch butterfly migration, seeing hundreds as they venture to their chosen location for the summer and we all would love to provide a great spot for them to rest and rejuvenate and to be enjoyed by the landowners before they move on!

The final step to this project is the installation of a Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCoB), It will collect, store and slowly release excess water down the water system through an outlet. This will further reduce the impact of heavy rains and spring melt on the soil as well as the impact on surrounding farm operations and water sources.

The project is supported by Bruce Power's 2023 Environment and Sustainability Fund. Thank you to Smeltzer's Garden Centre for the selection of pollinator plants and to MVCA for sourcing the seedlings.



EARTH DAY ASSEMBLY



We celebrated Earth Day at Ripley Huron Community School!

PRWIN Chairperson David Grant, shared with students our programs, initiatives and opportunities for students and our community.

PRWIN provided a donation to support the RHCS Green Team's Revitalization Project. Also, PRWIN provided white cedar seedlings for the RHCS Green Team!

Let's make every day Earth Day!

DONATION TO PRWIN



Thank you to NWMO, a partner and long-time supporter of the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network for your donation.

Our committee greatly appreciates their support to assist us with our 2024 Spring Seedling Program. PRWIN Director, Don Farrell accepts the donation from Jessica Fischer, NWMO Office Support - Engagement

GET SOIL SMART #3

PRWIN is excited to add our 3rd article “Get Soil Smart” a new section to our newsletter, where we will bring you along on a ride to learn all about soil!

HOW IS SOIL FORMED?

Soil is a product of our ecosystem, and as components of our ecosystem change, so does the characteristics of our soil.

There are 5 Soil Forming factors that determine how and at what rate soil will form: Parent Material, Biota, Climate, Topography, and Time.

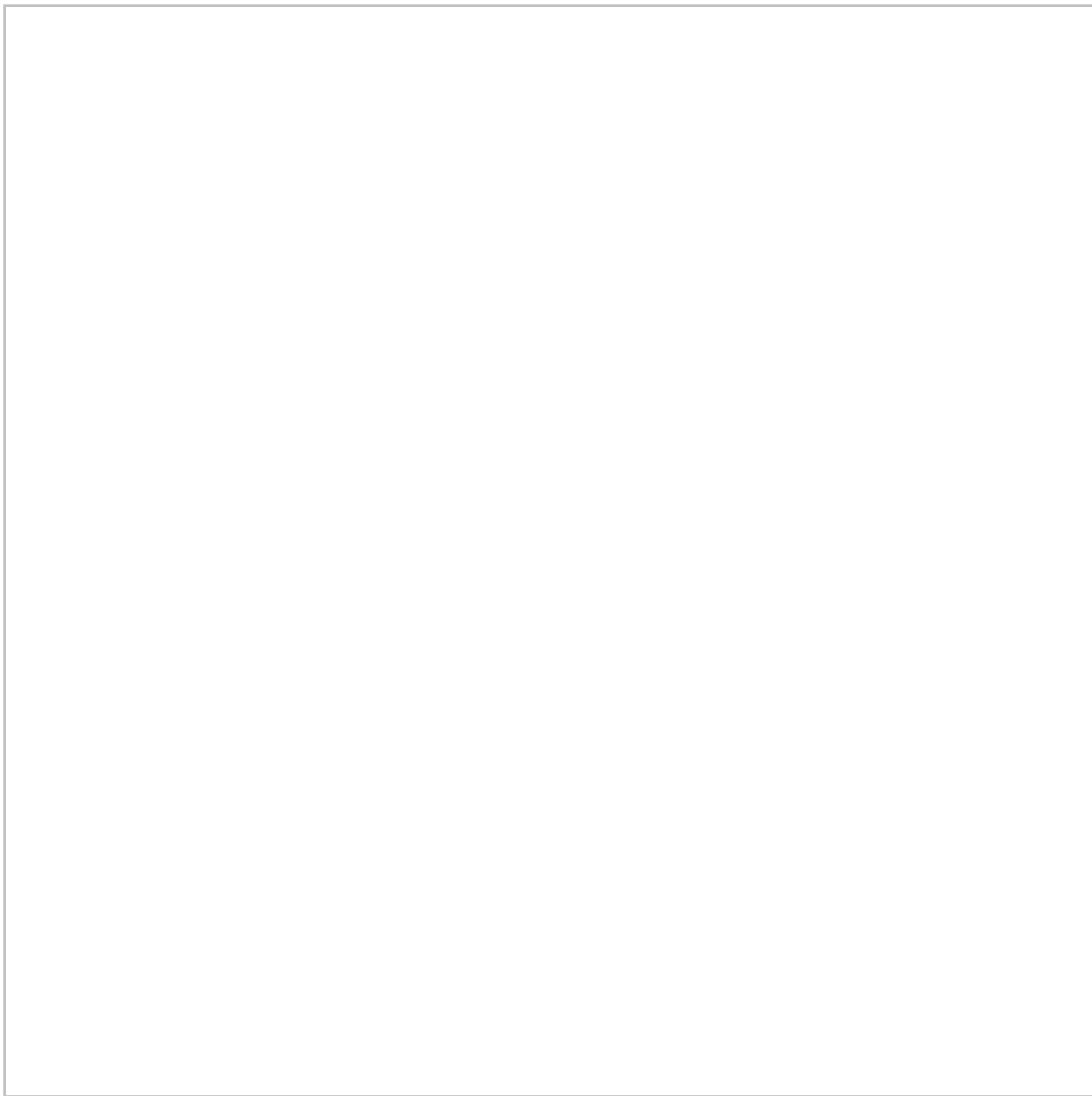
1. The primary stage of soil formation is the accumulation of the parent material, that being rock sediments from which the soil will form. Glaciation is the primary geomorphological process that has created these sediments in Canada. As glaciers moved, advancing and retreating across the bedrock, they over time ground the bedrock to varying degrees (large stones to sand). Meltwater from the glaciers also developed and dependent on its quantity: moved, mixed, sorted, and redeposited sediments thus leaving behind different glacial features and deposits (moraines, drumlins, outwash plains, spillways, eskers, and more) Furthermore, these sediments are also beneficial as they contain elements such as Potassium, Aluminium, Iron, Manganese, which eventually release into the soil, and provide critical components for plant growth.
2. Biota, which includes vegetation, organisms, and microorganisms, is the 2nd soil forming factor. Vegetation is multifaceted, the roots provide stabilization to the parent material while also splitting rock sediments via roots growing through cracks in the rock. Vegetation also institutes chemical weathering of minerals as they release acidic components (organic acids, carbon dioxide) during decomposition. Decomposition also adds organic matter, which will feed microorganisms and contribute components to soil development. Organisms, from worms to mice, will disturb and transport soils while also providing channels for roots, air and water to utilize.
3. Next is Climate; most specifically the Temperature and Moisture of a location, which have a large influence on soil formation because temperature controls the rate of chemical weathering reactions and the rate of biological activity. Moisture i.e. water controls the physical weathering processes, as it is a solvent, and a transport medium for most reactions and processes occurring in the soil. Wind is also a factor of climate, but to a lesser extent, as it enhances processes of erosion and deposition of soil, a more surficial action.
4. Soil is influenced by Topography primarily in respect to water movement. Land with rolling hills or slopes of any kind, will have differences in: soil moisture and soil quantity and quality at various locations on the slope. At the peak of hills or tops of slopes, soil erosion will take place and soil moisture will be lower as water follows the path of least resistance to the lowest land point. These soils will be less developed, lighter in colour due to leaching of minerals, and have fewer soil horizons.

While at the base of the hill/slope, the eroded soil and runoff from above will collect, resulting in deeper and darker soils with higher water and mineral content, and a greater number of soil horizons.

We must also consider direction of our slopes as this affects soil temperature and therefore the activity of vegetation and organisms within the soil and their ability to be active and adding to the process of forming soil.

5. Soil formation is a long, slow process, and thus soil takes *Time* to form. Time is needed for the parent material, climate, topography, and biota to work through their processes to contribute to the creation of soil. Canadian soils have been developing since the last glaciation, 14,000 years ago; in the grand scheme of soils, our soils are young and are therefore less weathered and richer in plant nutrients.

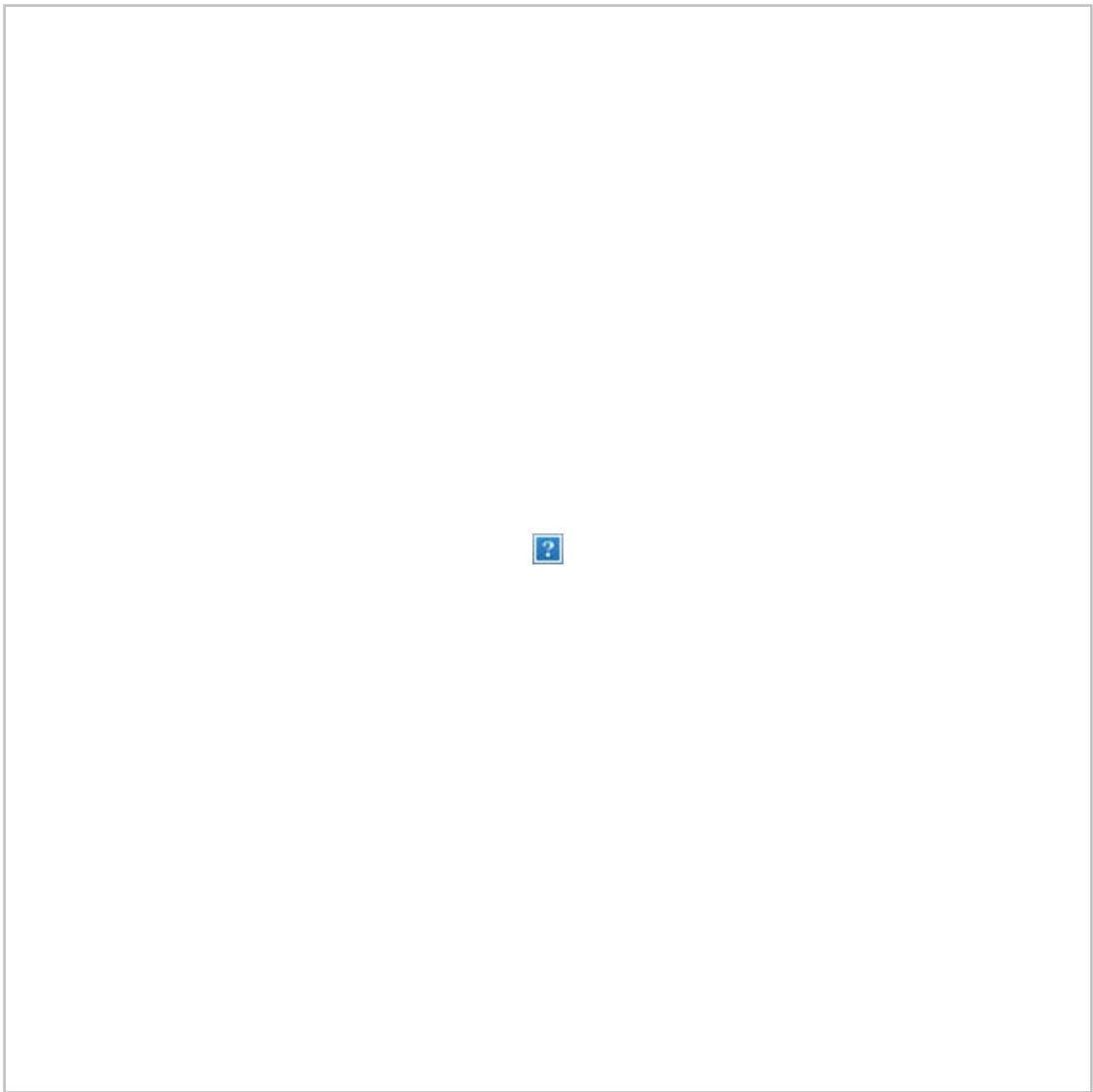
Soil Formation from beginning to end



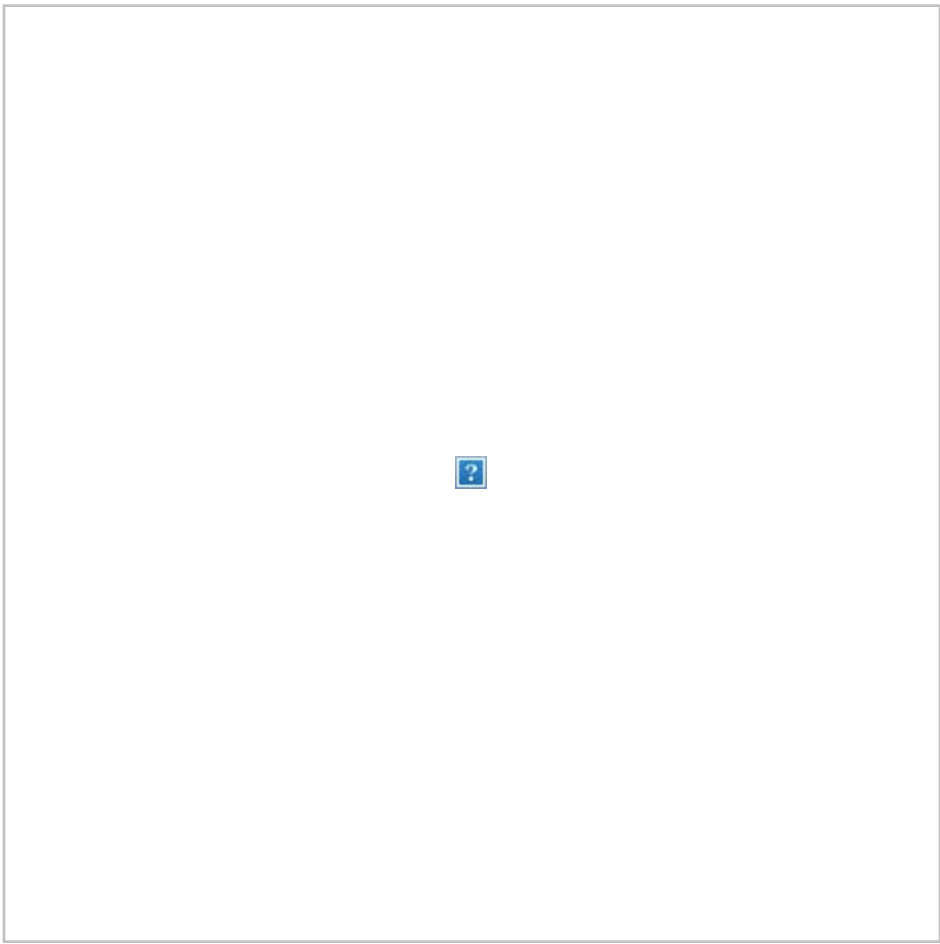
After soil forms, what does it look like?

After a lengthy period of time, a soil profile appears. A soil profile is essentially layers of different types of soil and is arranged in layers, called horizons.

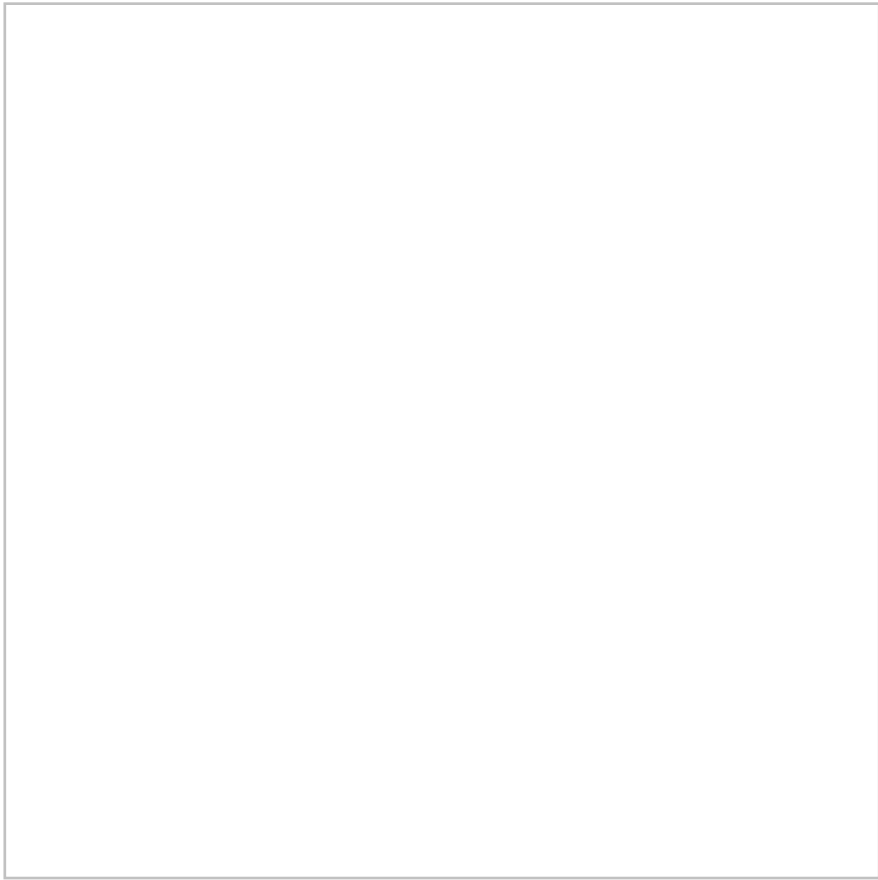
Processes that lead to horizon formation are: additions, losses, transformations, and translocations of materials or soil components from 1 horizon to another, or from the surface horizon to the atmosphere. The below image gives a simple representation of a soil profile and brief description of each horizon.



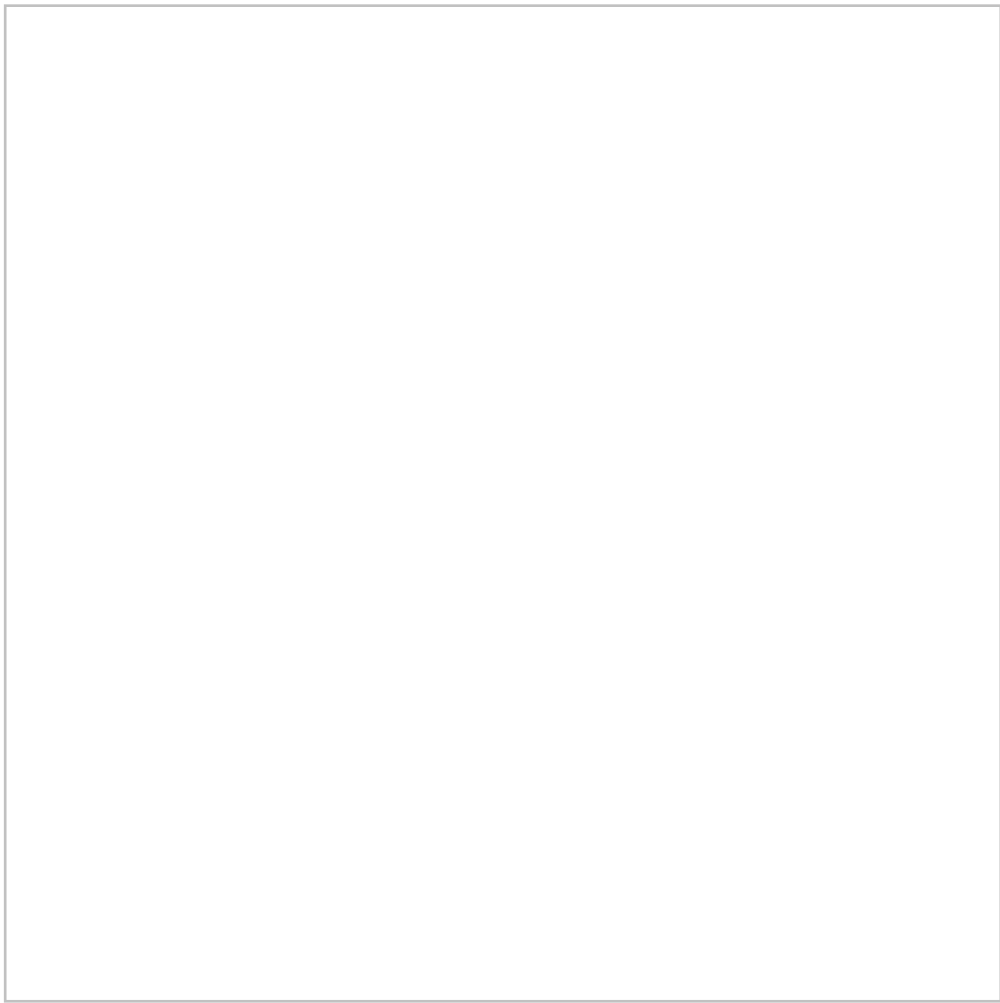
For interest's sake there are listed 2 Ontario soil profiles, so that you can see the soil horizons and how they can be vastly different based on their geographic location, and what the purpose of the land area is, among many other factors.



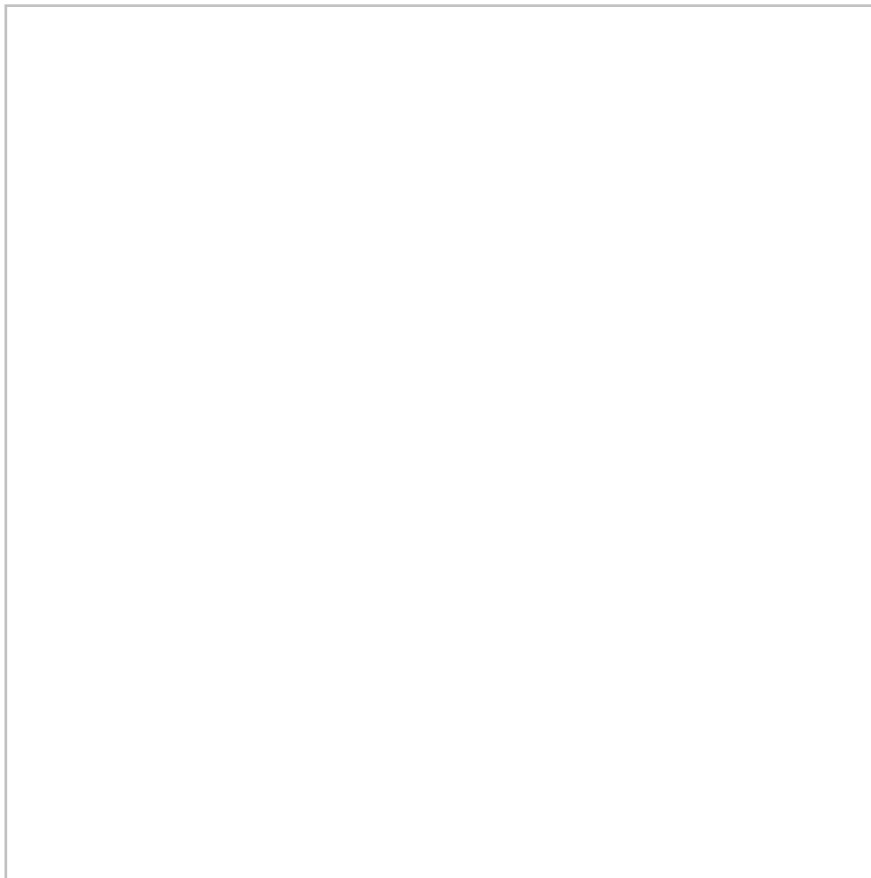
Landscape: Cultivated land



Gray Luvisol soil



Landscape: Pasture / Forested land area



Humic Podzol soil

In the gray luvisol soil picture, you will see the labelled horizons, if you are curious about what the lettering indicates for each horizon, here is a link to learn about the lettering system and what defines it.

<https://soilsofcanada.ca/soil-formation/horizons.php>

Article provided by Lisa Holland, PRWIN Project Co-ordinator.

**ENJOY NATURE AT THE
MCLARTY CENTRE**

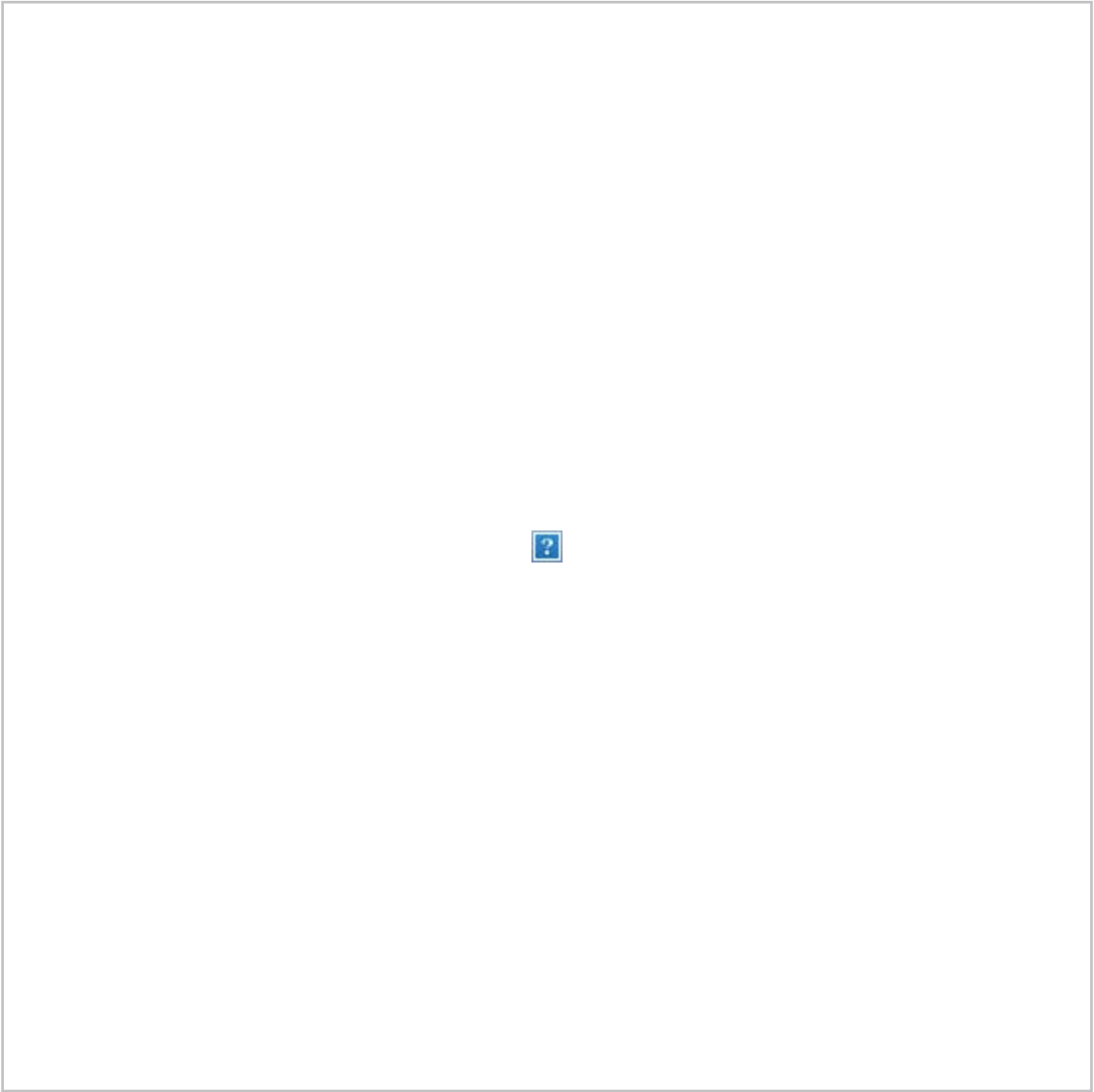


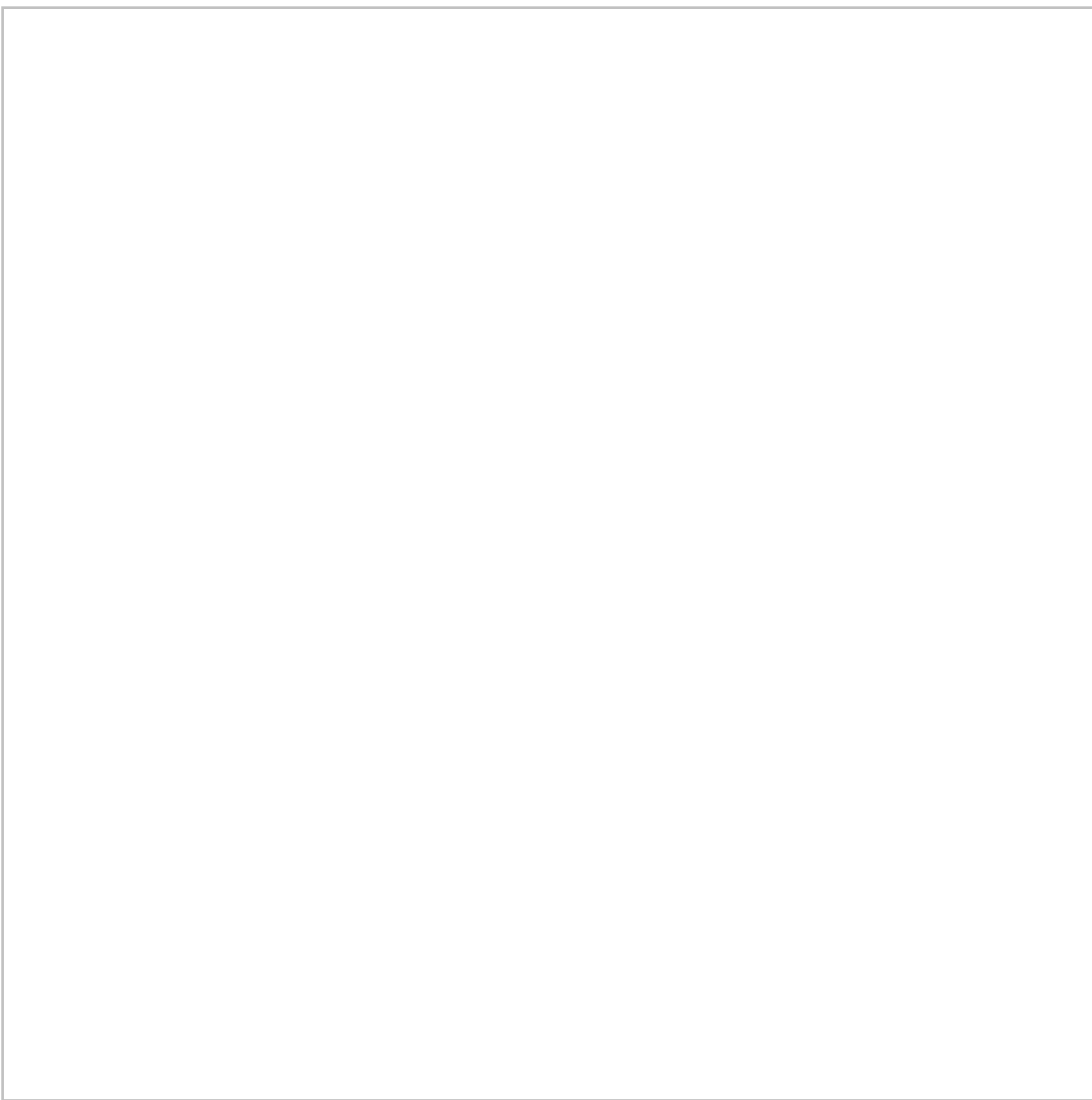
The McLarty Environmental Study Area is located on Bruce Road 6/Side Road 20 in Huron Kinloss. It is open to the public to enjoy the great outdoors!

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. It remains the desire of the McLarty's to preserve this piece of the river flats for generations to come.

PRWIN has installed a trail system, created two wetland ponds, planted memorial trees, an osprey nest and planted over a thousand tree seedlings. Community groups have enjoyed outdoor classroom experiences at the McLarty location.

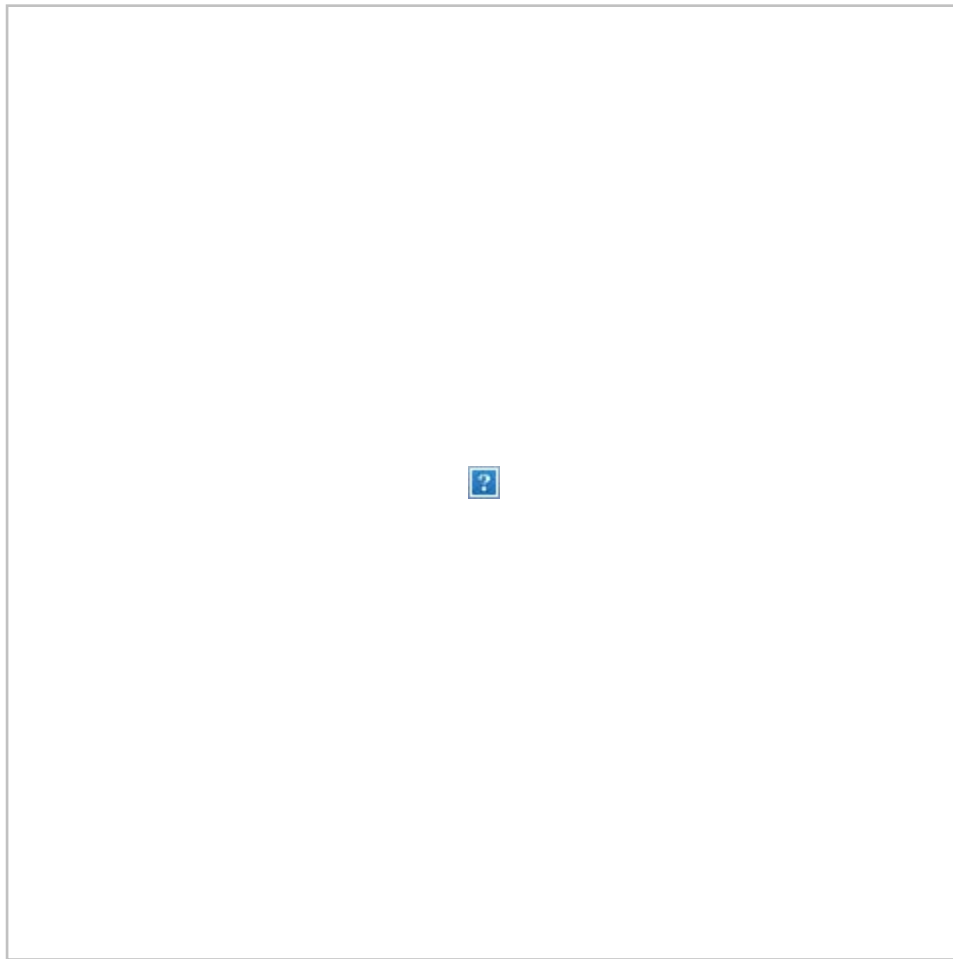
If you would like to explore the McLarty Centre, email pineriverwin@yahoo.ca





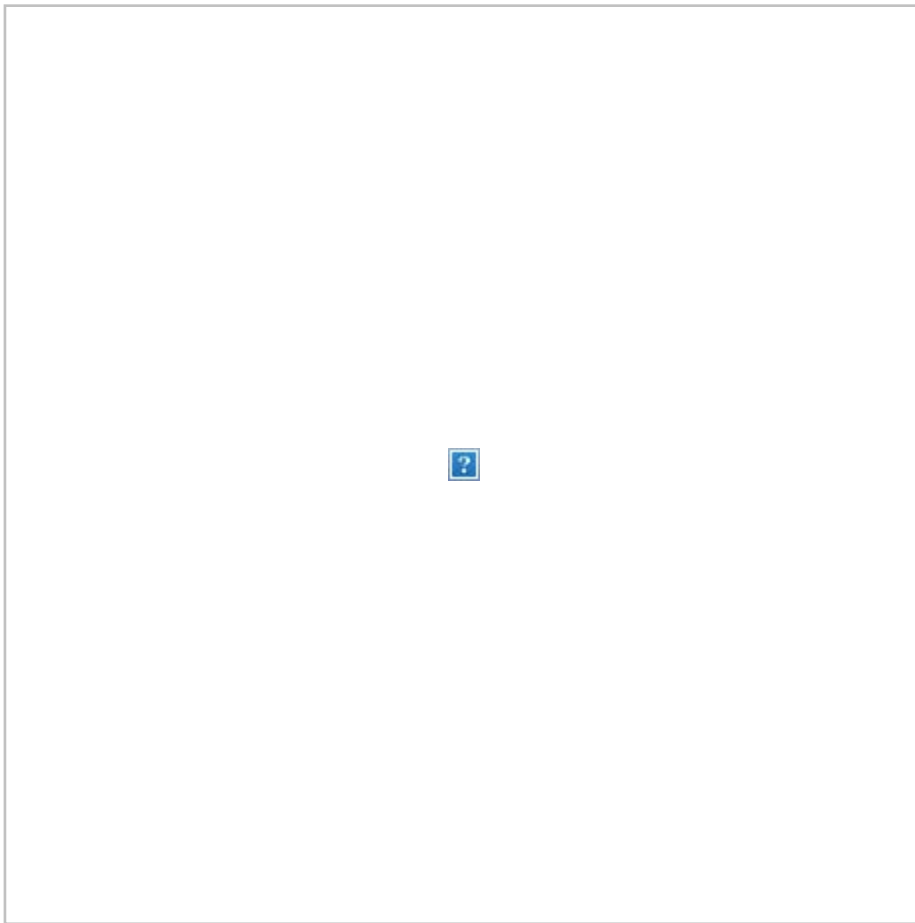
Our committee greatly appreciates community sponsorship and grant funding opportunities to continue our annual seedling program and tree projects in the Pine River Watershed. Funding allows PRWIN to keep our tree programs alive and to support the goals of PRWIN and our Lake Huron shoreline.

WOODLOT CONFERENCE



PRWIN attended the 31st Annual Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference in Elmwood. Speakers in attendance included the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry, Weed Science Technician - University of Guelph, a Senior Forester consultant and a MVCA Watershed Ecologist. Presentations highlighted bird habitat, forest health and herbicides, poisonous plants and forest fire risk management.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR



We would like to take a moment to welcome our new PRWIN Director Shirley Fiebiger. Shirley joined PRWIN as a director in February 2024. Shirley is a Conestoga College Doon Campus Alumni retired from a 38 year career in the accounting and sales/marketing field with international and global companies. Shirley's rural roots brought her back to Huron Kinloss. She is now able to share her free time and varied business experiences with PRWIN. Shirley's concern for clean water and a healthy ecosystem within the Pine River watershed is of utmost importance to her. Being part of a grassroots initiative such as PRWIN allows her to contribute in the development and implementation of changes which will make a difference now and for years to come. She is also a board member of the Point Clark Beach Association. Shirley and her husband split their time between Point Clark and Simcoe. They have lived in the area for over 20 years while making beautiful memories in Huron Kinloss with their children and grandchildren.

[Come and Join Us!](#)



Have you wondered what our non-profit organization is all about?

Would you like to volunteer and make a difference in our local watershed?

Why not join PRWIN and be involved with the growth and future success of our organization?

We welcome you to join us!

Contact us at pinerivewin@yahoo.ca if you would like to contribute to our community.

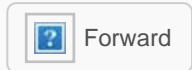
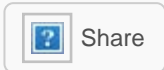


We encourage our vital community members to share our newsletter, website, and Facebook page. There is an opportunity for everyone to sign up for our newsletter. We have resources about our organization on our website and our social media page that will inform our community to be up to date with our present and future projects.

<http://www.pineriverwatershed.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/pineriverwatershedinitiativenetwork/>

Please email pineriverwin@yahoo.ca to sign up for our newsletter.



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Our mailing address is:

86 Huron Street, Ripley ON N0G 2R0 Ph: 519.395.5538

Our website is:

pineriverwatershed.ca

Our email is:

pineriverwin@yahoo.ca or pineriverwatershed@pineriverwatershed.ca

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The Pine River Watershed Initiative Network · 86 Huron Street Unit 2 · PO Box 367 · Ripley, ON N0G2R0 · Canada



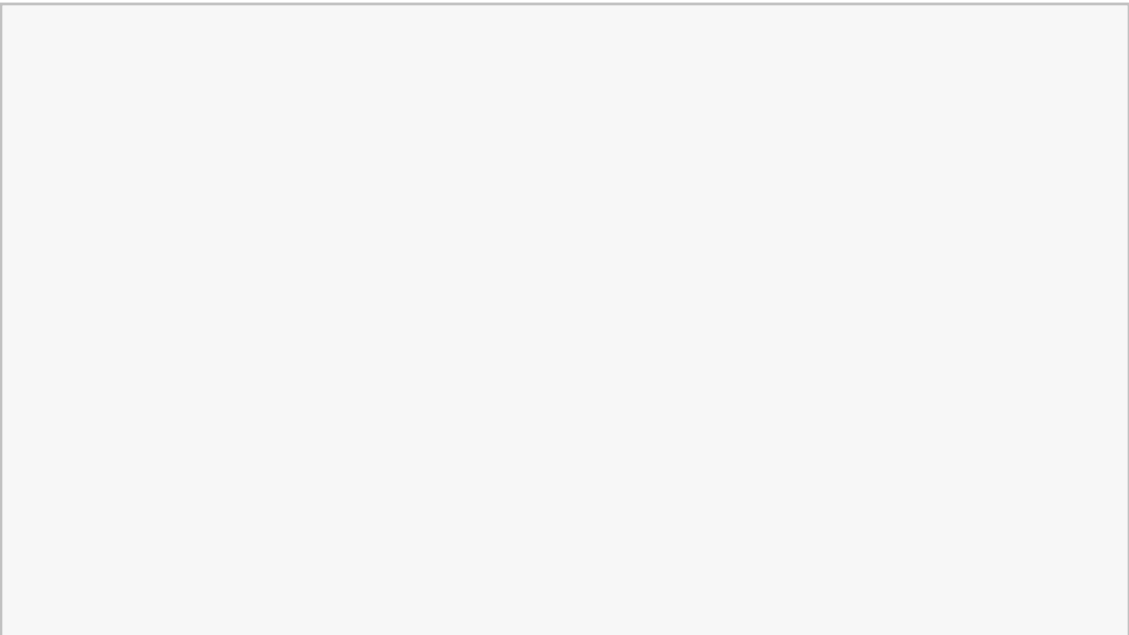
From: [Jennifer White](#)
To: [Mike Bartlett](#)
Cc: [Kelly Lush](#)
Subject: FW: PRWIN 2024 Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program
Date: May 15, 2024 12:16:32 PM

Jennifer White
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

From: Pine River Watershed Initiative Network
<pineriverwin@34462769.mailchimpapp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 7:29 AM
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: PRWIN 2024 Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program



PRWIN Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program



The goal of PTARP is to provide the lakeshore communities with trees to replace ash trees due to the result of the Emerald Ash Borer. The program offers one free potted tree to eligible residents along the lakeshore.

The Point Clark Beach Association (PCBA), Lurgan Beach Blairs Grove Association (LBBGA) and the Bruce Beach Cottagers Association (BBCA) are working together to ensure that new trees get planted in the most needed areas along the lakeshore.

This collaboration in conjunction with the PRWIN PTARP has enabled us to make significant impact to an area that was devastated by the ash borer. We will continue to refine the program as a collaborative effort between PRWIN and the lakeshore communities. We would like to thank the Beach Associations and the Community Well Being Grant - Township of Huron Kinloss for their support of our community tree program.



We are gearing up for new projects!

Landowners allow us to help them manage in ground projects by working together to secure funding and co-ordinate contractors.

These projects benefit your property, the environment, our communities, improving soil retention and resilience to severe weather, and providing habitat for wildlife.

Connect with us! 519-395-5538 or email pineriverwin@yahoo.ca

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From: [Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility](#)
To: info@huronkinloss.com
Subject: AODA Toolbox - May 2024, Boîte à outils sur la LAPHO - mai 2024
Date: May 23, 2024 1:40:23 PM

May 2024 | [View this email online](#)

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AODA Toolbox What you need to know about Ontario's accessibility laws



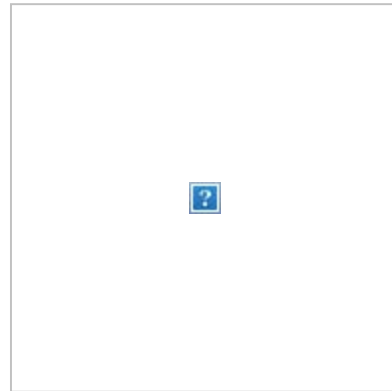
The [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#) (AODA) is about identifying, removing and preventing barriers to inclusion for people with disabilities. Collaboration among businesses, organizations, communities and all levels of government is key to creating a more accessible and inclusive province.

In this issue

- Assistant Deputy Minister's corner
- Compliance corner
- Apply for a 2024-25 EnAbling Change Program grant by June 27
- The JDAPT: A practical tool to support workers with chronic conditions in the workplace
- How guide dogs can change lives
- Learning videos: Inclusive learning and design
- Enhancing accessibility through connected and automated transportation
- We're back! Find us at events across the province

Assistant Deputy Minister's corner

Meenu Sikand
Assistant Deputy Minister
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Division
Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility



As we move into spring, I hope everyone is looking forward to the new beginnings that this time always brings with the arrival of warmer weather.

One of the items on our spring checklist is our ministry's extensive email outreach to regulated organizations across the province reminding them of their obligation to report on their compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Over the last reporting period, we saw an increase in organizations who have filed their compliance reports, including an increase of reports that were filed by organizations that had never reported in the past. This was helped in part by the significant outreach that has been completed to drive awareness of accessibility and reporting requirements.

The [Customer Service Standards Development Committee has been hard at work](#). Chaired by Jeff Adams, the committee is finalizing its initial recommendations report. I look forward to sharing more news of this committee's progress in future ADM Corner columns.

I am also looking forward to sharing details about the recipients of the David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility for 2024. Nominations for these awards, which commemorate the legacy of Ontario's 28th Lieutenant Governor by recognizing Ontarians who have gone above and beyond to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, closed on March 31, 2024. Recipients will be announced in September 2024 in four categories: Employee Engagement, Role Model, Youth Leadership and Honour Roll.

Mr. Onley was a true champion of accessibility, and his passing in January 2023 was deeply felt across the accessibility community, throughout government and well beyond.

Across our province, and indeed all over Canada, his words continue to inspire and guide our work every day. This was evident at the Ontario Disability Employment Network's (ODEN) fascinating exhibit earlier this year on Mr. Onley's life and legacy at Exhibition Place in Toronto. The exhibit celebrated Mr. Onley's personal dedication to making Ontario fully accessible for everyone, and to fostering equitable employment opportunities for people who have a disability.

So, I'd like to conclude by thanking all those who continue to hold his torch high by working hard every day to make our province the most inclusive it can be. We are proud to help carry his legacy forward.

Compliance corner

Making Ontario a province where communities and businesses are accessible benefits us all. The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility oversees compliance with the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#) or AODA, and the [Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation](#).

The ministry oversees compliance for more than 400,000 obligated organizations across the province. Using a modern regulatory approach, the ministry provides assistance, timely and accessible resources, conducts audits, inspections and takes progressive enforcement action when necessary.

Among the requirements enforced by the ministry is for obligated organizations to file an Accessibility Compliance Report (ACR). Organizations, with 20 or more employees in Ontario, were required to submit their ACR before the December 31, 2023 deadline. Those that have not already done so must file their report immediately. If you don't complete your ACR, you could face enforcement measures like financial penalties. Information on requirements, how to submit an ACR Relevant resources can be found on the government's [website](#).

While all organizations in Ontario with one or more employees are required to comply with the AODA and its standards, small organizations (those with 1-19 employees) are exempt from certain requirements such as submitting an ACR. To better understand the specific

requirements for these organizations, additional information and resources are available on the government [website](#).

Apply for a 2024-25 EnAbling Change Program grant by June 27

Would your organization like to help build a more open and accessible Ontario? Are you able to reach across an industry or sector in Ontario?

The EnAbling Change Program provides grants of between \$5,000 and \$150,000 to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations, including industry organizations and professional associations to:

- educate their stakeholders about accessibility
- help support compliance with accessibility requirements
- promote cultural awareness about the value and benefits of accessibility

Projects should focus on one or more of the following priorities:

- increasing connections to job opportunities for people with disabilities
- increasing the accessibility of community programs and services for people with disabilities
- supporting awareness of, and compliance with, accessibility regulation

Typical projects may involve:

- customized educational tools and resources that directly communicate about accessibility and inclusion with a specific sector
- promoting accessibility in daily living and encouraging regulatory compliance
- public outreach programs and initiatives

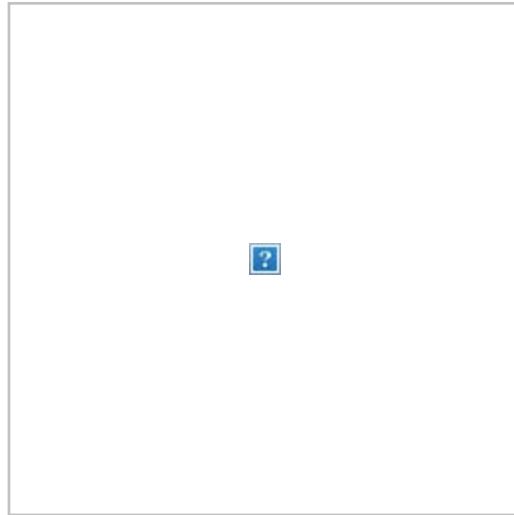
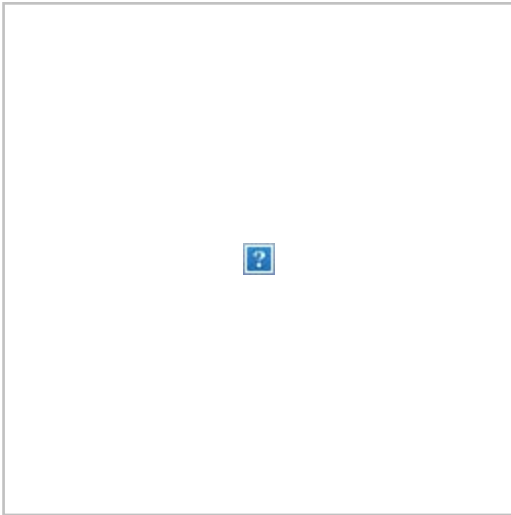
Read about [past recipients and their projects](#)

Approved projects are anticipated to start by October 2024 and must be completed by September 30, 2025. The application period opens on May 21, 2024, and closes on June 27, 2024 at 5:00pm ET.

[Learn more about the program and how to apply.](#)

The Job Demands Accommodation Planning Tool (JDAPT): a practical tool to support workers

with chronic conditions in the workplace



[More than eight million Canadians](#) live with limitations to their daily activities due to health or other conditions. For many, working is challenging when symptoms flare or worsen and their ability to work is hampered by job demands, organizational policies or work environments. Although workers can ask for accommodations, many choose not to. For some, having to disclose a health condition to get help is not a trade-off they are willing to make.

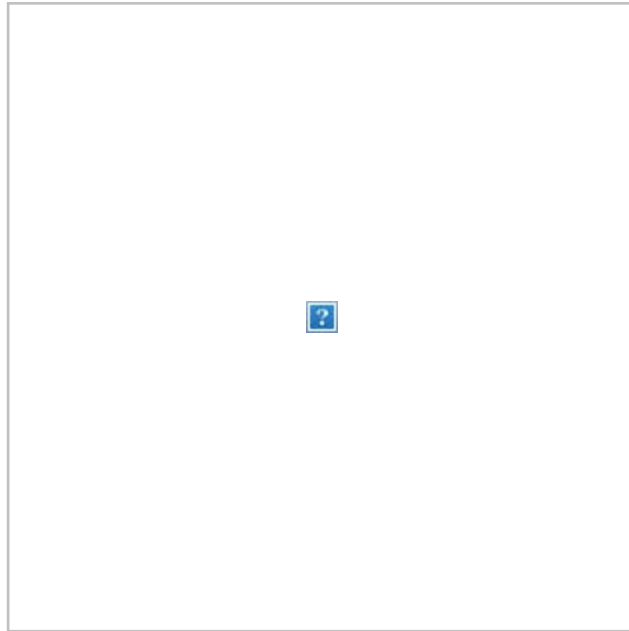
This is where the [Job Demands Accommodation Planning Tool](#) (JDAPT) comes in. This freely available, interactive, online tool allows workers with chronic conditions to learn about potential workplace support and accommodation ideas. An [organizational version](#) is also available and helps employers identify support strategies for workers.

Rather than focusing on health symptoms or a diagnosis, the JDAPT asks simple questions to identify areas of work that may be challenging for a worker—without collecting identifying information. It then provides practical support ideas that fit a worker's job demands and needs, which users can download for themselves or to share with others. Many ideas can be put in place by the worker on their own, while others may need to be approved by the employer. These support ideas may help workers continue to work safely, comfortably and productively, and feel more confident in managing their work and health.

The JDAPT was developed by the [Accommodating and Communicating about Episodic Disabilities \(ACED\) team](#) housed at the [Institute for Work & Health](#). English and French versions for workers and organizations can be found at: <https://aced.iwh.on.ca/jdapt>.

Note: This tool is being highlighted for informational purposes only. The government is not providing any type of endorsement or warranty whatsoever with respect to this tool.

How guide dogs can change lives



Did you know that guide dogs have been working to help blind and visually impaired people for more than 100 years? During World War I in Germany, guide dogs helped veterans blinded in combat.

Guide dogs have a crucial role to play in helping blind and visually impaired people make their way in the world, improving their mobility and independence while offering companionship. The most popular breeds today are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, German Shepherds and Standard Poodles.

Guide dogs go through [extensive training](#) so they learn how to ignore distractions and lead a person safely to a specific location. This means the dog watches for hazards like tree limbs, curbs or potholes. As well as following commands, guide dogs learn how to reason. For example, if the handler gives a command to cross a street and traffic is approaching, the dog learns to disobey. This is called “intelligent disobedience” and is critical to the safety of the person and dog. Above all, a guide dog is a working dog, so remember to always check first with the handler before approaching them.

Under the [AODA Customer Service Standards](#), you are allowed to bring your guide dog or service dog into areas that are open to the public unless the animal is excluded by another law. This generally means your guide dog or service animal must be allowed to stay with you when you receive services in restaurants, grocery stores and taxis.

Learn more about the rules for guide dogs and service animals at ontario.ca/AccessibilityInfo.

Learning videos: Inclusive learning and design

Are you looking for more information about how to foster inclusive design in education and on websites? MSAA's staff have shared their pick of learning video presentations about inclusive learning and design.

Video 1: [Asking for Help Is A Strength, Not A Weakness](#)

Michele Sullivan is a corporate executive, writer and social innovator. In a talk about perspectives, Sullivan shares stories full of wit and wisdom and contends that we cannot truly know what it's like to be someone else or walk in someone's shoes. "The only shoes you can walk in are your own," she says. "We all go through challenges — some you can see, most you can't." She reminds us however, that "with compassion, courage and understanding, we can walk together, side by side." We are all part of each other's support systems.

Video 2: [How I helped make Lego accessible to the blind](#)

Entrepreneur Matthew Shifrin talks about how receiving a Lego set with instructions hand-written in Braille changed his life. In his discussion, he talks about his mission to share this Lego building experience with the larger blind community. Matthew's personal stories emphasize the importance of inclusive user design when creating different products to ensure that everyone can have access.

Enhancing accessibility through connected and automated transportation

As we approach the fifth industrial revolution, which encompasses the notion of people working alongside robots and smart machines by leveraging advance technologies, the transportation sector is undergoing a profound transformation. Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs) are the forefront of this revolution, and Ontario is embracing emerging transportation technologies while ensuring these technologies are safe and road-ready through the [Automated Vehicle Pilot Program](#).

Using advanced technologies, CAVs communicate with one another and their surroundings, sharing real-time data and performs driving tasks with minimal human intervention. By relying on sensors and artificial intelligence, they navigate roads combining connectivity and automation to create a more intelligent and potentially safer transportation system.

Ontario's commitment to accessibility is exemplified in its Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), which aims to make the province fully accessible by 2025. Accessibility in transportation has long been a challenge for people with disabilities and older adults. The emergence of CAVs has the potential to significantly enhance mobility options for people with disabilities. However, there are inherent challenges that, if not addressed proactively, could exacerbate existing disparities in accessibility. For example, the design and user interface of CAVs may not adequately cater to the diverse needs of passengers with mobility, sensory or cognitive impairments.

A multifaceted approach is required to ensure that connected and automated transportation systems are not only technologically advanced but also inclusive. This could include the incorporation of universal design principles from the outset, collaboration among industry stakeholders, policymakers, and designers, as well as the promotion of research and development initiatives that focus on enhancing accessibility in transportation technology. CAVs with inclusive design features addressing the unique needs of people with disabilities, such as automated ramps, wheelchair-accessible interiors, and a user-friendly interface, will empower individuals with disabilities. This ensures that transportation becomes a facilitator rather than an impediment to their daily lives.

By prioritizing accessibility considerations, careful planning and collaboration, Ontario can lead the way to an inclusive future where the benefits of CAVs are realized by all citizens, regardless of their physical abilities.

We're back! Find us at events across the province

The Outreach and Education Unit (OEU) at the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA) works with disability organizations, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and the broader public sector to help Ontarians understand the requirements of the AODA, and to champion accessibility broadly.

The key to addressing barriers to accessibility is to learn from each other. When we engage with our stakeholders, OEU has the opportunity to provide important information and learn about the needs of those impacted by accessibility legislation.

OEU participates in events across the province by sending guest speakers to inform people about the AODA requirements and the benefits of making communities and businesses more accessible. It's just one way MSAA is working to achieve our shared goal of a more accessible Ontario.

If your organization is planning an event and would like to invite MSAA to present, please send an email with your request to AODA.Events@ontario.ca.

We would love to share your successes in our Toolbox newsletters!

Do you have a success story about how accessibility benefitted your organization, or a best practice that is breaking down barriers? We would love to share your successes in our Toolbox newsletter! Send your stories and photos to AODAoutreach@ontario.ca.

The Toolbox newsletter editors will consider all article contributions to be included in the newsletter and will contact you in advance if your contribution has been selected.

Was this newsletter helpful?

Please forward this email to others interested in accessibility, so that they can [subscribe to the Toolbox newsletter](#).

For more accessibility information and resources you can visit: ontario.ca/accessibility.

Follow us on our social media channel links below for regular news updates.

Tell us what you think!

Let us know if the newsletter was helpful to you! Please use this [survey](#) to share your thoughts.

Links to other websites and social media platforms

You may see links in this newsletter to websites and some widely-used social media platforms. We have included them because they may be of interest to you. To be clear, providing a link to them doesn't mean that the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility endorses or recommends them to you. The Ministry also cannot control and is not responsible for the accessibility of non-government web properties that may be linked to in this newsletter.

Since other websites and social media platforms are controlled and maintained by other people, we cannot be sure that the link will still work when you click on it or that the service or content is useful, appropriate, virus-free or reliable. You need to decide for yourself whether you want to follow any link or to agree to receive or rely on any service or content that is made available to you.

[Click here for past editions of this newsletter](#)



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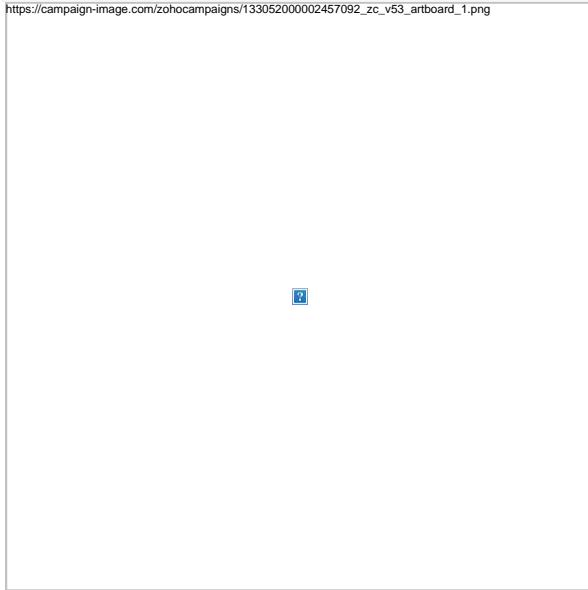
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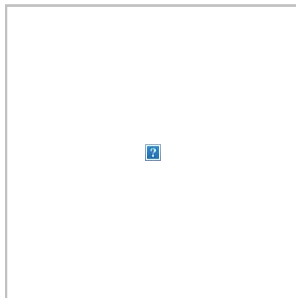
From: [MPAC](#)
To: [Kelly Lush](#)
Subject: March/April 2024 - InTouch
Date: April 26, 2024 10:34:54 AM

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https://campaign-image.com/zohocampaigns/133052000002457092_zc_v53_artboard_1.png



[La version française](#)
March/April 2024



Highlights from the Provincial Budget



On March 26, Finance Minister, Peter Bethlenfalvy, presented Ontario's 2024 Spring Budget. We'd like to share some key highlights to keep you informed.

To further promote the development of

purpose-built rental units in Ontario, the Minister of Finance filed [Ontario Regulation 140/24](#) under *the Assessment Act*, creating a new optional property subclass: the New Multi-Residential Property (Municipal Reduction) Property Subclass. This will offer new flexibility to enable municipalities to apply a reduced municipal tax rate to this property type.

Effective immediately, a single-tier or upper-tier municipality can adopt this new subclass by passing a by-law. The subclass applies to properties in the new multi-residential property class whose units have been built or converted from a non-residential use pursuant to a building permit issued after the New Multi Residential Property (Municipal Reduction) Subclass by-law has been passed. A municipal council may also pass a by-law opting to have the New Multi-Residential Property (Municipal Reduction) Subclass cease to apply within the municipality.

The adoption of the New Multi-Residential Property (Municipal Reduction) Property Subclass provides municipalities with a tool to apply a lower tax rate, in line with the tax rate ranges set out in Ontario Regulations [141/24](#) and [142/24](#). We will follow up with additional details on how we will be implementing this new subclass.

The budget also announced an extension of authority to single-tier and upper-tier municipalities to impose a tax on vacant homes.

Also included was the previously announced system-level review of the property assessment and taxation system and indicated that consultations would continue with broader stakeholder engagement starting in early spring. As part of this process, the province has committed to pausing a province-wide reassessment until the review concludes.

We continue to share the government's interest in ensuring the transparency and fairness of the property tax and assessment system and recognize that its continuous improvement benefits all Ontarians. We look forward to continuing to contribute our assessment expertise and experience to the review.

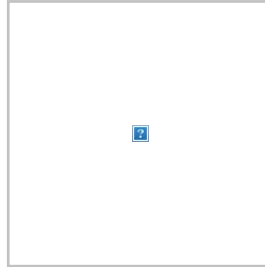
While we wait for a new assessment date, MPAC continues to maintain an inventory of all properties and account for changes that happen each year in every property

sector across the province. The ongoing postponement does not change the work we do to maintain our extensive property database and annual assessment rolls.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your [Local Municipal and Stakeholder Relations Account Manager](#).

2023 Annual Report and Performance Report are now available

At MPAC, our promise to bring more value to Ontario fuels everything we do. Our 2023 Annual Report highlights the many milestones we have achieved together over the year in our pursuit of excellence.

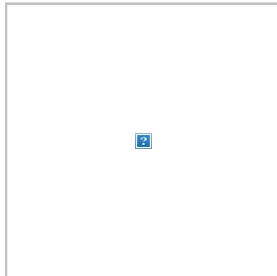


To learn more about what we have accomplished and our future goals in support of our municipal partners, stakeholders, and Ontarians, read [MPAC's 2023 Annual Report](#).

Our 2023 Performance Report highlights our accountability and transparency as a public-facing organization, including how well we are meeting our goals in areas such as capturing new assessment, customer and stakeholder engagement, and operational efficiencies.

For an update on how we are doing, read [MPAC's 2023 Performance Report](#).

April PACNs have been mailed



Over 35,000 Property Assessment Change Notices (PACN) representing just over \$12 billion in new assessment were mailed to property owners across Ontario this month. To help property owners in your communities learn more about PACNs and other types of

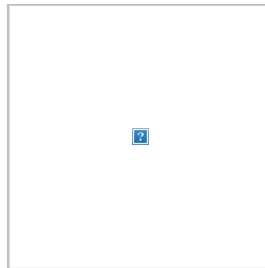
notices and the reasons they may have received one, you can direct them to our Notices and Notifications page on [mpac.ca](#) You can also reshare our recent social post on your [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), or [Facebook](#) channels.

To ensure property owners receive important notifications from MPAC and avoid potential delays or missed deadlines, we also encourage them to contact our Customer Call Centre to check on or update the address we have on file. Property owners can call 1-866-296-6722 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday or follow the instructions on the [Changing Your Mailing Address page](#) to make an update.

Resources you can use

Have you visited the [Municipal Sector Resources](#) page on [mpac.ca](#) We've added some new toolkits to help municipalities answer questions from property owners.

From shareable social posts about the



[First-time Homeowners' Hub](#) and MPAC's [AboutMyProperty™](#) to buck slip artwork that municipalities can print and include in tax bills, you can also find accompanying graphics and links for additional information. We've also included content about our new awareness campaign, [Home Values Matter](#), aimed at helping homeowners and prospective homeowners understand MPAC's role in the property market space. You'll also find a collection of one-pagers that provide information about assessment by property type. You can share the resources with your communities or use them when responding to inquiries.

Watch for new updates to this [page](#), share your feedback, and let us know how else we can support you!



MPAC's Best Practices for Protecting your Municipality's Data

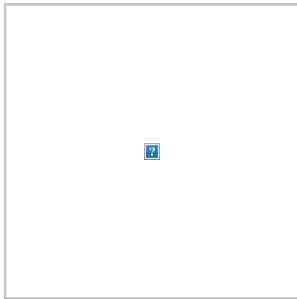
Join MPAC's subject matter expert, Mirza Baig, Director, Cyber Security, to learn about the extensive cyber security measures MPAC continues to take to manage and protect its billions of data points. Mirza will showcase the new security controls that MPAC has implemented and share best practices for protecting your own municipality's data and systems.

There will be time for questions.

Date: Thursday, May 23, 2024

Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EDT

[REGISTER NOW](#)

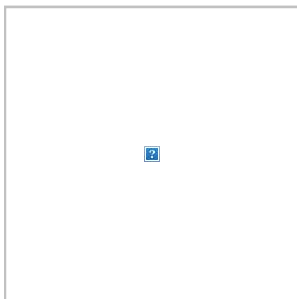


In case you missed it - MPAC Data and the Data Sharing and Services Agreement

MPAC subject matter experts Natasha Dawood, Regional Manager, Greater Toronto Area, Janet Rombis, Municipal Product Manager and Jeffrey Ma, Associate General Counsel, Corporate, provided an update and overview of the Data Sharing and Services Agreement and the acceptable uses of MPAC data. The webinar also reviewed the process for data requests and shared some examples of the most common uses of our data.

[WATCH IT HERE](#)

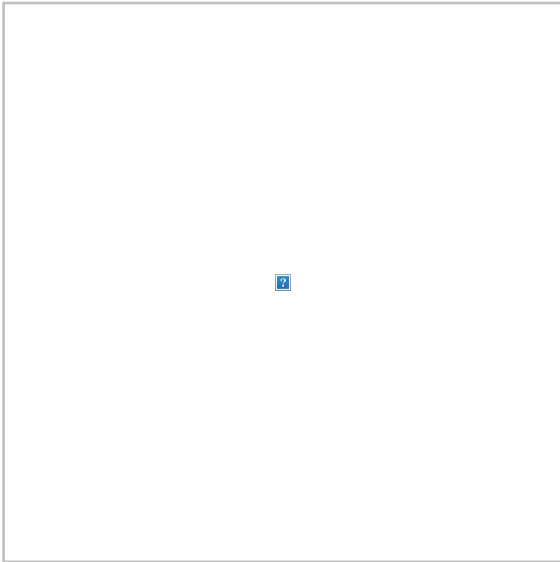
To view recordings of all past webinars, visit mpac.ca or on our [YouTube Channel](#).



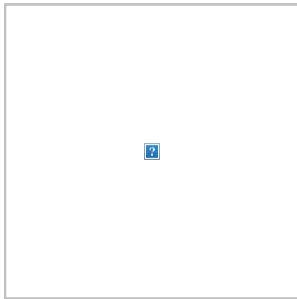
Spring conferences

MPAC will be at the following conferences in April and May:

- **April 24 to 26** Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) in Thunder Bay.
- **April 28 to May 1** Ontario Business Improvement Business Area Association (OBIAA) in Mississauga.
- **May 1 to 3** Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) in Orillia.
- **May 6 to 8** Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) in Greater Sudbury. Join us on **May 7 at 3:30 p.m.** for our presentation, *MPAC: Sharing Property Insights and Meeting the Evolving Needs of Our Northern Partners*.
- **May 15 to 17** Ontario Municipal Administrators Association (OMAA) Spring workshop in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Municipal and Stakeholder Relations Account Manager Sarah Groves and Account Support Coordinator Victoria Anderlich at the East Central Farm Show in Lindsay last month.



MPAC at the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations AGM and Spring Seminar

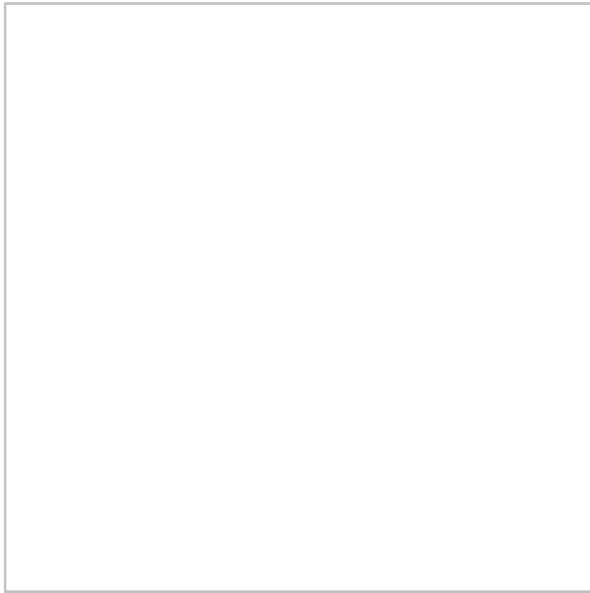
Last month, MPAC's Regional Manager Lynne Cunningham, was invited to speak at the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) AGM and Spring Seminar held in Thornhill. The event was attended by more than 250 members both in-person and online.

"I was honoured to accept an invitation from out-going Executive Director Terry Rees to provide an MPAC update to FOCA members," commented Lynne. Representing 250,000 waterfront property owners, this is an important stakeholder group for us, and opportunities to strengthen relationships and understand the communities we support is our top priority."

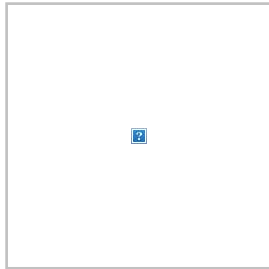
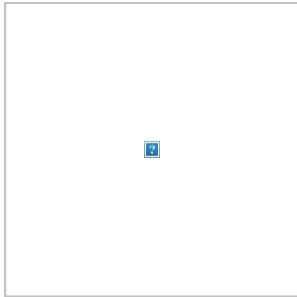
With waterfront property owners in mind, the presentation focused on how MPAC assesses these property types, a building permit activity update, the latest insight campaigns and resources and tools available on https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fmpac.ca&c=E,1,oy_ULPwMsAJxwS2Ulp9wUX5841geQGgf1qftx5iAY1uqldHqP1ouBHINtj4Mj6dbs6Fcr9yxioEwg1RdlaPc2DgSnj94JNCEjC20K3UvABMeg-z6_DvQ,,&typo=1

Thank you to FOCA and audience members for a warm welcome and an engaging conversation.

If you would like to schedule an MPAC update for your association or municipality, please reach out to your [local Account Manager](#).



MPAC Regional Manager Lynne Cunningham at this year's Federation of Cottagers' Associations AGM.



Property Income and Expense Return program begins next month!

MPAC's Property Income and Expense Return (PIER) campaign, our largest data collection initiative, helps ensure that we have complete, accurate and up-to-date data, which is critical to the

valuation of income-generating properties. Starting May 16, eligible property owners will receive a letter requesting information about their properties. Submissions can be done through AboutMyProperty. The submission deadline is July 15. For more information visit AboutMyProperty™ mpac.ca/PIER.

We invite you to reach out in 2024!

Every municipality has their own dedicated account management team at MPAC. They are the best resource for municipal staff and elected officials should your municipality have any questions related to MPAC and our work. Reach out to your [local Municipal and Stakeholder Relations Account Manager](#) if you are interested in having MPAC lead an information session for your Council or if you have questions concerning your municipality.



This email was sent by intouch@mpac.ca to klush@huronkinloss.com
Not interested? [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage Preference](#) | [Update profile](#)

MPAC | 1340 Pickering Pkwy, Pickering, ON L1C 3C0

Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story

For immediate release

May 16, 2024

Namesake Literary Festival honours the life and the work of Alice Munro

As we mourn the passing of Alice Munro, the local community - feeling it an honour to recognize the remarkable contributions of prominent people in our midst – will celebrate her life and her work, and her impact as a writer in “this place” – Huron County, or more broadly small town Ontario - the setting of most of her stories. Through the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story, we’ll continue to uphold Alice’s wish to encourage young writers and celebrate new Canadian authors.

Next month, in the landscape that inspired Alice Munro, Huron’s 2024 Literary Festival will explore “Lives of Girls and Women”, after one of Munro’s most celebrated books which is a coming-of-age story that follows Del Jordan as she navigates the complexities of growing up in rural Ontario during the mid-20th century. Munro's writing is celebrated for its depth, insight, and realism and *Lives of Girls and Women* is often praised for its richly drawn characters, evocative settings, and nuanced exploration of the complexities of female relationships and experiences. From June 5-9, 2024, organizers of the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story, invite you to explore the multifaceted lives of girls and women, and the diversity of their experiences.

The Alice Munro Festival is expanding in 2024 to include a live theatre production and a film screening in addition to its captivating author events including readings and masterclasses. Highlights include:

- a stage production entitled *Post Alice* which blends local history and literature, will be performed at the Blyth Festival’s Harvest Stage on June 5, 6 and 8. “Inspired by four haunting characters from four iconic Alice Munro stories, *Post Alice* is a contemporary play which asks the question: what really happened to Mistie Murray? And what happens to all our missing girls? Come sit around the fire with four bright and hilarious Huron County women as ghost stories emerge, songs fill

the air, family secrets are revealed, and mysteries unravel into those wonderful contradictions which live inside us all.” (from Here for Now Theatre Festival)

- From Friday, June 7 through Sunday June 9, the Festival will host workshops by award-winning and bestselling authors **Cindy Matthews** (*Ignite the Writer Within*), **Jann Everard** (*Mastering the Submission Process*), **Paola Ferrante** (*Tell the Truth but Tell it Spec: Using the Genre Conventions of Horror and Science Fiction to Tell Stories that Matter*), **Emily Paskevics** (*Place as Character: Crafting Dynamic Settings for Your Stories*) and **Jen Courney** (*Writing for Young Readers*).
- Eight celebrated authors will share a reading from their newly published collections and discuss their writing through a moderated Q&A. From experiences of searching for, and teaching about belonging in our deeply divided world and intergenerational relationships that unfold in a context of environmental change, to a gripping World War II novel about two sisters who join the war effort—one as a codebreaker and the other as a pilot—and the secrets that threaten to tear them apart, stories about love and loss, stories that deeply resonate with festival-goers. Authors include: **Annahid Dashtgard** (*Bones of Belonging*); **Jann Everard** (*Blue Runaways*), **Paola Ferrante** (*Her Body Among Animals*); **Genevieve Graham** (*The Secret Keeper*), **Heather Marshall** (*The Secret History of Audrey James*); **Cindy Matthews** (*The Roach Family and Other Stories*); and **Emily Paskevics** (*Half-Wild and Other Stories of Encounter*). Additional authors will be announced soon.
- On Friday, June 7 the Festival will host the Awards Presentation of the 2024 Short Story Contest and the new Digital Art Contest. We received record numbers of entries this year and we are always impressed by the talent and creativity that emerges from our communities when it comes to this contest! With cash prizes for both Adults and Youth, choosing a winner is difficult, luckily our celebrity judges are up to the challenge!
- Following the Awards presentations in Wingham, a film screening of “Lives of Girls and Women” will be held in the Wingham Heritage Town Hall Theatre. It is a made-for-tv movie by Alice Munro, Charles K Pitts, and Kelly Rebar, 1996, which one reviewer critiqued as "a great down to earth movie, it is a tribute to Canadian actresses. Tanya Allen and Wendy Crewson were excellent in their portrayal of a mother and daughter during a girls entering adulthood time. The Aunts and Uncle, as well as boyfriend and his family played the inhabitants of a small town in that time period to perfection.”

There is something for everyone in this year’s Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story. Events take place in Bayfield, Blyth and Wingham. Join us on Facebook @AliceMunroFestival for late breaking news and find event information and links to tickets at alicemunrofestival.ca.

Save on multiple events with a Daily Pass or purchase an All-Access Pass to enjoy several events during the Festival weekend.

The Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story nurtures emerging writers and celebrates short stories in the landscape that inspired Alice Munro. It is generously supported by County of Huron, Township of North Huron, The Village Bookshop (Bayfield), Royal Homes (Wingham), Capital Power, Virtual High School and several corporate and individual donors.

-30-

Contact:

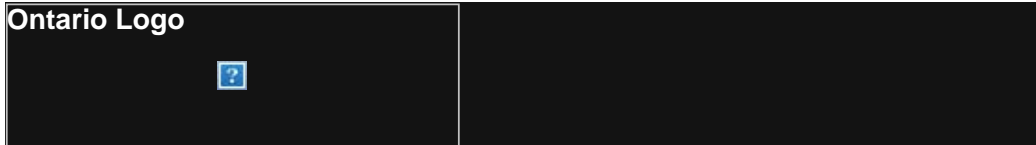
Karen Stewart

Chair – Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story

kstewart@huroncounty.ca | 519-441-7629

From: [Kelly Lush](#)
To: [Kelly Lush](#)
Subject: FW: Ontario Delivering Choice and Convenience by Expanding the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Starting this Summer
Date: May 24, 2024 1:34:00 PM

From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Jennifer White <jwhite@huronkinloss.com>
Subject: Ontario Delivering Choice and Convenience by Expanding the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Starting this Summer



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Delivering Choice and Convenience by Expanding the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Starting this Summer

Phased rollout will allow beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages to be sold in convenience, grocery and big-box stores

May 24, 2024
[Premier's Office](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is delivering on its commitment to expand the province's alcohol beverage marketplace to increase choice and convenience for shoppers earlier than planned. Starting in August, consumers will be able to purchase new products like coolers and other ready-to-drink beverages alongside more pack sizes at grocery stores that currently sell wine or beer, followed by new retailers being able to sell an increased selection of local, domestic and international alcohol products in a safe and responsible manner. By the end of October 2024, every convenience, grocery and big-box store in Ontario will be able to sell beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages if they choose to do so.

"We are delivering on our commitment to give consumers in Ontario the choice and convenience every other Canadian enjoys and we're doing so even sooner than we had originally promised," said Premier Doug Ford. "In the coming weeks and months, people in Ontario, like many Canadians across the country, will have the option to responsibly and conveniently purchase a case of beer or a bottle of wine on their way up to the cottage or to a summer barbecue, all while having even more opportunity to support local Ontario breweries and wineries."

The phased expansion and rollout will begin later this summer and will include the following milestones:

- On August 1, 2024, the up to 450 grocery stores that are currently licensed to sell beer, cider or wine will also be able to sell ready-to-drink beverages. These grocery stores will also be able to start offering consumers large-pack sizes like the 30-pack that is popular in Quebec.
- After September 5, 2024, all eligible convenience stores will be able to sell beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages.
- After October 31, 2024, all eligible grocery and big-box stores will be able to sell beer, cider, wine and ready-to-drink beverages, including in large pack sizes.

Through this phased rollout, the government is creating the conditions for a more open and convenient alcohol beverage marketplace. Individual retailers and businesses will make their own decisions about how they participate and when.

“Our responsible and balanced approach treats Ontario consumers like adults by giving them more choice and convenience, while also supporting Ontario retailers, domestic producers and workers in the alcohol industry,” said Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy. “As we launch this new marketplace, we will continue to meet, consult and work closely with industry partners, local beverage alcohol producers and other stakeholders.”

As [part of its agreement with The Beer Store](#), the Ontario government is providing The Beer Store with up to \$225 million to make the necessary investments over the next 19 months to support a stable transition to a more open and convenient marketplace, including funding to protect jobs across the province and to keep The Beer Store locations open for the continued availability of recycling and bottle return.

The government has posted the regulations related to eligibility and license structure, along with the terms of who can sell alcohol, the rules for selling alcohol, including the social responsibility standards and the licensing framework, which will be on a first come, first served basis. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) oversees the enforcement of the *Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019*, and determines consequence for retailers who breach these rules, up to and including the loss of their licence to sell alcohol. If a retailer's licence is revoked or an application is denied, they cannot reapply for two years. The AGCO will be taking strong measures with respect to social responsibility infractions as part of its continued role in the new marketplace.

As [announced in December 2023](#), the government is providing an additional \$10 million over five years to support social responsibility and public health efforts to ensure alcohol continues to be sold and consumed safely in the expanded marketplace. Existing requirements related to staff training, minimum pricing, hours of sale and warning signs will be maintained and applied to all new retail outlets. As was also previously announced in December, the government is supporting Ontario alcohol beverage producers with a range of transitional and time-limited supports as they adapt to this new marketplace.

Over time, this new, more open marketplace will introduce up to 8,500 new

stores where consumers can purchase these products, the largest expansion of consumer choice and convenience since the end of prohibition almost 100 years ago.

The Beer Store and LCBO will continue to play a significant role in the future marketplace, with The Beer Store continuing to be active in distribution, recycling and as a retailer. The Beer Store will continue to run the effective and efficient provincewide recycling program for alcoholic beverage containers until at least 2031, which helps keep costs down for producers and consumers while helping to protect the environment by diverting significant amounts of waste from landfills. The LCBO will remain a public asset and will continue to operate as a wholesaler and a retailer. A full complement of beverages like vodka, gin and whisky will continue to be sold exclusively through the LCBO network. As part of this expansion, consumers will also benefit from competitive retail pricing across all new points of sale and The Beer Store.

Quick Facts

- Ontario [halted the estimated 4.6 per cent increase](#) to the beer basic tax and LCBO mark-up rates that was scheduled for March 1, 2024. This increase would have resulted from rates being indexed to inflation, which the government has consistently stopped over the last six years, resulting in approximately \$200 million in relief. This latest freeze will be in place for two years, until March 1, 2026.
- The government has been working closely with the [LCBO](#), [AGCO](#), The Beer Store and other retailers as it prepares to launch this new marketplace. The government will continue to meet and consult with industry partners, local beverage alcohol producers and other stakeholders on additional areas of the future marketplace. The government will also conduct a broader review of taxes and fees on beer, wine and alcoholic beverages with the aim of promoting a fairer and more competitive marketplace for Ontario-based products and consumers. The government expects this review to be completed before the end of the year.
- Ontario has reached an agreement with The Beer Store to help create the conditions to increase choice and convenience for consumers starting in summer 2024. As part of this agreement, The Beer Store has agreed to continue to run the provincewide recycling program for alcoholic beverage containers until at least 2031 as part of a transition period in the new marketplace.
- An interim wholesale discount of 10 per cent from the LCBO basic retail price for retailers will apply until 2026. A post-2026 wholesaler price that is consistent for all retailers will be determined by a formula that adds taxes, mark-ups and fees to a supplier's set price. The government will continue to consult with stakeholders on the new model.
- The government has demonstrated ongoing support for the wine sector representing over \$330 million, including:
 - Elimination of the 6.1 per cent wine basic tax at on-site winery retail stores
 - Enhancing the VQA Wine Support Programs for up to five years
 - Extending the Wine Marketing Fund for up to five years

Quotes

"Today's announcement is another important step toward modernizing Ontario's alcohol regime for our businesses and consumers. The Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC) commends Premier Doug Ford and Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy for providing Ontarians with the choice and convenience they want, while creating new economic opportunities for thousands of local corner stores. Given the unique nature of our industry, getting the final details of the new retail and distribution framework right will require all hands on deck over the coming months, and we at CICC are ready to do our part. We are fully committed to continuing our work with the government to ensure we can keep prices competitive for both our businesses and customers. "

- Anne Kothawala
President & CEO, Convenience Industry Council of Canada

"It is great news that craft brewers will be able to sell their fantastic products in more retail stores starting this year. We have been relentless in advocating for a new retail system that puts consumers first and makes it easier to find local beer. Today's announcement is a big step in that direction. We also applaud the government's commitment to complete its review of craft beer taxes by the end of 2024, and to eliminate the LCBO cost of service fees, as these two changes are critical to the success of the new system. The savings will help ensure that local craft breweries can invest, grow, and succeed in existing and expanded retail channels."

- Scott Simmons
President of the Ontario Craft Brewers

"This is great news for all convenience store owners and their staff in Ontario. We at OSCA and OKBA have been petitioning the Ontario government for beer and wine at our stores for the last 30 years. I thank Premier Ford for trusting Ontario convenience store owners as responsible retailers who have been handling age restricted products such as tobacco and lottery tickets for many years with proven records. We believe this introduction of beer and wine will greatly improve the current state of the industry by creating more traffic to our stores. I know there is lots of work to be done but we look forward to work together with our partners in the alcohol industry and the government."

- Kenny Shim
President of the Ontario Convenience Stores Association (OCSA),
President of the Ontario Korean Business Association

"Ontario has made award winning craft ciders for over 20 years. With these exciting announcements in expanded alcohol distribution, many more consumers in Ontario will have the opportunity to experience quality Ontario Craft Ciders and Ontario Craft Cider will no longer be Ontario's best kept secret in craft beverage alcohol. This is a game changer for an industry fuelled by rural based passionate small businesses."

- Jenifer Dean
Chair of the Ontario Craft Cider Association

"Grape Growers of Ontario welcome the news that the Ontario government is moving forward with an expanded and more modern beverage alcohol marketplace. The availability of Ontario wine (VQA) across the province is

great news for wine lovers, and a tremendous growth opportunity for Ontario grape growers and the economy of the province."

- Matthias Oppenlaender
Chair, Grape Growers of Ontario

Additional Resources

- [General Regulation](#)
- [Licencing Regulation](#)
- [Pricing Regulation](#)
- [Ontario Consumers Will be Able to Buy Beer, Cider, Wine and Low-Alcohol Ready-to-Drink Beverages at Convenience, Grocery and Big Box Stores](#)
- [Ontario Stopping Scheduled Beer Tax Increase](#)
- [Alcohol sales in retail stores](#)
- [Ontario Cutting Wholesale Alcohol Prices to Support Restaurants and Bars](#)

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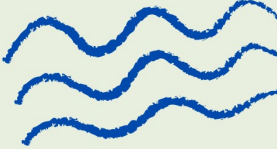

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Kelly Lush

From: Grands Lacs / Great Lakes (ECCC) <greatlakes-grandlacs@ec.gc.ca>
Sent: May 28, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Grands Lacs / Great Lakes (ECCC)
Subject: Upcoming webinar: Invasive Plants Around Lake Ontario

(Webinar) Let's Talk Lake Ontario: Stemming the Tide – Addressing Invasive Plants Around Lake Ontario



June 12, 2024
12 pm ET



Scan the QR code or [click here to register](#)

Let's Talk Lake Ontario!


Stemming the Tide: Addressing Invasive Plants Around Lake Ontario

Learn about invasive plant species in Lake Ontario, their impact, and what Canada and the U.S. are doing to stop their spread.

Organized by the Lake Ontario Partnership and co-chaired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada

Speakers:
Catherine McGlynn, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Lindsay Yoder, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Mary Gunning, Quinte Conservation (Ontario)

Questions?
Contact carol.kim@ec.gc.ca or brandt.peter@epa.gov



Join us as we dive into the world of invasive plants and how they can disrupt the delicate balance of Lake Ontario's ecosystem. Register for our upcoming public webinar, [Stemming the Tide: Addressing Invasive Plants Around Lake Ontario](#), taking place on **Wednesday, June 12, 2024**, at 12 pm ET.

We will provide a comprehensive overview to invasive plant species in Lake Ontario, from identification to ecological impacts. We will also highlight two invasive species of interest, hydrilla and water soldier, both of which are expanding their extent throughout the Lake Ontario basin. You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions to our experts during an interactive Q&A session and learn what actions you can take to stop the spread of invasive species in Lake Ontario.

Guest speakers include Catherine McGlynn (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), Lindsay Yoder (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) and Mary Gunning (Quinte Conservation, Ontario).

This webinar is part of the Let's Talk Lake Ontario! webinar series. This event is free, open to the public and suitable for anyone who is passionate about the Great Lakes!

[**REGISTER HERE!**](#)