



February 11, 2025

Township of Huron-Kinloss
PO Box 130
Ripley, ON
N0G 2R0

Dear Mayor Murray and Council

Re: Comments received on the MVCA's Conservation Areas Strategy

At the Dec. 18, 2024, MVCA Members' meeting the Members reviewed comments received on the Draft Conservation Areas Strategy. The Draft Conservation Areas Strategy was also approved by the Members (Motion FA #112-24) at that meeting.

We would like to thank you for the comments that council provided and appreciate your feedback on the management of our conservation areas. The Strategy was developed to ensure we are leading by example in the protection of these lands while providing compatible recreational opportunities for community use.

In the Strategy, the Authority has limited the use of our trail systems to hiking activities due to the sensitive habitats associated with our conservation areas. Previous use of our conservation areas by all-terrain vehicles resulted in negative impacts. We have installed signage and barriers to both educate users and to protect these sensitive natural areas. We will continue to encourage hiking and nature appreciation on the trails that we have developed and consider compatible with the environmental features located on our conservation areas.

We have also completed a land inventory which has identified that the lands owned by the Authority would not be suitable for development, including campgrounds. The success of Falls Reserve Conservation Area is due, in part, to the existing infrastructure that has been developed on the property. The Authority has continued to maintain and develop Falls Reserve using revenue generated by the campground. We will continue to enhance and expand opportunities at this site where we consider it appropriate to do so.

The Conservation Lands Strategy will be used to guide and inform decisions relating to our conservation areas to ensure they continue to conserve their natural features and functions.

Again, thank you for your comments and continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed McGugan".

Ed McGugan
Chair, Maitland Conservation