

# ***Grey Sauble Conservation***



## ***Annual Report 2017***





**Our vision** is a healthy watershed environment in balance with the needs of society.

**Our mission**, in partnership with the stakeholders of the watershed, is to promote and undertake sustainable management of renewable natural resources and to provide responsible leadership to enhance biodiversity and environmental awareness.

Over the past 60 years Grey Sauble Conservation staff have demonstrated enduring commitment to conservation and developed deep knowledge about our area, coupled with progressive use of technology.

**We live here, work here and play here!**

### Grey Sauble Conservation Board of Directors

The eight municipalities within Grey Sauble's jurisdiction appoint an elected official or public appointment to the Board of Directors. If the municipality's population is over 10,000, two municipal representatives are appointed to the Board of Directors.

| <u>Director</u>   | <u>Municipality</u>        | <u>Committee Appointments by the Board of Directors</u> |                           |                 |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
|                   |                            | <u>Foundation</u>                                       | <u>Arboretum Alliance</u> | <u>Forestry</u> |
| Paul Eagleson     | Arran Elderslie            |                                                         |                           |                 |
| Shawn Greig       | Chatsworth (Jan-Sept)      |                                                         |                           |                 |
| Bob Pringle       | Chatsworth (Oct-Dec)       | Marion Koepke                                           | Bill Moses                | Shawn Greig     |
| Alan Barfoot      | Georgian Bluffs            | Harley Greenfield                                       | Rodney Saunders           | Jaden Calvert   |
| Sue Carleton      | Georgian Bluffs            | Chris Hachey (GSC)                                      |                           | Cathy Little    |
| Cathy Little      | Grey Highlands             |                                                         |                           | Dick Hibma      |
| Jaden Calvert     | Meaford                    |                                                         |                           | Ana Vukovic     |
| Harley Greenfield | Meaford                    |                                                         |                           | Sue Carleton    |
| Dick Hibma        | Owen Sound (Chair)         |                                                         |                           | John McGee      |
| Marion Koepke     | Owen Sound (Vice-Chair)    |                                                         |                           |                 |
| Ana Vukovic       | South Bruce Peninsula      |                                                         |                           |                 |
| John McGee        | Town of The Blue Mountains |                                                         |                           |                 |

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### Volunteer Committees

| <u>Arboretum Alliance</u> | <u>Beaver River Watershed Initiative</u> | <u>Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Brian Murray, Chair       | Tom Kennedy, Chair                       | Don Sankey, Chair                          |
| Dennis Knight             | Jack Morgan                              | Allan Wilcox, Vice-Chair                   |
| Jack Westlake             | Joan Gaudet                              | Marion Koepke, Secretary                   |
| Chris Hachey              | Andy McKee                               | Marg Gaviller                              |
| Nancy Brown               | Ellen Anderson                           | Christine Silvester                        |
| Rodney Saunders           | Jesse Gibbons                            | Harley Greenfield                          |
| Merle Gunby               | Debbie Crosskill                         | Deborah Ferrier - Armstrong                |
| Peter Smith               | Patrick Kitchen                          | Anne Cathrae                               |
| Jim Hastie                | Bill Remus                               | Bob Robinson                               |
| Cecilie Moses             | John Bittorf (GSC)                       | Judy Gay                                   |
| Bill Moses                | Chris Hachey (GSC)                       | Steve Hencze                               |
| Murray Peer               |                                          | Chris Hachey (GSC)                         |
| Lynne Marie Sullivan      |                                          | Tim Lanthier (GSC)                         |
| Carl Sadler               |                                          |                                            |



# Chair's Message - Dick Hibma

In preparation for this report I had the opportunity to review a previous report looking back on 2015. In that report I made reference to the early stages of the *Conservation Authorities Act* Review that was underway. I am very pleased to report that in the last days of the 2017 legislative session the Province of Ontario passed Bill 139 which provided the legislative amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, initially passed in 1946. Although it did not change the broad mandate of Conservation Authorities (thankfully!) it did provide needed updates. The updates include recognizing an integrated watershed management approach, elevating the regulations that we enforce pertaining to protection from flood and erosion hazards to a provincial level, a mechanism and requirement for consistent procedural bylaws, reporting requirements, and increased transparency and accountability. They also include provision for an opportunity for the government to move outside of the silo of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry when considering legislation that has implication for Conservation Authorities. The various programs and projects that constitute our work from year to year fall under the mandates of at least a dozen different provincial ministries, from Health and Education, to Transportation, and Tourism. There is also a recognition - a small first step! - that the provincial contribution to the funding of Conservation Authorities has stagnated at a 1995 dollar amount that does not reflect either the value of Conservation Authorities or the legislative obligation of the province as partners in funding for mandatory programs.



I would refer you to the 2015 Annual Report for a review of the history and roles of Conservation Authorities. It's still worthwhile reading because it is not widely known or understood. The work of visionary and passionate environmentalists from 60 and 70 plus years ago have provided a profound legacy for us in the province of Ontario, and in this local area.



In the local context, under the very capable direction of CAO Sonya Skinner in her first full year, in 2017 we have taken some bold steps forward as we celebrated 60 years of Conservation Authorities in our region. We have begun a Strategic Planning process wherein we went out to our member municipalities and stakeholder groups seeking input about the many programs we offer (or could offer). We have also drafted a Capital Asset Plan that will enable us to prioritize and plan for renewal of the structures, properties, and equipment that we deploy across our region. Our Forest Management Plan and accompanying policies have been reviewed and revised in draft form, seeking feedback from stakeholders to ensure we haven't missed anything. Furthermore, on the human resources side, 2017 brought the retirements of a number of long-term employees, Carl, Chris, Krista, and Anne, along with Emily in Source Water. They have all served us so well over the years, and their contributions are much appreciated. These retirements mean there are a number of new faces around as well as people in new roles, with some further recruitments to come. I anticipate a great deal of energy being released in the organization as they bring their creativity and ideas to their new roles.

## Staff Retirees in 2017



Carl Sadler



Anne Lennox



Krista McKee

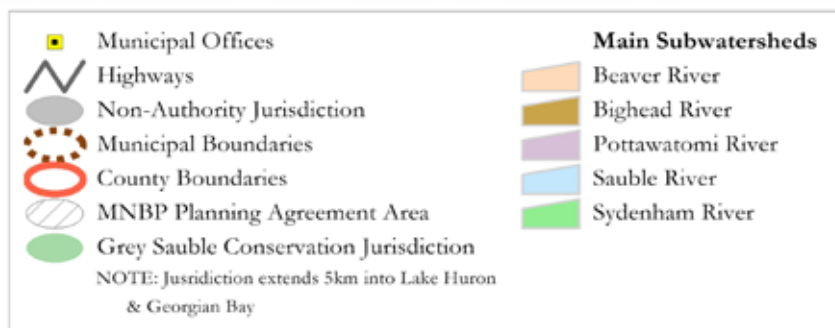
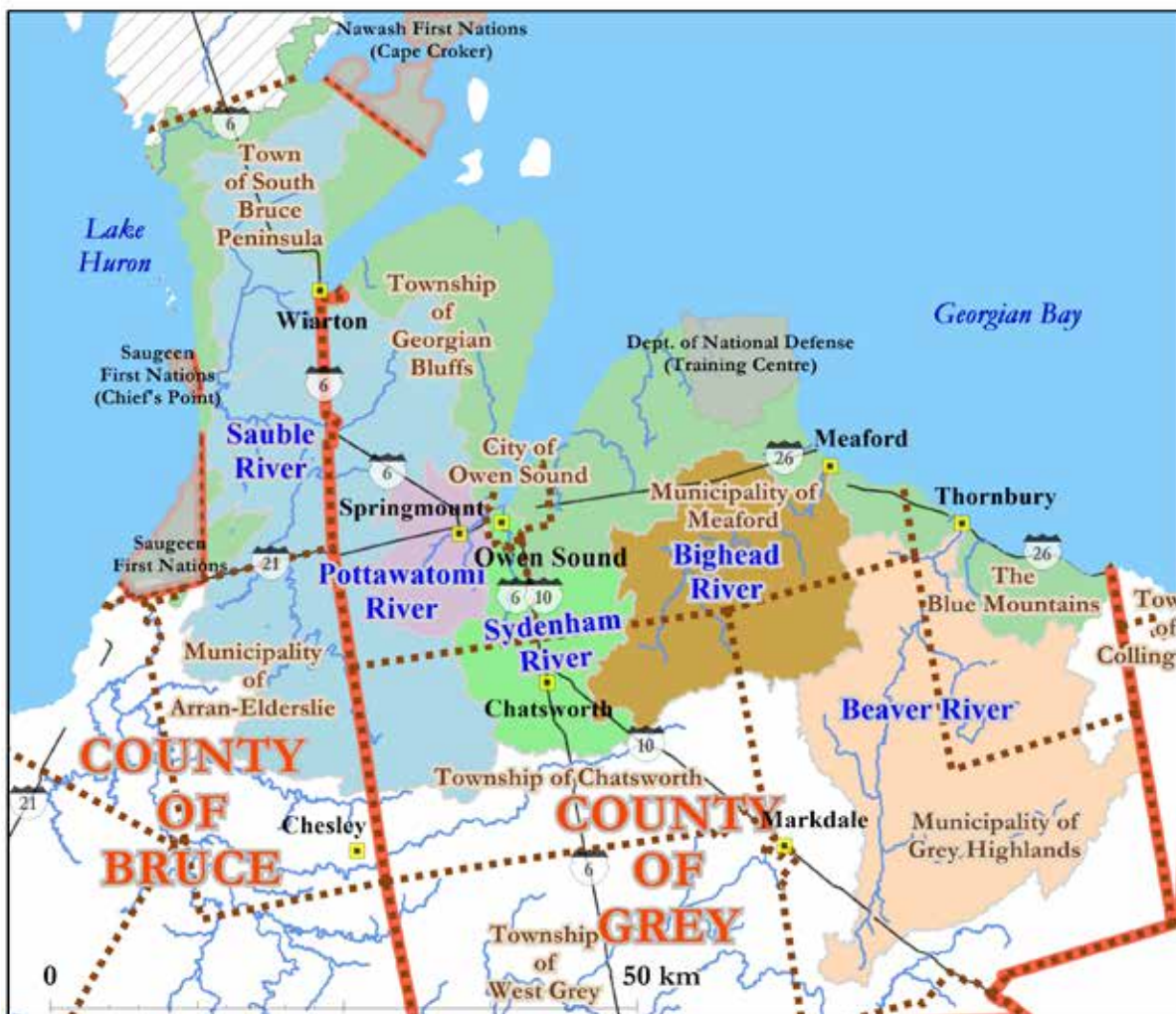
## Grey Sauble Conservation Watershed

Grey Sauble Conservation (GSC) is responsive to local conservation opportunities and our communities' priorities. Conservation Authorities are created by local municipalities, and the areas cross municipal boundaries to integrate activities across the entire watershed.

A watershed is an area of land drained by a creek or stream. Similar to the branch of a tree, creeks empty into streams, which then empty into larger streams, eventually forming one main trunk. Within this system, everything is connected to everything else. In other words, actions which take place at the top of the system can and do affect those downstream.

Local municipalities appoint the Board of Directors, who govern and set direction under the permissive *Conservation Authorities Act* which says Conservation Authorities (CA) can "further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds."

The Grey Sauble Conservation area includes all or parts of eight local municipalities: Arran Elderslie, South Bruce Peninsula, Georgian Bluffs, Owen Sound, Chatsworth, Meaford, Grey Highlands and Town of The Blue Mountains. The area encompasses five major watersheds: Sauble, Pottawatomi, Sydenham, Bighead and Beaver River.





## Water Resources

The Water Resources department conducts watershed monitoring and data analysis, manages flood control structures, maintains monitoring networks, and works with municipalities to keep local communities safe from flooding. One of the ways that data is collected for flood forecasting is through online weather stations. In 2017 three additional weather stations were installed with volunteers, increasing the stations in GSC's watershed to 12, which are part of the broader Wunderground network. A new cell phone data sending unit was also installed on a rain gauge in Adamsville that sends data every four hours. The Water Resources department plans to expand this network to monitor water levels at GSC dams in 2018.



*Weather Station*

A review of dam assets was completed as part of the GSC Asset Management Plan, which outlined the value of our current flood control structures and delineated longevity strategies. The importance and history of dam structures were also highlighted in 2017 with the installation of an interpretive sign at the location of the former Haines Dam, which was partially funded by the Beaver River Watershed Initiative.



*New Haines Dam - Interpretive Signage  
(L to R) Lee Ann Simons, Araby Lockhart,  
Krista McKee, Katherine Haines, John  
McGee, Shawn Everitt and John Bittorf  
Photo by D. Crosskill*

## Stewardship

In April, GSC's Stewardship pilot hit the ground running, with our Stewardship Technician, Rebecca Ferguson coordinating, and assisting with planting 6,000 trees along the Sauble River in Tara, as part of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's (MOECC) Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund.



*Livestock restriction  
fencing in Tara*

Also through this funding, 1635 metres of livestock restriction fencing was installed along the Sauble River, removing cattle from accessing a 660 metre reach, which will reduce contaminants from getting into this system.

Throughout the summer, Phragmites mapping and cutting with community groups became the focus of GSC's Stewardship efforts. By loaning out Phragmites cutting equipment through the Beaver River Watershed Initiative, community groups were empowered to take this fight into their own hands. With the help of GSC staff over 900 hours were spent cutting this invasive grass from local waters!

Community groups that borrowed this equipment and assisted with invasive species removal included: Lake Eugenia Property Owners Association, Oliphant Fishing Islands Phragmites Group and the Friends of Wilcox Lake. Many more groups have expressed an interest to help GSC "fight the Phrag" in 2018 by using this community-shared equipment!



*Beaver River  
stewardship work*

Invasive species management also occurred on GSC's properties (Hibou, Christie Beach and Peasemars) and approximately 1 acre of Phragmites was cut from the shoreline. This will help protect native biodiversity at these sites!

Another stewardship tactic initiated this year was the mapping of Phragmites across the watershed. In 2017, data collection was completed on all Grey County roads, which will assist Grey County and GSC in tracking and focusing stewardship efforts. Another major contribution to dealing with this problem was the formation of the Bruce Grey Invasive Species Task Force group who will work together to address this issue locally.

## Stewardship at a glance:

- 6,000 trees planted along 1,500 m of the Sauble River in Tara
- Partnerships formed and site-specific project funding provided by Stewardship Grey Bruce, Forests Ontario, Grey Bruce ALUS
- 1635 m of fencing installed along the Sauble River, removing cattle access from a 660 m stream reach
- Approximately 1 acre of Phragmites cut on GSC properties
- Approximately 900 hours of community groups, partners and staff time spent cutting Phragmites
- Phragmites mapped along all Grey County Roads
- Bruce Grey Invasive Species Task Force group formed



*Rebecca and the Phrag!*

## Drinking Water Source Protection

Drinking Water Source Protection is about protecting local municipal drinking water sources from both quality and quantity threats to ensure clean water for all of us through a local Source Protection Plan and Risk Management Activities.

Source Protection Plan amendments for the new and updated wellhead protection area (WHPA) delineations for Ripley and Point Clark were completed in April 2017. Public consultation on these proposed amendments included direct notification to over 200 landowners in the affected area and an Open House session held in Ripley on March 9th, 2017.

On February 15, 2017 GSC held an Open House for Realtors to learn more about "Land Use Planning" which included information on Drinking Water Source Protection implications. Staff conducted a municipal implementation workshop in April 2017 and continue to review and provide assistance with Official Plan and Zoning By-Law amendments for municipalities within the Source Protection Area. In the Fall of 2017, mailing was sent to fire departments that serve near drinking water source protection zones. The mailing addressed to the Fire Chief or Community Emergency Management Coordinator, included a copy of the Road Sign Fact Sheet, relevant local maps and a Guide for First Responders in the event of a spill within a source protection area. In April, the website was updated with a new user-friendly look and feel!

### Risk Management Office – Update 2017

In 2017, Risk Management staff conducted 74 site visits to complete threats verification work for properties identified within the vulnerable source protection areas. Risk Management Plan (RMP) templates were completed in the spring of 2017 and 41 RMPs have been completed during the remainder of the year, mostly addressing agricultural properties. In completing these RMPs, there has been minimal concerns with meeting the required risk management measures. Also, the majority of landowners affected are already implementing or have recently adopted the required measures to protect drinking water sources. Staff also completed 22 land use planning screenings related to building permit/planning applications within a source protection area (Section 59 Notice) (see table below).

The level of public awareness has increased significantly over the past year and staff have been receiving many calls from the public and municipalities regarding acceptable practices related to the Source Protection Plan and related activities.

| <b>Municipality (Saugeen Valley-SPA)</b> | <b>Risk Management Plans</b> | <b>Sec. 59 Notice</b>  |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Arran Elderslie (Chesley)                | 0                            | 0                      |
| Brockton                                 | 6                            | 3                      |
| Grey Highlands (Markdale)                | 0                            | 0                      |
| Kincardine                               | 4                            | 0                      |
| Saugeen Shores                           | 1                            | 0                      |
| South Bruce                              | 5                            | 8                      |
| West Grey                                | 4                            | 2                      |
| <b>TOTAL COMPLETED</b>                   | <b>20</b>                    | <b>13</b>              |
| <b>Municipality (Grey Sauble-SPA)</b>    | <b>Risk Management Plans</b> | <b>Sec. 59 Notices</b> |
| Arran Elderslie (Tara)                   | 7                            | 2                      |
| Blue Mountains                           | 1                            | 0                      |
| Chatsworth                               | 5                            | 0                      |
| Georgian Bluffs                          | 0                            | 1                      |
| Grey Highlands (Kimberley)               | 4                            | 0                      |
| Meaford                                  | 2                            | 0                      |
| Owen Sound                               | 1                            | 2                      |
| South Bruce Peninsula                    | 1                            | 4                      |
| <b>TOTAL COMPLETED</b>                   | <b>21</b>                    | <b>9</b>               |
| <b>Combined Total</b>                    | <b>41</b>                    | <b>22</b>              |

Summary of the Risk Management Office (RMO) activities completed in 2017



*New First Responders Guide in the event of a spill*



*Bill Twaddle was appointed as the new Chair of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) in February 2017*



*Angela Newman was appointed as the new Health Sector representative in September 2017*



*Signs that appear in proximity to municipal drinking water sources*

## Forestry Department

The Forestry Department continued to improve the health of GSC's watershed this year by maintaining healthy forests through ongoing management activities, increasing the amount of forest cover in the watershed through tree planting programs, and protecting Species at Risk and wildlife habitat by monitoring before all management activities.

The forest management program provides many benefits to the residents of the watershed, including carbon sequestration, protection of species, wildlife habitat, protection from erosion and protection of ground and surface water. Forest management activities also provide safe recreation and healthy living opportunities for the residents of the watershed, as well as visitors to the area.

Through the 50 Million Tree Program, 99,868 trees were planted and 21,530 trees were sold at the Annual Arbour Day Tree Sale or during GSC's pre-order sales. These trees will become the future forests of the GSC watershed and will provide ecological, social and economic benefits.

Forestry staff also inoculated 47 Ash trees to help protect them against the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Perhaps some of these trees will survive the EAB infestation and assist with repopulating the area with Ash trees in the future!

GSC could not accomplish these watershed improvements without the cooperation of private landowners. In 2017, the Forestry and Species department completed 44 Stewardship Plans under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). These stewardship plans assist landowners in stewarding their properties in an ecologically sustainable manner which has wide-reaching benefits for communities, and provide tax reductions.

Forest management activities were also completed on over 700 acres of land owned by GSC. These activities include forest inventories, Species At Risk inventories, tree marking, stand improvement operations and monitoring. Through active management of GSC's forests, the Forests and Species department is continually improving the health, quality and quantity the forest cover in the watershed. GSC's forest management activities were successfully audited by Rainforest Alliance according to the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Certification (FSC® C018800) Standards.

When Forestry staff are not outside planting trees and managing forests, they are working on policies that will improve operations. A new Forest Management Policy explicitly describes how GSC will conduct forest management in a sustainable manner, ensuring the protection of many different species of flora and fauna that depend on forest ecosystems including many species designated as Species At Risk.

In October, Anne Lennox, Forests and Species Coordinator, retired from her position after 34 years with GSC. Anne was a champion of sustainable forest management on GSC's lands, throughout the watershed and beyond. Anne led the successful completion of GSC's current Forest Management Plan. Anne has been responsible for the planting of more than four million trees while at GSC!

### Forestry at a glance:

- 99,868 trees planted through the 50 Million Tree Planting Program
- 11,600 trees sold during pre-order sales
- 9,930 trees sold at the Annual Arbour Day tree sale
- 47 trees protected through Emerald Ash Borer inoculations (18 clients)
- 44 Management Plans completed for private landowners under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program



*GSC staff unloading a shipment of trees*



*Anne Lennox with an eagle at the Forest Festival*



## Lands Department

In 2017, the Lands Department at GSC saw some major changes, including the loss of former Lands Management Coordinator, Chris Hachey, and the hiring of Tim Lanthier as the Lands and Habitats Coordinator. In this new role, Tim is actively developing new policies and providing strategic direction for the Lands Department.

As part of this new strategic directions, the GSC Lands Department completed a draft report looking into the ecosystem services provided by the natural capital occurring on Grey Sauble Conservation's properties. Ecosystem services can be broadly defined as the benefits that society gains from functioning ecosystems. These services provide significant economic, personal and communal values that need to be accounted for in order to be properly factored into decisions regarding the future state of our landscape.

The concept of valuing ecosystem services is fast garnering global support as the consequences of under valuation are being recognized. GSC's report was informed by other such reports completed within Ontario within the last decade. This report, which is now finalized, finds that the ecosystem services provided by GSC's properties provide an average value of \$72-million per year to society.

***GSC owns and manages almost 29,000 acres, including 12,300 acres of the Niagara Escarpment. Where possible, GSC buys or works with partners to protect lands for conservation, including forest interior, wetlands, and rare habitats.***

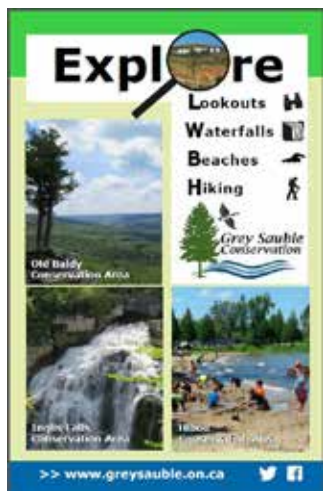
## Operations Department

Operations staff keep GSC's properties maintained and user-friendly! Many repairs and additions were made to enhance the experience for visitors. New sections of boardwalk were installed at Hibou Conservation Area, which was funded by the Friends of Hibou and a portion of the proceeds raised from the Foundation's Earth Day Film Festival event was used to repair sections of the boardwalk at Bognor Marsh. Donations to the Foundation also went towards the reconstruction of the bridge at the Jones Falls & Pottawatomi property.

They also managed to find time to replace the decking on the bridge at Inglis Falls. Some of GSC's properties also received brand new recycling bins that were funded by the Foundation and installed by staff.



*Boardwalk repairs at Bognor Marsh make for a sturdy hiking surface*



## Updated Brochure

Staff from various departments collaborated to update the existing Brochure, which showcased 11 GSC properties. The new 'Explore' Brochure includes information on property amenities, with descriptions and maps of the recreational trails for 24 popular adventure spots owned by GSC!

The new 'Explore' Brochure, to be released in 2018, will encourage visitors to snowshoe, cross country ski, hike and enjoy all the other permitted uses on GSC lands, helping them make the most of what the season and properties can offer.

Parking and rental fees collected are used to maintain the trails and facilities at these wonderful spaces, which contribute to a positive outdoor experience for visitors.

Purchasing a Season Pass allows visitors to explore as many of GSC's properties, as frequently as they like in a year!



## Environmental Planning

GSC's Planning Department plays an important and specialized role in the land use planning and development process for Bruce County, Grey County, and the 8 lower tier Municipalities across the watershed by providing expertise and input to these decision makers. Under agreements with these member municipalities and in consultation with county Planning Departments and other stakeholders, GSC staff review planning applications for consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) under the Planning Act, focusing on sections 3.1 Natural Hazards and 2.1 Natural Heritage.

Natural hazards include flooding and other water related hazards, erosion, steep slopes, and dynamic beach hazards. GSC also comments on other water management issues to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water in conjunction with section 2.2 of the Provincial Policy Statement. GSC may require flood plain mapping, natural hazards assessment, stormwater management plans, and/or engineered drainage plans for applications where warranted.

Natural heritage features include fish habitat, significant wildlife habitat, significant woodlands, provincially significant wetlands and significant coastal wetlands, species at risk, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), significant valleylands, and the connections/linkages between these areas, as well as adjacent lands to these features. In many instances, development proposed in or adjacent to these features triggers a requirement to complete an Environmental impact study. Staff review these reports and provide input to approval authorities.

The Planning Department provides review and approvals for the approval authority for development applications submitted under Ontario Regulation 151/06: Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation under the Conservation Authorities Act. Permissions are granted in the form of a permit. The intent of the permit process is to ensure that activities in regulated areas will not result in a risk to public safety or property damage and that natural features are protected through the conservation of land. GSC strives to issue permits in a timely manner, protecting people and habitats, while supporting strong communities!

To simplify the development approval process for landowners and address compliance challenges across the watershed, GSC worked with Municipalities and stakeholders to create the "Navigating the Process" flow chart in 2017. This document outlines which development-related approvals are needed, in which order, where fees are required, and helps GSC and municipalities consistently guide the public through their proposed projects. GSC plans to put this document online in 2018 and include interactive components.

***GSC supports municipalities in setting Official Plans, including zoning for development, and provide comments on Natural Hazard and Natural Heritage features for proposed developments.***



*Hart's tongue fern is a Natural Heritage Feature.*



*Regulated areas include those areas along watercourses*

***The Planning Department continued to deliver service while experiencing an increased volume of applications/inquiries this year.***

| Municipality             | Planning 2017<br>Natural Heritage/<br>Natural Hazard<br>Input | Permit<br>Applications<br>2017 | Application Type                       | 2017 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------|
|                          |                                                               |                                | Official Plan Reviews/Class EA         | 6    |
| Arran-Elderslie          | 18                                                            | 6                              | Official Plan Amendments               | 6    |
| Chatsworth               | 26                                                            | 13                             | By-Law Mapping Reviews (MNBPs)         | 146  |
| Georgian Bluffs          | 109                                                           | 48                             | Subdivisions                           | 3    |
| Grey Highlands           | 101                                                           | 66                             | Zoning By-law Amendments               | 82   |
| Meaford                  | 74                                                            | 75                             | Consent                                | 73   |
| Owen Sound               | 73                                                            | 34                             | Minor Variance                         | 57   |
| South Bruce Peninsula    | 45                                                            | 58                             | NEC                                    | 72   |
| Blue Mountains           | 117                                                           | 90                             | Aggregate Applications                 | 1    |
| Collingwood              | 6                                                             | 3                              | Technical Studies and Site Plan Review | 33   |
| Northern Bruce Peninsula | 167                                                           | 0                              | Pre-Consultation                       | 140  |
|                          |                                                               |                                | Regulation Inquires                    | 117  |
|                          |                                                               |                                | Planning Total                         | 736  |

## GIS & Information Management

The GIS department supports the ongoing information needs of GSC, including file and information management, website support, staff training of database software and spatial analysis, and specific project assistance, which is essential to the efficiency of the organization and the quality of information produced. Improving base datasets such as wetlands, woodlands, and watercourses using orthophotography and stereo mapping is an ongoing activity that enhances the data used for Watershed Report Cards and supports staff decision making in Planning, Lands and Forestry.

In addition to addressing GSC's growing day-to-day information requirements, the GIS department was also integral to several collaborative projects this year. They worked with GSC and Bruce County planning staff to provide improved Hazard mapping for the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula and delivered technical support at several public information sessions. In conjunction with lead staff, an application was submitted to the National Disaster Mitigation Program, which if accepted will contribute to a well-engineered, thorough, and systematic understanding of potential flooding scenarios, enable proactive flood mitigation and resiliency actions, and will give GSC and municipalities high quality LiDAR elevations across the Georgian Bay Lakefront. The GIS department also assisted in the production of GSC's new Explore Brochure and numerous interpretive signs.

Many new projects were initiated in 2017 that are keeping GSC on the forefront of technology! A Base Station was installed on the roof of the Administration Centre, which will contribute to quality control of stereo generated elevation models and will be included in our real time kinematic (RTK) acquired elevation datasets. GSC is the first Conservation Authority to install this type of base station and fill an important gap in the Topnet system! The GIS department also created an Asset Management Multi-user Database, as well as a conceptual data model for Forestry (and are in the development stages for Lands) that will aid in data management and standardized workflows thereby improving staff and data efficiency.

*A new Augmented Reality Sandbox was built and calibrated in 2017. In the sandbox, different colours represent different elevations, like on a topographic map and they update in real time as one moves the sand. This sandbox will be featured in the Grey Sauble office and taken out to events like the Children's Water Festival. It is an excellent visual way to demonstrate the movement of water in a watershed.*



*Gloria Dangerfield,  
Mike Fry and Adam  
from Topnet with the  
new Base Station*

***Grey Sauble Conservation has some of the best local mapping available, and shares it with municipalities, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and others to help everyone understand our Natural Habitats.***



## Communications

GSC was proud to host and participate in many community-wide events in 2017 that engaged residents, visitors, and partners in activities and programs designed to enhance awareness and cultivate connections with the natural environment within the local watershed and beyond.

A new event this year was RiverFest on July 9th at Harrison Park in Owen Sound, which marked GSC's 60th anniversary, Owen Sound's 160th anniversary, and the Canada 150 celebration. This fun-filled day allowed attendees to participate in many interactive activities including paper boat races, log-sawing and branding of wooden "cookies" with the GSC logo, a "critter dip" station, and a hands-on turtle and snake exhibit. The GSC tent provided a glimpse into the past with historical pictures highlighting the past 60 years of conservation.

In 2017 staff were given the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the history of GSC, and began to think about the future with the commencement of the Strategic Plan update. The first phase of this process was completed by taking stock to better understand GSC and what will impact the organization in the next 5 - 10 years. This information was collected through municipal open houses, workshops with staff and Board of Directors, and through additional public consultation.

The end of 2017 was bitter-sweet for Communications at GSC, as another productive year wrapped up it also brought with it the retirement of Krista McKee after a 34 year long career with the Conservation Authority. Krista is recognised in the community for her hard work and dedication to conservation and environmental education. Krista's enthusiasm, knowledge, and humour will greatly be missed by everyone who was lucky enough to work with and learn from her!

### 2017 Events and Programs for GSC and our Foundation:

- Wild Water Program
- Bruce Calvert Earth Day Hike
- Annual Arbour Day Tree Sale
- Earth Film Festival
- Grey Sauble Conservation 60th Anniversary & RiverFest
- Trees of the World Program, with the Arboretum Alliance
- Youth Expo with Sydenham Sportsmen's Association
- Owen Sound and Blue Mountains Watershed Trust Salmon Celebrations
- Great Outdoors Day Camp
- Memorial Forest
- Christmas Volunteer Lunch



*Krista McKee at  
Water Filtration Plant*



*Sonya Skinner, Queen Elizabeth, Owen  
Sound Mayor Ian Boddy, Dick Hibma  
at RiverFest 2017*



*Jake See, Day Camp  
Supervisor managing the  
Critter Dip*



*Karen Gillan and Vicki Rowsell showing off the  
stereoscope at 60th Anniversary celebrations  
at Harrison Park*

***Kids love the Great Outdoors summer day camp at Grey Sauble, and there are education programs delivered co-operatively with Saugeen Conservation during the school year that are open to all grades.***

## Asset Management Plan

Under the guidance and direction of the Board of Directors, GSC currently delivers eleven Programs that contribute to its desired outcomes:

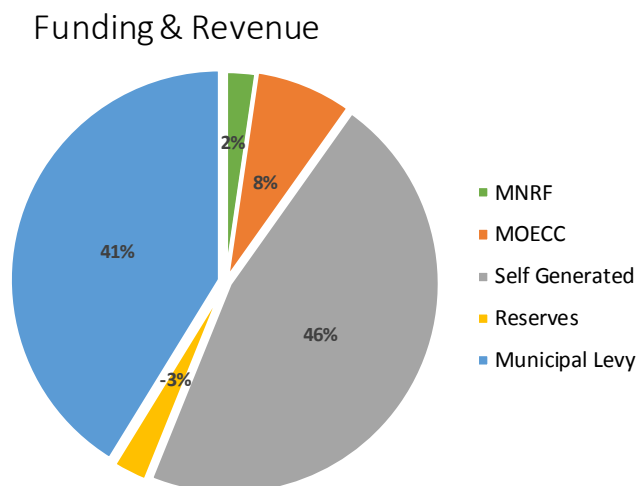
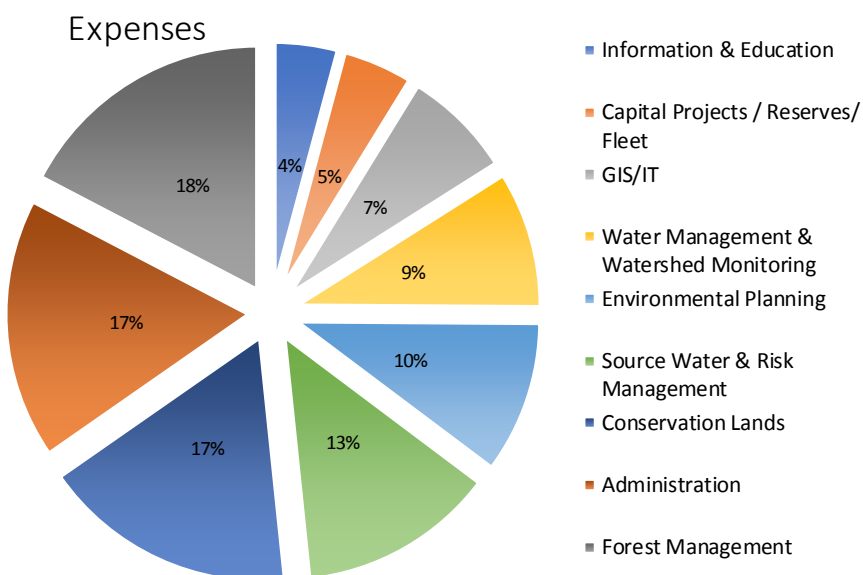
1. Conservation Information, Education and Community Outreach
2. Flood Forecasting and Warning
3. Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring
4. Dam and Erosion Control Structures
5. Land Use Planning
6. Development, Interference and Alteration Regulation
7. Lands and Facilities
8. Source Water Risk Management Service
9. Source Water Protection
10. Forests and Species
11. Grey Bruce Forestry Service

Over the past sixty years GSC has built and acquired assets that are essential for the delivery of these programs and the reduction of GSC's risks. This diverse array of infrastructure and capital assets include trails, roads, parking lots, buildings, bridges, monitoring tools, vehicles, lands and equipment, which are in different phases of their life cycles and various conditions. Not including lands, the replacement costs for GSC's assets is \$13,550,875. If the current MPAC values of GSC's lands of approximately \$40,000,000 is added, the total value of GSC assets managed by the Board of Directors is \$53,550,875!

The preparation of an Asset Management Plan for GSC in 2017 has been a valuable experience and an immense step forward in the professional management of the Authority's business and assets. This first edition of the plan sets out what we do and don't know – and enables us to plan for improvements in our knowledge and analysis.

***Grey Sauble Conservation leverages your support to improve our watershed. When you buy a parking pass, a seasons pass, a tree from the tree sale, or used the Grey Bruce Forestry Service you are supporting conservation in your community.***

***Conservation Authority activities include improving trails and washrooms, planting trees, surveying for Species at Risk, addressing Invasive Species and delivering stewardship and education programs for people of all ages.***



| Department                              | Expense   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Information & Education                 | \$122,584 |
| Capital Projects/Reserves/Fleet         | \$135,155 |
| GIS/IT                                  | \$212,711 |
| Water Management & Watershed Monitoring | \$265,747 |
| Environmental Planning                  | \$296,833 |
| Source Water & Risk Management          | \$384,775 |
| Conservation Lands                      | \$498,013 |
| Administration                          | \$507,215 |
| Forest Management                       | \$509,130 |

| Funding & Revenue    | Amount      |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Self Generated:      |             |
| Donations & Interest | \$18,292    |
| Grants               | \$44,637    |
| User Fees            | \$479,948   |
| Services & Sales     | \$890,577   |
| Government Funding:  |             |
| MNRF                 | \$71,779    |
| MOECC                | \$233,329   |
| Municipal Levy       | \$1,276,555 |
| Reserves             | -\$82,496   |



## Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation

The Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation had an exciting year in 2017, which was filled with many successful events that help us support conservation projects!

We were pleased to host our second annual Earth Film Festival in April at the Roxy Theatre with a screening of *The Painted Land*. The producers, Joan and Gary McGuffin spoke about their experiences filming this production. During the day, we had two showings for the local schools. In addition, we had Richard Thomas speak about the early history of Owen Sound!

Profits from the film festival were used to repair the boardwalks at Bognor Marsh and additional funds helped complete the bridge at the Jones Falls, Pottawatomi Conservation Area. Our film festival also supported the Malcolm Kirk Scholarship fund and the presentation of the conservation awards to graduating students at our local secondary school.

Mark and Brenda Calvert orchestrated another successful Earth Day Hike on April 21st by co-ordinating participating schools in Meaford. Pledges for this event are split between the schools and the Grey Sauble Foundation. Our profits were used to purchase recycling containers that were placed at Inglis Falls.

The Foundation assisted GSC with the Annual Arbour Day Tree Sale held on Saturday April 29 by providing refreshments and a BBQ to the volunteers and public. Revenue from these sales support conservation projects across the watershed.

In early May, the Foundation planted several trees at the Memorial Forest sites. The trees are purchased by donors in memory of loved ones and are planted and pruned by committee members. In June we held our annual Memorial Forest Ceremony at GSC's Administration Centre in Owen Sound. Many families attended to remember and celebrate the memories of passed loved ones.

In the Fall, the Foundation partnered with the City of Owen Sound, GSC, and the Sydenham Sportsman Club to promote the Salmon Tour event that highlights the journey of the salmon swimming up the Sydenham River to spawn. Our festivities were held at the Mill Dam in central Owen Sound.

The Foundation was pleased to team up with the Friends of Hibou and donated funds for the publication of the new trail guide for this property. The guide and interpretive signs will enhance the experience for visitors who hike the beautiful trails found at Hibou Conservation Area!

On behalf of the Foundation members, I thank you for supporting our fundraising initiatives and the local projects we assist with to make our watershed a better place!

Sincerely,

Don Sankey  
Chair



*Tree planting at  
Pottawatomi  
Memorial Forest site*



*Foundation members enthusiastically providing  
food to Tree Sale customers and GSC staff,  
always with a smile!*

## **Grey Sauble Conservation Staff**

Sonya Skinner, *Chief Administrative Officer*

Alison Armstrong, *Finance Coordinator*

Doreen Robinson, *Administrative Assistant/Accounting Clerk*

Serenity Morton, *Accounting and Clerical Assistant*

Andy Sorensen, *Environmental Planning Coordinator*

MacLean (Mac) Plewes, *Intermediate Planner (Jan-Sept) Watershed Planner (Oct-Present)*

Jacob Kloeze, *Planning Technician (Nov-Present)*

Lauren McGregor, *Planning Technician (Dec-Present)*

Krista McKee, *Community Relations Coordinator*

Vicki Rowsell, *Planning Technician (Jan-Nov) Programs & Communications Planner (Dec-Present)*

Karen Gillan, *Programs & Communications Planner (Dec-Present)*

Les McKay, Manager, *Information Technology*

Gloria Dangerfield, *GIS/Database Coordinator*

Mike Fry, *GIS & Forestry Technician*

Anne Lennox, *Forestry & Wildlife Coordinator*

Lee Thurston, *Forestry Technician/Grey County Tree Cutting By-law Officer*

Carl Sadler, *Forestry Technician/Grey County Tree Cutting By-law Officer (Jan)*

Cam Bennett, *Forestry Technician*

Aaron Swayze, *Forestry Technician*

Keith Lehmann, *Forestry Technician*

Elaine Van Den Kieboom, *Species at Risk/Invasive Species Technician*

Chris Hachey, *Lands Management Coordinator (Jan-Apr)*

Tim Lanthier, *Watershed Planner (Jan-Aug) Lands Management Coordinator (Sept-Present)*

Jason Traynor, *Field Superintendent & Fleet Manager*

Morgan Barrie, *Assistant Field Superintendent*

John Bittorf, *Water Resources Coordinator*

Rebecca Ferguson, *Stewardship Technician*

### **Drinking Water Source Protection Staff (Risk Management)**

Carl Seider, *Project Manager*

Nancy Guest, *Administrative Assistant*

Emily Vandermeulen, *Program Supervisor (Jan-June)*

Justine Lunt, *Program Supervisor (Sept-Present)*

Karen Gillan, *Communications Specialist*

Sara Pickard, *Risk Management Inspector (Jan-April)*

***Come out and visit GSC lands!***

***We have trails to hike, beaches, lookouts and waterfalls.***

***Our Administration Centre is located on Inglis Falls Road,  
just south of Owen Sound***

***We are open Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.***

***237897 Inglis Falls Road, R.R.#4 Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N6***

***www.greysauble.on.ca***

***phone: 519 376-3076 fax: 519 371-0437***