



Piping-in ceremony at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area.

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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Chair's Report

PAUL KEHOE, DRUMMOND NORTH ELSLEY

On behalf of the Board of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, I want to congratulate the hard-working staff of MVCA for their professionalism and dedication this past year. As you will read in this Annual Report, they rose above the chaos and confusion of so many changes and challenges to deliver a stellar performance. There is so much about the MVCA that is constantly evolving and changing at this time--I applauded staff for not just keeping up but exceling.

MVCA had several significant accomplishments in 2023 that demonstrated the strength of community support for the organization. The Mill of Kintail 50th Anniversary celebration was an amazing event that was enjoyed by hundreds of supporters.

This was followed by an equally well attended Holiday celebration in December. These community fun events would not have been possible without tremendous extra effort by staff and volunteers willing to go that extra mile.

The core work of the Authority never rests, and 2023 marked a number of accomplishments to put the Authority on sound footing for the future. I believe that the time invested in visioning and planning has enabled the Authority to embrace its revised mandate and re-confirm partnerships with its member municipalities to ensure the long-term viability of local programs designed to meet local needs.

To that end, MVCA continues to realign resources to match the new direction, and completed a number of infrastructure projects to ensure that Authority properties are maintained to a high standard. The work to transfer the K&P rail trail to the counties of Renfrew, Lanark, and Frontenac is one project that comes to mind. By preserving this trail intact in the 1990s, MVCA is now able to transfer this recreational property to be managed for local recreation and economic development.

Now is a time for looking forward not backward and I am confident that we are well position to take the steps required to continue this exciting journey into 2024 and beyond. It has been an honour to hold this office the past year. I have learned so much but know that I have barely scratched the surface of the work preformed by MVCA. The staff of the MVCA are some of the most professional, knowledgeable and dedicated people I have had the pleasure to associate with. They are the MVCA.



Paul Kehoe, Chair, MVCA Board of Directors

General Manager's Report

SALLY MCINTYRE

One of the biggest events of the year occurred on August 20, 2023 when MVCA celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area. Representatives from The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa kicked off the event, as they had done in 1973 during opening of the conservation area. The conservation area was the result of a 33-acre purchase in 1972 from Maj. James Leys, and an adjacent 134-acre farm from Philip and Hildegard Corbet in 1973. Today the property offers visitors passive and active recreational opportunities, community facilities for hosting events and educational activities, and historic buildings that house artifacts and tell the stories of R. Tait McKenzie and James Naismith—both born and raised in Lanark County in the 1860s.



Sally McIntyre, MVCA General Manager, Mill of Kintail 50th Anniversary Celebration

Over the years, MVCA worked with partner organizations to secure, develop, and manage five other properties for nature conservation and recreational use. This has been and continues to be an important role played by the conservation authority. Understanding and planning for the needs of current and future generations is an important role of the Conservation Authority.

On January 1, 2023 O. Reg. 596/22 took effect that curtailed the role of conservation authorities in commenting on natural heritage and pollution matters under ten Acts. Its unexpected release over the 2022 Christmas holidays necessitated an intense effort by MVCA staff and their municipal counterparts to navigate and implement required changes. All files were successfully transitioned by spring.

Later in 2023, MVCA received a vote of confidence from its municipalities when all eleven signed 5-year agreements allowing up to 14% of municipal levies to be allocated towards the delivery of natural system monitoring, watershed planning, and the delivery of cultural, stewardship, and educational programming. The agreements took effect January 1, 2024 and informed the 2024 budget.

A sincere thank you to the members of the eleven councils and municipal staff who helped to bring those agreements to conclusion by the provincial deadline, and for working collaboratively with MVCA during ongoing changes arising from Bills 108/19, 229/20, and 23/22.

The following sections highlight the work and key accomplishments of our organization in 2023.

Hazard Management

Every employee at MVCA is involved in hazard management—from hazard identification, assessment, and mapping, to planning, construction, operation and maintenance of water control structures, through to the administration of permits and review of planning applications under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and *Provincial Policy Statement*.

Kashwakamak Lake Dam Environmental Assessment (EA)

This 114-year old dam in North Frontenac Township has reached the end of its useful life. Detailed studies were carried out in 2023 to enable identification and evaluation of options. Key actions completed in 2023 included the following:

- Circulated project initiation notice
- Developed a consultation plan and issued bi-monthly updates to interested First Nations
- Conducted field investigations
- Recruited members to a Community Liaison Committee (CLC)
- Drafted and circulated field investigation reports
- Drafted Alternative Solutions and Evaluation Matrix



Kashwakamak Dam

Lower Clyde River Floodplain Mapping

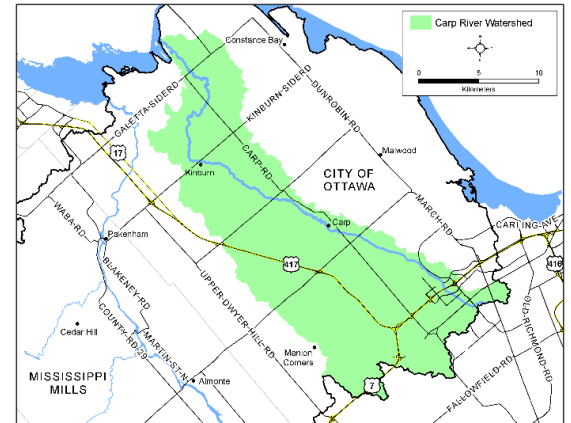
The Clyde River was identified as a high priority area for mapping during a Risk Study completed in 2022. In 2023, with funding support from the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), MVCA carried out extensive field work of the lower 45 km of the Clyde River from its outlet at Joe's Lake to the confluence with the Mississippi River. AECOM was retained to prepare the subwatershed model and mapping, which were reviewed by both MVCA and federal staff. MVCA circulated affected landowners and held a Public Open House in December attended by 19 residents. New mapping was approved by the Board later in December.



Lanark Village, 2023

Carp River Floodplain Mapping Update

Floodplain maps for the Carp River were prepared in 1983 and required update. The City of Ottawa provided 50% funding towards this work, which began in 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in 2024. In 2022-23, MVCA undertook extensive field work and developed the watershed model to enable mapping. The draft model and findings underwent review by an independent third-party technical reviewer and was updated based upon comments received and confirmatory field survey checks. Draft results from the updated model show mostly minor changes in urban areas. Final results are to be presented to the public and the Board by mid-2024.



Carp River Watershed

Dam Safety & Maintenance Works

Various safety measures started in 2022 were completed at the Carleton Place Dam in Spring 2023 including installation of signage, safety railing and fencing. As well, repairs and the installation of safety controls were completed at Pine Lake dam; and stairs and railings were installed at Mississagagon Lake Dam.



Carleton Place Dam Boom Replacement



Pine Lake Dam Safety Controls



Mississagagon Lake Dam, railing installation



Mississagagon Lake Dam Safety Controls

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Study Tour

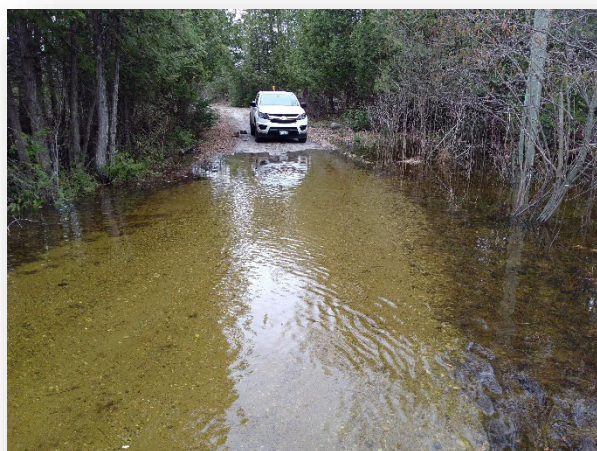
MVCA hosted FCM's Asset Management Technical Advisory Committee the afternoon of September 29, 2023 as part of an Ottawa study tour. MVCA staff showed the group of 40+ members from across Canada the Carp River Conservation Area (CRCA), upgrades to the Carleton Place dam, and provided presentations on our new drone program, hazard mapping, monitoring and data management, and capital programs. The focus of the group's tour was on asset management and climate adaptation activities.



FCM Study Tour at the Carleton Place Dam

Mississippi Lake Safe Road Project

In 2023, Mississippi Lake Association (MLA) requested MVCA's assistance in determining which roads around Mississippi Lake were at risk during a flood event. MVCA completed a GIS desktop review of the roads and flood plain mapping for Mississippi Lake and field spot checks of some road segments. Results indicate that 41 roads have one or more segments that would be considered unsafe during a regulatory event. Results and related information were shared with municipal and county staff, including those involved in emergency services early in 2024.



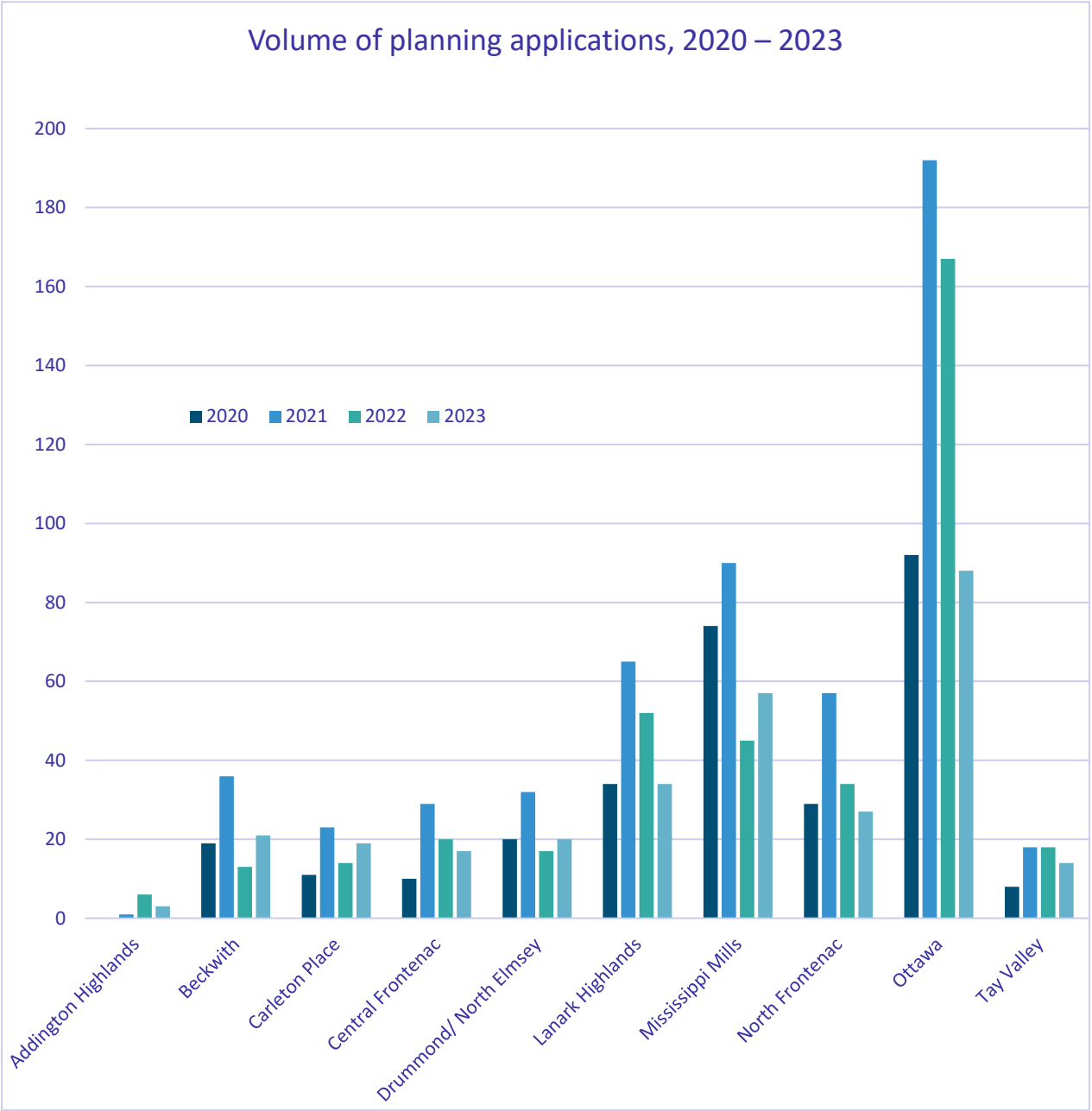
Flooding around Mississippi Lake



Flooding around Mississippi Lake

2023 Planning Applications

Planning reviews and permit applications returned to near-2020 levels in 2023 with a total of 300 applications reviewed. Of the 205 Section 28 permits issued, 201 were processed within targeted timelines. MVCA also fielded 456 inquiries and completed 20 compliance inspections.



Number of planning applications by type and municipality, 2023

	Sev	ZBA	Min Var	Site Plan	Dev PA	OPA	Subdiv Condo	Other	TOTAL
Addington Highlands	1		1					1	3
Beckwith	7	6	2	6					21
Carleton Place	7				6	1	4	1	19
Central Frontenac	10	1	6						17
Drummond/ North Elmsey	11	1	7					1	20
Lanark Highlands	24	5	1			3		1	34
Mississippi Mills	18	11	21	2			4	1	57
North Frontenac	12	2	13						27
Ottawa	42	15	13	9			4	5	88
Tay Valley	12		1	1					14
TOTAL	144	41	65	18	6	4	12	10	300

Resource Conservation

2023 Monitoring Program

With the assistance of two summer students, MVCA successfully delivered the 2023 provincial surface and ground water monitoring programs, the City of Ottawa's baseline monitoring program, and MVCA's lake monitoring program, which aims to test most lakes in the watershed on a 5-year rotation.

- Eleven lakes were sampled in 2023 as part of MVCA's lake monitoring program. The 2023 program focused on the Mazinaw and Upper Mississippi subwatershed, with each lake sampled 3 times for a total of 27 lake sampling days during May, July and September.
- Provincial Monitoring Programs: During the open water season (April – November), MVCA staff spend two days each month collecting surface water samples from 14 sites across the watershed. And, every spring and late-fall MVCA staff collect groundwater samples and take water levels from 8 provincial wells. As is done every year, in 2023 samples and information collected were provided to the province for analysis and reporting.
- From March to November each year, MVCA staff spend 2 days per month collecting samples from 19 water crossings in Ottawa's portion of our jurisdiction in support of the City's Baseline Monitoring Program (funding by Special Levy.)

As lake associations returned to in-person meetings, MVCA attended the Dalhousie Lake Association's Annual General Meeting to discuss our monitoring programs and what the results mean for lake users. Additional information is shared about our stewardship programs, and invasive species awareness.



Provincial Ground Water Monitoring



Stream sampling

Stewardship

MVCA was able to resume full implementation of stewardship activities with the assistance of a stewardship student funded in part by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. 2023 saw continued uptake of the ALUS Lanark program that was launched in 2022, which saw a doubling of the participation rate.

ALUS Lanark

Nine stewardship projects were completed in 2023 of which seven were in MVCA's jurisdiction. In total, over 41 acres were positively impacted under this program. One project included a large-scale riparian planting, which could not have been completed without the help of several staff members from MVCA. ALUS Lanark hosted a celebration of its successful year on Saturday October 21 at a recently constructed wetland site in Montague Township.



Riparian Planting

Northern Map Turtles at Morris Island

In June, 2023, North Map Turtle nests were found in a precarious location by long time Morris Island Conservation Area user and Ontario Registered Wildlife Custodian, Roger Magoon. The Canadian Wildlife Federation collected and incubated the eggs until they hatched when they were released back into the water at Morris Island. MVCA staff assisted with the release of four nests of baby turtles.



Northern Map Turtle being released



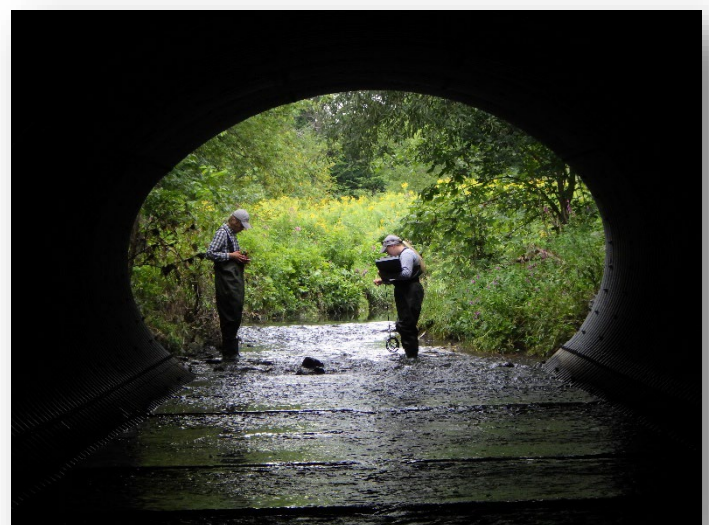
Northern Map Turtle



Exploring their home at Morris Island Conservation Area

City Stream Watch (CSW)

MVCA's CSW program involves visiting 7 tributaries to the Carp River, 4 tributaries to the Ottawa River and 1 tributary to the Mississippi River on a 5-year rotation. In 2023, 4.3 km of Watt's Creek and 2.1 km of Carp Creek were sampled. To support these surveys, 3 temperature loggers were installed and 3 sites were electro-fished. Additional temperature loggers were also launched at 7 sites in 3 other CSW catchments. Results are looking similar to the last time we were out with additional details being learned through completing more survey sections this time around. MVCA will use these findings to inform potential stewardship projects.



Stewardship & Monitoring Students taking samples for City Stream Watch

Shoreline Naturalization

In 2023 the Shoreline Naturalization Program planted a total of 414 trees/shrubs at eight properties in the watershed including along the shores of Constance Bay, Mazinaw Lake, the Ottawa River and Mississippi River.

Tree Day Giveaways

The Stewardship team held two Lake Tree Giveaways Days with Palmerston Lake Association and Canonto Lake Cottage Association, and Malcolm and Ardoch Lakes Landowners Association. Butternut Tree giveaways were held in partnership with Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). Approximately 850 trees and shrubs were distributed to 61 landowners within the watershed.

Museum & Visitor Services

Mill of Kintail Conservation Area (MOK)

The big events of the year were the 50th Anniversary held in August followed by the largest ever Kintail Country Christmas in December. Both events drew over 1,000 visitors who were wowed by the site, the activities, and the night-time light display. MVCA also hosted a March Break Family Nature Day, with 150 visitors participating in a variety of outdoor educational activities.



Planting site in Lanark Highlands



Trees and shrubs loaded up for planting



Ray's Reptiles presentation at the Mill of Kintail 50th Anniversary Celebration



Red Gate Arena Farms providing horse-drawn carriage rides at Kintail Country Christmas 2023

In October, MVCA partnered with a local Girl Guides troop to host a Walk for Wenjack event, which is used to build cultural understanding and create a path toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This was the second year that MVCA participated in this event sponsored by the Gord Downey Foundation.

Capital works carried out at the MOK in 2023 included replacement of the Museum roof and Museum Lookout roof. Quotes were obtained for several improvement projects including the replacement of windows and re-pointing of the Gatehouse as well as repairs to the chimney on the Museum.



Walk for Wenjack, guides activities



Mill of Kintail Museum, new roof



Mill of Kintail lookout, new roof

Museum Advisory Committee (MAC)

A new Museum Advisory Committee was established to support the Board in setting annual priorities for implementation of the Museum Strategic Plan; and to support staff in implementation of those actions through their expertise and connections in the community.



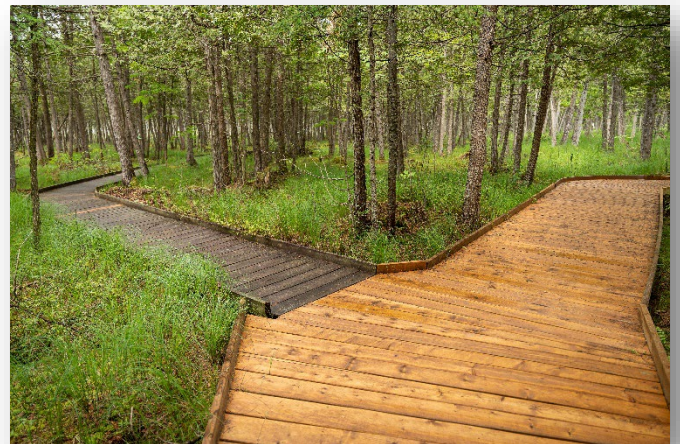
Inside the Mill of Kintail Museum

Purdon Conservation Area

MVCA's Operations Department completed widening and replacement of a further 75m of the Purdon boardwalk. The boardwalk section extending from the parking lot entrance to the Ted Mosquin trailhead is now fully replaced.

Carp River Conservation Area (CRCA)

Installation of an osprey nesting platform was completed in 2023 with support from donors to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Foundation.



Purdon Conservation Area, boardwalk improvements



CRCA Osprey Nest



Aerial view

Board & Staff Activities

Trade Show

In February, staff organized an informational open house for new and returning Board members to learn about MVCA's programs and services, and some of the projects we were working on.



MVCA Trade Show

Board Watershed Tour

In June, Members of the MVCA Board, Foundation and Mississippi River Watershed Plan Public Advisory Committee were invited on a guided tour of the watershed. In 2023, the tour focused on the middle watershed that included a log operation demonstration at Lanark Dam, a water quality demonstration at Long Sault Creek, a short hike at Palmerston-Canonto Conservation Area, a drive along the K&P Trail where a large snapping turtle was found, and a visit to Cedardale, a site of regular flooding and where MVCA was updating flood plain mapping.



Learning about surface water sampling



Tour of Purdon Conservation Area

BBQs & Holiday Luncheon

During the warm weather and at the end of every year, MVCA holds joint staff and Board lunches to allow people to meet, socialize, and learn about each others' work.



Staff lunches

Staff Events

Each month, we take time to celebrate work anniversaries; and every spring and fall we host a half-day staff-appreciation event—this year a picnic at Robertson Lake and afternoon bowling in Perth.



Staff Summer Retreat at Robertson Lake



Staff Summer Retreat at Robertson Lake



Staff Bowling Event



Alyson Symon (4th from the left), summer student 1983



Alyson Symon retired in 2023 after 23 years with MVCA

2023 Financial Statements KPMG, March 2024

Board Approved Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Financial assets:		
Cash	\$ 964,957	\$ 2,836,873
Investments (note 2)	2,620,945	1,019,167
Accounts receivable (note 3)	590,261	642,236
	<u>4,176,163</u>	<u>4,498,276</u>
Financial liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	563,806	370,234
Deferred revenue - other (note 5)	120,875	374,389
Current portion of long-term debt (note 6)	175,530	245,260
Long-term debt (note 6)	3,977,401	4,151,522
Retirement benefit liability (note 7)	146,346	155,818
Asset retirement obligations (note 13)	61,936	—
Total liabilities	<u>5,045,894</u>	<u>5,297,223</u>
Net financial debt	(869,731)	(798,947)
Non-financial assets:		
Prepaid expenses	36,450	35,165
Intangible assets (note 9)	117,697	111,244
Tangible capital assets (note 8)	7,893,010	7,482,111
	<u>8,047,157</u>	<u>7,628,520</u>
Contingent liabilities (note 16)		
Economic dependence (note 17)		
Accumulated surplus (note 10)	<u>\$ 7,177,426</u>	<u>\$ 6,829,573</u>

Board Approved Statement of Operations & Accumulated Surplus

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
	(Unaudited - note 11)		
Revenue:			
Municipal levy - general	\$ 2,962,450	\$ 2,962,451	\$ 2,777,100
Municipal levy - special	71,500	71,500	63,870
Other revenue (Schedule 1)	1,061,742	1,427,315	1,292,736
Provincial grant - MNR Section 39	128,436	128,436	128,436
Provincial grant - CMOG	13,445	13,445	13,445
Conservation area - fees, sales and rental	84,000	96,148	77,428
Supplementary programs	24,235	26,774	15,232
Donations	58,500	36,500	15,469
	4,404,308	4,762,569	4,383,716
Expenses:			
Corporate services (Schedule 2)	1,108,512	1,026,312	795,489
Watershed management (Schedule 2)	2,100,573	2,079,651	1,693,892
Flood and erosion control (Schedule 2)	508,166	487,906	737,190
Conservation areas (Schedule 2)	416,511	543,832	496,663
Category 2 programs (Schedule 2)	—	104,131	15,158
Category 3 programs (Schedule 2)	391,199	331,370	203,654
	4,524,961	4,573,202	3,942,046
Annual operating surplus before the undernoted items	(120,653)	189,367	441,670
Capital activities:			
Municipal levy - capital	634,628	634,628	598,706
Interest on long-term debt		(141,488)	(142,500)
Amortization of assets	—	(334,654)	(310,837)
	634,628	158,486	145,369
Annual surplus	513,975	347,853	587,039
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	6,829,574	6,829,573	6,242,534
Accumulated surplus, end of year (note 10)	\$ 7,343,549	\$ 7,177,426	\$ 6,829,573

2023 Board of Directors

Paul Kehoe, Chair	Drummond N. Elmsley	Alyson Vereyken	Lanark Highlands
Jeff Atkinson, V. Chair	Carleton Place	Dena Comley	Carleton Place
E. Helen Yanch	Addington Highlands	Roy Huetl	North Frontenac
Richard Kidd	Beckwith	Allan Hubley	Ottawa
Cindy Kelsey	Central Frontenac	Cathy Curry	Ottawa
Janet Mason	Ottawa, <i>Cit. Appoint.</i>	Clarke Kelly	Ottawa
Taylor Popkie	Greater Madawaska	Glen Gower	Ottawa
Mary Lou Souter	Mississippi Mills	Andrew Kendrick	Tay Valley
Bev Holmes	Mississippi Mills	Steven Lewis	Prov. Agricultural Rep.



2023 Board of Directors

2023 MVCA Staff

General Manager	Sally McIntyre	Water Res. Engineer	Bryan Flood
Treasurer	Stacy Millard	Water Res. Engineer	Sobha Kunjikutty / Alana Perez
Director Engineering	Juraj Cunderlik	Water Res. Engineer	Ramy Saadeldin
Mgr. of Plan. & Regs	Matt Craig	Water Res. Technol.	Jennifer North
Property Manager	Scott Lawryk	Watershed Planner	Alyson Symon
Manager of I&CT	Alex Broadbent	Environmental Planner	Mercedes Liedtke
MOK Site Supervisor	Stephanie Kolsters	Environmental Planner	Diane Reid
Operations Supervisor	John Hendry	Engineer-in-Training	Jane Cho
GIS Specialist	Lauren Shupe	Engineer-in-Training	Tim Yoon
Planning Technician	Brittany Moy	Regulations Officer	Tatyana Vukovic / Will Ernewein
Biologist	Kelly Stiles	Regulations Technician	Alexis Perrin / Rachel Clouthier
Full Stack Developer	Daniel Post	Planning Technician	Jacob Perkins
Executive Assistant	Rachel Clouthier / Kelly Hollington	Maintenance Tech.	Rob King
Financial Assistant	Tina Fragnito / Dana Doughty	Maintenance Tech	Joe Arbour
Admin. Assistant	Kelly Hollington / Krista Simpson	Maintenance Tech.	Sarah Kirkham
MRSSO Inspector	Eric Kohlsmith	Maintenance Tech.	Carson James
MRSSO Assistant	Jessica Corrigan	Custodian	Colinda Beauregard
		MRSSO Inspector	Jacob Pruner



2023 MVCA Staff

**Your partner in natural hazard
management, resource conservation,
and stewardship.**

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