

Annual Report 2024

MATTAGAMI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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OUR VISION

A healthy, safe, sustainable environment.

OUR MISSION

We manage the conservation, protection and restoration of our watershed.

OUR VALUES

Accountability, efficiency, excellence, integrity, collaboration, innovation, and adaptability.



The Mattagami Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the lands in the Mattagami Region Watershed, are Treaty 9 land.

Indigenous Peoples have called this land home since time immemorial. Today, our watershed is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people.

We acknowledge our shared responsibilities and obligations to preserve and protect the land and water, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work in this territory.

We commit to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous people and their cultures while actively working toward reconciliation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority (MRCA), we are pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights our continued commitment to protecting people, property, and the natural environment, while providing first-class greenspaces for our community to enjoy.

This year marked the first year of our 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. Staff have been working diligently toward our identified strategic priorities: protecting people and property, connecting people with nature, and inspiring watershed champions—all supported by strong organizational efficiencies that ensure we deliver these goals effectively and sustainably. These priorities guide our programs and decisions, ensuring that our work delivers meaningful benefits for the community and the watershed.

We continue to work closely with our member municipality and community partners providing input, permitting, and educational opportunities that foster a culture of watershed stewardship, ensuring the health and sustainability of our shared natural resources.

In 2024 we completed several key corporate plans, fulfilling requirements under the Conservation Authorities Act amendments. These accomplishments strengthen our foundation for continued service and stewardship in the years ahead.

None of this important work would be possible without the dedication of our staff and the ongoing support of our Board of Directors. We thank them—and our community—for their continued partnership and commitment to our shared mission.

David Vallier, General Manager

MATTAGAMI REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rock Whissell, Chair
City of Timmins Councillor Ward 1

Andrew Marks, Vice-Chair
City of Timmins Councillor Ward 5

Lorne Feldman
City of Timmins Councillor Ward 2

Bill Gvozdanovic
City of Timmins Councillor Ward 3

Joe Torlone
Public Member



PROTECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

As a core responsibility under the Conservation Authorities Act, natural hazard management includes administering regulations, reviewing Planning Act applications, flood forecasting, drinking water source protection and water monitoring.

Strategic Priorities:

1. Increase education and awareness of developmental regulations along waterbodies and protected areas.
2. Improve permitting and planning approval processes with other permitting agencies.



32

PERMITS ISSUED



76

PLAN REVIEWS



6

FLOOD MESSAGES



NATURAL HAZARD MANAGEMENT

A new province-wide regulation, Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, was approved on February 16, 2024, replacing MRCA's former site-specific regulation and taking effect on April 1, 2024, alongside updates to the Conservation Authorities Act. The regulation, now applied across all 36 Conservation Authorities, required significant preparation before implementation. To support compliance and guide permitting in hazard areas, staff developed a new Watershed Regulation Policy Manual.

Ontario Regulation 41/24 Permitting

- Development of MRCA Watershed Regulation O.Reg 41/24 Policy Manual to align with new regulation
- Provided education on MRCA Watershed O.Reg 41/24 Regulations and Interim Policies to our member municipality
- Held 3 meetings with municipal departments to streamline MRCA permitting processes
- Issued 6 permits under O.Reg. 165/06
- Completed 5 O.Reg 165-06 inspections
- 3 O.Reg 165-06 on-site consultations
- Issued 16 permits under O.Reg. 41/24
- Completed 42 O.Reg 41-24 inspections
- 11 O.Reg 41-24 on-site consultations
- 100% of permits were issued within required provincial permitting time
- 83 complaint and enforcement files addressed and closed

Regulated Area Management

- Completed desktop review of regulated areas determining areas with unregulated activities
- Obtained drone imagery of regulated areas along Mattagami River

Plan Review

- 46 minor variance applications
- 25 consent applications
- 5 zoning by-law amendment applications
- 7 public / legal compliance inquiries
- 6 restricted land use applications



FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING

The MRCA monitors watershed conditions to provide early flood warnings, keeping people and property safe, and helping communities prepare for and respond to extreme weather events. The Timmins Flood Advisory Committee (TFAC), chaired by the MRCA, communicated regularly throughout the freshet to ensure the best possible management of water flows, coordination of information with the municipality and emergency services, and clear communication to the residents of our watershed.

- Provided updated MRCA Flood Contingency Plan to 3 community partners
- Daily TFAC communications throughout the freshet from March 1 to May 29, 2024
- 3 in-person TFAC meetings
- 6 Watershed Conditions Statement notifications
- 5 Watershed Statistics Updates distributed to watershed stakeholders
- 11 snow course readings completed
- 11 public communications promoting flood alert sign up options
- 33% increase in flood notification registrations
- Additional flood messaging options investigated

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

The Mattagami Region Source Protection Authority works with the City of Timmins in protecting the source of municipal drinking water as the first step in a multi-barrier approach to safeguarding the quality of our water supply.

- Developed a workplan to guide updates for Mattagami's Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report
- 5 Source Protection Committee meetings
- All (45) policies addressing prescribed drinking water threats have been implemented
- 100% of inspected septic systems met required standards
- 1 new Risk Management Plan established in the Source Protection Area
- No new prescribed instruments required review

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY MONITORING

Watershed conditions are monitored through a system of streamflow gauges, snow courses, monitoring wells and weather stations. Samples for Provincial Water Quality Monitoring and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network are retrieved from 4 surface water stations and 4 groundwater wells throughout the year. These samples are analysed and added to a provincial dataset maintained by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

- Monthly sampling of 4 PWQMN stream locations
- Fall sampling at Gogama and Kamiskotia wells

SITE ALTERATION

Through agreement with the City of Timmins, the MRCA administers and enforces the municipality's Site Alteration By-law.

- 35 Site Alteration on-site consultations
- 15 Site Alteration Permits issued
- 35 Site Alteration inspections completed



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Regulated area management

- 900+ letters distributed to residents living in or near floodplains to advise them of potential hazards and development concerns and how to communicate with the MRCA

Drinking Water Source Protection

- Developed a salt awareness campaign to educate residents about effective salt use to reduce slipping hazards while protecting our drinking water source
- Salt awareness information booths hosted at Mountjoy Farmers' Market and Timmins Square



Mattagami River, Timmins



INSPIRE WATERSHED CHAMPIONS

The MRCA plays a role in building stewardship and awareness by providing resources to help people understand their local watershed and by fostering a sense of responsibility and pride in protecting local natural resources for future generations.

Strategic Priorities:

1. Connect the watershed community through engaged stakeholders.
2. Create a more knowledgeable watershed through education.



154

STUDENTS ENGAGED



72

VOLUNTEERS



2

SAC MEETINGS



WINTERGREEN FUND FOR CONSERVATION

The Wintergreen Fund for Conservation proudly partners with MRCA to fund trail enhancements and environmental education. The Wintergreen Healthy Trails Fundraising Campaign raised **\$150,343.00** thanks to the generosity of the following local donors.

**Newmont (Goldcorp
Canada Ltd.)**

**Timmins Porcupine Insurance
Brokers Association**

Porcupine Kinsmen

Club Richelieu

Rotary Club of Timmins

Marcel and Frances

Labelle Foundation

EACOM

Cedric Bradette PREC

**Glencore Canada Corporation-
Kidd Operations**

Lake Shore Gold

Porcupine Lodge No 506

Chamber for Good

The Movement Studio

O'Reilly Source for Sports

Timmins Construction

Association

Dr. Brooke Wilson

Bradley Fennuk

Dr. Lynne Schwertfeger

**Canadian Institute of Forestry-
Northern Ontario Section**

John Huggins

The Pols Family

Sylvie Lamarche Lacroix

Daryl Brain

Gowest Gold

Moneta Recreation Club

Joy & Rob Galloway

OK Tire

Dr. Judy Gillies Medicine

Professional Corporation

Tim Sikkema

Full Beard Brewing

David and Gail Ballak

Michele LePage

Dianne Corbett

Louise Larose

Denis Brulé

**Barbara Kader (In memory
of Flo and Ted Kader)**

Julie Domenico

Joel Ruel

Fred Gibbons

Linda Hagen

John Sullivan

Peg Andrews

Natalie Gisele

Debby Kapias

Susanne Colantonio

Rose Martel

Michel Lessard

Buzz Wawrzaszek

Bill Hosken

Ryan Taylor

Mark Morandin

Sylvie Ayotte

Amy Blaser

Anonymous

Natalie Ginglo-Robert

Marilynn and Andre Paradis

Jordan Farrow

Ron Mann

Aline Camirand

Doris Blouin-Harrison

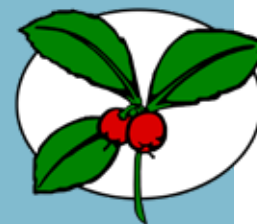
Emanuel Cabral

Pete Renaud

Nicole Gingras

Claudette Fleming

Gary Richards



WATER AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The MRCA works within the community to create a more knowledgeable watershed through education. Our water awareness initiatives engage local resident and youth in schools and community events.

- 2 community Children's Water Festival events (Downtown Timmins B.I.A., Farmers Market)
- Piloted an Interactive Water Trivia activity for Grades 7-12 students
- 4 Yellow Fish Road water education programs hosted for 94 students
- Water Mural Contest for Grades 3-5 students
- Watershed education presentation at O'Gorman High School
- 2 Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings in conjunction with Ontario Power Generation and Ministry of Natural Resources fostering ongoing relationships with public stakeholders

INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

An Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) approach is used to balance human needs with environmental protection. We collaborate with local partners to collect science-based data to report on our watershed health.

- Identified and met with partners, including City of Timmins, Newmont, Lake Shore Gold and Glencore, to begin development of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan
- Identified partners and entered into data sharing agreements for information sharing for development of a watershed report card
- Developed sampling parameters required for annual mini watershed report card



CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE

MRCA manages 432 hectares of conservation land including 4 conservation areas that are available for public use and enjoyment. These areas provide recreation and education opportunities to our community. The MRCA also manages a 55 km non-motorized recreational trail network connecting those conservation areas.

Strategic Priorities:

1. Maintain and enhance our conservation areas.
2. Maintain and enhance recreation trails maintained by the MRCA.



219,350

TRAIL USERS



47

EVENTS ON MRCA
PROPERTIES



124

HIKING DAY
PARTICIPANTS

GILLIES LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

Replaced bridge deck and widened bridge on walking trail
Resurfaced Hwy 655 parking lot
Installed 3 bear proof garbage containers
Winter grooming of walking trail



MOUNTJOY HISTORICAL CONSERVATION AREA

Tree trimming of large hazard trees
Replaced damaged gazebo



HERSEY LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

Brushed and resurfaced 1 km of Tamarack trail
Repaired washed out areas of Hersey Lake outer loop trail
Resurfaced parking lot
Installed wind phone
Installed new shingles on 2 outhouses
Winter grooming of walking trail
Cycling trails partnership with Boreal Cycling Club



WHITE WATERFRONT CONSERVATION AREA

Repaired lakefront fishing platform
Repaired community flower garden planter



RECREATIONAL TRAIL NETWORK

Bart Thomson Trail:

Resurfaced 2 km
Replaced 8 culverts
Refurbished 11 park benches
Lowered 16 culverts

Scout Rock Trail:

Relocated Denise Park walking trail and removed old bridge

General:

30 km of trail corridor maintenance
Hosted 4 guided hiking days with Wintergreen Fund for Conservation volunteers





ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

By focusing on organizational efficiencies, the MRCA is building a foundation that supports innovation, collaboration, and long-term sustainability. This focus ensures we can continue protecting people and property, connecting people to nature, and inspiring watershed champions well into the future.

Strategic Priorities:

1. Improve internal operations and processes.



↑ 31.7%

SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



3

MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIES



73

PROPERTIES
MANAGED



PROGRAM DONATIONS

The MRCA gratefully acknowledges the following donors whose support allows us to continue offering these programs:

Water Awareness Initiatives: Newmont Porcupine

Bee City: Lake Shore Gold Corp., Newmont Porcupine, Glencore

Student Employment: Canada Summer Jobs

Hiking Days: Winmar, PAIB Insurance

Storyboards: Chamber for Good, Enbridge Gas

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

166 Facebook posts engaged over 2,200 followers generating over 5,300 interactions.

Our most popular post of 2024?

Introducing our wind phone installation!

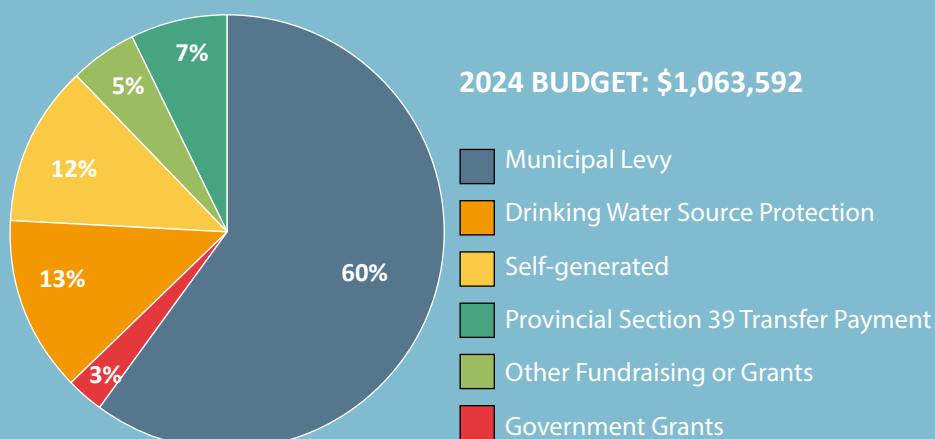
It looks like we hit the mark with this addition to the Hersey Lake Conservation Area.



- 1 All staff trained in incident investigation
- 2 Education session hosted for Service Timmins staff to identify services available through the MRCA
- 3 City of Timmins Council presentation regarding municipal support through Municipal Accommodations Tax funds
- 4 Continued work with Wintergreen Fund for Conservation on fundraising and community education opportunities
- 5 Development of management strategies as required by Conservation Authorities Act including:
 - ◇ Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy
 - ◇ Conservation Area Strategy
 - ◇ MRCA Land Management Policy updates with land acquisition and disposition strategies
- 6 Reviewed land holdings and disposed of lands not required under our mandate
- 7 Completed property inspections with insurance company and received recommendations

BUDGET & REVENUES

2024 BUDGET: \$1,063,592





**Mattagami Region
Conservation Authority**