



Interim General Manager's Report

Prepared For: CVCA Board of Directors

18 September 2025

Prepared by: Amanda Donald, CVCA Interim General Manager

Agenda Item #11

Water Operations

Current Conditions

- Water levels and flows are below normal for this time of the year – Fall drawdown is scheduled for the week of 15 September 2025 at Paudash Lake and St. Ola Lake
 - The CVCA watershed has experienced hot and dry conditions throughout the entire summer
 - These conditions have impacted the watershed and have triggered the necessity for Low Water Response Team (LWRT) to be initiated
 - Level 1 Low water conditions are initiated when monthly streamflow reaches 70% or less, of the lowest average summer monthly flow OR 3-month precipitation is 80% or less, of the historical average
 - Low Water Resource Team approved the recommendation to declare a Low Water Level 1 condition on 7 August 2025
 - 8 August 2025 a media release was circulated and posted on CVCA website requesting the public to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 10%
 - Prior to the declaration CVCA staff had received several phone calls and emails regarding low lake levels throughout the watershed
 - The LWRT held a virtual meeting on 8 September 2025 to discuss current conditions
 - A low water level 3 condition was declared on 8 September 2025 and a media release was circulated on 9 September 2025 requesting the public reduce water usage by 30%
 - A level 3 low water condition can be declared if the 3-month precipitation is 40% or less of the historical average OR if monthly streamflow is 30% or less than the lowest summer average. The CVCA data confirmed both of these conditions were met
 - CVCA staff had discussions with MNR Surface Water Monitoring Centre prior to the meeting to discuss current conditions
 - MNR staff confirmed the program is meant to report on current conditions and the current conditions should be reported even if that means skipping a level
 - Precipitation received in June, July and August at the Glen Alda Gauge was 55.8mm and at the gauge in Havelock-Belmont-Methuen was 118.7mm
 - When a level 3 low water status is declared, municipalities have the option to pass local by-laws restricting water usage
-

- It also gives the Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP) the option to place restrictions on permits to take water as they see fit
- See Low Water photos below taken 27 August 2025
- CVCA is hopeful to receive fall rains that will help alleviate the low water conditions moving into the winter months
- During the spring freshet a dock became lodged in the Belmont Dam
 - CVCA staff needed the dock to be removed from the dam in order to replace the stoplogs into the dam and hired Sustainably Grace'd Services to remove the dock using a barge
 - Unfortunately, it was a rather high and unexpected cost to have the dock removed from the dam (\$9,692.39). However, staff were able to negotiate with the company and lower the cost from \$14,466.26 to \$9,692.39



Photo: Beaver creek North of Marmora



Photo: Crowe River near The Gut

Administration

- Prior to Tim Pidduck's retirement, he coordinated the replacement of all CVCA computers within the provided budget
- Tim arranged concrete and brick work completed on the exterior of the CVCA Admin Office - also completed within the 2025 budget
- Amanda attended Eastern Ontario GM meeting and was grateful for the warm welcome from the other GMs
- CVCA staff have been working with Citation Canada (formerly HR Downloads) to update CVCA's Health and Safety Manual. A draft copy of the policy should be available for Board's consideration at the November 2025 Board meeting
- Hassan Basit – formerly CAO of Halton Conservation Authority – has recently been appointed by the Province in the newly created role of Chief Conservation Executive effective 4 August 2025
<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1006128/ontario-taking-action-to-make-conservation-authorities-more-effective>
 - No new Provincial directives have been announced as a result of this appointment at this time
- The CVCA Administration Office had to have some plumbing work completed to the sewage pipes in the crawl space under the building. Unfortunately, this expense will be over budget for 2025 and the invoice is pending.

WECI Update

- The Marmora Dam fencing project is almost complete with the exception of installing covers over the locks to prevent the locks from being vandalized
- CVCA issued a media release informing the public of the project prior to the start of construction
- The CVCA office has not received any complaints from the public regarding the project. However, staff are aware of comments on the Marmora Community Circle Facebook page and has had some questions from Marmora and Lake municipal staff
- See photos of the new gate below for your interest



Lands – General

- The CVCA gave approval for Hastings Trails to install counters at the entrances to The Gut Conservation Area and McGeachie Conservation Area trails in August to monitor the number of visitors at the Conservation Areas
- The data from the counters will be shared with CVCA staff
- CVCA has not received total number of visitors since the counter were just installed in August
- Beth Lowe will be attending the Madoc Fair on behalf of the Hastings Trails committee to share information about the work the committee has been involved with and promote the use of local trails in Hastings County

Lands – Callaghan's Rapids

- CVCA staff received a couple of reports of excessive horse manure on the trails at Callaghan's Rapids
- CVCA staff implemented a bi-weekly walk through the trails at Callaghan's to monitor the trails for debris and are keeping records of visits to the Conservation Area. So far, staff have not found any issues on the trails at Callaghan's Rapids Conservation Area
- CVCA Operations staff have also been to Callaghan's several times picking up garbage throughout the summer

Lands – McGeachie

- The McGeachie cottage was booked for 7 weeks and 3 two-night rentals this summer
 - So far, no rentals have been booked for the fall
-

Lands – The Gut

- At the 19 June 2025 Board meeting, staff circulated a land lease proposal submitted to CVCA for a hunting camp at The Gut Conservation Area (for more information see original staff report and proposal from 19 June 2025 agenda package)
- The Board discussed their concerns and questions regarding the proposal and passed FA Motion G 60/25 directing staff to respond to the proposal and begin negotiations based on the discussion and direction of the Board
- A summary of the CVCA Board's concerns and questions regarding the land lease proposal at The Gut was sent to the proponent at the end of July
- CVCA staff are still waiting for a response from the proponent to discuss next steps

Monitoring

- Unfortunately, CVCA was unsuccessful in obtaining funding for summer students through the *Canada Summer Jobs Grant*. However, CVCA was able to hire 2 summer students through the CVCA Category 3 budget and the MOUs with Member Municipalities for the Benthic program
- 10 sites were sampled for Benthic Invertebrates throughout the watershed
- The students were able to complete other tasks during their employment including:
 - Painting, cleaning windows, walking Conservation Area trails checking for hazards, helping CVCA staff prepare the cottage for rentals (spring cleaning), and attending site visits with regulations staff on site visits as a good learning opportunity
 - They worked at starting and implementing a new invasive species monitoring program for Zebra Mussels for watershed residents to participate in
 - Zebra Mussels are already present in the portions of the CVCA watershed
 - Residents who choose to participate in the program would provide CVCA with a \$20 donation. CVCA would provide the supplies needed to build the settling plate to install at the end of their dock
 - With the donation all costs to run the program would be covered by the donations
 - CVCA has provided a few settling plates to get the program up and running
 - Some of the supplies used to build the settling plates was graciously donated by Broadbent's Home Hardware in Marmora
 - Participants will monitor the settling plate for signs of zebra mussels and upload that information onto the [EDDMapS](#) website
 - Overtime this information could help member municipalities decide where to put boat washing stations to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels throughout the watershed
 - The monitoring program will help increase public awareness about zebra mussels, how to prevent them from spreading and is a positive CVCA initiative that watershed residents can participate in
 - So far 5 watershed residents are participating in the program and have installed their settling plates at the ends of their docks on Steenburg Lake, Paudash Lake, Wadsworth Lake, Round Lake and Crowe River
 - CVCA has also installed a settling plate at the McGeachie Cottage dock on Steenburg Lake
 - An information flyer is posted on CVCA website for more information: [CVCA Zebra Mussel Monitoring Program](#)