



- **Expanding Water Management Science and Reducing Flooding Risks**

Grey Sauble Conservation, in collaboration with Grey County, The Town of The Blue Mountains and Greenland Engineering, and Federal National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) funding, contracted with ALTIS Geomatics for \$115,000 to get very high accuracy elevation information using LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology.

The area covered is the Lake Huron Georgian Bay lake fringe sub-watersheds in Grey County, which span from the west side of Collingwood to the east edge of Wiarton.

This elevation data will support flood modelling scenarios that help in assessing Municipal infrastructure and regulation mapping.

- **Low Water Conditions Continue**

Despite an April that is one of the wettest on record, May, June, and early July were extremely dry for most of our watersheds (below 80% of average) and on July 17th, 2018 the Low Water Response Team recommended GSCA enter Level 1 Low Water Conditions. This condition calls for a voluntary 10% reduction in water use (surface and groundwater) but did not apply to users of municipal surface water intakes on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Media including the Owen Sound Sun Times published information for the public.



The Bruce Peninsula has had very little precipitation since April, and water levels for lakes on the Rankin River system have dropped significantly to the lowest in recent memory. GSCA staff have been responding to concerned residents about water levels and the management of the Rankin Dam, including what can be done to preserve water over the winter and make spring dam installs timelier.

- **Agricultural Leases to be Retendered**

GSCA has approximately 180 hectares (450 acres) of land leased out for agricultural purposes, with the 11 properties distributed throughout the watershed. Nine properties will be re-leased through public tenders or where there is no public access through negotiations with the adjacent landowners. Two properties which currently have livestock along streams or shorelines will not be re-leased and will be planted in trees to improve water quality.

- **GSCA Excels in Conservation Lands Protection**

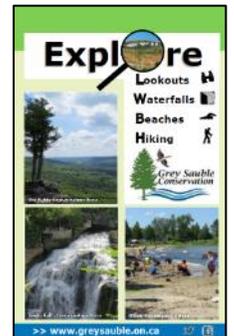
In this area residents and visitors can enjoy a wealth of conservation resources. From the total of all the lands owned by the 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario, GSCA owns about 10% of all forests and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs), and 8% of all lands. This brings good value to funders such as municipalities, as it is delivered with under 1% of the staffing resources, revenue and population.

GSCA is providing excellent value in terms of services versus costs to funders such as municipalities. This analysis also highlights opportunity for the province to adjust the funding model to more evenly distribute funding provided by Ontario taxpayers to assist all of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.

- **Conservation Areas Visits and Income Up**

GSCA purchased counting equipment in 2018 to help understand where people are using the properties, so we can better prioritize services. Between May 23rd and August 23rd there were 13,536 visits to Bruce's Caves, 11,143 visits to Spirit Rock and 6,086 visits to Jones Falls!

GSCA relies on user fees such as parking to offset costs such as land taxes, trail maintenance and washrooms. Staff are very pleased that we are on track to hit our stretch target of \$86,000 to enable better services at the 24 Conservation Areas in our Explore booklet.



- **GSCA staffing**

GSCA is pleased to welcome Geospatial Technician Kris Robinson and congratulates Mike Fry in his promotion to Forestry Coordinator.



*Kris Robinson
GeoSpatial
Technician*



*Mike Fry
Forestry
Coordinator*

- **Spirit Rock Spiral Staircase and Owen Sound Mill Dam Improvements**

With funding generously contributed by the GSCA Foundation and the Bruce Trail Conservancy, Field Operations has completed Spiral Stair case upgrades at Spirit Rock and have had manufactured and installed an enhanced railing for the Owen Sound Mill Dam.



Enhanced railing at Mill Dam



BEFORE



NOW

*Before and Now
photos of
improvement to Spiral
Staircase at Spirit Rock*



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- ***Board of Directors Renewal after Municipal Election***

The GSCA Board is appointed by our local municipalities. The term of all members will expire by January 2019, and municipalities will be asked to appoint new directors. GSCA staff will work with municipal staff to brief new councils about Conservation Authorities and what it means to be on the board, overseeing GSCA's almost 30,000 acres, \$50M in assets, \$70M per year in ecological value and about 30 staff.

- ***Memorial Bench and Tree for Jack Westlake in Inglis Falls Arboretum***

Jack Westlake was a "key player" with the Arboretum Alliance for many years and was instrumental in securing support and funding for the pavilion in the Arboretum.

The Arboretum is open to the public from dawn to dusk. It has a flat stone dust path to accommodate people of all abilities. The more adventurous can walk uphill to Inglis Falls, or downhill to Harrison Park, and in the summer, groups can rent the pavilion. There is information on the trails, the many types of trees and the Arboretum Alliance volunteer group on the GSCA website.