

Garvey-Glenn Watershed Project



Newsletter January 2017

Establishing Roots in the Garvey-Glenn Watershed

Planting trees is one of the easiest and most cost effective ways to positively influence the environment. Planting trees on farmland can help manage soil and reduce erosion, improve livestock welfare, shelter crops, and regulate water quality. During the fall of 2016, two tree planting projects were completed in the Garvey-Glenn watershed along watercourses. Harrison Burgsma planted 180 coniferous trees buffering the municipal drain that runs through his field. Mr. Burgsma decided to plant the trees to help manage soil erosion and surface water which will support optimal crop growth. Mr. Burgsma has also planned for the trees to serve as a wildlife corridor. Greg Curran planted a mix of 110 trees along the southeast side of the municipal drain on his property. Mr. Curran planted the trees to increase biodiversity, promote soil and water conservation, and for the visual appeal. **For more information on tree planting please contact Hayley Murray at 519-335-3557 ext. 250 or email hmurray@mvca.on.ca**



Machine planted white spruce trees along municipal drain on Harrison Burgsma's property 14/10/2016



Tree planting crew at Greg Curran's 12/10/2016

Water Quality Data to be Used for Ontario-Wide Study

Starting in the spring of 2016, Maitland Conservation began collecting water samples from the Garvey-Glenn watershed for the province-wide Multi-Watershed Nutrient Study. The study, run by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), is an extension of past research focusing on nutrient loading, land use, and land management. By collecting more information on these factors, the MOECC can make a 'then and now' comparison to identify any changes and to determine why those changes may have occurred. The study requires intensive water quality and hydrometry monitoring and is expected to take place over a five-year period.



MVCA staff member collecting water samples 2016

How do we know we are reducing nutrient loss and improving soil health?



Figure 1. Garvey-Glenn GLASI Monitoring Station



Figure 2. Field tile with sampler riser pipes

What is the most cost-effective way to reduce nutrient losses and improve soil health? The Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) Priority Subwatershed Program aims to answer this question by evaluating the effectiveness of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) (Figure 1). Within Huron County, the Gully Creek and Garvey-Glenn watersheds have both been selected as priority subwatersheds where intensive monitoring will take place. The project will monitor changes to soil and water quality as a result of BMP adoption.

To monitor agricultural water within tiles, a section of a field tile outlet has been removed and replaced with a circular flume with riser pipes, which allow for measurement probes and water sampling lines to be placed within the field tile (Figure 2). To monitor agricultural water on the surface, water is funneled through another circular flume that is placed within a low-lying drainage run. Collected water samples are measured for several different parameters, with phosphorus being of particular importance. Water samples will be collected throughout the growing and non-growing seasons to understand the seasonal variability of agricultural nutrient losses.

Landowners within the priority subwatersheds are eligible to receive up to 80 percent cost-share funding (up to \$25,000 per year) and per-acre incentives for certain stewardship projects.

To apply for funding contact Ben Van Dieten at MVCA, 519-335-3557 or bvandieten@mvca.on.ca.

Funding for GLASI is provided through *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



Maitland Conservation will be producing a short video showcasing the best management practice (BMP) projects that were completed in the Garvey-Glenn in 2016 with funding support from Eco-Action Canada. The video will focus on the process involved in carrying out a BMP project from identifying an issue to selecting the proper BMP. The video is expected to be available for public viewing by the spring of 2017.

Coming Soon!



E-NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE

Want to receive the Garvey-Glenn newsletter through email? Please contact Hayley Murray at hmurray@mvca.on.ca OR call 519-335-3557 ext. 250.



@ggsweep