



SOUTH NATION
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Project Update

December 11th, 2025





Cutter-Skidder Certification



- In-house training held October 21st – 23rd
- Cutter: 9 SNC staff and 1 from neighbouring CAs
- Skidder: 8 SNC staff and 3 from neighbouring CAs



GLISA Climate Change Workshop

- Held on October 24th in Cornwall
- Co-hosted by Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) and the River Institute
- Workshop – discuss how future climate trends may impact the ecosystems and local communities along the St. Lawrence River





Eastern Region Conservation Authorities Meetings



AquaTroll 500 for surface and groundwater quality monitoring

- Eastern Ontario WISKi Hub
 - October 24
- Eastern Region Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) and Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN) Meeting
 - November 7
- Eastern Ontario Flood Forecasting and Warning Committee Meeting
 - November 27



Sharing Restoration Expertise



SNC and WWF Canada staff, Ottawa

World Wildlife Fund Nature Restoration Forum

- Oct. 29-30, 2025
- Restoration practitioners from across Canada



Conservation Areas Workshop



Conservation Areas Workshop

- October 23-25 at Fern Resort in Orillia, ON
- SNC awarded the Innovation Award for Partnership Development in Conservation Area Management



Latornell Conservation Symposium



SNC staff attendees at the 2025 Symposium

Latornell Conservation Symposium

- Celebrating 30 years of Conservation Impact
- November 2-3 at the Paramount Eventspace in Woodbridge, ON



2025 Latornell Conservation Leadership Award Recipients



Esri Canada User Conference



SNC and MVCA Staff at the 2025 Conference

- Canada's largest national event for the GIS Community
- November 3-4 at the Toronto Congress Centre, ON
- Showcased diverse applications of GIS across various sectors



Esri Canada User Conference Plenary Session



Annual Communications Workshop



Conservation Halton Office

- Hosted at Conservation Halton on November 12, 2025
- Collaborative communication, partner engagement, and strengthening shared messaging
- Media and Stakeholder Management Training



Annual Educators Workshop



Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre,
South Bruce Peninsula near Wiarton, ON

Rekindle the Sparks Conservation Educators Workshop

- November 19-21 in Wiarton, ON
- Exploring many aspects, from guiding nature walks, journaling, lightning safety, park accessibility and inclusiveness.



Annual Tree Donation to Dundas Hospice



Dundas County Hospice, Williamsburg

- SNC delivers Christmas trees each year to the hospice
- Over 40 people attended the annual tree-lighting ceremony in Williamsburg
- Memorial ornaments added to the trees create a meaningful space of remembrance during the holiday season



CP Holiday Train



SNC staff volunteering with Community Food Share

- Friday, November 28
in Finch, ON
- Volunteers collected
1,660 pounds of food items
and over \$3,000 monetary
donations for local food
banks



Collaboration between Planners



- Updates, reminders, sharing successes, and learning from each other
- Leeds & Grenville Planners' meeting – Nov 14
- Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Planners' meeting – Nov 19
- Ottawa CA Planners' chat – Nov 25



Residential Development on the St. Lawrence River



Property along the St. Lawrence River

- Increased interest in new residential builds on the St. Lawrence River
- Collaborating with Ontario Power Generation
- Educating new landowners on the floodplain and owning property adjacent to the river



Partnership with Quinte Conservation for LiDAR Acquisition



Third Depot Lake – Central Frontenac, ON

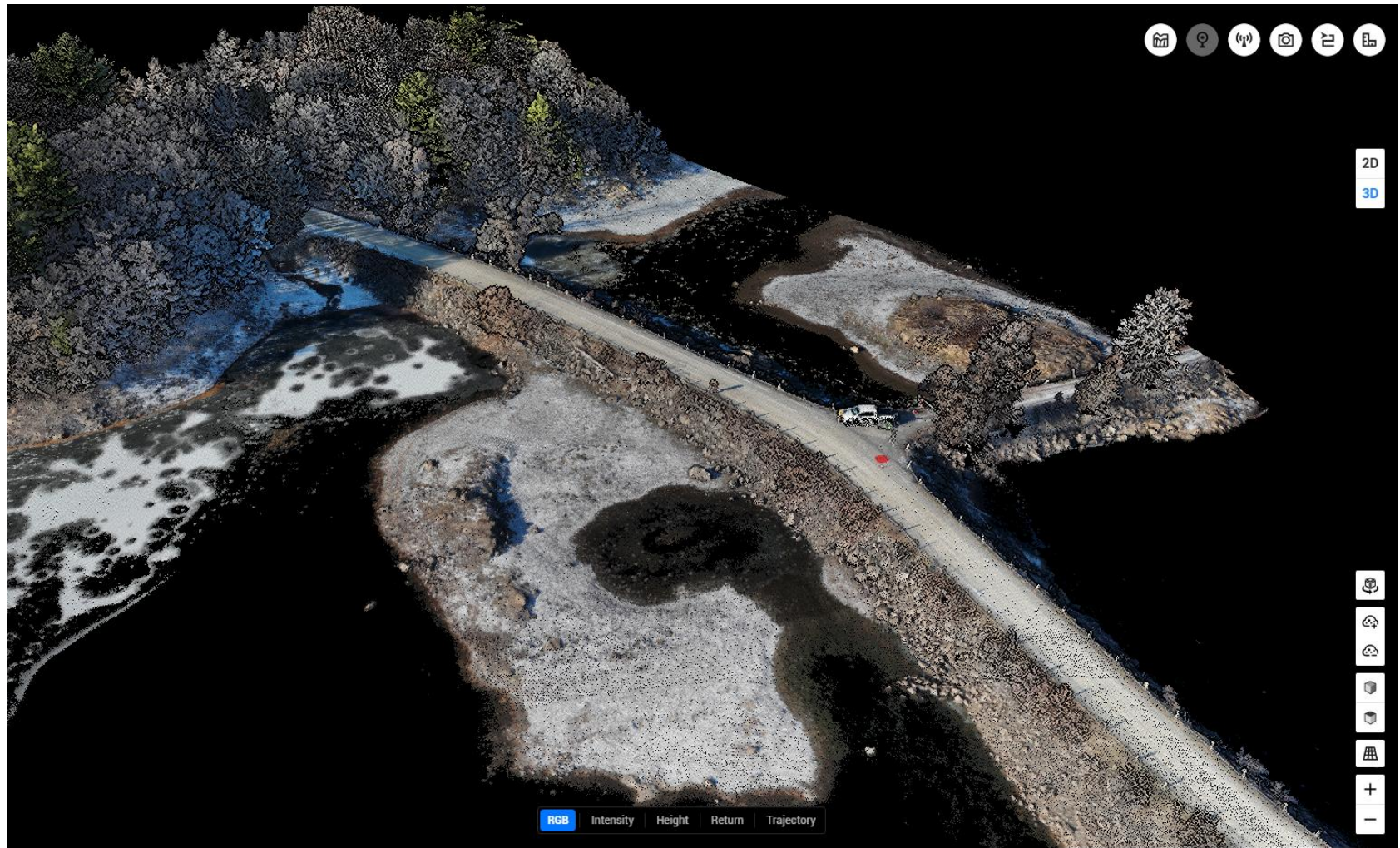


Brent and Ben at the Office

- SNC was contracted to acquire drone-based LiDAR along the shorelines of 2 lakes in Central Frontenac
- Water levels were drawn down ~2.5m exposing the shoreline
- Data will contribute to bathymetric mapping of the lakes



Partnership with Quinte Conservation for LiDAR Acquisition



LiDAR Point Cloud rendering of the shoreline and exposed mudflats that were imaged



Woodlot Storm Recovery Program – Fall Planting



Amanda the crew boss from Brinkman
Reforestation at a planting site in Plantagenet, ON

- Received additional \$270,000 in funding from 2 Billion Tree Program for 2025/26
- Planted approx. 44,000 trees this fall
- 2 contract planting companies engaged



Seasonal Park Closures and Winter Operations

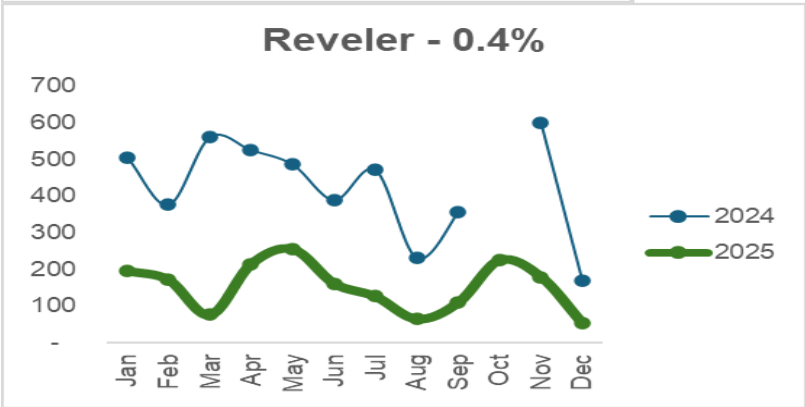
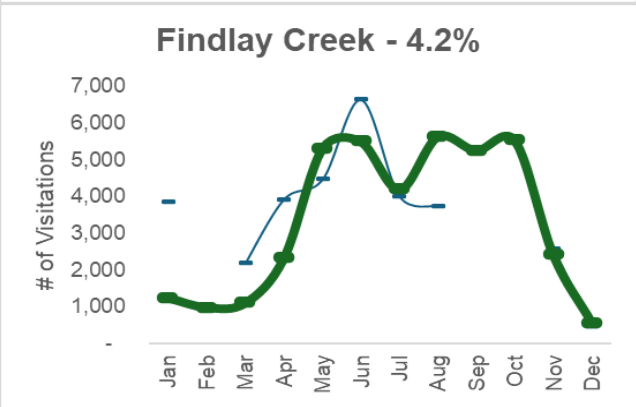
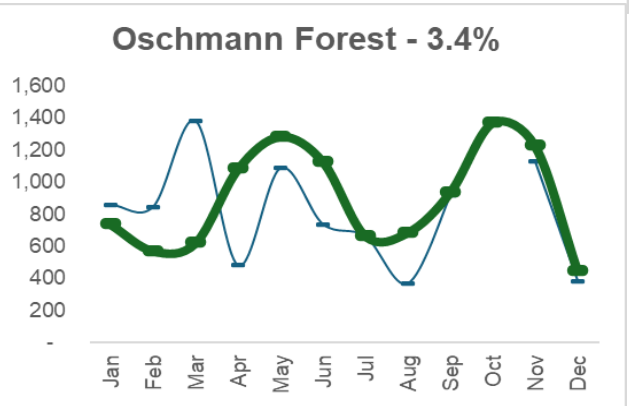
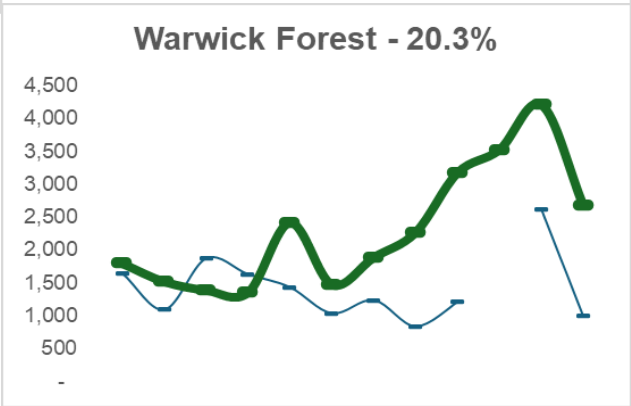
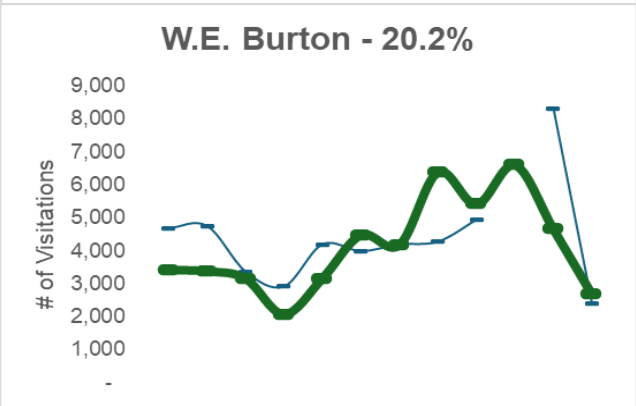
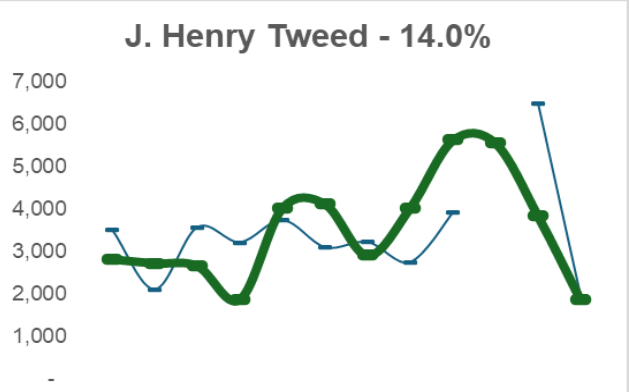
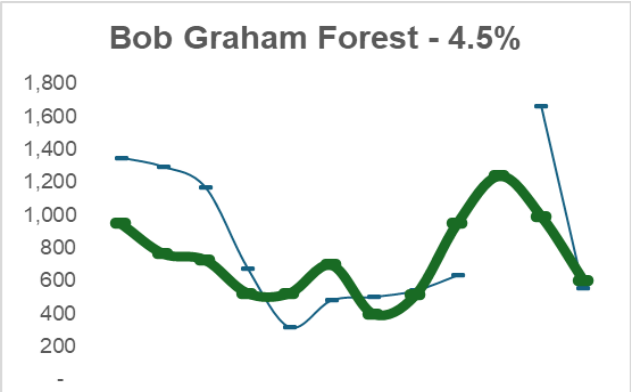
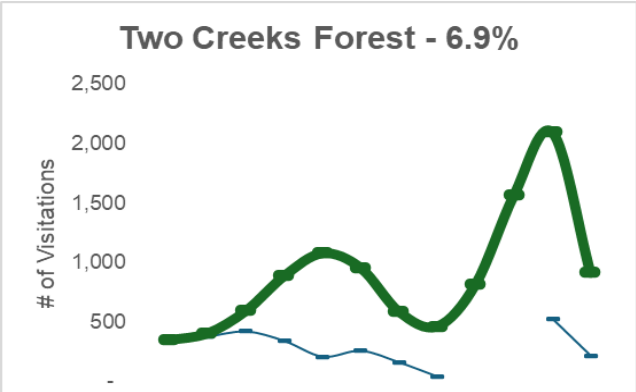
- Seasonal park closures took effect in the first week of December, following dock removals and river access site closures in November
- 13,201 recorded visitors in December 2025, up from 8,560 in 2024
- Winter maintenance begin this week for year-round trail sites
- Winter grooming will occur after every major snowfall



Two Creeks Forest Conservation Area, South Dundas



December Recreation Trail Visitors





New Pedestrian Bridges and Docks

- New pedestrian bridges installed at the Two Creeks Forest and Warwick Forest Conservation Areas
- New dock replaced at the Spencerville Mill in 2025, Crysler dock expansion underway, waterfront dock expansion planned for Casselman in 2026





Two Creeks Wetland Restoration



Sowing seed on spoil piles, November 20, 2025



- 240 trees and shrubs planted and 5kg of native wildflower seed sown around the two constructed wetland ponds
- Final steps in the wetland restoration project started in 2024



Two Creeks Project Completion



Two Creeks Forest Conservation Area, South Dundas

- Saturday, September 22, 2025
- Project completion and tour
- South Dundas Council members and staff, media



Municipal Partnership - Restoration



Sowing wildflower seed, North Dundas

- Support and expertise provided to North Dundas to create a pollinator meadow
- 1 acre meadow at corner of County Roads 43 and 31
- Future demonstration site



Charleville Creek Wetland Restoration



Drone image of wetland construction, SNC 188, Charleville Creek Wetland, Augusta



Charleville Creek Wetland Restoration



Completed wetland construction, SNC 188, Charleville Creek Wetland, Augusta



Snake Island Forest Wetland Restoration



Drone image of wetland construction, SNC 184, Snake Island Forest Wetland, City of Ottawa



On-Farm Stewardship Projects



Windbreak Planting
at Parachute Farm,
Vankleek Hill



RALP Marginal Lands Initiative
projects in progress:

- 15 SNC
- 5 Raisin Region
- 2 Cataraqui Region
- 2 Rideau Valley
- 1 Mississippi Valley
- 1 Quinte Conservation
- 3 Ducks Unlimited Canada



Agri-Environmental Stewardship

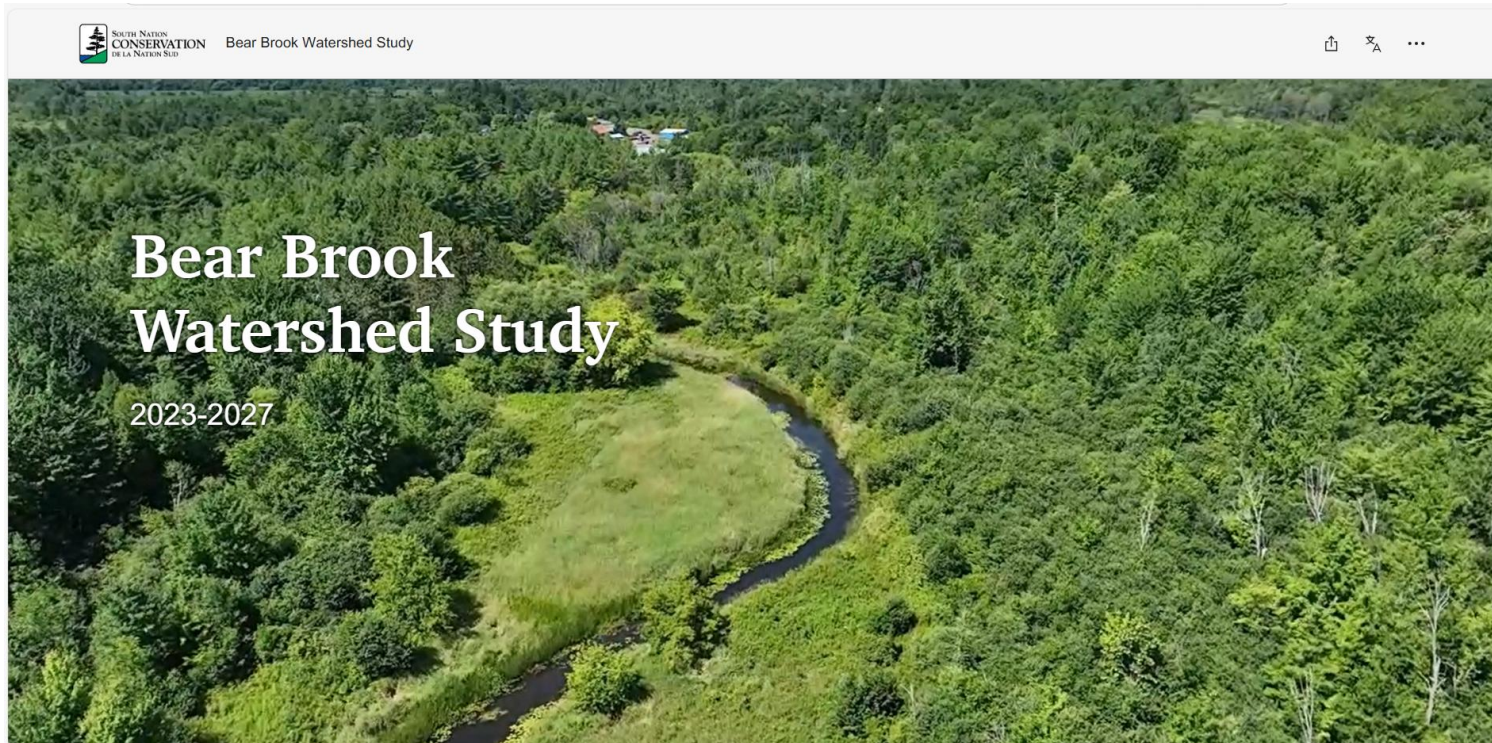
**\$50 GIFT CARDS FOR
CROP HARVEST PHOTOS**



Seeking farmers to take post harvest field photos:
to support Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada crop residue research



Bear Brook Watershed Study Update



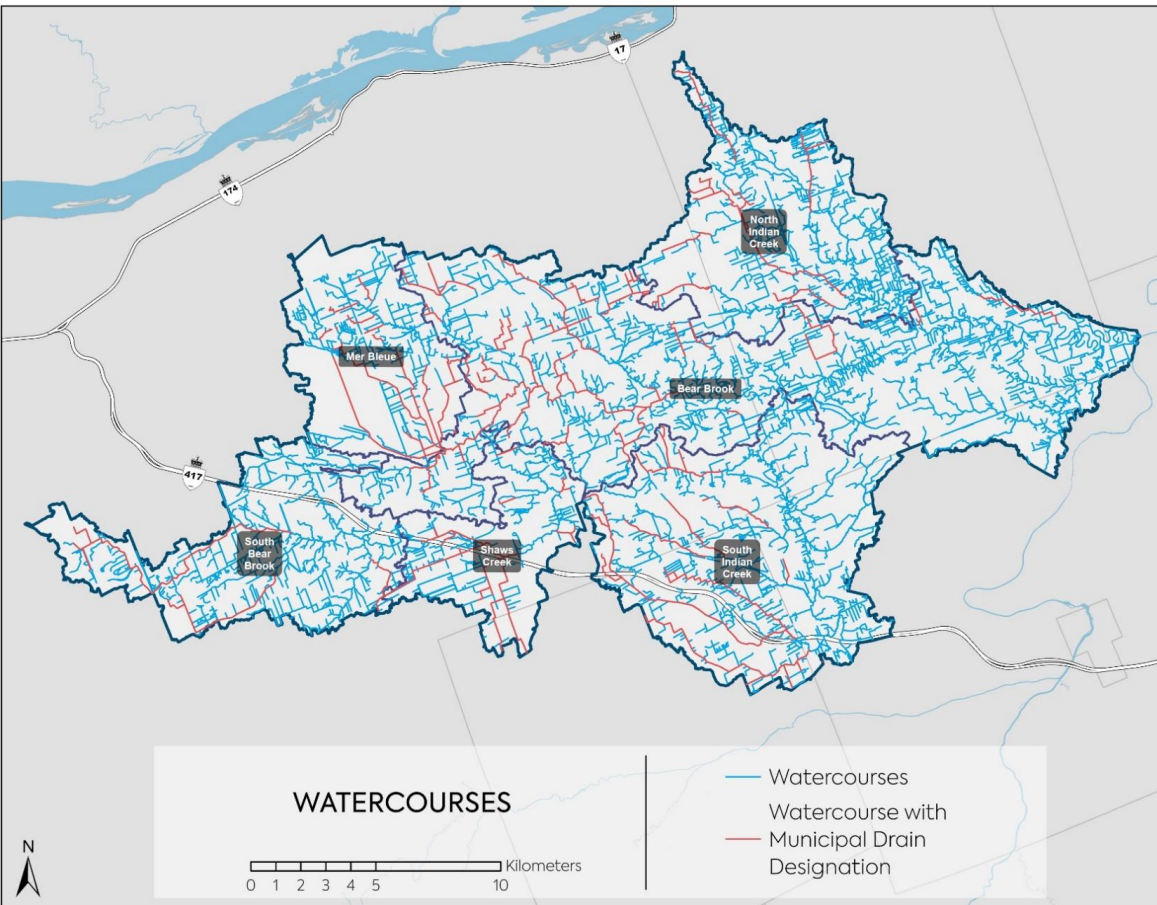
- First Public Information Centre hosted on November 14 at the Bearbrook Community Centre
- Project webpage and resident survey available at: nation.on.ca/consultations



Bear Brook Watershed Study Update

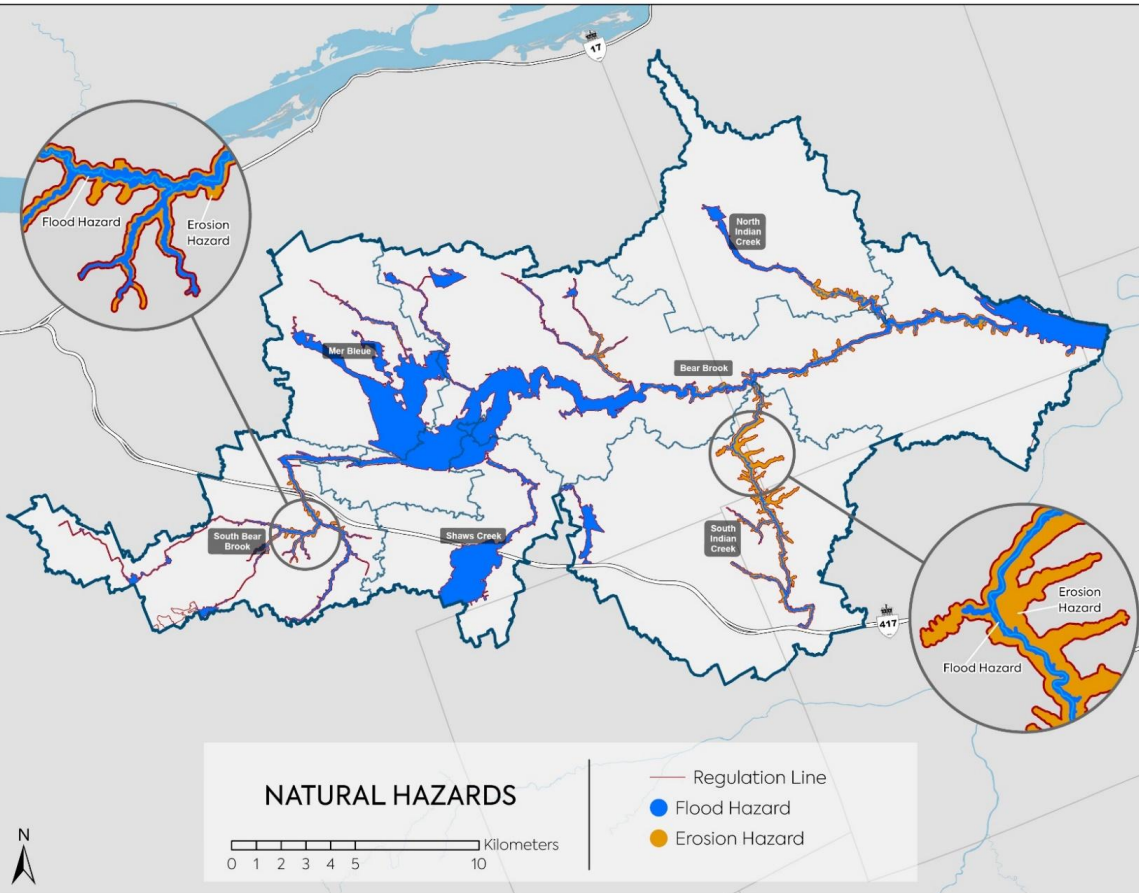
Water Resources

- 1,700 km of mapped watercourses
 - 13% with municipal drain designation
 - 17% of the watershed is tile drained (half the agricultural lands)





Bear Brook Watershed Study Update

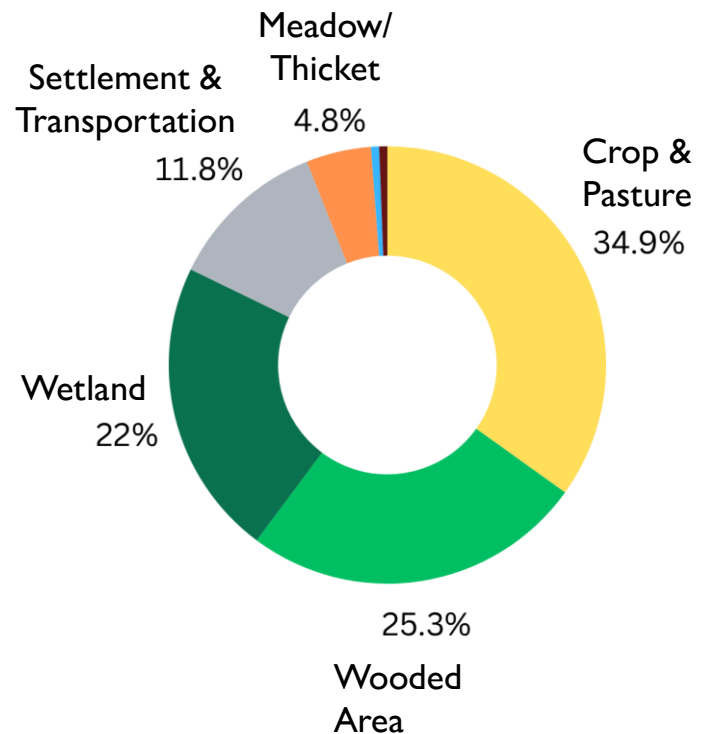
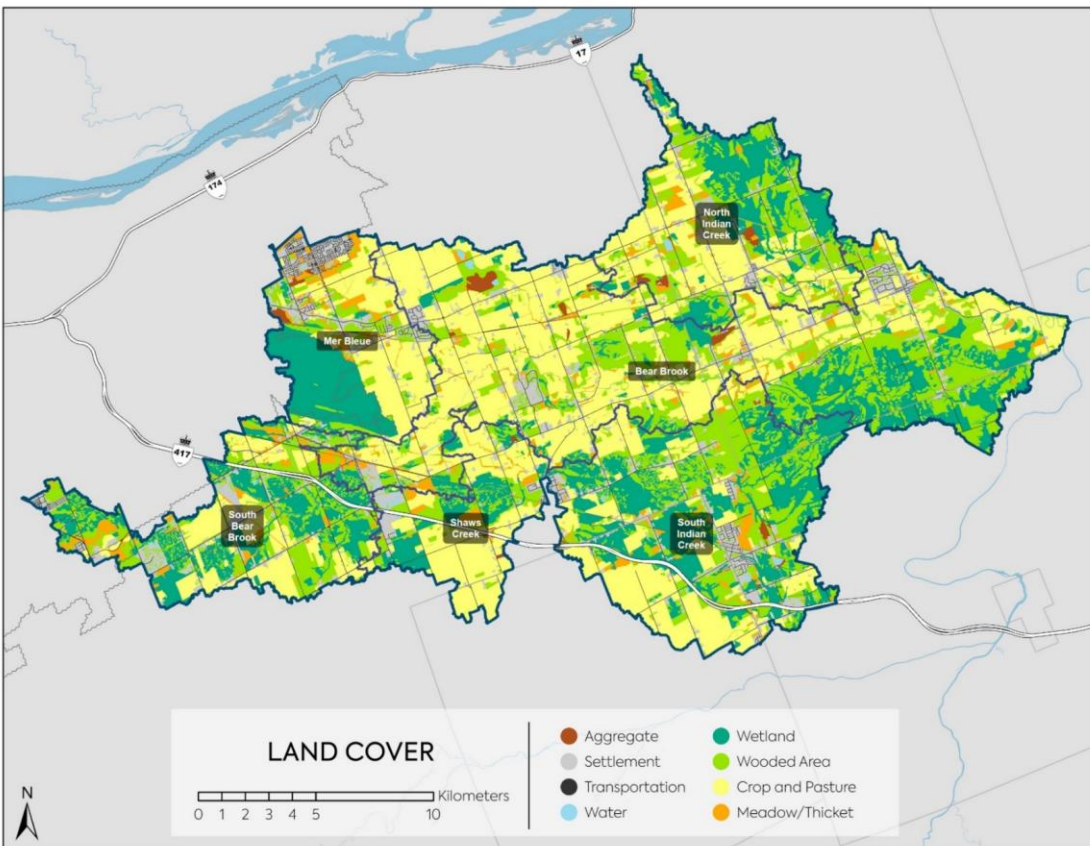


Natural Hazards

- SNC protects people and property from natural hazards:
 - Flooding
 - Erosion
 - Unstable Soils



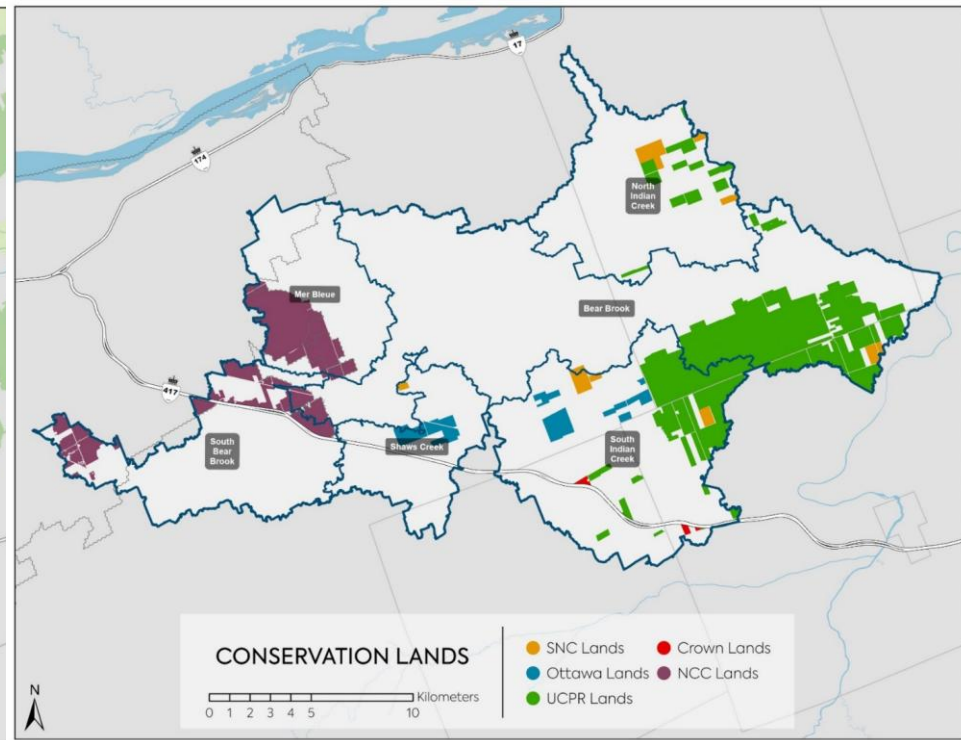
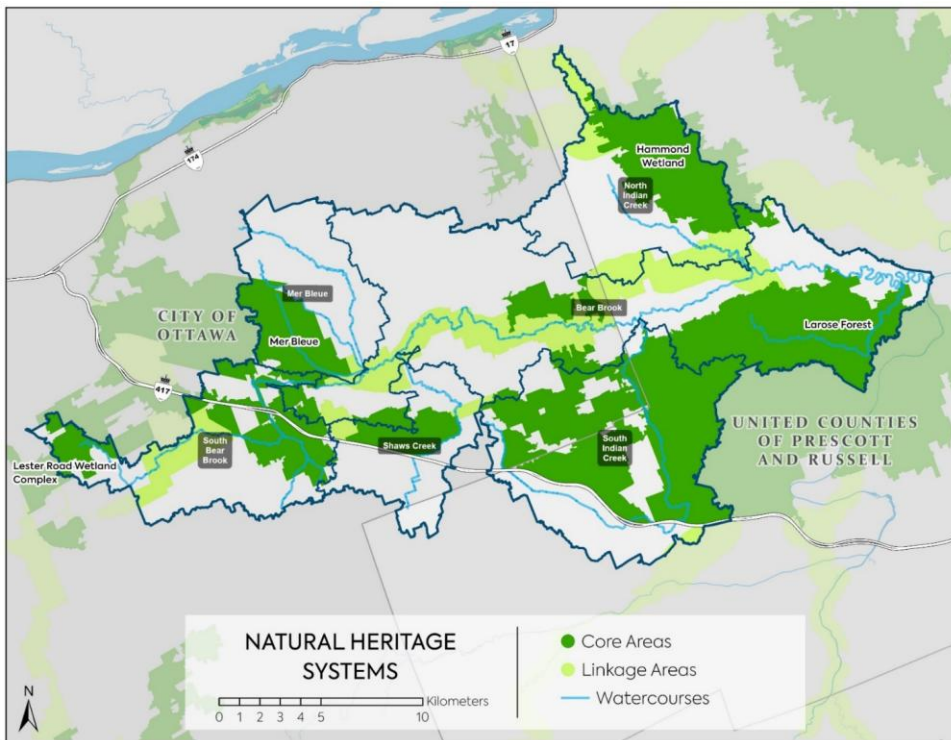
Bear Brook Watershed Study Update






Bear Brook Watershed Study Update

Natural Heritage Systems and Conservation Lands






Bear Brook Watershed Study Update




Phase 1: Watershed Characterization (2023–2025)

Describes the current state and recent trends of water, natural heritage, and natural hazards (flooding, erosion, unstable soils).



Phase 2: Scenario Planning & Risk Assessment (2024–2026)

Examines future land use and climate change scenarios to better understand risks and opportunities. Includes a Class Environmental Assessment for flood mitigation options.



Phase 3: Implementation Planning–Watershed Plan (2026–2027)

Develops recommendations, policies, and monitoring frameworks to guide sustainable watershed management.

Feedback Opportunities



Monitoring - Winterizing Hydrometric Network



AWP bucket at Mill Run Conservation Area, Augusta

- Ongoing manual water level measurements and data downloads
- Applied antifreeze solution to 8 All Weather Precipitation (AWP) buckets
- Equipment maintenance and re-installation ongoing



Monitoring - Snow Surveys

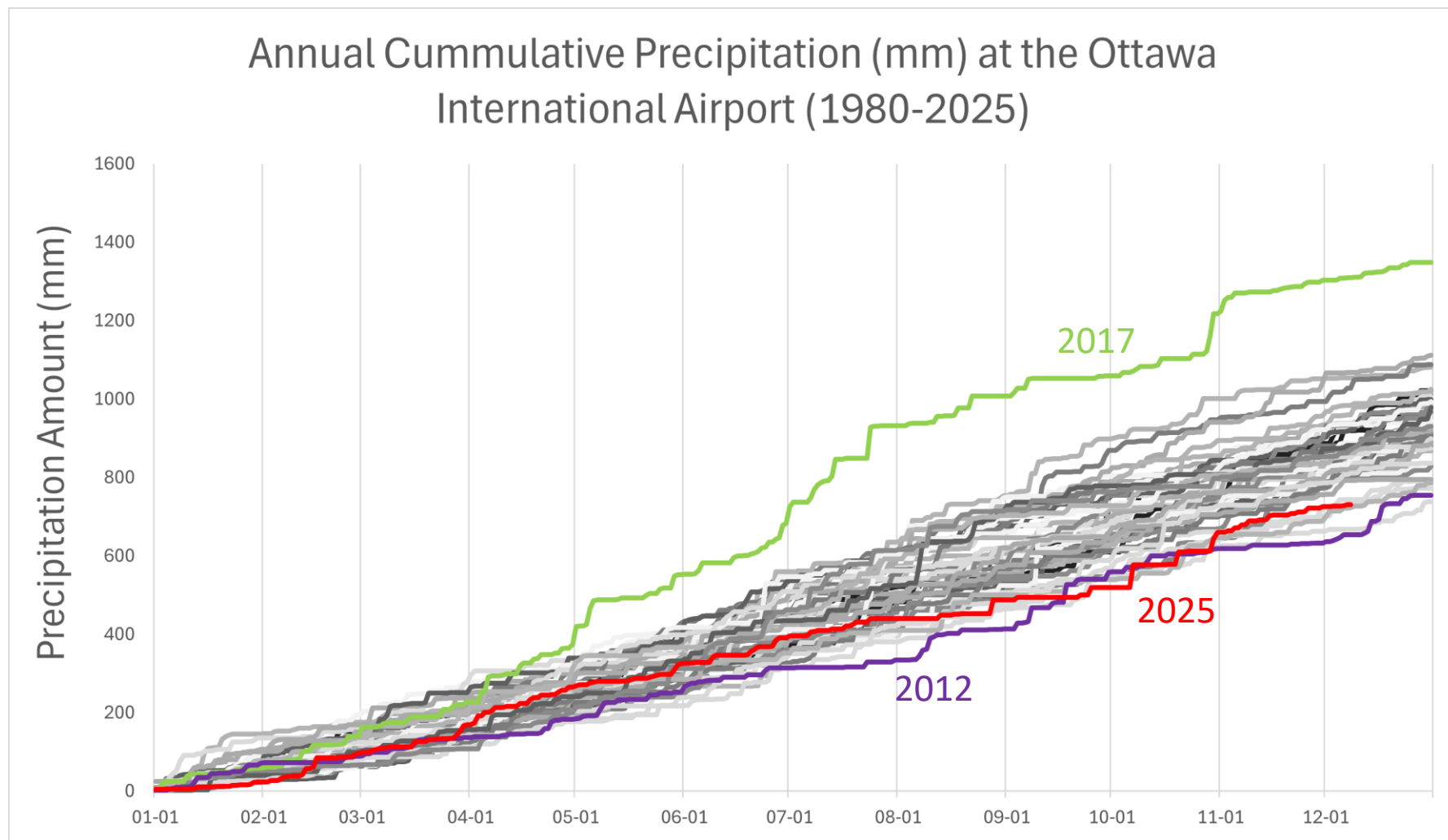


Snow survey in St. Isidore, 2025

- Bi-monthly snow samples measured to calculate snow-water equivalency
- Data sent to Surface Water Monitoring Centre and helps to inform SNC Flood Forecasting and Warning Program
 - Low Water Response



Watershed Conditions – Annual Precipitation





Watershed Conditions - Low Water Indicators

Precipitation Indicators Summary (Dec. 8 th)			
Current Status	1-Month %	3-Month %	18-Month %
Ottawa Airport	68.3	96.8	93.7
Kemptville	56.2	58.9	85.0
Brockville	76.6	83.2	78.0
Cornwall	53.8	91.1	97.0

- The 30-day moving total is below normal
- Longer term indicators are showing recovery



Watershed Conditions - Low Water Indicators



Crysler Dam - August

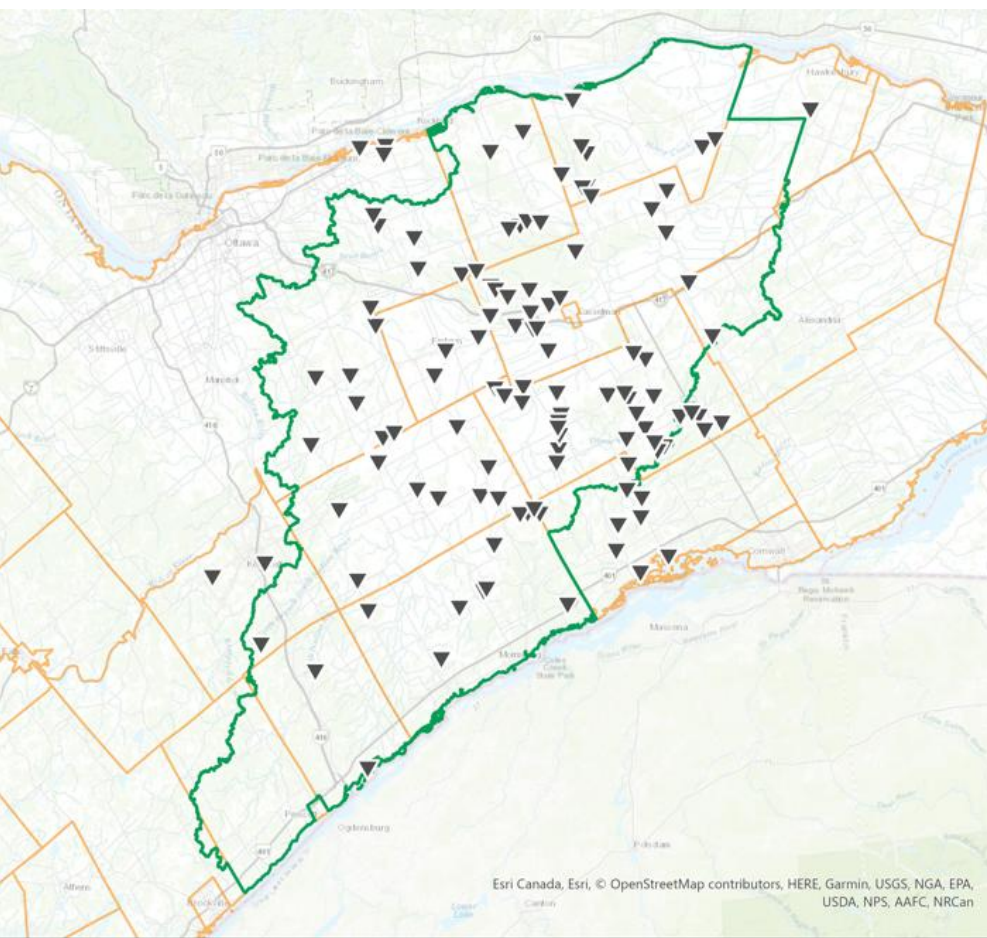


Crysler Dam - December

Baseflow is recovering in most of the systems in the SNC jurisdiction



Watershed Conditions - Groundwater



- 139 reported well impacts
- 31 wells still reporting issues

▼ Drought Impacted Wells  SNC Jurisdiction  Municipalities

0 15 30 60 Kilometers

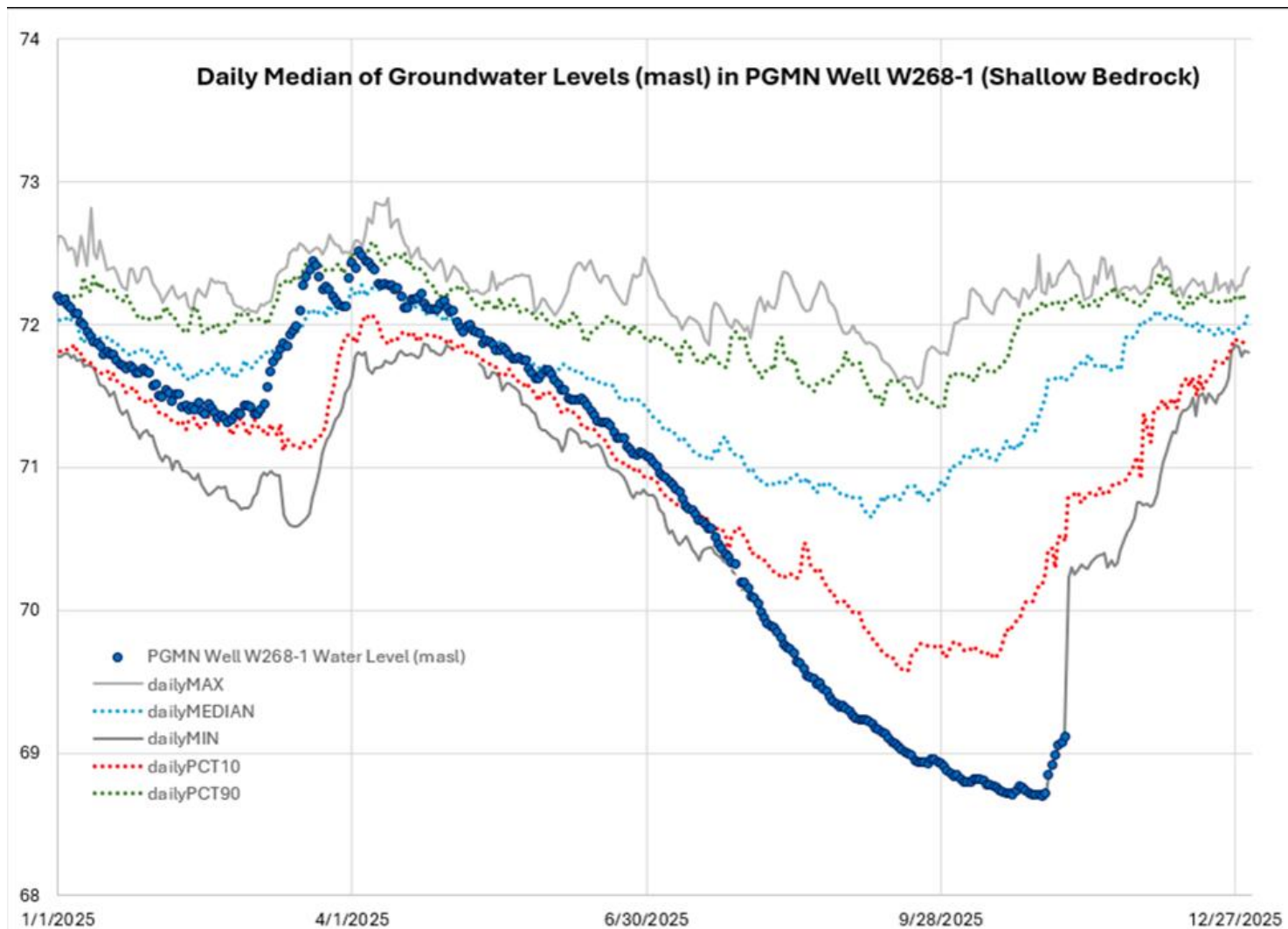


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Watershed Conditions - Groundwater





Water Control Structures – Crysler Dam



Crysler Dam, Summer 2025 – During Low Water Advisory

- The engineering report for the Crysler Dam has been provided to SNC
 - Includes in-depth assessment of concrete and structure
 - Includes assessment from dive team upstream.
- The latest draft is under review by SNC staff

Our Local Environment, We're in it Together.



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