

MEDIA RELEASE

Innovative Research Project for Mississippi Lake

November 30, 2017 – Carleton Place — Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and the Mississippi Lakes Association (MLA) are teaming up with Queen’s University to develop a project to investigate water quality concerns in Mississippi Lake, specifically nutrient and algae levels.

The Mississippi Lake Ecological Modelling Project stems from the Mississippi Lake Plan, which was created to identify and protect the significant social, natural and physical features that make the lake and its surrounding area a healthy natural environment and a desirable place for people to live and visit.

“With changing land use in the area such as agricultural operations and new rural development, we wanted a clearer understanding of the role of nutrient movement through the watershed. We know that this plays a key role relating to water quality,” said Rob Bell, MLA President. “A survey of lake residents and visitors, conducted in conjunction with the development of the Mississippi Lake Plan, overwhelmingly identified the primary concern as water quality. An unhealthy level of nutrients results in an unhealthy lake, and it’s vital we sustain and improve the quality of our watershed for future generations.”

Dr. Nader Nakhaei who recently completed his PhD in Civil Engineering at Queen’s University will undertake the project. “The main focus of this project is to use an acclaimed and peer reviewed hydrodynamic and biogeochemical model to address water quality issues on Mississippi Lake. The model (ELCOM-CAEDYM) has been used to conduct research on a range water bodies, from small storm-water ponds in Edmonton to Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. By calibrating this model with the existing data we will be able to predict the situation of the lake with variety of different scenarios such as land use, climate and flow conditions.”

“We look forward to working with Dr. Nakhaei and Queens University on this innovative project. This is the first study of its kind in the area and we’re excited about receiving and sharing the findings,” said Alyson Symon, MVCA Watershed Planner. “By broadening our understanding of how changes on the landscape may influence changes in the water we will better able to direct future watershed management and stewardship efforts.”

The project will be jointly funded by MVCA and Queens University’s Water Research Centre with help of MITACs funding (a national, not-for-profit organization that has designed and delivered research and training programs in Canada for 15 years) and is scheduled to take a year to complete.

MVCA is one of 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. Formed in 1968, MVCA’s mandate is to manage the watershed’s resources in partnership with our eleven member municipalities and the Province of Ontario. For more information, visit www.mvc.on.ca, follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.

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