

Watershed Column:

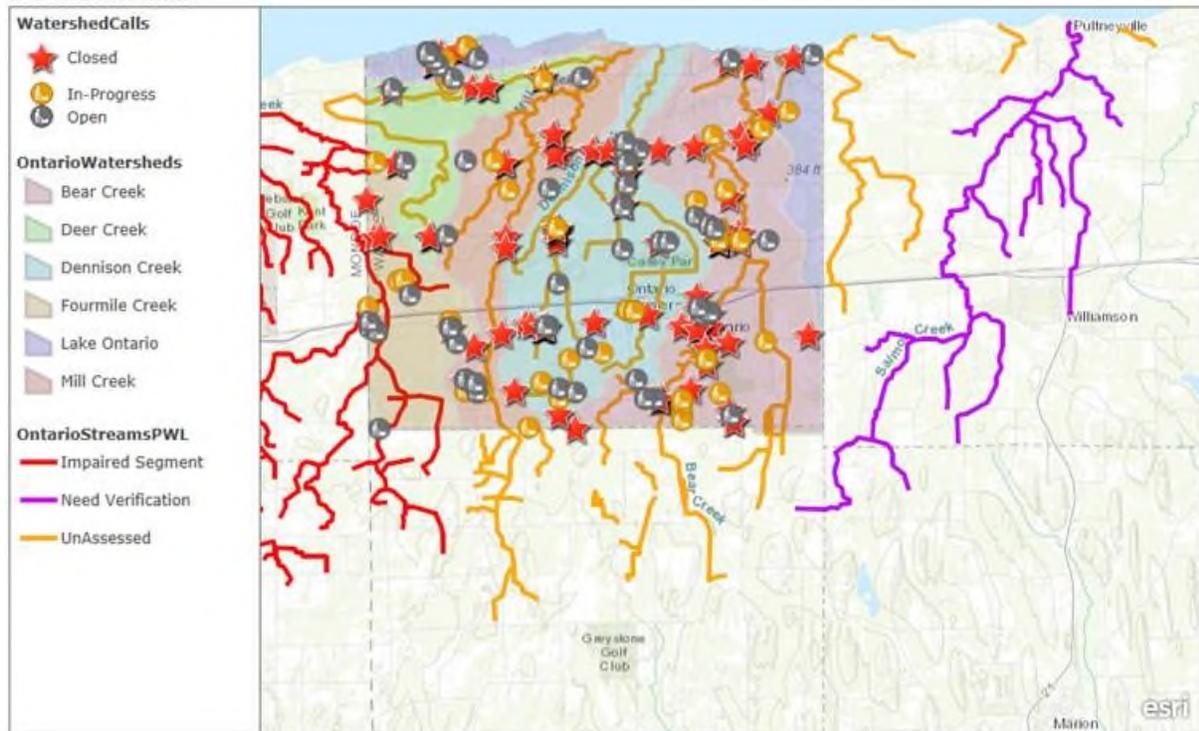
By Frank Robusto

Watershed issues are the most commonly reported issues by our residents. They've been a source of great frustration, some issues lasting for more than 20 years. For the sake of transparency, I'd like to shed some light on some of these watershed issues and our strategies for resolving them.

First and foremost, I want to assure residents that the Watershed Personnel are hard at work. This year, we've had two different Watershed Chairpersons: Marilee Stollery and Adam Cummings. Marilee and her Highway Department Crew completed around 40 watershed projects, while 20 more are in progress (see figure 1).

Figure 1:

Watershed Calls



The past couple of years has seen a huge increase in the amount of watershed complaints and projects, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2:

Year	Count
2015	6
2016	17
2017	54
2018	40
Grand Total	117

In 2012, a \$500,000 five-year Watershed plan was put in place to fix problems with our streams. Our town grew exponentially in that timeframe, and the work we'd set out to do just wouldn't have cut it. Our strategy going forward will be to utilize some of the points laid out in this five-year plan and continue to focus on the major drainage streams, while anticipating

potential growth and the dire need to maintain the stormwater management facilities (i.e. ponds).

Last year we collected \$142,000, and in 2019 we planned to add roughly the same amount. Upon considering the challenges ahead, we decided to supplement the budget with an additional \$100,000, for a total of \$242,000. While Adam intends to use in-house staff as much as possible, some projects such as large stormwater management facilities will need to be contracted out. Some pond maintenance projects, notably the one on Centennial Drive, are \$100,000 projects in and of themselves. We hope residents understand that it will take years to resolve these issues.