

We are finishing 2024 with a bang having completed a large and long-awaited project. This project will provide great results in managing water and water movement on multiple properties, while also improving the quality and health of our waters through to Lake Huron.

The primary landowner and immediate neighbours have been experiencing high levels of runoff and erosion across their land for many years. It has occurred during spring melt and heavy rainfalls. They have implemented the management practices of buffer strips and tree plantings to help, but these have not been enough to combat the quantities of water and the soil it carries. This is why another strategy with the proven ability to deal with the large amounts of runoff and erosion is needed.

The project work focussed on a 700m stretch of drainage ditch that crosses the primary landowner's property. Step one of this project was to clean out portions of this ditch, removing the soil that eroded into the ditch from the field and return it back to the field.

Step two, an old water and sediment control basin (WASCoB) was repaired. The cement blocks of the WASCoB had continually shifted out of place over the years from the force of the water moving through the ditch. Our contractor put each block back in place and utilized rip rap to reinforce the structure as well as prevent erosion from occurring on the banks.

Below you will see a 'before' picture of the WASCoB (picture credit to SVCA), followed by two 'after' shots of the work completed. In the 'after' photos (left) you will see the cement blocks of the WASCoB on the right side of the rip rap blanketed area, to the left are two culverts which run under a crossing. The rip rap continues on the other side of the WASCoB (to the right of the cement blocks) as well as on the other side of the crossing to stabilize the banks.





Step 3, an equipment crossing was constructed to protect the structure of the ditch as it is a pathway between cropping fields. The crossing is made of concrete hog slats, which have a bench design and surface cut outs to allow water to flow and fall through to collect in the ditch. There is rip rap on either side of the crossing, which is to prevent any build up of soil against the hog slats potentially clogging up the openings, while also allowing water to slowly flow through and overtop of the rip rap. The hog slats follow the contour of the ditch, so there is minimal danger of water overflowing outside of the ditch. Below is a photo of the constructed crossing (left) and an individual hog slat (right) to see and understand its design.

