

PINE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE NETWORK

PRWIN ANNUAL REPORT

A Review of our 2025 In-ground Projects & Programming



PRWIN'S MANDATE

- To research, organize and participate in projects designed to improve and preserve the environment as it relates to the Pine River Watershed.
- To educate and increase the public's understanding of the Pine River Watershed and its importance by offering presentations, participating in conferences, meetings and disseminating information to the public on our website, newsletters and social media.
- To provide information to the public on programs and funding opportunities that will improve the water quality within the Pine River as it flows into Lake Huron.



In-ground Projects

COA 2024-26 FUNDING



- This year, PRWIN managed project plantings sites that are located in the Township of Huron Kinloss, ACW and the Municipality of Kincardine.
- The selection of seedlings for this year included white cedar, white spruce, Norway spruce, black walnut, tamarack, white pine, red and sugar maple, bur oak, red and white oak. The volunteers hand planted and machine planted seedlings and large stock trees.

In-ground Projects

2025 Spring Seedling Planting Day



- **Community Groups:** The Kinetic Knights, Kincardine 2nd Scouts, Sawjan Samanvay Sanatan Centre, Point Clark Beach Association, Enbridge, RBC and PRWIN families worked together planting seedlings at our project sites. The planting site was a partnership with a local landowner in the Township of Huron Kinloss.
- **The 50 volunteer's hand planted 1000 white spruce, 2000 white cedar, 100 red oiser dogwood and 250 highbush cranberry bushes that were sourced from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.**

In-ground Projects

Shoreline Reforestation Project



- **The Shoreline Reforestation Project offered 100 junipers to lakeshore residents. PRWIN encouraged residents along the township shoreline beaches to begin restoring the beach dunes following the high lake levels of the past few years. PRWIN delivered the junipers to the recipients of the program.**

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Spring Seedling Program



- **Ninety personal orders were placed and 5,500 free seedlings were handed out during our annual *Free Seedling Give-Away*.**
- **The spring seedling program started in 2014 and it remains a strong community outreach effort.**
- **The Seedling Give-Away supported the Saugeen Habitat Collective, 2nd Kincardine Scouts, and the Ripley Huron Community School Green Team.**

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PRWIN PTARP



- **This fall, we had 24 recipients receive a tree, courtesy of our Potted Tree Ash Replacement Program (PTARP). The goal of PTARP is to provide the lakeshore communities with trees to replace those ash trees that declined due Emerald Ash Borer.**
- **This yearly program has enabled us to make a significant impact to an area that was devastated by the ash borer and has offered shoreline residents 214 mature potted trees.**
- **The mature trees are sourced from Smeltzer's Garden Centre and the County of Bruce Community Program supported our 2025 fall tree program.**

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PRWIN Engagements With Community



- **This fall, PRWIN presented its Award of Merit to highlight the importance of community members and connecting with local youth.**
- **PRWIN's banners at the Point Clark Lighthouse help raise awareness of our environmental work.**
- **PRWIN connects with the Ripley Huron Community School - Green Team to offer support and engagements with their school projects.**

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PRWIN Outreach



- **PRWIN attended the following outreach initiatives: Grey Bruce Farmer's Week, Grey Bruce Woodlot Conference, Georgian Farm Stewardship Collaborative, Point Clark Friendship Club, Healthy Lake Huron Committee Meeting, Ontario Farmland Trust – Bourgeois Farm Open House and participated in the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Community - Lake Huron Nearshore – Webinar: Evaluating the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Ecosystem.**
- **Submitted articles to support the Healthy Lake Huron Partnership - HLH e-newsletter and The Bruce County Federation of Agriculture paper.**

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PRWIN Outreach



- **PRWIN participated in an in-person workshop hosted by the County of Bruce and the Healthy Lake Huron Committee showcasing our environmental initiatives.**
- **Our organization offers a quarterly e-newsletter to stay connected with community. PRWIN added “Get Soil Smart” a new section to our newsletter.**
- **PRWIN participated in community events: Rain barrel fundraiser, Ripley Reunion Parade, and the Ripley Huron Fall Fair with an information vendor table and held a rain barrel raffle. PRWIN was nominated for the 7 GEN Environmental Award.**

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PRWIN Outreach

McLarty Environmental Study Area



The outdoor classroom engages activities focused on nature and conservation. The site offers a new sun shelter, picnic tables, platform and interpretive educational storyboards to create an ideal space for group learning.

Enjoy walking the trail, wetland ponds, osprey nest and bird watching, photography, learning opportunities in an outdoor classroom and reconnecting with nature.

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PRWIN 25th Anniversary



- Pine River Watershed Initiative Network celebrated its 25th anniversary, of protecting land and water, in 2025. This important milestone highlighted PRWIN's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship and the many initiatives that protect and enhance the Pine River Watershed. Founded in 2000, PRWIN has been at the forefront of local conservation efforts to improve water quality and to preserve biodiversity.
- The celebration honoured past and present directors, dedicated volunteers, community sponsors and dignitaries.

Directors Retirement

- PRWIN directors Don Farrell and Bill Smith retired from our board of directors.
- Don has been a central figure in the success of PRWIN since he joined in 2009 along with the development of the McLarty Education Centre. Don's leadership, guidance and agricultural background established projects in our watershed.
- Bill brought his knowledge of the community as a teacher and as an agricultural business owner to our board for 11 years.



PRWIN Investment In Huron-Kinloss

- Our 2025 operation expenses was spent directly on projects, professional fees, programming, contract services to support inground projects, as well as education and outreach. The remainder of expenses provided administration, auditing and other overhead.
- PRWIN has installed 21 berms, 12 livestock crossings, completed 5 bank restorations, planted over 375,000 trees, installed 24 km of livestock exclusion fencing, 4 nitrate filters, a pollinator garden and improved 7 wetland areas.
- Our audit, highlights over a million dollars has been invested in Huron-Kinloss alone on in-ground projects and programming by PRWIN.



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PRWIN 's Challenges and Opportunities



SEEDLINGS	2018	2026
White Pine	\$ 0.75	\$1.80
White Cedar	\$ 1.00	\$2.85
Red Maple	\$ 1.30	\$3.35

Challenges:

- Increase in the price of seedlings for projects and seedling programs.
- Community non-profit groups stated at a meeting it was a common theme that the most challenging funding to obtain is support for covering "Administrative Costs". Corporate donors want their funds to go directly to specific projects in the community.

Opportunities:

- The COA (Canada Ontario Agreement) is a 2 year funding (2026-28) outlined for human resources and projects. Funding approved for 2026
- Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) with MVCA.
- PRWIN is contacting businesses to help fund 2026 projects/programming.
- We have a legacy fund and apply for sponsorship and grant opportunities.
- 2026 funding announcements are expected in the new year.

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PRWIN would not be where we are today without our past/present director's leadership and dedication to our vision of "Clean water and a healthy ecosystem within the Pine River watershed."

