



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

April 21st, 2016

2:00 p.m.

Board Room, Administration Building

1. Call to Order	
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10. Other Business	
10.1) In Camera Session – Property Matter	
11. Adjournment	

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

4.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 18, 2016



Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at Willson Hall at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, February 18, 2016. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, R. Doane, H. McDonald, M. Smibert, D. McKillop, S. Caveney, T. Thompson, and J. Wolf.

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of Agenda

1. D. McKillop – M. Smibert

Moved that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure

None Declared.

4. Chair's Remarks

In the absence of the Authority Chair John Kavelaars, Ms. Linda McKinlay, Vice-Chair, welcomed the members, staff and guests to the Conservation Authority's Annual Meeting.

5. Introduction of Guests

Ms. McKinlay asked Don Pearson to introduce guests:

- Wayne Hasson, Representing MP Dave VanKesteren
- Bernard Wiehle, Mayor of West Elgin
- Claire Paller, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Dorianne Cushman, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Farming and Rural Affairs
- Gabrielle Ferguson, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Farming and Rural Affairs
- Bill Bruinink, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee
- Darcy Fallon, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee
- Don Hector, Chatham-Kent Children's Water Festival
- Roy Weaver, Johnson Feduk King Accountants
- Chief Greg Peters, Delaware Nation
- Jack and Chrystal Koopmans, Stewardship Award winners
- H. & E. Luth, accompanying Mr. and Mrs. Koopmans
- Darren Jacobs, Delaware Nation
- Robert Stonefish, Delaware Nation
- Rick Taves, Wheatley Two Creeks Association
- John Fraser, Representing MPP Monte McNaughton
- Pamela Piccinato, LENS LA
- Pat Watterworth, LENS LA

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Previously circulated)

2. T. Thompson – R. Doane

Moved that the minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2015 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising From the Minutes

None.

8. Business for Approval

8.1) Presentations

8.1.1) 2015 Annual Report

3. M. Smibert - R. Doane

Moved that the LTVCA's 2015 Annual Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8.1.2) 2015 Audited Financial Statements

4. D. McKillop - J. Wolf

Moved that the LTVCA's 2015 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8.2) Election of Officers

5. L. McKinlay - S. Caveney

Moved to appoint D. Pearson to chair the elections.

CARRIED

Mr. Don Pearson assumed the chair for the elections and declared all elected offices, positions and appointments vacant and outlined the voting procedures.

a) Chair

Mr. Pearson called for nominations for Chair of the LTVCA for 2016.

S. Caveney nominated J. Kavelaars

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

6. R. Doane - L. McKinlay

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

Mr. John Kavelaars was declared to be elected as Chair.

b) Vice-Chair

Mr. Pearson called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2016.

R. Doane nominated L. McKinlay

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

7. H. McDonald - D. McKillop

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

Ms. Linda McKinlay was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.

c) Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee (3 members to be elected)

D. Pearson called for nominations to the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee for 2016.

S. Caveney nominated R. Doane

R. Doane nominated S. Caveney

S. Caveney nominated H. McDonald

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

8. S. Caveney - M. Smibert

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

R. Doane, S. Caveney & H. McDonald were declared members of the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee.

d) Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee (3 members to be elected)

D. Pearson called for nominations to the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee for 2016.

D. McKillop nominated R. Doane

H. McDonald nominated D. McKillop

S. Caveney nominated G. Bogart

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

9. H. McDonald - S. Caveney

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

R. Doane, D. McKillop & G. Bogart were declared members of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee.

e) Ice Management Committee (2 members to be appointed from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, plus the member from the Town of Lakeshore)

D. Pearson called for nominations to the Ice Management Committee for 2016.

H. McDonald nominated S. Pinsonneault

L. McKinlay nominated T. Thompson

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

10. J. Wolf - M. Smibert

Moved that the following members be appointed to the Ice Management Committee: L. McKinlay, S. Pinsonneault & T. Thompson.

CARRIED

f) Foundation Membership (up to 3 members to be appointed)

D. Pearson called for nominations to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for 2016.

J. Wolf nominated D. McKillop

D. McKillop nominated S. Caveney

S. Caveney nominated J. Kavelaars

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

11. R. Doane - J. Wolf

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

D. McKillop, S. Caveney & J. Kavelaars were nominated as members of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.

g) Appointments to Conservation Ontario

D. Pearson called for nominations for voting representative, 1st alternate and 2nd alternate for appointments for Conservation Ontario for 2016.

S. Caveney nominated D. Pearson

L. McKinlay nominated J. Kavelaars

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

12. D. McKillop - J. Wolf

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

D. Pearson & J. Kavelaars were declared voting representative and 1st alternate for appointments for Conservation Ontario.

Following the elections, Mr. Pearson congratulated those elected and turned the chair back over to Mrs. L. McKinlay.

8.4) Appointment of Auditor

13. S. Caveney - D. McKillop

Moved that the firm of Johnson, Feduk, King Chartered Accountants be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's auditor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2017.

CARRIED

8.5) Appointment of Bank

14. M. Smibert - R. Doane

Moved that the Toronto Dominion Bank be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's bank until the transition is made to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

CARRIED

8.6) Appointment of Solicitor

15. H. McDonald - J. Wolf

Moved that the firm of Mr. James D. Wickett be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2017.

CARRIED

8.7) Authorization to Borrow

16. S. Caveney - D. McKillop

Moved that the Authority Chair or Vice-Chair and the General Manager/Secretary Treasurer be authorized to borrow from the Toronto Dominion Bank, until the transition is made to Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a sum not to exceed \$300,000 for the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and to be repaid from grants received from the Province of Ontario, Government of Canada, levies assessed the member municipalities and self-generated revenues.

CARRIED

8.9) 2016 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 21, 2016 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room

Thursday, June 30, 2016 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room

Thursday, August 25, 2016 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room

Thursday, October 20, 2016 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room

Thursday, December 15, 2016 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room

Thursday, February 16, 2017 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

17. D. McKillop - H. McDonald

Moved that the meeting schedule for 2016 and the Annual Meeting be endorsed.

CARRIED

9. Business for Information

- 9.1) Water Management
- 9.2) Regulations and Planning
- 9.3) Conservation Areas
- 9.4) Conservation Services
- 9.5) Community Relations
- 9.6) Conservation Authority Education
- 9.7) Wheatley Two Creeks February Meeting Minutes

18. D. McKillop - H. McDonald

Moved that the agenda items 9.1 through 9.7 be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Correspondence

- 10.1) Letter from Dutton Dunwich Regarding 2016 Levy Increase

10. Other Business

None.

11. Adjournment

19. D. McKillop – M. Smibert

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

John Kavelaars
Chair



Don Pearson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



MINUTES

Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

A meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held at the Resource Centre in Longwoods Road Conservation area at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 24, 2016. The following members were in attendance: R. Doane, D. McKillop, D. Fairbairn, D. Fallon, B. Bruinink and D. Pearson.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. D. McKillop – D. Fallon

Moved that the minutes of the November 26, 2015 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Introduction of Guests

- Lynn Chelchowski
- Elvira Pupinski

3. Business for Approval

3.1) Applications for Community Members

2. R. Doane – D. Fallon

Moved that Lynn Chelchowski and Elvira Pupinski be appointed as Community Members to the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

3.2) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Don Pearson assumed the chair for the elections and declared all elected offices vacant and outlined the voting procedures.

a) Chair

Mr. Pearson called for nominations for Chair of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee for 2016.

D. McKillop nominated D. Fairbairn

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

3. R. Doane – D. McKillop

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

Mr. Don Fairbairn was declared to be elected as Chair.

b) Vice-Chair

Mr. Pearson called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee for 2016.

R. Doane nominated D. Fallon

Mr. Pearson called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

4. L. Chelchowski – E. Pupinski

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

Mr. Darcy Fallon was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.

3.3) Appointment of Sub-Committees

Note: the Curator is an ex-officio member of all Sub-Committees

a) Education (2 members)

D. McKillop and G. Bogart

b) Village Build (2 members)

D. Fairbairn and D. Fallon

c) Policy (1-2 members)

B. Bruinink – D. Pearson

d) Events/Fundraising (2 members)

L. Chelchowski, E. Pupinski and D. McKillop

3.4) Policy Review and Draft of New Exhibit Plan

Policy forms need to be amended to reflect that a policy has been reviewed, but not necessarily revised.

5. D. McKillop – R. Doane

Moved that the Community Policy be confirmed without changes.

CARRIED

6. D. Fallon – L. Chelchowski

Moved that the Exhibit Policy be confirmed without changes.

CARRIED

7. D. Pearson – R. Doane

Moved that the Draft Exhibit Plan be accepted and that staff refine it and present for approval at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

3.5) 2016 Committee Meeting Schedule

8. D. Fallon – E. Pupinski

Moved that the Ska-Nah-Doht Committee Meeting Schedule be as follows:

- June 23 at 6:00 p.m.
- September 22 at 2 p.m.
- November 24 at 2:00 p.m.

CARRIED

3.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Recognition Program

Two criteria for nominations

- 1) The person or group must have a long standing commitment to Ska-Nah-Doht of 25 years or more and
- 2) That the contribution is significant and adheres to the Mission and Vision of Ska-Nah-Doht.

Further details for the design of the recognition area will be presented at the next meeting.

9. R. Doane – D. McKillop

Moved that the following names be accepted in the Ska-Nah-Doht Recognition Program:

- 1) Andy Chisholm
- 2) Glenn Stott
- 3) Ron Watts
- 4) Don Fairbairn
- 5) Member of the Forest City Checkers

CARRIED

4. Business for Information

4.1) Brief Summary of 2015

Members reviewed the Ska-Nah-Doht page of the Annual Report.

4.2) 2015 Audited Statement

10. D. Fallon – D. McKillop

Moved to be received for information.

CARRIED

4.3) Summer Student Employment Applications

4.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Site/Heritage Build Project

4.5) Ska-Nah-Doht Fund

- 4.6) Community Museum Operation Grant
- 4.7) Nominations for Ontario Volunteer Awards
- 4.8) Artifact Donation
- 4.9) Upcoming 2016 Events

11. D. Fallon – D. Pearson

Moved that agenda items 4.3 through 4.9 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Correspondence

- 5.1) Letter from At^lohsa Native Family Services regarding donation.

12. D. Fallon – R. Doane

Moved the correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

6. Other Business

- 6.1) Middlesex County will be featuring Ska-Nah-Doht on the header in its newly designed website.

7. Adjournment

13. D. McKillop – R. Doane

Moved that the meeting be adjourned

CARRIED

Don Fairbairn
Chair

7. Business for Approval

7.1) Provincial Offences Officer Training

Two staff members, Jason Homewood and Valerie Towsley, undertook the CA Compliance Training course at the YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia on March 7th through to the 11th. Both successfully completed the training and obtained their Compliance certification and clean criminal record checks.

Recommendation

That Jason Homewood, Water Resources and Regulations Technician and Valerie Towsley, Resource Technician be appointed as Provincial Offences Officers to enforce Section 28 and/or Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

8. Business for Information

8.1) Water Management

Flood Forecasting and Operations

There have been two significant events from a Flood Forecasting and Operations perspective since the Annual General Meeting in February.

On February 24th a Flood Watch was issued, resulting from portions of the Lower Thames watershed receiving 10-15 mm of rainfall with forecasts calling for another 15-25 mm. There was little or no snow left in the Lower watershed to contribute to the runoff, but the total rainfall forecast would have been sufficient to require operating the Indian-McGregor Creek Diversion. In the end, the predicted rainfall never appeared and operations were not required.

A second prolonged event lasted from March 24th to April 11th, requiring eight Advisories: 4 Safety Bulletins, 1 Flood Outlook and 3 Flood Watches. Every few days the watershed was receiving 15-30 mm of rainfall, resulting in a pattern where water from the Upper watershed had just enough time to concentrate in London and make its way downstream to Chatham, coinciding with another rainfall event. The additional rainfall when the river was already high in Chatham was boosting water levels beyond what would be expected for stand-alone rainfall events of this magnitude. The uncertainty in rainfall predictions combined with overlapping effects of Thames River flows from upstream and local flow made it difficult to predict water levels. The Indian-McGregor Creek Diversion Channel was operated from the 27th through until the 5th. The 6th St. Backwater Dam in downtown Chatham was prepared for operation on Easter Monday but fortunately operations were not required. Overall, the impact of this rainfall event was similar to what would be expected from a typical spring runoff, but prolonged. Water levels in the upstream areas flooded the predominantly agricultural river flats from Delaware through Thamesville. In Chatham the sidewalk along the Thames behind King Street downtown was flooded for most of the event and on one occasion water levels rose high enough to flood the driveway under the 5th St. Bridge.

There were several complicating factors for flood forecasting and operations during this period; most notably the McGregor Creek gauge being out of operation. In mid-January the phone line to the gauge house was cut, presumably during construction for the new Highway 401 / 40 ramps. Despite multiple visits by Bell and several claims that the problem had been fixed, the gauge was out of commission throughout the entirety of both these events. Diversion operations were determined by extra in-person visits to the dam as required, often outside normal business hours. The McGregor Creek gauge provides important information as to how much water is coming off the local landscape; the lack of which makes flood predictions more challenging.

Preparations for operating the 6th St. Dam on Easter Monday were complicated by the long weekend and uncertainty around the effect of additional rainfall on the already peaking river in Chatham, and thus had to be undertaken with less than the usual amount of lead time. As is normal, divers were called in to clean the gates; however, due to the presence of large debris which the divers were unable to remove a crane was required to clear the debris. As this operation had not been necessary for a number of years, it was discovered that a recently placed light on a utility pole interfered with the operation of the crane in the one place it can be positioned to access both upstream and downstream side of the Dam. An after-hours emergency crew had to be mobilized to remove the light so that the crane could operate.

Although the resulting peak levels of the Thames River did not require the 6th St. dam to be operated, the large debris stuck in the gates would have had to be removed in any event prior to any future operations.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent recently rented one of the LTVCA's 16 inch Crisafulli dewatering pumps. It was used for 6 days from March 31st until April 5th on the Whitebread Tap Drain, just outside Wallaceburg in the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

Low Water Response Program

The LTVCA participates in the Provincial Low Water Response Program as part of a team made up of local stakeholders and agency staff charged with managing the local response to drought conditions. Low Water Conditions are determined based on several indicators including; 3 month rainfall, 18 month rainfall and monthly flows in the watercourses. Under the program, a Low Water Condition is considered to exist when any one of the indicators meets the threshold values. Although the Thames River flows have been high enough, with minimal water takings due to the time of year, the Lower Thames watershed had been in a Low Water Level 1 Condition since October 2015 due to the rainfall deficit. Calculations performed for March 2016 indicated that the region has been lifted out of the Low Water Condition; the precipitation in the last two weeks of March making up much of the rainfall deficit.

The Environment Canada rain gauge at Ridgetown still suggests a Level 1 Condition based on the 18-month rainfall indicator; however, a single gauge on one indicator was determined not to be indicative of the entire watershed. A report of local watershed conditions as they relate to the program is generated on an as needed basis, typically at the beginning of every month during the summer and fall. Those reports are not currently posted online but are available upon request.

Regulations Enforcement

On April 22, 2016 court will resume for sentencing in the Watterworth case. As is normal practice for many Conservation Authorities and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, a media release will be issued to provide public education regarding the regulation, and to respond to the significant interest and speculation regarding this case once the trial concludes.

Planning and Regulations Policies and Operation Guidelines

The LTVCA's Planning and Regulations Policies have been in place since the new Regulation came into effect in 2006, with the Operational Guidelines being updated in early 2012. There have been significant changes in how the Regulation has been implemented since 2006 including an amendment to the Regulation itself in 2013. Laura Brown, a student in the Master of Urban Development and Planning program at Ryerson University, will join the LTVCA for an internship position this summer; her primary role being to update these Policies and Operational Guidelines. It is anticipated that the changes to the Policies and Operational Guidelines will be significant enough to require public consultation. It is planned to make enough progress on the documents so that public consultation can take place during the summer. The Board of Directors or a subcommittee thereof will be required to participate in setting the Policies and Guidelines and Board approval will be required before the new procedures come into effect.

Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)

The LTVCA collects surface water quality samples for the PWQMN program between April and November every year. Five locations throughout the watershed are sampled every month with an additional six rotating every other month. The information is used by the LTVCA to generate Watershed Report Cards, among other purposes. Austin Pratt, Water Quality Specialist, has taken over responsibility for the program and began sampling this month. As discussed in the Freshwater Research 2015 report “Gap analysis for Nutrients in the LTVCA”, this sampling program has significant shortcomings for the data to be useful for assessing the proposed 40% reduction in phosphorous loading. A proposal has been submitted to the MOECC for additional funding to supplement this program.

Benthic Monitoring

The LTVCA initiated a benthic monitoring program 3 years ago to supplement the PWQMN program and assist in completing Watershed Report Cards. This year, the LTVCA and ERCA have entered into a partnership with Dr. Jan Ciborowski of the University of Windsor to complete benthic sampling. The LTVCA and ERCA will split the wages for a summer student. The LTVCA will use a MNRF Summer Experience Opportunities grant to offset the wages. Dr. Ciborowski will select a student candidate interested in turning the work into a research project. The student will be trained in benthic sampling techniques and identification by Dr. Ciborowski’s team. The student will conduct the sampling with the assistance of staff from Dr. Ciborowski’s lab as well as ERCA staff on occasion. Identification of the benthic invertebrates will be conducted using the facilities at the University of Windsor. Report writing will be conducted as part of the student’s research project in the Fall semester.

Thames River Clearwater Revival

Work on the Thames River Water Management Plan is proceeding. On March 11th, draft content for the Water Quality section was submitted to the Project Manager. There is a follow-up meeting on April 21st to further discuss this section with additional input being requested from staff working on biological related issues. On April 17th there was a meeting to discuss the Water Quantity issues to be discussed in the report. A further meeting is being scheduled for the week of April 25th at which a deadline will be set for draft content of this section.

Information Technology Upgrades

The LTVCA needs to make some significant decisions on upgrades to its IT infrastructure in the next few months. Upgrades to Microsoft Windows 10 are free until July 28, with only a few of the approximately 30 machines having been upgraded. For efficiency it would be prudent to upgrade Microsoft Office at the same time, as our current software, Microsoft Office 2010 is now two versions out of date. Options include purchasing the MS Office software outright, or obtaining access as part of a monthly subscription service including cloud based email services. The move to cloud based email services would free up resources on the Chatham office’s server, but it has yet to be determined what impact this move may have on our internet access requirements.

A similar situation exists for our desktop publishing software, Adobe Creative Suite, which is also now out of date and only now available through a cloud based subscription model. The Anti-Virus software used by the LTVCA will also require an upgrade in July. Finally, our accounting software, Business Vision, requires updates

to both the desktop and the server. These updates would require a modest financial outlay, but potentially significant staff time for the upgrades.

With respect to internet access, there are issues with internet speed, connectivity with external service as well as video conferencing. The offices are currently on 6MB download, 0.8 MB upload DSL packages. These speeds could be nearly doubled by adding a second DSL line to each office, but anything beyond this would require an upgrade to cable internet. Cable internet is not an option for Longwoods and recent investigations into availability in Chatham indicate a potential cost of more than \$10,000 for installation.

Regulated Areas Mapping

Requests for the LTVCA's Regulated Areas mapping are becoming more frequent. What used to be an infrequent request from municipalities for inclusion in their Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws have turned into monthly or even more frequent requests from consultants. In most cases the consultants are not happy with pre-generated mapping but want the raw data itself. There is a growing expectation that such data can be obtained online via Web-based GIS portals. In 2008 several CAs created a common portal called CA Maps to provide this service. At the time, LTVCA decided not to participate because of the costs. There would still be the potential to join into this partnership, but many CA's are now creating their own portals.

The larger issue for the LTVCA at this point is that the Regulated Areas mapping is out of date and contains known errors. When LTVCA Planning and Regulation staff review the mapping, they can recognize the errors and adjust their comments to developers accordingly. There is a reluctance to provide the raw data knowing that decisions on where and how to develop will be made based on the data without the LTVCA staff oversight. The mapping is composed of 5 components: wetlands, watercourses, significant valley lands, flood prone areas and the Great Lakes shoreline. The wetlands component is relatively straightforward and can be updated within a few minutes based on MNRF mapping. The watercourses component has not been updated since 2005 and requires considerably more effort. It is estimated that 8 months full-time work is required to update the watercourse layer, time which no current staff member has available. An estimate of the time required to update the significant valley lands component has not been undertaken. It requires field verification of recently obtained elevation data and manual work on the GIS system calculating and delineating the valley lands. The time to update this component is probably also on the order of months. The flood prone areas component could be relatively simple or more complicated depending on the direction the CA wants to take. Previous studies have defined a regulatory flood elevation all along the Thames River. These values could simply be re-used to generate the flood prone areas based on newer and better elevation data. A more complicated, time consuming and expensive option would be to generate a new hydraulic model for the Thames River. The LTVCA currently possess no such model for the Thames. Some of the advantages of a model would be that it could be used for flood forecasting and it could also be used to generate flood elevations for other design frequency events often asked for by developers and engineering consultants. However, the generation of model is a multi-year endeavour requiring considerable data collection and development time.

The final component is the shoreline component. The shoreline component has recently been re-delineated through Elgin County as part of the Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan. A comparable analysis has not been completed for the Chatham-Kent portion of the watershed. To use a consistent methodology for the Chatham-Kent portion would require a re-analysis of aerial photography and statistical analysis of the results. It would be more efficient to contract out this work to Baird who completed the work on the Elgin portion. Chatham-Kent staff have expressed to LTVCA staff that there isn't an interest from the municipality

to complete a Shoreline Management Plan at this point in time, so the LTVCA would have to go forward on its own with this work. It would probably take several months for Baird to complete this work, possibly more if the LTVCA had to hire someone and do it in-house.

The basis of much of this work would be the 2015 SWOOP aerial photography. That data was received several weeks ago and the LTVCA's University of Waterloo Co-op student Michael McKerrall has begun the quality control analysis of the imagery.

Drinking Water Source Protection (Source Water Protection)

The LTVCA has received funding for the Source Water Protection program from the MOECC for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The bulk of the funding of approximately \$31,000 is to support staff wages. There are also some incidental expenses such as travel and software. The primary tasks associated with this funding include: administration, general communications, commenting on SWP during the CA Plan Review process, support for municipal implementation of the Source Protection Plan, completion of some technical work documentation, technical support for Risk Management Officials/Inspectors, and follow-up on the microcystin (blue-green algae) issue.

8.2) Regulations and Planning

Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses

Staff Report

LTVCA Regulation Log Book 2016

B.D. 04/21/16

APP#	APPLICANT	TOWN/CITY	MUNICIPALITY	APPLICATION TYPE	DECISION
2016 Files					
011-2016	Falak, Brian and Laurie	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: February 19, 2016
019-2016	Municipality of Middlesex Centre c/o Brian Lima	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Construction	Granted: March 04, 2016
024-2016	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o David Charron	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: March 04, 2016
025-2016	Bendig, Carl and Pamula Whittal	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: February 17, 2016
026-2016	Dougherty, Matthew and Shelley	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: February 24, 2016
027-2016	Robinson, Christie	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: February 24, 2016
028-2016	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Jason Ckatricls	Camden / Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: February 26, 2016
029-2016	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Jason Ckatricls	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: February 26, 2016
030-2016	Chatham-Kent Trails Council c/o Dianne Flook	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: February 26, 2016
031-2016	Bilotta, Paul	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: March 01, 2016
032-2016	White, Chris	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: March 01, 2016
033-2016	Municipality of Dutton Dunwich c/o Brent Clutterbuck	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: March 04, 2016
034-2016	Roodzant, Ed	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: March 04, 2016
035-2016	Ballargeon, Alex	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: March 18, 2016
036-2016	DeNure, Calvin	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: March 24, 2016
037-2016	Municipality of Leamington c/o Lindsay Dean	Mersea	Leamington	Construction	Granted: March 15, 2016
038-2016	Elgin County c/o John Spriet	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: April 04, 2016
039-2016	Westerveld, Timothy	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Construction	Granted: March 16, 2016
040-2016	Bosman, Dorothy	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Construction	Granted: March 16, 2016
041-2016	Barber, Pat	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: March 15, 2016
042-2016	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Connie Blair	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: March 18, 2016
043-2016	Municipality of Dutton Dunwich c/o Brent Clutterbuck	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: March 18, 2016
044-2016	Plains Midstream c/o Ian Forster	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: March 18, 2016
045-2016	Municipality of Southwest Middlesex c/o Elizabeth Jeffery	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: March 21, 2016
046-2016	Pencor Developments Inc	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: March 21, 2016
047-2016	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Ann Ford	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: March 22, 2016
048-2016	Municipality of Chatham-Kent c/o Steve Piche	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: March 24, 2016
050-2016	Municipality of Lakeshore c/o Andrew Neely	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: March 29, 2016
051-2016	Postma, Andrea	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 05, 2016
052-2016	Municipality of Dutton Dunwich c/o Brent Clutterbuck	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: April 05, 2016
053-2016	Atkinson, Jared	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 07, 2016

Recommendation:

That applications 011-2016, 019-2016, 024-2016 to 048-2016, and 050-2016 to 053-2016 be ratified.

8.3) Conservation Areas

2016 January 1 - March 31 Visitation / Camping Stats

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 1,411 people (985 in 2015)

(Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction)

Pay and Display Permits - 229 vehicles (139 in 2015)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 280 (210 in 2015)

Big Bend Conservation Area – 0 people (0 in 2015)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 174 (50 in 2015)

(Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction)

Pay and Display Permits – 87 vehicles (0 in 2015 – not open)

2016 Annual Season's Passes - 15 have been sold at time of writing. As well, there were 6 winners of a Season's Pass at our free draw located at the LTVCA's booth at the Go Wild Grow Wild Expo in London on April 2.

Conservation Areas

CM Wilson CA

To date \$6,000 has been raised to improve the aquatic habitat at the CM Wilson pond. Several other applications are pending approval as we are looking for upwards of \$20,000.

Seasonal staff member *Paul Kominek* started the week of April 4 in preparation for the campground opening. Hazard tree removal, painting the inside of the gatehouse, branch clean up and equipment servicing are all underway.

Big "O" CA

May 15th visitors will be invited to attend our 2nd annual Big "O" Birding Day in Comber. Area naturalist Paul Pratt will guide attendees around the property, live Falcon demonstration to follow with lunch at the Iron Kettle Bed and Breakfast. Application has been made to: BEAN Environmental to cover the event costs.

LTVCA administration office- 3 interpretive signs are being designed, as well as the new entrance sign. Native plant material has been ordered. Plans are underway to organize planting events-which will include: Royal Bank of Canada, Dillon Consulting and the Chatham Sunrise Rotary Club.

CLTIP (Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program)

10 LTVCA properties have been identified as candidates for this MNRF program which provides tax free savings to LTVCA. If approved we could realize an \$8,500+ savings per year. Applications were submitted to MNRF on February, 15 2016.

Skakel Land Donation

East Kent resident John Skakel recently willed his 45 acre property on Botany Line to the LTVCA. Mr. Skakel has been working with Stewardship staff for the past 5 years restoring 5 acres of this land into wetlands and trees. A lease has been drafted for the tenant farmer to continue on with the agricultural activities.

Dedication ceremony to take place this upcoming May, 2016.

8.4) Conservation Services

Grants

A media event is being planned for May 13th at the Clear Creek property that is owned and managed by Ontario Parks. 120 acres of farm land are being converted back to wetlands and forest, thanks in part to funding from Enbridge and several other organizations at this crown owned property. 50,000 trees are on order to plant half of the property this spring. The \$75,000 Enbridge donation kick started this project, with other financial contributions from Forests Ontario, MNRF and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Wetlands are steadily being excavated on private lands throughout Chatham-Kent through Ducks Unlimited Canada and the National Wetlands Conservation Program, and most recently \$30,000 from Wildlife Habitat Canada.

COA (Canada Ontario Agreement) proposals are underway with OMAFRA and MNRF. In particular the 120 acre islands in Jeanette's Creek, known as the Courey Islands are being restored through a \$20,000 COA grant and \$20,000 towards the Paternoster PSW in Lighthouse Cove.

Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy

Partnerships and Public Areas:

With financial assistance from the South Kent Wind Fund, we have reinstated the former "CK Free Tree Program". The Greening Partnership along with the Chatham Horticulture Society had an online registration for a free "Tree of the Year" and this year's species is the Sugar Maple. We successfully registered 1,000 citizens and will be holding the tree pick up on April 8th & 9th from our cold storage in Cedar Springs. Each citizen will receive information package with details on tree handling and care to ensure best survival produced by Greening Partnership staff.

Along with this shipment of trees will be 800 more large stock of various species. These Carolinian species are destined for public green space, cemeteries, and roadsides. Partners involved include:

1. ***Union Gas***
2. ***Scribendi Editing***
3. ***Volunteers***
4. ***TD Friends of the Environment***
5. ***Truly Green Farms (Cedarline Greenhouses)***
6. ***Ontario Parks***

Private Lands

Tree Planting: As of April 4, 2016, we have 130,000 tree seedlings on order. These are due to arrive the last week of April. Out of this, 74,000 are being planted by LTVCA Greening Partnership staff into block plantations & windbreaks totaling 123 acres. Furthermore, 35,000 are plantations being planted by landowners themselves. The remaining 21,000 trees are over the counter sales. This is the largest year in several years.

Wetlands:

Private land excavations continue with 17 more slated for 2016.

Tall Grass Prairie:

A total of 27 acres of tall grass is intended to be planted after tree planting. The seed has been delivered, and will be drill seeded by Joe Csoff from the Norfolk County ALUS program.

Public events

Staff attended both the Christian Farmers AGM and the National Farmers Union AGM and fielded questions from attendees while having our booth set up.

We also attended the *Go Wild Grow Wild* expo hosted by the Carolinian Canada Coalition as well as the London Farm Show.

Public speaking events that featured Greening Partnership staff were:

1. Tilbury District Horticulture Society
2. Tilbury Rotary Club
3. Soil Health Roadshow
4. University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus McGregor Creek Education Session

Species at Risk Drainage Biologist

Working with CK Drainage superintendents to develop a proposal for Species at Risk mitigation measures as they relate to municipal drains and clean outs, which could result in a more permanent position. Progress has been made with the buffer improvement program which includes planting of native prairie species and invasive Phragmites control. Phragmites control has commenced on 70 acres of property throughout Rondeau Bay and Lake Erie subwatersheds. Weather has delayed prescribed burns for spring 2016. Additionally, 4 landowners will be planting buffers using native species, naturalizing over 30 acres of sensitive land. A funding proposal has been submitted to the Habitat Stewardship Program to expand this opportunity throughout Chatham-Kent.

A Rondeau Bay Workshop was hosted on March 22, 2016 at the Glad Tidings Community Church in Blenheim. The invitation was extended to project partners and landowners to learn about stewardship opportunities in Rondeau Bay, erosion potential mapping and soil health. Over 40 people attended the event, including over 20 landowners.

OMAFRA

GLASI Jeannettes Creek Update:

The GLASI Jeannette's Creek Agricultural Phosphorus Reduction and Monitoring Program are currently in the monitoring implementation phase. During April and May of 2016 three pump stations will be outfitted with water quality and quantity monitoring equipment, with the purpose of quantifying the phosphorus load being discharged into Jeannette's Creek from the associated pump schemes. Once operational the monitoring stations will collect samples at the pump houses whenever the pumps are running and discharging water into Jeannette's Creek.

Cost-Shares for program supported agricultural BMPs are now available for the 2016 growing season to eligible farmers in the study area. This includes funding for the following practices:

1. Cover Crops
2. Alternative Phosphorus Application Practices
3. Crop and Field Nutrient Management Plans

Keith McLean Conservation Lands: Water Quality Monitoring Project

Water quality and quantity monitoring will begin at the McLean Conservation Lands this spring. In Early May the ISCO auto-sampler will be installed at the McLean Conservation Lands. Once installed, the LTVCA will start collecting water quality samples from the pump house at the field's edge to determine the concentration of phosphorus that is entering the lagoon. Additionally, a flow meter will be installed to determine the quantity of water discharged from the associated pump house. This information will be collected to determine the load of phosphorus that is discharged from the McLean fields pump house and subsurface tile drainage.

Information on agricultural land use practices will also be collected. The goal in year 1 is to characterize the field, in later years the intention is to test and monitoring the effectiveness of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) at retaining nutrients and sediment in the field.

Erosion Potential Modeling – Rondeau Bay

The LiDAR workshop was held in Blenheim on March 22nd at the Glad Tidings Church. The workshop was used as an opportunity to educate landowners on the restoration funding programs that are available to them in the Lower Thames watershed. Additionally, it was used as a forum to showcase the erosion potential models that were created by the LTVCA GIS team using LiDAR data for Rondeau Bay. Attendees were provided with maps of their fields that identified areas that are risk of rill, gully, and sheet erosion. LTVCA staff were available to walk landowners through how the maps were created and what BMPs can be implemented to mitigate the risk of erosion on the specific fields identified in Rondeau Bay. The next step is to land verify the accuracy of the model with Rondeau Bay landowners.

8.5) Community Relations

- **Media releases** are written as needed for Conservation Authority programs and services. They are emailed to local print and radio media, watershed politicians, LTVCA and LTVCF Directors, member municipalities of the LTVCA, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee, LTVCA staff, neighbouring Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario.

Since Feb. 18, 2016, six media releases have been written and circulated (attached)

- Annual General Meeting
- Education Programs
- Free Tree Program
- Go Wild Grow Wild Expo
- March Break at Longwoods
- Rondeau Bay Workshop

All Directors were emailed a copy of the above media releases and as well, they were posted on our website, Facebook and Twitter. Local watershed media contacts (daily and weekly print, television and radio stations) database update is ongoing.

 A Member of Conservation Ontario

Media Release
For Immediate Release
February 22, 2016

"Conservation Authority Budget Approved for 2016"
LTVCA Holds Annual General Meeting

 **Ridgetown** - The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) held its Annual General Meeting on February 18 at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. John Kaveelaars was elected as Chair and Linda McKinlay Vice-chair. Mr. Kaveelaars is a Municipal Councillor for Southwest Middlesex and Mrs. McKinlay is a Municipal Councillor for the Town of Lakeshore.

The 2016 budget of \$3,026,022 received approval at the meeting. The budget responds to several significant capacity and risk management challenges facing the Conservation Authority in terms of its flood control and conservation area operations; and in its ability to offer watershed wide stewardship services to landowners. It effectively increases the total levy by approximately \$215,000 or 16.25%, with the impact affecting municipalities other than Chatham-Kent due to its historic contribution to a municipally focused stewardship program (Greening Partnership). The 10 member municipalities of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority include Chatham-Kent, Dutton/Dunwich, Lakeshore, Leamington, London, Middlesex Centre, Southwest Middlesex, Southwold, Strathroy-Caradoc and West Elgin. Each municipality appoints a Director as their representative to the LTVCA Board for up to a three year term.

Guest Speaker Gabrielle Ferguson - Environmental Program Specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs spoke on the topic "Phosphorus, the Great Lakes, and Agriculture". Then the Greening Partnership Environmental Award for Landowner Stewardship was presented to Jack Koopman and Delaware Nation Moravian of the Thames. And LTVCA staff presented the 2015 Annual Report which emphasized the benefits of the investment in the flood control structures of the lower Thames watershed and the monitoring of watershed conditions over the year. Over 243 acres (98 ha) were naturally restored; 92 acres (37 ha) reforested; 28 acres (11 ha) of tallgrass prairie planted and over 72 acres (29 ha) of wetlands created. Across the entire watershed, 96,816 trees were planted. Invasive species control was tackled and 52 acres (21 ha) of Phragmites Australis were eradicated. Local stewardship initiatives were highlighted, along with the various education and outreach programs offered by the Conservation Authority. Reports were all well received by the Directors who provided constructive comments on behalf of their respective municipalities.

For further information please contact:
Don Pearson, General-Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Tel: 519-354-7310 (Administration Office)

info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca



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100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON N7L2Y8 • www.ltvca.ca
Phone: 519-354-7310 • Fax: 519-352-3435 • E-mail: admin@ltvca.ca

 A Member of Conservation Ontario

Media Release
For Immediate Release
March 21, 2016



"Spring experiential learning activities"
Outdoor Education Programs at Longwoods Road Conservation Area!

Mount Brydges - Attention teachers! Book your class for a spring conservation or native studies outdoor program at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. Let your students 'step into nature' to experience its wonders first-hand! The marsh is alive with songs of frogs, toads and red-winged blackbirds. In the forests, chipmunks scurry to and fro, spring birds return to build nests for their young and the wildflowers are amazing! Offered year-round, our programming is very popular, especially in the spring. Students arrive from as far away as Windsor, Woodstock, Stratford and Sarnia, and as nearby as Delaware and Mount Brydges. From JK to Secondary School, College and University, and English as a Second Language - students of all ages enjoy the outdoor and museum studies at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Introducing New Canadians to our heritage and the environment in a natural setting is an experience that cannot be duplicated in the classroom.

Learn about Native communities 1,000 years ago on a tour of a longhouse at Ska-Nah-Doht Village, search for creatures at the marsh, or experience a Carolinian forest - all programs are engaging, fun and directly linked to the Ontario Curriculum. Over 25 different Outdoor Education Programs and eight Native Studies Programs are taught by experienced, qualified Conservation Authority staff. We will even bring some programs to your classroom! Several environmental programs are offered in Chatham-Kent at the C.M. Wilson Conservation Area. Visit our website at www.ltvca.ca and check out our education programs online. Give us a call at 519-264-2420 or email us at info@ltvca.ca regarding booking a field trip. We'd be happy to offer suggestions and tailor programs especially designed for your class!

Owned and operated by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, Longwoods Road Conservation Area's 155 acres of Carolinian forest, wetlands and ravine systems provide a variety of natural habitats to learn about the environment in the outdoors. Facilities are wheelchair accessible, including the Resource Centre / Museum, Ska-Nah-Doht Village, woodland bridges and boardwalk systems. Two hundred year old heritage log cabins offer unique teaching classrooms and shelter during the lunch time. Many schools enjoy bringing a barbecue lunch to have at the pavilion as a treat for their students.

Don't delay as preferred dates book up quickly! Visit us soon at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. We are located in the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, just 6.5 km west of Delaware (half hour west of London) or 10 km east of Melbourne (one hour east of Chatham) at 8349 Middlesex County 2 (Longwoods Road), just southwest of Mount Brydges. Hope to see you soon!

To Book a Field Trip Contact:
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
519-264-2420
info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca



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100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON N7L2Y8 • www.ltvca.ca
Phone: 519-354-7310 • Fax: 519-352-3435 • E-mail: admin@ltvca.ca

Media Release
For Immediate Release
March 8th, 2016

**Chatham-Kent Tree of the Year
2016 Free Sugar Maple**



Chatham-Kent – The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is pleased to announce that starting March 8th, 2016 we are bringing back the former Chatham-Kent Free Tree program. With financial assistance from the South Kent Wind Community Fund and the Chatham Kent Community Foundation, we will be continuing the CK Free Tree Program. The first 1000 CK residents to sign up will receive a large stock "Tree of the Year".

The Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) is the 2016 Tree of the Year. It is a deciduous tree, and an extremely important species to the ecology of the Carolinian forests. Valued for its syrup, wood and beautiful fall colours, the Sugar Maple grows to approximately 30 metres (100 feet) tall. Fall colours range from bright yellow, orange, to a fluorescent red-orange. They can live over 200 years.

We will be offering one large stock, bare root Sugar Maple per residence, as supplies last with anticipated pick up dates of April 8th to April 10th. Residents can sign up by going to our website



<http://www.ltvca.ca> and selecting the button. Or by going to <http://www.ltvca.ca/forests-habitat/treeoftheyear> and signing up at the bottom of the page.

For more program information or inquiries contact:

Greg Van Every
Environmental Project Coordinator
Greg.VanEvery@ltvca.ca
519-354-7310 ext. 229
www.ltvca.ca



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Media Release
For Immediate Release
March 21, 2016



**"Got questions about land stewardship or conservation areas?"
Visit LTVCA at the Go Wild Grow Wild Expo!"**

London – *Go Wild Grow Wild* is the biggest expo for Adventurers, Nature Lovers, Gardeners and Families who like to get out and enjoy Canada's deep south! And for the second year in a row, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is proud to be a "dune level" sponsor! The expo is being held once again at the Metroland Media Agriplex Western Fair District in London on April 2, from 10am-4pm. Tickets are \$5 and children 12 and under are free.

Be sure to visit us at our LTVCA booth. There will be opportunities for you to participate in free draws for books, posters and Season's Passes for day use at our conservation areas! Knowledgeable staff will also be on hand to chat with you about our land stewardship programs – from tree planting to prairie, forest and wetland habitat restoration possibilities. And discover the diverse programs offered for families and students at the Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas. We have great nature getaways and group and family camping sites right in your own backyard! The LTVCA is pleased to accompany our neighbouring Conservation Authorities who as well, will be highlighting nearby adventure options and watershed environmental services.

For more information on exhibitors, workshops and activities at this year's *Go Wild Grow Wild* expo, please visit their website at www.gowildgrowwild.ca/expo or email info@gowildgrowwild.ca.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
519-264-2420
info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca



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Media Release
For Immediate Release
February 29, 2016

**"Guided Hikes and Tours Offered"
Come on out to Longwoods this March Break!**



Mount Brydges – Looking for something to do with the kids over March Break? Why not *'step into nature'* and get some fresh air and exercise at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doh Village & Museum!

Located just a half hour west of London or an hour east of Chatham, families can enjoy a guided nature hike or a tour of Ska-Nah-Doh Village. On March 14, 15, 16 and 18th, these activities will run concurrently, beginning at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. sharp. (There will be no guided tours offered on March 17th). Cost is \$4 per vehicle, coin or credit card at the pay and display machine located at the entrance gatehouse.

No need to pre-register! Simply gather at the Resource Centre at one of these times and meet up with an LTVCA staff who will be your guide. Dress for the outdoors as you could be outside for up to 2 hours. Bring a picnic lunch (no food available onsite) to eat at a picnic table outside or in a cabin beside a cozy, warm woodstove. Please note that children must be supervised by parents or guardians at all times. Children without adult supervision cannot take part in guided hikes or tours.

Discover the wonders of nature as spring wakes up along our beautiful woodland and wetland trails, bridges and boardwalks. Imagine what it was like 1,000 years ago to live in a longhouse! See museum artifacts of long ago. The park is open daily from 9 a.m. until sunset and the buildings are open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doh Village & Museum are located at 8348 Longwoods Road (Mount Brydges), just 6.5 km west of Delaware or 10 km east of Melbourne.

For further information please contact:
(519) 264-2420
info@ltvca.ca www.ltvca.ca



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Media Release
For Immediate Release
March 11th, 2016

**"Learn about Erosion Potential Mapping, Buffer Programs, Funding"
Plan to Attend a Rondeau Bay Workshop**



Chatham-Kent – The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) is pleased to host the Rondeau Bay Workshop at Glad Tidings Community Church (403 Chatham St. South in Blenheim, ON N0P 1A0) on Tuesday March 22nd, 2016 from 10:30am to 1:00pm. Walk-in's are welcome from 1:00-2:00 pm. We will have presentations on our Buffer Program, Funding Availability, Erosion Potential Mapping and the Greening Partnership. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss opportunities for landowners in Rondeau Bay.

Although Rondeau is one of the most threatened ecodistricts in Ontario, it remains biologically diverse and supports the highest concentration of globally rare species and communities in the province. The LTVCA is hosting a workshop to discuss opportunities available to Rondeau Bay landowners to restore additional land through reforestation, tallgrass prairie seeding, buffer and wetland creation projects offered through the LTVCA.

Please contact us by March 15th to RSVP for Lunch and Presentations.

For more information or inquiries contact:

Lindsay Bennett
Species at Risk Drainage Biologist
Lindsay.Bennett@ltvca.ca
519-354-7310 ext. 233

Colin Little
Agricultural Specialist
Colin.Little@ltvca.ca
519-354-7310 ext. 231



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- **Displays and Exhibits** are created to update programs and information for the public. Interpretive signage for the outside of the kiosk has been designed to explain about the native gardens at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. As well, donor boards have been designed to complement the arboretum signage to recognize all donations towards the Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail Project since its beginnings. This signage has yet to be printed. The London Farm Show at the Western Fair District in London was attended on March 2-4, 2016.

As well we attended the Go Wild Grow Wild Expo on April 2, 2016 at the Agri-plex at the Western Fair District in London. Two new exhibit pull-up displays were designed and printed in time for the Go Wild Grow Wild Expo and highlighted Longwoods Road and C.M. Wilson Conservation Areas. The LTVC Foundation also had 2 new display panels for the Expo.

When staff attend these events, we post on Facebook and Twitter to get our messages out.



Our display at the Grow Wild Grow Wild Expo – April 2, 2016



The booth was always busy at Go Wild Grow Wild Expo with lots of networking with other organizations!

- **Advertisements** have been taken out in the tourist guides for Chatham-Kent, Middlesex and Elgin for C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Area for 2016. Staff also take out advertisements in the local print media to inform the public about workshops and seminars. Ads were purchased in the Strathroy-Caradoc “Keeping in Local” and the Middlesex “Business Matters” in late February. As well, the Chatham-Kent Not-for-profit Network has offered to feature the LTVCA on their home page for a period of time this April.
- **Presentations** are given to community groups upon request. Support is provided to staff for official openings, funder recognition ceremonies and community events upon request. The Community Relations Coordinator gave a presentation to some members of the Knox Presbyterian Church on March 22, 2016.
- **Committees and Meetings:** Staff attended meetings of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region’s communications team as they develop communication products for the Source Protection Plan development. On February 24th there was a conference call that staff participated in. On March 9th staff attended a workshop held for municipal planning staff at the SCRCA on Medium and Low drinking water threats and an update on SCRCA’s Natural Heritage planning advisory service. The LTVCA has also joined the Chatham-Kent Not-For-Profit Network to better reach our community and market the Conservation Authority. As well, staff attend Source Protection Committee meetings as needed. Staff participate on planning committees which meet regularly for the Children’s Water Festival – Chatham-Kent and Lambton and the Communications Subcommittee for the Thames River Clearwater Revival.
- **The LTVCA’s new website and social media (YouTube, Twitter and Facebook)** are updated daily with current/relevant Conservation Authority information and events. The website address is www.ltvca.ca. We encourage you to check in with us daily and share with your friends! Updates highlighting LTVCA projects, events and current conservation activities relating to the watershed are posted. Photos and video clips of programs and projects are taken regularly.
- **Soft Launch of new Conservation Authority logo:** Introducing the new Conservation Authority logo continues. The Conservation Authority’s fleet of vehicles will be showcasing our new logo and vision statement on their doors very soon!



- **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation** Directors next meeting is May 17, 2016.

- **Events in conservation areas:**

- March Break at Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht

This year Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht offered a March Break Program – guided nature hikes and tours of the Village at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily. People signed the guest book from Chatham, Camlachie, Markham, London and 1 from Stoke England. Gift shop sales were busy. 98 people participated in the planned activities.



Nature hikes and tours of Ska-Nah-Doht Village were offered at Longwoods over the March Break week.

- April 24th – Native Plants Workshop at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- April 30 – May 1 – Longwoods Heritage Weekend (Battle of Longwoods)
- May 15 – Birding Hike at Big ‘O’ Conservation Area

- **Publications:** Community Relations staff assist Conservation Authority staff with publications as needed. Work was completed on a new C.M. Wilson Conservation Area brochure. As well the 3 brochures for the McGregor Creek GLASI Education and Outreach program were completed.



The Barn - A Hidden Gem!

Our barn pavilion may be rented for events year round. Its unique stone fireplace, kitchen and hydro services make this "barn" a cozy venue for family get-togethers, wedding receptions and school functions.

McKinlay Woodlands Memorial Forest

Supported by McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd. and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation, hundreds of trees are planted in memory of loved ones every year. For more information about the Foundation Memorial Forest Program call 519- 264-2420 or email Yournature@lowerthamesfoundation.ca.



We're Easy to Find!

Directions:

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area is located at 21799 Fargo Road, 8.5 km south of Chatham. (Take Communications Road south, after going over Hwy. 401 turn right (west) onto Horton Road, cross railroad tracks, turn right (north) onto Fargo Road and travel 1 km to the entrance.)

Coordinates:

Lat/Long 42.375, -82.107
UTM 408840, 4692030

Mailing Address:

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area
21799 Fargo Road
Blenheim, Ontario N0P 1A0

When Are We Open?

Day use: Year-round from 9 a.m. to sunset daily

Campground is open from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving weekend.

Gatehouse (Victoria Day long weekend – Last Friday of June)

Friday 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gatehouse (Last weekend in June – Labour Day)

Monday to Thursday 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Gatehouse closes for the season following Labour Day weekend.

Admission

This is a Pay & Display park. Please purchase your day use parking permit at the machine located at the gatehouse.

Contact

Tel: 519-354-7310 Fax: 519-352-3435
Email: info@ltvca.ca Website: www.ltvca.ca

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

Retreat, Refresh, Return



Camp at one of our 100 camp sites!



C.M. Wilson Conservation Area

The C.M. Wilson Conservation Area is located 8.5 km south of Chatham. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority acquired this 30 ha property in 1967. The park was named after a former Chair of the Board of Directors, Clarence Michael Wilson.

For nature lovers, the Carolinian forest and wetlands abound with birds and wildlife. A man-made lake offers fishing for bass, pike, catfish and bluegill and a place to put in your canoe or windsurf. Picnic areas, two adventure playgrounds and a campground provide fun for the whole family!

Family and Group Camp

Camp at C.M. Wilson Conservation Area with your family and friends! Camp sites ideal for tents and trailers offer unserviced, hydro and hydro/water. We have over 100 individual camp sites to rent for a getaway, as well as group sites for larger gatherings. Stay for a night, a week, or a month! We also offer seasonal camping, with optional winter trailer storage available. Check out our website for an interactive campground map and more photos.



Features

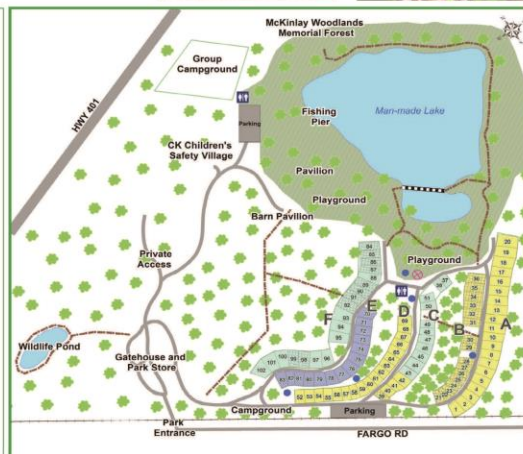
- Camp site and group camping rentals
- Accessible washrooms and showers
- Barn pavilion with stone fireplace for year round event rental
- Wedding space rental
- 30 ha of natural area
- Picnic tables, playgrounds, lake and fishing area
- Nature trails and boardwalks
- Wildlife and bird watching opportunities
- Seasonal gatehouse/park store offering snacks, beverages and supplies
- Curriculum based conservation education programs for all ages
- Parking for vehicles and trailers
- McKinlay Woodlands Memorial Forest
- Location of Chatham-Kent and Lambton Children's Water Festival
- Home to Chatham-Kent Children's Safety Village

Legend

- Water Source
- Greenspace
- Nature Trails
- Boardwalk
- ⊕ Trailer Dumping Station
- ♿ Washrooms
- Road
- Parking
- Railroad
- Water
- Day Use and Picnic Area

Campsites

- Hydro and Water
- Hydro Only
- Unserved
- Small



- **Applications:** Staff apply for project funding as grants become available. For Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village, applications have been submitted to 2 summer student programs for 3 positions: Young Canada Works in Heritage (YCW) - 1 position for an Exhibit Design Assistant for 10 weeks. Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) - 1 position for a Community Outreach Coordinator (10 weeks) and 1 position for a Community Outreach Assistant (9 weeks).

We have confirmation that all applications have been accepted for review. We should hear by the end of April if we are successful.

- **Courses/Certification:** Staff keep current by attending appropriate courses as needed.

8.6) Conservation Authority Education

Conservation Youth Group Workshops

Workshops are performed at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and LTVCA outreach locations to youth and their leaders. Youth groups work towards badges for various outdoor activities.

Total number from Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2016 - 0 (130 in 2015)

Conservation Field Trips for Students

Total number from Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2016, 48 students and 7 adult supervisors participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area. (15 students and 2 adults in 2015)

Conservation Classroom Programs and Outreach

There were 10 in-class programs conducted from Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2016 – 208 students in with the River and Creek Safety Program. This program is sponsored by local service clubs in the east end of the watershed. (210 in 2015)



River and Creek Safety Programs were offered to the Grade 2's in the east end of the watershed during March.

GLASI Education and Outreach for the McGregor Creek Subwatershed

The goal of this program is to enhance public awareness of how Best Management Practices (BMP's) can promote profitability and production for agricultural landowners while reducing the phosphorus load in Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. Staff have researched and designed 3 brochures (available at meeting) to highlight awareness about phosphorus, soil conservation and pollinators. A presentation was given to over 70 students at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus on March 17th comprised of 3 PowerPoint presentations.



Presentations on Pollinators, The Greening Partnership and Phosphorus captured the attention of students at Ridgetown College. All presentations have been posted on our website for public viewing.

A soils map for the McGregor Creek subwatershed has been created and a webpage and Facebook postings have been added to relay information about this project. Ongoing work on the webpage to update information will be ongoing even though the final report for this project to the Ontario Soil and Crop Association was submitted March 31st.

Chatham-Kent and Lambton Childrens Water Festival

Grants are being applied for now for the 2016 Festival. A Committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 9 to discuss a possible video for marketing. Don Hector, the water festival coordinator has been making great efforts to reach out to the community for sponsorship and volunteers.

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Field Trips for Students

Total number from Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 2016 – 651 students and 133 adult supervisors participated in field trips to Ska-Nah-Doht. (437 students and 73 adults in 2015)

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Group Workshops

Workshops are performed at Ska-Nah-Doht and LTVCA outreach locations for youth and their leaders. Youth groups work towards badges for various outdoor activities.

Total number from Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2016 – 53 (0 in 2015)

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Activities

Staff continue to research grant opportunities for the Heritage Build Project in order to make the new longhouse build a reality by 2017.

In looking towards a successful 2016, staff are reviewing the Business Plan for Ska-Nah-Doht Village drafted by HBA students from the Ivey Business School at Western University. Staff have met on 3 occasions since Jan. 1, 2016.

Some of the suggestions for new sources of revenue generation at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum include:

- Yurts investigation – a new camping option at Longwoods Road. Calculating optimum sizes and the business case.
- CAP Program – A paragraph will be drafted for website.
- Aim to sell more Seasons' passes this year.
- All entrance fees associated with special events including the Longwoods Heritage Weekend will be included in the Season's Pass purchase as well as 10% discount on Turtle Trail Giftshop items.
Camping?
- Investigate the use of the cabins for camping.
- Burwell House possibilities along with rejuvenation of the Resource Centre.

8.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held Feb 4th, 2016 at the Jackson Residence

ATTENDANCE: Rick & Forest Taves, Gerry & Muggs Soulliere, Joe & Ginette Pinsonneault, Bill & Karen Robertson, Ron Bell, Sheilah Marans, Ron & Vicki Haley, Linda & Lee Pearce, Phil & Linda Humphries, David Derbyshire, Mike Diesbourg, Pauline Sample, Lorna Bell, Craig Willett, Bruce & Marj Jackson.

MINUTES: Moved by Marj, sec by Craig minutes be accepted as printed (Carried)

MEMORIAL GROVES: Look at expanding area. Memorial Sunday will be September 18th

PROP & EQUIP: 1) Rope broke on front flag pole. Bruce contacted Buba who will stop by and install new rope when time permits 2) Bryne Clement has volunteered to repair hill light 3) Lots of trees down with all the wind 4) Trees offered this year from Lower Thames will be free 5) Hummingbird Bridge in need of repair, Pembina Bridge needs repaired, wood is ready for Walnut Bridge 6) Some discussion on setting up schedule for looking after maintenance re toilets, garbage disposal etc. 7) Fire extinguishers have been donated by John Neufeld, sent a Thank you note. 8) First Aid Kit has been purchased

CONCERTS: Concert series for 2016 is full. Brian Cobby has been hired to take care of the sound for 2016. He will receive the same remuneration as we put out in 2015.

Sheilah had a sample of Posters and Flyers with concert schedule lineup. (Thanks Sheilah)

Holly Taves is our new Web Master assisted by Gerry & Mugs. Moved by Gerry sec by Craig (Carried)

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ron presented his monthly financial report. It was moved by Craig, sec by Linda report be accepted as presented. (Carried)

Ron passed out the 2016 Donation appeal letters for member distribution.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Our March meeting will be our Annual followed by our General at the Wheatley Legion March 3rd.

ADJOURNMENT: Pauline moved for adjournment at 8:40 p.m.

Marjorie Jackson Secretary

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL-Meeting March 3rd, 2016

ATTENDANCE: Rick & Forest Taves, Bruce & Marg Jackson, Lorna Bell, Gerry & Margaret Soulliere, Mike & Wendy Diesbourg, Ron Haley, Mariette Preyde, Phil Humphries

Presidents Message: Rick thanked the board members and others for their commitment to Two Creeks. He also talked about the past years activities and accomplishments. This year marks the 24th Anniversary of the forming of ' Friends of Two Creeks'.

THANKYOU RICK For your commitment to the Association since the beginning.

Minutes: Moved by Marj, seconded by Lorna.

REPORTS: Recap

Memorial Groves: Rick talked about how well the groves are maintained and also extending them Northward by clearing the brush but leaving the larger trees.

Property & Equip: Will try to get another year out of the Bushhog, have funds available if new one is required. Lots of potholes and ruts in grass to be filled in when things dry out. Trees across trails are being removed. Wood for bridge repair is in shed. Maintained trails.

Concerts: Weather did not cooperate the first few weeks but weather improved as well as the attendance, very successful year; Scouts ran refreshment booth; sold concert buttons and issued receipts; received new and larger buttons for this year. Concerts all booked for 2016.

Environmental Awareness: Collected used household batteries. Rick will ask Amanda at Chatham Kent about a firm delivery date for the 2000 trees we are receiving. Craig Willet is offering trees for sale at .25 each, Jerry motioned to buy 125 each of Bur & Red Oak, seconded by Mike. Muggs will contact schools regarding a planting schedule.

Other: Entered a float in the Santa Claus Parade, thanks to Jerry and Muggs for all your hard work.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Submitted by Ron

Opening Balance	\$24,511.53
Revenues	\$27,630.39
Operating Expenses	\$19,777.11
Capital Expenses	\$ 7,615.98
Closing Balance	\$24,748.83
Fund for Perpetual Care	\$1,423.43 (Memorial Groves)

Moved by Ron, sec. by Mariette report be accepted as presented (Carried)

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Election of Board Members

Rick opened nominations for 3 Year Board Members

Rick Taves nominated by Mariette

Ron Haley nominated by Lorna

Phil Humphries nominated by Lorna

Mariette Preyde	nominated by Rick
Linda Pearce	nominated by Ron
Marjorie Jackson	nominated by Lorna
Mike Diesbourg	nominated by Marj

With no other nominations, Rick declared nominations closed.

With the acceptance of Rick Taves, Mike Diesbourg and Phil Humphries and the declining of Ron Haley, Mariette Preyde, Linda Pearce, and Marjorie Jackson accepting an ex officio status on the Board, our Board members for 2016 are:

3 year term- Rick Taves, Mike Diesbourg, Phil Humphries
2 year term- Lorna Bell, Gerry Soulliere, Craig Willet
1 year term- Larry McDonald, Joe Pinsonneault, Pauline Sample

Membership dues of \$5.00 were collected.

Joe moved for adjournment at 8:15 pm

Phil Humphries
Secretary

8.8) GMs Report

The Annual General Meeting is an important milestone in the Conservation Authority's business cycle, and while our fiscal year is calendar based, the AGM truly marks the beginning of the year. For 2016 the LTVCA Board took a bold step in realigning the levy to more closely match the proportion of each municipality's Current Value Assessment within the watershed. While this meant a significant, one-time increase for most municipalities, it will enable the LTVCA to address some critical areas of risk involving our flood and hazard management program, and our ability to more effectively manage our land holdings. Additionally, the Authority's capacity to undertake private land stewardship will be increased, enabling our staff to engage in a more fulsome way with senior governments, the public and other organizations to accomplish the ambitious phosphorus reduction targets for the western basin of Lake Erie. To accomplish our ambitious agenda, realignment of the staff structure has been undertaken with Randall Van Wagner assuming the new role of Manager of Conservation Lands and Services.

Since the Annual Meeting in February, staff have been busy completing finishing touches within the Administration Building while preparing for the spring field season; planning work such as tree planting; implementing the Jeannette's Creek Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) - agricultural phosphorus reduction and monitoring program; working with various stakeholders including the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in developing strategies for meeting Great Lakes nutrient reduction targets; monitoring numerous hydrological events and issuing flood safety bulletins; and making preparations to operate the 6th Street Dam. Planning is also underway to complete the landscaping around the Chatham Office and to conduct a ribbon cutting and open house to coincide with the June 30 Board meeting. It is intended that the event will showcase the variety of important initiatives being undertaken by the LTVCA while recognizing the contribution of funders and partners in the redevelopment of our parking lot and adjoining brownfield into an innovative low-impact stormwater management facility.

At this time there is nothing to report regarding the review of the Conservation Authorities Act; however it is understood that there will be a further consultation phase to consider the various comments that were received on the Discussion Paper. Unfortunately I must report that the effort by Conservation Ontario to obtain intervenor status in the appeal of a court decision involving an injury on a bike trail owned by the County of Bruce, was denied. However, on the matter of NVCA vs Gilmore that was reported on in December, I am pleased to advise that the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has been granted Leave to Appeal, and the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General has requested leave to intervene. The Board will be provided with updates as new information is available.

Recommendation

That the above reports be received for information.

9. Correspondence

9.1) Letter from the City of London



P.O. Box 5035
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON
N6A 4L9

RECEIVED
MAR 17 2016
**LOWER THAMES VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

March 11, 2016

M. Hayward
Managing Director, Corporate Services and City Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer

I hereby certify that the Municipal Council, at its meeting held on March 10, 2016 resolved:

That the net 2016-2019 Multi-Year Operating Budget for the following services within Environmental Services BE ADOPTED:

- i) Page 108 (Cerlox) Page 47 (Binder) - Kettle Creek Conservation Authority - \$1,938,000
- ii) Page 109 (Cerlox) Page 50 (Binder) - Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority - \$644,000
- iii) Page 111 (Cerlox) Page 54 (Binder) - Upper Thames River Conservation Authority - \$11,971,000
- iv) Page 112 (Cerlox) Page 57 (Binder) - Environmental Action Programs and Reporting - \$2,997,000
- v) Page 113 (Cerlox) Page 60 (Binder) - Garbage Recycling and Composting - \$66,297,000; it being noted that the Civic Administration was directed to report back during the Strategic Investments portion (Agenda Item 3h)) of the 2016-2019 Budget discussions by the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee, with a Business Case for a Green Bin Program (source organic waste separation). (2d/8/SPPC - Budget)

C. Saunders
City Clerk
/hw

- cc: Kettle Creek Conservation Authority, 44015 Ferguson Line, St. Thomas, ON N5P 3T3
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, 1424 Clarke Road, London, ON N5V 5B9
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, 100 Thames Street, Chatham, ON
N7L 2Y8
J. Braam, Managing Director, Environmental and Engineering Services and City
Engineer
J. Stanford, Director, Environment Fleet and Solid Waste
L. Palarchio, Director of Financial Planning & Policy

9.2) National Grants & Contributions, Employment & Social Development Canada
(Enabling Access Grant for accessible washroom and ramp)



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada

Place du Portage
Phase IV, 4th Floor
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9

April 5, 2016

100 Thames Street
Chatham, Ontario
N7L 2Y8

Subject: Closure of project #1348641

Dear Randall Van Wagner,

Thank you for submitting the final report for the above mentioned project funded by the Enabling Accessibility Fund Program, Employment and Social Development Canada. We have reviewed and accepted the report and the file has now been closed.

Please note that all documentation relative to this project must be kept for three (3) years following the end date of the project for legal purposes.

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation during the project. It has been a pleasure working with your organization.

Yours sincerely,

Anny Beaudoin
Project Officer
National Grants and Contributions
Delivery Centre

9.3) Letter from Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry Re: Update on CA Act Review

Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry

Parliamentary Assistant

Room 6521, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-6467
Fax: 416-314-6470

Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts

Adjoint Parlementaire

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6521
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-6467
Télééc.: 416-314-6470



MNR5805MC-2016-454

To all Conservation Authorities:

I am writing to update you on our progress regarding the *Conservation Authorities Act* review. In doing so, I would like to express my appreciation for all Conservation Authorities who participated in the first phase of the review. Your input helped identify common themes and priority areas for the next step in our review process.

For nearly 70 years Ontario and its Conservation Authorities have enjoyed a rich and productive relationship. Conservation Authorities have an impressive record of protecting people, property and communities from water-related weather events and hazards. Our Government appreciates that record and values the achievements of Conservation Authorities in protecting and managing water and other natural resources in the province.

I am pleased to share that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will be starting its second phase of the review process which will include further engagement and input on options for strengthening Conservation Authorities. This next step will build on the initial consultation where we identified five priority areas for improvement:

- Stronger oversight and accountability in decision-making;
- Increased clarity and consistency in roles and responsibilities, processes and requirements;
- Modern funding mechanisms to support conservation authority operations;
- Improved collaboration and engagement among all parties involved in resource management; and
- Enhanced flexibility for the Province to update the *Conservation Authorities Act* framework in the future.

These priority areas were identified through the review as a result of the responses to the Ministry's discussion paper.

In taking this next step we look forward to working closely with you to develop options for changes in these areas. Now that we have heard from you on what our priorities should be, this next step will assist in providing options for how we should proceed.

Our next step will include securing feedback via a discussion paper which will capture the aforementioned priority areas. This paper will be posted to the Environmental Registry in the coming weeks. We will also be announcing a working group, comprised of relevant stakeholders, including Conservation Authorities. This working group will provide us with the opportunity to take a detailed look at possible solutions, and

together with the Registry feedback will allow us to have the kind of comprehensive overview which can lead to constructive options for change.

If you have further questions regarding the *Conservation Authorities Act* review, please contact Jennifer Keyes, Manager, Water Resources Section, at (705) 755-5244 or jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca.

In the meantime, please stay tuned. I look forward to working with all of you, as together we work to modernize and strengthen Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor McMahon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eleanor McMahon
Parliamentary Assistant

c: Jennifer Keyes