



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

December 15th, 2016

2:00 p.m.

Administration Office of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

1. Call to Order
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 - 9.5) Elgin Phragmites Working Group, Request for Support..... 71
 - 9.6) CO's comments on "A Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario 2016-2030" *under separate cover*
 - 9.7) CO's comments on Phosphorus Reduction *under separate cover*
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

4.1) Board of Directors Meeting – October 20, 2016



Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at the Administration Building of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority commencing at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 20, 2016. The following directors were in attendance: J. Kavelaars, L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, D. McKillop, H. MacDonald, S. Caveney, R. Doane and J. Wolf. Regrets sent by, L. Leclair, M. Smibert & G. Bogart.

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of Agenda

Prior to adopting the agenda the Chair asked if there were any additions. Staff requested the addition of a legal matter to be discussed in closed session under Other Business.

1. R. Doane – T. Thompson

Moved that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

There were no disclosures noted.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. D. McKillop – J. Wolf

Moved that the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on August 25, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising From the Minutes

5.1) Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan, meeting with four CA's

3. D. McKillop – J. Wolf

Moved that the LTVCA Board continue to work with the province, municipalities, stakeholders and the public to complete the update of its Policies and Operation Guidelines for the administration of its Section 28 regulation and as the basis for its review of activities under the Planning Act within its jurisdiction.

CARRIED

6. Presentations

- 6.1) Mr. Randall Van Wagner, Manager of Conservation Lands and Services provided the Board of Directors with a Power Point Presentation on the Authority's Conservation Areas and next planning steps for these lands.

7. Business for Approval

7.1) 2017 Preliminary Budget and Levy

4. D. McKillop – S. Caveney

Moved that the 2017 preliminary budget, as amended, totalling \$3,097,028 be adopted, and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed levy as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days' notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and levy.

CARRIED

7.2) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ended September 30, 2016

5. H. MacDonald – R. Doane

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ended September 30, 2016 report.

CARRIED

7.3) Walter Devereux CA

6. L. McKinlay – S. Caveney

Moved that the Board of Directors give approval for staff to seek out a farm tenant to lease approximately half of the Tallgrass prairie area at the Walter Devereux CA.

CARRIED

7.4) Jeannette's Creek Islands

7. T. Thompson – J. Wolf

Moved that the Board of Directors direct staff to determine whether hunting should be allowed on and/or around this land-locked property, or on other landlocked or isolated parcels owned by the LTVCA.

CARRIED

7.5) 2017 Proposed Fee Schedules

8. L. McKinlay – S. Caveney

Moved that the 2017 Regulation Fees, Planning and Technical Review Fees, Conservation Services Fees and Conservation Areas Fee Schedules be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

7.6) Joint Health & Safety Committee Minutes, September 19, 2016

9. L. McKinlay – T. Thompson

Moved that the Joint Health & Safety Committee Minutes and Recommendations from September 19, 2016 be noted.

CARRIED

7.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes – September 22, 2016

As there were no recommendations from the meeting, no action was taken.

8. Business for Information

- 8.1) Water Management
- 8.2) Regulations and Planning
- 8.3) Conservation Areas
- 8.4) Conservation Services
- 8.5) Community Relations
- 8.6) Conservation Authority Education
- 8.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association meeting minutes
- 8.8) GM's Report

10. D. McKillop – J. Wolf

Moved that the Board of Directors receive the Business for Information reports as presented.

CARRIED

9. Correspondence

- 9.1) Conservation Ontario to the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister, MNRF
- 9.2) Dutton Dunwich Council Resolution Re: Review of the Conservation Authorities Act
- 9.3) West Elgin Correspondence Re: Commenting period for Policy Updates
- 9.4) Conservation Ontario Correspondence Re: Conservation Authorities Act Review
- 9.5) Chatham-Kent Correspondence Re: Draft 2017 Budget

10. Other Business

11. R. Doane – T. Thompson

Moved that the Board of Directors meet in closed session to discuss a legal matter.

CARRIED

12. L. McKinlay – S. Caveney

Moved that the Board of Directors reconvene in regular session.

CARRIED

13. L. McKinlay – S. Caveney

Moved that the Board of Directors support Option 2 in the staff report.

CARRIED

11. Adjournment

14. L. McKinlay – R. Doane

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

John Kavelaars
Chair



Don Pearson
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

7. Business for Approval

7.1) Budget vs Revenue & Expenditures for the period ended November 30, 2016

Background:

Review the 2016 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 11 months ended November 30th, 2016.

Current Situation:

EXPENSES

	2016 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET NOV PROJECTED	2016 ACTUAL TO NOV 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	152,044	139,373	165,092	25,719
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	31,438	28,818	9,672	(19,146)
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	267,026	244,774	123,768	(121,006)
TECHNICAL STUDIES	37,689	34,548	33,481	(1,067)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	207,139	189,877	204,337	14,460
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	64,162	58,815	21,776	(37,039)
SOURCE PROTECTION	24,900	22,825	27,033	4,208
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	20,000	18,333	590	(17,743)
Water Management Subtotal	804,398	737,363	585,749	(151,614)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	488,532	447,821	583,884	136,063
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	166,047	152,210	120,902	(31,308)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	90,578	83,030	70,163	(12,867)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	172,223	157,871	191,655	33,784
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	428,848	393,111	382,720	(10,391)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	39,268	35,996	18,181	(17,815)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	849,124	778,364	907,929	129,565
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	315,852	289,531	324,149	34,618
COMMUNITY TREES INITIATIVE	0	0	0	0
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,204,244	1,103,891	1,250,259	146,368
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING REPAIRS/UPGRADES	100,000	91,667	11,090	(80,577)
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	100,000	91,667	11,090	(80,577)
	3,026,022	2,773,853	2,813,702	39,849

REVENUE

	2016 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET NOV PROJECTED	2016 ACTUAL TO NOV 30	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	675,651	619,347 *	914,048	294,701
GENERAL LEVY	1,339,478	1,339,478 ^	1,339,478	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	200,000	200,000 ^	200,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	717,393	657,610 *	943,618	286,008
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	5,000	4,583 *	7,422	2,839
RESERVES	88,500	81,125 *	0	(81,125)
CASH FUNDING	3,026,022	2,902,143	3,404,566	502,423
OTHER	0	0	770,200	770,200
TOTAL FUNDING	3,026,022	2,902,143	4,174,766	1,272,623

*-based on a 11 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on 100% of budget

Discussion:

Expenses

Water Management expenses are below budget as there are several items still outstanding and due to a relatively uneventful year to date in terms of flooding issues.

Conservation area expenses are above budget due to several items, the more significant of which are:

- creation of the Manager of Conservation Lands and Services position;
- retaining Municipal Enforcement Unit to monitor and enforce conservation areas;
- expenses related to a very successful Water festival;
- costs for increased hours of operation of the CM Wilson gatehouse.

Community Relations and Conservation Education are below budget due to staff income and expenses being included in the Conservation Services - Phosphorus Reduction area resulting from the McGregor Creek - Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) Program. SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village is over budget due to two large maintenance projects – replacement of part of the palisade walls and re-barking a portion of one of the longhouses, funded from additional revenue sources.

Consistent with previous budget analysis, Conservation Services expenses are greater than budget due to several factors:

- higher tree sales and planting with most of the expenses being incurred in the spring and summer months;
- front loaded costs of the purchase and installation of the equipment for the Jeannette's Creek GLASI program;
- an additional grant toward the Jeannette's Creek GLASI Program and the costs related to that grant
- the McGregor Creek GLASI Program noted in Community Relations and Education above.

Note: There are \$143,000 of capital asset expenditures for the Jeannette's Creek GLASI Program not included in this amount that are being capitalized and amortized over the life of the assets.

Capital/Miscellaneous is below budget as \$144,000 of the expenditures for the Administration Building are being capitalized and amortized over the life of the assets.

Revenue

Grant income is greater than the prorated budget because more grants have been received than budgeted: McGregor Creek-Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI); GLASI best management practices; and the timing of grants invoiced.

Levy revenue matches budget as all levies have been invoiced and recognized as revenue with only a small balance outstanding in accounts receivable.

General Revenue is higher than the expected due to several factors:

- planning and regulations fees are slightly higher than budget;
- Conservation area revenues are higher than expected due to the contributions from a successful Water Festival, a small increase in camping revenues and several on time contributions for various events and programs;
- Conservation education is slightly below budget and SKA-NAH-DOHT Village is well above budget due to the money received to replace part of the palisade walls and re-bark part of one of the longhouses;
- Conservation Services and the Chatham Kent Greening Project are higher than expected due to increased tree sales and several large projects such as Clear Creek that were not budgeted for.

Foundation Grants and Revenues are higher than budget due to conservative nature of the budgeted amount.

Reserves are zero as this account is used to balance the accounts at year-end if expenses are greater than revenues.

The large Other Revenue item is the result of the generous donation of two parcels of land.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors receive the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended November 30, 2016.

7.2) Boundary Adjustment, Proposed Changes to LTVCA Eastern Boundary

Date: November 25, 2016

Memo to: Chair and Members, LTVCA Board of Directors

From: Don Pearson, General Manager

Subject: Proposed changes to LTVCA Eastern Boundary

Background:

The Upper Thames River (UTRCA) and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities (LTVCA) are seeking to clarify their mutual boundary within the Municipalities of Strathroy-Caradoc and Middlesex Centre. The precise division between the jurisdiction of the two Conservation Authorities has been less than clear historically, due in part to the language of the Order in Council, OC-1699/47 that created the UTRCA:

“...The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority was established, including thirty municipalities wholly or partly within the watershed of the Thames River above the confluence of Dingman’s Creek with the Thames River, but not including the Townships of Caradoc...”

Additionally, the easterly boundary of the LTVCA has historically been represented on official mapping produced and published by the Province of Ontario, as being consistent with the watershed of the Thames River below the confluence of Dingman’s Creek. As a further complication the mapped boundaries reflect an historical confluence of Dingman’s Creek with the Thames River, which no longer exists. Consequently, that portion of the former Township of Caradoc, above the confluence has been treated as being outside of the jurisdiction of both Conservation Authorities. Similarly, portions of the municipality of Middlesex Centre have been treated as being practically within both Authorities, resulting in joint letters being written in regard to certain property based issues.

Present situation:

Conservation Authority staff met with the CAO and Staff of the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc to discuss options for resolving the discrepancies in jurisdiction. As a result of these discussions, it was recommended to extend the UTRCA jurisdiction into Strathroy-Caradoc in accordance with the original description of its watershed. It was also recommended to define the boundary between the Upper and Lower Thames watersheds within the Municipality of Middlesex Centre through the Village of Delaware according to a distinct cultural feature (Longwoods Road). This process was initiated at the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc Council meeting on November 21, 2016, with the adoption of the following motion:

THAT: Council approves of the proposed boundary adjustment and directs the Conservation Authorities to initiate the process to amend the boundary between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

The Council Report with associated mapping has been attached for your information and reference. UTRCA Staff are in discussion with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to confirm the process for moving forward.

Discussion:

There is no impact on the LTVCA from the expansion of UTRCA into Strathroy-Caradoc. With respect to Middlesex Centre, there would be a slight reduction in municipal area within the jurisdiction of LTVCA which will have the effect of

reducing its Current Value Assessment (CVA) apportionment. The impact of this adjustment will likely not be felt until 2018 once the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry completes a recalculation of each municipalities' CVA.

The advantage of this adjustment is to provide greater clarity on the location of each Conservation Authority's jurisdiction and regulatory authority.

It is anticipated that a joint meeting of the UTRCA and appointed municipal representatives or other suitable process will occur early in the New Year. As the easterly LTVCA boundary is effectively defined by the westerly UTRCA boundary, there is no role for LTVCA member municipalities outside of those who are also members of the UTRCA. It would be useful, however to pass a supporting resolution of the LTVCA Board to facilitate the successful outcome of this process.

Recommendation:

That the LTVCA Board supports the expansion of the UTRCA into the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc, and further supports the location of the Authority Boundary division within Middlesex Centre as being Longwoods Road from the Thames River Bridge, easterly to the watershed divide between Dingman and Sharon Creeks.

Meeting date: November 21, 2016
Department: Chief Administrative Office
Prepared by: Ralph Coe, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Conservation Authorities Boundary Adjustment

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT: Council approves of the proposed boundary adjustment and directs the Conservation Authorities to initiate the process to amend the boundary between the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

BACKGROUND

Both the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) have historically relied on the language of the Order in Council, OC-1699/47 that created the former: "...*The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority was established, including thirty municipalities wholly or partly within the watershed of the Thames River above the confluence of Dingman's Creek with the Thames River, but not including the Townships of Caradoc,...*". Further, the easterly boundary of the LTVCA has historically been represented, on official mapping produced and published by the Province of Ontario, as being consistent with the watershed of the Thames River below the confluence of Dingman's Creek. Consequently, that portion of the former Township of Caradoc, above the confluence has been treated as being outside of the jurisdiction of both Conservation Authorities.

A boundary adjustment is required to; provide clarity regarding the area of jurisdiction of UTRCA and the LTVCA for regulatory purposes under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, provide extension services to landowners, and apportion municipal levies that are calculated according to geographic area of a municipality.

The enclosed mapping illustrates the proposed boundary expansion and ensures the riverine flooding and erosion hazards associated with the Thames River remain within the jurisdiction of one Conservation Authority. It is proposed to adjust the westerly boundary of the UTRCA to a point which is defined by a more obvious feature. A cultural feature which would include Longwoods Road and Highway 402 is easily defined, more visible and capable of being better understood by the public. We note that LTVCA and UTRCA staff have utilized Longwoods Road as an identifiable/operational watershed divide for more than 25 years. This proposed boundary adjustment has the added advantage of maintaining the integrity of the Komoka Creek and River Bend Sub watersheds within the jurisdiction of the UTRCA.

The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc would be provided the following services from the UTRCA;

1. Monitoring of environmental information regarding; surface water quality, fisheries and benthic invertebrate data collection, and woodland conditions through the Watershed Report Card program for the Komoka Creek and River Bend Sub watersheds. The Report Cards can be found on-line at: <http://thamesriver.on.ca/watershed-health/watershed-report-cards/> .
2. Delivery of environmental programs and services through the completion of projects under the Clean Water Program, provision of extension services for the Waters-Arnold and Van-Hecke Drains, and offering landowner stewardship projects.
3. Extensive reptile research and habitat improvements have occurred along this reach of the Thames River which forms the boundary between the Municipalities of Strathroy-Caradoc and Middlesex Centre.
4. In addition, the UTRCA now owns land within Strathroy-Caradoc. A project to develop a land management plan to enhance this significant natural heritage feature within the Municipality is also now underway.

The implications for Strathroy-Caradoc include becoming a participating municipality within the UTRCA and therefore having entitlement to membership through an appointed representative. An alternative for membership would be to share an appointment with Middlesex Centre to the UTRCA. (Potentially, S-C and MC could share an appointment to the LTVCA in the future if desired.)

COMMENTS

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority have discussed the proposed boundary adjustment and support this change that will provide enhanced services to the Municipality.

CONSULTATION

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Conservation Authority Levy Apportionments will shift from St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the financial implications are in the order of a net increase of \$6000.00.

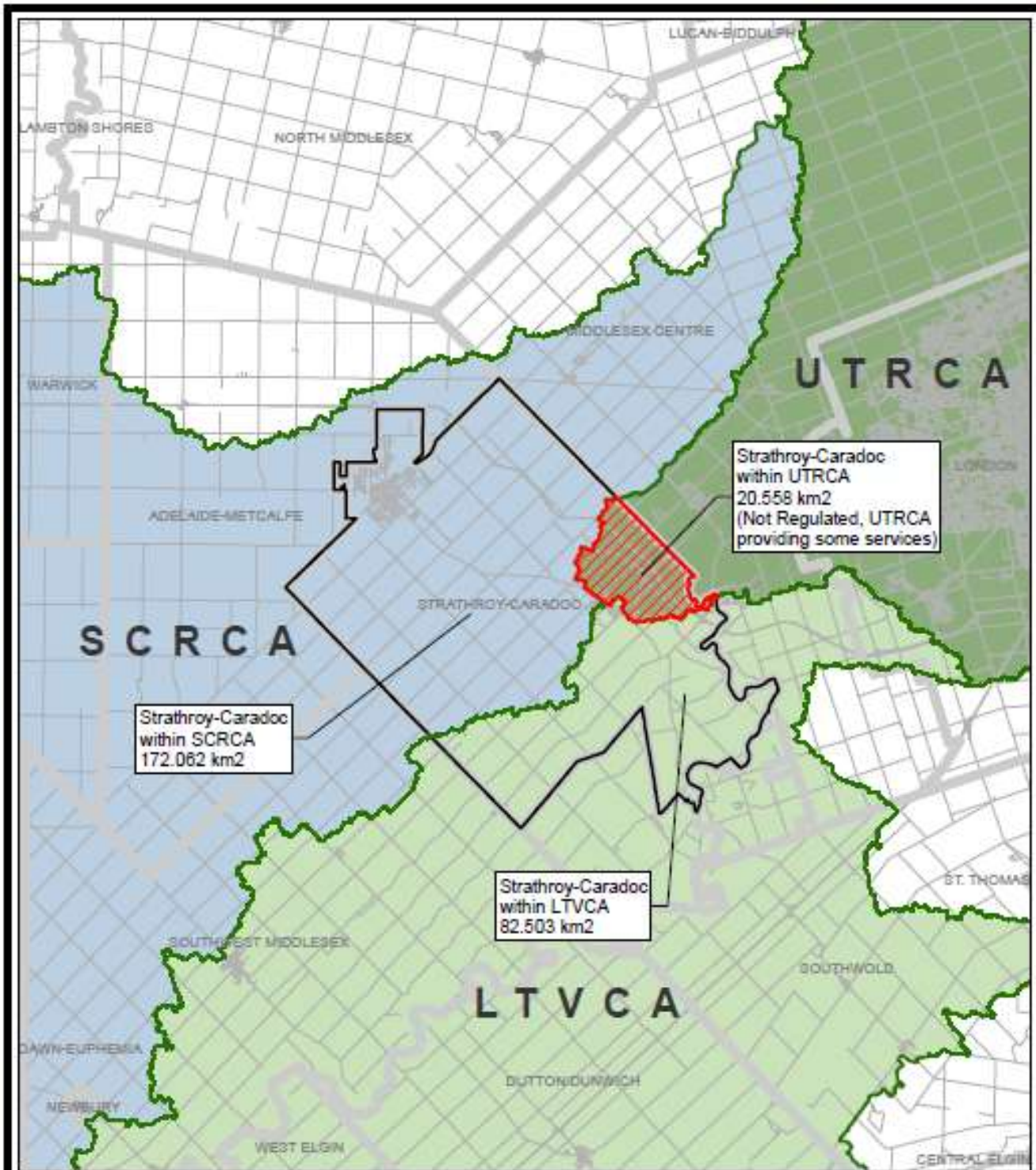
NEXT STEPS

The process to obtain approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources involves several steps.

- Council approval of this report is the first step;
- The Board of Directors for both the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority notify their member municipalities of the proposed boundary adjustment
- The UTRCA convenes a meeting of its member municipalities to request approval of the boundary adjustment;
- Resolutions from each Conservation Authority carries the approval; and
- Submissions are made to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

ATTACHMENTS

Mapping

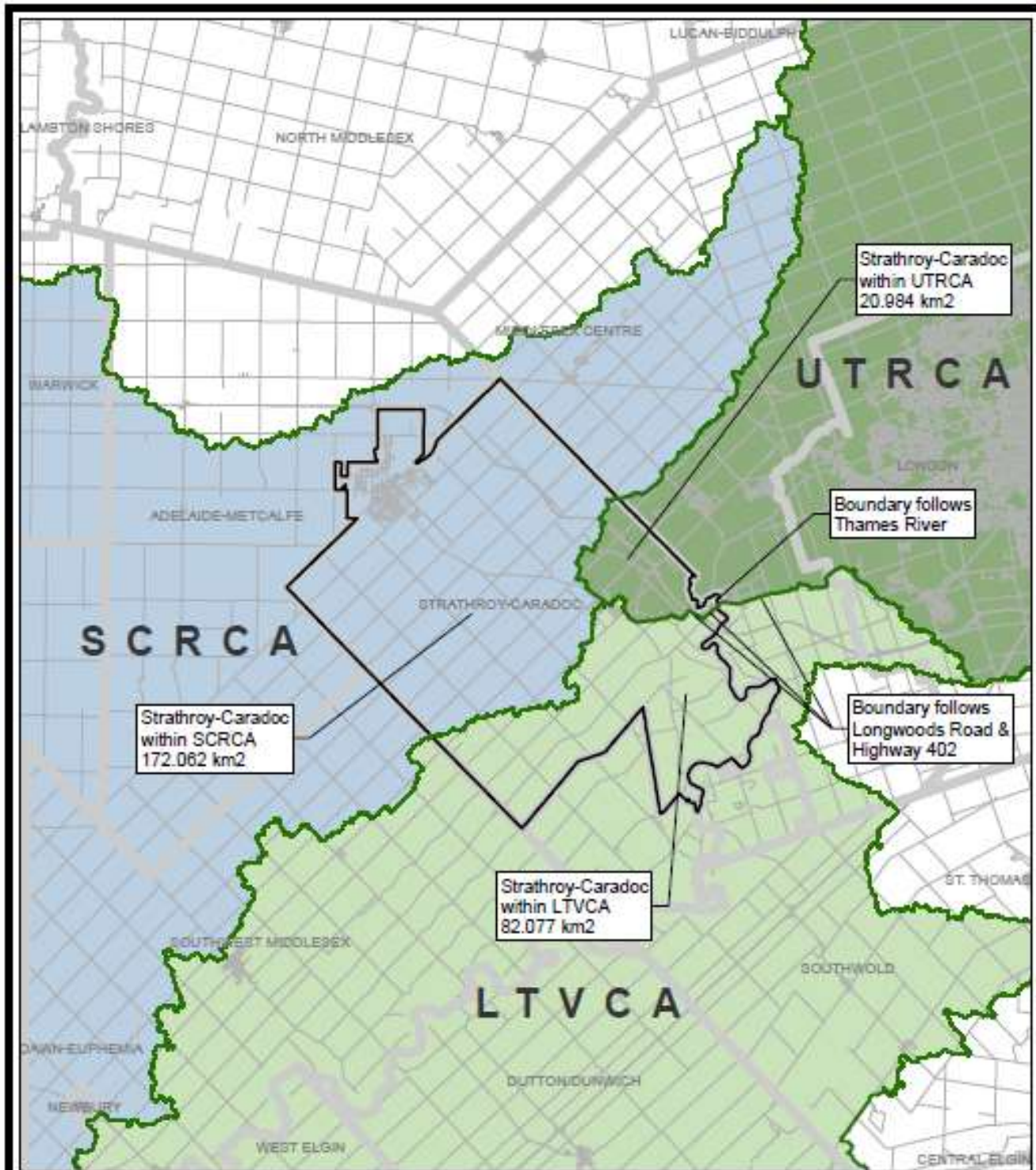


UPPER THAMES RIVER **Strathroy-Caradoc Conservation Authority Areas (Historical)**

Conservation Authority	S-C Area km ²	S-C Area %	S-C % of CA
LTVCA	82.503	29.99	2.522
UTRCA	20.558	7.47	0.601
SCRCA	172.062	62.54	4.168
Total	275.123	100	

0 2.5 5 7.5 10
KM

NOTE:
- Area calculated based on UTM NAD 83 Zone 17 geometry
- Conservation Authority boundaries based on Source Protection Region boundaries
Rev. 2018/0



**UTRCA - LTVCA Boundary Amendment Map (Context):
Proposed Boundary Adjustment**

Conservation Authority	S-C Area km ²	S-C Area %	S-C % of CA
LTVCA	82,077	29.83	2.510
UTRCA	20,984	7.63	0.613
SCRCA	172,062	62.54	4.168
Total	275,123	100	



NOTES:
 - Area calculated based on UTM NAD 83 Zone 17 geometry
 - Conservation Authority boundaries based on Source Protection Region boundaries
 Rev. 2018/01





**UTRCA - LTVCA Boundary Amendment Map (Detail):
Proposed Boundary Adjustment**

Conservation Authority	S-C Area km ²	S-C Area %	S-C % of CA
LTVCA	82.077	29.83	2.510
UTRCA	20.984	7.63	0.613
SCRCA	172.062	62.54	4.168
Total	275.123	100	



NOTES:
 - Areas calculated based on UTM NAD 83 Zone 17 geometry
 - Conservation Authority boundaries based on British Columbia Regional Boundaries
 - 2013 Imagery Copyright © Google's Provider for Ontario
 Rev. 201802



7.3) Joint Health & Safety Committee Minutes, November 3, 2016

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 3, 2016

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) was held November 3, 2016. Committee members present were: T. Casier, R. Dysarz, V. Towsley and A. Vriends.

Ministry of Labour Mandatory Training

At this time, all staff have been trained either through a power point presentation and videos or HRdownloads. New staff are trained using HRdownloads. There have been several updates and new requirements in 2016. Current staff will be required to complete refresher courses and the new required courses through HRdownloads by the end of 2016. This will ensure that all staff have received the same training moving forward.

Several employees have commented on the use of ears buds while working. A Headphone/Ear Buds at Work Policy is being drafted.

Site inspections of Big Bend, Skunk's Misery, Feasby, E. M. Warwick, Crane and Dutton Dunwich were conducted. See complete Workplace Inspection Recording Forms for details.

ITEMS NOTED IN RED and BOLD are considered to need immediate attention.

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: see below

Date/Time of Inspection: November 3, 2016

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
LOCATION	Big Bend	8:15 a.m.				
Washroom Janitor room	- electrical panel - items too close to panel - musty (mold) smell	- items to be no closer than 1 metre to the panel - mark a line on the floor with red paint/tape to indicate the restricted area - investigate	Mike Latham Dec 31/16			
Maple tree SW of washroom	- question whether it is dying	- keep an eye on it	Mike Latham			
Tree - 1st campsite by driveway	- dead	- remove	Mike Latham Mar 31/17			
LOCATION	Skunks Misery	9:51 a.m.				
- did not do trails	- know there is an ongoing issue		Randall VW/MEU			
- rest of area	- none noted					
LOCATION	Feasby	10:37 a.m.				
	- none noted					

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee
Workplace Inspection Record

Inspection Location: see below

Date/Time of Inspection: November 3, 2016

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
LOCATION Mess Hall - woodstove chimney - Cabin 3	E.M. Warwick - potential creosote buildup in top pipe - broken window	10:45 a.m. - clean pipe fix	Mike Latham prior to next use Mike Latham Dec. 31/16			
LOCATION ash tree near laneway	Crane - dead	11:22 - remove	Mike Latham Dec 31/16			
LOCATION	Dunwich - none noted	1:10 p.m.				

7.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes – November 24, 2016



Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

MINUTES

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, November 24, 2016. The following members were in attendance: D. McKillop, G. Bogart, 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 September 22, 2016 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) 5 Year Strategic Plan Review

2. G. Bogart - D. McKillop

Moved that the committee recommends to the LTVCA Board that the 5 Year Strategic Plan 2017-2021 be accepted as edited.

CARRIED

2.2) Ska-Nah-Doht Fund

Ska-Nah-Doht Fund total is \$23,690.15.

3. G. Bogart - D. Fallon

Moved that the committee receive the report for information.

CARRIED

2.3) Annual Policy Review

Three policies are scheduled for review - #2. Finance, #5. Interpretation & Education, and #6. Research.

4. D. Pearson - B. Bruinink

Moved that the committee review the 3 policies at the first meeting of 2017.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) Education Programs and Environmental Symposium

3.2) Community Museum Operation Grant (CMOG) 2015\2016

3.3) Preliminary 2017 Budget Draft

5. D. Fallon - B. Bruinink

Moved that the committee recommends to the LTVCA Board that the draft budget, in regard to the village, be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3.4) Taste of Fall Review

3.5) Ska-Nah-Doht Recognition Program

3.6) Nominations for Ontario Volunteer Awards Program

6. D. Pearson - D. McKillop

Moved that Mason Sands and Liam Sands be nominated for the Youth Award.

CARRIED

3.7) Upcoming 2016 Events

7. G. Bogart - D. Fallon

Moved that agenda items 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.7 be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Other Business

None

6. Next Meeting Date

8. D. Fallon - D. McKillop

Moved that the committee's first meeting be Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 2 p.m. in the Longwoods Resource Centre.

CARRIED

7. Adjournment

9. D. Pearson - G. Bogart

Moved that the meeting be adjourned

CARRIED

Don Fairbairn
Chair

Recommendation: *That the Board of Directors approve the recommendations from the Ska-Nah-Doht advisory committee.*



Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum

5 Year Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Prepared by:

K. Mattila

Editors:

L. Chelchowski

E. Pupinski

Presented to:

Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee

November 2016

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Our Mission Statement

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is an interactive museum that engages the public in the preservation and presentation of the local First Nation history, through experiences both on-site and in the community.

Our Vision Statement

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is a community leader in collection and preserving local history, while faithfully interpreting the Haudenosaunee -- people of the longhouse.

Our Values

Innovation: We are leaders in heritage interpretation through research and experimentation.

Introduction:

As we review the *Ska-Nah-Doht 3 Year Strategic Plan 2014-2016* we can celebrate the success of the Strategic Goals identified in the plan:

- ✓ Solidifying our Mission, Vision and Value statements
- ✓ Collaborated with the community stakeholders on the War of 1812 Diorama Project
- ✓ Recruited new Community members to the Advisory Committee
- ✓ Maintained dynamic programs including co-hosting the 2016 Environmental Symposium with the Thames Valley District School Board and 120 secondary school student participants
- ✓ Secured the Community Museum Operating Grant (Ontario Ministry of Culture)
- ✓ Continued as caretakers of the collections to museum standards
- ✓ Acquired funding for the *Heritage Build Project - 2016 Phase*, resulting in new outdoor village exhibits
- ✓ Created new 3 year Exhibit Plan and Social Media Plan
- ✓ Increased attendance at special events (numbers will be presented at the meeting).
- ✓ Recruited First Nations students on 2/3 summer grant positions
- ✓ Continued involvement in events in the community including local Pow Wow's and Sunfest (London)
- ✓ Increased revenues of the Turtle Gift Shop (numbers will be presented at the meeting).

At the same time, we recognize there is work to be done to continue the legacy of Ska-Nah-Doht. Areas identified require attention:

- Decreasing attendance in school programs
- Infrastructure, specifically aging buildings
- Alternative funding support systems for continuity and diversification of revenue sources:
 - Corporate partners and donors
 - Membership program
 - Signature revenue-generating events
 - Increasing paid attendance of existing events
- Recruiting members of the First Nations to Advisory Committee
- Engaging and representing diversity of our community
- Supporting staff professional development

We were ambitious with our 2014-16, but are pleased with the outcomes achieved. We are now in a good position to review and prioritize the above list for our next 5-year planning cycle. In 2017 Ska-Nah-Doht will be entering its 44th year since officially opening in September 1973. The Ska-Nah-Doht **5 Year Plan 2017-2021** will be a guide to achieving our next milestones in an attainable manner.

Governance:

Ska-Nah-Doht is owned and operated by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA). The Village Advisory Committee will meet, discuss and make recommendations to the LTVCA Board based on the Mission and Vision. The Board will approve and act on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, supporting and directing the staff on actions to further the goals of the Strategic Plan.

Strategic goals:

1. Community input

- The Village Advisory Committee will assist the LTVCA Board, staff and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation with a visioning process in 2017 followed by a Feasibility study for Longwoods/Ska-Nah-Doht.
- Actively recruit First Nations to fill positions on Village Advisory and sub-committee.

2. Raise awareness

Current programming

- Complete phase 2 of the *Heritage Build Project* in 2017.
- Celebrate Canada 150, featuring the success of the *Heritage Build Project* in 2017.
- Continue to execute on *2016-2018 Exhibit Plan (Appendix A)*.
 - Review and draft continuation of the plan for 2019-2021.
- Continue to execute on *2016-2021 Social Media Plan (Appendix B)*.

Future Programming

- Develop an *Environmental Heritage program* for 2017-18 school years, based on the presentation at the Environmental Symposium co-hosted with the Thames Valley District School Board in October 2016.
- Secure funding to bring in "Owls of North America" travelling exhibit from Royal Ontario Museum in 2018 (See *Capital projects* below).
- Investing in staff development through recognized conferences and programs such as those offered by Ontario Museum Association or the Canadian Museum Association.

3. Capital projects

- Museum/Resource centre redevelopment (dependent on Feasibility Study)
- Address the challenges of collection storage.
- Create space to accommodate travelling exhibits by 2018.
- Design an expanded gift shop in 2017.

4. Stable funding operations

- Continuing to build a financially stable organization by aggressively pursuing funding programs and grants.
- Developing a *Signature Fundraising Event* by 2018.
- Increasing revenues through greater paid attendance and by actively pursuing donations.



**Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum
Exhibit Plan
March 2016**

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is committed to providing high-quality visitor experiences for persons of all ages and abilities. This plan outlines exhibits for the next 3 years, including permanent exhibits, temporary exhibits and travelling displays.

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum will adhere to our Mission and Vision statements as well as all Museum policies. We will take into account the Ska-Nah-Doht *Accessibility Plan 2013* that features measures to ensure the best possible access to the Museums exhibits and programs in a manner that promotes dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity. The Museum, owned and operated by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA), must adhere to the Policies of the LTVCA. The Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum is located in Longwoods Road Conservation Area (LRCA) and must also adhere to the rules and regulations of LRCA.

This plan addresses the exhibit space currently located in Museum/Resource Centre but does not disregard the Village site, the Heritage Log Cabins and/or the 155 acre parklands of Longwoods, especially when developing programs and education for the exhibits.

**Year 1 – “Community Collections” exhibit
(June 2016)**

An exhibit featuring donated collections from the Museum’s holdings. Many of these are family donations that rarely go on display. This exhibit will include items such as the Ron Watts artifact “wheel” and the Walsh case. We expect these to draw attention to the exhibit and open the door for a dialogue on collecting.

Promoted on social media, we will invite donors to extend the invitation to family and friends, while ensuring we have an opportunity to donate financially to the Museum in a convenient setting.

This small-budget project requires a new coat of paint on case(s) and display boxes. Staff may be needed to re-hinge drawer system and assist with mounting framed artifact cases. Exhibit space will have to be shifted to accommodate accessibility and must be located on the main floor.

**Years 2 and 3 – “First Nations & New Comers” exhibit – Phase 1 featuring medicinal plants
(June 2017); “First Nations & New Comers” exhibit – Phase 2 featuring conflict and resolution
(June 2018)**

Years 2 and 3 work as complementary phases. A large-budget exhibit, the two-year period will require grant-based funding, including securing funding through *Canada 150*. Funding will provide much-needed support like audio-visual equipment, computers and interactive display screens. New cases will also be needed to accommodate the new technology.

“First Nations & New Comers” Exhibit – Phase 1 featuring medicinal plants

This exhibit will showcase First Nations and their role in assisting the New Comers in the New World. As soon as contact was made the First Nations introduced many new things; the use of furs, instructing which animals and plants to eat for survival but it is the introduction to natural medicinal plants that saved their lives.

Phase 1 will showcase medicinal plants found right on site. The case will have live specimens and change seasonally. The exhibit will make good use of the *Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail* system and its information. For example, the signage on the trail already includes First Nation medicinal use. It will be incorporated into educational material and promoted to teachers and educators, in addition to special interest groups and the general public.

“First Nations & New Comers” Exhibit – Phase 2 featuring conflict and resolution

Phase 2 of the exhibit will bring the First Nations & New Comers relationship into the present. A Research & Development team consisting of Ska-Nah-Doht staff, First Nations and Non-Native community leaders will take on this difficult theme. To be leaders in this undertaking, the team will be using interactive elements in the exhibit, including social media. It will be promoted to teachers and educators, as well as to the general public.

The end product will be an exciting and educational approach that we expect will gain positive reaction and interest from the public and the media.

**Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum
Draft 5 Year Social Media Content Plan – 2016-2021**

Current state: As of June 2016, Ska-Nah-Doht has a webpage on the LTVCA website, its own Facebook page and a Twitter account that is inactive. We view this as a significant opportunity to engage teachers, community members and tourism to garner media interest in the Village and Museum activities

Principles: Maintain up-to-date Village and Museum information on all websites and social media sites, including:

- Events – both pre- and post-event information
- School programs
- Timely and relevant media topics
- Use of hash tags for social media engagement

Success measures:

Develop baseline data throughout 2016 for website, Facebook and Twitter. Understanding ‘share’ activity, click through rates and repeat visits will help us to better understand our engagement with various audiences and help us to tailor social media strategy moving forward.

Audiences:

Teachers	
Top objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual research on school program offering• Booking school programs• Education material for in-class learning
Top obstacles to site use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information available on programs isn’t searchable• Few hand-outs and resource material for in-class use (not customizable)• Unable to book online – must be done via email or phone call

School-age youth	
Top objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just-in-time information for school reports, including video, info graphics and interactive tools• Variety of engaging media that can be easily shared
Top obstacles to site use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdated information• Slow system without search functions• Not interactive or shareable

Content schedule and inventory

Principles of content creation and use – will require attention and regular updates which may be executed by summer students and co-op student placements.

Content	Audience	Priority	Update frequency	Description
Educational programs	Teachers	High	Quarterly	Detailed descriptions of programs – include photos and social media tags from previous classes
In-class resources	Teachers	Medium	Quarterly	Job aids Curriculum content Educational support resources
Educational resources	School-age youth	High	Monthly	Text and photos Info graphics Videos
Events	General public	High	Rotating schedule of upcoming and future events	Dates and descriptions Discounts for advance purchase Photos from events past Testimonials from previous events
Advanced research resources	Researchers	Medium	Annually	Collections available for research, including photos and shareable media types

Twitter and Hash tags – Principles

Develop baseline for hash tag references that can be measured across various social media platforms.

- #Ska-Nah-Doht
- #SND
- #Longwoods

Listening program:

What to follow	Specific to you or your organization
BTB members	Increase our audience
HPMMN	Increase our audience
Board of education for TVDSB and other local boards	
LTVCA	
UTVCA	
Museum association	
Local tourism and special interest groups	Needs more research to understand this audience and identify relevant groups

Which Platforms for what goals:

Platform	Purpose and Strategy	Priority
Website	Easy teacher booking	High – for September 2017
Facebook	What's Up! Up-coming	Start now Weekly – Daily
Twitter	In the now – happening fast	ASAP - Daily for events and Weekly/Monthly for information
Snap chat – pictures & videos	In the now – happening even faster	New media for staff – to do for 2017-18
Look into other new social media:	Youth market	Research adding by next Social Media Plan review
Instagram	New audience	Research needed
YouTube	Increase use of this media	Start a.s.a.p.

More Comments/ Notes:

8. Business for Information

8.1) Water Management

Flood Forecasting and Operations

There have been no significant events from a Flood Forecasting and Operations perspective since the last Board of Directors meeting in October.

Flood Control Structures

Wet blade treatment for brush removal in the Indian-McGregor Creek Diversion Channel has been put off until next year as potential contractors did not return quotes in time.

Ice Management – Winter Outlook

Information provided as a Presentation.

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. From last October until March and again from July to August, the region was in a Low Water Level One condition. In September, the Low Water Level One Condition was lifted as precipitation and Thames River flows had improved. But in October, monthly average river flows had the region re-entering a Level 1 Low Water Condition. In November, river flows had recovered enough to not require a Low Water Condition, but a rainfall deficit is indicative of a Low Water Level 1 Condition. Therefore, The LTVCA will end 2016 under a Low Water Level 1 Condition. The socio-economic impacts of a Low Water Condition are lessened at this time of the year as the primary water users in the region are agricultural producers who aren't using significant amounts of water at this time of the year for irrigation purposes. 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.

Water Quality Monitoring

Typically, the Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN) program only collects samples between April and November at 11 stations (8 per month) on watercourses throughout the Lower Thames watershed. Starting earlier this year, a Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) grant allowed us to supplement this sampling so that 21 locations were being monitored per month. As the PWQMN sampling year has ended, sampling at the full 21 station is now being funded by the MOECC grant. Work is also ongoing to install an automated water quality sampler on an additional municipal pump drain.

Surface water quality monitoring also continues in the Jeanettes Creek watershed as part of our Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) project.

Another contract is in the works with the province for additional water quality monitoring associated with wetlands. Refer to the report in the Conservation Services section.

The last of the water quality sampling for 7 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells was completed last week. This program is designed to sample ambient groundwater conditions throughout the watershed and is not targeted at drinking water. There are no PGMN wells in the Dover Township area.

Thames River Clear Water Revival

Work continues on the Thames River Water Management Plan. There was a Steering Committee meeting held on December 2nd. A draft final set of recommendations has been reviewed by the Steering Committee and members are now taking them back to their respective administrations to ensure that they can be signed off on by all parties. The TRCWR will be sending a formal letter to Environment and Climate Change Canada seeking clarification around the long term status on the Thamesville automated water quality station and expressing its support for long term stable funding for the site.

Source Water Protection

There are some staffing changes going on in the Source Water Protection program. Michelle Fletcher, the current Source Protection Project Coordinator, is moving on and taking over the Aquatic Biologist position at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Jenna Allain will be taking over the Project Coordinator position at the beginning of January. Jenna has been with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's Source Water program for 8 years and has been coordinating their program for the last 4 years. Katie Ebel has been hired as a short-term Risk Management Official in order to handle the start-up risk management workload the Source Protection Region is now responsible for having contracted with the member municipalities for the service. She started November 14th.

The Clean Water Act had provisions for reducing the size of the SPC once the Source Protection Plans had been approved. The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region (TSR SPR) has submitted its recommendations for restructuring and is waiting for approval from the MOECC. Some delays have occurred as a change of Chair is also occurring and it was felt that these two changes needed to be coordinated. Under the restructuring there will be one municipal representative for Chatham-Kent, Essex and Elgin. Prior to the reduction the Chatham-Kent seat had been vacant for some time. As the person in the Elgin/Essex seat has been a very active member of the SPC, both Chatham-Kent and Essex were asked if they would be willing to have the existing Elgin/Essex member represent them until the seat next comes up for replacement in late 2017. Both municipalities agreed to this through council.

The MOECC is working on revising the Technical Rules for Assessment Reports pertaining to surface water intakes. A provincial working group was established to discuss and make recommendations. The recommendations are grouped in the following categories: 1) Intake Protection Zones (IPZs) delineation; 2) Intake Protection Zones vulnerability scoring; 3) Consideration of Climate Change impacts on IPZs; and 4) Consideration of the uncertainty level determined for IPZs on SPP policy decision making. These recommendations, if translated into technical rules, will not replace the existing prescribed methods or

approaches in the Rules but will allow for more flexibility to the SPAs to adopt other technical approaches that reflect the local characteristics and concerns of the drinking water systems. Further details can be provided upon request.

In order to facilitate Source Water Protection annual reporting by provincial ministries, municipalities, conservation authorities and other agencies, the MOECC is working on annual reporting requirements and standardized forms for annual reporting. A guidance and rationale document was presented at the last SPC meeting together with drafts of the reporting forms. They can be found in the SPC agenda online.

This month, the MOECC sent out applications to the Source Protection Regions requesting the work plan and associated budgets for the next fiscal year. TSR SPR staff are working on this package and expect to have it submitted by the end of December.

Information Technology

There have been no significant developments around the LTVCA's Information Technology upgrades since the last Board of Directors meeting in October.

8.2) Regulations and Planning

Planning and Regulations Policies and Operation Guidelines

Very few comments have been received to date on the Policy document. A comparison table was done up by staff to review what actually was changing from what we currently do to what is proposed in the new document (attached). Minor edits are being made as a result of staff reviewing the overall document and a revised Policy along with the comparison table will be sent out to our member municipalities, various agencies and NGO's as well as posted on the Conservation Authority's website for public review and comments. Once further comments have been reviewed by staff and noted and/or incorporated, meetings with interested municipalities will take place, with future open houses planned to take this back out to the community at a later date.

Regulations Enforcement

One enforcement site inspection has taken place since the last Board of Directors meeting.

One new violation (infilling of ravine spur) has been identified, with no inspection having taken place yet, and no notice of violation issued to date. This violation is in conjunction with another issue that regulation staff are dealing with for this landowner.

Regulation Permit Applications

As of today, there have been 255 permit applications in 2016. The previous record was 239 in 2013. We are setting a new LTVCA record.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
 Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.1 (1)	All development and site alteration proposed within the Regulation Limit shall require prior written approval from the Authority in accordance with Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Sections 3 & 6 of O.Reg 152/06 shall be consistent with the policies contained herein.	No	O.Reg. 152/06	
4.2.1 (2)	Development and site alteration shall be directed away from hazard lands where there is an unacceptable risk to public health or safety or property damage and shall be directed to areas located outside of the defined limits of the hazard.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Official Plans, Provincial Policy Statement	
4.2.1 (3)	Development and site alteration may only be permitted in hazard lands provided that all of the following conditions can be implemented to the satisfaction of the Authority: a) Appropriate floodproofing measures implemented, and safe access during times of flooding, erosion and other emergencies is provided for. b) No new hazards will be created and existing hazards will not be aggravated. c) No adverse environmental impacts will result. d) The development does not include the disposal, manufacture, treatment or storage of hazardous substances. e) The development will not have negative impacts on other properties.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	Not previously an explicitly stated policy. This is a high level policy recognizing previous individual hazard policies with requirements, etc.
4.2.1 (4)	The required setback for any development or site alteration, permitted in accordance with policies 4.2.1 (1, 2, and 3.), with the exception of watercourse alterations, will maintain a minimum setback in accordance with the related hazard. Dependent upon mapping, specific studies or other issues, exceptions may be considered on a site-specific basis. Additional setbacks may be required as per other agency guidelines.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	Not previously an explicitly stated policy. This is a high level policy recognizing previous individual hazard policies with various setbacks, exceptions, etc.
4.2.1 (5)	Accessory structures with a floor area less than 100 square feet (9.29 square metres) are exempt from these requirements and do not require a permit. Accessory structures with a floor area less than 100 square feet (9.29 square metres) are not allowed in the floodway area or on a slope, or to be located closer to the hazard than the existing structure.	Yes/No	Standard Practice	Not an explicitly stated policy.
4.2.1 (6)	Building additions, up to 20 percent of the size of the original ground flood area of a residential (excluding attached garages) building every 10 years, shall be exempt from the requirements for new buildings and can be permitted provided that the following conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed works are located outside of the floodway and/or stable slope allowance; • The original building to be expanded is not located within the floodway and/or slope allowance; • Number of dwelling units is not increased; • The floodproofing elevation must be no less than the original building; and • The setback from the watercourse or shoreline must be no closer than the original building. 	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	For Thames River floodplain, the previously allowed additions were up to 25% of the original ground floor area. All other areas were 20%. Now the policy had been modified to be consistent with all other areas.
4.2.1 (7)	Fencing is normally considered exempt from permission required under the Section 28 Regulation. However, the LTVCA reserves the right, in certain locations, to apply the requirements of the Section 28 Regulation. The LTVCA generally discourages fencing in natural hazard areas (i.e. floodway areas, unstable slopes, dynamic beaches and wetlands). Where necessary, fencing should be constructed in such a manner that it does not impede conveyance of flow of the watercourse and does not require the use of fill within flooding hazard limits and wetlands.	Yes		Related to a specific case/complaint. Not previously written down.
4.2.1 (9)	Applications under this policy will be ratified by the LTVCA's Board of Directors.	N/A		Policy being removed

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.2 (a)	Cut and fill activities generally shall not be permitted in the floodplain of any watercourse without appropriate supporting studies prepared by a qualified professional engineer.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
4.2.2 (b)	Where the flood plain of a watercourse has not been calculated, the Authority may require the applicant to prepare the calculations and mapping in accordance with flood plain mapping criteria established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.	Yes/No	Standard Practice	Not an explicitly stated policy.
4.2.2 (c)	Parking lots will only be considered within the flooding hazard limit in cases where the flooding hazard limit is within a not-apparent valley or in areas of existing development within the valley with acceptable access to the site. Parking lots associated with residential development must be located within 0.3 metres of the Regulatory Flood Elevation or the Maximum Observed Flood Elevation.	Yes/No		Historical practice other than the 0.3 m RFE.
4.2.2 (d)	Minor Works will be permitted within the flood plain subject to satisfying the Authority's requirements.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	
4.2.2 (e)	The use of the flood hazard limits for ongoing cropland, livestock feeding and grazing, orchards, and nurseries and associated activities such as plowing, and fencing are not considered site alterations. The construction of farm buildings may be considered within the flood fringe, where no site can be reasonably utilized for the proposed works outside of the flood fringe and where the structures will be floodproofed.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Standard Practice	Not an explicitly stated policy, but rather a summary of other policies and interpretations to apply to agriculture.
4.2.2.1 (1)	New development is not permitted within the floodway of any watercourse.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Standard Practice	
4.2.2.1 (2)	Major renovations including major structural changes/improvements to the existing structure (i.e. major changes to floor plans, roof lines, foundation, etc.) will be deemed new construction and will not be permitted within the floodway of any watercourse.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	Current policy describes what minor renovations will be allowed, thereby imply that major renovations won't be.
4.2.2.1 (3)	The construction of above-ground and in-ground swimming pools shall not be permitted in the floodway of any watercourse.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	Standard practice.
4.2.2.1 (4)	The following development projects and land use activities may be permitted within the floodway of a watercourse:			
	a) Open space uses not requiring a closed building such as agricultural cropland, livestock feeding and grazing, or open type public or private recreation areas. However, livestock crossings and accesses should be limited to specified points on the channel.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	Not an explicitly stated policy, but rather a summary of other policies and interpretations to apply to agriculture. Standard practice.
	b) The type of development or land uses that are normally associated with areas susceptible to flooding such as flood and erosion control structures, including berms and dykes; and buildings and structures essential to marine activities provided that such works do not significantly restrict the passage of flood waters or adversely redirect flows, and provided that any new or disturbed fill material is adequately protected or retained, in the opinion of the Authority, to prevent it from eroding into the watercourse, or is removed completely from the floodway.	No	Some 2012 Operational Guidelines and some Standard Practice	Not an explicit policy. Interpretation of several policies on a specific topic.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.2.1 (4) (cont'd)	c) Railroads, streets, bridges, and public services and pipelines of approved hydrological design.	Yes		No previous policies speak to public infrastructure.
	d) Excavation of materials providing that all generated material is removed from the floodway.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	e) Fences, walls or other appurtenances provided they would not constitute an obstruction or debris-catching obstacle to the passage of flood waters. Pre-consultation with Authority staff should be undertaken to ensure a permit is not required.	No		Repeat of Policy 4.2.1.7
	f) Landscaping, provided that the capacity of the floodplain to contain flood flows is not diminished.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	g) The maintenance and repair of an existing building if damaged to the extent of less than fifty percent of the appraised value of the structure. If the building has been damaged or destroyed by fire or other natural disasters to the extent of fifty percent or more of the appraised value of the structure, repair or reconstruction may be permitted: 1) Provided that it is reconstructed to withstand the Regulatory Flood Standard or the Shoreline Regulatory Flood Standard, whichever is the greater; 2) Provided that the usable floor area is not increased; and 3) Provided the use remains the same or becomes a use less affected by flooding.	Yes		Expansion upon existing hardship policy.
	h) Normal/typical maintenance and upkeep of an existing structure (i.e. new siding, replacement of windows, shingles) will be permitted provided the use of the structure has not changed and livable space does not increase.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	i) Stormwater drainage works such as open channels or pipe outlets provided such works are designed or certified by a qualified engineer so as not to increase flows which would adversely affect flooding conditions, considering the cumulative effects of all similar future works in the watershed and does not negatively impact surrounding neighbouring lots/ development.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	Falls under Drainage Act works.
4.2.2.2	The following development projects and land use activities may be permitted within the flood fringe of a watercourse or the floodplain of Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair (i.e. any floodprone area outside a watercourse floodway).			
a) Any development and use permitted in a watercourse floodway per Section 4.2.2.1.	No	Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	Not an explicitly stated policy.	
b) New buildings or structures, including additions which are not permitted in the floodway, provided that the following minimum criteria are met:	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines		
1) The entire new structure, including the foundation, footings and slab on grade, walls and other appurtenances, must be designed and constructed to withstand regulatory flood levels, including hydrostatic pressures of an elevated water table and the momentum of flood flows and to provide access during a flood. Normally this will require the lowest structural opening e.g. basement windows, crawl space vent, doorways, etc. to be above the Regulatory Flood Level. Typically, the finished grade for a minimum horizontal distance of 2 metres is to be at or above the Flood Level or the Maximum Observed Flood Level. Approved foundation designs, provided by a qualified professional engineer addressing hydrostatic pressure, may reduce the finished grade requirement. Regulatory flood levels are defined as the greater of:	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	Expanded wording on existing Policy.	

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
 Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.2.2 (cont'd)	i) 100 year or maximum observed flood level plus a freeboard of 0.3 metres in watercourses and lakeshore floodplains not subject to direct wave attack. (In areas subject to flooding from both watercourses and lakes, the higher of the two flood levels shall govern.)	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	
	ii) In lakeshore areas subject to direct wave attack, the regulatory flood level will be the 1:100 year or maximum observed plus wave run-up elevation as calculated for the specific site conditions. In the absence of site specific engineering data, a 0.3 metre free board above the 1:100 year beach run-up level will be used.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	
	2) Buildings or structures, or other uses normally permitted in the flood fringe, must be constructed with the first floor grade being above the regulatory flood levels.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	
	3) Non-habitable accessory buildings may be constructed with a floor elevation of 0.3 metres below the 1:100 year flood elevation provided:	Yes		Previously, there was no requirement on floor elevation. Will require a site elevation survey to establish ground elevation (permit fee should increase).
	· They are located outside of the floodway area,	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	· All mechanical, electrical, and heating equipment must be located above the regulatory flood datum, where allowed.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	· No building materials susceptible to flood damage located below the regulatory flood datum.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	4) Driveways, walkways and local roadways essential to ingress and egress, should be no lower than 0.3 metres below the regulatory flood level. We recognize that there are communities that currently do not meet this standard e.g. Lighthouse Cove.	Yes		
	5) All electrical equipment, circuits and installed electrical appliances shall be located so as not to be subject to flooding, or shall be floodproofed to prevent damage resulting from inundation by the regulatory flood levels.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	
	6) Stormwater drainage works servicing the new structures must be designed or certified by a qualified engineer such that there shall be no adverse effects on water quality and flooding conditions downstream due to increased flows from the development, accounting for the cumulative effect of all potential similar future land developments and associated drainage works in the watershed, for flows up to the Regulatory level.	Yes		Previously there were no policies on urban stormwater works. Expectation that municipality would demand proper engineering. Rural stormwater works covered under Drainage Act policies.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.2.2 (cont'd)	c) Chemical storage, explosive, buoyant, corrosive or flammable liquid storage will be discouraged wherever possible. When this is not possible, these types of materials must be adequately flood proofed to prevent flotation of tanks or other damage or escape into the flood waters of any materials.	Yes		
	d) Placement of fill provided such placement does not restrict the passage of flood waters or adversely redirect flows and provided that the fill is adequately compacted in lifts, retained or protected to prevent it from eroding into the watercourse or lake, and vegetated as soon as possible. (Excludes contractor's yards, gravel pits, nurseries or like businesses where spoil piles are left bare for access and reuse purposes.)	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	e) For new development, vehicular and pedestrian access must be safe, to an elevation within 0.3 metres of the Regulatory Flood Elevation or Maximum Observed Flood Elevation or as determined through use of the following documents: a) Technical Guide -River and Stream Systems: Erosion Hazard Limit and b) Technical Guide -River and Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit (Ministry of Natural Resources & Watershed Science Centre, 2002). Institutional buildings, servicing the sick, elderly, young or disabled (e.g. schools, hospitals), or essential public services (e.g. police, fire, ambulance) must meet the requirements listed under item (b), and the additional requirement that "dry" routes must be provided for ingress and egress (i.e. above regulatory flood levels).	Yes		
	f) Swimming pools will only be considered within the flood fringe hazard area where an alternative outside the flood plain does not exist. There must be no loss of flood storage or flood conveyance capacity due to the pool's construction, fencing or associated grading. Electrical servicing must be floodproofed. An assessment of potential hydrostatic pressures under both normal and flood conditions may be required. Spoil from the excavation should be removed completely from the site to an approved location.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Standard Practice	
	g) Golf course construction shall not be permitted in areas where the works may negatively impact on the floodway. Associated structures including clubhouse and maintenance buildings must be located above the Regulatory Flood Elevation and outside of any erosion hazard limit as well as the floodway. Watercourse crossings associated with golf course development shall be minimized and be designed by a qualified professional. Designs must take into consideration flood susceptibility, structural integrity in times of flooding, hydraulic capacity, fluvial geomorphic processes, approach ramp fill requirements and the potential for seasonal removal. Golf courses will only be approved by the LTVCA upon completion of an Environmental Impact Study by qualified professionals which considers, in addition to those items noted above, vegetation communities, buffer requirements, stormwater management opportunities, erosion and sediment control requirements, site drainage and grading, integrated pest management opportunities, water taking requirements and other areas of concern identified through a scoping exercise.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Standard Practice	Interpretation of previous policies related to a particular topic. Form of development covered elsewhere.
	h) Consistent with Policy 4.2.1 and subject to policies in 4.2.3.1, stormwater management facilities shall be directed, where possible, to areas located outside of the defined limits of the natural hazard. Additionally, SWM facilities and associated measures may only be permitted in the flood plain if it can be demonstrated that there is a net public benefit in selecting the flood plain location, and if all other potentially viable locations have been dismissed (on technical / environmental basis). The following principles will be considered when assessing such proposals: 1. The location of the SWM facilities in the flood plain will have no impact on natural hazard management or fluvial processes, while still maintaining its intended functions; 2. The location of SWM facilities in the flood plain will result in a net ecological benefit for the planning and catchment area, it is shown to improve habitat and storage of flood flows e.g. wetland creation; 3. Cultural benefits from the location of SWM facilities in the flood plain are accrued but encroachment in the flood plain cannot be justified solely on the merit of cultural benefits; 4. The SWM facilities must meet design and maintenance performance requirements for the receiving watercourse;	Yes	2012 Operational Guidelines, Standard Practice	Previously, no SWM policies. Form of development covered elsewhere.

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.2.2 (cont'd)	<p>5. SWM facilities must satisfy the approval requirements of the local municipality, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and other affected environmental approval agencies; and</p> <p>6. On-line SWM facilities will only be considered in the context of a current subwatershed plan and where the facility is within a not-apparent valley, where no fish habitat exists and no adverse environmental impacts will result from the works.</p> <p>i) Storage yards, parking areas for equipment, vehicles and materials, provided they are properly anchored to prevent their transportation downstream during flood conditions into bridges or other debris-catching areas or removable within the limited time available after a flood warning or not subject to major damage by floods. No storage of explosive pollutant, buoyant, corrosive, or flammable liquid materials which may be dangerous shall be permitted. This does not include spoil, dirt or other stockpile materials that cannot be easily moved.</p>	Yes	2012 Operational Guidelines, Standard Practice	Previously, no SWM policies. Form of development covered elsewhere.
4.2.3 (1)	<p>As per Policy 4.2.1, a new building or addition may be permitted:</p> <p>i) Near a slope, embankment or shoreline which exhibits signs of instability and/or erosion, provided that it is set back a horizontal distance measured from the toe of the slope which allows for 100 times the estimated annual recession rate plus a stable slope allowance of three times the height of the bank/bluff.</p> <p>ii) Where a bank has been determined to be stable with no erosion potential in the next 100 years by a qualified engineer, the horizontal setback requirement would be equal to 8 metres plus the depth of the watercourse, to a maximum setback of 15 metres measured from the top of the bank.</p> <p>iii) For inland canal systems, the minimum setback is 7.6 metres from the top of the bank provided that there is sufficient erosion protection along the canal. If no erosion protection is in place, the setback requirement is 10 metres from the top of the bank.</p>	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
4.2.3 (2)	Major renovations including major structural changes/improvements to the existing structure (i.e. major changes to floor plans, roof lines, foundation, etc.) will be deemed new construction and will not be permitted within stable slope and the 100 year erosion allowance. Normal/typical maintenance and upkeep of an existing structure (i.e. new siding, replacement of windows, shingles, etc.) will be permitted provided the use of the structure has not changed and additional living space (For example, new bedrooms) has not been created.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines, Standard Practice	Current policy describes what minor renovations will be allowed, thereby imply that major renovations won't be.
4.2.3 (3)	No fill will be permitted to increase the grade of the slope to a point greater than 3:1 (Horizontal: Vertical).	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
4.2.3 (4)	<p>In specific cases where buildings, structures or private access roads already exist, reconstruction or alteration may be permitted subject to the following:</p> <p>a) Best efforts must be undertaken to relocate the existing structures and/or access route outside of the Regulation Limit.</p> <p>b) A qualified professional must complete a geotechnical study to determine the risk of the proposed work. The study will include an assessment of the stability of the slope, rate of erosion or recession of the slope, access issues and an assessment of the construction technique on the slope. The design of any works must ensure that the long-term stability of the slope is maintained and that no risk to life or property damage is anticipated.</p> <p>c) No adverse environmental impacts to existing natural features and functions.</p> <p>d) The work can be undertaken without the installation of shoreline structures (i.e. hardening of the shoreline).</p>	Yes/No	Standard Practice	
4.2.3 (5)	Other types of proposed development projects will be assessed on a site specific basis.	No		Implied.
4.2.3.1	<p>Permits are required from the Conservation Authority for alterations to waterways and shorelines. These activities include but are not limited to:</p> <p>- breakwalls,</p>	No	O.Reg. 152/06	

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.3.1 (cont'd)	- other similar marine works on or near banks or shorelines of watercourses or lakeshores, - docks, - stairs on bluffs/banks, - boat ramps, boat lifts, boat houses, - dredging - revetments, rubble steel groynes, jetties, etc.	No	O.Re.g 152/06	
4.2.3.1	Any proposed work must comply with the following guidelines:			
	a) Works on or near watercourses must not adversely restrict the passage of flood waters or adversely redirect flows.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	
	b) Where protective works are being installed the works must be designed or certified by a qualified engineer in accordance with Sections 4.2.2 and 4.2.3.	Yes		Previous policy did not require engineer.
	c) Works on watercourses and lakeshores must not adversely affect other neighbouring properties. A qualified professional typically a Drainage Engineer or Coastal Engineer is required to address impacts.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines	Previous policy did not require engineer.
	d) Shoreline construction activities may be affected by Section 14 of the Public Lands Act and/or Section 35 of the Fisheries Act. Additional authorizations and/or compensation agreements may be required. Approvals from these agencies will be required as part of the Authority's complete application process.	Yes/No	Standard Practice	While previous policy did not require MNRF or DFO pre-approval, LTVCA staff have encouraged applicants to obtain other agency's approval/comment first.
	e) Dredging proposals will be reviewed in accordance with the above. In addition, concerns for fish habitat management requirements subject to DFO approval will also need to be addressed. Sediment sampling and testing may be a requirement of approval depending on underlying sediment type and upstream drainage conditions. Side casting of sediment will not be approved. Sand on sand disposal options in open lake areas will be considered subject to MNRF and DFO requirements/ approvals.	Yes/No	Standard Practice	Not an explicitly stated policy.
	f) Typically, docks must be of a floating or pile type construction. Approval of a dock must have regard for existing structures located both updrift and downdrift of the proposed dock. Site specific review may be required by Transport Canada. In addition, depending on the proposal, the applicant may be required to have a qualified professional engineer design the structure.	Yes	Standard Practice	No previous dock policy.
	g) Stairs or other access facilities proposed on a slope or bluff are required to be designed by a qualified professional engineer.	Yes/No	Standard Practice	Differs from the 2012 Operational Guidelines but has been a requirement by LTVCA staff for the last couple of years.
	h) No negative impacts as a result of the works should infringe on the natural features or on the ecological functions, including fish and wildlife requirements as set out by other federal, provincial or municipal legislation/plans/technical guidelines and a net environmental benefit is achieved.	N/A	Standard Practice	Not our jurisdiction to Regulate. Need to remove policy.
	i) Geotechnical issues are addressed to the satisfaction of the Authority.	No	Standard Practice	
	j) Adequate sediment and erosion control measures are incorporated and utilized during the construction phase and maintained throughout construction phase of the work and left in place until the site is rehabilitated and/ or stabilized back to or better than existing conditions. All devices must be removed once site stabilization has occurred.	No	Standard Practice	Part of permit approval process (conditions).

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.3.1 (cont'd)	k) Notwithstanding the above noted policy, bridges and other major structures proposed on municipal drains will require prior written approval from the Conservation Authority.	No	O.Reg. 152/06	
	l) Minor flood plain and watercourse alterations will be evaluated on an individual basis, having consideration for the following: 1. No negative impacts on the natural features or on the ecological functions, including fish and wildlife requirements as set out by other federal, provincial or municipal legislation/plans/technical guidelines and a net environmental benefit is achieved; 2. Maintenance of the natural topography of the watercourse system, flood conveyance and flood storage; 3. No adverse impacts on fluvial processes; 4. No adverse impacts on groundwater recharge/discharge; 5. Geotechnical issues are addressed; 6. Implementation of recommendations within LTVCA-endorsed watershed or subwatershed studies or Environmental Assessment; 7. Waters are not directed to different watersheds without prior studies outlining impacts to both systems.	N/A	Standard Practice	Not really a policy but rather a description of our concerns.
	m) The Authority encourages the retention of all watercourses and adjacent resource areas in their natural state.	N/A	Standard Practice	Not really a policy but rather a description of our concerns.
	n) The Authority generally does not support the construction of in-stream, by-pass and connected ponds which link directly into a watercourse.	N/A		Not really a policy but rather a description of our concerns.
	o) Dugout ponds and off-line by-pass ponds may be permitted within the flooding hazard limit if it can be shown that the following general and specific requirements can be satisfied: 1) No negative impact on natural features and ecological functions; 2) No negative impacts on water quality, including thermal pollution; 3) All fill, including dredged material is removed from the flood hazard limit; 4) No net loss of wildlife habitat; 5) No impacts on flood plain fluvial processes; and 6) Buffer is maintained between the waterbody and the pond so as not to create bank instability of either the waterway or the pond.	Yes/No	Standard Practice	Some may be considered old policy but some of this is new.
4.2.4	Any new construction will be required to be located outside of the wave uprush zone and the dynamic beach allowance and be suitably floodproofed. Proposed new construction will be encouraged to locate outside of the dynamic beach region, if this is not possible then the proposed construction will be required to not be lakeward of the rear building line of adjacent properties. The proponent shall be required to install engineered footings and foundations. No basements will be allowed in Erieau, Rose Beach Line, Erie Shores Drive, or Detroit Drive.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Provincial Policy Statement, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	
4.2.5	New development and site alteration is not permitted in wetlands. Some restricted works may be permitted provided that they are supported by an Environmental Assessment. New drainage works (private and municipal) such as open ditches and agricultural field tiling are considered development. New drainage works within a PSW or wetland will not be permitted due to the negative impacts that would result to the hydrological functions of the system. Permission must be obtained prior to commencement of the development/site alterations.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Provincial Policy Statement	Previous Policy allowed development in LSW.
4.2.5.1	Consistent with the Provincial standards, and to ensure wetland protection, a standard Area of Interference has been applied to mapping of wetlands at a planning level. The Area of Interference for all Provincially Significant Wetlands is 120 metres and within 30 metres of all other wetlands.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, O.Reg. 152/06	

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.5.1 (1)	Development and site alteration within the area of interference of a wetland shall only be permitted by the Authority if the applicant can demonstrate that such activity will have no impact on the control of flooding, erosion, pollution or the conservation of land. This will involve a process where LTVCA and the proponent (with the help of a qualified professional as required) will assess a proposed undertaking, having regard for the sensitivity of the wetland features and functions, the extent of encroachment and impact of use. This initial assessment will assist in determining the need for an EIA as well as the permitting requirements pursuant to Ontario Regulation 152/06. If the Authority determines that an EIA is required, the terms of reference including the need for a hydrologic study, and scoping (scoped EIA vs. full EIA) will be prescribed as part of the permitting requirements. The EIA shall be prepared by a qualified professional and demonstrate that there will be no negative impact on the hydrologic functions of the wetland as a result of the proposed development.	No	O.Reg. 152/06	Expansion of description.
4.2.5.1 (2)	Drainage works within the adjacent lands of a wetland may be allowed subject to studies showing no negative impacts.	Yes	Standard Practice	As previous policy only said what was allowed and drainage works not listed, they were forbidden.
4.2.5.1 (3) (A)	Within 30 metres:			
	i) No new development and site alteration shall be permitted within 30 metres of a Provincially Significant Wetland unless it can be demonstrated through an EIA that there will be no negative impact on the hydrologic functions of the wetland as a result of the proposed development and no negative impacts to the development or surrounding lands as a result of the proposal.	No	O.Reg. 152/06, Provincial Policy Statement, Standard Practice	
	ii) Where buildings and structures already exist within 30 metres of a Provincially Significant Wetland, any reconstruction, alteration or additions may be permitted if it can be demonstrated through an EIA that there will be no negative impact on the hydrologic functions of the wetland as a result of the proposed development.	No	O.Reg. 152/06	
	iii) Where there is an existing lot of record, in existence prior to the adoption of these policies and where no land exists outside of the 30 metre area of interference, development and site alteration may be permitted within 30 metres of a Provincially Significant Wetland if it can be demonstrated through an EIA that there will be no negative impact on the hydrologic functions of the wetland as a result of the proposed development and no negative impacts to the development or surrounding lands as a result of the proposal.	Yes	O.Reg. 152/06	
	iv) All development and site alteration approved through the above EIA process will require a permit pursuant to Ontario Regulation 152/06.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, O.Reg. 152/06	
4.2.5.1 (3) (B)	Between 30 & 120 Metres			
	i) Development and site alteration may be permitted within 30 to 120 metres of a Provincially Significant Wetland if it can be demonstrated that there will be no negative impact on the hydrologic functions of the wetland as a result of the proposed development and no negative impacts to the development or surrounding lands as a result of the proposal. A scoped study may be required depending on site conditions.	No	O.Reg. 152/06	
	ii) All development and site alteration approved through the above EIA process will require a permit pursuant to Ontario Regulation 152/06.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, O.Reg. 152/06	
4.2.5.1 (4)	The following policies apply to regulating development and site alteration on lands located within 30 metres of Other Wetlands:			
	i) Development and site alteration may be permitted within 30 metres of other Wetlands if it can be demonstrated through an EIA that there will be no negative impact on the hydrologic functions of the wetland as a result of the proposed development.	No	O.Reg. 152/06	
	ii) Any development and site alteration approved through the above EIA process will require a permit pursuant to Ontario Regulation 152/06.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, O.Reg. 152/06	

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
 Summary of Draft Regulations Policies

Section	Policy	New (Yes/No)	Previous Reference	Additional Comments
4.2.5.1 (4) (cont'd)	iii) The Authority may upon review, issue permission if, in the opinion of the Authority staff, the proposed undertaking will have no impact on the control of flooding, erosion, pollution or the conservation of land.	No	O.Reg. 152/06	
	No additional shoreline protection structures be permitted along the high bluff coastline.	Yes	Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan, Provincial Policy Statement, O.Reg. 97/04	
	In the absence of detailed site specific geotechnical studies to define the stable slope angle along the 90 km study limits, the standard 3:1 (Horizontal to Vertical) setback will be adopted for this SMP. Changes in the bluff crest elevation should be used to determine transitions in the width of the horizontal setback.	No	2012 Operation Guideline, O.Reg. 152/06	
	It is important to note, as outlined in the Technical Guide (MNRF, 2001a), that the regulated hazard limits are generally to be mapped based on the assumption of no shoreline protection works in place. The clearly stated intent is that the mapped flooding, erosion, and dynamic beach hazard limits are to represent the underlying, ambient nature of the hazard and should not be modified by the presence of existing or proposed shoreline protection.	No	MNRF Technical Guide, Standard Practice	Not an explicitly stated policy.
	Development should not be permitted within the stable slope allowance.	Yes	Elgin County Shoreline Management Plan, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	
	Future development [in LTVCA High Bluff areas] should be directed to areas outside of the shoreline hazard, as defined by the erosion hazard limit. Existing buildings that are threatened by slope instability or erosion should be relocated away from these natural hazards.	No	2012 Operational Guidelines, Technical Guide for Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Shorelines	

Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses

Staff Report

LTVCA Regulation Log Book 2016

B.D. 12/15/16

APP#	LOCATION	TOWN /CITY	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
173-2016	1928 Ocean Boulevard	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Aug 18, 2016
234-2016	29298 Thomson Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Oct 18, 2016
235-2016	24122 Poppe Road	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 19, 2016
236-2016	Thibault Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 18, 2016
237-2016	Dick Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 18, 2016
238-2016	Leitch Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 19, 2016
239-2016	Finn Line Bridge over Government Drain #1	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 03, 2016
240-2016	21097 Campers Cove Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 03, 2016
241-2016	11493 Rondeau Drive	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 03, 2016
242-2016	6193 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 03, 2016
243-2016	Phipps Drain East	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 07, 2016
244-2016	Branch "A" of the McFarlane Extension Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Nov 09, 2016
245-2016	McKillop-Drummelsmith Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Nov 09, 2016
246-2016	10959 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 09, 2016
247-2016	Brooker Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: Nov 10, 2016
248-2016	11459 Lagonda Way	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 14, 2016
249-2016	21950 Tecumseh Road	Tilbury North	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Nov 18, 2016
250-2016	21426 Lynn Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 22, 2016
251-2016	Burk Drain Extension	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 21, 2016
252-2016	6236 Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 23, 2016
253-2016	Forbes Drain 1981 Lower Portion	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Nov 22, 2016
255-2016	20844 Cooks Road	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Construction	Granted: Nov 24, 2016

Recommendation:	That applications 173-2016, 234-2016 to 253-2016, and 255-2016 be ratified.
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8.3) Conservation Areas

2016 October 1 – November 30 Visitation / Camping Stats

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 5,860 people (5,030 in 2015)

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

Pay and Display Permits - 436 vehicles (441 in 2015)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 487 (485 in 2015)

Big Bend Conservation Area – 350 people (461 in 2015)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 4,199 (241 in 2015)

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

Pay and Display Permits – 180 vehicles (157 in 2015)

2016 Annual Season's Passes - 36 have been sold at time of writing. The \$60 passes for 2017 are for sale at the Administration Building, C.M. Wilson and Longwoods Road Conservation Areas. They are good for free day use at Longwoods, C.M. Wilson and Big Bend Conservation Areas. They have been advertised for sale on the website, Facebook and Twitter.

2016	SUMMARY
34	Staff
15	Directors, Village Committee
6	sold at Wilson
1	2nd vehicle permit for above
4	sold at Admin
2	2nd vehicle permit for above
14	sold at Longwoods
9	2nd vehicle permit for above
54	Wilson Seasonal
0	Big Bend Seasonal
4	tenants - Wilson/Longwoods
7	Donated
150	PERMITS

Skunk's Misery / Mosa Forest

New gates, fencing and signage has been installed at both the County Road 14 access (picture on the right) as well as at the former parking area off of Centreville Drive (picture on the left) locations. These installations will hopefully reduce and/or eliminate the damage that is occurring to our trail system through this significant wetland/woodlot as a result of the current unauthorized use by ATV and 4-wheel drivers.



Unfortunately, the Centreville Drive gate has already been vandalised. Staff are brain storming with MEU personnel to determine alternate forms of blocking entry into this significant woodlot/wetland by ATV's and 4-Wheelers. MEU have contacted the OPP and this incident is being investigated.



Courey Islands

This recently acquired Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) is undergoing Phragmites Australis removal. This is comprised of rolling, burning and spraying Glyphosate (Round up) on the Tall Reed Grass. This stresses the plant out, and allows native plants that are in the seed bank to establish and re-populate.

Walter Devereux

In preparation for the 25 acres of land to be leased out, the tall grass prairie was bailed and sold to an area livestock owner for bedding. An application has been submitted to the CK Trails Council for the creation of an interpretive trail system throughout the LTVCA's property as well as the adjacent municipal forest known as the *Reynold's Tract*.

McGeachy Pond

Phragmites Australis is a problem at this property as well. A CK Fire Plan is in place, with the Erieau Station committed to being part of the burn day. Once the tall reed is burned off, staff will raise the water level (using the control structure), which will "drown out" the Phragmites and further stress the plant out.

Two Creeks CA

The Friends of Two Creeks Association have been very busy the last few months, undertaking the repair and/or replacement of three bridges along the walking trails and over the East Branch of Two Creeks.

After



The **Walnut Bridge** has a brand new deck and new railings, which it never had in the past. This bridge is fully accessible along this winding trail system. The previous structure (below) was definitely a safety concern.

Before



The **Hummingbird Bridge** was previously a deck structure over a small cut draining the farm field to the east. The deck was in poor condition, with erosion occurring along the lips of both sides of the bridge. This decking has been completely removed and replaced by a steel culvert with rock rip-rap end treatment.

Before



After



After



And the feather in the cap effort for the Association is the fantastic new bridge crossing the East Branch of Two Creeks formerly known as the Pembina Bridge, now renamed as the **Pearce Bridge**. The previous structure (below) was knocked off its moorings and went for a short trip downstream during a spring freshet event, rendering this structure unsafe for public use. The new bridge is anchored back on concrete blocks and consists of a steel frame and new wood deck.

Before



Note: It is felt that a letter of recognition and appreciation for the Two Creeks Association volunteer members should be sent out at this time to thank them for their on-going efforts to improve this area and make it a safe and enjoyable destination point for people in the community and surrounding areas to go to.

Enforcement on CA lands

MEU conducted several patrols throughout Nov 5 & 6 2016. MEU encountered several hunters while conducting these patrols spoke with all parties a total of 11 persons all had valid hunting licences and were well aware of hunting regulations about hunting on LTVCA property. All were found to be hunting on Middlesex County property in the area and private property in the area.

We saw a lot of horse trail riders throughout patrols, over 20 at one point, a large group who were riding on LTVCA property and Middlesex County property in the area. The one group did help MEU officers escort 3 ATV drivers caught in bush area. All were spoken to and given information contact cards etc., and also thanked for their assistance with ATV's.

We did also catch 3 ATV drivers that were on LTVCA property but had crossed into county property, they were caught because of the horse riders in area they had startled one horse and female was bucked from horse, no injuries. But they were helpful in getting out the ATV drivers to MEU officers, all their information was taken and can be provided to county if needed but they were given the speech, we also had one lone dirt bike rider and girlfriend riding on Centerville Rd stopped no plates insurance etc.

We did find evidence at the one entrance off Centerville road and more trash/debris, we will have to plan an evening shift it would appear we have some party having fire and drinking a few beers.

Was a very busy weekend in this location.

MEU have also done random patrols in other conservation areas while on patrols for various municipalities.

MEU staff have been cooperative with other agencies such as MNR and OPP on various occasions and are developing good relationship with other agencies and the public.

Just so the board is aware there are about 12 hours of extra patrols besides dedicated shifts.

8.4) Conservation Services

Current Grant Submissions

- LSHRP – Land Stewardship Habitat Restoration Fund: \$20,000 to go toward a Core Area enhancement project on the Ridge near Clear Creek Forest.
- GLGCF – Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund: \$25,000 to go toward habitat and water quality on Simpson Farm in Southwest Middlesex.
- NWCF – National Wetland Conservation Fund: \$100,000 to go toward 10 wetland projects watershed wide. Allocations are determined by Municipal voting weight. (e.g. 58% of funds would go into Chatham-Kent).
- HSP – SAR Stream – Habitat Stewardship Program – Species at Risk Stream: \$100,000 to go toward 10 stewardship projects watershed wide. Allocations are determined by Municipal voting weight. (e.g. 58% of funds would go into Chatham-Kent).
- MNRF – Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry: \$70,000 to go toward wetland or upland habitat projects primarily in Chatham-Kent with a focus on the mouth of the Thames.
- Loblaw Water Fund: \$10,000 Tree of the Year Program.
- WHC- Wetland Habitat Canada: \$30,000 for The Wetland Program in Chatham-Kent.

Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy

General Program Update

- The report on Forest Cover in Chatham-Kent has been completed. Chatham-Kent' has 4.45% forest cover. Currently, preparations for the spring season are under way. Promotional campaign is being worked out (mail-outs, radio spots, farm organizational event scheduling, work shop preparation).



Figure 1 Jeff Jacks Plantation featured on the 2016 Tour

Forestry

- 61 ha of reforestation was completed in 2016. Interviews are being held for Amanda's maternity replacement. The candidate will begin in the New Year.
- The new database is up and running. It works well but we are working out minor glitches and shaping the program as we use it.
- Trees are on order and projects are trickling in.

Wetlands

- 18ha of wetlands have been created or restored in 2016. The Groenewegen wetland complex in the Rondeau Bay area was recently completed
- Nine wetland sites within the Rondeau Bay have been selected for monitoring agriculture run-off and the efficiency of constructed wetlands to mitigate nutrients. This project is sponsored by OMAFRA.



Figure 2 Ed Roodzant Erosion Control and Wetland Rodney in West Elgin

- Phragmites control is ongoing

Prairie

- 15.2ha of prairie have been planted so far in 2016. Large prairie components are becoming a popular element with our wetland sites. Typically we create wetland cells along with 3 times more upland habitat. Generally, prairie is planted on the disturbed soils from excavations.
- Currently, Ontario Native Scape is looking into helping manage existing and plant more public spaces with prairie.



Figure 3 Jack Koopman's Restoration Project (2016 stewardship award winner)

Current Partnerships

Landowners

Enbridge

Nature Conservancy Canada

Ducks Unlimited

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs

Sunrise Rotary

Species at Risk Drainage Biologist

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has followed up on funding status and confirmed that there have been delays in processing Section 11 funding proposals. The original submission included a contingency for funding to extend into year two to complete conservation agreement negotiations. The 2nd year clause has now been formalized, meaning that funding will be extended to the end of March 2018 (rather than 2017) to complete discussions. The LTVCA has adjusted and resubmitted the budget to establish a two-year funding proposal.

Five wetland projects have been completed in partnership with MNRF to complement the Riparian Buffer Improvement program within the Rondeau Bay subwatershed. Phragmites control efforts have ceased until frost when the ground is suitable for rolling standing dead.

In addition to the Section 11 Agreement, a funding proposal has been submitted to the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund. Current applications include assisting Delaware Nation at Moraviantown complete a proposal for Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk.

Eastern District-Land Stewardship Technician

With our increased levy a new position has been created out of the *Longwoods Resource Centre*. The Land Stewardship Technician will work directly with the landowner's and the farm community in the east end of the watershed to implement tree and prairie plantings, wetlands and assist other staff with grant writing.

OMAFRA COA - Agricultural BMP's

\$130,000 confirmed funding towards creating a Farm Demo Site at Walter Devereux CA, human resources to continue the work of our Agricultural Program Coordinator, and outreach and education of the farm community that will address the Lake Erie Phosphorous issue.

OMAFRA COA - Wetland Monitoring

\$125,000 confirmed funding that will support LTVCA staff with the installation of ISCO water samplers, collection of samples, lab analysis on 9 wetlands that will provide useful data on the effectiveness of wetlands reducing phosphorous from our waterways.

GLASI Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed Project Update

Over 50 applications have been received by staff for BMP work in the Jeanette's Creek Study area. Landowners can apply for a variety of tools that will assist them with minimizing phosphorous run off on their farms. Items include: cover crops, equipment upgrades, alternative phosphorous application practices, crop and field nutrient management plans, and drainage and water management, buffer strips and conservation tillage.

Eastern district Land Stewardship Technician

With an increase to our levy we were able to hire Dan Brinkman, who will work out of the Longwoods Resource Centre. Dan will work directly with landowners and farmers that wish to naturally restore their properties through tree planting, tall grass prairie and wetland excavations. We wish to welcome Dan to our team and look forward to improving our watershed in the East.



8.5) Community Relations

- **Media releases** are written as needed to focus attention on 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 (Clerks, Councils, CAO's), Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee, LTVCA staff, neighbouring Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario.
 - o 3 media releases have been written and distributed since the last meeting as of November 1, 2016 (see attached)
- 2017 Season's Passes for Sale – November 1
- Season's Greetings Event at Longwoods – November 17
- LTVCA Stewardship Programs for 2017- December 1

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.



Lower Thames Conservation
for a healthier and healthy watershed

Media Release
For Immediate Release
November 1, 2016

2017 LTVCA Season's Day Use Passes On Sale!

The 2017 Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Day Use Season's Passes are now on sale! \$60 will permit free day use entrance into Longwoods Road, Big Bend and O.M. Wilson Conservation Areas throughout the year.

Purchase your 2017 Season's Pass - available Monday-Friday, 9-4:30 p.m. at our Administration Building at 100 Thames Street in Chatham, or the Resource Centre in Longwoods Road Conservation Area at 8368 Longwoods Road, Mount Brydges. Great gift ideas! (not valid for camping or some special events/programs).

For Further Information Contact:
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
info@ltsva.ca www.ltsva.ca

To download a Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario please visit <http://www.ontariocanconservationareas.ca/>

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100 Henry Street, Chatham, ON N7C 2J6 • www.ltsva.ca
Phone: 519-354-7111 • Fax: 519-352-0415 • Email: admin@ltsva.ca



Lower Thames Conservation
for a healthier and healthy watershed

Media Release
For Immediate Release – November 17, 2016

Enjoy An Afternoon Full of Family Activities that will Leave You in the Winter Spirit!
"Season's Greetings" from Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum!

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority brings "Season's Greetings" to you all at Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum on Sunday, November 27 from noon until 4 pm. Enjoy an afternoon of family activities that will be sure to leave you in the winter spirit! - Just \$4 per vehicle! Cash or credit card at the Pay and Display Machine at the Entrance.

Take a Horse Drawn Wagon Ride through the park... pulled by a team of majestic Belgian horses from Bar H Ranch of Melbourne! Hot food makes from the Mount Brydges Lions Club! And listen to the Songs of the Season with "Imagine That" Quartet!

Recycle those old Greeting Cards into seasonal crafts! Bring out your own old cards or use some of ours! We will have glue and supplies for you in the Resource Centre to design your own unique creation to take home! Great for the kids!

Take a Tree for the Birds! Don't forget to share some goodies with the birds at Longwoods! Create many wildlife treats inside a cozy log cabin. Materials supplied. Then outside, trim a tree with your goodies for our feathered friends and other wildlife! (a parent/teen activity)

Shop in the Resource Centre for that one of a kind Holiday gift! Featuring "The Glass Tree - Shined Glass Designs" by local artist Elva Papinski and Longwoods "Turtle Trail Gift Shop" - Reesleak, Stained Glass, Leather Craft.

Learn about Feeding Winter Birds Outside at our Feeder Station. Then enjoy a Guided Family Friendly Nature Walk along the Casey-Carrollian Adventure and Trail! Warm up afterwards with a hot chocolate!

For further information call (519) 264-3420.
Longwoods Road Conservation Area is located at 8368 Longwoods Road, 5.5 km west of Oshawa, just southeast of Mount Brydges.
info@ltsva.ca www.ltsva.ca

To download a Guide to Conservation Areas in Ontario please visit <http://www.ontariocanconservationareas.ca/>

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ALSO IN ELGIN COUNTY!
 Alternative Land Use (ALU) is a community-developed, farm-based program that provides support to farmers and ranchers in income and maintain future benefits on the working landscape. ALU targets agricultural producer land that is environmentally sensitive across significant, marginal land, or inaccessible lands.

OLJAE - Annette Creek Phosphorus Reduction and Monitoring Program
 The Annette Creek Phosphorus Reduction and Monitoring Program is an innovative approach to reducing phosphorus inputs to the lake and water quality. Reductions in edge-of-field losses of soil and nutrients, with a focus on phosphorus will be measured. The soil is addressed by riparian strip management, best agricultural best management practices (BAMP) in the Annette Creek Watershed. The goal is to observe cumulative phosphorus in soil and nutrient loss from the field's edge as a direct result of the implemented BAMP. The program will offer grant funding to eligible farmers with Annette Creek to implement the following practices: best management practices, cover crops, alternative phosphorus application practices, and field nutrient management, buffer strips, drainage and water management and conservation strategies.

AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:
 This is a grant available to all farmers across the Lower Thames Watershed. It focuses on water farmers with implementing Best Management Practices on their land to help protect and improve water. BAMPs such as buffer strips, wetlands, cover crops, riparian stream crossings, fencing, pond structures, stone banks and wellno areas, grassed waterways, and streambank structures along stream banks and at bridges are eligible for funding.

SPECIES AT RISK FARM IMPROVEMENT PLAN
 This is a grant available to all farmers across the Lower Thames Watershed who have completed the Environmental Farm Plan training and have known species at risk on their property. This program is administered by Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and provides funding to enhance and sustain natural areas and habitats. It provides funding to landowners for stewardship projects that directly benefit Species at Risk.

DISCOVER FORWARD 2:
 This is a grant available to all farmers across the Lower Thames Watershed. Although not mandatory, farm owners/farmers may benefit from an application for funding. This program is administered by Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and provides funding for various farm related improvements.

We encourage all farmers to visit our website at www.ltvca.ca for further information and application forms. Please contact us for details. Together we can make a difference across our watershed.

For Further Information Contact:
 Greg van Amer
 Environmental Project Coordinator
 519-304-7310 ext 229
 Email: Greg.VanAmer@ltvca.ca

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, 102 Thames St., Chatham, ON N7L 2Y9
 519-304-7310

- **Displays and Exhibits** are created to update programs and information for the public. Twelve Interpretive trail signs for the trails at Longwoods will be installed before the frost if they are completed by the sign company in time or install will wait until spring 2017. Funded through a TD Friends of the Environment Grant in 2015 installation will be with the help of the Thames Valley Trail Association and other local volunteers.



The 2018 International Plowing Match will be held September 18-22, in Pain Court, Chatham-Kent. The Community Relations Coordinator will have attended two planning meetings of the IPM Education Committee (November 3 and December 6th) to have input into the theme development phase.

In addition, Conservation Authorities traditionally have a stand alone tent exhibit at the IPM site if the watershed lies within the county. A meeting with the St. Clair Region and Essex Region Conservation Authorities has been planned for December 9th to discuss display messaging and concepts for a 2018 tent display. This is an opportunity to showcase the LTVCA's programs and services, especially stewardship opportunities to the thousands of plowing match visitors – both landowners and school children - great way to connect with landowners. Conservation Ontario also offers some financial support to Conservation Authorities when IPM's are held in their watersheds. The budget for the display tent will be shared between the 3 Conservation Authorities and any other partners under the tent. The LTVCA has

participated in 5 large Conservation Authority IPM tent exhibits over the past 37 years in partnership with neighbouring Conservation Authorities and other stewardship partners – 1979 Kent, 1982 Middlesex (Lucan), 1985 Elgin (St. Thomas), 2002 Middlesex (Glencoe), 2010 Elgin (St. Thomas).



2010 Conservation Authority tent at the International Plowing Match in Elgin County.

- **Paid Advertisements** are taken out in the local 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.
- **Presentations** are given to community groups upon request. Support is provided to staff for official openings, funder recognition ceremonies and community events upon request. On November 16th the Community Relations Coordinator was invited to present about the values of the Thames River to an audience at St. Clair College – Thames Campus in Chatham. The presentation tied in the river’s designation as a Canadian Heritage River with next year’s Canada 150 Celebration. The evening was hosted by the Chatham Rotary – Sunrise Club and showcased the ‘Traverse the Thames’ video – first episode which was very well done!
- **Committees and Meetings:** On November 14th, the Community Relations Coordinator attended a meeting at the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority regarding the Elgin Clean Water Project. Staff attend meetings of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region’s communications team as they develop communication products for the Source Protection Plan development. The Community Relations Coordinator attended the November 18th meeting of the Source Protection Committee. Staff also participate on planning committees which meet regularly for the Children’s Water Festival – Chatham-Kent and Lambton, St. Thomas/Elgin and the Communications Subcommittee for the Thames River Clearwater Revival.
- **The LTVCA’s 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. New conservation area events and fee schedules for 2017 have been updated on the website.
- **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation** Directors meeting was November 30, 2016. The Foundation is planning on developing an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) in early

2018 for funds to develop a feasibility study for Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. 40+ year old building infrastructures are in need of restoration/repair or replacement and also the accessibility requires upgrading. Components/considerations of the feasibility study will be based on the outcomes from a visioning exercise/consultation conducted with the public, LTVCA Boards/Committees and staff over the course of 2017. Conservation Authorities are ineligible to apply for OTF funding.

- **Events in conservation areas:**

- Season's Greetings at Longwoods, November 27

New this year were a local acapella quartet "Imagine That" who caroled throughout the event and a food booth supplied by the Mount Brydges Lions Club. Bar H Ranch from Melbourne supplied "Chance" and "Charlie", a beautiful team of Belgium horses for the wagon ride. Local craft vendors were located in the Resource Centre and birdfeeders were created in the cabin. Guided nature hikes were led on the arboretum trail. Thanks to the Directors and Committee members who turned out with families in support of the event!



114 visitors plus staff and volunteers enjoyed the second annual 'Season's Greetings' event at Longwoods and Ska-Nah-Doht on Sunday, November 27.

- Open Water Swim at Sharon Creek 2017

Staff have been approached by Rob Tranter, a Sharon Creek paddler and member of the London Canoe Club to discuss the possibility of hosting an open water swim at Sharon Creek Conservation Area in 2017. Canaqua Sports (www.canaquasports.com) is a small OWS (open water swim) series looking to expand participation. Rob will meet on December 13 with Bonnie, Randall and Michael to discuss MOU/Agreement, logistics and any other issues in order to help develop this event.

- 2017 Longwoods/Ska-Nah-Doht Events

Annual events have been set for the new year at Longwoods/Ska-Nah-Doht and are posted on the LTVCA website.

- **Publications:** Community Relations staff assist Conservation Authority staff with publications as needed. The 2017 Events Card for Longwoods is at the printers and will be ready for the new year. Publications are posted on our website for downloading.
- **Applications:** Staff apply for project funding as grants become available.
- **Courses/Certification:** Staff keep current by attending appropriate courses as needed. The Community Relations Coordinator attended a 2 day workshop on grant writing on November 7-8. It was led by “GrantsEdge” a branch of the Kovacs Group in London.
- **Volunteers:** Our volunteers continue to play a huge role with the LTVCA. From helping with special events to trail work, we are very grateful for their support!



Rachael DeZwart gained some hours for her high school 40 hours volunteer service at the ‘Season’s Greetings’ event at Longwoods. She was in charge of the kid’s crafts being made from recycled Christmas Cards!

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 October 1 – November 30, 2016 - 0 (16 in 2015)

Conservation Field Trips for Students

Total number from October 1 – November 30, 2016, 428 students and 74 adult supervisors participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area. (214 students and 31 adults in 2015)

Conservation Classroom Programs and Outreach

From October 1 – November 30, 2016 – 29 students

St. Thomas Elgin Children's Water Festival – May 16-19, 2017

LTVCA Education staff will be helping out next spring's festival in St. Thomas. The Kettle Creek Conservation Authority takes the lead on this one but we assist with manpower for the setup, running activity centres and take down as part of Elgin is in our watershed.

Annual Environmental Symposium – October 26, 2016

120 secondary school students selected from high schools throughout the Thames Valley District School Board and approximately 30 teachers attended a one day symposium held this year at Longwoods Road Conservation Area/Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum.

A large tent and catered lunch supported the participants who rotated through 4 workshops led by our staff, teachers and special guests. The theme of the Symposium was "Looking, Listening and Learning from the Land". The workshops were: Climate Change – Slow and Fast (History, Geography, Art), Which One Doesn't Belong (Ecology/Invasive Species), Balance and Biodiversity (First Nations and Environmental Stewardship) and Success Stories (Science, Civics and Species at Risk). LTVCA staff presenters were Jerry, Karen, Rose, Lindsay and Bonnie. Workshops took place in the Carolinian Forest, Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum and the marsh. Carlyn Johnston - Chippewa of the Thames Recreation and the Antler River Guardians also gave a lunchtime presentation about their work on the Thames River and First Nations relationship and regard for the environment. Mary Alikakos from the Chippewa Land & Environment Office addressed the students as well. The day was very cold, but everyone found the event to be very worthwhile and interesting. Thanks to Bruce, Dan, Agnes and Michael for helping with the setup and running of the day and making it such a success!

Our appreciation is extended to Erin Mutch, the Learning Coordinator and part of the Thames Valley Environmental Education Team with the Thames Valley District School Board for her support in arranging this event. The school board generously paid for all expenses, including the LTVCA staff time associated with the

Symposium. Erin has been very helpful in directing school traffic our way and promoting us as the “western outdoor education centre” for the schools in that Board that are located out our way. We hope the event is a stepping stone to new and exciting relationships!



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

Total number from October 1 to November 30, 2016 – 899 students and 188 adult supervisors participated in field trips to Ska-Nah-Doht. (342 students and 128 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 October 1 – November 30, 2016 – 12 (0 in 2015)

Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Activities

The education program bookings are steady. Some classes are even hoping to snowshoe before the end of the year. We continue to benefit from outdoor education funding that schools are receiving through their boards including an increase in numbers from the Windsor area.

As mentioned in the above report, Longwoods co-hosted an Environmental Symposium with the London District School Board on Wednesday, October 26. One of the 4 Activity Centres featured the village. From the success of this day, we are working on a new program featuring the water. Tentatively named “Water is Sacred” it will consist of half a day on the First Nations connection to the water and the second half with the Conservation Educations Wetlands program. It will be available for the 2017-2018.

The SND Advisory Board has drafted a 5 year Strategic Plan 2017-2021 outlining goals which we feel are attainable including assisting the community, LTVCA Board, staff and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation with a visioning process in 2017 followed by a Feasibility study for Longwoods/Ska-Nah-Doht in 2018.

8.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association

Minutes of regular meeting held November 3rd, 2016 at Wheatley Legion

Attendance: Rick & Forest Taves, Bruce & Marjorie Jackson, Pauline Sample, Dale Whiddon, Heather Vannieuwenburg, Linda & Lee Pearce, Gerry & Muggs Soulliere, Joe & Ginette Pinsonneault, Lorna Bell, Ron Haley, Larry McDonald, Phil Humphries.

Agenda: Moved by Phil, sec. by Pauline agenda be accepted as outlined (Carried)

Minutes: Moved by Phil, sec. by Lorna minutes be accepted as printed (Carried)

Memorial Groves: Joe will look into mapping out the Groves, I will look into possibly mapping them by a drone, we will report our findings at the next meeting. Kevin Getty will mow the Pavillion area and the Groves once more, will give us a price on doing both at the end of this year.

Prop. & Equip.: The new Pearce Bridge has been installed but needs to be attached to the blocks. Also will need to finish the ramps and install a railing on each end. A yellow steel post has been installed in the middle of the west end. A culvert has been put in at the Hummingbird Bridge site, once the dirt over it has settled a gravelly mix which is onsite will be put down. The Cockshutt Bridge needs to be widened in order to haul the spreader. The Walnut Bridge decking needs to be replaced. The hill has been mowed with the new stock cutter. Talked about possibly removing some pines in each grove to aid in their growing. The flag near the sheds has been stolen, talked about ways of preventing this but nothing was decided. The lights on the hill need to be replaced, Lee will help with that. Security needs to be addressed, possibly with cameras and/ or an ad with a reward placed in the Newspaper which was proposed by Larry.

Concerts: 10 of the 14 weeks have been booked so far.

Financial Report: The annual Budget was passed, moved by Larry sec. by Joe. Account balance as of Sept . 30 was \$24,987.42. Account balance as of oct. 31 was \$20,029.44. Balances were moved by Larry sec. by Phil.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: None

New Business: The ADOPT-A-METRE project will be moved forward on, moved by Larry sec. by Joe. A grant will be applied for in relation to Two Creeks 25th anniversary and also with Canada's 150th anniversary. June 25th of next year was tentatively picked. Linda suggested possibly having 3 or 4 bands start in the early afternoon leading up to the 6:30 band. Food could be catered in, Faubert's or the Car Barn were suggested. A Committee incl. Larry, Joe, Ginette, Forest & Dale will look into selling tables to interested vendors. Phil moved. 2 trees are ready for the Xmas parade float which will be Dec. 4th at 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Linda moved for adjournment at 8:47pm

Phil Humphries
Secretary

8.8) GMs Report

Following the last meeting of the Board on October 20, staff circulated the preliminary budget and levy for 2017 to the member municipalities for their information along with advice that the Authority would be finalizing the budget at its Annual General Meeting scheduled for February 16, 2017. To date, no feedback has been received or requests for additional information. It is not expected that the final budget to be presented in February will require any changes from what has been approved.

The General Manager participated in an Ecosystem Recovery Forum held at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, hosted by the Carolinian Canada Coalition and the Ontario Invasive Plants Council. A highlight of the event was the announcement of “In the Zone”, a new partnership between Carolinian Canada and World Wildlife Fund. The program will support smaller scale projects focussed on urban property owners to help reconnect society and nature and take advantage of a growing population of backyard gardeners who may be interested in developing better habitats and contributing to biodiversity.

Authority staff have been involved over the past year in various discussions and workshops relating to the development of a “Collaborative Strategy to Reduce Phosphorus Loss through Improvements to Water Management and Drainage in the Thames River Basin”. An outline of this joint initiative of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is attached for information. To date, conditional funding has been provided through the Agricultural Adaptation Council and various other partners including municipalities and conservation authorities. The LTVCA expects to play a significant role in this initiative and more information will be provided as details emerge.

As a result of several municipal enquiries coupled with staff’s observation that attendance at Board meetings has been less than ideal, in one case quorum being barely reached, attendance statistics have been compiled and subject to Board approval will be shared with the member municipalities. Some discussion should be anticipated regarding ways to improve attendance including meeting timing (morning, afternoon, late afternoon, evening); dates; meeting format, and content.



A Collaborative Strategy to Reduce Phosphorus Loss through Improvements to Water Management and Drainage in the Thames River Basin

What is the Collaborative Strategy?

- 5-year, \$7.5 voluntary strategy to reduce phosphorus loss from agricultural land, contributing to the province's 40% phosphorus loading reduction target.
- A unique collaboration amongst agricultural organisations, conservation authorities, drainage organisations, NGOs, First Nations, and municipalities.
- Offers direct technical and financial assistance to farmers and municipalities for projects aimed at curtailing the surface and subsurface transportation of phosphorus off agricultural land into waterways, either directly or through municipal drainage systems.
- Fundable projects would include
 - water management on private land, e.g. berms, buffer strips, retention ponds, etc.
 - harvested vegetation from fields, retention ponds or drainage ditches
 - treatment technologies in tile drainage or drainage system
- Results will be monitored and reported publicly.

Background

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture entered an MOU in December 2015 to develop and implement a phosphorus reduction strategy for the Thames River Basin, as a voluntary initiative to demonstrate how municipal and agricultural interests can work together to help solve the problem of algae growth in Lake Erie.
- The US and Canadian Governments have committed to reduce phosphorus loadings entering the Western basin of Lake Erie by 40%. Phosphorus loadings have been identified as the primary driver of large harmful algal blooms that contain a neurotoxin, microcystin, that forced the closure of the Toledo water system for 3 days in 2014, and the Pelee Island water system on another occasion.
- Over a six month period, OFA and the Cities Initiative convened a committee of agricultural, municipal, drainage, conservation authority, First Nation, and NGO representatives to develop a Collaborative Strategy to Reduce phosphorus loss through improvements to Water Management and Drainage in the Thames River Basin.
- The strategy was adopted by the Boards of the Cities Initiative and OFA in June 2016.

First Year Funding

- This Fall, OFA and Cities Initiative successfully applied for funding for the first year of the strategy's operations, to the federal-provincial agricultural fund, Growing Forward 2, receiving \$203,000 on the condition that 50% matching funds (\$100,000) are raised or committed by December 2016.
- OFA and the Cities Initiative have each contributed \$10,000 and are seeking contributions from municipalities, agricultural associations, conservation authorities, and companies that benefit from drainage in Ontario, such as drainage pipe manufacturers.
- The \$320,000 raised for first year operations will be used towards :
 - Establishing a board of directors for the strategy, consisting of agricultural organizations, municipalities and conservation authorities in the designated watersheds, drainage professionals, academic or scientific representatives, First Nations in the Thames River basin, and NGOs.



- Establishing a coordinating committee of organizations involved in other phosphorus reduction initiatives in the area to ensure consistent messaging and communication to farmers and landowners in the area.
- Hiring up to three staff to begin strategy outreach and implementation
- Hiring a scientific advisor to develop a monitoring protocol to measure phosphorus reductions that result from the strategy in the chosen watersheds;
- Undertaking desktop research on best practices with respect to water management and phosphorus treatment technologies to inform the strategy
- Developing an outreach strategy and beginning outreach to farmers, landowners and municipalities by holding workshops in the chosen watersheds to spread the word about the strategy and receive early feedback on the proposed approach.
- Negotiate an MOU and begin preparations for the Innovation Competition with the MOECC and the Everglades Foundation.
- Create a website to share all of the above information with farmers, landowners, drainage professionals, municipalities, conservation authorities and the public-at-large.
- All activities and expenditures will be overseen by the Board of Directors and OFA and the Cities Initiative. OFA will provide financial management of the funds.

Why focus on drainage?

- Most phosphorus is lost during the Spring snow melt and big storms, due to the high volume and rapid flow of water over land in the non-growing season.
- These extreme events are expected to become more frequent and more severe in coming years due to climate change.
- Phosphorus is essential to fertilize crops and is an inevitable byproduct of raising livestock.
- Improvements in phosphorus application and retention are key to reducing phosphorus loss, but even at 99% efficiency, the combination of climate change and the large scale of farming will still result in phosphorus loss.
- Controlling and capturing phosphorus as it is transported off agricultural land is the final piece in the phosphorus loss reduction puzzle.

Where will the strategy take place?

- The strategy will take place in the Upper and Lower Thames River basins.
- Three watersheds have been identified as potential starting points, based on elevated levels of phosphorus and existing monitoring instrumentation
 - McGregor Creek (Lower Thames, Chatham-Kent)
 - Jeanettes Creek (Lower Thames, Chatham-Kent)
 - Medway (Upper Thames, City of London)

How will the strategy promote best practices and innovation?

- Research will be undertaken and shared on water management and drainage/treatment best practices.
- The strategy includes collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the Everglades Foundation to launch an Innovation Competition for technologies to remove phosphorus from agricultural run-off that can operate year round in the southern Ontario climate and are most effective during extreme storm events.

9. Correspondence

9.1) Carolinian Canada Recognizes Conservation Hero's



October 25, 2016

Carolinian Canada Recognizes Conservation Heroes

Toronto - Carolinian Canada recognizes that it takes millions of actions to protect biodiversity. A few conservation heroes were recognized this week at the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

Carolinian Canada Conservation Awards recognize the people and groups who help to save the unique nature of this special ecoregion. 8 awards and 1 honourable mention were presented by Dr. Dawn Bazely and Don Pearson, Director and Chair of Carolinian Canada Coalition. They were selected from an outstanding slate of candidates nominated by Carolinian Canada members and partners across the zone. Awards included:

Caring Landowner: Dr. Bob Haig has a prescription for healthy landscapes. He has helped over 30 species of mussels, rare fish, blue ash, bladdernut and green dragon by bringing back a rundown 40 ha (100 ac) forest on the Sydenham River.

Visionary Volunteer: Barb Ferris plays a critical role in many aspects of the operations of the Friends of Pinery Park and enables many projects to become reality.

Big Picture Thinker: Town of LaSalle secured the LaSalle Woods Environmentally Significant Area a critical step in the ongoing effort to protect endangered species habitat in Carolinian Canada.

Passionate Youth: The Antler River Guardians from the 4 Directions were there to

help, learn and connect across generations, cultures and landscapes. In the 2015 pilot year for this Thames River Clear Water Revival program, they included Carlyn Johnston and Jake Albert from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation; Theo Blackbird John, Wabsi Shognosh and Brent Blackbird from Walpole Island First Nation; Shaylene Stone from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Caldwell First Nation hosted the program as well.

Smart Business: Bonnieheath Estate Lavender and Winery, owned and operated by Steve and Anita Buehner have created and restored nearly 25 acres of wetland, pond and tallgrass prairie with the help of the Alternative Land Use Services program in Norfolk County.

Green Collaborators: With a small number of staff, dedicated volunteers and supporters, Long Point Basin Land Trust runs Conserving Carolinian Reptiles program and collaborates with many groups and community members to save reptiles, reducing road mortality at Long Point by ~90% and establishing habitat. The Long Point Basin is one of the most biologically diverse areas in Canada and is an important area for reptiles.

Lifetime Achievement: Rick Hornsby is an Ontario Parks employee who is a huge champion of science and evidence-based ecosystem management. Rondeau Park biodiversity recovered measurably, under his tenure.

Lifetime Achievement: Paul Georges has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the importance of our unique Carolinian ecosystem to his geography students.

Honourable Mention: Teenagers Blake and Quinton Pluzak started their own recycling business Pluzak Useful Recycling Protecting our Sacred Environment (PURPOSE) and donated some of their earnings to Carolinian Canada to support meaningful action to enhance the natural environment

Carolinian Canada is honoured to recognize the passion and dedication of these conservation heroes. We thank everyone who nominated this year and helped on the awards committee. We know that there are many more Conservation Heroes out there. Do you know someone who makes an outstanding contribution to biodiversity in the Carolinian Life Zone? We encourage you to nominate for 2017.

[Read about these and past award recipients at caroliniancanada.ca](http://caroliniancanada.ca)

9.2) National River Conservation Award Winner

Great news about the First Nation Antler River Guardian Program!!

>>> <andrea.mcneil@pc.gc.ca> 10/6/2016 2:19 PM >>>

Hello

My name is Andrea McNeil and I work for Parks Canada, in support of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

This fall, you were nominated for a National River Conservation Award of Merit for the Antler River Guardians from the Four Directions project. Three of these awards are presented every three years, during the Canadian River Heritage Conference. This award is given to groups or individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding level of leadership in river conservation, either on a Canadian Heritage River or at a national level.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on being one of this year's recipients of the Awards of Merit!

The awards will be presented to recipients at the 2016 Canadian River Heritage Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (skriverstory.com), and I would like to extend an invitation for you to attend and receive your award in person. The awards banquet will be on October 18th, 2016 at the Delta Bessborough Hotel.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers program will cover the cost of airfare and accommodations (up to a maximum of \$1000) and you will have the opportunity to meet some of your colleagues and peers in river conservation. The award is an inscribed paddle by Chelsea, Quebec artisan Dot Bonnenfant, who specializes in wood-burned art.

We will be in touch with you by phone, but please contact Charlene.Staffa@pc.gc.ca or at 819-420-9150 to confirm receipt of this message as well as to discuss your attendance at the awards ceremony.

Please try to contact her by Tuesday, October 11th, so she can help you make your travel arrangements.

We look forward to meeting you and celebrating your accomplishments!

Andrea McNeil

Andrea McNeil

Réseau des rivières du patrimoine canadien / Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Direction des désignations et des programmes du patrimoine / Heritage Designations and Programs Branch

Parcs Canada | Parks Canada

30 Victoria Street 3e | 3rd Floor, office 06 | Gatineau, QC J8X 0B3

9.3) Canadian Cancer Society, This Muds for You Race Event, thank you letter



Canadian Cancer Society
Société canadienne du cancer

October 5, 2016

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Area
100 Thames St
Chatham ON N7L 2Y8

Dear Don,

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Area was part of something special. And for that, we are tremendously thankful.

Thank you joining the fight against cancer through your sponsorship of *This MUDS For You*. Your support of the Canadian Cancer Society speaks to your commitment to fighting cancer—the top health concern of your employees and customers.

Together, we are saving lives. After being unable to sleep for several months, Jeff Orson knew something was wrong. He visited his doctor, and a colonoscopy revealed he had stage 2 colon cancer.

Fortunately, Jeff's cancer was caught early, before it had a chance to spread. He underwent surgery to remove the tumour in his colon and is now cancer-free.

"I have a need to give back and thought, what better way than to support the Society, because they fund cutting edge cancer research that saved my life and will save the lives of other Canadians," recalls Jeff.

Thank you again. We cannot save the lives of people like Jeff or provide critical support programs and valuable information services to people living with cancer without generous companies like Lower Thames Valley Conservation Area.

If you have any questions, or would like to learn about other ways you can get involved in the fight against cancer, please contact our office at 519-352-3960.

With sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Vinall".

Cindy Vinall
Senior Manager, Community Offices
Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division



9.4) Message from the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry – Passing of the Invasive Species Act

Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry

Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts



Office of the Minister

Bureau de la ministre

Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
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MNR6446M
C-2016-840

Ms. Kim Gavine
General Manager
Conservation Ontario
kgavine@conservationontario.ca

Dear Ms. Gavine:

Yesterday, the *Invasive Species Act* came into effect in Ontario and along with it a regulation that prohibits and restricts certain species. This act and regulation will help Ontario protect native species and ecosystems and safeguard natural resource-based activities like forestry and fishing.

Since the *Invasive Species Act* was passed by the Legislature last fall, my ministry has used a science-based process for assessing the risk of the invasive species included in this regulation. The regulation prohibits the 16 species identified on the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Least Wanted aquatic invasive species list. The regulations also restricts three additional widely established invasive species, including phragmites, to support their management and control.

While some of the regulated species have not yet been found in Ontario, most are present in the waters of neighbouring states, or have been identified as having a high risk of introduction into the Great Lakes Basin. This preventative approach meets our commitment to keep the least wanted species out of the Great Lakes, while also allowing the province to continue to work with local partners on the management and eradication of established species. Preventing and controlling invasive species that threaten the natural environment is a core part of my ministry's mandate.

The passage of this act and regulation represents a significant milestone with respect to invasive species management in Ontario. Invasive species are, and will continue to pose, a significant risk to our natural environment and economy. Therefore, my ministry will continue to work with our existing partners and also seek out opportunities to develop new partnerships to address this challenge.

I would like to thank all who have supported our efforts and provided their insight during the development of the act and regulation. We should all reflect with pride on this accomplishment and on its long-term significance to our province.

Best,

Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

9.5) Elgin Phragmites Working Group – Request for Support

Elgin Phragmites Working Group
24806 Pioneer Line
West Lorne ON N0L 2P0

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2016

LOWER THAMES VALLEY
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Board of Directors
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
Administration Office
100 Thames St.
Chatham ON N7L 2Y8
info@ltvca.ca

25 November 2016

Request for support from the Elgin Phragmites Working Group

Local volunteers together with members of municipal council and staff in the Municipalities of Dutton-Dunwich, West Elgin and Southwold Township have formed an action group whose specific goal is to control the alarming spread of the Eurasian grass *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) in roadside ditches and adjoining wet areas in western Elgin County. The recently formed Elgin Phragmites Working Group has the formal support of the three municipal councils, the West Elgin Nature Club and the West Elgin Nature Trust. Other municipalities and conservation authorities working in Elgin County will be strongly encouraged to join the working group.

The Group has begun the important task of mapping the distribution and intensity of Phragmites cells in western Elgin County. To date this has been done by actively recruiting local residents and high school students. Future mapping will largely be done by the municipalities, whose road crews and contractors will be responsible for eradicating the Phragmites stands. The Group is currently calculating the costs of initiating a multi-year project to eradicate Phragmites in roadside ditches and intersections, along the lines of a project started in St. Thomas a couple of years ago.

The Group has identified education of the general public as a key initiative for reaching its goals. Current initiatives include the preparation of information sheets and brochures, attending community/farm meetings and setting up displays to inform the general public of the impact of Phragmites on the community. The focus will be on the important issues of road safety, fire hazards, along with the associated environmental impacts on water tables, siltation of roadside ditches and agricultural drains, as well as the decline in wetland health and biodiversity.

The purpose of this letter is to seek the support of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and its permission to include the Authority's logo (among others) on our promotional material (at no cost to the Authority). Other conservation authorities have supported similar initiatives elsewhere in southwestern Ontario (e.g. St Clair Conservation support for the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group). Your support will strengthen our ability to get funding for our activities from private and public sources. Members of EPWG would be willing to attend Conservation Authority board meetings to describe its goals if so requested.

Sincerely, *Margaret B. Hulls*
Margaret Hulls, Chair
Elgin Phragmites Working Group
marghulls@gmail.com

cc. Don Pearson <don.pearson@ltvca.ca>