



# Board of Directors Meeting

## A G E N D A

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Board Room, Administration Building

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# 4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

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## 4.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2018



### Board of Directors Meeting

#### MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at Willson Hall at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus at 2:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 15, 2018. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, H. MacDonald, J. Kavelaars, T. Thompson, S. Pinsonneault, D. McKillop, S. Caveney, M. Smibert, G. Bogart, R. Doane, and M. Bodnar.

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda

1. J. Kavelaars – M. Smibert

Moved that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest  
None Declared.

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Linda McKinlay welcomed the members, staff and guests to the Conservation Authority's Annual General Meeting.

The Chair and D. McKillop also welcomed new Board of Directors member from West Elgin, Mary Bodnar.

5. Introduction of Guests.

Chair, Linda McKinlay, introduced the guests during the ceremony section of the meeting.

- Rick Nicholls, MPP, Chatham-Kent & Essex
- Carolyn O'Neill, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Guest Speaker
- Patty Gillis, Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Dave Deput, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Bernard Wiehle, Mayor of the Municipality of West Elgin
- Bill Bruinink, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee
- Darcy Fallon, Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee
- Don Hector, Chatham-Kent Children's Water Festival Coordinator
- Joanne Hector, Chatham-Kent Children's Water Festival Volunteer
- Marcelo Villanuva, Union Gas Ltd
- Elizabeth Vanhooren, General Manager, KCCA
- Roy Weaver, Johnson Feduk King Accountants
- Darrell Randall, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Rachael Scholten, Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Brigan Barlow, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Drainage Department
- Karly Burniston, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Drainage Department

- Alyssa Cousineau, ALUS Elgin
- Bill Menzie, Municipal Enforcement Unit
- Sheila Simpson, Sheila Simpson & Associates
- Dominique Giuere, LENSLA
- Allan Bogart, Friend
- Mike Hentz, 2018 Award Winner
- Ingrid Hentz, 2018 Award Winner
- Nicole Jackson, Montessori, The Place to Grow, 2018 Award Winner

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Previously circulated)

2. D. McKillop – S. Pinsonneault

Moved that the minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2017 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising From the Minutes

None declared.

8. Business for Approval

8.1) 2017 Annual Report, present by Ms. Bonnie Carey

3. J. Kavelaars – G. Bogart

Moved that the LTVCA's 2017 Annual Report be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8.2) 2017 Audited Financial Statements, presented by Mr. Roy Weaver

Mr. Roy Weaver presented the 2017 Audited Financial Statements to the Board of Directors.

4. T. Thompson – S. Caveney

Moved that the LTVCA's 2017 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8.3) Election of Officers

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

a) Chair

Mr. Peacock called for nominations for Chair of the LTVCA for 2018.

S. Pinsonneault nominated L. McKinlay

H. MacDonald seconded the nomination of L. McKinlay

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

**5. J. Kavelaars – S. Pinsonneault**

Moved that nominations be closed.

**CARRIED**

**Linda McKinlay was declared to be elected as Chair.**

**b) Vice-Chair**

**Mr. Peacock called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the LTVCA for 2018.**

**L. McKinlay nominated H. MacDonald**

**J. Kavelaars seconded the nomination of H. MacDonald**

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

**6. S. Pinsonneault – D. McKillop**

Moved that nominations be closed.

**CARRIED**

**Hilda MacDonald was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.**

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

**Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee for 2018.**

**S. Caveney nominated J. Kavelaars**

**S. Pinsonneault nominated D. McKillop**

**R. Doane nominated S. Caveney**

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

**7. S. Pinsonneault – G. Bogart**

Moved that nominations be closed.

**CARRIED**

**J. Kavelaars, D. McKillop & S. Caveney were declared members of the Personnel & Finance/Executive Committee.**

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

**Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee for 2018.**

**D. McKillop nominated S. Caveney**

**J. Kavelaars nominated R. Doane**

**L. McKinlay nominated G. Bogart**

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

**8. M. Bodnar – J. Kavelaars**

Moved that nominations be closed.

**CARRIED**

**S. Caveney, R. Doane & G. Bogart were declared members of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Advisory Committee.**

**e) Ice Management Committee (2 members to be appointed from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, plus the member from the Town of Lakeshore). Chair and Vice-Chair are ex-officio.**

Mr. Peacock called for nominations to the Ice Management Committee for 2018.

J. Kavelaars nominated T. Thompson

L. McKinlay nominated S. Pinsonneault

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

**9. H. MacDonald – R. Doane**

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

**CARRIED**

Following the elections, Mr. Peacock congratulated those elected and turned the chair over to the Chair for 2018, L. McKinlay, to continue with the rest of the meeting.

**8.4) 2018 Budget and Levy**

Mr. Peacock presented the 2018 Budget and Levy.

**10. J. Kavelaars – D. McKillop**

Moved that the non-matching levy of \$1,247,861 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the levy apportionment table. All members present voted in favour of the weighted vote.

**CARRIED**

**11. J. Kavelaars – H. MacDonald**

Moved that the 2018 proposed budget totalling \$3,179,437 be adopted as presented, and that the matching levy of \$157,807 and the Chatham-Kent Greening, Natural Heritage and Flood Control Levy of \$205,000 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the table accompanying the budget.

**CARRIED**

**8.5) Appointment of Auditor**

**12. G. Bogart – S. Caveney**

Moved that the firm of Johnson, Feuk, King Chartered Accountants be appointed as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's auditor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2019.

**CARRIED**

8.6) Appointment of Bank

13. M. Smibert – R. Doane

Moved that the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's bank until the next Annual Meeting in February 2019.

CARRIED

8.7) Appointment of Solicitor

14. S. Pinsonneault – M. Bodnar

Moved that the firm of Mr. James D. Wickett be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2019.

CARRIED

8.8) Authorization to Borrow

15. S. Caveney – M. Smibert

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

CARRIED

8.9) Appointment to Conservation Ontario

16. R. Doane – S. Pinsonneault

Moved that the Chair, L. McKinlay be appointed as Voting Representative, and GM, M. Peacock as first Alternative.

CARRIED

8.10) 2018 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Thursday, April 19, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room  
Thursday, June 14, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room  
Thursday, August 23, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room  
Thursday, October 18, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room  
Thursday, December 13, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room  
Thursday, February 14, 2019 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

17. H. MacDonald – G. Bogart

Moved that the meeting schedule for 2018 and the Annual General Meeting be adopted as noted above, but will revisit to modify meeting times to accommodate West Elgin at the next Board of Directors meeting.

CARRIED

9. Business for Information

9.1) Water Management

9.1.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations – Presentation

- 9.1.2) Water Control Structures
- 9.1.3) Low Water Response
- 9.1.4) Watershed Monitoring
- 9.1.5) Source Water Protection

Board member D. McKillop personally thanked Jason Wintermute for sending the flood warning notices out as they help keep municipal council informed of current watershed conditions.

18. D. McKillop – T. Thompson

Moved that report 9.1.1) through to 9.1.5) be received for information.

CARRIED

- 9.2) Regulations and Planning
  - 9.2.1) Planning & Regulations
  - 9.2.2) Section 28 Regulations Update
  - 9.2.3) Enforcement – Section 28
  - 9.2.4) Regulation Log Book

19. J. Kavelaars – M. Smibert

Moved that report 9.2.1) through to 9.2.4) be received for information.

CARRIED

- 9.3) Conservation Areas
  - 9.3.1) Conservation Area Attendance
  - 9.3.2) Conservation Area Updates
  - 9.3.3) Conservation Area Events

20. S. Pinsonneault – S. Caveney

Moved that report 9.3.1) through to 9.3.3) be received for information.

CARRIED

9.4) Conservation Services

Mr. Greg Van Every, Environmental Project Coordinator, provided a Power Point Presentation to the Board of Directors on the 2017 year in Conservation Services for the LTVCA.

- 9.4.1) Stewardship Updates
- 9.4.2) Growing Partnerships
- 9.4.3) SAR Section 11
- 9.4.4) OMAFRA & GLASI Jeannette's Creek Priority Subwatershed Project

21. S. Pinsonneault – M. Smibert

Moved that report 9.4.1) through to 9.4.4) be received for information.

CARRIED



**9.5) Community Relations**

- 9.5.1) Media Releases
- 9.5.2) Displays and Exhibits
- 9.5.3) Advertisements & Marketing
- 9.5.4) Presentations
- 9.5.5) Committees & Meetings
- 9.5.6) LTVCA Website and Social Media
- 9.5.7) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation
- 9.5.8) Publications
- 9.5.9) Applications
- 9.5.10) Volunteers

22. J. Kavelaars – H. MacDonald

Moved that report 9.5.1) through to 9.5.10) be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**9.6) Conservation Authority Education**

- 9.6.1) Conservation Youth Group Workshops
- 9.6.2) Conservation Field Trips for Students
- 9.6.3) Conservation Classroom Programs and Outreach
- 9.6.4) Great Lakes Environmental Special High Skills Major (SHSM) Student Conference
- 9.6.5) Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum Field Trips for Students
- 9.6.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum Group Workshops & Group Self-guided Tours
- 9.6.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum Activities

23. M. Bodnar – S. Caveney

Moved that report 9.6.1) through to 9.6.7) be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**9.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association minutes**

24. S. Pinsonneault – R. Doane

Moved that report 9.7) be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**9.8) GM's Report**

25. G. Bogart – S. Pinsonneault

Moved that report 9.8) be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**10. Correspondence**

- 10.1) Supreme Court of Canada Decision, Gilmor v. NVCA
- 10.2) Correspondence: MNR to Conservation Ontario Chair, Dick Hibma
- 10.3) Correspondence: Municipality of Dutton Dunwich in response to Town of Lakeshore

26. J. Kavelaars – M. Bodnar

Moved that correspondence items 10.1) through to 10.3) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Events Calendar

12. Other Business  
None declared.

13. Adjournment


27. S. Pinsonneault – T. Thompson

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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Linda McKinlay  
Chair



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Mark Peacock  
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

# 6. Business for Approval

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## 6.1) Presentations

6.1.1) Thames Clear Water Revival, Tara Tchir, UTRCA

6.1.2) Flood Forecasting and Recent Events, Jason Wintermute

## 6.2) Royal Bank Account - Mount Brydges Branch, signing authority

The RBC bank account requires two signatures which have formerly been the GM/Secretary-Treasurer and the Clerk-Secretary at Longwoods.

**Recommendation:** That the LTVCA Board designate Agnes Vriends and Mark Peacock as signing officers for the RBC Mount Brydges bank account in connection with Longwoods Road Conservation Area operations.

## 6.3) Eco Gift Program Recipient

The Ecological Gifts Program, or Eco Gift's, is a federal program that provides significant tax benefits to landowners who donate their land to registered charities and land trusts. It also ensures that the recipient protects the biodiversity and natural heritage values of these properties and will do so for perpetuity. Other CA's and land trusts in Ontario are already registered recipients.

**Recommendation:** That the LTVCA become a registered ECO Gift recipient.

## 6.4) Mckay Pay Phone App

Other CA's have implemented the Mckay Pay phone app to generate funds from remote properties. Park visitors can use their cell phones to purchase a day pass or buy a season's pass. We will be implementing this spring at Sharon Creek and Big Bend Conservation Areas as we currently do not have an effective method of collecting fees.

**Recommendation:** LTVCA approve the implementation of Mckay Pay phone app at Sharon Creek and Big Bend Conservation Areas at a rate of \$4/car/day, existing camping rates at Big Bend, and will have the option to purchase season's passes as well.

## 6.5) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2018

### Background:

Review the 2018 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 2 months ended February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### Current Situation and Discussion:

REVENUE	2018 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2018 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	893,663	148,944 *	380,474	231,530
GENERAL LEVY	1,405,668	1,405,668 ^	961,993	(443,675)
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000 ^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	656,902	109,484 *	84,990	(24,494)
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	7,000	1,167 *	0	(1,167)
RESERVES	11,204	1,867 *	0	(1,867)
<b>CASH FUNDING</b>	<b>3,179,437</b>	<b>1,872,130</b>	<b>1,632,457</b>	<b>-239,673</b>
OTHER	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>3,179,437</b>	<b>1,872,130</b>	<b>1,632,457</b>	<b>-239,673</b>

\*-based on a 2 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on cash received to April 11th, 2018

Grant income is greater than budget due to the reversal of deferred revenue for on going programs and the timing of grants invoiced, including several large grants for Wetland projects.

Note: Grant income is based on funds received/invoiced and not matched to expenses, meaning there may be expenses outstanding and not recognized in the attached expense statement. At year-end, each grant is reviewed individually and unspent funds are reduced from grant income and deferred for future expenditures.

Levy revenue is shown on a cash basis. The following municipalities are paid in full as of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Chatham-Kent, Leamington, Middlesex Centre, Southwold and Strathroy-Caradoc.

General Revenue is below budget due to the following factors:

- Planning and Regulations fees; Conservation Area revenues; Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Village revenues; and Conservation Services and the Chatham Kent Greening Project are lower as most activities and income are received later in the spring and into summer.

Foundation Grants and Revenues is below budget as there is normally a settlement for the memorial tree programs at the end of the year.

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

EXPENSES	2018	2018 BUDGET	2018	\$ VARIANCE
	BUDGET	FEB PROJECTED	ACTUAL TO FEB 28	TO PROJECTED
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	190,674	31,779	24,839	(6,940)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	0	0	1,351	1,351
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	156,753	26,126	42,455	16,329
TECHNICAL STUDIES	72,120	12,020	5,885	(6,135)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	225,526	37,588	24,552	(13,036)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	102,760	17,127	11,555	(5,572)
SOURCE PROTECTION	24,664	4,111	9,294	5,183
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	1,204	201	0	(201)
<b>Water Management Subtotal</b>	<b>773,701</b>	<b>128,952</b>	<b>119,931</b>	<b>(9,021)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</b>				
<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>	<b>638,084</b>	<b>106,347</b>	<b>69,013</b>	<b>(37,334)</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	172,730	28,788	23,516	(5,272)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	114,257	19,043	18,626	(417)
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	229,094	38,182	26,548	(11,634)
<b>Community Relations &amp; Education Subtotal</b>	<b>516,081</b>	<b>86,013</b>	<b>68,690</b>	<b>(17,323)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</b>				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	161,243	26,874	8,826	(18,048)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	673,158	112,193	19,984	(92,209)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	323,678	53,946	72,686	18,740
SPECIES AT RISK	93,490	15,582	27,471	11,889
<b>Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal</b>	<b>1,251,569</b>	<b>208,595</b>	<b>128,967</b>	<b>(79,628)</b>
<b>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
<b>Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,179,435</b>	<b>529,907</b>	<b>386,601</b>	<b>(143,306)</b>

### *Water Management*

Flood Control Structures and Erosion Control Structures are below budget as most large projects are performed during the summer months but slightly offset due to the expenses incurred from the February flood.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are above budget due to the costs and human resources required for the February flood.

Technical Studies, Planning and Regulations and Watershed Monitoring are below budget due to the February flood event.

Source Protection is above budget due an increase in funding and the increase in related expenses.

### *Conservation Areas*

Conservation area expenses are below budget as most large projects, operation of the campgrounds and other large operational costs are incurred during the summer months.

### *Community Relations and Education*

Community Relations and SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village are below budget due to the seasonal nature of large activities in these programs. Conservation Education is comparable to budget.

### **Conservation Services/Stewardship**

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are below budget as most activities and related expenses are completed during the spring and summer months.

Phosphorous Reduction is above budget due to several large purchases to fully utilize funds for programs ending Mar 31. Note: There are \$41,000 of capital asset expenditures for the GLASI program not included in this amount. They will be capitalized and amortized over the useful life of the assets.

Species at Risk is above budget due to several large purchases to fully utilize funds for programs ending Mar 31.

### **Administration**

Administration building is comparable to budget.

### **Summary:**

	2018 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET FEB PROJECTED	2018 ACTUAL TO FEB 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	3,179,437	1,872,130	1,632,457	(239,673)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,179,437	529,907	386,601	(143,306)
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,342,223</b>	<b>1,245,856</b>	<b>(96,367)</b>
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0	(40,745)	(40,745)
<b>NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,342,223</b>	<b>1,205,111</b>	<b>(137,112)</b>

Note: The difference between the projected budget funding and projected budget expenditures is due to the recognition of the full General Levy and Special Levy versus all other income and expenses are prorated for the period.

At February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, LTVCA's operating surplus is not as favourable as the projected budget as not all of the levy money has been collected, which, is slightly off-set by more grants received than budgeted and by less expenditures compared to budget due to the seasonal nature of a large amount of the Conservation Authorities expenses.

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## 6.6) Provincial Offences Officer Training

Staff member, Paul Kominek, undertook the CA Compliance Training course at the YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia on March 19<sup>th</sup> through to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Paul successfully completed the training and obtained the Compliance certification and clean criminal record check.

**Recommendation:** That Paul Kominek, Western District Supervisor, be appointed as a Provincial Offences Officer to enforce Section 29 and/or Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* on behalf of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

## 6.7) Board of Directors Meeting Schedule, change of dates

At the annual meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed proposed meeting dates for 2018 and the 2019 Annual General Meeting (item 8.10). The board directed staff to address the issue of members having conflicts with two of the proposed meeting dates. These were:

- 1) The June 14, 2018 meeting, and
- 2) The Feb. 14, 2019 meeting.

Emails were sent to the Board of Directors following the AGM regarding availability for June 7 & 21 and Feb 21, and we received work back from 8/12 of the members. The majority are available on June 21 and February 21.

The updated upcoming Board of Directors meetings as scheduled are below:

**Thursday, April 19, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, June 21, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, August 23, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, October 18, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, December 13, 2018 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Administration Board Room**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019 – 2:00-4:00 pm, Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus**

**Recommendation:** That the changes to the meeting dates be accepted as presented.

# 7. Business for Information

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## 7.1) Water Management

### *Flood Forecasting and Operations*

The most significant flooding event in the last several decades occurred between February 19th and the 27th. The water level gauge at Byron saw its highest water levels since before the gauge started taking automated readings in 1955. The Thamesville gauge saw its highest water levels since 1977 and the Chatham gauge saw its highest water levels since 1985. This flood will be the subject of a presentation at this Board Meeting.

There were other flooding events as well since the last Board meeting. On February 15th, the watershed received around 20 mm of rainfall together with a warm spell. There was also somewhere around 20 mm of water equivalent stored in the snowpack. This combination of conditions led to a quick runoff and ice breakup on the smaller watercourses. On the McGregor Creek watershed, the Rivard Dam was closed late that evening and the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel operated until the 17th.

Flooding issues along Erie Shore Drive have also started back up again now that the ice on Lake Erie has melted. Five flood releases have been issued since March 26th, each associated with separate events. Three of these were Watershed Condition Statements - Flood Outlooks and 2 were Flood Watches. Flooding quite typical of what was observed last year was observed during these events. There was significant ponding of water in the front yard of the residences and water was frequently observed flowing over the road where the municipality had shaved it down to allow for such. Several homes/cottages had water flowing by or pooling around the walls. On one occasion a residence was observed to be pumping water. No actual reports of damages for these events have been reported to the Conservation Authority, but that does not mean that damage to homes had not occurred.

### *Water Control Structures*

The recent flood event that occurred between February 19th and 27th led to the operation of both the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel and the 6th Street Backwater Dam and Pumping Station. The Diversion channel operated between the 19th and the 27th and the 6th Street Dam operated between the 21st and the 26th. While the Diversion Channel has carried higher flows, the 6th Street Dam was holding back the highest water level since its construction. Both structures worked well and prevented significant flooding in south Chatham. However, some issues were observed with the 6th Street Dam during its operation. There was some leakage detected from the wall of the pump chamber when multiple pumps were running. This will have to be investigated. Water was also observed to be seeping up from the ground on the downstream side of the dam. The seep did not seem to be large enough to affect the structural integrity of the dam. Although the cause is not yet known for certain, it appears to have been caused by the very high water levels exceeding the height of a steel retaining wall and causing seepage through the topsoil above, combined with the effects of a recent utility pole installation in the area. This too will need further investigation and repairs. Considering that this was the largest Thames River event since the construction of the Indian-McGregor Creek Flood Control Project, a thorough inspection of the infrastructure should be undertaken in the coming months.



### ***Low Water Response Program***

As the watershed's demands for water are significantly less over the winter, Low Water Condition Reports are not generated over the winter. However, high level screening performed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) for the period ending March 31, 2018 indicated no Low Water Condition for the Lower Thames watershed. Staff will begin generating monthly Low Water Condition Reports next month.

### ***Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)***

Staff continue to collect surface water quality samples throughout the Lower Thames watershed at 22 sites. The Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN) program has restarted for the year, which provides for the analysis of 8 samples per month through spring, summer and fall. Throughout the winter all funding for this sampling came from a Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) grant. An updated proposal for the continuation of the MOECC grant was submitted on February 12th. The proposal is currently in review, and staff expect to hear back with regards to the proposal before the next board meeting. The year-end report for last year's grant is expected to be submitted on April 20th. Discussions with Dr. Jan Ciborowski of the University of Windsor are expected to commence shortly around the continuation of the LTVCA / ERCA / University of Windsor partnership for research into benthic monitoring. The sampling is usually conducted in May and early June.

## **7.2) Watershed Report Cards**

A verbal presentation and a copy of the Report Card will be provided to the Board of Directors at the meeting.

## 7.3) Regulations and Planning

### *Planning and Regulations*

The NRCan proposal for the Coastal Management of the shoreline within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent was conditionally accepted for funding. The consultant has been working to resolve some technical review comments related to the climate modeling, thus the conditional approval. That should be resolved soon, with formal approval anticipated soon. The next steps will be to execute the contribution agreement with NRCan to make it official, with the project getting started in April. A formal start is likely a month or two away.



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

Lands and Minerals Sector Secteur des terres et des minéraux  
Ottawa, Ontario Ottawa (Ontario)  
K1A 0Y7 K1A 0Y7

February 19, 2018

Pete Zuzek  
Zuzek Inc.  
125 Wimberly Avenue  
Waterdown, ON, L8B 0S2  
[pzuzek@zuzekinc.com](mailto:pzuzek@zuzekinc.com)

Subject: Natural Resources Canada's Adapting to Climate Change Program Call for Proposals

Dear Mr. Zuzek,

I am writing to advise you that your project proposal, AP659 Adapting to the Future Storm and Ice Regime in the Great Lakes, has been conditionally approved for \$449,300 in funding consideration by Natural Resources Canada subject to the successful negotiation and execution of a written contribution agreement. The proposal Review Committee recommended that several modifications/clarifications be made to the proposal before we proceed to the contribution agreement stage.

Until a contribution agreement is signed by both parties, no commitment or obligation exists on the part of Natural Resources Canada to make a financial contribution to your organization's proposed project. Once a contribution agreement is signed by both parties, the Minister may, at his sole discretion, by giving notice in writing, accept eligible costs incurred or paid by your organization prior to the execution of the agreement.

I trust this letter clarifies the status of your funding request under the *Adapting to Climate Change Program*. John Sommerville will be in touch with you to discuss the next steps in the process.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Jennings, Director  
Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Division  
Natural Resources Canada

## ***Section 28 Regulations /Permitting***

Since the last board update on 15 February 2018 and up to 01 April 2018, staff have received and approved an additional 32 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. The total number of permit applications within the first three months of 2018 is 46 which is down approximately 30% from those reported in the same time frame last year. Staff are very thankful that the numbers have dropped so far this year compared to the last two years given the additional workload described below which also had to be completed.

Due to the Thames River flood event which occurred in February, regulations staff were busy dealing with dam operations, flood monitoring, GIS support, surveying, and post-flood documentation. This work included working long hours and weekends and lasted for a few weeks. As such, response times to property inquiries and permit applications were much longer than normal (up to 30 days for property inquiries and up to 27 days for permit applications). Most applicants and the public were understanding of delays.

By the end of March, staff were able to eliminate the backlog of pressing work related to Section 28 regulations (which required immediate attention to comply with provincial requirements for response times). Staff will hopefully be in a position to continue the work related to the flood event that must be completed and documented. All additional work related to this department as described in the February 2018 board agenda package has not been completed as time has not allowed for it to be worked on.

The board should be aware that staff expect continued delays in permitting and property inquiry responses as related to Section 28 regulations over the next month or two. This is due to the fact that there continues to be a lot of work to be completed related to the Thames River flood event as well as the current and expected work related to lake flooding of Erie Shore Drive in Chatham-Kent again this year.

Below are some Section 28 Regulations / Permitting statistics for 2018 up to 01 April 2018:

- 255 property inquiries have been responded to;
- 46 permit applications have been approved;
- Just over half (54%) of all applications have been within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent;
- 59% of the applications have been for private property owners for construction, shoreline breakwall repairs, or bank alterations;
- 39% of applications have been for municipal projects (drainage or infrastructure); and,
- Total of permit application fees = \$10,975.00

## ***Section 28 Enforcement***

Four additional Section 28 enforcement related complaints/violations have been received so far in 2018. They are considered "additional" as there are multiple on-going investigations and enforcement related work stemming back to 2014. Of the four complaints/violations received so far in 2018, three were in Chatham-Kent and one was in Southwold. Staffing resources continue to be a problem when it comes to dealing with complaints and violations in a quick and effective manner as many enforcement files remain open. Where applicable, staff work with other municipal, provincial, and federal partners on joint investigations (where complaints or violations cover multiple laws or bylaws). Whenever another agency can handle the investigation on their own (better resources and better equipped), staff internally close the file as it relates to the Conservation Authorities Act violation.

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
015-2018	McCallum Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: Feb 01, 2018
016-2018	1070 Powell Lane	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Feb 06, 2018
017-2018	17560 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Feb 09, 2018
018-2018	411 King Street West	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Feb 13, 2018
019-2018	Harrison Drain Re-Alignment	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Feb 09, 2018
020-2018	Comwall Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Feb 09, 2018
021-2018	Irvine Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Feb 09, 2018
022-2018	Gladstone Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Feb 09, 2018
023-2018	Blubacher Drain No. 3	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: Feb 16, 2018
024-2018	Merritt Drain	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Feb 13, 2018
025-2018	Van Aart - Irish Drive Drain	Caradoc	Strathroy-Caradoc	Alteration	Granted: Mar 09, 2018
026-2018	County Road 42 over Trembley Creek	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Feb 16, 2018
027-2018	17400 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Feb 16, 2018
028-2018	Tisdelle Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Mar 09, 2018
029-2018	8086 Millpark Street	Fingal	Southwold	Construction	Granted: Mar 08, 2018
030-2018	0 County Road 46	Comber	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Mar 15, 2018
031-2018	15343 Longwoods Road	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Mar 15, 2018
032-2018	27077 Lakeview Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Construction	Granted: Mar 15, 2018
033-2018	Internal Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Mar 15, 2018
034-2018	17560 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Mar 15, 2018
035-2018	Bloomfield Road at CN Rail Crossing	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Mar 20, 2018
036-2018	Gauthier Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Mar 20, 2018
037-2018	Kent Bridge Cut-off Drain	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Mar 15, 2018
038-2018	3494 Talbot Trail	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Mar 20, 2018
039-2018	21362 Talbot Line	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: Mar 20, 2018
040-2018	2533 Longwoods Road	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Construction	Granted: Mar 20, 2018
041-2018	Stinson Branch Drain	Mosa	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: Mar 16, 2018
042-2018	84 Gordon Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Mar 23, 2018
043-2018	1856 Longwoods Road	Wardsville	Southwest Middlesex	Construction	Granted: Mar 23, 2018
044-2018	10536 Westminster Drive	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Construction	Granted: Mar 26, 2018
046-2018	2 Cambridge Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Mar 27, 2018
047-2018	19105 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Mar 27, 2018

<b>Recommendation:</b>	That permit applications 015-2018 to 044-2018, 046-2018, and 047-2018 be received for information.
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## 7.4) Conservation Areas

### *January 1 -- March 31 Visitation / Camping Stats*

**Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 1955 people (1,013 in 2017) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits - 331 vehicles (321 in 2017)**

**E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 70 people (160 in 2017)**

**Big Bend Conservation Area – 0 people (0 in 2017)**

**C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 142 people (176 in 2017) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 71 vehicles (88 in 2017)**

**Season's Day Use Permits: 29- 2018 Day Use Permits sold (34 sold in 2017)**

### *Conservation Areas updates*

New signage is being drafted to finish off replacement of the old style at our properties.

**CM Wilson CA-** the old barn has had more renovations, increasing the space for renters and providing better access to the washrooms. Bagged firewood is now being supplied by a private contractor out of Thamesville and will be available to campers for purchase.

**Ward CA-** survey complete, waiting on appraisal, then property will be transferred to LTVCA

Prescribed burn applications have been approved by CK Fire Dept. for **Myslik, McGeachy, and Courey Islands**, pending proper weather conditions, staff will work with local agencies to complete this work.

**Big Bend CA-** a park host has been hired to oversee the park and assist staff with the management of the facility.

### *Conservation Area Events*

#### **Snowshoe Rentals at the Cabin (Longwoods Road Conservation Area)**

Due to the lack of snow, we were only open on one Sunday afternoon in January with 43 rentals.

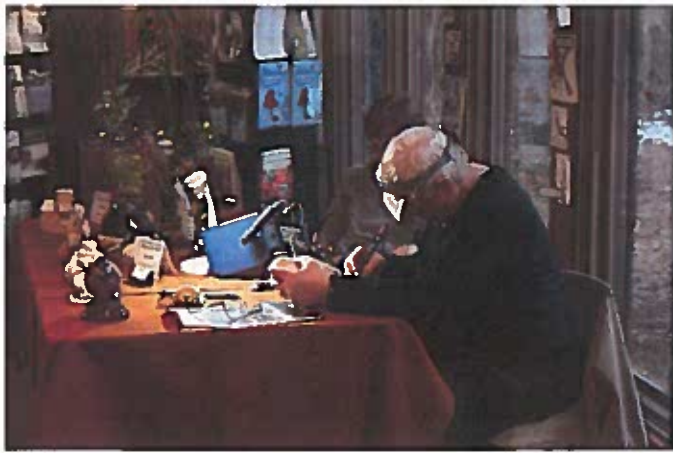
#### **Family Day Snowshoe – February 19 (Longwoods Road Conservation Area)**

Although there was no snow, 23 visitors enjoyed the museum and conservation area that day.

#### **Moonlight Winter Family Hike (aka Owl Hike) February 24 (Longwoods Road Conservation Area)**

It was with mixed feelings that this event went ahead, as the timing was in the middle of the big flood! 100 visitors enjoyed one of the 4 guided moonlight hikes, an outdoor bonfire, Bluewater Raptor Rehabilitation Centre's indoor presentations, master woodcarver demonstrations, food and crafts! Many thanks to all our volunteers as we could not host it without their help!







**March Break Guided One Hour Hikes & Tours (Longwoods Road Conservation Area)**

324 adults and children attended a guided morning or afternoon outdoor presentation through our Carolinian Forests, Heritage Log Cabins and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum. Staff were on hand Monday – Friday March 12-16.



**Coming Up!**

*Come and Join Us  
for a  
Native Plant  
Workshop*

*for nature lovers,  
gardeners, the curious  
and fresh air enthusiasts.*

**What:**  
Discover some of our native species and the challenges they face. The beauty and benefits of our native plants await you on a guided hike through the forest at Longwoods. Come enjoy the return of Spring!

**When:**  
Sunday April 23, Noon 'til 4:00

**Cost:**  
Pay & Display Parking Fee  
\$4 at Entrance Gatehouse

**Where:**  
Longwoods Road Conservation Area  
8348 Longwoods Road (Hwy. 2)  
Mount Brydges, ON



# Big "O" Birding

## April 29th, 2018

Conservation Officer Randall Van Wagner will lead a guided hike through the Longwoods Road Conservation Area in Cambridge. Discover the beauty and benefits of our native plants and the challenges they face. The beauty and benefits of our native plants await you on a guided hike through the forest at Longwoods. Come enjoy the return of Spring!

A live falconry demo by Randall Van Wagner will follow at the Iron Kettle B & B in Cambridge. The demo will feature a live falcon and a variety of other birds of prey. This is a great opportunity to see these birds up close and learn about their behavior.

Contact Randall Van Wagner for more details. Please RSVP by Monday, April 23rd!  
519-354-7310 x 230 [Randall.VanWagner@lvca.ca](mailto:Randall.VanWagner@lvca.ca) Free Admission!

*The Upper Thames Military Re-enactment Society  
Proudly Presents*

# Longwoods Heritage Weekend

May 5-6, 2018

Longwoods Road Conservation Area      5 Km west of Delaware, Middlesex Road 2  
8348 Longwoods Road, Mount Brydges



*Step back in time, as British troops attempt to expel American invaders.  
Hear the crack of the musket and the roar of the cannon. Come and  
Experience life during the War of 1812. Tour the campsites or shop  
In the historic village*



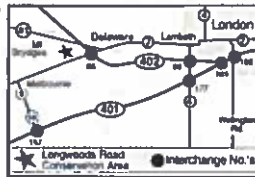
*Join the British Army  
in the Mini Militia*

**Admission- \$10**

**10 AM - 5PM Sat.**

**10 AM - 4 PM Sun.**

**[www.royal-scots.com](http://www.royal-scots.com)**



## ***Enforcement – Section 29***

MEU staff have done some patrols of Skunks and with large social media presence have seemed to curb activity a lot, we have also had the support of several ATV clubs including Chatham Kent ATV club. We are still monitoring sites for intelligence, but it has been fairly quiet.

But spring is here so I would expect MEU will be ramping up patrols and enforcement.

Bill Menzie



## 7.5) Conservation Services

Stewardship Staff have welcomed back Amanda Blain to the team in 2018, Amanda was off for the 2017 year on maternity leave and will be a great asset to the 2018 project season.

The spring will be busy for land stewardship staff as the tree season approaches. Staff have 39 reforestation projects planned throughout the Lower Thames watershed. The projects have received over \$80,000 in grant funding and will help reforest 61 acres throughout the watershed, which equates to 78,500 seedlings planted in our watershed.



There are 19 wetland restoration projects planned to be completed in 2018 across the watershed, these wetlands provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife while slowing down runoff and capturing sediment and nutrients before entering major waterways. Funding partnerships with Ducks Unlimited, Elgin Clean Water Program, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Elgin Stewardship Council have helped offset costs of completing these projects.

There is also over 10 grassland restoration projects planned across the watershed. These projects provide critical habitat for species at risk and help promote biodiversity across the landscape.

Staff have attended events to promote the stewardship program at: Chatham Kent Farm show, London Farm Show and Carolinian Canada's Go Wild Grow Wild Expo.

Staff have partnered with C-K Back To Your Roots to provide large stock trees to plant at local schools, these trees allow students to leave something behind to come back and see later on as life passes on. The goal is to allow students to come back and show their families the trees in the future once the trees have grown significantly.

The Highway 40 - 401 interchange will have a new look in 2018 as stewardship staff will be planting 475 large stock trees in the insides of the on and off ramps. These trees will provide habitat along with shielding wind and snow in the future for the roads. The whole site planted in Tall Grass Prairie to create a savanna type habitat, total cost approximately \$50,000 which is being paid for by the MTO.



Chatham Kent Secondary School Students have partnered with the LTVCA to create habitat boxes for Blue Birds and Wood Ducks this spring. These habitat boxes will be used on private land at future and past restoration projects. This is a great partnership allowing students to be involved in the local conservation efforts and will be able to take home one of the habitat boxes to put up on their own.

ALUS- Alternative Land Use Services is a program that has been in Norfolk county for a number of years and is now up in running in Lambton, Middlesex, and Elgin County. This program subsidizes agricultural producers for their land that is taken out of production that is put into buffer strips or other natural features. Funds are earmarked for the program to come to Chatham-Kent and the coordinator to work out of the LTVCA office this summer 2018.

## **OMAFRA**

### **Phosphorus Reduction Updates**

#### **Chatham Soil Health Conference**

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority hosted the Soil Health Conference in partnership with St-Clair Region Conservation Authority on February 15, 2018 at the John D. Bradley Centre in Chatham. The Soil Health Conference focused on the topic of best management practices that can be implemented by farmers to reduce nutrient run-off, improve soil quality, reduce pesticide and fertilizer use, and increase farm profitability.



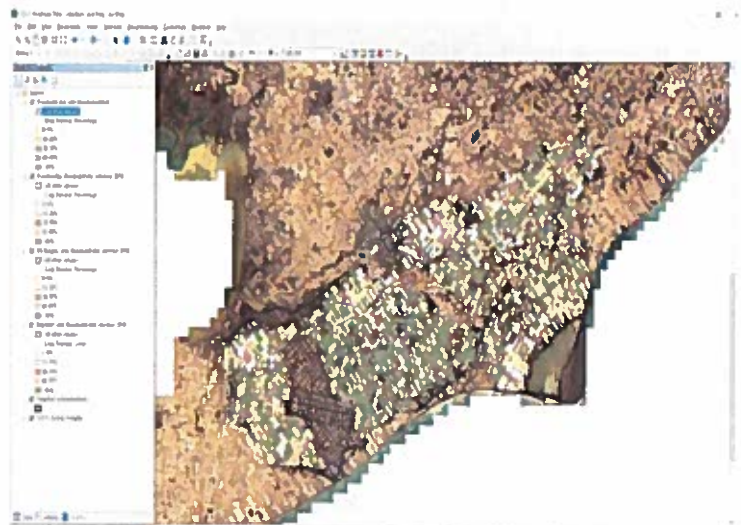
Frank Gibbs presentation on soil management BMPs at the Chatham Soil Health Conference.

The LTVCA Stewardship Outreach Specialist and Agricultural Program Coordinator assisted with recruiting sponsors, acquiring regional speakers and promoting the event to farmers within the watershed. Furthermore, LTVCA staff assisted in setting up for the event and moderated the farmer discussion panels during the conference.

The Soil Health Conference was deemed a significant success, the conference sold out with 182 attendees. Expert Speakers from across North America presented on the topics of tillage, cover crops, soil microbiology, the economic value of soil degradation and 4R nutrient stewardship practices. Furthermore, the conference included multiple sessions with panels consisting of local farmers who discussed their challenges and successes associated with the implementation agricultural BMPs.

#### **ECCC – Grants and Contribution Agreement**

The LTVCA was successful in acquiring \$75,000.00 in funding for the 2017-2018 fiscal year for the “Targeting Phosphorus Reduction in the Lower Thames Watershed” project. Through the project, Amanda Blain has created new LTVCA stewardship outreach material and is working with GATTA Creative to produce a video series focused on educating landowners on best management practices that can be implemented to reduce agriculturally sourced nutrient loading and to increase natural heritage



Screenshot of the agricultural land activity database for Baptiste Creek, Jeannettes Creek, McGregor Creek, and Rondeau Bay.



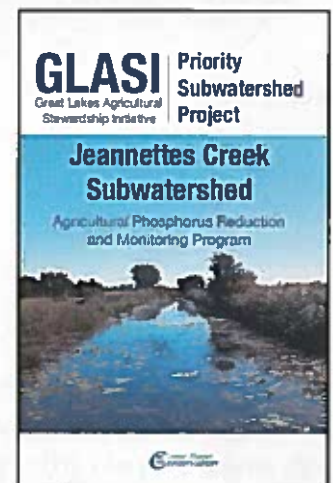
restoration within the watershed. Furthermore, an additional short video is being produced with the goal of educating the general public on regional environmental challenges.

The second component of the project involves the LTVCA collecting baseline “post-harvest” agricultural land activity data for eight subwatershed within the Lower Thames watershed. The two Research Assistants have now completed the subwatershed roadside data collection exercise and are working to consolidate and quality control check the collected information. The research assistants successfully collected post-harvest land activity data for the following variables: Crop Residue/Soil Cover %, Tillage Practices, and Cover Crop Implementation.

An internal report will be written to summarize the findings of exercise. The report will assist the LTVCA with identify priority subwatershed that require programming to improve their environmental performance, specifically in relation to soil health and management. Furthermore, the collected data will be used for future research and subwatershed modeling projects.

### ***GLASI Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed Project – Initial Agreement Conclusion***

The GLASI Jeannettes Creek Priority Subwatershed Project (PSP) agreement concluded on March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2018. The LTVCA continues to work with the University of Guelph engineering team to create a Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model for the Jeannettes Creek priority subwatershed to determine how much phosphorus (kg) was reduced due to the implementation of project supported agricultural BMPs. The model will be validated and calibrated using the significant amount of field data that was collected by the LTVCA over the duration of the study. The University of Guelph has received an extension to complete the model by January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Furthermore, the LTVCA continues to work with Yarrow Consulting to perform a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) to assesses the effectiveness of the implemented suite of BMPs and associated cost-share program at reducing agriculturally sourced phosphorus loads (in \$ spent/kg of P Reduced).



At this time, the LTVCA is not certain of the future of the GLASI Jeannettes Creek PSP, however project staff are actively exploring opportunities to secure funding to continue the research project past the date of March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2018. The LTVCA project staff will continue to sample within the Jeannettes Creek subwatershed this spring until the remaining water quality budget is fully utilized.

### ***OMAFRA – BMP Verification Edge of Field Monitoring Sites***

Water sampling and data collection continues at the BMP verification edge of field monitoring sites located within the Jeannettes Creek study subwatershed. The sites experienced multiple runoff events during the period of January to April of 2018, due to snow melts and rain. All events were sampled by the LTVCA. During this winter/spring, the BMP research field is experiencing its first cover crop treatment, as cereal rye was planted on the no-till field during October of 2017.



The LTVCA continues to work with the University of

Guelph Ridgetown Campus and University of Waterloo to perform water sample analyses and statistical analyses to compare the effectiveness of the two different cropping systems at retaining nutrients on the two Brookston Clay research fields. A report should be released by January of 2019 that will summarize the initial results of the field research.

### ***Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)***

A draft Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – LTVCA Section 11 Conservation Agreement is now being reviewed by DFO’s legal services prior to signature by both parties. A Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) funding proposal to support aquatic (fish and mussel) species at risk (SAR) survey and recovery work proposed in the agreement was submitted to the federal government on March 23. Results of the application are expected to be known by early May. DFO has also purchased some fish and mussel surveys equipment valued at approximately \$5 000 for the LTVCA to support this initiative. An application for a SAR Assistant (for field surveys) and a SAR



Northern Madtom (Endangered)

Communications Assistant (to develop aquatic SAR communication materials) was submitted to the Canada Summer Jobs program. Results are pending. A small contract was signed with DFO to engage the four First Nations (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation and Delaware Nation at Moraviantown) in discussions regarding collaboration to survey aquatic SAR within First Nation reserves along the Thames River. A first meeting with three of the four First Nations held on March 14 and a second meeting to include DFO is being planned for late April or early May.

### **Reptile SAR Program**

Roads Superintendents are being contacted to place "Wildlife Crossing" and "Brake for Snake" signs in areas identified as having high snake and/or turtle road mortality. Wildlife Crossing signs have now been placed along Springer Road adjacent to Sharon Creek Conservation Area.



Wildlife Crossing Sign at Sharon Creek Conservation Area



Eastern Spiny Softshell (Endangered) replica

Ten life-sized/life-like reptile models of local SAR were ordered and received from Morgan’s Reptile Replicas for use in reptile SAR educational programs for LTVCA.

## 7.6) Community Relations

### 7.6.1) Media releases

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.

Seven media releases were written/distributed between February 7, 2018 and April 16, 2018.

1. (Feb.7) "Enjoy an afternoon in the great outdoors!" **It's Family Day Snowshoe at Longwoods**
2. (Feb.16) "Conservation Authority Budget Approved for 2018" **LTVCA Holds Annual General Meeting**
3. (Feb.28) "Guided Hikes and Tours Offered" **Come on out to Longwoods this March Break!**
4. (Mar.12) "A Natural Gem of a Retreat!" **E.M. Warwick Conservation Area**
5. (Mar.19) "Spring experiential learning opportunities will soon be here!" **Outdoor Ed Programs 'Step Into Nature' at Longwoods Road Conservation Area!**
6. (Apr.9) "Step into Nature" **Native Plants Workshop... for nature lovers, gardeners, the curious and fresh air enthusiasts!**
7. (Apr.16) "Experience some of the best birding in SW Ontario!" **Step into Nature" For The Big O Birding "Healthy Hike**

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

### 7.6.2) Displays and Exhibits

Displays and Exhibits are created to update programs and information for the public.

- The **2018 International Plowing Match** will be held September 18-22, in Pain Court, Chatham-Kent. The LTVCA, St. Clair Region and Essex Region Conservation Authorities will be creating a tent exhibit around the theme "what the CA's are doing to protect the Great Lakes". This theme can incorporate components of phosphorus reduction, wetlands, stewardship/BMPS etc. The tent will also incorporate components of the Children's Water Festival which will not be held as a stand alone festival in 2018 due to obvious conflicts of time and resources.
- **Go Wild Grow Wild Green Expo – Carolinian Canada** was held in London at the Western Fair District Agriplex on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>. It is the largest gathering of the region's businesses, experts, organizations, and groups committed to growing a greener future. Go Wild Grow Wild inspires attendees to discover wild places, grow great gardens and live green in Carolinian Canada. The LTVCA booth was very well attended by 636 people. We displayed stewardship, conservation area and species at risk information, answered many questions, and offered 7 draws for 2018 Season's Day Use Permits to our conservation areas. It was a terrific networking opportunity. Thanks to the Directors who dropped by to see us!





### 7.6.3) Advertisements and Marketing

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 2018. Staff also take out advertisements in the local print media to inform the public about workshops and seminars.

A new **Visual Identity Branding Manual** for the LTVCA is being developed. A Visual Identity Branding Policy is nearing completion for Board Approval in June.

### 7.6.4) Presentations

Presentations are provided to community groups upon request. Support is offered to staff for official openings, funder recognition ceremonies and community events. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Focus on the Thames Forum took place in London. Mark Peacock welcomed the audience on behalf of the LTVCA and Colin Little presented on Thames Priority Subwatershed Projects.



### 7.6.5) Committees and Meetings

Staff attend meetings of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region’s communications team as they develop communication products (March 23 meeting). 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. With the International Plowing Match, and the Lake Erie Student Conference fast approaching, staff have been busy attending many planning meetings.

### 7.6.6) LTVCA Website and Social Media (YouTube, Twitter and Facebook

The LTVCA’s website and social media (YouTube, Twitter and Facebook) are updated several times daily with current/relevant Conservation Authority information and events. The website address is [www.ltvca.ca](http://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.

We were complimented on our positive social media presence with regards to the LTVCA’s Facebook page that currently has nearly 1,200 followers!

### 7.6.7) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

Directors met on March 6 and a subcommittee on March 27 in preparation for the possible approval of the Trillium grant in June for a feasibility study for Longwoods Road Conservation Area. The Foundation’s AGM is being held on April 26<sup>th</sup>.





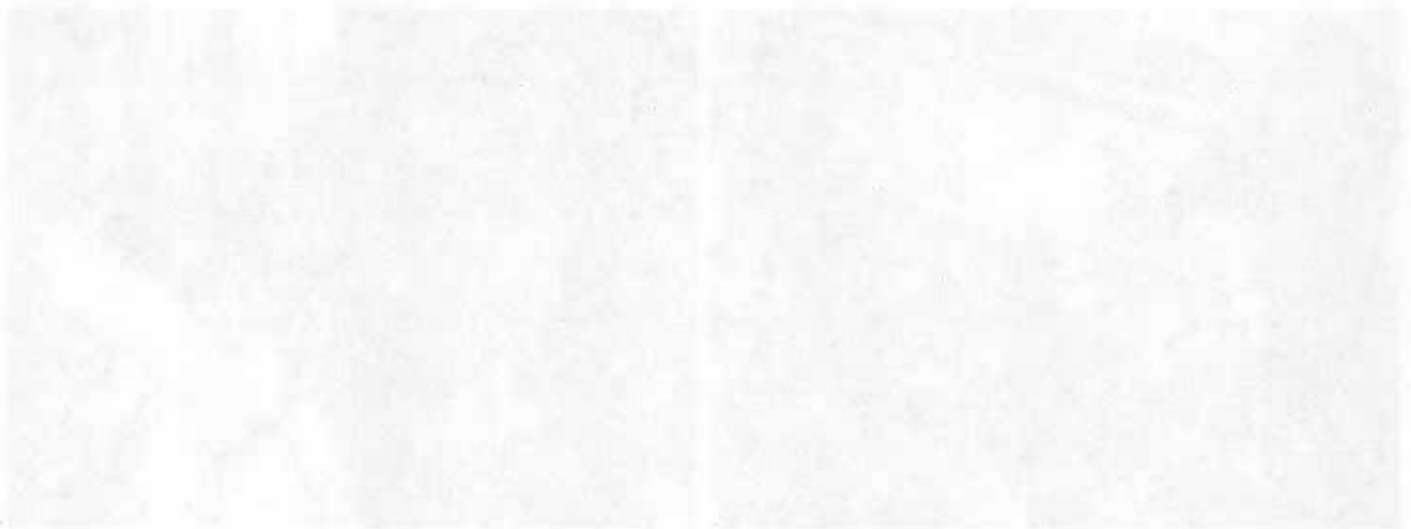


### 7.6.9) Applications

Community Relations staff apply for project funding as grants become available. A \$14,300 grant from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change will cover the costs of the April 2018 Student Conference in Rondeau Bay.

### 7.6.10) 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.



## 7.7) Conservation Authority Education

### 7.7.1) 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 for Jan. 1 – March 31 – 3 workshops and 71 participants

### 7.7.2) Conservation Field Trips for Students

Total number for January 1 – March 31 – 2018, 228 (18 - in 2017) participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

### 7.7.3) Conservation Classroom Programs and Outreach

Total number for January 1 – March 31 - 301 – 2018 (261 in 2017) This was for the sponsored **River and Creek Safety Program**, another huge success. Eddie Merks, our highschool coop student from West Elgin Secondary School assisted with the Dutton presentation. Eddie is working on many conservation projects every morning with staff at Longwoods Road Conservation Areas from Feb.23 to June 15. Many thanks also to Director Dan McKillop for finding a local sponsor for the Dunwich/Dutton Public School River and Creek Safety Program presentation!



### 7.7.4) Great Lakes Environmental Special High Skills Major (SHSM) Student Conference

Plans are continuing for the LTVCA to host this event on April 24, 2018. A \$14,300 grant from MOECC will cover the majority of costs with in-kind support from the LTVCA and the Lambton Kent District School Board. The location is in the Rondeau Provincial Park and the McLean Conservation Lands next door, with an expected 65 high school students attending. Staff and community members will present as well as local First Nations and there is possibility of the Minister attending. We are also working in partnership with the Rondeau Provincial Park staff.

# Lake Erie Student Conference

## April 24, 2018

### Rondeau Provincial Park

Time	Activity
8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Registration - Rondeau Provincial Park Pavilion
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks:</b> Emcee Jerry DeZwart, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA), Trevor Thompson - Councilor Chatham-Kent / LTVCA Director, Representative EELUNAAPÉEWI LAHKÉEWIIT Delaware Nation, the Honourable Chris Ballard - Ontario's Minister of the Environment (MOECC) (INVITED)
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Elizabeth Everhardus - MOECC - "The Great Lakes: Hidden In Plain Sight"
9:30 a.m.	Workshops: Janice Wranich - Lambton Kent District School Board 1 Group Board Bus to Keith McLean Conservation Lands
9:40 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.	<p>6 Workshops (3 running concurrently at Keith McLean Conservation Lands and 3 running concurrently inside Rondeau Provincial Park)</p> <p><b>Workshop A: Fish ... Friend or Foe</b>  <i>Andy Cook - Lake Erie Management Unit, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Rondeau Provincial Park)</i>            Discover how invasive species impact our Great Lakes by out-competing native species for food and space. (Note: Fish Allergy Alert - real fish at this workshop)</p> <p><b>Workshop B: A Changing Landscape ... People / Park Relationships</b>  <i>Jess Matthews - Natural Heritage Education Specialist and Piler Manorome - Park Warden Lease Technician (Rondeau Provincial Park)</i>            Learn about the history and natural features of Rondeau - Ontario's 2nd oldest provincial park. Discover the challenges of achieving a balance between park and cottage life.</p> <p><b>Workshop C: First Nations Relationship with the Land and Water</b>  <i>Sam Whiteye - EELUNAAPÉEWI LAHKÉEWIIT Delaware Nation (Rondeau Provincial Park)</i>            Straight from the homelands of the Lunaapeew people, this workshop offers a culturally enriched look into First Nations relationship with the land and water. Students will participate in a water ceremony and interactive, engaging activities showcasing the cultural world views of water and its significance to creation.</p> <p><b>Workshop D: Scien-sational Sssnakes!!! ... Species at Risk</b>  <i>Jenny Pearce - Scien-sational Sssnakes!! and Vicki McKay - LTVCA Species at Risk Biologist (Keith McLean Conservation Lands)</i>            It's hands-on education about reptiles and amphibians! Learn about the animals, their ecology and conservation issues. Interact, touch and hold the native Ontario species, some of which are now endangered in the wild. Learn about the challenges we face to ensure their survival in the future.</p> <p><b>Workshop E: Healthy Soil ... Healthy Waterways</b>  <i>Colin Little - LTVCA Agricultural Program Coordinator, Austin Pratt - LTVCA Water Quality Specialist, (Keith McLean Conservation Lands)</i>            Are you a Soil Steward? Learn how tillage, cover crops and other erosion control methods reduce phosphorus loadings reaching the Thames River and Lake Erie to prevent harmful algae blooms. Use phosphorus monitoring equipment and run best management practices models.</p> <p><b>Workshop F: Shipwrecks of Lake Erie</b>  <i>Gary Smith - Red Devil Scuba Supplies, Chatham (Keith McLean Conservation Lands)</i>            Hear tales from a scuba diver about local shipwrecks and their relationship to the geography of Lake Erie. How has Lake Erie diving been affected by invasive species and algae blooms?</p>
(Keith McLean Conservation Lands students bused back to pavilion for lunch)	



Time	Activity
10:55 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. Lunch	<b>Lunch - Rondeau Provincial Park Pavilion</b>
11:35 a.m. - 12:50 p.m. Workshops - Students will be divided into 2 groups. One group bused to Keith McLean Conservation Lands, one group to stay at Rondeau Provincial Park. Then each of these groups divides into 3, with each group to visit two workshops.  (Keith McLean Conservation Lands students bused back to pavilion for wrap up)	<p>6 Workshops (3 running concurrently at Keith McLean Conservation Lands and 3 running concurrently inside Rondeau Provincial Park)</p> <p><b>Workshop A: Fish ... Friend or Foe</b>  <i>Andy Cook - Lake Erie Management Unit, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Rondeau Provincial Park)</i>  Discover how invasive species impact our Great Lakes by out-competing native species for food and space. (Note: Fish Allergy Alert - real fish at this workshop)</p> <p><b>Workshop B: A Changing Landscape ... People/Park Relationships</b>  <i>Jess Matthews - Natural Heritage Education Specialist and Pilar Manorome - Park Warden Lease Technician (Rondeau Provincial Park)</i>  Learn about the history and natural features of Rondeau - Ontario's 2nd oldest provincial park. Discover the challenges of achieving a balance between park and cottage life.</p> <p><b>Workshop C: First Nations Relationship with the Land and Water</b>  <i>Sam Whiteye - EELÚNAAPÉEWI LAHKÉEWIIT Delaware Nation (Rondeau Provincial Park)</i>  Straight from the homelands of the Lunaapeew people, this workshop offers a culturally enriched look into First Nations relationship with the land and water. Students will participate in a water ceremony and interactive, engaging activities showcasing the cultural world views of water and its significance to creation.</p> <p><b>Workshop D: Scensational Ssnakes!!! ... Species at Risk</b>  <i>Jenny Pearce - Scensational Ssnakes!! and Vicki McKay - LTVCA Species at Risk Biologist (Keith McLean Conservation Lands)</i>  It's hands-on education about reptiles and amphibians! Learn about the animals, their ecology and conservation issues. Interact, touch and hold the native Ontario species, some of which are now endangered in the wild. Learn about the challenges we face to ensure their survival in the future.</p> <p><b>Workshop E: Healthy Soil ... Healthy Waterways</b>  <i>Colin Little - LTVCA Agricultural Program Coordinator, Austin Pratt - LTVCA Water Quality Specialist, (Keith McLean Conservation Lands)</i>  Are you a Soil Steward? Learn how tillage, cover crops and other erosion control methods reduce phosphorus loadings reaching the Thames River and Lake Erie to prevent harmful algae blooms. Use phosphorus monitoring equipment and run best management practices models.</p> <p><b>Workshop F: Shipwrecks of Lake Erie</b>  <i>Gary Smith - Red Devil Scuba Supplies, Chatham (Keith McLean Conservation Lands)</i>  Hear tales from a scuba diver about local shipwrecks and their relationship to the geography of Lake Erie. How has Lake Erie diving been affected by invasive species and algae blooms?</p>
1 p.m.	Wrap-up and Board Buses - Janice Wranich & Jerry DeZwart (Rondeau Provincial Park Pavilion)



### 7.7.5) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Field Trips for Students

Total number for January 1 – March 31 – 2018 - 973. In 2017 a total of 305 students participated.

### 7.7.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Group Workshops and Group Self-guided Tours

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 for January 1 – March 31, 2018 is 0. (January 1 – March 31 - 70 – 2017.)

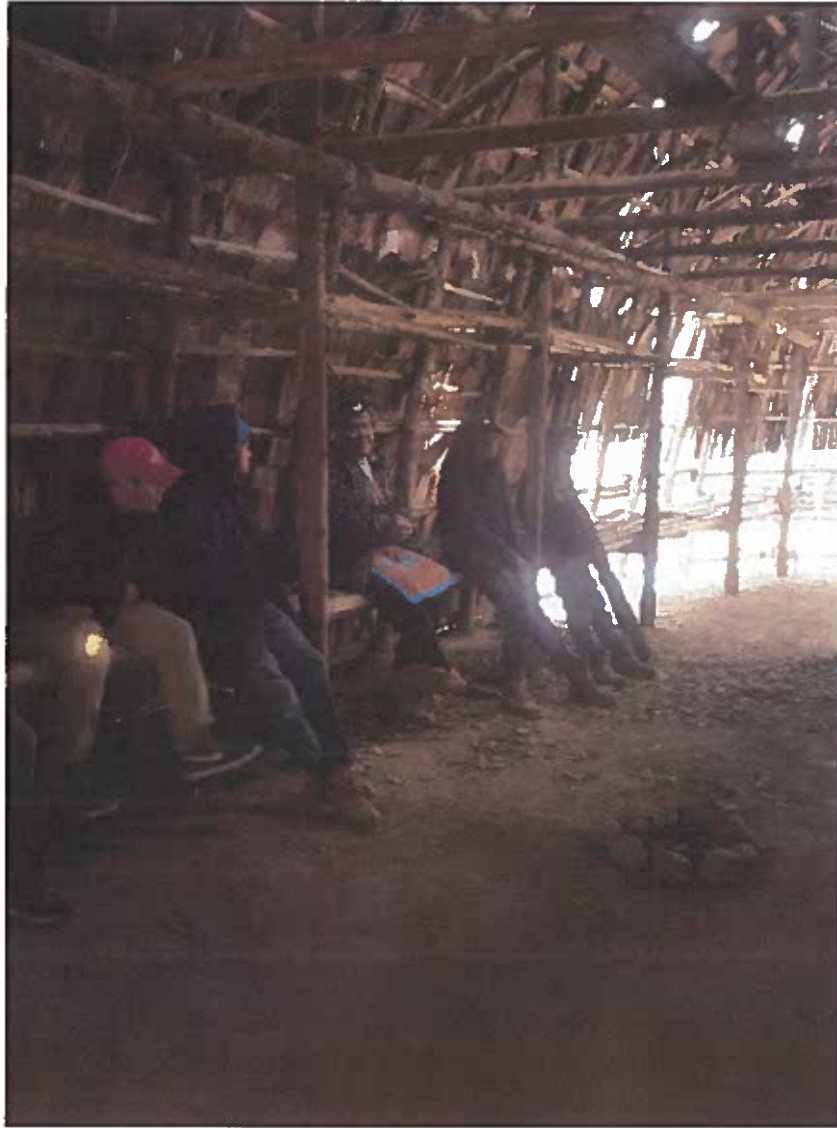
### 7.7.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Activities

The Village is already busy with events on and off-site connecting with the community. During March Break we offered combined guided hikes and village tours at 10:00 and 1:00. To our surprise we had 50 on the first Monday tour! Despite some snowy weather we totaled over 300 by the week's end. Visitors were very engaged every step of the way and equally appreciative of the "warming station" by the wood stove in the Muncey cabin at the halfway point.



School participants have been sharing their stories and questions also from the Grade 2-3's to the High Schools. We even had a guest invite her uncle on tour and he honoured us with traditional Haudenosaunee

teachings plus several songs in the longhouse. It was one of the best experiences ever at the village; genuine and very honest.



The Turtle Trail Gift Shop had one of the best January sales months ever and we are already taking our wares on the road. In March we went to the Museum of Ontario Archaeology's Maple Syrup Festival (10<sup>th</sup>) and at the Fanshawe College Pow Wow (22<sup>nd</sup>). Together we brought in over \$400.00 in sales. It looks like another great year shaping up.

## 7.8) GMs Report

Date: April 19, 2018  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: General Manager's Report  
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

### *Job Descriptions and Work Plans for 2018:*

Two main tasks have been the focus of staff attention for the last 2 months, updating of draft job descriptions and developing 2018 draft work plans for every staff member. Under Objective 8. Of the Strategic Plan - Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities all job descriptions are to be updated. The next step in the process is for myself and managers to meet with each staff member and complete a final review of these documents. Work plans will be brought together to form priority plans in each department. Additionally, these documents will form the basis for performance reviews in 2019.

### *Getting to know people and the watershed:*

To this end meetings have begun with municipal staff, stakeholders, neighbouring CAs, municipal council representatives, and residents/landowners. I have asked that board members invite me to their councils to be introduced should this be appropriate for their council. I was well received by the council of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich on March 14th and I thank councillor Dan McKillop for his support. Throughout the flood I was able to meet with a number of municipal and emergency staff, the mayor and councillors of the Municipality of Chatham Kent. Additionally, in this period I have met with the General Managers of 4 of our neighbouring Conservation Authorities and attended numerous foundation, municipal and conservation authority meetings. Other contacts include attendance at the Sunshine Rotary Club of Chatham, the Go Wild, Grow Wild event and the Forum on the Thames.

### *Monthly Staff Meetings and Wellness Committee:*

Objective 7. Of the strategic plan - Improve Internal Communications recommends monthly staff meetings. To this end monthly staff meeting have occurred for all months of 2018 and have included a pot luck lunch, business, training and a learning session. Additionally, staff have formed a wellness committee that is planning 4 staff events for the year to improve staff internal communications and interactions. The wellness committee addresses Objective 10 - Improve Human Resources recommendations of the strategic plan.

### *Policy Review:*

The Human Resources Committee is tasked with the review of existing policies. This is a significant task as many policies have been developed over the years and new employment standards and other best management practices have been developed since their approval. The committee has generally reviewed all existing policies and developed a prioritized work plan for their review.

### *Conservation Authority Act Review – Next Steps*

The Review of the Conservation Authorities Act has prompted the province to create the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Conservation Authorities Service Delivery Review Committee (SDRC). Further to that, three sub-committees that have recently been formed by that committee to undertake a number of tasks. I have been asked to be on the Hazard Program sub-committee by the Conservation Authorities representative who sits on the SDRC.

The SDRC three sub-committees including:



1. Hazard Program Sub-committee which will review/provide advice on the role of CAs in managing natural hazards (e.g. flood forecasting and warning; ice management; flood control; erosion control; shoreline management; etc.
2. Hazard Regulation Sub-committee which will review/provide advice on the role of CAs in regulating development and interference with watercourses and wetlands for impacts to the control of natural hazards.
3. Municipal Plan Review Sub-committee which will review/provide advice on the provincially-delegated role of CAs in reviewing municipal planning policy for conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement.

The first sub-committee meeting (as a joint meeting for all three sub-committees) was held on Wednesday April 18th.

***Recommendation:*** That the above reports be received for information.



# 8. Correspondence

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## 8.1) RHODES: Chatham flood swept away bridge

By John Rhodes

Thursday, March 8, 2018 5:36:06 EST AM



The recent flood waters that rolled through Chatham via the Thames was a stark reminder of how devastating this river can become.

Though serious, this was not the worst flooding in city history. I can think of three floods that were worse.

One of the earliest took place in March 1867 when a torrent of water swept through the town with such force that it lifted Fifth Street bridge off its piers and carried it away.

The structure was mostly comprised of wood and no doubt became the frame of a barn somewhere down river once it passed through an opened Third Street bridge.

The recipient, whoever he was, must have been very grateful for the free addition to his outbuildings.

This person, in order to complete the project, probably retrieved sufficient in the way of barn boards to complete the walls and roof. This lumber being provided by a lumber yard located immediately to the east of the point where third Street bridge connected to the north river bank. The wood need only rise with the water and join the current. This site is now the location of Municipal Parking Lot No. 3.

The late William McKenzie Ross (III) once explained to me why these floods became so intense.

He told me that, previous to settlement, the water was largely held back by bogs and natural flood plains, but with the clearing of the land and the establishment of drainage schemes, the water would get to the river much quicker thus creating favourable conditions for flooding.

Bill lived to be 100 and certainly saw his share of high water.

Two subsequent floods, reaching their peaks on April 29, 1937 and April 9, 1947, both reached a point of 594.5 feet above sea level. Normal height being 574 to 579 feet.

The picture I have included is from the 1937 flood and I would like to tell you what is in the photo.

The picture looks southwest, down Thames Street from the intersection of Thames, Dover and Victoria. This would be in front of what is now Dennings.

As you will see from the automobiles, the water has covered the street surface.

In the right foreground is a large sign that says "Thayers". Thayers was a popular gasoline distribution company which commenced operations in 1928 with retail outlets in Hamilton, London and Chatham. Local stations were at 99-105 Thames St. (to the right of the sign, not shown), 61 Wellington St. West, north side, opposite and slightly west of Harvey Street. A third Chatham Thayers was located at 280 Richmond St. where Waddick Fuels is now located. Thayers was absorbed by Supertest in 1947.

Behind the Thayers sign is a huge three-floor edifice at the top of which is a mural advertising the Bluebird Restaurant which was located in the building. This was the ancient Idlewild Hotel which had fallen victim to the Ontario Temperance Act of 1916 and had been converted to an apartment building with street level storefronts. The Idlewild was destroyed by an arsonist in 1972.

If you look slightly to the left of the hotel, behind the telephone pole, you'll see a two-floor brick building at the southwest junction of Thames and Fifth Street north. That building still stands.

Fifth Street North, that portion of the street surface which connects Fifth Street bridge to Thames Street, was once known as The Lacroix Slip. The name was changed to Fifth Street North in the 1920s. The title was derived from that of Peter Paul Lacroix who owned a dock on the north river bank previous to the construction of the first Fifth Street bridge.

In the distant background, at centre, you can see a huge cottage-style roof. This would be the fifth-floor covering of the Chatham Music Hall, also known as the Grand Opera House. The opera house was reduced to three floors in 1939 by Charlie Edelstein, who converted the building to an apartment house in which function it continues.

At the left side of the photo there is a sign for the Imperial Esso station. When I was a youngster, this was known as Hanson's Esso. The property is now home to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority.

## 8.2) Ohio: Western Lake Erie ‘impaired’ by toxic algae

John Seewer, Associated Press Published 1:33 p.m. ET March 22, 2018 | Updated 11:58 p.m. ET March 22, 2018



(Photo: AP)

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*Toledo, Ohio* – Ohio for the first time is designating the entire western end of Lake Erie as an impaired waterway because of the toxic algae that has fouled drinking water and closed beaches in recent years, officials said Thursday.

The shallowest of the Great Lakes has seen its largest algae blooms on record during the past decade, fueled mainly by farm fertilizers washing into the lake.

Until now, Ohio has resisted calls by environmental groups and some political leaders to issue an impairment declaration, saying federal regulators didn't have standards to trigger such a decision for the lake's open waters.

Officials within Ohio Gov. John Kasich's administration also have been worried that calling the lake impaired would wrongly give the impression that it's no longer safe as a drinking water source or for boaters and swimmers.

Determining that a body of water is impaired can lead to a federal order for stricter pollution regulations. But whether that will happen isn't clear.

Ohio's Environmental Protection Agency worked with university researchers to come up with a measurement standard and determined that water samples show the western part of Lake Erie aren't meeting water quality standards, state EPA Director Craig Butler said.

The move comes as a federal judge is considering a lawsuit filed by environmental groups who want the lake classified impaired, hoping it would pave the way for increased pollution controls.

Butler said he doesn't expect the EPA to order any new regulations because Ohio already has a federally approved plan in place to combat the algae that now turns the lake's blue waters into unsightly shades of green most summers.

An algae bloom in 2014 left more than 400,000 people around Toledo unable to drink their tap water for two days. The following year's outbreak was the largest yet.

Blooms also have been blamed for fish kills and can sicken swimmers.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. EPA called for increased efforts to reduce the phosphorus that feeds the algae but didn't recommend any new regulations.

Instead, the federal strategy relies on existing state and local programs and voluntary actions by farmers to prevent fertilizers, manure and sewage from flowing into waterways. It said some tougher rules might be needed but leaves those decisions to the states.

Environmental groups that have become frustrated by the pace and depth of those efforts applauded Ohio's move, but they said tougher and enforceable regulations throughout the western Lake Erie region are still needed.

"Voluntary efforts haven't been enough," said Howard Learner, of the Environmental Law & Policy Center, which brought the lawsuit seeking the impairment designation. "To be clear, this is a first step and not the ending."

Peter Bucher, of the Ohio Environmental Council, said that without a plan to reduce the pollutants, Lake Erie will be "inundated by yearly large-scale algal blooms for the foreseeable future."

Ohio officials say the impairment designation doesn't mean that the western end of the lake isn't safe or that it should be avoided when there are no algae blooms in the water.

The worry, though, is that it will cause people to think twice about visiting the lake, Butler said.

"I'm very concerned about the negative consequences this could bring for our tourism and fishing industries for very little environmental gain," he said.

Ohio's impairment designation covers an area of the lake that stretches roughly 60 miles – from Toledo to Marblehead – and is popular with boaters and anglers.

Until now, the state had designated only shoreline waters and a small area near Toledo's water intake pipe as impaired.

The impairment designation is part of a two-year evaluation of all state waterways that's mandated by the Clean Water Act.

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### 8.3) Lake Erie Action Plan – News Release

# Governments of Canada and Ontario release action plan to reduce harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie

Français

NEWS PROVIDED BY

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Feb 22, 2018, 16:48 ET

OTTAWA, Feb. 22, 2018 /CNW/ - Protecting and managing water quality in our lakes and rivers is essential for the well-being of Canadians, our environment and economic prosperity. Safeguarding our environment and growing our economy go hand in hand.

This is why today, the Governments of Canada and Ontario have released the final Lake Erie Action Plan.

Logo: Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (CNW Group/Environment and Climate Change Canada)

The plan identifies more than 120 federal, provincial and partner actions, using mandatory and voluntary approaches, to help achieve the goal of reducing phosphorus entering Lake Erie by 40 per cent. The plan will be reviewed and revised as needed over time to ensure continued progress towards achievement of targets.

Phosphorus enters Lake Erie from many sources, including runoff from agricultural lands, urban centres, sewage treatment plants and septic systems. Actions included in the plan to reduce phosphorus loads include upgrading municipal wastewater treatment and collection systems, encouraging effective techniques to keep phosphorus on farmland and out of the watershed, and improving wetland conservation.

Phosphorus is a primary cause of harmful algal blooms that can have a wide range of impacts on the environment, human health and the economy: water quality, fish and wildlife populations and habitats are degraded; beaches are fouled; water intakes are clogged, commercial fisheries are at risk, and toxins can also pose a risk to humans.

The action plan was developed following extensive public engagement and close collaboration with Indigenous communities, municipalities, agricultural organizations, conservation authorities, interest groups, and others.

Indigenous peoples, as stewards of the land, have been valued partners in the development of this action plan. Canada and Ontario will continue to work in partnership with Indigenous communities within the Lake Erie basin to help implement the plan.

The agricultural sector also continues to be a leading partner in efforts to reduce phosphorus entering Lake Erie from agricultural land, and adopting ways to reduce their overall environmental impact.

The Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan is an important milestone to protect the shared waters of the Great Lakes, and meets commitments under the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health. The plan also meets commitments under the Ontario Great Lakes Protection Act and Ontario's agreements with U.S. states.

## Quotes

"The Great Lakes are a treasured resource for all Canadians. Through the Lake Erie Action Plan, we are working with our partners and delivering on a key commitment under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Together, we are protecting our environment and strengthening our economy, and in doing so, improving freshwater resources so Canadians can swim, drink, and fish."

– Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

"Protecting and restoring the health of Lake Erie is vitally important to everyone in Ontario. Building on our Great Lakes Protection Act and working collaboratively with Canada and our partners, we are creating cleaner, more sustainable waters, healthier and stronger communities, and a better future for generations to come."

– Chris Ballard, Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

"Canadian farmers know the value of protecting our land and water through the use of sustainable practices. The Government of Canada is committed to working with Ontario and the agriculture sector to protect and restore water resources through support for on-farm environment action and scientific research related to the management of phosphorus in the Lake Erie basin."

– Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

"I am pleased that Ontario's agriculture sector continues to be a leader in identifying and implementing ways to reduce phosphorus entering our Great Lakes. By working together with our partners, Ontario will continue to address this vital environmental matter."

– Jeff Leal, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

"The Great Lakes are vitally important to the quality of life, economic prosperity and overall wellbeing of Ontarians. It is imperative that we make every effort to respond to issues that threaten the health of the Great Lakes, and the Lake Erie Action Plan is a significant step towards ensuring that the ecosystem health of Lake Erie recovers and continues to provide all of the opportunities we've come to enjoy."

– Nathalie Des Rosiers, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

## Quick Facts

- Lake Erie is the shallowest and most biologically productive of the Great Lakes, and it receives high loads of phosphorus, making it highly susceptible to harmful blue-green and nuisance algal blooms.
- Estimates indicate that these blooms could cost the Canadian Lake Erie basin economy \$272M annually.
- Research shows we can expect an economic return of up to \$2 for every dollar we invest to improve the health of the Great Lakes.
- Ontario's Great Lakes Basin is home to about 40 per cent of Canada's economic activity.

SOURCE Environment and Climate Change Canada

For further information: Marie-Pascale Des Rosiers, Press Secretary, Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 613-462-5473, [marie-pascale.desrosiers@canada.ca](mailto:marie-pascale.desrosiers@canada.ca); Media Relations, Environment and Climate Change Canada, 819-938-3338 or 1-844-836-7799 (toll free), [ec.media.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.media.ec@canada.ca); Anna Milner, Press Secretary, Minister's Office, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, 416-314-6736, [Anna.Milner@ontario.ca](mailto:Anna.Milner@ontario.ca); Gary Wheeler, Communications Branch, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, 416-314-6666, [Gary.S.Wheeler@ontario.ca](mailto:Gary.S.Wheeler@ontario.ca)

# 9. Events Calendar

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<b>April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>Rowsom Conservation Area- Sydenham Field Naturalist tour</b>
<b>April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>Native Plants Workshop – Longwoods Road Conservation Area</b>
<b>April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>Lake Erie Student Conference</b>
<b>April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>Big O Birding – Big O Conservation Area</b>
<b>May 5-6, 2018</b>	<b>Longwoods Heritage Weekend – Longwoods Road Conservation Area</b>
<b>June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018</b>	<b>Merlin Memorial Forest Dedication Service – Merlin Conservation Area</b>

### Ongoing Events

**First Thursday of month**  
7:30 pm

**Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meetings**  
Royal Canadian Legion, Erie Street N., Wheatley

**7 days a week**  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum**  
Longwoods Road Conservation Area

For more information contact:  
 LTVCA Administration Office: 519-354-7310  
 Longwoods Road Conservation Area: 519-264-2420  
 C.M. Wilson Conservation Area: 519-354-8184  
[www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)