



Board of Directors Meeting

A G E N D A

June 21st, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Board Room, Administration Building

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10. Other Business

11. Adjournment

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

4.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2018



Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at the LTVCA Administration Building in Chatham at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 19, 2018. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, H. MacDonald, D. McKillop, S. Caveney, M. Smibert, G. Bogart, T. Thompson, R. Doane, M. Bodnar and L. Leclair.

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of Agenda

D. McKillop requested to add to the agenda under Item #10, Other Business regarding a potential water issue in Dutton Dunwich in relation to wind turbines.

Chair, L. McKinlay, requested to add to the agenda under Item #10, Other Business regarding a permit in West Elgin.

1. R. Doane – M. Smibert

Moved that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

None Declared.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Previously circulated)

2. D. McKillop – H. MacDonald

Moved that the minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2018 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising From the Minutes

None declared.

6. Business for Approval

6.1) Presentations

6.1.1) Thames Clear Water Revival, Tara Tchir

6.1.2) Flood Forecasting and Recent Events, Jason Wintermute

3. L. Leclair – D. McKillop

Moved that the presentations be received as presented.

CARRIED

6.2) Royal Bank Account – Mount Brydges Branch, Signing Authority

4. R. Doane – M. Smibert

Moved 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.

CARRIED

6.3) Eco Gift Program Recipient

5. G. Bogart – S. Caveney

Moved that the LTVCA become a registered ECO Gift recipient.

CARRIED

6.4) McKay Pay Phone App

6. H. MacDonald – D. McKillop

Moved that the 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 existing season's pass rates.

CARRIED

6.5) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending February 28, 2018

7. D. McKillop – T. Thompson

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended February 28th, 2018.

CARRIED

6.6) Provincial Offences Officer Training

8. M. Smibert – M. Bodnar

Moved 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.

CARRIED

6.7) Board of Directors Meeting Schedule, change of dates

9. M. Bodnar – L. Leclair

Moved that the changes to the meeting dates be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

7. Business for Information

- 7.1) Water Management
- 7.2) Watershed Report Cards
- 7.3) Regulations and Planning
- 7.4) Conservation Areas
- 7.5) Conservation Services
- 7.6) Community Relations
- 7.7) Conservation Authority Education
- 7.8) GM's Report

10. G. Bogart – M. Bodnar

Moved that report 7.1) through to 7.8) be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Correspondence

- 8.1) RHODES: Chatham flood swept away bridge (historic news)
- 8.2) Ohio\Western Lake Erie 'impaired' by toxic algae
- 8.3) Lake Erie Action Plan – Release

11. L. Leclair – M. Smibert

Moved that correspondence items 8.1) through to 8.3) be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Events Calendar

12. S. Caveney – L. Leclair

Moved that the Events Calendar items be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Other Business

10.1) Wind Program, Dutton Dunwich

Thank you for allowing me to bring up a local concern in Dutton Dunwich. I know that the mandate is limited, according to information I received, regarding the limitations of the Source Water Protection mandate.

As you may or may not be aware, a Wind Project has been proposed in Dutton Dunwich. It has not been approved at this point. One of our many concerns about the project is the natural water supply in our community. Not only the aquifer structure, but also the ground water recharge areas, and private wells. Our municipality is approximately 95% looped for municipal water. I cannot speak to the number of people who are on it but it is a large percentage. This however does not excuse us of protecting the natural water source. It only gives our residents assurance that they will not be left without clean safe water close to or on their property in the event of contamination.

That being said I would like the Authority, through the chair, to investigate any proactive and present opportunities to direct us in being prepared in the event this project comes.

Examples are having available resources both physical and monetary to look at drilling, sampling and/or recording information. We are not taking away from the concerns of Chatham-Kent, as we support their actions on this matter. We also know our land structure is quite different from Chatham-Kent. However, the potential risk is there. With the proper science we will be better prepared if there is an issue moving forward. Thank you. D. McKillop

13. D. McKillop – M. Bodnar

Moved that the Board of Directors direct staff to look into ways to support municipalities to be proactive in protecting groundwater in areas where wind turbines are proposed.

CARRIED

10.2) Permit Application, West Elgin

Jason Homewood, Water Resources and Regulations Technician provided the Board of Directors with information and a power point presentation on an application that as submitted, staff would not be able to approve. As such, the information was brought before the board to approve the recommendations of staff in order to allow the permit to move forward. The draft motion brought forward (noted below) would allow staff to approve this permit.

That the board allow staff to approve the permit application regarding the construction of a new dwelling at 8674 Graham Road in West Elgin with appropriate conditions such as:

- The structure must be constructed in a manner that allows it to be movable in the future.
- That the construction be located as was noted on the site plan provided to this office on 04 April 2018.
- Sediment and erosion control measures are to be implemented between all disturbed areas and the bluff throughout the duration of construction and left in place until the site has been re-vegetated and/or stabilized.
- All materials excavated from the site must be located away from the top of the bluff, outside of the setback limit, during construction, have proper sediment control around the materials while stockpiled, then levelled and seeded as soon as possible or removed completely from the site to a LTVCA approved location.
- That all overland flows generated from the new structure(s) be directed to a suitable outlet towards the roadway or onto grassed areas away from the top of the bluff of Lake Erie in order to prevent erosion.
- All work to include site restoration of disturbed areas back to, or better than, existing.
- Construction of the structure must be well underway prior to the permit lapsing. If no construction has begun prior to the lapsing date of the permit, (19 April 2019) then a new permit will be required from this office.

14. L. Leclair – S. Caveney

Moved that the Board allow staff to approve the permit application regarding the construction of a new dwelling at 8674 Graham Road in West Elgin.

CARRIED


11. Adjournment

15. R. Doane – M. Bodnar

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Linda McKinlay
Chair



Mark Peacock
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

6. Business for Approval

6.1) Presentations

6.1.1) Recent Flooding in Erieau (J. Wintermute)

6.1.2) MacKay Pay and Lets Camp (R. Van Wagner / P. Kominek / M. Latham)

6.1.3) Lake Erie Student Conference Video (B. Carey)

6.1.4) Updated By-law, Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest (M. Peacock)

6.2) Updated By-law, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Report

Draft Administrative By-Law

Draft Code of Conduct

Draft Conflict of Interest Guidelines

Draft Procedure for Election of Officers - Update Report

Date: June 21, 2018

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: General Manager's Report

From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

1. Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act Require Update of By-Laws

The Conservation Authorities Act, as amended by the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 (Bill 139), provides direction for conservation authorities to update by-laws as a required to become consistent with the requirements as set out in that act. The new bylaws will replace administrative regulations created under the repealed Section 30 of the Act. Current administrative bylaws will cease to be in force upon the earlier of a) December 12, 2018 (one year after Section 19.1 came into force), or b) the day the regulation is revoked by the authority.

2. Conservation Ontario Model By-law. Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy

Conservation Ontario has provided a model for an Administrative By-law (and the Best Management Practices (Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy and Election of Officers Procedure) associated with the By-laws.

The Administrative By-law Model and Best Management Practices for Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest are designed to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 19.1 of Bill 139.

Some wording in the Administrative By-law Model is suggested, but not required. Other sections are recommended. The draft provide for first reading has wording that has been added to be specific to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. Additionally, some sections have been revised to be consistent with existing practices and by-laws.

It is a goal of this Administrative By-law Model and Best Management Practices to ensure a high level of consistency among conservation authorities, with respect to governance. One way to increase this consistency is for all conservation authorities to adopt Administrative By-laws and Best Management Practices that are based on a single model. The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority draft documents follow the model provided by Conservation Ontario which has been vetted through a number of ministries, conservation authorities, our insurer, and lawyers. Due to this fact, there have been very limited revisions to the model by-law in the preparation of the draft for first reading.

3. Process to Review and Approve By-law

The approval of the by-law will follow a formal three reading process. It is intended, to meet the deadlines as defined by the act, that the June meeting will include the first reading, the August meeting, the second reading and the October meeting the third and final reading or approval of the by-law.

In consultation with the chair, staff recommend that a committee of staff and directors be formed to review the draft document and provide recommendations to the board.

Recommendation:

That By-law 2018-01 be read for a first time

And that

Staff be directed to publish the Administrative By-Law, Draft Code of Conduct, Draft Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Draft Procedure for Election of Officers for comment on the LTVCA web page

And that

A committee of staff and directors be formed to review the Administrative By-law, Draft Code of Conduct, Draft Conflict of Interest Guidelines, and Draft Procedure for Election of Officers, and bring comments and revisions to the board for a second reading of the by-law at the next meeting of the board.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

6.3) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending May 31, 2018

Background:

Review the 2018 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 4 months ended April 30th, 2018.

Current Situation and Discussion:

REVENUE	2018 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET APR PROJECTED		2018 ACTUAL TO APR 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	893,663	297,888	*	608,823	310,935
GENERAL LEVY	1,405,668	1,405,668	^	1,405,668	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	656,902	218,967	*	184,026	(34,942)
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	7,000	2,333	*	0	(2,333)
RESERVES	11,204	3,735	*	0	(3,735)
CASH FUNDING	3,179,437	2,133,591		2,403,517	269,926
OTHER	0	0		0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	3,179,437	2,133,591		2,403,517	269,926

*-based on a 4 of 12 month proration of the budget

^based on cash received to June 12th, 2018

Grant income is greater than budget due to the reversal of deferred revenue for on going programs, the timing of grants invoiced, including several large grants for Wetland projects and several new and increased grants like an increase in the Source Water Protection grant and an Environment & Climate Change Canada and Rondeau Bay Student Conference grant not included in the budget.

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. As of June 12th, 2018 all municipalities were paid in full.

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 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2018 ACTUAL TO APR 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
WATER MANAGEMENT				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	190,674	63,558	51,748	(11,810)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	0	0	1,919	1,919
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	156,754	52,251	90,811	38,560
TECHNICAL STUDIES	72,120	24,040	6,668	(17,372)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	225,526	75,175	49,927	(25,248)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	102,760	34,253	37,703	3,450
SOURCE PROTECTION	24,664	8,221	17,632	9,411
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	1,204	401	0	(401)
Water Management Subtotal	773,702	257,899	256,408	(1,491)
CONSERVATION & RECREATION PROPERTIES				
CONSERVATION AREAS	638,084	212,695	167,207	(45,488)
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	172,730	57,577	44,730	(12,847)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	114,257	38,086	50,352	12,266
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	229,094	76,365	53,302	(23,063)
Community Relations & Education Subtotal	516,081	172,028	148,384	(23,644)
CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	161,243	53,748	26,142	(27,606)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	673,159	224,386	58,873	(165,513)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	323,678	107,893	163,426	55,533
SPECIES AT RISK	93,490	31,163	41,181	10,018
Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal	1,251,570	417,190	289,622	(127,568)
CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS				
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
Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,179,437	1,059,812	861,621	(198,191)

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 and not having a GIS co-op student for most of the first term.

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 above budget mostly due to the Rondeau Bay Student Conference hosted by LTVCA.

Conservation Services/Stewardship

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

Phosphorous Reduction is above budget due to several large purchases to fully utilize funds for programs ended Mar 31 and the costs related to the Environment & Climate Change Canada Grant not included in the budget and completed as of the report date.

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 ended Mar 31.

Administration

Administration building is comparable to budget.

Summary:

	2018 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET APR PROJECTED	2018 ACTUAL TO APR 28	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	3,179,437	2,133,591	2,403,517	269,926
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,179,437	1,059,812	861,621	(198,191)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,073,779	1,541,896	468,117
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0	(40,745)	(40,745)
NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	0	1,073,779	1,501,151	427,372

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 April 30th, 2018, LTVCA's operating surplus is favourable to the projected budget; however, there are several things to consider. A significant portion of the income for the year has been accounted for with the full levy being recognized but the Conservation Authorities expenses happen throughout the year with the largest portion of the expenses incurred during the summer months.

Recommendation: That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended April 30th, 2018.

6.4) Draft MOU between LTVCA and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

In February 2018, the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation submitted a \$75,000 application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to fund a Longwoods Road Conservation Area Redevelopment Feasibility Study (LRCARFS). OTF will announce the successful candidates around June 22.

A subcommittee of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (Grant Jones, Ken Brooks and Ralph Luimes) and the General Manager of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (Mark Peacock), met on 2 occasions (March 27 and May 30, 2018) at the Longwoods Road Conservation Area to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). From these meetings it was determined that a “Longwoods Road Conservation Area Redevelopment Feasibility Study Steering Committee” would liaise between the 2 organizations and oversee the Trillium grant project if funded. They will hold regular meetings, maintain minutes, approve payments, and appoint the project consultants. The Steering Committee would be comprised of LTVCF representatives (Grant Jones, Ken Brooks and Ralph Luimes), LTVCA representatives (Mark Peacock and Linda McKinlay). Bonnie Carey would provide staff support to the Steering Committee.

This draft MOU indicates an agreement to partner for the completion of a Longwoods Conservation Area Redevelopment Feasibility Study outlining the merits of a “vision” for a modern multi-use facility for educational and community events. This completed \$30,000 “vision” project was jointly funded by the LTVCA, LTVCF and the London Community Foundation in 2017 and provided valuable recommendations on 14 aspects of our operation. These aspects included exploring new markets, changes to social media and website, embracing new technologies, exploring new partnerships, improving visitor experiences, enhancing our natural environment, adding new programming, modifying education programs, improving buildings and equipment, installing play structures and outdoor amphitheatre, and finally the redesigning of the existing Resource Centre or a new build of a multi-use structure all together.

The Trillium Grant feasibility plan will respond to but is not limited to the following elements:

1. demand analysis
2. programming and operations review
3. facility design and specifications
4. capital and operating requirements
5. fund development strategy

Through the Trillium funding, a project manager will be hired and consultant(s) will be engaged in the various aspects of the 12 month project, overseen by the Steering Committee.

Recommendation: That the Directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority agree in principle with the Memorandum of Understanding for the Longwoods Road Conservation Area Redevelopment Feasibility Study (LRCARFS) and as such, appoint two representatives for the Authority those being the Chair – Linda McKinlay and the General Manager – Mark Peacock to the LRCARFS Steering Committee.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF)
and
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), indicates a voluntary agreement to partner for the completion of a Longwoods Conservation Area Redevelopment Feasibility Study (LCARFS) outlining the merits of a “vision” for a modern multi-use facility for educational and community events. The term is as per terms of the funding agreement.

Subject to funding, signatures below signify the above organizations confirm their intent to:

1. Participate through their designated representatives on the Longwoods Road Conservation Area Redevelopment Feasibility Study Steering Committee working on the merits and feasibility of the vision. It is about determining the feasibility to meet the needs to establish a facility on the Longwoods Road Conservation Area property.
2. Working together in a manner that is in keeping with our mission, the organizations affirm they will participate and contribute to the discussion for research activities as follows:
 - a. Openness of information so each can make sound and responsible decisions
 - b. Accountable and good stewards of available resources and source entities
 - c. Could include the need to source outside help
 - d. Could include the need to handle concerns arising area stakeholders
 - e. Need to share ideas, solutions, best practices, limits for example, in order that we gain an accurate understanding of what is possible
 - f. Commit and agree that no reports will be made to external parties unless the report is internally approved for circulation
 - g. That neither party can contractually bind each other
3. The feasibility plan will respond to but is not limited to the following elements:
 - a. Demand analysis
 - b. Programming and Operations Review
 - c. Facility Design and Specifications
 - d. Capital and Operating Requirements
 - e. Fund Development Strategy
4. Roles and responsibilities shall be as follows:

For the Committee:

 - Hold regular meetings
 - Maintain minutes of meetings to serve as reporting to both the Foundation and Authority Board along with the final report
 - Approve payments
 - Appoint the project consultant(s) who will report to the Committee

- Appoint an independent project coordinator who will report to the Committee and serve as the day to day operations liaison with the project consultant(s) (\$5k allowance) and prepare reports on behalf of the Committee

For the Foundation:

- The fund receiver will administer and account for supporting funds
- Meet grant requirements
- Report to the funder

For the Authority:

- Support the project with staff time and resources with emphasis on elements a-d in #3 above and less for element e
- Secretarial support through Bonnie
- Could provide accounting support if desired

5. Review and Termination – Notice and requirements will be consistent with that of the Ontario Trillium Foundation fund agreement.

Two Authorized Representatives for the Foundation (Chair and one other)

Two Authorized Representatives for the Authority (Chair and General Manager)

Date: _____, 2018

6.5) Ward Appraisal – in camera

Randall Van Wagner will provide the Board of Directors with information on the appraisal of the Ward property in the Community of Romney (nee Twp), Municipality of Chatham-Kent at the meeting.

Recommendation: That the LTVCA Board accept the appraisal report for the Ward property donation, issue a tax receipt to the donor for the amount of \$147,375.00 for the 23.5 acres parcel of land.

7. Business for Information

7.1) Water Management

7.1.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

In order to prevent flooding in the south side of the City of Chatham, the McGregor Creek Diversion Channel has been operated on three occasions since the last report to the Board of Directors. The first occasion was between April 15th and 18th, when the Indian and McGregor Creek watersheds received between 50 and 70 mm of rainfall over two days. The second occasion was between May 12th and May 14th, when the Indian and McGregor Creek watersheds received between 35 and 80 mm of rainfall over two days. This event was immediately followed up by another 30 mm of rainfall overnight on the 14th/15th that had the diversion operating again from the 15th until the 17th. While the April rainfall event was widespread enough to cause the Thames River to rise up and cause minor flooding of the river flats from Delaware down to Chatham, the May events were quite localized and there was very little response on the Thames River. There were 6 flood messages in total issued for these events.

Flooding along the Lake Erie shoreline has also continued. However, the frequency and severity of this flooding has decreased due to seasonal changes in wind patterns. The most severe event occurred on April 15th which saw flooding from Rondeau Bay in the community for Erieau for the first time since the late 1990's. This flooding event is the subject of a presentation at this Board of Directors meeting. There was a Flood Warning issued during this event. Three other flood messages regarding the Lake Erie shoreline have been issued during since the last report. They were issued on April 16th, May 1st and May 4th and largely targeted Erie Shore Drive. As high lake levels continue, the risk of flooding remains and there is the potential for shoreline residents to get lake water spraying onto their properties even when flood messages haven't been issued.

7.1.2) Low Water Response Program

With the wet spring and significant flooding the watershed experienced earlier this year, the Low Water Response Program had not been a priority. At the beginning of June, LTVCA staff began drafting watershed condition reports for the Low Water Response Program again. These reports examine the program's indicators of drought or low water conditions. Those indicators are: 3 month total rainfall, 18 month total rainfall and average monthly flows in the river. For reporting up to May 31st, all of the indicators suggested that the Lower Thames watershed was not in any type of low water condition. The watershed condition reports for the Low Water Response Program are available upon request.

7.1.3) Watershed Monitoring

LTVCA staff continue to collect surface water quality samples throughout the Lower Thames watershed at 22 sites. This data collection is conducted as a partnership between the LTVCA and two Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) programs, the Provincial (Surface) Water Quality Monitoring Program (PWQMN) program and the Thames River Gap Analysis & Pump Station Monitoring program funded under the Canada Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA). An updated proposal for the continuation of the COA grant was submitted on February 12th and the year-end report was submitted June 1st. The proposal is currently in review; however, a firm commitment has been delayed due to the provincial election.

The partnership between the University of Windsor and the LTVCA for benthic sampling in the Lower Thames watershed continued this spring. Students working with Dr. Jan Ciborowski selected the sites and conducted sampling in late May. In total, 16 sites were sampled throughout the watershed. Results will not be available until later in the year when the students have had the time to identify the species in the samples.

7.2) Regulations and Planning

7.2.1) Planning and Regulations

Recent legal decisions and clarification of the provincial position around development in natural hazard areas are forcing the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority to re-evaluate its position on how development is being allowed to proceed in areas subject to flooding hazards. Under the Planning Act, “A decision of the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister of the Crown and a ministry, board, commission or agency of the government, including the Tribunal, in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter, (a) shall be consistent with the policy statements issued under subsection (1) that are in effect on the date of the decision”. Recent court decisions such as *Gilmor v. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority* and *435454 Ontario Inc. v. Halton Region Conservation Authority* have confirmed that conservation authorities fall under the definition of those authorities that must make their decisions consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). Furthermore, revisions to the Conservation Authorities Act under Bill 139 have made explicit the conservation authorities’ responsibilities for public safety.

Under the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014, section 3.0 Protecting Public Health and Safety, subsection 3.1 Natural Hazards, it states “Development and site alteration shall not be permitted within: c) areas that would be rendered inaccessible to people and vehicles during times of flooding hazards, erosion hazards and/or dynamic beach hazards, unless it has been demonstrated that the site has safe access appropriate for the nature of the development and the natural hazard; and d) a floodway regardless of whether the area of inundation contains high points of land not subject to flooding.” While earlier versions of the PPS used softer wording, the change to “shall not be permitted” was made in the 2005 revision to the PPS and should have been the position of all public bodies with responsibilities under the Planning Act since then. Provincial guidance on how to interpret the Natural Hazards subsection of the PPS, including “it has been demonstrated that the site has safe access”, has been provided by the province through a series of technical guides, the most relevant being *River & Stream Systems: Flooding Hazard Limit*, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2002.

Staff will need to review the Draft Regulations and Planning Policy and Procedure Manual to ensure that our manual addresses these changes with enough clarity to direct proponents when reviewing their proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act requirements.

7.2.2) Section 28 Regulations /Permitting

Permitting

Since the last board update on 19 April 2018 and up to 01 June 2018, staff have received and approved an additional 39 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 five months of 2018 is 85 which is down approximately 33% from those reported in the same time frame last year. All applications were able to be approved by staff as they were in-line with our current Operational Guidelines (last revised in 2012).

Below are some Section 28 Permitting statistics for 2018 up to 01 June 2018:

- All 85 permit applications have been approved by staff;
- 19 properties were surveyed for permit and official plan flood proofing requirements;
- 59% of all applications have been within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and 20% have been within the Town of Lakeshore;
- 64% of the applications have been for private property owners for construction, shoreline breakwall

- repairs, or bank alterations;
- 34% of applications have been for municipal projects (drainage or infrastructure); and,
- Total of permit application fees = \$20,925.00 (average of \$246.17 per permit issued).

7.2.3) Property Inquiries

With the warm weather, staff have observed an increase in the number of property inquiries. In the first three months of 2018, regulations staff had received and responded to 255 property inquiries. In the last two months, there have been 258 property inquiries. Some of the reasons that regulations staff receive property inquiries include:

- Realtors looking to sell a property and wanting to know any potential restrictions for future buyers.
- People purchasing property who want to know more about the site-specific hazards and regulations.
- Landowners wanting to learn about best management practices specific to their property.
- Landowners wanting specific information on what is permitted in regulated areas.
- Insurance companies looking for floodplain information.
- Municipal staff or utility companies planning future projects.

7.2.4) Website

Changes were implemented to the regulations page on the website (<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/planning-and-regs/regulations/>) in May. The page was last updated in 2016 and users found it's content to be unhelpful. New sections on the page are targeted to specific frequently asked questions such as, "Why are there regulations?", "What is regulated?", "Do I require a permit?", and "What do I include in my permit application?". Staff have also tried to make it more clear on that page for specific staff contact information. We will continue to monitor feedback on the page and implement changes as needed.

7.2.5) Section 28 Enforcement

16 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. Twelve of the 16 complaints/violations arose in the last two months. Of the 16 complaints/violations received so far in 2018, 13 were in Chatham-Kent, one was in West Elgin, one was in Dutton Dunwich, and one was in Southwold. MEU was called in for four of the files, with one being cleared and the other four still active.

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.

7.2.6) O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

Staff Report

O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications (2018)

B.D. 06/21/18

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
045-2018	19071 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: April 11, 2018
048-2018	18076 Erie Shore Drive	Erie Shore Drive	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 13, 2018
049-2018	30 Detroit Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 11, 2018
050-2018	10078 Longwoods Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 11, 2018
051-2018	Stirling Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 09, 2018
052-2018	19182 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: April 11, 2018
053-2018	R & M Small Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: April 13, 2018
054-2018	8674 Graham Road	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: April 19, 2018
055-2018	11510 Rondeau Drive	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 25, 2018
056-2018	8536 Havens Lake Road	Aldborough	West Elgin	Construction	Granted: April 25, 2018
057-2018	Ellwood Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 24, 2018
058-2018	Mason Drain	Camden	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 24, 2018
059-2018	Ashton Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 24, 2018
060-2018	Stone Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 24, 2018
061-2018	805 Mariner's Road	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 25, 2018
062-2018	11489 Lagonda Way	Rondeau Bay Estates	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: April 26, 2018
063-2018	17420 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: April 26, 2018
064-2018	1515 Kerr Avenue	Erieau	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: April 27, 2018
065-2018	58 Stonegate Walk	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 15, 2018
066-2018	20939 Hickory Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 15, 2018
067-2018	19125 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: May 17, 2018
068-2018	13347 Magnaville Line	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 18, 2018
069-2018	Strang Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: May 11, 2018
070-2018	McMillan Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: May 23, 2018
071-2018	1828 Clarke Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 23, 2018
072-2018	Lighthouse Cove Access Channel in Lake St. Clair	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: May 15, 2018
073-2018	265 Island Crescent	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: May 11, 2018
074-2018	59 Princess Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 15, 2018
075-2018	28970 and 29204 Ash Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: May 15, 2018
076-2018	Simpson Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 18, 2018
077-2018	168 St. George Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 28, 2018
078-2018	7780 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 24, 2018
079-2018	90 Kent Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 29, 2018
080-2018	13975 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: May 31, 2018
081-2018	26 Two Creeks Lane	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 31, 2018
082-2018	Payne and Backus Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: May 31, 2018
083-2018	45 St. Patrick Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 31, 2018
084-2018	730 Rivait Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: May 31, 2018
085-2018	10945 River Line	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: May 31, 2018

Recommendation:

That permit applications 045-2018 and 048-2018 to 085-2018 be received for information.

7.3) Conservation Areas

7.3.1) April 1 – May 31 Visitation / Camping Stats

Longwoods Road Conservation Area – 3,541 people (3,069 in 2017) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits - 327 vehicles (367 in 2017)

E.M. Warwick Conservation Area – 267 people (280 in 2017)

Big Bend Conservation Area – 27 people (90 in 2017)

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area – 1,268 people (1,990 in 2017) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 108 vehicles (155 in 2017)

Sharon Creek Conservation Area – 42 people May

Season's Day Use Permits: 35- 2018 Day Use Permits sold April/May (5 sold in April/May 2017). Total Season's Day Use Permits sold so far in 2018 is 64.

7.3.2) Conservation Areas

CM Wilson CA- New reservation software called “Let's Camp” has been implemented for campers to book and pay for camping. Online through our website campers can now reserve specific campsites and pre pay, this will streamline our operations, simplify availability and payment for campers and visitors.

Washrooms have been repainted and new countertops installed. New waste/recycling center has been installed for campers, along with new signage throughout the Conservation Area that is consistent with new logo and colours.

Big “O” CA- a double row of white cedars was planted along the back side of the neighbour's house beside the parking area to privatize and mitigate ongoing issues.

Rowsom CA- staff guided about 20 members of the Sydenham Field Naturalists on a tour of this property in May.

Courey Islands- staff planted 1500 trees and shrubs on the Jeanette's Creek Islands, as a long term strategy to compete with the problematic *Phragmites Australis* that has colonized here.

Sharon Creek CA- the new MacKay Pay phone App has been implemented and has successfully generated over 20 season pass purchases at the property. In the past no fees were collected here as there was no means to do so. Funds generated have gone back into the Conservation Area for increased security patrols by MEU, two new docks for canoe/kayak/stand up paddler launching, port-a-john rental and increased maintenance of the site.

Delaware CA- plans are underway to upgrade signage and tall grass prairie plantings. Partners will include MNRF, MEC, Thames Valley Trail Association and various fishing clubs from London.

Big Bend CA- new park host Lisa Henderson has moved in to the Conservation Area to provide additional support to staff. 4 new camp sites have been brushed out along the Thames River to provide beautiful views

of the Thames River and appeal to the paddling community. Staff are looking into the costs of upgrading hydro at the main camping area to better suit the needs of seasonal campers.

Diversion Channel- The LTVCA flood control channel is approximately 3.5 km in length, and is critical in diverting water during rain events away from the south side of Chatham. As such, it is necessary to keep the channel free from obstructions such as trees that could impede flow or cause erosion problems to this engineered structure. A management plan has been drafted and field staff have spent approximately 3 weeks brushing out larger trees like cottonwood, Manitoba maple and Willow. Follow up spraying and brushing will be regularly scheduled maintenance.

7.3.3) Conservation Area Events

Native Plants Workshop April 22 (Longwoods Road Conservation Area)

90 people attended the 4 hour Native Plants Workshop held on April 22! Visitors enjoyed the indoor presentation followed by a guided hike with Jerry DeZwart – LTVCA’s Conservation Education Technician and Eddie (co-op student). Unfortunately the cold weather had set back the blooming beauty of Longwoods by 2 weeks, but the diverse surroundings provided lots of opportunities for ecosystem education and furthering of the LTVCA’s stewardship message. Current threats to our wetlands, fields and forests in the form of introduced invasive species were outlined along with positive steps we can take to help our native plant communities. The Carey Carolinian Arboretum and Trail’s native gardens provided a link to tallgrass prairie, native plants and their importance to our native pollinators. Lots of smiles, appreciation and sunshine at days end!



Longwoods Heritage Weekend May 4-6

Friday was Education Day with the Re-enactors putting on workshops for 708 grade 7/8 students throughout a variety of stations situated in the conservation area.

Saturday and Sunday were the public days. 700 visitors attended, 118 scouts camped and 223 re-enactors participated.

Total attendance for this event was 1,749.



Longwoods Road Conservation Area and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum are now open 7 days a week.

Coming Up!

Twilight Tuesdays at Longwoods Road Conservation Area July 3 – August 21, 7:30 p.m.

Artifact Day at Longwoods Road Conservation Area July 15, 1-4 pm

7.3.4) Enforcement – Section 29

MEU conducted several patrols for section 29 - Skunks Misery, Big Bend, EM Warwick, Longwoods and Sharon Creek. There were two trespasses at night, one leading to CDSA and OPP. And there was some ATV's at Skunks Misery and managed to get two youth caught but there was more; parents were called and dealt with accordingly.

MEU handed out some warnings on section 29 patrols mainly to deal with dogs without leashes, and were involved in the roll out of the new pay system for parking and day passes.

7.4) Conservation Services

7.4.1) Conservation Services

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority has completed the 2018 tree planting season. In 2018 stewardship staff put over 92,000 seedlings into the Lower Thames Valley watershed.

33,000 were planted by private landowners.

60,000 were planted into larger reforestation projects by the stewardship staff of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. Thanks to all of our cooperative landowners who recognize the value behind these projects.

C.M. Wilson received 900 seedlings in improvements around the park.

Badder Memorial Forest received an additional 250 seedlings to complete the planting for this site.

Largest stock trees

There were 860 large stock trees planted with various partners:

MTO Highway 401 Exit 90

LTVCA Stewardship completed the landscaping for the new interchange on highway 40. Over 3 acres of native tall grass was seeded and 475 larger trees were planted in and around the clover leaf.



BaCK to Chatham Kent: Your Roots are Always in Chatham Kent

In continuation with our partnership with Chatham-Kent and the "Back to CK" campaign, we planted 12 trees with representatives and graduates from 10 secondary schools across Chatham-Kent. A tree was also planted for the graduates of St-Clair College and University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus.

Meesingw & Union Gas

Partnership building efforts connected the Delaware First Nation, Union Gas, and LTVCA on a 20 m buffer & trail project along the Thames River in the Moravian First Nation Community this spring. Over 350 large stock trees were planted with the help of Union Gas Helping Hands Program





Scouts

During the Scouts Canada Eco Camp weekend 350 seedlings were planted with 120 scout volunteers, parents and scout leaders at Camp Cataraqui near the newly restored Clear Creek Forest.

IPM

22 Eastern Redbud Trees were donated to communities across Chatham-Kent for the International Plowing Match happening in September.

Employment and Social Development Canada's Summer Work Experience Program

The LTVCA Stewardship Department was successful in acquiring 50% of the funding to hire two temporary tree planters for 2018. Sydnee Baker and Taylor Williams were excellent planters and helped make the spring planting season a success.

In total there were 42 tree planting projects.

Since 2001, the LTVCA has planted nearly 1.5 million trees in our watershed.

Wetland restoration season is upon us and we will be working on over 20 projects.

7.4.2) Phosphorus Reduction Updates

OMAFRA – Phosphorus Filter Tank Site

The LTVCA has completed the installation of the water quantity and quality monitoring equipment at the phosphorus filter tank site. Two ISCOs auto-samplers have been installed and the LTVCA has been taking samples for water quality analysis at the inlet and outlet of the phosphorus filter tank since the beginning of May.

The LTVCA is working alongside OMAFRA to monitor the phosphorus filter tank application to determine if it is a cost-effective practice that can be implemented to reduce phosphorus loads from subsurface tile drainage systems on fields with high soil P test values. A tile main was installed at the edge of a field to direct subsurface tile flow for a 25 acre field catchment area to the phosphorus filter tank. Once the water enters the tank from the systematic field drainage system, it will flow through the Filtrexx NutriLoxx P sorption text material before exiting the tank and discharging into the adjacent municipal drain. The LTVCA and OMAFRA will use data collected at the site to calculate nutrient loads at the inlet and outlet of the tank to determine how effective the application is at reducing subsurface tile nutrient loads

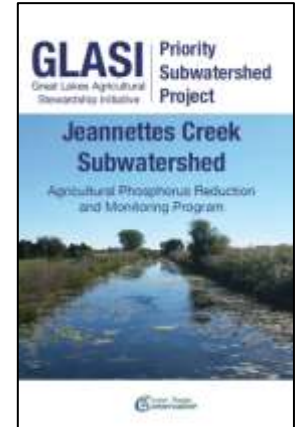


from agricultural operations.

The project is being conducted in partnership with Louis Roesch, OMAFRA, the Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative (TRPRC), Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), Gillier Drainage, Filtrexx Canada, BabCock Supply, ADS Canada, and the Land Improvement Contractors of Canada.

GLASI Jeannette's Creek Priority Subwatershed Project – SWAT Model and Continued Monitoring

The GLASI Jeannette's Creek Priority Subwatershed Project (PSP) agreement concluded on March 31st of 2018. However the LTVCA has continued to assist the University of Guelph with developing the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model for the Jeannette's Creek priority subwatershed. The model will be used to determine how much phosphorus (kg) was reduced due to the implementation of project supported agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs). A meeting was hosted at the LTVCA Chatham Administration Office on June 6th, 2018 with the University of Guelph modeling team, to discuss the progression of the project. It is expected that the SWAT model for the Jeannette's Creek PSP will be complete by January 19th of 2019.



Throughout the spring of 2018, the LTVCA project staff continued to conduct water quality sampling during precipitation and flow events within the Jeannette's Creek priority subwatershed. During the months of April and May, the LTVCA collected 104 water samples during flow events from the monitoring stations in Jeannette's Creek. The samples have been submitted to Caduceon Environmental Laboratories for nutrient concentration analysis.

At this time, the LTVCA is not certain of the future of the GLASI Jeannette's Creek PSP, however project staff are actively exploring opportunities to secure funding to continue the research project past September of 2018.

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 Jeannette's Creek study subwatershed. The sites experienced multiple runoff events during the period of April to May of 2018, due to precipitation. All events were sampled by the LTVCA. During this winter/spring of 2018, 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.

7.4.3) Aquatic Species at Risk (SAR)

A draft Section 11 Conservation Agreement was submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in March. LTVCA staff are awaiting comments from the DFO legal review that has now been completed. A Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) funding proposal was submitted on March 23 to support aquatic (fish and mussel) species at risk (SAR) recovery work in the LTVCA proposed in this agreement. Vicki and Mark met with representatives of the Oneida Nation of the Thames, Chippewa's of the Thames First Nation, Delaware-Munsee, Delaware Nation at Moraviantown and DFO on the Oneida Nation regarding aquatic (fish and mussel) SAR in the lower Thames River and how we can potentially work together to benefit these species. LTVCA has also received some key equipment from DFO that will be used in fish and mussel surveys this year and in the future to support this initiative. The LTVCA was successful in receiving two 8-week Canada Summer Jobs student positions. Mei-Ling Bonato started her contract on June 4 as a SAR Communications Assistant. A SAR Assistant will be hired, starting in July, to assist with SAR fish and mussel field surveys.

Reptile SAR Program

The Reptile SAR Program came to a close at the end of March 2018.

7.5) Community Relations

7.5.1) 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.

Eight media releases were written/distributed between April 17, 2018 and May 24, 2018.

1. (April 16) "Listen, Watch, Taste, Smell - Experience Life of 1812!" Longwoods Heritage Weekend May 5-6
2. (April 17) Lake Erie Student Conference to be held at Rondeau Provincial Park & Keith McLean Conservation Lands
3. (April) CA Watershed Report Cards are Launched
4. (April 30) New Lower Thames Valley Watershed Report Cards Reveal Stressed Conditions in Our Watershed
5. (May 2) "Plan a 'Camping Get-Away' in Lower Thames Valley Country!" Conservation Areas Open Mid-May for Camping Season
6. (May 4) "Stewardship Season has Arrived!" Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Hits the Ground Running This Spring
7. (May 23) Thames-Sydenham and Region First Annual Progress Report Released
8. (May 24) Conservation Authority Introduces New Smart Phone Payment Method LTVCA Using Mackay Pay Phone App at Sharon Creek and Big Bend Conservation Areas

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.

7.5.2) 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 are creating a tent exhibit around the theme "what the CA's are doing to protect the Great Lakes". This theme will 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. Several planning meetings have been held with the other two Conservation Authorities and we are well on our way to planning this exhibit.

7.5.3) 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.

7.5.4) Committees and Meetings

Staff attend meetings of the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region's communications team as they develop communication products. 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, staff have been busy attending many planning meetings.

7.5.5) 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. 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 continues to increase and currently has nearly 1,243 followers!

7.5.6) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation was held on April 26 at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Elections were held. President – Grant Jones, Vice-President – Ken Brooks, Secretary-Treasurer – Dan McKillop. The subcommittee met on May 30 to review a draft of a MOU between the LTVCA and the Foundation in preparation for the possible approval of the Trillium grant in June for a feasibility study for Longwoods Road Conservation Area.

The McKinlay Memorial Forest Dedication Service for the Merlin Conservation Area is scheduled for Sunday, June 10.

7.5.7) 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.

7.6) Conservation Authority Education

7.6.1) Conservation Youth Group Workshops

Workshops are held 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 April 1 – May 31 – 31 participants.

7.6.2) Conservation Field Trips for Students

Total number for April 1 – May 31 – 2018, **261** (236 - in 2017) participated in field trips to Longwoods Road Conservation Area. The Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse) dependence on keeping a natural balance structured their whole existence. Their close ties to Mother Earth provide a perfect platform from which to develop our future educational objectives that will help internalize the value of our connection to and stewardship of the natural world. The month of May provided opportunity to interweave a couple of our nature and heritage programs to offer the public and schools better “bang for the buck” during their visits to Longwoods/Ska-Nah-Doht. Teachers and students enjoyed these “test” programs and were very enthusiastic about receiving them in future.

7.6.3) Conservation Classroom Programs and Outreach

Total number for April 1 – May 31 - **250** – 2018 (0 in 2017) The Middlesex Federation of Agriculture, Middlesex 4-H Association, Middlesex Cattlemen’s Association and Middlesex Farm and Home Safety Committee sponsored a Farm Safety Day at Delaware Public School. Over 250 Delaware and Standing Stone students and teachers participated in self-rescue techniques and other water safety topics presented by LTVCA staff.

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

(view 2 minute video clip at the meeting)

The LTVCA hosted this event on April 24, 2018. A \$14,300 grant from MOECC covered the majority of costs with in-kind support from the LTVCA and the Lambton Kent District School Board. The location was in the Rondeau Provincial Park and the McLean Conservation Lands next door, with approximately 65 high school students attending from Lambton Kent Composite School and McGregor Secondary School. Staff and community members presented as well as local First Nations. Thanks to LTVCA Director Trevor Thompson and General Manager Mark Peacock for bringing greetings and words of wisdom to the students at the onset of the day.

Many thanks to all that helped to make this student conference a success - In alphabetical order:

GATTA

Lambton Kent District School Board

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Meesingw Inc.

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Red Devil Scuba

Sciensational Sssnakes!

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority



Workshop A: Fish...Friend or Foe



Workshop B: A Changing Landscape ... People Park Relationships



Workshop C: First Nations Relationship with the Land and the Water



Workshop D: Scienstational Sssnakes!!!...Species at Risk



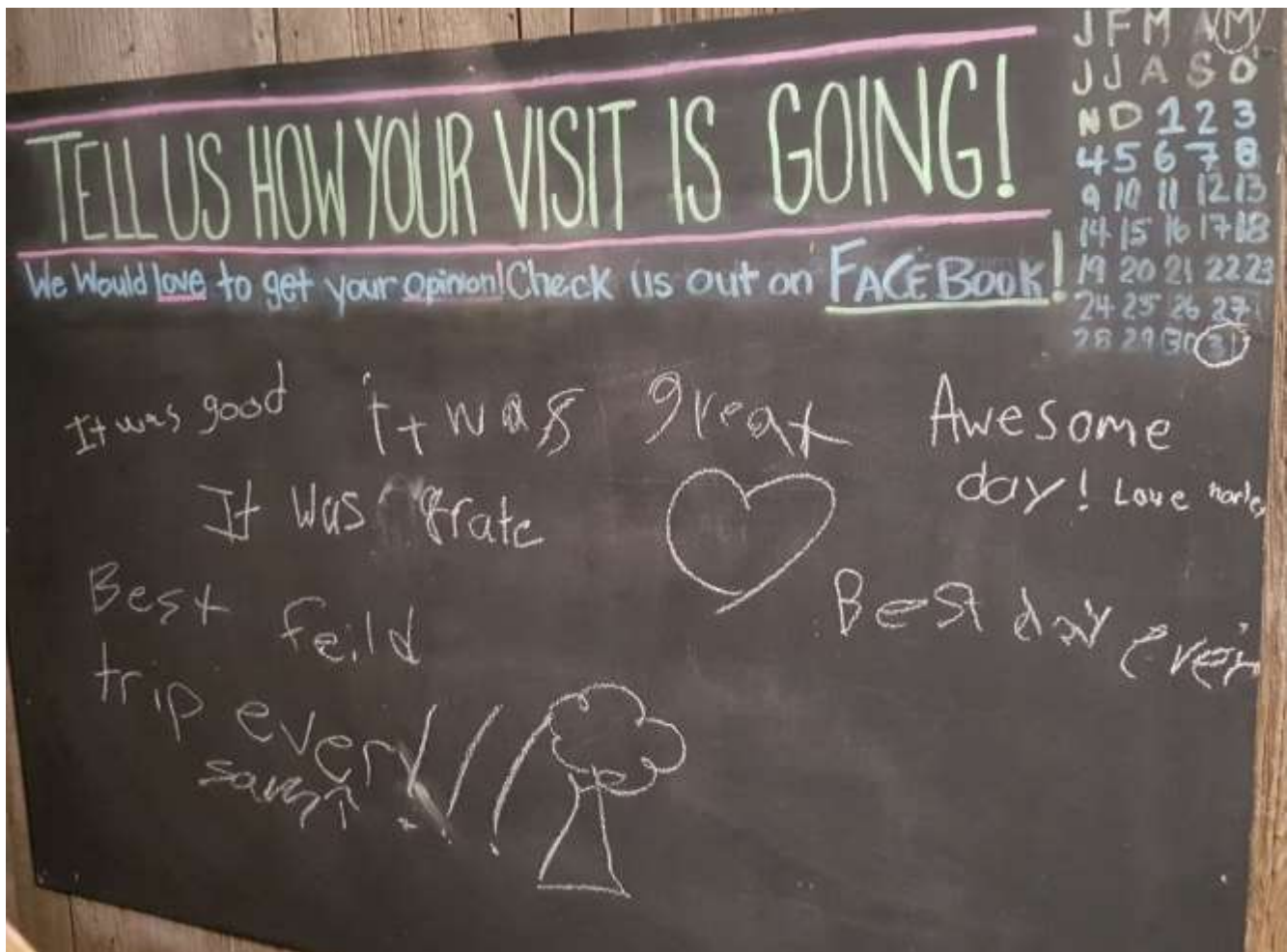
Workshop E: Healthy Soils...Healthy Waterways



Workshop F: Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes

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

Total number for April 1 – May 31 – 2018 - **684** (911 in 2017) Class trips are well underway winding down the final months of the 2017-18 school year. But our work is never done; we are already planning new programming for September as the curriculum is set to change again. There will be more demands for expertise in First Nations Studies as elements of Indigenous culture are being added to every elementary grade level from 4 to 8. We are in an excellent position to see increases in bookings for 2018-19. Curator, Karen Mattila is working with Conservation Education Technician Jerry De Zwart to make sure that we are offering the best programming for schools looking to meet multi-level subject options as well as fill-up their buses. Pilot programs such as “Balance & Biodiversity” have already proven very popular giving teachers many options in one field trip. And according to the “Comment Board” in the Resource Centre, the children love it too!



7.6.6) 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 April 1 – May 31, 2018 is 60. (21 – 2017.)

7.6.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum Activities

The gift shop sales have been demanding between school, visitors and the beginning of Pow Wow season the inventory is at critical levels. Rose Nicholas, Education Technician in charge of gift shop inventory, has been cutting and sewing leather, beading and crafting even in her off hours to keep up with demands. For example, Rose attended the Antler River student Pow Wow and with over a dozen buses brought in for the day, she had over \$500 in sales. Onsite we have been doing a steady business of \$200 – \$300 per class.



7.7) Ska-Nah-Doht Committee Minutes



MINUTES

Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

A meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held at the Resource Centre in Longwoods Road Conservation area at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 12, 2018. The following members were in attendance: D. Fairbairn, Darcy Fallon, Bill Bruinink, Gayle Bogart, Stan Caveney, and Ron Doane. Also in attendance: Karen Mattila. Regrets: Mark Peacock, LTVCA General Manager, B. Carey, Community Relation Coordinator and A. Vriends, Clerk-Secretary.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. G. Bogart – S. Caveney

Moved that the minutes of the November 24, 2017 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

2. Business for Approval

2.1) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Ms. Karen Mattila assumed the chair for the elections and declared all elected offices vacant and outlined the voting procedures.

a) Chair

Ms. Mattila called for nominations for Chair of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee.

S. Caveney nominated Darcy Fallon. R. Doane nominated Don Fairbairn.

Ms. Mattila called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

2. G. Bogart

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

D. Fallon declined the nomination.

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

b) Vice-Chair

Ms. Mattila called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee.

S. Caveney nominated Darcy Fallon. R. Doane nominated Bill Bruinink.

Ms. Mattila called twice more for nominations. There being no further nominations,

3. S. Caveney

Moved that nominations be closed.

CARRIED

D. Fallon declined the nomination.

Mr. Bill Bruinink was declared to be elected as Vice-Chair.

4. S. Caveney – G. Bogart

Moved that Don Fairbairn and B. Bruinink be elected as Chair and Vice Chair for 2018-2019.

CARRIED

2.2) Appointment of Sub-Committees

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

5. R. Doane – S. Caveney

Moved that the Sub-Committees be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

a) Education – S. Caveney and G. Bogart

b) Village Build - D. Fairbairn and D. Fallon

c) Policy - B. Bruinink and M. Peacock (LTVCA GM is an ex-officio member of this Sub-Committee)

d) Events/Fundraising – R. Doane

2.3) Policy Review

Review of the following policies is deferred to the next meeting -Finance Policy, Interpretation & Education Policy and Research Policy. The Policy Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 8.

2.4) 2018 Committee Meeting Schedule

5. R. Doane – B. Bruinink

Moved that the 2018 Ska-Nah-Doht Committee Meeting Schedule be as follows:

- May 31 at 6:00 p.m.
- September 21 at 2 p.m.
- November 23 at 2 p.m.

CARRIED

3. Business for Information

3.1) Brief Summary of 2017

Presentation was given.

3.2) 2017 Audited Statements

Section pertaining to Ska-Nah-Doht was reviewed.

3.3) Summer Student Employment Applications

Two summer positions have been applied for through Canada Summer Jobs.

3.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Fund

The Ska-Nah-Doht Fund as at the end of 2017 was negative \$5,904.97 pending the Canada 150 grant deposit. There has been no further correspondence from the Canada 150 project manager but a new deadline was announced, funding by June 30, 2018. The members will be notified as soon as confirmation is received.

3.5) Community Museum Operation Grant (CMOG) 2018/2019

The CMOG grant is due by June 30, 2018.

3.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Recognition Program

A discussion was had pertaining to the method of recognition. The events Sub-Committee will meet to bring forward ideas to the next meeting.

3.7) Volunteer Awards Program

No applications were submitted for 2017. The Volunteer Roster will have to be reviewed and updated. This task will be given to a summer staff. Suggestions for 2018 will be presented at the November meeting.

3.8) Upcoming 2017 Events

6. R. Doane – S. Caveney

Moved that agenda items 3 through 3.7 be received for information.
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CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1) Feasibility Study Update

An application has been submitted to Trillium by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation (LTVCF) in partnership with the LTVCA for funds to conduct a Feasibility Study for Longwoods/Ska-Nah-Doht. The outcome of the application will be announced in June 2018.

4.2) New Job Posting - Cultural Services Assistant

After over 30 years of service, Village Education Technician, Rose Nicholas will be retiring at the end of 2018. To ease the transition, a 6 month contracted position has been created. The *Cultural Services Assistant* will assist in the daily operations of the Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum; including educational programming, community engagement and co-ordinating cultural events. This is a unique entry level, mentored learning experience with an opportunity for the position to turn into a 1 year contract in 2019.

We are currently interviewing for the position.

5. Adjournment

7. R. Doane – D. Fallon

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Don Fairbairn
Chair

7.8) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes

WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL Meeting April 5th, 2018 at the Wheatley Legion

ATTENDANCE: Rick & Forest Taves, Gerry & Muggs Soulliere, Ron Haley, Lorna Bell, David Light, Pauline Sample, Lee & Linda Pearce, Joe Pinsonneault, Mike Diesbourg, Bruce & Marj Jackson and we welcomed our newest member Neville McKnight.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Our twenty-fifth year was a very good year from every perspective. The property is in very good shape. Every week I get at least a dozen compliments on how proud the people of Wheatley are to have us at the north entrance to the village. The trails are well used. Our winter helped make our hill a hit with the young families of our community. The Memorial Groves are more popular than ever, and are if anything, challenged by their success. Our concerts enjoyed record attendance. Our finances are in good order. We have much to thank each other for. I am grateful to each of you. We have a very good board.

As you know, I suffered a massive heart attack last September. September 11th actually. On Monday I was put through intensive stress testing in a lab at the hospital. My heart is strong. I am on my feet, and so look forward to walking our trails again. I thank all of you for the support you have given me and Forest during these somewhat difficult months. I will not be standing for the executive committee this year. My heart attack has something to do with this decision, but is not the main reason. Even before, I had decided it was time for new leadership of our organization. I will still be a member of the board, and will support our new leaders in whatever way I can however I think it important to leave the role I have so enjoyed for over two decades on my terms.

Thank you. Let's have a wonderful evening and let's make another beautiful season.

MINUTES: Moved by Marj, sec by Joe minutes be accepted as printed with the correction of Erin Light corrected to Erin Machado. (Carried)

MEMORIAL GROVES: Twelve trees have been planted/adopted this past year. A beautiful memorial service was conducted by Derek with Lights providing the inspirational music for the event.

PROPERTY & EQUIP: 1) Perennial Garden planted 2) New roof put on Pit toilet 3) Bracket on wooden flag pole was raised to discourage vandalism and new flag raised 4) Parking was expanded in front of large pavilion 5) Drain put around big pavilion and ground around pavilion has been seeded 6) 30' x 20' dance pad was poured in front of the stage thanks to Jack Liddle of Liddle Bros. 7) Reinforcing brackets were installed on posts on the large pavilion 8) North Bridge needs attention 9) Stone put on Cub Trail 10) Walking trails widened 11) Pipe put on low lying areas on North Trail.

CONCERTS: Good Year. All concerts were well attended. Sold Concert Buttons as well as T shirts left from our 25th Anniversary. Once again the Scouts ran the refreshment stand. Concerts are all booked for 2018.

OTHER: Celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a Special Day on June 24th with Vendors, Music and Food starting at 1 pm and ending with our Sunday night concert. Very successful and lots of fun.

FINANCIAL: Submitted by Ron

Opening Balance	\$16,257.91	Fund for Perpetual Care \$1,958.63
Revenues	\$49,644.77	(Memorial Groves)
Operating Expenses	\$24,661.10	
Capital Expenses	\$12,931.50	
Closing Balance	\$28,310.08	

Moved by Ron, sec by Lorna report be accepted as given (Carried)

NEW BUSINESS: Election of 3 three year and 1 two year Board members

Rick opened nominations for 3 three year Board members

Gerry Soulliere nominated by Ron
Marjorie Jackson nominated by Lorna
David Light nominated by Rick
Linda Pearce nominated by Gerry
Lorna Bell nominated by Forest
Lee Pearce nominated by Ron
Muggs Soulliere nominated by Rick
Bruce Jackson nominated by Gerry
Ron Haley nominated by Rick

With no other nominations Rick declared nominations closed. With the acceptance of Lee Pearce, Lorna Bell, Linda Pearce and Gerry Soulliere.

Lorna accepted the 2 year board opening to replace Dale Whidden and our three year board members are Gerry Soulliere, Lee Pearce, Linda Pearce. Ron Haley accepted a position of ex officio Status on the board.

Our Board members for 2018-2019:

3 year term: Gerry Soulliere, Lee Pearce, Linda Pearce

2 year term: Joe Pinsonneault,, Larry McDonald, Lorna Bell

1 year term: Rick Taves, Mike Diesbourg, Phil Humphries

Joe moved for adjournment at 8:00pm

Marj Jackson, Acting Secretary

Wheatley Two Creeks Association

Minutes of Regular meeting held at Wheatley Legion **April 5th, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Rick & Forest Taves, Gerry & Mugs Soulliere, Ron Haley, Lorna Bell, David Light, Pauline Sample, Lee & Linda Pearce, Joe Pinsonneault, Mike Diesbourg, Bruce & Marj Jackson and we welcomed our newest member Neville McKnight.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Rick opened nominations for the position of President.

Gerry Soulliere nominated by Joe

Joe Pinsonneault nominated by Gerry

With no other nominations, nominations were closed for President

With the acceptance of Gerry and the declining of Joe, Gerry was elected President 2018-2019

Rick opened nominations for the position of Vice-President.

Joe Pinsonneault nominated by Rick

With no other nominations, nominations were closed for Vice-President

With the acceptance of Joe, Joe was elected Vice-President for 2018-2019
Rick opened nominations for the position of Secretary

Phil Humphries nominated by Gerry
Linda Pearce nominated by Rick

With no other nominations, nominations were closed for Secretary

With the acceptance of Phil and the declining of Linda, Phil was elected Secretary 2018-2019

Rick opened nominations for the position of Treasurer

Ron Haley nominated by Gerry

With no other nominations, nominations were closed for Treasurer

With the acceptance of Ron, Ron was elected Treasurer for 2018-2019

OUR 2018-2019 EXECUTIVE:	President	Gerry Soulliere
	Vice President	Joe Pinsonneault
	Secretary	Phil Humphries
	Treasurer	Ron Haley

MINUTES: Moved by Marj, sec by Rick minutes be accepted as printed with the correction of Erin Light corrected to Erin Machado (Carried)

REPORTS:

MEMORIAL GROVES: Adoption of trees \$75.00 Memorial trees planted in the bush \$30.00

Memorial Sunday to be held on September 16th 2018.

Moved by Rick, sec by Linda we dedicate a tree in memory of Cliff Barclay (Carried)

PROPERTY & EQUIP: 1) Sign at entrance needs attention.....Joe volunteered to look after this. 2) Yellow trailer and lawn mower to be advertised for sale.....Gerry will put ads out. 3) Grant available for new trees from Lower Thames. Will apply for 100 trees. Look at renting a posthole digger or something suitable for planting these trees. 4) What to do with North Bridge discussed. Build a new one?????

It was moved by Rick, sec by Lee permission be given to a Harrow Film crew to come into Two Creeks to make a movie. This was done about three years ago.

CONCERTS: Received approval for \$5000. Grant. Discussed options possible for running the Food concession stand at the concerts. Will discontinue the collection of batteries.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Submitted by Ron

Account balance as of January 31st, 2018 - \$30,268.71 Account balance as of March 31st, 2018 \$35,779.23

Moved by Rick, seconded by Mike report be accepted as given. (Carried)

Letter to go to RBC Bank in Wheatley outlining signing officers for Wheatley Two Creeks Association. Four signing officers.....Ron Haley, Gerry Soulliere, Richard Taves, Marjorie Jackson. Any two signatures acceptable.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter received from Harrow film crew requesting permission to make a movie at Two Creeks.

OLD BUSINESS: Linda offered to make up 'Job descriptions' for each of our reporting offices...President, Secretary, Treasurer, Memorial Groves, Publicity, Property & Equip, Concerts.

NEW BUSINESS: Vicky Haley donated a quilt to Two Creeks as a fund raiser. Moved by Rick sec by Mike we sell tickets on this quilt at our summer concerts. (Carried) Marj offered to look into obtaining a licence for this venture.

Rick called for adjournment at 9:00pm

Marjorie Jackson, Acting Secretary

Wheatley Two Creeks Association

Minutes of regular meeting held on **May 3rd 2018** at the Wheatley Legion

Attendance: Rick & Forest Taves, Gerry Soulliere, Joe & Ginette Pinsonneault, Larry McDonald, Lorna Bell, Ron Haley, Pauline Sample, Mike Diesbourg, Linda & Lee Pearce, David Goyeau.

Agenda: Moved by Mike, sec. by Joe agenda be accepted as outlined (Carried).

Minutes: Moved by Phil, sec. by Gerry minutes be accepted as read (Carried).

Memorial Groves: A tree will be planted in memory of Cliff Barclay. We have received 6-\$ 75.00 donations for trees. We are going to continue with Kevin Getty cutting the grass in both the parking area and the Groves as per last year, pricing will be the same as last year. Moved by Lee sec. by Larry. Some trees in the Groves need to be trimmed or removed if they are leaning or have died.

Prop. & Equip.: We have sold the old gravel spreader to Dominion Golf Course for \$300.00. We are also going to talk to Wayne Wright about acquiring an engine for the old mower. The Porta-Johns will be delivered by Victoria Day. A movie is going to be filmed in Two Creeks on Mother's Day, Rick will call them to confirm. Adam Stein will be assisting in the reroofing of the Small Pavilion on Sat. May 5th. Any volunteers will need to sign the Volunteer waiver sheets. Will try to get a flag from the Legion for the Hill. The North Bridge needs to be repaired when it is drier. A company in Tilbury may be able to supply plastic poles to help in the repair, Joe & David will contact them. Wes Siddall will paint the logo on the Dance Pad, moved by Rick sec. by Joe.

Concerts: For some concerts we will have an opening act that will start 15 minutes before the main act. We are trying to get a food vendor to replace the Scouts of Wheatley, the Scouts in Comber will do it if possible. We have an advertisement about the concerts in ' Growing up in Wheatley' on Facebook. There are 2 walky talkies available in the main shed to assist in parking on busy nights.

Financial Report: Account balance as of March 31 2018 was \$35,779.26. Account balance as of April 30 2018 was \$36,346.83. Balances were moved by Joe sec. by Linda.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Gerry delivered a fruit basket to Bruce at home. The Lower Thames Valley Annual Report is available online. Any Pavillion rental will be considered a donation. Two Creeks job descriptions will be on the next agenda.

New Business: None

Adjournment: Linda motioned for adjournment at 8:25 p.m.

Phil humphries, secretary.

7.9) GMs Report

General Manager / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: June 21, 2018

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: General Manager's Report

From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

Getting to know people and the watershed:

To this end meetings continue 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 Southwold Township on May 14th and I thank councillor Gayle Bogart for her support. Staff of the LTVCA continue to meet with staff of the Municipality of Chatham - Kent to address issues coming out of flooding that occurred this spring and flooding that continues to occur on Lake Erie. Additionally, in this period I continue to meet with the General Managers of 4 of our neighbouring Conservation Authorities and attended numerous conservation authority meetings. Other contacts included attendance at the Conservation Ontario General meeting, attending Queens Park for meetings with MPPs during Conservation Week, a number of meetings with first nations, foundation meetings, presenting an award at the Ridgeway College graduation and attendance/presentations at local service clubs.

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 5 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 moving forward with a number of wellness initiatives. The wellness committee addresses Objective 10 - Improve Human Resources recommendations of the strategic plan.

Planning/Regulations:

As the LTVCA moves forward with implementing changes to our Section 28 regulations (through Bill 139), staff have been meeting with the municipalities most effect. This has included meetings with staff and councillors of the Municipalities of Lakeshore and Chatham-Kent. The LTVCA is committed to work with our municipalities in addressing their concerns regarding these new requirements.

Summer and Short Term Staffing:

The LTVCA would not be able to accomplish its work without the help of summer and short term staff. Many of these positions are funded through the support of federal and provincial grants. This year we welcome:

Work Area	Staff	Activities
Conservation Lands	Austin Bentley, Jason Lavergne	C M Wilson Park Rangers
	Ben Koustos, Bill Britton	C M Wilson Maintenance Tech
	Martin Van Ort Phillip Van Ort Rob Clarke (weekends) Keith Kerney	Conservation Areas Maintenance
Species at Risk	Mei-Ling Bonato	Species At Risk – Communications Species At Risk Technician

		(unfilled)
Conservation Services	Sydnee Baker	Land Stewardship Technician & Tree Planter
	Taylor Williams	Water Quality Assistant & Tree Planter
Longwoods Resource Centre / Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum	Keith Kearney	Longwoods Road CA Weekend Education Center
	Mila Costello	Cultural Outreach Assistant
	Eddie Merks	Conservation Outreach Assistant

Respectfully Submitted
Mark Peacock, P. Eng.
General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

Recommendation: That the above reports be received for information.

8. Correspondence

8.1) Agreement Establishes New Relationship Between Province and CA's



Agreement Establishes New Relationship Between Province and Conservation Authorities

NEWMARKET (April 18, 2018) A new relationship took shape yesterday with the signing of a Memorandum of Co-operation between the Province of Ontario and the 36 Conservation Authorities.

The agreement, signed on April 17, 2018 by the Honourable Nathalie Des Rosiers, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and Don MacIver, Chair of Conservation Ontario, formalizes the long-standing partnership between the Province and Conservation Authorities to protect Ontarians from natural hazards such as flooding, and to ensure the health of Ontario's natural resources.

"The Memorandum of Co-operation is a follow up from the new Conservation Authorities Act passed last December," said Kim Gavine, General Manager of Conservation Ontario. "It reflects our commitment to consult and collaborate with each other more closely for effective natural resource management."

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities work in many different partnerships and collaborations with a variety of provincial ministries including MNRF, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Conservation Authorities Contribute to Provincial Priorities

Conservation Authority programs contribute to a wide variety of provincial priorities including: climate change adaptation and mitigation, Great Lakes, sustainable growth, flood and other hazards warning and protection, protection and restoration of natural heritage (biodiversity), outdoor recreation, health and tourism, outdoor and other environmental education curriculum, water quality and quantity, environmental monitoring, reporting and the 'green' economy (jobs and programs).

For more information:

Kim Gavine, General Manager, Conservation Ontario
905-895-0716 ext. 231 kgavine@conservationontario.ca

Jane Lewington, Marketing & Communications Specialist
905-895-0716 ext. 222 jlewington@conservationontario.ca

conservationontario.ca

Conservation Ontario, 120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 3W3 Canada

New president for Two Creeks group

By Bryan Jessop

For the first time since it formed more than a quarter century ago, Wheatley Two Creeks Association has a new president.

After founding The Friends of Two Creeks in 1992 — and playing a lead role in countless projects, programs, events, renovations and improvements at Two Creeks Conservation Area since then — president Rick Taves has officially handed the organization's reins to fellow board member Gerry Souilliere. Having served as vice president for the previous three years, Souilliere was voted in to take on the association's lead role during a regular board of directors meeting held Thursday, Apr. 5.

"It's a great honour to have the trust of the membership and to take over for Rick," Souilliere said. "He's the one who started it and built it with his crew to make it what it is today."

Souilliere has been involved with Wheatley Two Creeks Association for about half a dozen years in various capacities, assisting with the facility's maintenance and supporting projects such as the replacement of the Pearce Bridge in October of 2016, having cut the 100-plus planks to be fitted for the new structure's walkway. More recently, he assisted with the installation of a dance pad in front of the site's stage. He has also played a role in organizing the site's annual Summer Concert Series that takes place Sundays from early June to early September each year. Souilliere has also taken on chores such as the construction of various buildings, planting trees, cutting trails and repairing roofs.

"I'm basically here to maintain what Rick's built over the years," he explained. "He's done the hard part."

Taves first inquired about Souilliere's interest in the position during a directors' meeting about two years ago. Now at the age of 73 and having recently suffered a heart attack, the founding member of the association explained that the time had come to make way for new leadership.

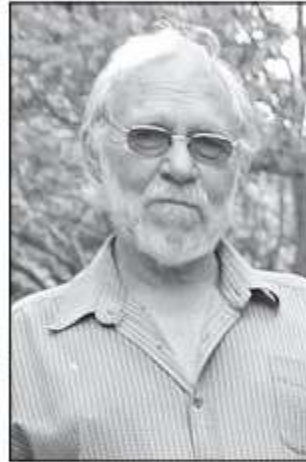
"This is actually something I've been thinking about since before the health issues," Taves noted. "I'm not a spring chicken any more. With something like this, you have to know when to step back and let the younger people get more involved. I'm very happy to see Gerry in the president's position."

The association was launched 26 years ago as Friends of Two Creeks under what is now an ongoing contract with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. The organization achieved non-profit corporation status in 2003 — the same year it changed its name to Wheatley Two Creeks Association. Nine years later, it gained recognition from Revenue Canada as a charity group, qualified to issue tax receipts.

Despite stepping down as president, Taves noted that he will remain on the board of directors and continue to serve with the association's Music Committee. He will also continue his commitment to various fundraising projects and will assist with on-site projects requiring tractor work.

One of Souilliere's first priorities as president will be to oversee the replacement of the 87-acre site's main Northern bridge. He explained that the current structure spanning the main creek is in a considerable state of disrepair and that he'd like to see it replaced before the end of the current calendar year.

Taking on Souilliere's former position of vice president is Joe Pinsonneault.



**Rick Taves, Past President,
Two Creeks Conservation
Authority**

8.3) CO's Comments on Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal (EBR#013-0299)

June 28, 2017



Sanjay Coelho
Senior Policy Analyst
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Climate Change and Environmental Policy Division
Land and Water Policy Branch
40 St. Clair Ave West, Floor 10
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1M2

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal" (EBR # 013-0299)

Dear Mr. Coelho:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's (MOECC) "Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal". Conservation Ontario (CO) is the network of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). These comments were endorsed for submission by Conservation Ontario Council at their June 26, 2017 meeting. In addition to providing these comments, Conservation Ontario is appreciative of MOECC including CA/CO staff members as part of the Excess Soil Engagement Group and Excess Soil Market Support Team.

CO is pleased to see the Province is moving forward to develop new policy tools aimed at strengthening the management and oversight of excess soil movement related activities. Conservation Ontario is supportive of the added emphasis on source site regulation and the designation of excess soil as a waste. The requirement to file Excess Soil Management Plans (ESMP) for producers and to identify receivers of fill (in most cases) is a welcome addition. The additional information about the responsibilities of a Qualified Person, particularly as it relates to potential conflicts of interest is helpful.

This letter will provide general comments on the proposal, as well as a detailed attached comments chart for your reference.

Local Implementation and the *Conservation Authorities Act*

It is noted that monitoring and compliance issues contributed greatly to the need for a policy framework on excess soil. Much of the proposal focuses on producing guidance materials for others to implement on an operational basis. It is observed that this framework is written for "compliers"; more should be done by the Province to ensure that compliance is taking place at the source site, through the development of ESMPs, and at the receiving site. Financial assurances from the source site owner/operator would be helpful in this regard. While the creation of this framework is appreciated, more emphasis on MOECC's proposed role in implementing and administering this regulatory package would be appreciated. As the proposal currently reads, it appears that the majority of implementation

will be left to municipalities and CAs who may not have the range of tools or necessary resources to tackle these issues.

This regulatory proposal, in concert with amendments to the *Municipal Act* which allow municipalities to apply their site alteration by-laws throughout their municipalities, will represent a significant shift in how fill placement will be addressed locally. The Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal as presented, and if implemented locally using traditional mechanisms could undermine the goals of the Excess Soil Management Policy Framework and pose challenges to Conservation Authorities in meeting their responsibilities under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. These concerns include creating additional uncertainty in the regulatory roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities vis a vis municipalities and the Province, placing additional unfunded administrative burdens on CAs associated with administering MOECC's framework and therefore potentially requiring CAs to increase fees to cover the costs.

Conservation Ontario will be drafting guidance for Conservation Authorities in light of the new Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal (once finalized) to describe a role for Conservation Authorities under this new regime, which could be adapted locally. Under this new regime, the CA role is envisioned to include the following:

1. Integration with Municipal Approvals - Municipalities would have the lead for decision-making locally with regard to the placement and quality of fill. CAs would request that municipalities coordinate CA approvals with municipal site alteration bylaws. This would include requiring pre-consultation locally; prior to the issuance of a municipal site-alteration permit to ensure coordination between the two approvals.
2. Interests of the CAs within their jurisdiction -CAs would be involved through their regulatory responsibilities/ policy interests – including S. 28 permissions, natural hazard management, natural heritage concerns (through their municipal MOUs or watershed plans) and the local implementation of the Provincial Plans and associated policies.
3. Water/Groundwater/Source Protection Concerns- CA involvement may include concerns related to natural hazards, storm water, watershed plans and source protection concerns, where CAs have the lead for implementation.
4. CAs as excess soil recipients – based on Board direction, CAs may operate as excess soil receivers. In this case, CAs would set expectations around soil quality that meets or exceeds Provincial standards.

The articulation of clear regulatory responsibilities, particularly as it relates to fill quality, is lacking within this framework. Under this new framework it makes the most sense that municipalities or the Province would have the lead for setting fill quality considerations, as their regulatory authority applies throughout their jurisdiction (as compared to CAs who have limited regulatory jurisdiction). This will help to address concerns related to duplication of effort and a lack of regulatory clarity. While some CAs have included fill quality considerations in their S. 28 permissions in the past, the legislative mechanisms to do so were not always clear. Moreover, compliance powers under the *Conservation Authorities Act* were not designed for the purpose of large-scale fill regulation. It should be noted that with the amendments to the *Municipal Act* municipalities may currently be in a difficult regulatory position, as they have additional regulatory powers, likely out-of-date site alteration by-laws and MOECC does not have their Excess Soil Management Regulatory Framework in place. Assistance with addressing excess soil issues in the interim by the Province will be essential until the necessary policy and legislative work is complete.

Relationship to the *Clean Water Act*

The proposed regulatory framework should place a greater emphasis on, and integration with, the Source Water Protection Plans established under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. The *Clean Water Act* is a significant piece of provincial legislation that strongly aligns with one of the main goals of the proposed framework: the protection of human health and the environment. If fill is proposed to be imported to a site within a vulnerable area, a risk assessment must be conducted. This must include screening for vulnerable areas delineated under the *Clean Water Act*, an evaluation of risks of contamination and depletion of sources of municipal drinking water, keeping in mind the requirements of local Source Protection Plans. The proposed policy framework has identified the need for stringent standards to assess the fill; these standards must also ensure the protection of sources of drinking water. The exercise of matching the source site and receiving site should include source water protection considerations such that both water quality and water quantity (supply) is not impacted. The proposed framework should also assess the risk of fill being transport pathways, in order to avoid an increase in vulnerability of the municipal drinking water source.

Additional Areas of Consideration

Strengthening Regulation of the Receiving Sites

This regulation should be more specific about where fill is not permitted, including areas of natural hazards, natural heritage and source protection drinking water vulnerable location. In Provincial Plan areas, the ESMP should conform to the site alteration provisions of that Plan.

Strengthening Compliance

As noted previously, this regulatory package is written with the assumption that people will voluntarily comply. There are few enforcement details included. Of particular concern is that soil which is deposited in an area where a site-specific instrument exists, such as municipal by-law, the soil is no longer categorized as a waste, regardless of whether or not a permit was issued for the placement of that soil. This could leave municipalities or Conservation Authorities to deal with non-compliance from a soil quality perspective, in addition to addressing the non-compliance with the by-law/CA regulation.

Exemptions

Conservation Ontario is not supportive of the proposed exemption from the creation of an ESMP for soil where the project area is on Crown land or away from a settlement area. This proposed exemption results in the majority of the Province not falling under this framework.

CO also recommends that the Province reconsider the exemption from preparing an ESMP for maintenance of stormwater management ponds (SWM), due to quality concerns with sediment. The ministry needs to provide clear direction that sediment in a stormwater management pond is to be treated as a waste under the general regulation under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

Excess Fill Material, Not Only Excess Soil

CO suggests that the framework should also adequately address other materials that may not meet the definition of 'excess soil' but which may nevertheless be generated/moved from a source site. For example, it has been our experience that fill material often includes construction waste and by-products such as asphalt, concrete, composts, recycled aggregate products, shingles, and ashes. The MOECC must ensure the full scope of the framework includes all fill material.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed "Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal". Conservation Ontario looks forward to continuing to work with the Ministry as they complete this regulatory proposal. We appreciate the extension to the commenting period to allow for Conservation Ontario Council to consider this response. Please contact me directly at extension 226 should you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Rich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.





Leslie Rich, RPP
Policy and Planning Liaison

1 attachment

c.c. Conservation Authority CAOs
Cathie Brown, AMO
Jennifer Keyes, MNRF

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
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8.4) Municipal Staff Workshop Re: Update of Assessment Reports & Source Protection Plan



Thames – Sydenham and Region Municipal Staff – Please plan to attend Workshops Regarding the Review and Update of the Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plan

When the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Plan was approved, an order was issued specifying that a workplan be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) by November 30, 2018. The order required that the workplan include detailed steps for the comprehensive review and update of the Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plan, and be developed in consultation with the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee (SPC), participating municipalities of the Source Protection Authorities, and the MOECC.

MUNICIPAL WORKSHOPS

Municipal Staff are invited to attend one of three workshops planned across the region to discuss the proposed areas of the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports to be updated, and to obtain feedback on comments regarding the proposed updates. These workshops will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Chatham – Monday, June 25th Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority 100 Thames St., Chatham	Wyoming – Tuesday, June 26th Lambton County Council Chambers 789 Broadway Street, Wyoming	St. Marys – June 28th Pyramid Recreation Centre 317 James St., S. St. Marys
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WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Planners, Building Officials, Municipal Risk Management Officials, Public Works/Engineering Department Managers, Water System Operators, Clerks/CAOs

AGENDA

1. Source Protection Program Updates
2. Overview of Source Protection Policy Implementation Progress
3. Proposed Updates to the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports
4. Comments, Discussion and Next Steps

Please RSVP to Deb Kirk, Source Protection Administrative Assistant, through phone (519-451-2800 x256) or through email at kirkd@thamesriver.on.ca.

8.5) How bad is Ontario's flood problem? Depends where you live

Climate change will put the province in the path of more weather-related disasters, but not all municipalities are ready to manage the threat

Published on May 28, 2018
by [Patrick Metzger](#)



Brantford, Ontario, was hit by severe flooding in February 2018. (Aaron Vincent Elkaim/CP)

Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of weather events in Ontario — and how they'll affect you will depend in large part on where you live.

Heavy rain and flooding aren't new, but the increased incidence of such events is, and that's due in part to a warming climate caused by human emissions of greenhouse gases. And as climate change accelerates, such destructive rain events — and other weather-related disasters like ice storms, heat waves, and wildfires — will occur more frequently.

The data confirms that that's already begun. Figures from the Insurance Bureau of Canada show a dramatic upward trend in insurable losses due to catastrophic events. Between 1983 and 2008, there were only two years (1998 and 2005) when losses totalled more than \$1 billion in 2016 dollars; from 2009 to 2017, only one year (2015) saw less than \$1 billion in losses.

The spring and summer of 2017 saw flooding across the province, from Windsor to London to Thunder Bay. And in February 2018, powerful rainstorms and an early thaw caused large-scale flooding in London, Brantford, and elsewhere.

While the reasons for the flooding are multifaceted and vary across regions, in all cases a contributing factor was torrential (and in many of the 2017 cases, record-breaking) rainfall that swelled lakes and rivers and swamped drainage systems. In some places, municipal resources were equally overwhelmed.

Blair Feltmate, head of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo says bluntly, "It's now become obvious to pretty much any sentient being that climate change is real. We're seeing the expression of extreme weather events, and we've got to have to start doing what we can to get risk out of the system."

So who owns that risk?

Under the Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, primary responsibility for handling flooding and other disasters lies with municipalities, many of which may not have the resources to plan for or manage a serious crisis. A robust response to sudden emergencies can be manageable for larger urban areas — Toronto, for example, has a detailed emergency response plan that includes risk-specific plans for events like floods. Equally important, Toronto has a large number of first responders and other personnel available in crisis situations and can deploy them to protect lives and property.

Toronto is an exception, however. A report produced by Dillon Consulting on behalf of Clarington, Ontario, found that of 26 Ontario municipalities surveyed, all had emergency management plans as required, and several had references to flooding — but only four (Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville, and Peterborough) had flood-specific plans.

In May 2017, Lake Ontario came knocking in Clarington. Having heard news of flooding across the lake in New York, Sarah Delicate and other lakefront residents had already contacted local authorities in search of support.

“We’re talking violent flooding — it’s not just, oh dear, you watch this kind of slow increase of the water coming towards you, and you’ve got three days to get your bags in place. It’s a wall of water, hitting your second-floor windows, knocking you back. It’s terrifying.”

Delicate believes that the unprecedented scale of the flooding in Clarington left local authorities struggling to contain the burgeoning disaster and that the provincial response was too little, too late.

“When the first responders came, they literally stood for two hours and watched the water rise. They had no idea what to do, none. The emergency management coordinator ... looked at me with my feet in the water and said to me, ‘I’m sorry, this really is not my problem.’” Although the challenges were considerable, homeowners were supposed to handle them on their own.

Moreover, although the flooding had already become a crisis by May 5, a declaration of emergency (which facilitates the transfer of resources from the province and from neighbouring municipalities) wasn’t issued until May 8, possibly reflecting a lack of clarity from the province on what constitutes an emergency. Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, an emergency is “a situation or an impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise” — a definition that can leave considerable room for uncertainty about when to take action.

Tim Calhoun, the deputy fire chief with Clarington Emergency and Fire Service, rotated into the command role after the second of the city’s four major flood events. He spent a lot of time talking to those hit the hardest, and, like Delicate, he believes that more work needs to be done at all levels of government to prepare for future disasters.

“A couple of residents, the most emotional, pulled no punches and held back no tears while angrily conveying their thoughts regarding our initial and utter ill-preparedness as a municipality to respond and mitigate and recover with any depth of service.”

Even in cases when a community is prepared and plans are well-executed, the risk of serious damage remains high. When Brantford, Ontario — which, like Clarington, has a population of roughly 100, 000 — was hit by severe flooding in February 2018, it was ready for an emergency and responded quickly.

Maria Visocchi, director of communications and community engagement, spoke about the crisis. “We have an advantage in that unlike some other smaller towns and municipalities, we do have an emergency operations centre, and the people that are part of that centre have all been trained in emergency management.”

Six months prior to the flood, the city had run a full-day training exercise that simulated a hurricane strike. As a result, Visocchi says, “We felt competent in making the decisions that that had to be made in the in the time that they had to be made.”

And that time was short. At 4:15 a.m. on February 21, the Grand River Conservation Authority advised the Brantford municipal flood coordinator and police services that an ice jam upstream had burst, sending a surge of water toward the town. By 5 a.m., the designated city personnel had been notified, called to the Emergency Operations Centre, and briefed on the situation.

The first action was, Visocchi says, to “get boots on the ground and eyes on the river” to determine when the surges were expected and what action would be needed. At 9 a.m., a state of emergency was declared by the mayor, which allowed for a request for additional resources from Emergency Management Ontario. By 10:30 a.m. the decision had been taken to evacuate almost 5,000 people from the affected area. Soon after, the communications plan was set in motion, using radio, billboards, social media, and door-to-door visits by police to alert the population.

Because the waters rose so swiftly, the primary consideration was public safety and the preservation of life. The flooding caused major damage, but due in large part to the quick response of local authorities, no lives were lost.

Premier Kathleen Wynne arrived in Brantford within hours of the declaration of a state of emergency, offering the full services of the province if required. Immediately following the flooding, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Bill Mauro visited the floodplain areas and met with city officials.

However, unlike Clarington, which endured a series of escalating events, Brantford faced floods that happened so quickly there was no opportunity to request or receive on-the-ground help — such as sandbags and the hands to lay them — from the province.

Had the emergency been more widespread, it’s likely that, in spite of Brantford’s preparedness, more immediate, practical aid would have been needed to carry out the communication and evacuation plans. Maria Visocchi acknowledges as much: “If you were to speak to police and fire, I think that they would say that ... they were maxed out. Everybody that could possibly be involved was involved. Had the incident been completely city-wide, I don’t know that I could say with confidence that we would have had enough resources.”

So with extreme weather on the rise, and many municipalities lacking the resources to plan for or manage large-scale emergencies, what is the province doing?

Ontario has a long-term climate-change mitigation plan focused on reducing the carbon emissions that are heating up the planet. And in 2017, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change released for public comment a policy proposal that outlines the government’s planned approach to climate-change adaptation. The proposal targets specific priorities, such as revising building codes, working with municipalities on updated risk assessments, and prioritizing upgrades to critical infrastructure like roads, water, and electricity.

But climate change has already arrived: the effective cross-jurisdictional management of emergencies on the ground right now also has to be a priority.

The Ontario Auditor General's report of December 2017 had tough words for the government about the province's readiness for weather and other emergencies.

The report notes that "growing research about the impact of climate change has focused attention on the increasing likelihood of more frequent and extreme natural hazards" and echoes the issues raised by the Clarington flooding victims: "Unequal levels of preparedness and support mean that some municipalities may not be adequately prepared to respond if a local emergency arises, resulting in different levels of public safety across the province in the case of an actual emergency. This puts an increased responsibility on the provincial government to come to the aid of the least-prepared areas."

Of the 831-page report from Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk, 46 pages — and 15 specific recommendations — are devoted to Emergency Management Ontario (which falls under the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services).

Among the issues she identifies are outdated emergency response plans that do not reflect current threats, insufficient staff for lengthy emergencies, and a lack of in-place agreements that would facilitate a municipality's access to needed resources during a crisis. In general, the report finds that EMO is under-resourced, with the result that municipalities are not getting sufficient support in planning and preparing for potential emergencies or for dealing with them when they arrive.

Lysyk also noted that at the time of the report, the cabinet committee on emergency management, responsible for oversight of emergency management in Ontario, had not met for several years. (An earlier internal study released by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services in August 2017 identified similar gaps.)

In response, a new emergency management action plan was announced immediately prior to the AG report. In an email, Brent Ross from MCSCS said that it would, among other things, "help municipalities by providing greater access to critical supplies and resources in an emergency through an enhanced supply chain program, as well as improved information and resource sharing through new EM software." However, details and a timeline for implementation have not been released.

Delicate says of her experience with coordination between levels of government, "It is a paper exercise. Everyone could point to the chain of command, tell me what the escalation process is, but nothing plays out on the ground."

Calhoun expresses the same sentiment in an email: "At the provincial level, there is no real structure in place to assist communities which suffer extreme events like the Clarington flooding, and ... the onus to respond is put on the municipalities, which with a few larger exceptions probably don't have the resources or skills to deal with it."

There is no simple fix here — as the auditor general highlighted, considerable change will be required at Emergency Management Ontario to enhance the preparedness of Ontario municipalities, and that change would come with a hefty price tag.

There's reason to suppose that the voices calling for change are being heard. The new emergency management action plan, and the swift and visible response of government ministers to the February floods, suggests a willingness to support communities facing large-scale emergencies.

But time is of the essence. As the coming years bring higher temperatures and more severe weather to Ontario, fast and efficient support will be needed in more places than ever. "It is exhausting that when you are in one of the most traumatic events ... in your life," Delicate says, "that you also have to expend all of your emotional energy fighting your government."

8.6) CK Biologist concerned over pics of dead turtles



One of the turtles found on a road near Chatham looking to cross to nest its eggs. May 30, 2018. (Photo courtesy of Jason Homewood's Twitter account)

CK Biologist Concerned Over Pics Of Dead Turtles

BY GREG HIGGINS MAY 31, 2018 9:53AM

A biologist in Chatham-Kent is asking motorists to be more cautious after some gruesome pictures were posted on Twitter of pregnant turtles that were run over on local roads.

Jason Homewood with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) snapped the photos while he was driving between Chatham and Lighthouse Cove earlier this week.

WARNING: the pictures included in the following link are very graphic in nature and may be disturbing to some viewers. You can see the pictures by clicking [here](#).

Homewood's co-worker, Vicki McKay, who is a species at risk biologist at the LTVCA says the pictures aren't just disturbing because of how graphic they are, but also because every turtle species in Ontario is on an "at risk" list.

"In the course of their entire lifetime of laying eggs, they may only manage to replace themselves," McKay said. "Any extra deaths that we cause, whether it be from hitting them on a road or anything else, is leading to the species' decline."

McKay added female turtles migrate throughout May and June and said almost all turtles crossing roads at this time are pregnant.

The biologist asked motorists to slow down and drive with extra caution, particularly on roads close to bodies of water or wetlands.

"They aren't a fast-moving animal and instead of running when they see a car, they just kind of hide in their shell and hope for the best."

McKay said anyone who wants to stop and help a turtle should only do so if it is safe for them first and foremost. She added if you decide to move a turtle, you should always move it in the direction it is going or else it will just start over again. You should also make sure to handle it with care.

She said smaller turtles can be held under their shell where their back legs are so they can't bite, but she does not suggest touching a snapping turtle.

"Quite often they will turn around, face you and kind of challenge you," said McKay. "The quick and easy thing to do is grab a stick and let them bite onto it. Then you can gently drag them to the other side of the road."

9. Events Calendar

July 3 – August 21, 7:30 pm	Twilight Tuesdays at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
July 15, 1-4 pm	Artifact Day at Longwoods Road Conservation Area

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

10. Other Business
