



# Board of Directors Meeting

## A G E N D A

**December 12, 2019**

**2:00 p.m.**

**LTVCA Administration Building**

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
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We will begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of First Nations people who have longstanding relationships to the land, water and region of southwestern Ontario. We also acknowledge the local lower Thames River watershed communities of this area which include Chippewa's of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation and Delaware Nation at Moraviantown. We value the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America). We are thankful for the opportunity to live, learn and share with mutual respect and appreciation.

# 5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

## 5.1) Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2019



### Board of Directors Meeting

#### MINUTES

The meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's Board of Directors was held at the LTVCA's Administration Office at 100 Thames Street, Chatham, at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 17, 2019. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, J. Wright, A. Finn, M. Hentz, P. Tiessen, K. Ainslie, J. Frawley, C. Cowell, S. Hipple and R. Leatham. S. Emons sent her regrets.

1. First Nations Acknowledgement

Mark Peacock, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer read the First Nations Acknowledgement for those present.

2. Call to Order

Bruce McAllister, Planner for Chatham-Kent and Valerie Brennan, landowner from West Elgin was in attendance and were introduced to the Board of Directors.

3. Adoption of Agenda

**BD-2019-53** A. Finn – P. Tiessen

Moved that the agenda be adopted as present.

CARRIED

4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest  
None Declared.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Previously circulated)

**BD-2019-54** C. Cowell – J. Wright

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of August 22, 2019 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising From the Minutes  
None declared.

7. Presentations

7.1) Big Creek Water Management Study

Mark Peacock, CAO provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the Big Creek Water Management Study.

7.2) Two Zone Policy Approach to Big Creek

Mark Peacock, CAO provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the Two Zone Policy approach to Big Creek.

7.3) Rankin Property Donation

Randall Van Wagner, Manager of Conservation Lands and Services provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the Rankin Property Donation.

7.4) Update Lake Erie Shoreline Flooding – Erie Shore Drive

Jason Wintermute, Manager of Watershed and Information Services provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019 flooding event that impacted Erie Shore Drive.

7.5) Thames River Algal Bloom

Jason Wintermute, Manager of Watershed and Information Services provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the recent Thames River algal bloom.

**BD-2019-55** A. Finn – S. Hipple

Moved that the Power Point Presentations for the Big Creek Water Management Study, the Two Zone Policy Approach to Big Creek, the Rankin Property Donation, the Update Lake Erie Shoreline Flooding – Erie Shore Drive and the Thames River Algal Bloom be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Business for Approval

8.1) Proposed 2020 Budget

**BD-2019-56** M. Hentz – C. Cowell

Moved that the Board direct staff to move forward with a draft budget including a 2% levy increase for review by member municipalities;  
And that staff approach each member municipality with an offer to meet with staff, council members or council to review the recommended budget;  
And that municipal comments be brought back to the Board of Directors prior to its approval of the budget at the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2020.

CARRIED

K. Ainslie and P. Tiessen opposed the 2% levy increase.

8.2) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending September 29, 2019

**BD-2019-57** A.Finn – J. Wright

Moved that the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended August 31st, 2019.

CARRIED

8.3) Proposed LTVCA Policies for Lake Erie Shoreline in CK

**BD-2019-58** A. Finn – S. Hipple

Moved that the Board approve the proposed policies for the granting of Ontario Regulation 152/06 permissions as originally presented in the August 22nd, 2019 Board of Directors agenda, which pertain to the Lake Erie shoreline in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, with the understanding that the policies will be re-examined when the Chatham-Kent shoreline study is completed, and begin implementing the policies on October 18th, 2019.

CARRIED

8.4) Multi-lot Permit Fees

**BD-2019-59** C. Cowell – M. Hentz

Moved that the LTVCA has reviewed the multiple lot fee structure and will continue to charge multiple lot developments a fee of \$350.00 per lot.

CARRIED

8.5) In Camera Session – A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the Authority and has monetary value or potential monetary value

**BD-2019-60** C. Cowell – A. Finn

Moved that the Board of Directors meet 'in camera'.

CARRIED

**BD-2019-61** C. Cowell – A. Finn

Moved that the Board of Directors move out of the 'in camera' session.

CARRIED

**BD-2019-62** S. Hipple – R. Leatham

Moved that staff proceed with discussions; seek legal support in development of an agreement; and that the LTVCA Board of Directors authorize the Chair to sign the agreement upon recommendation from LTVCA legal counsel.

CARRIED

9. Business for Information

- 9.1) Water Management
- 9.2) Regulations and Planning
- 9.3) Conservation Areas
- 9.4) Conservation Services
- 9.5) Communications, Outreach and Education
- 9.6) Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee Minutes – April 11, 2019, June 20, 2019 & September 19, 2019
- 9.7) Executive Committee Minutes – September 4, 2019
- 9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2019
- 9.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – June 6, 2019, July 4, 2019 & July 31, 2019
- 9.10) CAO's Report

**BD-2019-63** S. Hipple – K. Ainslie

Moved that report 9.1) through to 9.10) be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Correspondence

- 10.1) Chatham-Kent Correspondence to LTVCA Chair, Linda McKinlay Re: Budget
- 10.2) Communicating Flood Risk at the Community-level: Challenges and Opportunities
- 10.3) NOAA – Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin
- 10.4) Water Festival 2019 – Thames For All Your Help, correspondence from Don Hector
- 10.5) Fun, educational time at Water Fest

BD-2019-64 A. Finn – K. Ainslie

Moved that correspondence items 10.1) through to 10.5) be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Events Calendar

12. Other Business

J. Wright requested an update on the meeting with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the LTVCA and the Clearville Park campground residents. M. Peacock noted that there were approximately 120 park residents that showed up to the meeting. There was initial concern about the possible transfer of the park from CK management to the LTVCA. The campground residents wanted to be engaged in the process which the Authority and municipality ensured them that they would be. Overall, it was a positive first meeting.

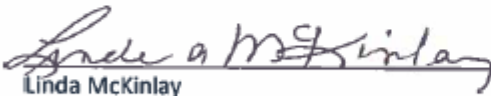
C. Cowell noted that for the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex, their Strategic Plan was included in every report to council, and how the reports reflect back on the Plan. Recommended that CA staff reports do the same for tracking purposes on how what we do meet the targets of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan. C. Cowell also wanted to know how Bill 108 would impact the LTVCA's programs. She requested a report back to the Board on the status of the Strategic Plan and how it would be addressed in staff reports.

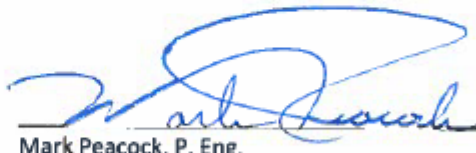
13. Adjournment

BD-2019-65 J. Wright – C. Cowell

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

  
Linda McKinlay  
Chair

  
Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

## 6. Business Arising From Minutes

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## 7. Presentations

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**7.1) Lighthouse Cove Ice Jam / Flood Mitigation Study**

**7.2) Chatham-Kent Lake Erie Shoreline Study Alternatives**

**7.3) Results of Longwood's Resource Centre Feasibility Grant Alternatives**

# 8. Business for Approval

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## 8.1) Draft 2020 Budget Municipal Consultation Results

Date: December 12, 2019  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **Draft Budget Consultation**  
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services  
Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

### **Background:**

In its meeting of October 2019, the Board of Directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority reviewed the three versions of the budget provided. In doing so, the Board directed staff to move forward with a draft budget including a 2% levy increase for review by member municipalities. Authority staff contacted each member municipality with an offer to meet and review the budget.

### **Consultations:**

Below are the results:

Chatham-Kent	No questions, satisfied with budget, meets council directed guidelines
Dutton-Dunwich	Council Presentation, met with staff Nov 12, provided documentation, satisfied with budget
Lakeshore	Provided documentation, satisfied with budget
Leamington	Council Presentation Nov 12, satisfied with budget
London	Small adjustment to 2023 year budget for Municipal Council approved Levy increase guidelines
Middlesex Centre	Satisfied with budget, further contact in the New Year on initiatives requested
Southwest Middlesex	Met with staff Nov 12, satisfied with budget
Southwold	Provided documentation, satisfied with budget
Strathroy-Caradoc	Provided documentation, satisfied with budget
West Elgin	No questions, Satisfied with budget

### **Recommendation:**

**That** the Board of Directors receive this report for information.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

Respectfully Submitted

Todd Casier, CPA, CA  
Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer



## 8.2) Proposed Draft 2020 Budget for Approval

Date: December 12, 2019  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: 2020 Draft Budget and Levy  
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., General Manager / Secretary Treasurer

### Background

The LTVCA Board approved a 2019 budget of \$3,205,524, resulting in a general levy of \$1,433,781 plus a special levy of \$205,000 for Chatham-Kent for Flood Control Structures and the Greening Partnership/Natural Heritage Programs.

### Current Situation

For 2020, the preliminary balanced budget of \$3,304,046 requires a general levy of \$1,462,457 an increase of \$28,676 over the 2019 general levy, or 2.00% (Chatham-Kent's special benefiting levy remaining at \$205,000). The total municipal levy for 2020 is \$1,667,457. As in previous years, the annual adjustment to each municipality's assessment within the watershed varies, the resulting change in the levy ranging from 1.31% to 4.73%. The current value property assessment values are provided annually by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and are beyond the ability of the Conservation Authority to modify.

### Discussion

Non-municipal revenues include grants and general revenues (user fees) and account for \$1,636,589 or 49.5% of total program revenues. Such funds are required for a number of programs, the most variable of which is the Conservation Services/Stewardship program, which is heavily dependent on the success of numerous funding applications. Staff are currently engaged in developing new sources and extending current contracts to meet the demand for services and to take advantage of emerging priorities such as phosphorus reduction.

### Recommendation

That the 2020 preliminary budget totalling \$3,304,046 be adopted, and that the member municipalities be advised of the budget and their share of the proposed levy as calculated; it being noted that the Authority is required to provide 30 days' notice of its intention to adopt a final budget and levy.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

#### *Respectfully Submitted:*

Todd Casier, CA  
Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

#### *Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2020 DRAFT BUDGET

## F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S

PG. NO.	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET	2020 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>									
2	212,523	166,017	20,509	20,509	125,000	0	0	0	0
2	12	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
2	163,052	200,387	60,953	60,953	0	78,482	0	0	0
3	76,589	50,980	0	0	0	50,980	0	0	0
3	238,226	268,322	0	0	0	163,322	105,000	0	0
3	137,434	120,769	97,500	0	0	23,269	0	0	0
3	26,911	31,512	28,000	0	0	3,512	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>854,747</b>	<b>837,999</b>	<b>206,967</b>	<b>81,467</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>319,565</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Water Management Subtotal</b>									
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</b>									
3	743,386	638,279	0	0	0	458,059	180,220	0	0
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>									
4	176,941	187,317	0	0	0	187,317	0	0	0
4	100,138	85,146	0	0	0	72,186	12,950	0	0
4	206,991	172,449	22,992	0	0	96,957	52,500	0	0
	<b>484,070</b>	<b>444,912</b>	<b>22,992</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>356,470</b>	<b>65,450</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Community Relations &amp; Education Subtotal</b>									
<b>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</b>									
5	102,966	62,624	0	0	0	23,124	39,500	0	0
5	629,289	459,834	125,000	0	80,000	157,334	97,500	0	0
5	334,748	653,528	584,960	0	0	68,568	0	0	0
5	56,318	206,870	180,141	0	0	26,729	0	0	0
	<b>1,123,321</b>	<b>1,382,856</b>	<b>890,101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>275,755</b>	<b>137,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal</b>									
<b>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</b>									
5	0	0	0	0	0	-20,000	20,000	0	0
5	0	0	8,859	0	0	-8,859	0	0	0
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,859</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-28,859</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal</b>									
	<b>3,205,524</b>	<b>3,304,046</b>	<b>1,128,919</b>	<b>81,467</b>	<b>205,000</b>	<b>1,380,990</b>	<b>507,670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2020 DRAFT BUDGET

## F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S

	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET	2020 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	GENERAL REVENUES	RESERVES
<b><u>WATER MANAGEMENT</u></b>									
<b><u>FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	112,577	108,723							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	27,046	21,451							
OPERATIONS	18,475	23,568							
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE	54,050	11,925							
PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE	375	350							
TOTAL FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	212,523	166,017	20,509	20,509	125,000 (CHATHAM-KENT)				
<b><u>EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	0								
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	2	2							
OPERATIONS	10	10							
TOTAL EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	12	12	6	6					
<b><u>FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	121,202	146,718							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	20,750	25,892							
DATA COLLECTIONS	12,300	14,699							
FLOOD FORECASTING	2,250	2,650							
COMMUNICATIONS	3,700	3,900							
OPERATIONS CENTRE (RENT)	1,750	2,430							
FLOOD RESPONSE AND MONITORING	1,100	4,098							
TOTAL FLOOD FORECASTING & WARNING	163,052	200,387	60,953	60,953		78,482			

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2020 DRAFT BUDGET

## F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S

	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET	2020 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	RESERVES
<u>TECHNICAL STUDIES</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	63,662	38,643							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	9,747	6,587							
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & MAPPING		2,300							
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	3180	3,450							
TOTAL TECHNICAL STUDIES	76,589	50,980				50,980			
<u>REGULATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	188,449	204,722							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	30,317	34,670							
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	19,460	28,930							
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	238,226	268,322				163,322	105,000		
<u>WATERSHED MONITORING</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	69,459	70,212							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	17,490	15,604							
OPERATING-MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENSES	50,485	34,953							
TOTAL REGS. & PLAN REVIEW	137,434	120,769	97,500			23,269			
<u>SOURCE PROTECTION</u>									
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	26,911	31,512	28,000			3,512			
	0	0	0						
<u>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</u>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	363,647	294,979							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	94,604	82,471							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	285,135	260,829							
TOTAL CONS. & RECREATION PROPERTIES	743,386	638,279				458,059	180,220		

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2020 DRAFT BUDGET

## F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

WAGES AND BENEFITS  
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD  
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES,  
SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.  
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS

2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET	2020 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	GENERAL REVENUES	RESERVES
135,248	146,914							
22,518	24,203							
19,175	16,200							
176,941	187,317				187,317			

#### CONSERVATION EDUCATION

WAGES AND BENEFITS  
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD  
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES,  
SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.  
TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION

82,214	69,839							
12,744	11,002							
5,180	4,305							
100,138	85,146				72,196	12,950		

#### SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE

WAGES AND BENEFITS  
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD  
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES,  
SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.  
TOTAL IROQUOIAN VILLAGE

156,224	137,267							
26,342	22,282							
24,425	12,900							
206,991	172,449	22,992			96,957	52,500		

# LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY 2020 DRAFT BUDGET

## F U N D I N G   S O U R C E S

	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET	2020 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	GENERAL REVENUES	RESERVES
<b><u>CONSERVATION SERVICES</u></b>									
<b><u>FORESTRY</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	74,012	43,943							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	13,104	8,092							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	15,850	10,589							
TOTAL FORESTRY	102,966	62,624				23,124		39,500	
<b><u>CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	142,605	138,509							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	80,084	59,414							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	406,600	261,911							
TOTAL CHATHAM-KENT GREENING	629,289	459,834	125,000		80,000	157,334		97,500	
<b><u>PHOSPHORUS</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	135,308	243,571							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	42,600	84,442							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	156,840	325,515							
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	334,748	653,528	584,060			68,568			
<b><u>SPECIES AT RISK</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	45,412	104,946							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	7,167	26,729							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, STORAGE, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	3,739	75,195							
TOTAL CONS. SERVICES	56,318	206,870	180,141			26,729			
<b><u>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</u></b>									
ADMINISTRATION/MISCELLANEOUS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	8,859			-20,000 -8,859		20000	

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Levy for 2020 using Modified CVA

Current Value  
Assessment  
(Modified CVA)

C-K Flood  
Control,  
Greening Levy

	% of Levy	Greening Levy 2020	Non-Matching Levy 2020	Matching Levy 2020	Total General Levy 2020	Total Municipal Levy 2020	Total Municipal Levy 2019	\$ Change from 2019 Levy	% Change from 2019
Dutton-Dunwich M	3.6069%	0	49,811	2,938	52,749	52,749	51,487	1,262	2.45%
Southwold Tp	1.0769%	0	14,871	878	15,749	15,749	15,439	310	2.01%
West Elgin M	4.3959%	0	60,707	3,582	64,289	64,289	63,368	921	1.45%
Lakeshore T	9.2889%	0	128,278	7,567	135,845	135,845	131,410	4,435	3.37%
Leamington M	2.2894%	0	31,617	1,865	33,482	33,482	32,666	816	2.50%
Chatham-Kent M	57.1497%	205,000	789,232	46,558	835,790	1,040,790	1,027,339	13,451	1.31%
London C	11.6018%	0	160,220	9,451	169,671	169,671	166,598	3,073	1.84%
Middlesex Centre M	1.6465%	0	22,738	1,341	24,079	24,079	22,991	1,088	4.73%
Southwest Middlesex M	2.9742%	0	41,073	2,423	43,496	43,496	42,609	887	2.08%
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	5.9699%	0	82,443	4,864	87,307	87,307	84,874	2,433	2.87%
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%	\$205,000	\$1,380,990	\$81,467	\$1,462,457	\$1,667,457	\$1,638,781	\$28,676	1.75%

### 8.3) Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures for the period ending August 31, 2019

Date: December 12, 2019  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **Income and Expenditure vs Budget to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**  
From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

#### **Background:**

Review the 2019 Budget to the Revenue and Expenditures for the 10 months ended October 31, 2019.

REVENUE	2019 BUDGET	2019 BUDGET OCT PROJECTED		2019 ACTUAL TO OCT 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
GRANTS	939,253	782,710	*	1,013,234	230,524
GENERAL LEVY	1,433,781	1,433,781	^	1,433,781	0
DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT	205,000	205,000	^	205,000	0
GENERAL REVENUES	627,490	522,908	*	533,930	11,022
FOUNDATION GRANTS & REVENUES	0	0	*	0	0
RESERVES	0	0	*	0	0
<b>CASH FUNDING</b>	<b>3,205,524</b>	<b>2,944,399</b>		<b>3,185,945</b>	<b>241,546</b>
OTHER	0	0		0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>3,205,524</b>	<b>2,944,399</b>		<b>3,185,945</b>	<b>241,546</b>

\*-based on a 10 of 12 month proration of the budget

^-based on cash received to date

Grant income is greater than budgeted due to the reversal of deferred revenue for ongoing programs and the timing of grants invoiced, including several large grants for Wetland projects and two new Species at Risk grants.

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. All municipalities are paid in full.

General Revenue is slightly above budget due to the following factors:

- Planning & Regulations, Conservation Area revenues and interest income are above budget. This is partially offset by Conservation Services and Chatham Kent Greening being lower than expected due to a decrease in trees sales compared to budget and prior year and not receiving Ontario Power Generation funding. Conservation Education and SKA-NAH-DOHT Village are comparable to budget.

Foundation Grants and Revenues budget are zero because of the uncertainty of funds available. The settlement for the memorial tree and other programs are 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	2019 BUDGET	2019 BUDGET OCT PROJECTED	2019 ACTUAL TO OCT 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	212,371	177,102	119,880	(57,222)
EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	11	10	9	(1)
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	162,935	135,876	162,039	26,163
TECHNICAL STUDIES	76,535	63,825	24,496	(39,329)
PLANNING & REGULATIONS	238,056	198,522	194,517	(4,005)
WATERSHED MONITORING (PGMN)	137,336	114,529	42,879	(71,650)
SOURCE PROTECTION	26,892	22,426	32,681	10,255
THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0
<b>Water Management Subtotal</b>	<b>854,136</b>	<b>712,290</b>	<b>576,501</b>	<b>(135,789)</b>
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</b>				
<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>	<b>745,144</b>	<b>619,488</b>	<b>593,892</b>	<b>(25,596)</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>				
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	176,815	147,451	130,148	(17,303)
CONSERVATION EDUCATION	100,066	83,448	120,662	37,214
SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	206,843	172,493	174,283	1,790
<b>Community Relations &amp; Education Subtotal</b>	<b>483,724</b>	<b>403,392</b>	<b>425,093</b>	<b>21,701</b>
<b>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</b>				
CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	102,892	85,805	48,758	(37,047)
CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	628,839	524,407	382,768	(141,639)
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	334,509	278,957	450,385	171,428
SPECIES AT RISK	56,278	46,932	118,912	71,980
<b>Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal</b>	<b>1,122,518</b>	<b>936,101</b>	<b>1,000,823</b>	<b>64,722</b>
<b>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	0	0	0	0
REPAIRS/UPGRADES	0	0	0	0
UNION GAS CENTENNIAL PROJECT	0	0	0	0
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	0	0
<b>Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>3,205,522</b>	<b>2,671,271</b>	<b>2,596,309</b>	<b>(74,962)</b>

### *Water Management*

Flood Control Structures and Erosion Control Structures are below budget due to the February flood event and staff time spent responding to that flood and other flood events throughout the watershed during the year. Plus one study not performed due to grants not received and there is still one larger project a couple smaller expenses outstanding as of October 31<sup>st</sup>. This is slightly offset due to the expenses incurred from the February flood and a minor damn repair.

Flood Forecasting and Warning expenses are above budget due to the costs and human resources required for the February flood and continuing flood events throughout the watershed throughout the year.

Technical Studies are below budget due to the timing of hiring a GIS technician and his time charged to Species at Risk and other programs.

Planning and Regulations are slightly below budget due to the February flood event and continuing flood events throughout the watershed throughout the year and staff time spent responding to the events. This decrease is partially offset by the addition of a contract staff to help process the large increase in permits processed.

Watershed Monitoring is below budget due to the staff time being spent on other programs and a hold on spending waiting on a grant we have now received.

Source Protection is above budget due mostly to increased activity to complete work before the provincial year-end.

### *Conservation Areas*

Conservation area expenses are below budget due to lower than expected revenue, the decrease in related costs and the delay of a several projects until more funding is available.

### *Community Relations and Education*

Conservation Education is above budget due to expenditures for the Longwoods feasibility study not included in the 2019 budget. The feasibility study expenses are covered by additional revenues to be received at year's end from the LTVC Foundation. SKA-NAH-DOHT Museum and Village is comparable to budget. Community Relations is below budget due mostly to not receiving funding for summer students and not hiring those students.

### *Conservation Services/Stewardship*

Conservation Services (Forestry) and Chatham-Kent Greening expenses are below budget due to a decrease in trees sold and funding received and therefore a decrease in related expenses, part of a role paid for by ALUS Middlesex and included in phosphorous reduction below and less wetland projects completed then budgeted.

Phosphorous Reduction is above budget due mostly to one transfer payment of \$45k to the University of Waterloo, one transfer payment to \$60k to University of Guelph for research services performed, wages and expenses related to an Environment Canada and Canadian Adaptation Council grant and ALUS Middlesex agreement received after the budget was created and not reflected in it. Additional revenues cover these expenses.

Species at Risk is above budget due to the wages of the GIS Technician required to complete the project for the program ending Mar 31 and 8 months of new funding to continue the Species at Risk program for the remainder of the year not included in the budget.

### *Capital/Miscellaneous*

No Capital/Miscellaneous expenses to date.

### **Summary:**

	2019 BUDGET	2019 BUDGET OCT PROJECTED	2019 ACTUAL TO OCT 31	\$ VARIANCE TO PROJECTED
TOTAL CASH FUNDING	3,205,524	2,944,399	3,185,945	241,546
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,205,522	2,671,271	2,596,309	(74,962)
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>273,128</b>	<b>589,636</b>	<b>316,508</b>
LESS: ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSET	0	0	0	0
<b>NET CASH FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>273,128</b>	<b>589,636</b>	<b>316,508</b>

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

At October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, LTVCA's operating surplus is slightly more favourable than the projected budget as more grants have been received than budgeted and partially offset by increased expenses related to these grants.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board of Directors receives the Budget vs Revenue and Expenditures report for the period ended October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

The reports align with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan:

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

*Recommended:*

Todd Casier

Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

*Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.

C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

## **8.4) Appointment of Auditor**

Date: December 12, 2019

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: **Audit Services 2019 - 2023**

From: Todd Casier, CPA, CA, Manager, Finance and Administrative Services

**Background:**

At the 2019 General Meeting the board passed the following motion:

"Moved that the Board of Directors direct staff to undertake a competitive bid process to obtain Auditing services for the 2019 fiscal year and provide results of the bids to the Board for its decision at a subsequent board meeting"

On a period basis (generally every 5 years) Conservation Authorities send out a request for quotes (RFQ) for the year-end auditing services. At the direction of the Board, staff posted the RFQ on our website and following contact, sent it to five accounting firms in the watershed on May 6, 2019 with a response date of May 31, 2019. The LTVCA received two quotes, with one only quoting for the first two years of the period. It was determined the quotes did not provide a comparable bidding process.

Subsequent to the receipt of the quotes, the two firms that quoted were approached to determine if they would quote again and meet all requirements of the request. Positive replies were received from both and the quotes were submitted to the Conservation Authority.

Below is the table of the final quotes received:

Year End						
Audit Firm	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
MNP	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,500.00	13,000.00	13,500.00	63,000.00
Inclusive of HST	13,560.00	13,560.00	14,125.00	14,690.00	15,255.00	71,190.00

Audit Firm	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Baker Tilly	12,000.00	12,250.00	12,500.00	12,750.00	13,000.00	62,500.00
Inclusive of HST	13,560.00	13,842.50	14,125.00	14,407.50	14,690.00	70,625.00

Total Difference	-	- 282.50	-	282.50	565.00	565.00
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Financial staff at the Conservation Authority reviewed the subsequent quotes and both were determined to meet the requirements of the quote request. In turn, the recommendation for award is based on the lowest cost bid.

It should be noted that the auditor is appointed annually as required by section 38 of Conservation Authorities Act and Section B.7 of the approved LTVCA Admin By-Law 2018-01.

***Recommendation:***

**That** the Board of Directors accept the quote provided by Baker Tilly, for audit services for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023; and

**That** the firm of Baker Tilly be appointed as the auditor of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority until the next annual meeting in February 2020.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan:**

4. Improve Transparency and Understanding of Financial Statements

***Recommended:***

Todd Casier  
Manager, Financial and Administrative Services

***Reviewed:***

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

## 8.5) Agreement between the Foundation and Authority for undertaking a project

Date: December 12, 2019  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: **MOU with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for completion of the replacement of the wheelchair accessible wetland boardwalk at Longwoods Road C. A.**  
From: Bonnie Cary, Manager, Communications, Outreach and Education

### **Background:**

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation was awarded \$94,000 from Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for the replacement of the wheelchair accessible wetland boardwalk at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. The project (CP105815) is to be completed in 2020. This grant's start date was Dec.2, 2019 (to be completed fall of 2020 – it's a 12 month grant).

The Foundation and Authority will publicly recognize the grant and the Ontario Trillium Foundation's role at an event to be determined in the new year.

This is a CAPITAL grant. (The Feasibility Study was a SEED grant). This boardwalk grant requires an MOU between the LTVCA and the Foundation. The MOU is to ensure that the Foundation is independent of the LTVCA which is not in itself eligible for grants from the Trillium Foundation. This arrangement is common among Conservation Authorities and is consistent with past projects at the LTVCA.

The next steps include the completion of design plans for the boardwalk in December, tender documents for January for contractor (minimum of 2 quotes), insurance/legalities, building codes and bylaws to consider as it is on LTVCA property, and finalization of financial/accounting procedures to meet OTF requirements.

The \$94,000 OTF budget for the boardwalk replacement was approved by OTF for boardwalk building materials and the building contractor. A general contractor will be selected to complete the work. (Materials: \$42,000 includes treated wood(\$5700), posts and supporting posts(\$6600), screws, saw blades, drill bits, 3600 bolts/nuts/washers(\$6,600), railings(\$4,000), anti-slip decking(\$19,100) Labour: \$52,000)

### **Recommendation:**

**That** the Board of Directors authorize the chair to sign an MOU with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation for the purposes of completion of the replacement of the wheelchair accessible wetland boardwalk at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. (project: CP105815)

The reports align with the following objectives of the LTVCA's Strategic Plan:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
9. Improve Conservation Areas Operations

### **Recommended:**

Bonnie Cary  
Manager, Communications, Outreach and Education

### **Reviewed:**

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

## 8.6) Draft Big Creek Two Zone Draft for Consultation

### Background

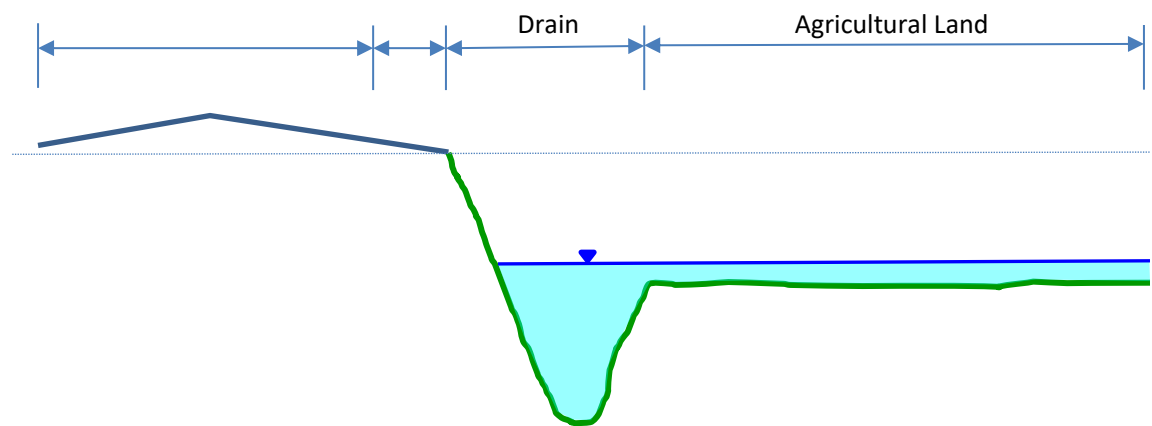
A two zone flood plain policy is more permissive than the standard one zone approach to flood plain management. Communities within the floodplain need to grow and meet new needs, so the province allows two-zone policy areas in some existing developing areas. Development, with restrictions, is permitted in the flood fringe of two-zone areas, where the level and speed of floodwater is not a significant threat to people and property. There is generally a greater risk of damage due to flooding in two-zone areas, but the risks are managed by policies. New buildings (industrial, commercial and residential) need to be flood proofed and there are tougher rules regarding access for residential properties. New development is not allowed in the floodway since the risk to the people who live there or their property is too high.

In the Provincial Policy Statement, floodway is defined as the inner portion of the floodplain where development and site alteration would cause a danger to public health and safety or property damage. The flood fringe is defined as the outer portion of the floodplain between the floodway and the limits of the regulatory flood where flood depths and velocities are generally less severe than those experienced in the floodway.

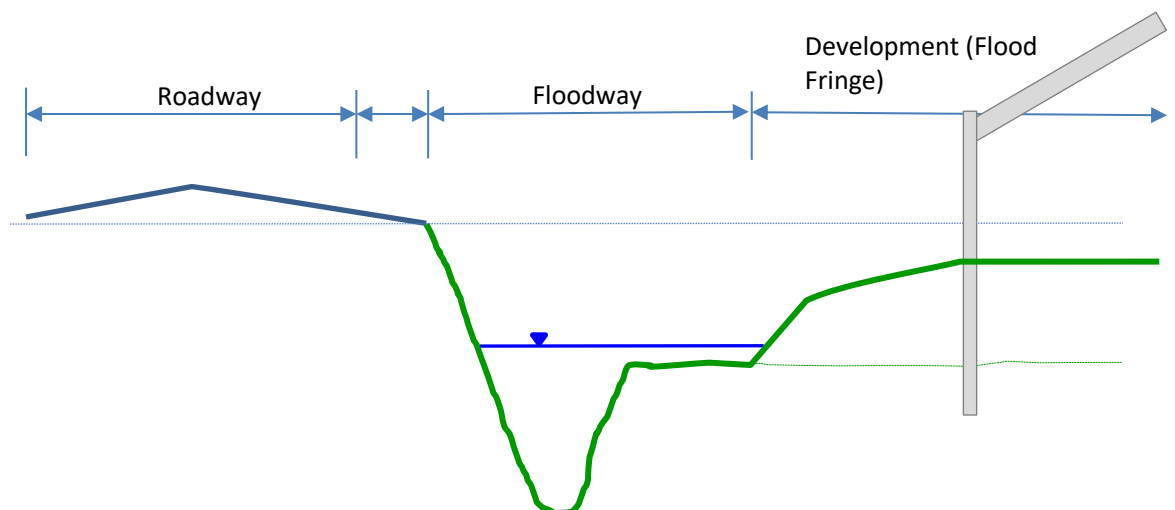
### Big Creek Two Zone General Policy Approach

The approach will be to allow development in the flood fringe by having development reduce current peak flows by construction of ponds which must meet defined discharge rates. Additionally, development will occur with all structures raised above the flood plain. The following two details show how the flood plain will change.

#### Pre-Development



#### Post-Development



A watershed specific technical study identifies allowable release rates and storage requirements that future developments must meet in order to mitigate downstream erosion/flooding impacts. The identified release rates will significantly reduce flood peaks over time. Some lands (flood storage areas) within the study will to be too flood prone to develop until flow rates are reduced as development is undertaken.

#### Lower Tier Rate

- Erosion Control
- 1.5 to 2.9 L/s/ha (Big Creek 1.5 L/s/ha)
- Controls frequent storms

#### Upper Tier Rate

- Overall Drainage Capacity
- 6 L/s/ha
- Controls infrequent storms

A draft 2 Zone policy has been developed by the project team to enable the development approach noted above. The policy will be included in the municipal Official Plan and adopted by the Conservation Authority as a board approved policy. A draft of this policy is included below.

#### Next Steps

The Two Zone Policy will be provided to the public for review. Any land owners that cannot immediately proceed with development due to being with flood storage areas will be invited to meet with the project team to review the project recommendations. Note: the Reid Drain and Silver Creek are part of this policy but within ERCA jurisdiction.

#### ***Recommendation:***

**That** the Board of Directors authorize staff to bring the draft Big Creek 2 Zone Policy to the public for comment. These public comments to be brought back to the board for consideration prior to approval of the Big Creek 2 Zone Policy.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

#### *Recommended:*

Jason Wintermute, Manager, Water Management and IT Service

#### *Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

# DRAFT Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Two-Zone Floodplain Policy Area

Existing Official Plan 2.20 – Floodplain Development Control Overlay:

## Policy 2.20.1 Two-Zone Floodplain

Under the two-zone approach to floodplain management, Council shall, to the satisfaction of the applicable Conservation Authority through a technical study, identify the floodway (that area subject to deeper, faster flows, which acts as the channel in times of flooding), as a zone where development other than buildings or structures required for flood or erosion control is prohibited. Area-specific studies are encouraged at a watershed level to identify areas suitable for the application of two-zone floodplain policies. Areas subject to Council-approved studies shall be identified on Schedule # through an Official Plan Amendment.

In areas subject to two-zone floodplain policies, the following forms of development are prohibited within both the floodway and flood fringe:

1. Uses involving the manufacturing, use, or storage of hazardous or toxic substances which would pose an unacceptable threat to public safety if damaged as a result of flooding or failure of flood protection measures;
2. Institutional uses such as hospitals, nursing homes, day care establishments, group homes and schools, which would pose a significant threat to the safety of the inhabitants if involved in an emergency evacuation situation as a result of flooding or failure of flood protection measures.
3. Emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance stations and electrical and telephone substations, which would be impaired during a flood emergency as a result of flooding or the failure of flood protection measures.

## Policy 2.20.1 Floodway and Flood Fringe

The floodway is defined as the inner portion of the Regional Storm floodplain representing the area required for the safe passage of flood flow and/or area where flood depths and/or velocities are considered to be such that they pose a potential threat to life and/or property.

It has been determined that a setback of 8 m (26.24 ft) plus the depth of the watercourse or municipal drain, to a maximum of 15 m (49.21 ft) from the top of bank, shall constitute the Floodway Zone for many of the inland watercourses. Area-specific studies may identify alternative floodway definitions or include the delineation of specific floodway areas.

**The following policies apply to the areas identified as floodway:**

1. The floodway shall remain unobstructed and without fill placed to ensure that sufficient floodway corridor is maintained.
2. No development shall be permitted within the floodway, except for those by nature of their use or purpose must be located within the floodway such as flood and/or erosion control works.
3. Replacement of an existing structure located within the floodway may be permitted, provided that all reasonable efforts are made to relocate the replacement structure outside of the floodway. Replacement structures shall not have a larger footprint than the existing structure, shall be floodproofed to the satisfaction of the Municipality and Conservation Authority, and shall not result in a net increase in flood risk to property and public health and safety, and shall to the extent possible, be located and designed such that there is no net decrease in flood risk to the structure.
4. Driveways, roads, bridges, railways and other private or public services of approved hydraulic design may be permitted, provided that there is no net increase in flood risk.



Development on those lands outside the Floodway but within the “Floodplain Development Control Overlay” (Schedule B) or otherwise identified as flood fringe shall only be permitted if:

- a) floodproofing is provided to the regulatory flood level to the satisfaction of the appropriate Conservation Authority.
- b) No new dwelling areas are established under the Regulatory Flood elevation;
- c) All building systems (electrical, hydro, etc.) are located above the regulatory flood elevation;
- d) Building openings (windows, doors) shall be located above the regulatory flood elevation;
- e) all development must be in accordance with the underlying land use designations;
- f) A permit is obtained from the applicable Conservation Authority under the applicable Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation.

Area-specific policies may be adopted through an Official Plan Amendment based on the completion of Council-approved Study.

#### **PROPOSED: Policy 2.20.1 – Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Two-Zone Floodplain Policy Area**

The Municipality of Leamington completed an area-specific technical study that includes updated floodplain mapping for the Reid Drain, Silver Creek and Big Creek Watersheds (Leamington Stormwater Management Master Drainage Study for the Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Watersheds, Stantec 2019), hereinafter referred to as the Master Drainage Study. It was determined that a two-zone approach to floodplain management was appropriate for the area.

The area to which the two-zone policies apply include the entirety of the Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Watersheds as identified on Schedule #. The Regional Storm is the 1 in 100 year storm as identified within the Master Drainage Study.

For the purposes of the Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Two-Zone Floodplain Policy Area, the Floodway is defined as a minimum setback from top of bank of 8 metres plus the depth of drain. Mapped floodway areas can be found within the Master Drainage Study or by contacting the Municipality.

For the purposes of the lands identified on Schedule #, the policies in Section 2.20.1 shall apply with respect to floodway and flood fringe areas. In addition, areas identified as Temporary Flood Storage Areas within the Master Drainage Study shall remain unobstructed and without the placement of fill until such time that it can be determined through a technical study that these areas can be developed without impact to flood elevations or downstream erosion. The Municipality may apply a holding provision in accordance with Section 36 of the Planning Act through a Zoning Bylaw Amendment to ensure development does not impact the ability of these areas to serve as temporary flood storage areas to mitigate flood impacts as identified within the Master Drainage Study. Development or site alteration that does not impact the storage volumes required to mitigate flood concerns may be permitted.

#### **Safe Ingress and Egress**

In order to maintain safe ingress and egress during regional flood events access to proposed developments within the Reid Drain, Silver Creek, and Big Creek Two-Zone Floodplain Policy Area is directed outside of areas at risk of ponding greater than 30cm at pavement edge as shown within the Master Drainage Study.

#### **Buildout and Monitoring**

Recommendations of the Master Drainage Study have been based on the following buildout scenarios:

- Big Creek – 25% buildout, or 1,000ha of additional development\*

- Reid Drain – 75% buildout, or 735ha of additional development\*
  - Silver Creek – 50% buildout, or 1,102ha of additional development\*
- \*development that has been approved after **DATE.**

The Master Drainage Study modelling should be kept up to date as development progresses. Upon reaching the buildout scenarios identified above, additional development outside of floodway areas may be permitted, provided that it can be shown through technical studies to the satisfaction of the Municipality and appropriate Conservation Authority that additional development will not impact flood line levels or downstream erosion or flooding conditions.

## 8.7) Annual Fee Review

Three changes to the *2020 Conservation Area Fee Schedule*

- 1) to streamline our operations, we are moving away from three different fees at our pay and display machines, to one flat rate of **\$5/day**. (may be additional fees on special events)
- 2) 2020 Conservation Area Parking Permits- **\$60**
- 3) CM Wilson CA- non camper sewage disposal fee- **\$50**

**Recommendation:** That the Board of Directors approve these fee changes to our 2020 Conservation Area Fee Schedule.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
2. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
3. Strengthen Brand Recognition
7. Improve Internal Communications
12. Strengthen Program Review Policy(s)

*Recommended:*

Randall Van Wagner  
Manager of Conservation Lands and Services

*Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

# 9. Business for Information

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## 9.1) Water Management

### 9.1.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

There have been eighteen flood messages issued since the last Board of Directors agenda was drafted. Six of these messages were Flood Outlooks for Lake Erie and/or Lake St. Clair shoreline areas, one of which was a monthly standing message for October. Seven Flood Watches and four Flood Warnings were also issued for these shoreline areas. One Flood Outlook and one Safety Bulletin were issued for the overall watershed due to heavy rains in the forecast. The Safety Bulletin was actually combined with a Flood Warning as problems could have arisen on both the shoreline and local watercourses at the same time. Monthly standing messages ceased in November as wind forecasts tend to be more reliable in the late fall and winter periods when thunderstorms are not the main source of high winds.

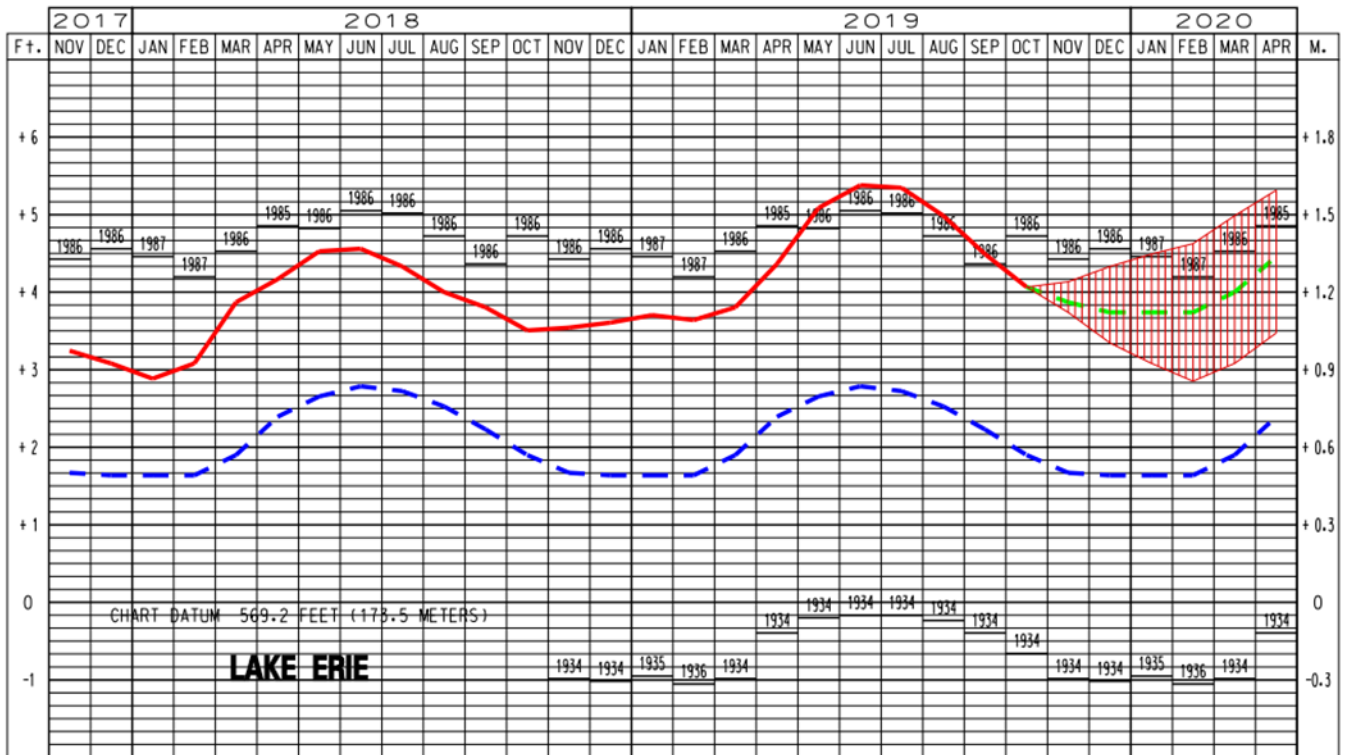
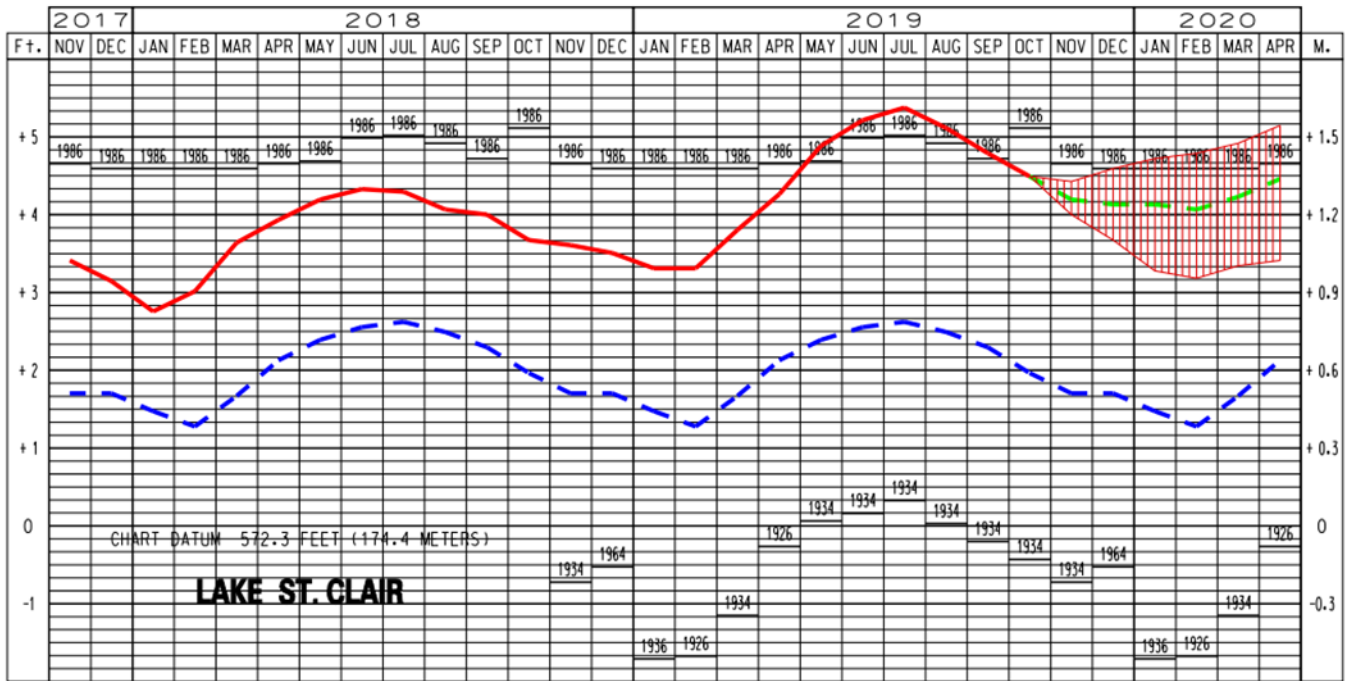
Wind events have impacted both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair since the last Board report. For most of these events, weather forecasts had over predicted the winds and waves. However, compared to the summer, a larger proportion of these events produced more serious flooding as the weather systems this time of year tend to produce stronger winds and for longer durations. Perhaps the most severe of these events occurred on October 31st. On that day there was flooding down on Erie Shore Drive during the day but during the late evening winds switched directions and caused flooding in Lighthouse Cove as well. There continues to be significant shoreline damage occurring on both lakes, with instances of erosion, break wall failures and bluff slumps occurring. A very significant bluff failure/slumping event in the Port Alma area occurred sometime around November 27th. This was probably the largest slump reported during the recent high water levels. Further instances of shoreline flooding and erosion should be expected to continue until the lakes freeze over for the winter.

#### Report on Lake Conditions

Daily average water levels on Lake Erie peaked on June 22nd at an elevation of 175.19 m (I.G.L.D.) and have since fallen by about 50 cm. The all-time monthly average record for Lake Erie set in June of 1986 of 175.04 m was broken from May through July, reaching an elevation of 175.14 m in June. Current water levels are now around 20 cm below the December 1986 monthly water level record. However, this still puts water levels about 69 cm above the long term December monthly average water level. Forecasts suggest that water levels on Lake Erie will drop by another 2 to 3 cm by the end of December.

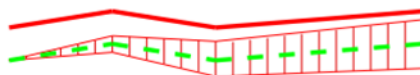
Daily average water levels on Lake St. Clair peaked on July 7/8th at an elevation of 176.08 m (I.G.L.D.) and have since fallen by about 34 cm. The all-time monthly average record for Lake St. Clair set in October of 1986 of 175.96 m was broken in both June and July, and matched in August, reaching an elevation of 176.04 m in July. Current water levels are now around 6 cm below the December 1986 monthly water level record. This puts water levels about 82 cm above the long term December monthly average water level. Forecasts suggest that water levels on Lake St. Clair will drop by another 2 to 3 cm by the end of December.

Water level summaries and long term forecasts are usually released around the 6th of the month and therefore the December update was not available at the time this report was drafted. The November water level summary is included below, but will have been updated by the time of this meeting.

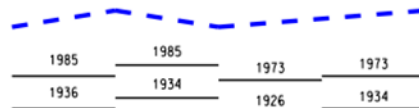


### LEGEND LAKE LEVELS

RECORDED  
PROJECTED



AVERAGE \*\*  
MAXIMUM \*\*  
MINIMUM \*\*



\*\* Average, Maximum and Minimum for period 1918-2018

### 9.1.2) Flood Control Structures

Regular seasonal maintenance continues on all the Authority's flood control structures.

Work on the Sharon Creek Dam spillway's safety railings and signage was completed on November 25th. This work was previously identified as required under a recent dam safety review undertaken in-house. The work was partly funded by the Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) grant from the MNRF which has provided approximately \$5,500 towards the work.

Annual inspections of all the LTVCA's flood control infrastructure began in November and are expected to be completed by the end of December. These inspections are more targeted on the structures themselves and their functioning, and are separate from the regular inspections conducted by the Health and Safety Committee. These inspections are also being completed in-house with reporting anticipated in the new year.

### 9.1.3) Low Water Response Program

During the spring, summer and autumn, brief reports outlining the watershed conditions as they relate to the Low Water Response Program are created by LTVCA staff. During the winter, as demand for water across the watershed is significantly less, these reports are not created. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry does broad screening throughout the province all year long for the program. Based on that screening, the Lower Thames watershed was not in any type of low water condition.

### 9.1.4) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed wide surface water quality monitoring continues on a monthly basis at twenty-two sites throughout the watershed.

Annual water quality sampling at groundwater wells throughout the watershed is nearly completed for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN). At the time this report was drafted, five of the seven wells had been sampled and the final two wells are anticipated to be sampled during the second week of December.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
2. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
5. Improve Capital Asset Review

#### *Recommended:*

Jason Wintermute  
Manager, Watershed and Information Services

#### *Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

## 9.2) Regulations and Planning

### 9.2.1) Planning and Regulations

#### ***Planning***

From the first of October through to the end of November, there have been 54 planning submissions reviewed by staff with respect to the Provincial Policy Statement, Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. On average it takes roughly 5 days to respond to submissions, ranging from same day response to 15 days for more involved planning submissions. There have also been 75 responses to telephone inquiries that staff have responded to as well as numerous email responses to inquiries.

Planning Numbers	2017 totals	2018 totals	Jan-Mar totals	Apr-May totals	Jun-Jul totals	Aug-Sept totals	Oct-Nov totals	2019 Totals
Chatham-Kent	227	185	30	23	31	27	28	139
Elgin	86	94	12	16	10	17	14	69
Essex	29	58	5	1	1	6	2	15
Middlesex	57	55	12	9	7	8	10	46
Total Numbers	399	328	69	49	49	58	54	269

*\*OP, ZBL, OPA, ZBLA, Consents, Minor Variances, Plans of Subdivision, Legal Inquiries*

#### ***Lighthouse Cove Secondary Plan Public Information Session***

A second public information session for the Lighthouse Cove community's secondary plan was held on November 21st at the Stoney Point Sportsmen's Club which staff attended. Stantec consultants provided a summary of their technical review findings on ice jam impacts to the community. They included the existing conditions, as well as preliminary design alternatives for safe ingress / egress, servicing, archeology, transportation issues, etc.

#### ***Chatham-Kent Shoreline Management Study***

On Tuesday, November 26, 2019, the Chatham-Kent Lake Erie Shoreline Study Team held the next round of public consultation meetings which CA staff helped facilitate with the consultant and CK staff. The Study Team provided an update of activities and presented the draft adaptation concepts and management options for the following regions of the shoreline:

- 1) High Bluff Areas,
- 2) Erie Beach, Erie Shore Drive, and the Dyked Farmland,
- 3) Flood-prone Communities around Rondeau Bay; and
- 4) Federal Navigation Channel and Rondeau Barrier Beach.

Following the formal presentation and question period, community members engaged in facilitated break-out groups to discuss the adaptation concepts by geographic region. The smaller-group discussions gave participants an opportunity to evaluate the options using community-based criteria as well as regulatory and legislative requirements. It was noted during the meeting that long-term solutions for the affected areas won't be cheap.

#### ***Lakeshore Shoreline Management Plan***

The Town of Lakeshore is in the beginning stages of undertaking a Lakeshore Shoreline Management Plan. Lakeshore is proposing to complete this SMP to inform their OP update. Stantec was retained to do the work which will include a significant amount of public consultation and planning considerations including, what to do with new development and what to do with existing development. An information session was held on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at the Atlas Centre which staff attended.

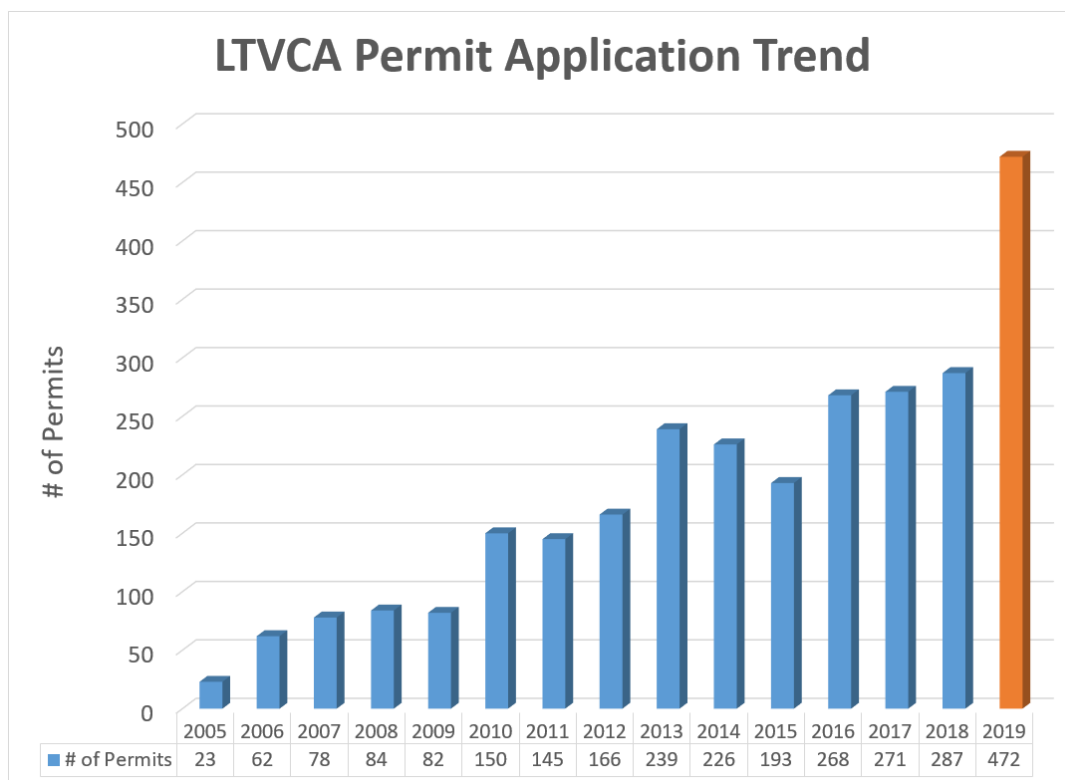
## Chatham-Kent Shoreline Management Study – Mail out

A request was made by a Board member at our last meeting to mail out our summary tables of the policy changes for all areas of the Lake Erie shoreline in Chatham-Kent (e.g. Erie Shore Drive [3 pgs], bluff specific [3 pgs], Detroit Line specific [2 pgs], Dynamic Beach Area [2 pgs]). There was no LTVCA allocated budget money to undertake a mail out of this size, and we relied on the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to undertake the first one page mail out about the Notice of Policy changes. A request was made to Chatham-Kent to do a subsequent mail out, but they also did not have funds assigned to send the multi-page documents out.

### 9.2.2) Permitting and Property Inquiries

In October and November, staff had received an additional 70 applications to permit development within LTVCA regulated areas (with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06). Of the 472 permit applications received in the first 11 months of 2019, all but 10 have been approved by staff. Eight of the 10 applications were still open and being reviewed by staff or were awaiting further information to be supplied by the applicant at the time of the writing of this report. The remaining two of the applications required Hearings in front of the Executive Committee as the applications' proposals were not compliant with board-approved policies. The Hearings were conducted in April with one application being approved with conditions and the other application being denied.

The graph below illustrates how the number of permit applications has been increasing over the years. The orange bar indicates the number of permits received in the first 11 months of 2019. With one more month left in the year, 2019 will be the fourth year in a row that records are broken for the number of permit applications received, reviewed, and processed.



The main reasons for the significant increase this year can be attributed to the new residential development activities in southwest Chatham (Special Policy Area of the floodplain) and to a major Enbridge project (Windsor pipeline replacement in Chatham-Kent). The Enbridge project was a one-off project whereas the development project in Chatham is expected to continue into at least 2020 and 2021 pending the economy and local housing supply.

Below are some Section 28 Permitting statistics for the first 11 months of 2019:

- Eight habitat/stewardship projects in a LTVCA regulated area have been received and approved with their application fees waived;
- 180 properties were surveyed for permit and official plan flood proofing requirements;
- 75% of all applications were within Chatham-Kent and 16% were within Lakeshore;
- 58% of the applications were for private property owners for projects such as construction or modification of structures, shoreline protection repairs, and/or bank alterations;
- 25% of applications were for municipal projects (drainage or infrastructure); and,
- Total of permit application fees = \$102,775.00 (average of \$217.74 per permit).

The below table provides a summary of the number of permit applications, landowner inquiries, and hearings annually between 2015 and the first 11 months of 2019.

<b>Applications / Inquiries</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019 (Up to Nov 30th)</b>
<b># of Permit Applications</b>	193	268	271	287	472
<b># of Landowner Inquiries (Regulations Technician only)</b>	516	688	879	1267	1265
<b># of Hearings</b>	1	0	1	0	2

### ***Permit Processing Timelines***

Service standards for Section 28 permit applications are specified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in the “Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities (2010)”. From the date of written confirmation of a complete application, conservation authorities are to make a decision (i.e. recommendation to approve or refer to a Hearing) with respect to a permit application and pursuant to the Conservation Authorities Act within 30 days for a minor application and 90 days for a major application.

Conservation Ontario staff recently developed a document entitled “Client Service Standards for Conservation Authority Plan and Permit Review” with input from Conservation Ontario Timely Reviews and Approvals Taskforce as well as stakeholders. Conservation Ontario Council endorsed the document on 24 June 2019. One of the suggestions in the document is to breakdown permit applications into a minimum of three categories: major applications, minor applications, and routine applications. The differences between each category are based on complexity of the application. Major applications require significant review and staff time, minor applications do not require as much staff time, and routine applications are generally quick and fairly standard (such as municipal drain maintenance). The document offers the following ‘best practices’ timelines for making a decision on a complete application:

<b>Application Category</b>	<b>Old Standard</b>	<b>New Standard</b>
<b>Routine</b>	30 Days	14 Days
<b>Minor</b>	30 Days	21 Days
<b>Major</b>	90 Days	28 Days

If a decision has not been rendered by the conservation authority within the appropriate timeframe, the applicant may contact the Manager of Watershed and Information Services who serves as the “client service facilitator”. If the applicant is not satisfied with the response from the client service facilitator, the applicant can submit a request for administrative review by the CAO and then, if not satisfied, by the LTVCA’s Board of Directors.

The below table utilizes the three application categories as suggested in the new Client Services Standards document but compares the number of days to review a complete permit application to the old standards (30 days for routine and minor applications, 90 days for major applications). 99% of routine applications were reviewed within the old delivery



standard, 74% of minor applications were reviewed within the old delivery standard, and 75% of major applications were reviewed within the old delivery standard.

Complexity of Application	# of Days to Review Permit Applications in 2019 (Up to Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> )		
	0 - 30 Days	31 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	69	1	0
Minor	287	99	0
Major	4	2	2

Using the new “best practice” service standards for comparison, the below table indicates that delivery of 74% of routine applications met the new delivery standard, 61% of minor applications met the new delivery standard, and 50% of major applications met the new delivery standard.

Complexity of Application	# of Days to Review Permit Applications in 2019 (Up to Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> )				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	52	9	8	1	0
Minor	175	62	28	121	0
Major	3	0	1	2	2

### 9.2.3) Section 28 Enforcement

In the first 11 months of 2019, 24 new complaints / tips were received from the public about possible Section 28 enforcement issues. 19 of the issues are violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06 with two of those issues being resolved through Violation Clearance Letters and three being resolved voluntarily. On-going enforcement issues from 2016, 2017, and 2018 were also monitored and continue to be dealt with. LTVCA staff continue to work towards the rehabilitation of the wetland involved in the 2016 court case with meetings with the defendant’s lawyer, agent, and consultants as well as on-site inspections.

## 9.2.4) O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications

Staff Report

### O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications (Up to 30 November 2019)

B.D. 12/12/19

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
285-2019	18296 Erie Shore Drive	Erie Shore Drive	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 03, 2019
316-2019	370 Colborne Street	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 01, 2019
319-2019	7887 Ninth Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 01, 2019
326-2019	Thackeray Branch Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
332-2019	73 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 02, 2019
333-2019	77 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
334-2019	81 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
335-2019	85 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
336-2019	89 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
337-2019	93 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
338-2019	97 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
339-2019	101 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
340-2019	105 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
341-2019	109 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
342-2019	113 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
343-2019	117 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
344-2019	121 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
345-2019	125 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
346-2019	129 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
347-2019	133 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
348-2019	137 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
349-2019	141 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
350-2019	Williams Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: Oct 02, 2019
358-2019	303 Detroit Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 02, 2019
364-2019	Driver Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
365-2019	Lucas Drain Extension	Blenheim	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
366-2019	Symon Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
367-2019	Toulouse Pumping Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
369-2019	13172 Longwoods Road	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 03, 2019
370-2019	Highway 77 over Government Drain No. 2	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
372-2019	28 Pleasant Street	Delaware	Middlesex Centre	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2019
373-2019	7275 Riverview Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2019
374-2019	McKays Line Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 11, 2019
375-2019	Neve Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
376-2019	19045 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2019
377-2019	Moody and Earley Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 09, 2019
378-2019	Charron Drain	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 10, 2019
379-2019	66 Detroit Drive	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2019
381-2019	Lakeshore Rd 309 over West Branch of Big Creek	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
382-2019	Lakeshore Road 309 over Robb-Dales Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
383-2019	Lakeshore Road 309 over Plouffe Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
384-2019	Lakeshore Rd 309 over E Branch of Big Creek Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
385-2019	Lakeshore Rd 309 over 18-19 Sideroad & Hill Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
386-2019	Wheatley Road over Keith Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
387-2019	Brouillette-Donais Drain at Goodreau Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
388-2019	8 Sarah Street	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 23, 2019
389-2019	7570 Talbot Trail	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2019
390-2019	Brouillette-Donais Drain at Goodreau Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
391-2019	Brouillette-Donais Drain at Goodreau Line	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
392-2019	Wheatley Road over Government Drain #4	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
393-2019	Goodreau Line over Government Drain #3	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
394-2019	Goodreau Line over Private Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
395-2019	Radmore Road over Cooper Drain East	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
396-2019	Cooper Drain East near Port Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
397-2019	5421 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
398-2019	6147 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
399-2019	6147 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
400-2019	8427 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
401-2019	Curtis Cut-off Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
402-2019	Mull Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
403-2019	Phaneuf Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
404-2019	19020 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Oct 23, 2019
405-2019	24107 Winterline Road South	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 23, 2019
406-2019	8650 Furnival Road	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: Oct 23, 2019
407-2019	18140 Fourth Line	Rondeau	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 11, 2019
408-2019	8843 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
409-2019	10567 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
410-2019	21950 Tecumseh Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
411-2019	Cranberry Marsh Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
412-2019	Corwall Creek Drain	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
413-2019	515 Markham Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Oct 18, 2019
414-2019	Johnston Drain Branch	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 08, 2019
415-2019	Allison Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
416-2019	Reeder Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
417-2019	25-20951 Pier Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 25, 2019
418-2019	Gooden Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 22, 2019
419-2019	11841 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
420-2019	12561 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
421-2019	13975 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
422-2019	15709 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
423-2019	16725 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
424-2019	16525 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
425-2019	17525 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
426-2019	17700 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 01, 2019
427-2019	20725 Lakeshore Road 309	Tilbury West	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
428-2019	2388 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
429-2019	22844 Wheatley Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
430-2019	2388 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
431-2019	22838 Wheatley Road	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
432-2019	2566 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
433-2019	2904 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
434-2019	2712 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
435-2019	6th Concession Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
436-2019	3534 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
437-2019	3400 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
438-2019	3546 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
439-2019	3600 Goodreau Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
440-2019	5th Concession Road Drain	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Oct 23, 2019
441-2019	69 William Street	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 25, 2019
442-2019	5975 Grande River Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
443-2019	19175 Crest River Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Oct 25, 2019
444-2019	Woods Drain	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 23, 2019
445-2019	Hilts Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 24, 2019
446-2019	Art Winters Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 23, 2019
447-2019	Gervais Pump Works	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 24, 2019
448-2019	Payne and Bachus Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 24, 2019
449-2019	Eberts Creek - Norton Drain	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
450-2019	McCord Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
451-2019	20951 Pier Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
452-2019	13172 Longwoods Road	Thamesville	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
453-2019	19030 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
454-2019	Bloomfield Heights SWM Pond	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Oct 30, 2019
455-2019	21950 Tecumseh Road	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
458-2019	McGugan Drain	Ekfrid	Southwest Middlesex	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
459-2019	Williams Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
460-2019	4061 Simpson Line	Romney	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
461-2019	32027 Walnut Line	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Construction	Granted: Nov 08, 2019
462-2019	1312 Bluff Line	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Nov 21, 2019
464-2019	Centre Road Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 15, 2019
465-2019	Bear Line Road over McFarlane Relief Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 20, 2019
466-2019	Bear Line Road over Ouellette Branch Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 20, 2019
467-2019	Pain Court Line over Pain Court Creek Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 20, 2019
469-2019	McCoughrin Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 21, 2019
470-2019	Thames River at Parks Blueberries	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Nov 21, 2019
471-2019	Mailloux Strong Drain Branches	Tilbury West	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Nov 25, 2019

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
2. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship

*Recommended:*

Jason Wintermute  
Manager, Watershed and Information Services

*Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

## 9.3) Conservation Areas

**Sharon Creek CA-** fencing project on dam outlet completed Nov 22.2019. Funds were provided by the provincial WICI program.

**Longwoods Road CA-**new automated front gate instal completed. Over a few years this will greatly reduce the cost to have this gate open and closed each day.

**Big O CA-** a \$1300 grant from *Evolugen*, will provide upgrades to the trail.

**CM Wilson CA-** a \$4000 grant from *Enbridge* will cover the installation costs of the pond aeration system, which will increase aquatic life in the 6 acre pond. (thermocline- bottom half void of oxygen).

**Campgrounds-** are now closed for the season, though we are still hosting a hunting groups at EM Warwick and Big Bend Conservation Areas.



### 9.3.1) October 1 – October 31 Visitation / Camping Stats

**Longwoods Road Conservation Area** – 4,631 people (5,207 in 2018) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits - 338 vehicles (250 in 2018)

**E.M. Warwick Conservation Area** – 250 people (200 in 2018)

**Big Bend Conservation Area** – 46 people (94 in 2018)

**C.M. Wilson Conservation Area** – 3,789 people (1,359 in 2018) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 87 vehicles (62 in 2018)

**Sharon Creek Conservation Area** – 73 Day Use Transactions (76 transactions in 2018)

**Season's Day Use Permits sold so far:** 0 (1 in 2018)

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### 9.3.2) Conservation Area Events (stats included in above)

- **November 24 – Season's Greetings – Longwoods Road Conservation Area**

We had a very successful event that attracted 127 visitors. Three staff worked alongside 6 volunteers, 12 local crafts people displayed their beautiful hand-made items, and the Mount Brydges Lions Club offered hot food at the pavilion. A horse team provided wagon rides through the conservation area to see Ska-Nah-Doht Village, a wandering quartet sang songs of the season around event indoors and outside, and new this year was the "Candy Cane Caper" – a scavenger type hunt around to all the attractions with skill testing questions and a draw at the end of the day for a 2020 Parking Pass and other goodies – 27 families took part. A bird feeder workshop took place in one of the log cabins and also for the kiddies – a Christmas card recycle into crafts in the Resource Centre. Guided nature trail hikes were also offered through the Carolinian forest on the Arboretum Trail, with a focus on winter birds and bird feeding.



Many thanks to the Directors that support us at this event – it was good to see you and your families!





2020 Events not listed here. Please watch for them listed on our Website and Facebook Events before year end.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
2. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
3. Strengthen Brand Recognition
7. Improve Internal Communications
9. Improve Conservation Areas Operations
10. Improve Human Resources
11. Improve Training Opportunities for Staff

*Recommended:*

Bonnie Carey  
Manager, Communications, Outreach and Education

*Recommended:*

Randall Van Wagner  
Manager, Conservation Lands and Services

*Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer



## 9.4) Conservation Services

### 9.4.1) Conservation Services

#### Recent Partnerships

**The Ridge Landfill Trust** has come on board to support LTVCA stewardship efforts in South Kent with an endowment of **\$1 million** to leverage for the coming decade. Funds will be matched by *Forests Ontario*, *Ducks Unlimited Canada* and other grant programs for: tree planting, tallgrass prairie and wetland restoration.

*Pictured here from left to right are:* Mayor Darren Caniff- Chatham-Kent, John Vermey-Ridge Landfill Trust, Cathy Smith-Waste Connections Canada, Linda McKinlay- LTVCA Chair, and Chatham-Kent Councillor-Anthony Ceccacci



**ENGIE North America (Erieau Wind Farm)** has also stepped in to support reforestation, buffers, prairie, and wetland with an annual commitment of **\$20,000** within the Chatham-Kent area.

#### Western Region Stewardship

Stewardship in the Western region is still hard at work completing wetlands and planning projects for next year. The 2020 tree order form is now available online and the deadline for orders is March 15, 2020.

Carolinian Canada with the help of LTVCA and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent hosted an “In the Zone” workshop at the Chatham Cultural Centre. Approximately 50 people attended this one-day workshop to learn more about urban stewardship. Topics discussed were native plants, climate change and low impact development. This workshop help connect residents with the resources to implement their own projects to help fight climate change.



A Meeting with Delaware Band Council held on November 20, 2019 discussed implementing a stewardship plan with the residents of Moraviantown and review potential projects for spring 2020. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown.

If you happen to go to the Chatham Cineplex during the month of November, you may have seen some familiar faces. LTVCA stewardship promoted some of their programs on the big screen. The 90-second clip played during the pre-show of all movies.

#### ALUS Chatham-Kent

ALUS Chatham-Kent wrapped up its first year on the ground with its final PAC meeting on November 21, 2019. In total this year ALUS Canada gave LTVCA to run the ALUS Chatham-Kent program over \$90,000. This grant money was used to establish 44 acres of stewardship project and support annual payments for 14 participants. Many other funders also



helped support the ALUS CK program such as WHC, Forest Ontario and Ducks Unlimited Canada. ALUS Chatham-Kent projects include planting over 8,000 trees, 8 acres of wetland and almost 10km of stream buffering. Four projects were approved at the final meeting for 2020, two for McGregor Creek and two tree planting projects.

Two new PAC members were accepted onto the committee to represent the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Meetings for 2020 will resume in January and we are still accepting applications for new PAC members. A report was submitted to ALUS Canada on expected projects for 2020 and ALUS CK has received 20 expression of interest totalling over 50 acres.

### **Eastern Region Stewardship**

Throughout November, targeted Funding for aquatic species at risk flyers was distributed throughout the eastern district of the watershed, providing landowners with information on how they can participate in stewardship projects which benefit species at risk in the Thames River. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, LTVCA partnered with ALUS Middlesex to host a stewardship information breakfast, presentations from stewardship staff provided attendees information on stewardship opportunities for 2020. The Landowner Greening Award was also present to Dan and Janet McKillop at the meeting, who received it for completing outstanding and exemplary stewardship work on their property, with the help of the LTVCA. In partnership with Elgin Clean Water Program and the Elgin Stewardship Council, one last wetland was dug in November, near the shores of Lake Erie, which will provide important habitat to many species.

### **ALUS Middlesex**

Despite the cold and wintery weather, one last wetland was dug in November; bringing the 2019 total to 18 acres of stewardship projects. ALUS Middlesex was able to support different types of stewardship projects, including: trees, wetlands, prairies, grassed waterways and fencing to restrict livestock access to waterways. With 7 landowner participants throughout Middlesex County engaging in the program this year, ALUS Middlesex was able to form partnerships with all five conservation authorities within the county, receiving local expertise and financial support on projects. Many funders go into the work of creating a more sustainable and natural Middlesex, including: HSP, Forests Ontario, Ducks Unlimited, OSCIA, TD Canada Trust and others.

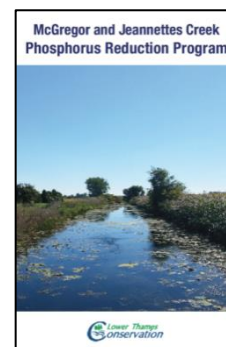
ALUS Middlesex will be holding its final PAC meeting of the year on December 10<sup>th</sup>, with meetings to resume in January 2020. ALUS Middlesex has received 9 expressions of interests for 2020, totalling 55 acres.

## **9.4.2) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives**

### ***CAP and ECCC: McGregor and Jeannette's Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program***

#### **Best Management Practice (BMP) Incentive Program**

Since the launch of the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Phosphorus Reduction Program during the Spring of 2019, the LTVCA has been working with subwatershed farmers to assist with planning and accessing funds to implement program supported agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs). Several applications from local producers have already been submitted and approved for funding. To date, the LTVCA has assisted with planning and has approved funding for 80 BMP projects. This includes supporting the planting of 2014 acres of cover crops in the study subwatersheds during the 2019 growing season.



At this time, only 60% of the BMP incentive budget for 2019 growing season has been utilized by subwatershed producers. Producer participation has been lower than expected. As a result of this, the LTVCA has extended the project application and claim deadline from December 1<sup>st</sup> of 2019 to January 17<sup>th</sup>, of 2020. Since harvest concluded, the LTVCA has observed an increased number of inquiries regarding the program and remains optimistic that the project budget will be 100% utilized by regional producers to support the implementation of agricultural BMPs.

During the winter of 2020, the LTVCA will work with the University of Guelph Water Resource Engineers to estimate the phosphorus reductions that result from the implementation of the agricultural BMP projects. The phosphorus reduction estimates will be calculated through a configured subwatershed Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model. The LTVCA project team is working diligently to assemble, validate, and transfer all of the 2019 collected climate, water

quality, and water quantity data to the University of Guelph by January 15<sup>th</sup>, of 2020 to calibrate the subwatershed models. The intention is to share this information with stakeholders at a public event during 2020.

### McGregor and Jeannettes Creek Subwatershed Water Quality Sampling and Monitoring

The LTVCA observed a significant amount of precipitation during the month of October that led to some minor flow events. Due to the relatively dry conditions from August to September, the soil had the capacity to retain a significant amount of the October precipitation and only minor flow events were observed. During November, minimal precipitations volumes were recorded, which resulted in minor flow events. The LTVCA collected water samples during all of the flow events, which will be sent to the lab to analyze the nutrient concentrations. This data, when coupled with recorded flow data, will be used to calculate phosphorus loads.

Monthly Subwatershed Precipitation		
Weather Station	October (mm)	November (mm)
McGregor Creek (Hwy 40)	123.2	34.9
Jeannettes Creek (Merlin)	125.2	35.8

At this time, soils within each subwatershed are saturated and the LTVCA anticipates that precipitation and snow melt events from December-May will cause significant flow. LTVCA staff will be actively collecting water quality samples and quantity data throughout the subwatersheds during the period of December of 2019 to May of 2020.

### Western University, Ivey Business School “Saving the Soil” Event

The, LTVCA, UTRCA and Ivey Business School are hosting an event on February 18<sup>th</sup> at Western University in London, that will be focused on discussing a new Ivey case study entitled, “Saving the Soil”. The case invites consideration of a decision confronting farm business operators: Should I commit to Carbon Regenerative Soil Management? How will such systems affect yield and profit?

Attendees will participate in a case-based discussion around sustainable agriculture. Ivey's famous case-based method of teaching will be used to bring the learning to life. The discussion will be moderated by Professor Tima Bansal. Dr. Bansal's research targets the interplay between business strategy and sustainability.

The intention is for a diverse audience of stakeholders to attend the event, including farmers, agricultural input suppliers, consumers, researchers, and students.

The registration fee for the event is \$40.00. To learn more about the event and register visit the following website:

<https://www.ivey.uwo.ca/sustainability/events/2020/02/saving-the-soil/>

**SAVING THE SOIL**  
A sustainable agriculture case-based discussion  
moderated by  
**Professor Tima Bansal**  
from the Ivey Business School at Western University

The case invites consideration of a decision confronting every farm business operator:  
Should I commit to Carbon Regenerative Soil Management?  
How will that affect yield and profit?

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**  
A diverse audience, including farmers, agricultural input suppliers, consumers, researchers, and students.

**FEBRUARY 18, 2020**  
February 18, 2020  
7:30pm to 9pm  
Ivey Business School  
London, Ontario

\$40.00 Registration (Limited Capacity)  
[go.ivey.ca/savingthesoil](https://go.ivey.ca/savingthesoil)

Capacity is set to 70 participants so register soon to guarantee your spot. Deadline to register is February 7th 2020.

Lower Thames Observation Upper Thames River Conservation Authority IVEY

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

The 2019-2021 Habitat Stewardship Fund (HSP) contract has been signed by both parties. The 2019-2023 Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR) contract is in the final stages of approval at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

Sixteen staff from nine member municipalities, one Aboriginal staff person and five LTVCA staff attended the “Smart About Salt” training hosted by the LTVCA on Tuesday, October 22. Funding for this training was provided by HSP.

LTVCA’s aquatic species at risk threat assessment is on-going.

Stewardship flyers raising awareness of aquatic (fish and freshwater mussel) SAR and funding available through both of the above funding programs for land stewardship initiatives have now been distributed to mailboxes in priority areas of the lower Thames River and interested landowner are now starting to inquire about the funding opportunities for the establishment of riparian buffers and wetlands constructed to filter water before it enters watercourses with aquatic species at risk.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA’s Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
2. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
3. Strengthen Brand Recognition
7. Improve Internal Communications
12. Strengthen Program Review Policy(s)

*Recommended:*

Randall Van Wagner  
Manager, Conservation Lands and Services

*Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer

## 9.5) Communications, Outreach and Education

### 9.5.1) 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, watershed First Nations communities and Conservation Ontario. They are also emailed to over 200 individuals (day use permit holders, people requesting LTVCA information).

**4 media releases were written/distributed since October 1, 2019.**

1. October 8, 2019 – Clean Water For Living
2. November 1, 2019 – LTVCA Award for Volunteer Heroes
3. November 5, 2019 – 'Season's Greetings' Event at Longwoods
4. November 19, 2019 – \$1 Million Received in Tree Funding

### 9.5.2) Displays and Exhibits

Displays and Exhibits are created to update programs and information for the public. Of course the big one this fall has been the Chatham-Kent & Lambton Children's Water Festival. LTVCA will be playing a role in the St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival in May 2020.

### 9.5.3) Advertisements, Marketing, Branding

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 2020. Staff also take out advertisements in the local print media to inform the public about workshops and seminars as needed and as budget allows.

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

### 9.5.4) Presentations & Tours

Presentations are provided to our municipalities and community groups upon request across the watershed. Support is offered to staff for official openings, funder recognition ceremonies and community events. Just give us a call!

### 9.5.5) Committees and Meetings

Staff sit on many committees and attend numerous meetings as required for their departments on an ongoing basis.

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

The LTVCA's website and social media (YouTube, Twitter and Facebook) are updated several times daily with current/relevant Conservation Authority information and events. The website address is [www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca). We encourage you to check in with us daily and share with your friends! Updates highlighting LTVCA projects, events and current conservation activities and news relating to the watershed are posted. Photos and video clips of programs and projects are taken regularly. We also promote all the Conservation Ontario campaigns such as "Healthy Hikes", "Eco-health" and "Source Water Protection".

The number of followers and subscribers on our various social media platforms continues to grow each month! The LTVCA's Twitter account currently has **990** followers. LTVCA's Facebook page has **1,836** followers and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Facebook page has **1,323** followers. There are **38** subscribers to our YouTube channel.

Our social media campaign continues to showcase the LTVCA departments daily on Facebook, Twitter and to our Directors, our Municipal CAO's, MP's and MPP's, First Nations Chiefs from watershed communities, LTVCA Foundation Directors and LTVCA staff. A social media policy and procedures is posted on our website.



Mondays – focus on water, flooding, regulations and erosion

**Lighthouse Cove Floods Hallowe'en night**  
**Flood Safety Reminders**

- Downed power lines during a flood are extremely dangerous
- Possessions not secured can float away & cause other hazards
- Slow moving or standing water can be dangerous if you can't see where you're stepping
  - Septic systems won't work, so flood waters are often contaminated, increasing the risk of infections

"LTVCA ensures our municipal partners & public are informed of potential flood & erosion risks"

519-354-7310  
 info@ltvca.ca  
 ltvca.ca




Tuesdays – focus on stewardship, restoration, tree planting

**"Enhancing Watershed Health with Wetlands Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship"**  
**2020 Tree Seedling Sales List is Ready!**  
 Order Early! - Limited availability of certain species  
 Deadline March 15, 2020 - Order Form on Our Website

- Seedlings include species of conifers, deciduous, shrubs
- Minimum order of 10 seedlings / species
- Machine planter rental available
- Funding available for projects over 1 acre please inquire - Amanda Blain ext. 234

"Balancing human & economic needs with the needs of our natural environment"

519-354-7310  
 info@ltvca.ca  
 ltvca.ca




Wednesdays – focus on Conservation Areas, natural heritage

**Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority**  
**Now Accepts Online Donations for Watershed Conservation Projects**  
[www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)

- now it's easy to make a donation to LTVCA watershed conservation projects on our website
- donate to Conservation Areas, Ska-Nah-Doht Village, Conservation Education, Land Stewardship Projects or make a general donation (tax receipts issued)
- use PayPal or Credit Card

"Providing the tools & knowledge to citizens of our watershed to improve capacity to improve the environment."

519-354-7310  
 info@ltvca.ca  
 ltvca.ca




Thursdays – focus on education, outreach

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

**Co-op in Conservation!**

- Arius defends native wetlands from invading purple loosestrife at Longwoods Road Conservation Area
- thanks to Jerry & team Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority for making this happen!
- #SDCICOOPA
- selection of school programs here

<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/education-programs-2/conservation-education/>

**#WeAreConservation**  
*"Inspiring good stewards of the watershed for a healthy future"*

519-264-2420  
 info@ltvca.ca  
 ltvca.ca




Fridays – focus on water quality, quantity, agriculture

**"Enhancing Watershed Health"**  
**Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives**

To protect water quality in wetlands & overall Lake Erie & the Thames River, we need a 40% reduction in dissolved phosphorus & total spring loadings.

- after 50mm of rain in two days, fields were saturated & surface runoff occurred in many places
- the flume recently installed at our edge of field monitoring site worked great, allowing us to collect surface runoff samples & volume!

"LTVCA staff are continuing our commitment to understand current conditions, predict what may happen, & assess if our actions have a positive effect."

<https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/conservation-services/monitoring-and-jurimetric-creek-phosphorus-reduction-program/>

519-354-7310  
 info@ltvca.ca  
 ltvca.ca




### 9.5.7) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation has received \$64,800 of the \$72,000 Trillium grant to be used for the Longwoods Feasibility Study in 2018-2019. Sheila Simpson has been contracted as Project Manager for the Study on a short term contract through the Conservation Authority (funded through the Trillium grant budget). She has produced a work plan for 2019. **Fred Galloway Associates** has been hired as the consultant to do the work on the Longwoods Resource Centre feasibility study. The architect presented 2 schematic drawings of an addition to the existing Resource Centre and one of a totally new build on November 15th. Foundation Directors will be presented on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and these drawings will be reviewed with the LTVCA Board with explanation at this meeting on Dec. 12 as well. The final report to the Ontario Trillium Foundation is due on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder of Roles and Responsibilities:

*LTVCA Authority*

Support the project

*Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation*

Administer and account for funds

Meet grant requirements

Report to funder

*Trillium Grant Steering Committee*

Hold meetings with minutes

Approve payments

Appoint the consultant

Appoint project manager

Another Ontario Trillium Foundation capital grant was submitted by the Foundation for \$94,000 of funding (capital and labour costs) to replace the wheelchair accessible boardwalk to the marsh at Longwoods. A public announcement has yet to be made regarding the outcome of this grant application.

The next meeting of the Foundation Directors is December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm at the Resource Centre.

### 9.5.8) Publications

Communications, Outreach and Education staff assist Conservation Authority staff with publications as needed. Publications are posted on our website for downloading. As well, work has begun on a new LTVCA Directors' Handbook. Guidance is being given to contract staff as they create a new LTVCA Conservation Areas booklet. A 2020 Events postcard will also be printed to highlight the annual events at Longwoods Road Conservation Area – an easy way for visitors to leave with a listing of upcoming activities.

### 9.5.9) Applications

Communications, Outreach and Education staff apply for project funding as grants become available. Most recently we applied to the federal Canadian Experiences Fund for \$64,000 to do upgrades to the log cabins at Longwoods Road Conservation Area. Still waiting to hear about this, even with 2 recent follow-up telephone conversations with a representative for the Canadian Experiences Fund.

### 9.5.10) Volunteers

Our volunteers continue to play a huge role with the LTVCA. From helping with special events to trail work, we are very grateful for their support.

The second Friday of December by noon is the deadline to receive nominations for the LTVCA's Volunteer Heroes Award. LTVCA watershed individuals can be nominated. Successful nominees receive a pin and certificate and special recognition at the LTVCA's Annual General Meeting in February.

Information about this award and nomination form may be found on the LTVCA website at this link or under the About Us tab: <https://www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/About-and-Nomination-Form-LTVCA-Awards-for-Volunteer-Heroes-final.pdf>

A record is kept of all volunteers, their number of hours, projects in which they were involved over the year. In 2018, the 370 dedicated volunteers gave 950 hours of their time towards LTVCA projects and services

#### 9.5.11) Outreach and Education

**School groups and English as a Second Language (ESL) groups** have kept education staff busy over the past few months. Covering a range of JK through college and university levels from one day to the next, presentations sometimes require a quick change-up in delivery but participants and teacher feedback indicate we are doing a great job. The amalgamation of Ska-Nah-Doht and Environmental programming is proving to be a win-win for teachers, students and the LTVCA. We can incorporate past stewardship and sustainability of natural resources exemplified in the First Nations traditional approach with current stewardship efforts. Students benefit from receiving more bang-for-the-buck in their visits and the smiles speak volumes!

We launched another **new program**; “Treaties” which includes an introduction in the museum outlining local treaties and the use of wampum belts with a walk to Ska-Nah-Doht. We have presented it to a grade 5 and to a FNIM (First Nations, Inuit and Metis) secondary class with excellent feedback. There are more bookings in the spring so we look forward to those presentations.

**The kiosk Pollinator display panels** are being printed up and will be installed shortly to welcome the Spring native bees. Native leafcutter and mason bees will be feature attractions that visitors can observe using the native gardens located around the Resource Centre/Museum. Viewable nest boxes will be placed inside the kiosk. QR codes on the display panels offer the opportunity for visitors to learn more about native pollinators and how to help their habitat needs on our Pollinator Habitats webpage.

September welcomed a new addition to our education staff in the form of Arius Ransome, **a co-op student** from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute. Arius wishes to pursue a career in environmental resource management and is gaining experience in a variety of activities with Longwoods education and stewardship staff. Great to help a budding interest grow to enhance and value our natural resources in the future.

Number of students in October 410 (952 in 2018). Note that only 2 staff are running school programs in October 2019 compared to 4 in 2018 which is reflected in the numbers.

The reports align with the following objectives of the **LTVCA’s Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders
2. Increase the Awareness of the Value of Good Watershed Stewardship
3. Strengthen Brand Recognition
7. Improve Internal Communications
8. Improve Internal Understanding of Roles & Responsibilities
9. Improve Conservation Areas Operations
10. Improve Human Resources
11. Improve Training Opportunities for Staff
12. Strengthen Program Review Policy(s)

*Recommended:*

Bonnie Carey  
Manager, Communications, Outreach and Education

*Reviewed:*

Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary-Treasurer



## Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Ska-Nah-Doht Advisory Committee was held at the Resource Centre in Longwoods Road Conservation area at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 21, 2019. The following members were in attendance: B. Bruinink, D. Fallon, G. Bogart, R. Doane, M. Hentz, J. Frawley, S. Emons and M. Peacock. Also in attendance: K. Mattila, B. Carey and A. Vriends.

#### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

##### 1. M. Hentz- S. Emons

Moved that the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

#### 2. Business for Approval

##### 2.1) Ska-Nah-Doht Fund and Fundraising

Discussion held on the history and current practicality of the Ska-Nah-Doht Fund.

##### 2. M. Hentz – G. Bogart

Moved that the Ska-Nah-Doht Fund be dissolved.

CARRIED

##### 2.2) Annual Policy Review

Policy #1: Governance

##### 3. S. Emons - J. Frawley

Moved that the committee accepts the edits to Policy #1 – Governance, as presented and it be forwarded to the LTVCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

CARRIED

Policy #2: Financial – no review in 2019

Policy #3: Collections

##### 4. M. Hentz – G. Bogart



Moved that the committee accepts the edits to Policy #3 – Collections, as presented and it be forwarded to the LTVCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

CARRIED

Policy #4: Exhibition

5. S. Emons - M. Hentz

Moved that the committee accepts Policy #4 – Exhibition, as written and it be forwarded to the LTVCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

CARRIED

Policy #5: Interpretation and Education – no review in 2019

Policy #6: Research – no review in 2019

Policy #7: Conservation

6. R. Doane - J. Frawley

Moved that the committee accepts the edits to Policy #7 – Conservation, as presented and it be forwarded to the LTVCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

CARRIED

Policy #8: Physical Plant

7. S. Emons – D. Fallon

Moved that the committee accepts the edits to Policy #8 – Physical Plant, as presented and it be forwarded to the LTVCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

CARRIED

Policy #9: Community

8. M. Hentz - S. Emons

Moved that the committee accepts the edits to Policy #9 - Community, as presented and it be forwarded to the LTVCA Board of Directors for review and approval.

CARRIED

Policy #10: Human Resources – no review in 2019

3. Business for Information

3.1) Educational Staff Updates

Community Educator, Carlyn Johnston is currently on maternity leave. There are plans for hiring a contract replacement in March 2020. Curator, Karen Mattila is retiring at the end of 2020.

3.2) Education Programs

Bookings are steady for the fall, no real impact from the Educational Support Staff and now the Teacher contract negotiations.

### 3.3) Community Museum Operation Grant (CMOG) 2019/2020

There has been no correspondence from the Ministry.

### 3.4) Ska-Nah-Doht Recognition Program

Research on the recipients for inclusion in the plaque is continuing.

### 3.5) Longwoods Feasibility Study Update

Architectural drawings were presented – Option #1 to refurbish and build onto the existing building and Option #2 a new structure.

### 3.6) Upcoming 2019 Events

1) Season’s Greetings - Sunday, November 24 - noon - 4 p.m.

9. S. Emons – G. Bogart

Moved that 3.1 -3.6 be received for information.

CARRIED

## 4. Other Business

No other Business

## 5. Next Meeting Date

Schedule for 2020 Advisory Committee meetings:

Thursday, March 19 at 6:00 pm

Thursday, June 25 at 6:00 pm

Thursday, September 17 at 6:00 pm

Thursday, November 19 at 2:00 pm

## 6. Adjournment

10. G. Bogart – M. Hentz

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

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Bill Bruinink  
Vice Chair

## 9.7) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – November 22, 2019

### LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

An email poll to the Conservation Authority's Executive Committee was undertaken on Friday, November 22, 2019 at 8:18 PM. The following committee members were circulated and responded: L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, C. Cowell, P. Tiessen, & R. Leatham.

#### 1. Business for Approval

As directed by Chair Linda McKinlay of the Conservation Authority, I am forwarding a request for your vote regarding the costing of seasonal parking passes for LTVCA Conservation Areas,

RE: LTVCA 2020 Parking Permits

#### Background

- Prior to 2018, the annual LTVCA Parking permit was \$60, this allowed users unlimited access to our properties for the entire year.
- Then in 2018 we switched to \$50 for one pass, and charged an extra \$25 for a second vehicle, as were documenting license plates.
- This has had minimal uptake with only 11 people paying the extra \$25 for a second permit, and enforcement is more complicated by having the passes assigned to a particular vehicle.
- LTVCA would like to streamline this for 2020 and offer one pass that can be shared for the original price of \$60.

Staff are requesting the following resolution be considered by the Executive Committee as staff are getting requests for 2020 passes (for Christmas presents):

Executive Resolution:

THAT the annual parking pass for 2020 revert to the pre 2018 price of \$60.00 per vehicle.

Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with this resolution by returning same to this email address ([Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca](mailto:Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca)).

---

From: Paul Tiessen <[ptiessen@leamington.ca](mailto:ptiessen@leamington.ca)>  
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 6:20 PM  
Subject: Re: LTVCA 2020 Parking Permits Executive Committee Resolution Request

Hi Mark

I agree with this resolution.

Paul Tiessen

---

From: Linda McKinlay <[lindamckinlay@xplornet.com](mailto:lindamckinlay@xplornet.com)>  
Date: Friday, Nov 22, 2019, 8:18 PM  
Subject: RE: LTVCA 2020 Parking Permits Executive Committee Resolution Request

I agree...going back to the original \$60 doesn't tie up staff and is less cumbersome for everyone.

Linda McKinlay

---

From: Trevor Thompson <[Trevor.Thompson@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:Trevor.Thompson@chatham-kent.ca)>  
Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 8:20 PM  
Subject: RE: LTVCA 2020 Parking Permits Executive Committee Resolution Request

I'm good with that.

Trevor Thompson

---

From: Richard Leatham <[rleatham@westelgin.net](mailto:rleatham@westelgin.net)>  
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2019 1:27 PM  
Subject: Re: LTVCA 2020 Parking Permits Executive Committee Resolution Request

I agree with this resolution.

Richard Leatham

---

From: Councillor Christa Cowell <[CCowell@southwestmiddlesex.ca](mailto:CCowell@southwestmiddlesex.ca)>  
Sent: Sunday, November 24, 2019 8:12 AM

Subject: Re: LTVCA 2020 Parking Permits Executive Committee Resolution Request

I agree with the efficiencies that returning to this process will incur. I support this resolution.

Regards,

Christa Cowell

---

**E-2019-19**      Unanimous

Moved that the annual parking pass for 2020 revert to the pre 2018 price of \$60.00 per vehicle.


CARRIED

2. Other Business

None noted.

---

Linda McKinlay  
Chair



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Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

## 9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2019

### LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



#### JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

A meeting of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's (LTVCA) Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) was held November 19, 2019. Present were: P. Kominek, A. Blain, V. Towsley and A. Vriends.

Diversion Channel – Committee has recorded at this inspection and prior inspections that there are rotted fence posts throughout the channel and the Committees recommended action is that they be replaced.

Committee recommends that there be a thorough inspection of the entire channel fencing, checking for rotted posts, cut fencing, etc. and that replacement and/or repair of posts and fencing be completed as required.

Site inspections of the Administration Building, Dam and Pumping Station, Colborne, Miller and the Diversion Channel (DC), were conducted. See completed Workplace Inspection Records for details.

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

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee  
**Workplace Inspection Record**

Inspection Location: see below

Date/Time of Inspection: November 19, 2019

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Administration Building</b>  - none noted	8 a.m.				
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Dam &amp; Pumping Station</b>  - no dial tone on land line	9:00 a.m.  - determine if it is the phone or the line and resolve				
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Colborne CA</b>  - none noted	9:33 a.m.				
<b>LOCATION</b> NE side	<b>DC Colborne Street</b>  - cut in river bank	- review for potential for erosion of exposed bank when river floods				
	- gap in fencing	- install fencing				
SE and NW side	- gates and rotted posts	- replace where applicable				
<b>LOCATION</b> NE side	<b>DC Park Ave</b>  - road culvert blown out  - rotted posts	- contact CK Roads Department for repairs  - replace where necessary				

LTVCA Joint Health and Safety Committee  
**Workplace Inspection Record**

Inspection Location: see below Date/Time of Inspection: November 19, 2019

Item; location	Hazards Observed	Recommended Action	GM Response		Action Taken/ Required to Repair	Completed By (Date/initials)
			Complete by (date)	Alternative Action		
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Disposal Site</b>  - none noted	10:15 a.m.				
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DC Indian Creek Rd</b>					
NW side	- rotted posts	- replace where necessary				
SW side	- trees cut so 4 wheelers can access channel	- place large boulder(s) or other suitable obstruction to prevent access				
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b><u>Rivards</u></b>  - none noted					
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Miller CA</b>	11:05 a.m.				
N side property line	- leaning trees	- assess leaning trees for safety reasons				
NW end – open space	- fence in poor condition	- replace or remove				



## 9.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – October 4, 2019 & November 7, 2019

### WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on October 4th 2019 at the Wheatley Legion

**Attendance:** Rick & Forest Taves, Mike Diesbourg, Bruce & Marj. Jackson, Pauline Sample, Gerry Soulliere, Ron Haley, Joe & Ginette Pinsonneault, Lorna Bell, Lee & Linda Pearce, Mark Peacock.

**Memorial Groves:** Kevin Getty has cut the Groves for probably the last time this year. Some trimming still needs to be done.

**Prop. & Equip.:** The non-native Norway Maples should all be cut down, especially near the Hike Bridge, the larger trees will be marked for cutting. Joe Pinsonneault and Roger Dundas cleared some trees near the North bridge, more clearing will need to be done to have access for the equipment needed to repair the bridge. Some fallen trees on the East side of the creek near the Pearce bridge will need to be cleared. Joe took down both sets of stage lights, the large floodlight and the rope still need to be removed. Mark Peacock will continue to try and get a student to do the trail mapping. Bruce Jackson is working on fixing the tractor- it will need a new water pump. When it is ready the trails can be cut for the last time this year. Gerry Soulliere will contact Gerhard Epp about installing the sidewalk from the parking lot to the large pavillion. Mike Diesbourg will remove the 3 blue barrels in the pavillion since they are no longer needed.

**Concerts:** The music committee will meet at Rick & Forest Taves house soon to discuss the concert lineup for next year.

**Financial Report:** The Account Balance as of August 31st was \$37,100.92, the Account Balance as of September 30th was \$36,230.78. Roger Dundas moved, Linda Pearce seconded. ( Carried )

**Correspondence:** It was decided not to allow the Parent/ Teachers Association to use our charitable # and also not to give them money. We could donate a tree to them and or help them on our own property.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** We will look into having a car show next year on our property, possibly on the Sunday of the Fishfest weekend before our concert. We will look into having another group run it for us and Gerry will attend the next Fishfest meeting to see if it could be included in the festivities.

**Adjournment:** Rick motioned for adjournment at 8:09pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

## WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting held on November 7th 2019 at the Wheatley Legion

**Attendance:** Ron Haley, Rick Taves, Pauline Sample, Lorna Bell, Joe Pinsonneault, Mike Diesbourg, Bruce & Marj Jackson, Mark Peacock, Lee & Linda Pearce, Roger Dundas.

**Minutes:** Moved by Phil Humphries, sec. by Lorna Bell minutes be accepted as read. ( Carried )

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

**Memorial Groves:** Some signposts holding the plaques should be replaced due to rot.

**Prop. & Equip. :** Joe cut the trails for the last time this year. The Trailhead sign needs to be cleaned and the Pembina Bridge sign near the Pearce bridge needs to be removed. The rope going down the hill has been removed for the winter. Gerhard Epp has agreed to pour the sidewalk going from the parking lot to the large pavillion, will give us a price at a later date. We will try to repair the North bridge when Lee is available with his equipment and weather permitting. The water tank in the Groves has been chained to a tree for the winter. Since there will be no Memorial service this year ther will be no notice in the paper. The flags will need replacing for next year.

**Concerts:** The concerts have all been booked for next year and will start on the usual date in June. We have decided to keep the comments section on the back of the concert flyers.

**Financial Report:** The Account Balance as of September 30 2019 was \$36,230.78. The Account Balance as of October 31 2019 was \$34,253.82. Rick Taves moved, Linda Pearce sec. The Final Budget was moved by Rick, sec. by Roger Dundas. Rick suggested that Two Creeks pledge forms should dropped off at businesses in town.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Rick will assist with laying the Two Creeks wreath at the Remembrance day service. We will enter our float in the xmas parade on Dec. 1st, Gerry Soulliere will drive. Anyone willing to help set up the float should be at the storage shed around 10:00am. It was decided not to have the proposed car show on the Fishfest weekend but possibly on a different weekend.

**Adjournment:** Roger moved for adjournment at 7:50pm.

Phil Humphries, secretary.

## 9.10) CAO's / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: December 12, 2019  
Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors  
Subject: C.A.O.'s Report  
From: Mark Peacock, P. Eng., C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

### ***Results of Risk Audit***

On September 17th Marsh Insurance conducted a risk audit of five Conservation Areas in the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. Randall Van Wagner, Manager of Conservation Lands and Services and I accompanied two auditors on the site visits. A review was completed at Longwoods Rd. CA, Delaware CA, Sharon Creek CA, Warwick CA and Big Bend CA. Prior to the site visit the auditors were supplied the 2018 Risk Management Plan, 2018 Public Safety Assessments and Plans for all water control structures and a number of documents requested to demonstrate procedures and record keeping at the LTVCA.

The auditors made a number of recommendations regarding improved signage. No items of significant cost were mentioned during the site visits. The Risk Audit is included in the Correspondence section of this Board package.

### ***Flood Advisor's Report***

In response to flood events in the spring of 2019, the provincial government announced that it would undertake consultation on the province's current flood mitigation and land use planning policies. Their first step was to host three regional listening sessions held by provincial leaders with municipal, Indigenous and industry leaders in Muskoka, Pembroke and Ottawa in May 2019. These sessions allowed the Province to hear directly from areas most devastated by the spring floods. Acknowledging that these sessions did not cover all areas that experienced flooding, nor provided the public with an opportunity to engage on the topic, the Province invited comments regarding flooding. Local municipalities and conservation authorities responded by requesting that flooding in southwestern Ontario not be missed in provincial considerations.

Mr. Douglas McNeil, P. Eng. was appointed by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable John Yakabuski, on July 18, 2019, to review the province's current flood management framework. In addition to considering policies and activities which influenced spring flooding, Mr. McNeil was also asked to consider Great Lakes flooding.

Over the last number of months, staff met with the Provincial Flood Advisor and have prepared a number of papers at the request of the advisor's office detailing flood issues in southwestern Ontario. We have worked closely with a number of municipal staff in the preparation for these meeting and reports.

The Province of Ontario released its Independent Review of 2019 Flood Events in Ontario on November 28, 2019. In that report Mr. Mc Neil acknowledges that:

"The development of the modern floodplain policy in Ontario, the watershed approach, the conservation authority model, and the flood standards have been extremely effective at reducing flood risks, especially in new greenfield development areas. Strong provincial legislation and policy, including the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement, the Conservation Authorities Act, Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, and natural hazard technical guides, have collectively gone a long way to reducing and mitigating flood risks in Ontario. Historic investment in flood mitigation infrastructure, such as dams, dikes, flood channels and shoreline protection, has delivered structural solutions to reduce flood risk to existing and new developments in floodplains. This broad approach has served the province well.

While these policies and mitigative activities have made Ontario a leader across Canada, it is clear that Ontarians continue to be significantly impacted by flood events and the costs associated with these impacts continue to mount."

The report is well written and shows that the Flood Advisor was competent, did his homework and clearly understands the Province of Ontario Flood Management Program. The Hon John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, should be commended in undertaking the extensive process and appointing the right person for the job. The

report provided 66 recommendations to address mounting flooding losses, to strengthen the Flood Management Program in Ontario, and to proactively manage climate change impacts on flooding.

Recommendations included strengthening the forecasting and monitoring parts of the program, aligning CA Regs with planning, improving communicating around flood events, improving urban flood protection, supporting municipalities and conservation authorities in undertaking green infrastructure and watershed restoration programs (e.g. planting trees, building wetlands and infiltrating runoff), recommending changes in how shoreline protection is funded, and protecting/educating buyers of flood properties. Among the 66 recommendations, the report also supports conservation authority and municipal efforts to update floodplain mapping with new technologies. It further encourages the province to work with conservation authorities to develop updated technical guidelines pertaining to floods and natural hazards, and supports the WECl program. (Provincial program that helps fund CA flood control infrastructure) A number of recommendations around addressing area specific flooding issues were also presented.

One of the most significant recommendation for the Lower Thames Valley and our member municipalities was (recommendation 24), a call for the provincial, federal and municipal governments to work with the Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority to undertake a coordinated short- and long-term strategy to address the existing and expected impacts to Chatham-Kent, Windsor-Essex and Pelee Island as a result of current and future water levels, flood and erosion hazards, and climate change on Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River.

The report addresses many of the concerns that conservation authorities have been raising for the past decade. The LTVCA looks forward to working in partnership with all levels of government toward implementing these recommendations which will significantly improve flood protection in Ontario. The full report can be found at <https://files.ontario.ca/mnrf-english-ontario-special-advisor-on-flooding-report-2019-11-25.pdf>.

#### ***Meeting with Ministry of Environment, Consecration and Parks***

Between October 25 and Dec 5, four meetings have been scheduled with the Ministry of Environment, Consecration and Parks. All four meetings have been cancelled by the ministry. Staff are continuing to try to schedule the meeting.

#### ***Recommendation:***

The C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer Report be received for information.

The report aligns with the following objectives of the **LTVCA's Strategic Plan**:

1. Strengthen and Increase Collaboration with Community Stakeholders

Respectfully Submitted  
Mark Peacock, P. Eng.  
C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer

***Recommendation:*** That the above reports, 9.1) through to 9.10) be received for information.

# 10. Correspondence

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## 10.1) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority – Risk Review



Marsh Canada Limited  
120 Bremner Blvd, Suite 800  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 0A8  
Fax +1 416 868 2528  
www.marsh.ca www.marsh.com

### MEMO

TO: Mark Peacock, Chief Administrative Officer  
DATE: 16 October 2019  
FROM: Luke Pallister, Marsh Risk Consulting  
SUBJECT: Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority - risk review  
COPY: Matt Zuccato, Marsh Risk Consulting  
Maggie Maynard, Marsh Risk Consulting

Mark,

Further to our risk control visit to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority on Monday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, please see suggested Opportunities for Improvement below.

The general intent of the visit was to:

- visit a cross section of typical properties operated by your authority (e.g. managed, unmanaged) to obtain a general understanding of typical exposures and risk mitigation initiatives
- review the types of activities that the authority allows / provides on properties (e.g. hunting, hiking, snow shoeing)
- identify any obvious liability hazards (e.g. slip, trip and fall hazards, signage, attractive nuisances / allurements)
- review documentation (e.g. recorded inspections, incident reporting)
- discuss opportunities for improvement

Please note, the suggested opportunities below result from observations and discussions from the day of the visit and are not intended to be comprehensive in nature, nor are they intended to address all of your operational risk exposures. Marsh is working with the Conservation Ontario Insurance Committee on broader risk management initiatives to help all CA's streamline and more effectively manage risk. The intent is to ensure risk is managed in a consistent manner across the province. Where risk management best practices are in place, Marsh will help CA's share policies, procedures and strategies to help increase overall risk management capabilities.

This document and any recommendations, analysis, or advice provided by Marsh (collectively, the "Marsh Analysis") are intended solely for the entity identified as the recipient herein ("you"). This document contains proprietary, confidential information of Marsh and may not be shared with any third party, including other insurance producers, without Marsh's prior written consent. Any statements concerning actuarial, tax, accounting, or legal matters are based solely on our experience as insurance brokers and risk consultants and are not to be relied upon as actuarial, accounting, tax, or legal advice, for which you should consult your own professional advisors. Any modeling, analytics, or projections are subject to inherent uncertainty, and the Marsh Analysis could be materially affected if any underlying assumptions, conditions, information, or factors are inaccurate or incomplete or should change. The information contained herein is based on sources we believe reliable, but we make no representation or warranty as to its accuracy. Except as may be set forth in an agreement between you and Marsh, Marsh shall have no obligation to update the Marsh Analysis and shall have no liability to you or any other party with regard to the Marsh Analysis or to any services provided by a third party to you or Marsh. Marsh makes no representation or warranty concerning the application of policy wordings or the financial condition or solvency of insurers or reinsurers. Marsh makes no assurances regarding the availability, cost, or terms of insurance coverage.

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SOLUTIONS...DEFINED, DESIGNED, AND DELIVERED.

NOTE: It is our understanding that a Public Safety Assessment (PSA) has been performed on the Sharon Creek Dam and will be followed by the developed of a Public Safety Plan as outlined by the "Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources - Public Safety Around Dams – Best Management Practices". It is assumed that the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority will follow all findings with respect to improved safety including additional / replacement signage and, as such, Marsh Risk Consulting will not be offering any specific OFI's within this memo in relation to the Sharon Creek Dam.

### Opportunities for Improvement

- OFI-19-1 Signage should be provided at all managed conservation area access points that informs users, a minimum, of the following:
- In the event of an emergency call 911
  - Name of Conservation Authority, Conservation Area, and Address
  - If you see a concern or have a comment during your visit please let us know, phone number, website
  - Use caution. Trails are natural and may be uneven and slippery. Prepare for how the weather may affect your visit.
  - List of activities "permitted" and "not permitted".
  - Legal disclaimer (Legal counsel should be consulted for specific wording).

Note: Signage is provided at visited "managed" conservation areas, however, the signage did not include all items listed above in a single consolidated sign.

- OFI-19-2 Signage should be provided at all "unmanaged / unmaintained" conservation area access points (i.e. parking lots) that informs users, a minimum, of the following:
- In the event of an emergency call 911
  - Name of Conservation Authority, Conservation Area, and Address
  - If you see a concern or have a comment during your visit please let us know, phone number, website
  - Use at your own risk. Trails are not maintained and may be uneven and slippery. Prepare for how the weather may affect your visit.
  - Advise others of how long you expect to be in this area.
  - List of activities "permitted" and "not permitted".
  - Legal disclaimer (Legal counsel should be consulted for specific wording).

- OFI-19-3 Further to OFI-19-1, trail maps should be provided at strategic locations (e.g. trail heads/entry points, trail intersections, etc.) within "managed" conservation areas and include right of way and directional requirements, trailer markers, and "You Are Here" labels so that users are aware of their present location.

- OFI-19-4 Information on potential hazards posed by animals and plant life (e.g. coyotes, toxic plants) should be posted on the Authority's website to inform users on identification, precautions, etc.



- OFI-19-5 The existing property inspection checklists should be expanded so that each element includes a basic description of what is actually being checked to provide context to each element (e.g. "boardwalk appears free of obvious slip, trip and fall hazards such as protruding nails/screws, missing treads, slippery conditions, etc. Handrails are provided and in place"). The inspection procedure should include a formal follow up process (i.e. review of logs by management staff) so that deficiencies identified during the inspections are addressed in a timely fashion. Hazards that cannot be immediately addressed should be clearly identified (e.g. fluorescent paint on cracks, warning cones, etc.).
- OFI-19-6 Where practical, the following should be considered for all boardwalks, platforms and picnic areas near waterways such as marshes, ponds and rivers and in the vicinity of docks and boat launches:
- a. Lifesaving equipment (at regular intervals on boardwalks) including the following:
    - buoyant throwing assist (life ring) with a 15 meter buoyant line attached
    - reaching pole (Sheppard's Hook) at least 3 meters in length.
  - b. Regular recorded inspections of the lifesaving equipment to ensure all equipment is maintained and in place.
- OFI-19-7 The Lower Thames Conservation Authority should consider reviewing the "Waterfront Safety Standards" as provided by the Life Saving Society and, where reasonable, applying the relevant contents to unsupervised waterfront swimming areas. As a minimum, the following should be considered at designated unsupervised swimming areas:
- a. Basic emergency procedures posted with instructions to follow in an emergency (e.g. location of emergency phone, call 911, cover with blanket, etc.);
  - b. A dedicated emergency telephone with posted emergency number;
  - c. At least 1 buoyant throwing assist with a 15 metre buoyant line attached;
  - d. At least 1 reaching pole at least 3 metres in length
- NOTE: Currently, the Sharon Creek Conservation Area unsupervised waterfront area is provided with signage informing users: "Unsupervised Area – Swim at Your Own Risk". Signage is also provided informing users that the beach is not monitored by the local health unit and water may contain high levels of bacteria for up to 48 hours following heavy rainfall and/or strong winds.
- OFI-19-8 Additional warning signage should be provided at the entrances to the fenced in longhouse area at Longwoods Road Conservation Area to warn patrons of the inherent hazards within that space (e.g. low headroom clearance, uneven ground, etc.)

- OFI-19-9 Localized "No Swimming" signage should be provided at all boat launches (e.g. Big Bend Conservation Area) and specific areas such as the dock at the Sharon Creek Conservation Area.



- OFI-19-10 Signage warning users of the steep cliffs at the Warwick Conservation Area should be provided both at the main entry point (trail head) (See OFI-19-1) to the conservation area and on any individual trails leading to the cliffs in advance of the cliff edge.
- OFI-19-11 Signage at the Big Bend Conservation Area stating: "This property is monitored by camera", should be provided only if, in fact, monitored surveillance cameras are actually provided. If there are no cameras on the site, the signage may expose the Lower Thames Valley CA to potential liability in the event of an incident.
- OFI-19-12 Man-made features on bike trails should include a by-pass option ("bail-out") so that riders are not forced to use the feature. If the feature is intended to provide access across an unsafe area (e.g. bog, swamp) then the feature should be constructed in a manner that is not unnecessarily challenging to riders (i.e. wide board walk with flat level surface).

NOTE: No conservation areas with bike trails including man-made features were visited at the time of this visit. This OFI is intended to be advisory in nature only.

## 10.2) Conservation Authorities Pleased Their Role in Ontario's Flood Management is Recognized



### 2019 Flood Advisor Report

## Conservation Authorities Pleased Their Role in Ontario's Flood Management is Recognized

NEWMARKET (November 28, 2019) Conservation Ontario is pleased that the report released today by the Province's Special Advisor on Flooding recognizes the critical role that conservation authorities (CAs) play in Ontario's flood management.

Flood management in Ontario is a shared responsibility among municipalities, emergency management officials, the Province and conservation authorities. This report recognizes the value of the conservation authority model and recommends that the Province 'consult with the conservation authorities on their application of the natural hazards-based approach and risk-based approach to managing flooding'.

"A quick scan of the 66 recommendations shows us that Mr. McNeil appreciates the collaborative nature of flood management in Ontario," said Kim Gavine, General Manager of Conservation Ontario which represents the 36 conservation authorities. "We've worked well with the Province, to date, and we look forward to continuing to develop improvements."

"We're very pleased to see that he appreciates the collaborative approach, however, maintaining and making improvements in Ontario's flood management programs requires resources that include appropriate policy and program support," Ms Gavine said. "For example, the 50 per cent reduction to conservation authorities' provincial transfer payments for the natural hazards program affected all CAs and erode our ability to effectively address issues raised by the Flood Advisor."

Following up from a difficult spring flood season that stretched into the summer months, the Province appointed Doug McNeil as Special Advisor on Flooding to conduct an independent review of flood management and the 2019 flood events in Ontario and provide advice to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Mr. McNeil examined Ontario's current flood management framework, exploring the various roles of agencies, such as conservation authorities, who are involved in reducing flood risk, as well as reviewing the policies and technical guidance which makes up the policy framework for flood management in Ontario.

## Conservation Authorities reduce flood risk by relying on a watershed management approach.

"The mandate of conservation authorities is the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources," Ms. Gavine said. "Using a watershed-based approach has effectively protected Ontarians for years and helped to avoid many more millions of dollars in damages and business disruptions. It also helps to build resiliency in local watersheds helping our communities to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change more easily."

In addition to operating \$3.8 billion worth of flood control infrastructure, CAs also bring added protection and benefits through various watershed management programs and activities such as:

- watershed scale monitoring, data collection/management and modelling,
- watershed scale studies, plans, assessments and/or strategies as well as
- watershed-wide actions including stewardship, communication, outreach and education activities.

Conservation authorities are recommending to the Province that these kinds of 'foundational watershed management' activities be captured in the *Conservation Authorities Act* regulations which are currently being developed.

Conservation Ontario will be working with the conservation authorities to review the report in more detail and look forward to continue to collaborate with the Province to reduce the risk of flooding in Ontario.

30

Conservation Ontario Media Release

### **Provincial Media Release**

### **Flood Advisor's Report**

Learn more about [Conservation Authorities and Flood Management](#)

### **For more information:**

[Kim Gavine](#), General Manager, Conservation Ontario 905.895.0716 ext 231

[Jane Lewington](#), Marketing & Communications Specialist 905.895.0716 ext 222



### 10.3) Township of Springwater Resolution – Conservation Authority Levies



[www.springwater.ca](http://www.springwater.ca)  
2231 Nursery Road  
Minesing, Ontario  
L9X 1A8 Canada

October 21, 2019

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
8195 8<sup>th</sup> Line  
Utopia ON, L0M 1T0

---

**RE: Conservation Authority Levies**

---

Please be advised that at its meeting of October 16, 2019, Council of the Township of Springwater passed the following resolution:

**C456-2019**

Moved by: Coughlin  
Seconded by: Cabral

Whereas the Township of Springwater supports the objects of balance on conservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainability to anchor its operations, planning, services, and strategic vision;

And Whereas the Township of Springwater understands the need for both the Province and its municipalities to deliver clear, costed, and sustainable programs and services for taxpayers;

And Whereas both tiers of government must assess all programs and services to eliminate duplication and balance costs on tests of affordability, health, safety, and environmental stewardship;

And Whereas the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks signaled on August 16, 2019 of a need for conservation authorities to re-focus their operations related to core mandates as currently defined in the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 and its prescribed regulations;

And Whereas the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks signaled on August 16, 2019 that Conservation Authorities should not proceed with any increases to fees or levies;

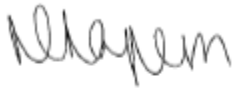
Therefore Be It Resolved That the Township of Springwater supports any Provincial effort to require its municipal levy only apply to core mandated programs and services;

And That this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, the County of Simcoe, all Ontario municipalities, the NVCA and Ontario's other 35 Conservation Authorities, and Conservation Ontario, signaling the Township of Springwater's

support of the Province's review, consultations and development of an updated Conservation Authorities Act and the willingness to participate in all consultations and submissions to the same.

**Carried**

Sincerely,



Renée Chaperon  
Clerk  
/cp

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
The County of Simcoe  
Conservation Ontario  
Ontario municipalities  
Ontario Conservation Authorities



## 10.4) Township of Springwater Resolution – NVCA Levy



[www.springwater.ca](http://www.springwater.ca)  
2231 Nursery Road  
Minesing, Ontario  
L9X 1A8 Canada

October 21, 2019

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
8195 8<sup>th</sup> Line  
Utopia ON, L0M 1T0

### **RE: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Levy**

---

Please be advised that at its meeting of October 16, 2019, Council of the Township of Springwater passed the following resolution:

#### **C457-2019**

Moved by: Coughlin  
Seconded by: Moore

Whereas the Township of Springwater, like all municipalities in Ontario must confront fiscal limitations and re-evaluate programs, services, and the financial sustainability of each;

And Whereas the Township of Springwater is a constituent municipality in portions of the watershed under the jurisdiction of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and is compelled to remit non-negotiable levy funding to the Authority on an annual basis;

And Whereas the Township of Springwater cannot exercise line-item scrutiny of Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's budget and operations nor does the Authority itself provide detailed substantiation of the same to its member municipalities like the Township of Springwater;

And Whereas the Township of Springwater must account for all taxpayer funds it expends within its operations and that it forwards to local agencies and boards;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Township of Springwater requests that the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority provide prior to passage of its 2020 budget the following:

- (1) Its interpretation and understanding of its mandated operations as found in the current Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c.C.27 and its prescribed regulations;
- (2) The costs of each as determined under (1);
- (3) Detailed definitions and determinations of what can be characterized as non-mandatory programming and service(s);

(4) The costs of each as determined under (3);

(5) Detailed definitions and determinations of fee-for-service activities of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, the revenues they generate as the activities take place within and/or requests originate from geographic area of the Township of Springwater; and

(6) The costs that arise from programs and services enabled through the Memorandum of Understanding with the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

And That this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, the County of Simcoe, all Ontario municipalities, the NVCA and Ontario's other 35 Conservation Authorities, and Conservation Ontario.

**Carried**

Sincerely,



Renée Chaperon  
Clerk  
/cp

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
The County of Simcoe  
Conservation Ontario  
Ontario municipalities  
Ontario Conservation Authorities

## 10.5) CA Exit Clause – Township of Ramara



2297 Highway 12,  
PO Box 130  
Breachin, Ontario L0K 1B0  
p. 705-484-5374  
f. 705-484-0441

November 7, 2019

Honourable Jeff Yurek  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park 5th Floor  
777 Bay St  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

### **Re: Conservation Authority Exit Clause**

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramara passed the following motion at their regular meeting held October 28, 2019, unanimously by a recorded vote:

WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA has consistently expressed its view that its watershed conservation authorities are duplicative, financially unaccountable, in conflict with citizens and private property rights;

AND WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA has encountered the regulatory obstacles to challenge the arbitrary, inefficient, non-transparent, and unsustainable municipal levy forced upon it annually by its watershed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA questions the efficacy and relevance of its watershed conservation authorities' programs and services and their performance in achieving the goals of conservation and environmental stewardship;

AND WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA finds the current Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 and its proscribed regulations inconsistent and obsolete;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks the Honourable Jeff Yurek signaled the province's intent to reconsider and update the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 and its proscribed regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA support the province's determination that the existing Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 and its proscribed regulations require review;

[www.ramara.ca](http://www.ramara.ca)

AND THAT the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA signal to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks of its willingness to participate in all consultations and submissions to the same;

AND THAT further the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA signal its express desire that an exit clause be provided in any new Conservation Authorities Act to permit municipalities that determine the objects of conservation and environmental stewardship can be provided by alternative governance, programs, and/or services to exist costly and unwarranted conservation authority(ies) jurisdiction(s);

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Conservation Ontario, Ontario's thirty-six conservation authorities, and all upper and lower-tier Ontario municipalities.

I trust the above is self-explanatory however if you require further information or clarification, please contact me.

Yours truly,



Jennifer Connor, CMO  
Legislative Services Manager/Clerk

JC/cw

c.c. Jill Dunlop, MPP  
Conservation Ontario  
Ontario Conservation Authorities  
Ontario Municipalities

## 10.6) Township of Amaranth – NVCA Levies and CA Exit Clause

BEN RYZEBOL, Director of Public Works  
PUBLIC WORKS - TELEPHONE: (519) 941-1065  
FAX: (519) 941-1802  
email: bryzebol@amaranth.ca



374028 6<sup>th</sup> LINE, AMARANTH, ONTARIO  
L9W 0M6

SUSAN M. STONE, C.A.O./Clerk-Treasurer  
TELEPHONE: (519) 941-1007  
FAX: (519) 941-1802  
email: suestone@amaranth-eastgary.ca

November 22, 2019

Lower Thames Valley Conservation  
100 Thames Street  
Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8

**Re: Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Levies**

Please find below a copy of the resolution adopted by the Township of Amaranth Council, at its November 20, 2019 session, regarding Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Levies:

Moved by C. Gerrits – Seconded by H. Foster

Council do hereby support the Township of Springwater's resolution, dated October 16, 2019, regarding the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Levies.

And be it further resolved that this motion be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the County of Simcoe, the Township of Springwater, Conservation Ontario and all Ontario Conservation Authorities.

Carried.

Yours truly,

FOR Susan M. Stone, A.M.C.T.  
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer  
Township of Amaranth

**RECEIVED**

NOV 28 2019

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

BEN RYZEBOL, Director of Public Works  
PUBLIC WORKS - TELEPHONE: (519) 941-1065  
FAX: (519) 941-1802  
email: bryzebol@amaranth.ca



374028 6<sup>TH</sup> LINE, AMARANTH, ONTARIO  
L9W 0M6

SUSAN M. STONE, C.A.O./Clerk-Treasurer  
TELEPHONE: (519) 941-1007  
FAX: (519) 941-1802  
email: suestone@amaranth-eastgary.ca

November 22, 2019

Lower Thames Valley Conservation  
100 Thames Street  
Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8

**Re: Conservation Authority Exit Clauses**

Please find below a copy of the resolution adopted by the Township of Amaranth Council, at its November 20, 2019 session, regarding Conservation Authority Exit Clauses:

Moved by C. Gerrits – Seconded by M. Tijssen

Council do hereby support the Township of Ramara's resolution, dated October 28, 2019, regarding Conservation Authority Exit Clauses.

And be it further resolved that this motion be circulated to the Township of Ramara, Conservation Ontario, and all Ontario Conservation Authorities.

**Carried.**

Yours truly,

For: Susan M. Stone, A.M.C.T.  
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer  
Township of Amaranth

**RECEIVED**

NOV 28 2019

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**



## 10.7) Record-breaking Great Lakes water levels could be even higher in 2020

**Keith Matheny**, **Detroit Free Press** Published 6:00 a.m. ET Oct. 11, 2019 | Updated 2:34 p.m. ET Oct. 11, 2019



Waves roll ashore at Lakeside Park Monday, April 15, 2019 in Port Huron. Water levels on Lake Huron are expected to be higher than average this summer. Brian Wells, The Times Herald

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It appears 2020 won't bring relief from high Great Lakes water levels — and they could be even higher than this past record-shattering spring and summer.

Following a generally rainy September, measurements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers show every Great Lake, and Lake St. Clair, well above long-term monthly average water levels for October — almost 3 feet higher on connected lakes Michigan and Huron (35 inches) and on Lake St. Clair (33 inches). Lake Erie is 29 inches above long-term October averages, Lake Ontario 20 inches above and Lake Superior 15 inches above.

Forecasters now predict Lakes Michigan and Huron will start 2020 at 11 inches higher than water levels in January 2019, said Keith Kompoltowicz, chief of watershed hydrology at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit.

"The latest forecast extends into March, and for the most part, levels are going to be on-par with or above where they were at the same time last year," he said.



**The shoreline of Lake Michigan seen from Big Sable Point Lighthouse in Ludington State Park Thursday, July 11, 2019. (Photo: Mandi Wright, Detroit Free Press)**

Whether records go even higher next summer will be determined by factors such as snowpack and whether heavier-than-usual rains occur [for a fourth straight spring](#), Kompoltowicz said.



Lake Superior, Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario set new record high water levels over the summer, with lakes Michigan and Huron an inch or less off their 100-year highs. In July, lakes Erie and Ontario broke their monthly records by more than 4 inches.

Across the region, that led to flooded campgrounds and streets along Great Lakes connected waterways, caused boating problems with submerged structures, and caused shoreline erosion that all but eradicated some Lake Michigan beaches.

Doris Fleming has lived on Harbor Island Street in Detroit's Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood for more than six decades. She has seen a lot of flooding off the nearby Detroit River in high-water years, and this past spring and summer was among the worst, she said.

"It's been bad," she said. "The city has been pretty good about bringing sandbags in. But if there's only one opening, it messes it all up."

Flood waters tend to move up the dead-end Harbor Island Street and into the city blocks to the north and east, she said. "They have more problems than we did right here" closer to the river, she said.

The news that water levels could be even higher next spring and summer worries Fleming.



**Volunteers paled sandbags along canals in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood to hold back the rising Detroit River Thursday, July 11, 2019 in Detroit, Mich. (Photo: Kirthmon F. Dozier, Detroit Free Press)**

"Even if it's 6 inches higher, it will cause problems," she said.

About 250 miles to the northwest, along Lake Michigan, the forecast is troublesome for Manistee city officials.

"Certainly, if it gets worse, it's a worry," City Manager Thad Taylor said.

The city had to raise docks in its marinas to accommodate the higher water, and suffered shoreline erosion along the river channel leading from Lake Michigan into Manistee Lake.

"We fear losing some retaining walls," he said.

While the city's boat launches were usable, the docks were under water, Taylor said.

The high-water problems don't go away as fall turns into winter. Last year, the city had ice pushed by winds come ashore and damage its river walk, Taylor said.

"It's a litany of things we've experienced," he said. "We've had to make some repairs, and fortunately, our municipal insurer has stood tall for us."

"We're still concerned if it goes up another 4, 5, 6 inches, we're going to experience additional problems."

This year's record-breaking water levels were fueled by heavy spring rains. According to the National Weather Service, metro Detroit received 5.82 inches of rain in April, almost 3 inches more than the long-term average for the month.

"Looking across the whole Great Lakes region, that period of January to June this year was extremely wet," said Lauren Fry, technical lead for Great Lakes hydrology at the Army Corps' Detroit office, who's currently serving as a visiting scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor.

"We started to see less precipitation in July and August. But water levels really came up early because of that spring and June precipitation. The lakes take a little while to respond to changes."

The interconnected nature of the lake system also plays a role in region-wide rising water levels, Fry said.

"If the level of Lake Erie is high, that's going to influence the level of the Detroit River," she said. "And that's going to propagate into Lake St Clair, on up into the St. Clair River and eventually Lake Huron."



**A family of ducks swim in shallow water on the shores of Lake Michigan Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, near a break wall in Northport Michigan that once was home to a sandy beach shoreline. (Photo: Mandi Wright, Detroit Free Press)**

The impacts of climate change on Great Lakes water levels going forward isn't clear. Historical data shows temperatures in the Great Lakes region are rising faster than the rest of the continental U.S., and winter and spring precipitation, particularly via strong storms, is increasing. Those trends are expected to continue. But modeling also shows hotter summers and less ice cover on the Great Lakes in the winter, which will tend to increase evaporation.

Now it all comes down to winter and spring rain and snowfall.

"If we see another winter with a very healthy snowpack, coupled with the flooding rains that we saw last spring, then we would be dealing with even higher record-breaking water levels next year," Kompoltowicz said.

Even average precipitation levels would keep lake levels well above their historic averages, Fry said.

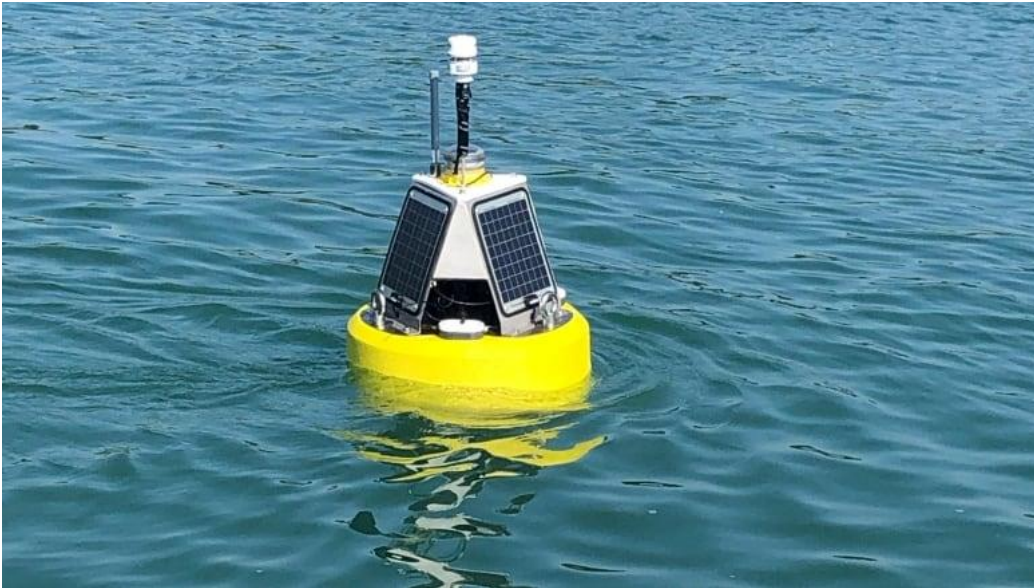
"It would take a fairly dry season, and even year, to bring things down," she said.

Contact Keith Matheny: 313-222-5021 or [kmatheny@freepress.com](mailto:kmatheny@freepress.com). Follow on Twitter @keithmatheny.

## 10.8) Forecast calls for continued high water in Great Lakes

A wet October interrupted the usual fall drop-off of water levels

The Associated Press · Posted: Nov 05, 2019 7:40 AM ET | Last Updated: November 5



A new forecast says Great Lakes levels are likely to remain unusually high and may set additional records. (Submitted by Trevor Pitcher)

A new forecast says Great Lakes levels are likely to remain unusually high and may set additional records.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office in Detroit on Monday released its outlook for the next six months.

Hydrologist Keith Kompoltowicz said a wet October interrupted the usual fall drop-off of water levels.

Storms over Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior caused beach erosion, flooding and damage to seawalls and roads.

Kompoltowicz said all five Great Lakes are expected to resume their seasonal decline. But they'll remain well above normal and will be higher in January than they were at the beginning of this record-setting year.

He said Huron and Michigan are likely to set monthly records in February, while Superior will come close.

Kompoltowicz said a lengthy dry spell would be required to reverse the trend.

## 10.9) Ridge Landfill cheque

### Ridge Landfill Community Trust | 2019



September 26, 2019

Mr. Randall Van Wagner  
Manager of Conservation Lands and Services  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
100 Thames St. Chatham, Ontario, N7L 2Y8

Dear Randall:

**Re: Ridge Landfill Community Trust Letter of Intent**

The Ridge Landfill Community Trust held a meeting on Tuesday Sept.23, 2019, at which a proposal by the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) was discussed.

In summary, the Trust has voted and agreed in principal to the dispensation of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority that will be used for the purposes of natural restoration of lands in the geographic area known as South-Kent, otherwise known as the Ridge Landfill Community Trust Environmental Legacy Project. These funds will be matched where possible with other existing programs such as: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Forests Ontario, and Alternative Land Use Services.

It is estimated that these funds will be utilized over a 10 year period, reported on annually, acknowledging the Ridge Landfill Community Trust as partner and financial contributor through on site signage, social media posts, websites and media releases.

It is acknowledged that additional financial and in-kind contributions may also be made by Waste Connections of Canada and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and that where appropriate these partners to this project as well as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority will be acknowledged by similar means.

Details of this agreement will be drafted by the LTVCA, overseen by the Conservation Authority's appointed legal council, Mr. James Wickett, and reviewed by the Ridge Landfill Community Trust.

Sincerely,

Owen Thomas, Chair

Owen Thomas  
Chairperson  
Ridge Landfill Community Trust

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CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

## 10.10) Ridge Landfill Media Release

### Media Release

November 21, 2019

#### Ridge Landfill Community Trust contributes \$1 million to increase tree cover in Chatham-Kent

*Chatham-Kent* – The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent have today announced a new partnership, with the generous financial support of the Ridge Landfill Community Trust and facilitated by Waste Connections of Canada. This partnership will enable the creation of significant forest cover, wetland and grassland habitat creation in South-Kent.

The Ridge Landfill Community Trust will provide \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) of funding, to be utilized by the LTVCA and chosen partners over an estimated ten-year period. The trees planted along with new wetland and grassland habitat will help combat climate change, build much-needed wildlife corridors – reducing habitat fragmentation – control dangerous soil erosion and create a more productive, healthier eco-system.

This initiative and funding will help Chatham-Kent greatly increase its natural tree cover, which currently sits at less than 6%, the lowest of any upper tier municipality in Ontario. Only 4% of the municipality has forest cover in woodlands greater than two hectares, and 2% has forest cover in smaller woodlands or other habitats such as wetlands and grasslands.

The Ridge Landfill Community Trust has funded several million dollars for community, educational and charitable works over the last couple of decades in South Kent.

**Cathy Smith, Project Manager with Waste Connections**, said “We are incredibly proud that the Trust has elected to provide this money to be used to protect the local environment and create a healthier eco-system for future generations. This will be a legacy for this existing Community Trust which is made up of very dedicated and hard-working members, many of whom have been with the Trust for decades.”

In addition to facilitation of this partnership, Waste Connections of Canada is also committing about 25 acres of Waste Connections’ owned property on and around the existing Ridge Landfill site in South Kent to be rewilded, providing new habitats for local species and contributing to a healthier local ecosystem.

**“Linda McKinlay Chair of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority** said, “These projects will have a huge impact on our water quality, lessen the effects of climate change on a local level, control soil erosion and provide much needed habitat for Species at Risk and other species that rely on these ecosystems.”

**Darrin Canniff, Mayor of Chatham-Kent**, said, “This investment will have significant benefits for the community of Chatham-Kent and our natural environment. Planting more trees can help us combat the effects of climate change, protect endangered species and restore wetlands. The project is a particularly heartening example of what can be achieved when community organizations, business and government work together to have a positive impact.”

**South Kent Councillor Anthony Ceccacci**, who inquired about the Trust and their interest in the project said he is very gratified to see such support.

“We know that greater tree cover means a healthier environment and I know from experience that the Community Trust has been an outstanding partner on many projects,” he said. “It is a great feeling to know that the actions we are taking today will benefit our children, their children and generations to come.”

The project will be concentrated in the area of South Kent, which includes the watersheds of Rondeau Bay, Jeannette’s Creek, Lake Erie and McGregor Creek. The \$1,000,000.00 funding from The Ridge Landfill Community Trust will be matched where possible by other existing programs.

Suitable projects in South Kent will be considered for funding. For more information, please contact Randall Van Wagner, Manager of Conservation Lands and Services with the LTVCA.

**Mark Peacock, CAO of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority**, said through its various partners, the LTVCA will be able to turn the \$1 million into \$3 million for green infrastructure.

He noted that climate change has brought about more localized flood emergencies and changing weather patterns but that initiatives such as this can help mitigate those issues. “You don’t plant a tree for yourself; you plant it for future generations.”

***About Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority:***

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority is one of the 36 Conservation Authorities in Ontario. It has jurisdiction over watersheds of all streams draining into the Thames River from Delaware to Lake St. Clair. The Southern boundary includes the watersheds of streams draining into Lake Erie, from the Talbot Creek watershed in the east, to the Two Creeks watershed in the west. Total area 3,275 square kilometres (1,264 square miles) and is home to 99,401 people. There are 10 member municipalities.

***About Waste Connections of Canada:***

Waste Connections of Canada is a Canadian-owned company and a provider of solid non-hazardous waste collection, transfer, recycling and disposal services in primary and secondary markets across Canada. Serving tens of millions of customers daily across Canada, whether it is single or multi-family residences, commercial institutions, industrial locations, construction sites, special events or providing natural disaster relief, Waste Connections of Canada is a premier waste services provider. Waste Connections is the sole funding source for the Ridge Landfill Community Trust.

**-ends-**

***For more information contact:***

***Mark Peacock  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority  
519-354-7310 x 224***

***Cathy Smith,  
Project Manager with Waste Connections  
519-358-2860***

***Darrin Canniff,  
Mayor, Chatham-Kent  
519-360-1998***

***Anthony Ceccacci  
Councillor, Chatham-Kent  
519-436-3206***

***Media Contact:  
Jim Blake  
Communications Officer  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
519-360-1998 x 3624  
[jimbl@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:jimbl@chatham-kent.ca)***

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## 11. Events Calendar

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<b>February 18, 2020</b> 7:30pm to 9 pm	<b>Saving the Soil: A Sustainable Agriculture Case-Based Discussion</b> Ivey Business School, London, Ontario (Registration Required)

### Ongoing Events

**First Thursday of month**

7:30 pm

**Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meetings**

Royal Canadian Legion, Erie Street N., Wheatley

**7 days a week**

9:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Ska-Nah-Doht Village & Museum**

Longwoods Road Conservation Area

For more information contact:

LTVCA Administration Office: 519-354-7310

Longwoods Road Conservation Area: 519-264-2420

C.M. Wilson Conservation Area: 519-354-8184

[www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)

## 12. Other Business

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## 13. Adjournment

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