



# Board of Directors Meeting

## A G E N D A

**Annual General Meeting 2020**

**February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**2:10 p.m.**

**Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus**

1. First Nations Acknowledgement	
2. Call to Order	
3. Adoption of Agenda	
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest	
5. Chair's Remarks.....	3
6. Introduction of Guests	
7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Previously circulated) .....	4
8. Business Arising from the Minutes	
9. Presentations	
9.1) Flood Presentation, Events and Forecast.....	9
9.2) 2019 Annual Report.....	9
10. Business for Approval	
10.1) 2019 Annual Report .....	10
10.2) 2019 Audited Financial Statements – Presentation .....	10
10.3) Election of Officers.....	10
10.4) 2020 Budget and Levy.....	11
10.5) Appointment of Auditor.....	19
10.6) Appointment of Bank.....	19
10.7) Appointment of Solicitor.....	19
10.8) Authorization to Borrow .....	19
10.9) Appointment to Conservation Ontario .....	19
10.10) 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule.....	19
11. Business for Information	
11.1) Water Management.....	20
11.2) Regulations and Planning.....	23
11.3) Conservation Areas .....	29
11.4) Conservation Services .....	31
11.5) Communications, Outreach and Education .....	34
11.6) Joint Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes .....	39
11.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes – Dec 5, 2019 & Feb 6, 2020 .....	40
11.8) CAO's Report.....	42
12. Correspondence	
12.1) Dutton Dunwich Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities .....	45
12.2) Southwold Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities .....	46
12.3) Chatham-Kent Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities .....	47
12.4) Strathroy-Caradoc Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities .....	48
12.5) Southwest Middlesex Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities.....	49
12.6) Resolution aims to highlight importance of conservation authorities .....	50

12.7) High water levels are wreaking havoc in the Great Lakes ..... 52

12.8) Time to be smart about flooding ..... 57

13. Events Calendar..... 59

14. Other Business

15. Adjournment

# 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. Chair's Remarks

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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this year's Annual Report, celebrating not only our 2019 accomplishments, but also over 50 years' worth of Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) achievements. It is so important for the Conservation Authority to have these opportunities to connect with our community; after all – that's what it's all about for us: successful community connections.

I would like to begin by thanking our community for joining us in the work we have accomplished this year. Your support and partnering indicates that the steps we've made are in the right direction, and speak to the possibilities of what could be, as we continue to make our watershed a better place for all to live.

This year has been one of significant changes both for the LTVCA and for Conservation Authorities across Ontario. Our year began with a new Board of Directors with a lot of work to do. To mention only a few issues addressed, 10 new Board members have had to get up to speed with new policies for the Chatham-Kent Shoreline, and a two zone floodplain management approach for Big Creek in the Municipality of Leamington. They also approved a Client Service Improvement Plan, and addressed a 50% reduction in funding from the province for Flood Forecasting and Warning. Even with all of this, they kept up with changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, and ongoing recommendations to address flooding and erosion on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. I thank them for their hard work.

Climate Change is the single most important issue that we will be addressing as we move into 2020. Many of our member municipalities are working to reduce individual and collective environmental impacts with declarations of climate emergencies. The LTVCA is working to use the knowledge and expertise that we have, to support and enhance the work that needs to be done. We will be using a Climate Change lens on all we do to ensure that actions taken, support a better future, as well as a better present.

Now, more than ever, the work of a Conservation Authority in watershed management and restoration is critical. If we do not collectively embrace this opportunity to plan and act for the future, we will lose many things we value in this watershed. Thank-you, and we look forward to working with you in 2020.

# 7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes



## 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, December 12, 2019. The following directors were in attendance: L. McKinlay, T. Thompson, A. Finn, M. Hentz, P. Tiessen, K. Ainslie, J. Frawley, C. Cowell, S. Hipple, S. Emons and R. Leatham. J. Wright sent his regrets.

#### 1. First Nations Acknowledgement

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

#### 2. Call to Order

Sheila Simpson, Grant Jones, LTVCF Chair and Tracey McQueen, Consultant for FJ Galloway Associates were in attendance.

#### 3. Adoption of Agenda

**BD-2019-66** R. Leatham – C. Cowell

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-2019-67** P. Tiessen – A. Finn

Moved that the Board of Directors meeting minutes of October 17, 2019 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

#### 6. Business Arising From the Minutes

None declared.

#### 7. Presentations

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

Jason Wintermute, Manager of Watershed & Information Services provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the Lighthouse Cove Ice Jam / Flood Mitigation Study.

7.2) Chatham-Kent Lake Erie Shoreline Study Alternatives

Jason Wintermute, Manager of Watershed & Information Services provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the Chatham-Kent Lake Erie Shoreline Study Alternatives.

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

Sheila Simpson, Simpson and Associates, Grant Jones, LTVCF President and Tracey McQueen, Consultant for F.J. Galloway Associates provided a Power Point Presentation to the LTVCA Board of Directors on the Results of Longwood's Resource Centre Feasibility Grant Alternatives.

**BD-2019-68 C. Cowell – A. Finn**

Moved that the LTVCA Board of Directors support the LTVC Foundation in moving forward with expanding its scope to undertake the Longwoods Road Resource Centre redevelopment fundraising campaign.

CARRIED

**BD-2019-69 S. Hipple – M. Hentz**

Moved that the Power Point Presentations for the Lighthouse Cove Ice Jam / Flood Mitigation Study, the Chatham-Kent Lake Erie Shoreline Study Alternatives and the Results of Longwood's Resource Centre Feasibility Grant Alternatives be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Business for Approval

8.1) Draft 2020 Budget Municipal Consultation Results

**BD-2019-70 S. Emons – P. Tiessen**

Moved that the Board of Directors receive this report for information.

CARRIED

8.2) Proposed Draft 2020 Budget for Approval

**BD-2019-71 M. Hentz – R. Leatham**

Moved 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.

CARRIED

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

**BD-2019-72 A. Finn – S. Emons**

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

CARRIED

8.4) Appointment of Auditor

**BD-2019-73** P. Tiessen – J. Frawley

Moved that the Board of Directors accept the quote provided by Baker Tilly, CK, LLP for audit services for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

CARRIED

**BD-2019-74** A. Finn – C. Cowell

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

CARRIED

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

**BD-2019-75** A. Finn – S. Emons

Moved 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)

CARRIED

8.6) Draft Big Creek Two Zone Draft for Consultation

**BD-2019-76** P. Tiessen – A. Finn

Moved 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.

CARRIED

8.7) Annual Fee Review

**BD-2019-77** R. Leatham – M. Hentz

Moved that the Board of Directors approve these fee changes to our 2020 Conservation Area Fee Schedule.

- 1) CA single day parking fee - \$5/day (may be additional fees for special events)
- 2) 2020 Conservation Area Parking Permits - \$60
- 3) CM Wilson CA- non camper sewage disposal fee - \$50

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 – November 21, 2019
- 9.7) Executive Committee Minutes – November 22, 2019



- 9.8) Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2019
- 9.9) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Minutes – October 4, 2019, November 7, 2019
- 9.10) CAO's Report

**BD-2019-78 S. Hipple – C. Cowell**

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

CARRIED

#### 10. Correspondence

- 10.1) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority - Risk Review
- 10.2) CA's Pleased Their Role in Ontario's Flood Management is Recognized
- 10.3) Township of Springwater Resolution – Conservation Authority Levies
- 10.4) Township of Springwater Resolution – NVCA Levy
- 10.5) CA Exit Clause – Township of Ramara
- 10.6) Township of Amaranth – NVCA Levies and CA Exit Clause
- 10.7) Record breaking Great Lakes water levels could be even higher in 2020
- 10.8) Forecast calls for continued high water in Great Lakes
- 10.9) Ridge Landfill cheque – correspondence
- 10.10) Ridge Landfill Media release

**BD-2019-79 S. Emons – A. Finn**

Moved that correspondence items 10.1) through to 10.10) be received for information.

CARRIED

#### 11. Events Calendar

#### 12. Other Business

Trevor Thompson, councillor from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent brought forward a resolution requesting that municipal councils consider passing the below noted resolution and circulate the approved motions to Municipalities, Conservation Authorities and the Provincial Government (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks) in Ontario.

**BD-2019-80 T. Thompson – A. Finn**

##### **Resolution:**

**Whereas:** Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years, and

**Whereas:** Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents, and

**Whereas:** Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address the climate change,

**Therefore be it Resolved:** That the Board of Directors of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority requests that member Municipalities pass resolutions in support of the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs.

**And,** that Municipalities be requested to circulate these resolutions to Municipalities, Conservation Authorities and the Provincial Government (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks) in Ontario.

**Recommended Municipal Resolution:**

Whereas Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years, and

Whereas Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and health watersheds for residents, and

Whereas Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address the climate change,

**Therefore, be it Resolved:** That the "Municipality Name" supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs.

CARRIED


**13. Adjournment**

**BD-2019-81** A. Finn – S. Emons

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda McKinlay  
Chair

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



# 9. Presentations

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## **9.1) Flood Presentation, Events and Forecast**

Jason Wintermute, Manager, Watershed and Information Services, will be providing a Power Point Presentation on flooding events and forecasts for the coming spring 2020.

## **9.2) 2019 Annual Report**

Bonnie Carey, Manager, Communications, Outreach and Education, will be providing a Power Point Presentation of the LTVCA's 2019 Annual Report.

# 10. Business for Approval

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## 10.1) 2019 Annual Report

**Recommendation:** That the LTVCA's 2019 Annual Report be approved as presented.

## 10.2) 2019 Audited Financial Statements Presentation

A representative of the LTVCA's Auditor will be providing the Board of Directors with the Audited Financial Statements for the 2019 year ending.

**Recommendation:** That the LTVCA's 2019 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

## 10.3) Election of Officers

Before the election, the current Chair will vacate the position and Mr. Mark Peacock will assume the Chair for the purposes of the elections and declare all elected offices, positions and appointments vacant. Additional motions may be necessary should appointment of scrutineers be required in the event of an election.

**Recommendation:** That M. Peacock be appointed to chair the elections.

a) Chair

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

b) Vice-Chair

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

c) Executive Committee (3 members to be elected + Chair & Vice-Chair)

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

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

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

e) Ice Management Committee (2 members from Chatham-Kent, member from Lakeshore + Chair & Vice-Chair)

**Recommendation:** That the nominations be closed.

## 10.4) 2020 Budget and Levy

Date: February 20, 2020

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: 2020 Budget and Levy

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

### **Background**

The LTVCA Board adopted the Preliminary 2020 Budget and levy at its meeting on December 12, 2019, in accordance with the following resolution:

*“Moved that the 2020 preliminary budget totaling \$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.”*

### **Terms:**

- Matching levy: municipal funding matching provincial grant under section 39 of the Conservation Authorities Act \$81,467.23 (non-weighted vote, one vote per member)
- Non Matching Levy: general municipal funding (weighted vote based one vote per member Current Value Assessment formula provided by province)
- Special Levy: municipal funding for projects specific to their area (non-weighted vote, one vote per member)

### **Current Situation**

As per legal requirements the Preliminary Budget was circulated to all member municipalities on January 10, 2020, and to date, no responses or requests for further information regarding the budget have been received. Several minor adjustments have since been incorporated into the Preliminary Budget, with no additional impact on total expenditures or municipal levy.

### **Discussion**

The 2020 Final Draft Budget of \$3,304,046 represents an increase of \$98,522 or 3.1% in overall spending in comparison to the 2019 approved budget of \$3,205,524. The greatest variances from 2019 to 2020 include:

- Phosphorous Reduction and Species at Risk increases due to new grant fundings;
- Conservation Areas decrease due to not replacing a staff retirement;

The corresponding increase in the municipal levy is \$28,676 or 1.75%. As in previous years, annual adjustments to each municipality’s assessment within the watershed vary, ranging from 1.31% for Chatham-Kent to 4.73% for Middlesex Centre, as shown in the last column of the table accompanying the budget on page 18 of the agenda package.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 139/96, whereby the “non-matching levy” must be approved by a recorded, “weighted” vote of the Authority, the levy is shown under five columns:

- Special benefiting (C-K Flood Control, Greening/Natural Heritage, totaling \$205,000);
- Non-matching, totaling \$1,380,990;

- Matching, totaling \$81,467 which is equal to the provincial grant provided under Section 39 of the Conservation Authorities Act;
- Total General Levy, \$1,462,457;
- Total Municipal Levy, \$1,667,457.

For the non-matching levy, votes are weighted in proportion to each municipality's share of the total Current Value Assessment (CVA), and approval requires that votes equal to or greater than 51% of the CVA be cast in favour of the levy. The "Non-Matching" levy for 2020 is \$1,380,990 as shown in column 5 on page 18 of the attached budget.

The remaining levy is voted on as one member, one vote, and consists of \$205,000 direct special benefit and \$81,467 matching levy, as shown in columns 4 and 6 on page 18.

The following recommendation will be brought forward in the Annual General Meeting

**Recommendation:** That the non-matching levy of \$1,380,990 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the levy apportionment table. (weighted vote)

**Recommendation:** That the 2020 proposed budget totalling \$3,304,046 be adopted as presented, and that the matching levy of \$81,467 and the Chatham-Kent Greening, Natural Heritage and Flood Control Levy of \$205,000 be approved and apportioned in accordance with the table accompanying the budget.

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, Finance and Administrative Services

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

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2020 FINAL BUDGET**

**FUNDING SOURCES**

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	FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	212,523	166,017	20,509	20,509	125,000	0	0	0	0
2	EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	12	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
2	FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	163,052	200,387	60,953	60,953	0	78,482	0	0	0
3	TECHNICAL STUDIES	76,589	50,980	0	0	0	50,980	0	0	0
3	PLANNING & REGULATIONS	238,226	268,322	0	0	0	163,322	105,000	0	0
3	WATERSHED MONITORING	137,434	120,769	97,500	0	0	23,269	0	0	0
3	SOURCE PROTECTION	26,911	31,512	28,000	0	0	3,512	0	0	0
3	THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Water Management Subtotal</b>	<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>CONSERVATION &amp; RECREATION PROPERTIES</b>									
3	<b>CONSERVATION AREAS</b>	<b>743,386</b>	<b>638,279</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>458,059</b>	<b>180,220</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</b>									
4	COMMUNITY RELATIONS	176,941	187,317	0	0	0	187,317	0	0	0
4	CONSERVATION EDUCATION	100,138	85,146	0	0	0	72,196	12,950	0	0
4	SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE	206,991	172,449	22,992	0	0	96,957	52,500	0	0
	<b>Community Relations &amp; Education Subtotal</b>	<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>CONSERVATION SERVICES/STEWARDSHIP</b>									
5	CONSERVATION SERVICES (FORESTRY)	102,966	62,624	0	0	0	23,124	39,500	0	0
5	CHATHAM-KENT GREENING PROJECT	629,289	459,834	125,000	0	80,000	157,334	97,500	0	0
5	PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION	334,748	653,528	584,960	0	0	68,568	0	0	0
5	SPECIES AT RISK	56,318	206,870	180,141	0	0	26,729	0	0	0
	<b>Conservation Services/Stewardship Subtotal</b>	<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>CAPITAL/MISCELLANEOUS</b>									
5	ADMINISTRATION/MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	-20,000	20,000	0	0
5	EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)	0	0	8,859	0	0	-8,859	0	0	0
	<b>Capital/Miscellaneous Subtotal</b>	<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>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 FINAL BUDGET**

FUNDING SOURCES

	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET	2020 GRANTS	MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	DIRECT SPECIAL BENEFIT LEVY	NON MATCHING GENERAL LEVY	GENERAL REVENUES	FOUNDATION GRANTS & 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 FINAL 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>	26,911	31,512	28,000			3,512			
<u>THAMES MOUTH DEBRIS REMOVAL</u>	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 FINAL 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
<b><u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EDUCATION</u></b>									
<b><u>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	135,248	146,914							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	22,518	24,203							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	19,175	16,200							
TOTAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS	176,941	187,317				187,317			
<b><u>CONSERVATION EDUCATION</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	82,214	69,839							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	12,744	11,002							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	5,180	4,305							
TOTAL CONSERVATION EDUCATION	100,138	85,146				72,196	12,950		
<b><u>SKA-NAH-DOHT VILLAGE</u></b>									
WAGES AND BENEFITS	156,224	137,267							
ADMINISTRATION OVERHEAD	26,342	22,282							
OPERATING- MATERIALS & SUPPLIES, SERVICES, RENTALS, INSURANCE, ETC.	24,425	12,900							
TOTAL IROQUOIAN VILLAGE	206,991	172,449	22,992			96,957	52,500		

**LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
2020 FINAL 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
<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	584,960			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	0	0				-20,000	20000		
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS (FED/PROV)			8,859			-8,859			

LOWER THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Levy for 2020 using Modified CVA

	Current Value Assessment (Modified CVA)	% of Levy	C-K Flood Control, 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	501,414,439	3.6069%	0	49,811	2,938	52,749	52,749	51,487	1,262	2.45%
Southwold Tp	149,701,438	1.0769%	0	14,871	878	15,749	15,749	15,439	310	2.01%
West Elgin M	611,103,204	4.3959%	0	60,707	3,582	64,289	64,289	63,368	921	1.45%
Lakeshore T	1,291,295,786	9.2889%	0	128,278	7,567	135,845	135,845	131,410	4,435	3.37%
Leamington M	318,264,924	2.2894%	0	31,617	1,865	33,482	33,482	32,666	816	2.50%
Chatham-Kent M	7,944,702,351	57.1497%	205,000	789,232	46,558	835,790	1,040,790	1,027,339	13,451	1.31%
London C	1,612,833,003	11.6018%	0	160,220	9,451	169,671	169,671	166,598	3,073	1.84%
Middlesex Centre M	228,888,737	1.6465%	0	22,738	1,341	24,079	24,079	22,991	1,088	4.73%
Southwest Middlesex M	413,456,184	2.9742%	0	41,073	2,423	43,496	43,496	42,609	887	2.08%
Strathroy - Caradoc Tp	829,906,248	5.9699%	0	82,443	4,864	87,307	87,307	84,874	2,433	2.87%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,901,566,313</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>	<b>\$1,380,990</b>	<b>\$81,467</b>	<b>\$1,462,457</b>	<b>\$1,667,457</b>	<b>\$1,638,781</b>	<b>\$28,676</b>	<b>1.75%</b>



## 10.5) Appointment of Auditor

**Recommendation:** That the firm of Baker, Tilly CK, LP be appointed as the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's auditor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2021.

## 10.6) Appointment of Bank

**Recommendation:** That the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's bank until the next Annual Meeting in February 2021.

## 10.7) Appointment of Solicitor

**Recommendation:** That the firm of Mr. James D. Wickett be appointed the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority's solicitor until the next Annual Meeting in February 2021.

## 10.8) Authorization to Borrow

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

## 10.9) Appointments to Conservation Ontario

Voting representative; 1<sup>st</sup> alternative; 2<sup>nd</sup> alternative.

**Recommendation:** That the "Chair" be appointed as Voting Representative; and the CAO as 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative.

## 10.10) 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

**Thursday, April 18, 2019 – 2:00-4:00 pm**, Administration Board Room

**Thursday, June 13, 2019 – 2:00-4:00 pm**, Administration Board Room

**Thursday, August 22, 2019 – 2:00-4:00 pm**, Administration Board Room

**Thursday, October 17, 2019 – 2:00-4:00 pm**, Administration Board Room

**Thursday, December 12, 2019 – 2:00-4:00 pm**, Administration Board Room

**Thursday, February 13, 2020 – 2:00-4:00 pm**, Willson Hall, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus

Dates and times subject to change depending on location and meeting agenda (e.g. Longwoods Road CA, EM Warwick CA, bus tour, etc.).

**Recommendation:** That the meeting schedule for 2020 and the Annual General Meeting for 2021 be endorsed.

# 11. Business for Information

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## 11.1) Water Management

### 11.1.1) Flood Forecasting and Operations

There have been sixteen flood messages issued since the last Board of Directors agenda was drafted. Six of these messages were for a flooding event on the Thames River; one Flood Watch, four Flood Warnings and one event wrap-up Safety Bulletin. There was also one Flood Outlook message for flooding on local tributaries. The remaining messages were shoreline flooding with one Flood Outlook for each of Lake Erie and/or Lake St. Clair, five Flood Watches for Lake Erie, one Flood Watch for Lake St. Clair and one Flood Watch for an event expected to impact both lakes.

The flood event on the Thames River was another significant event. The region received unseasonable rainfall on January 10th to 12th. There was around 45 mm of rain in the Chatham-Kent area with increasing amounts moving upstream to where the Upper Thames rain gauges recorded an average of around 80 mm. There was also around 10 mm of water stored in the snowpack prior to this event. Water levels in the City of London at Byron peaked in the evening of January 12th at a flow of around 766 m<sup>3</sup>/s. These types of flows cause extensive flooding of the Thames River flats from Delaware all the way down to Chatham. Historically, flows above 700 m<sup>3</sup>/s have caused flooding at the bridge crossings over the Thames River between Middlesex and Elgin Counties downstream of Byron. Flood message were put out advising of this possibility. However, by the time peak flows reached Dutton on the 14th, they had routed down to around 610 m<sup>3</sup>/s. These flows are also down in the range where they would not impact the town of Thamesville. However, these flows were still high enough to impact the city of Chatham. High water levels on Lake St. Clair are influencing water levels in the city of Chatham. Due to the high lake levels, river levels in the city are higher than they would be under average lake conditions. As the peak came through Chatham, it reached a water level of 179.07 m (CGVD28) on January 16th. This water level is high enough to cause flooding of the basements of the businesses that back onto the Thames River along King St. in downtown Chatham. Water levels came up just short of impacting homes in the city on roads such as Siskind Court. The water level was also high enough that the 6th St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station had to be operated for the 3rd year in a row in order to protect properties upstream on McGregor and Indian Creeks. Operations began on January 14th and lasted through to January 17th.

Shoreline properties along the Great Lakes did not get a reprieve this winter. While lake levels had fallen substantially from their peaks this summer and did relieve some shoreline areas that had constant standing water, they did not fall far enough to eliminate flooding concerns. Part of the issue has been that the lakes have not frozen over this winter, allowing for continued wave spray related flooding along the shoreline. In addition, water levels which usually haven't started their seasonal rise by this time rose by 21 cm on both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair through the month of January. This has caused a corresponding drop in the wind thresholds that can cause wave spray flooding. During peak water levels last year, southerly winds over 30 km/hr on Lake Erie could cause flooding on Erie Shore Drive in Chatham-Kent. That threshold had climbed back up to 35 km/hr with the seasonal decline in water levels. However, a wind event on February 2nd with winds between 28 and 34 km/hr for a six hour period (between 28 and 31 for five of those hours) produced enough wave spray to flood properties and put water across Erie Shore Drive in two locations. Moving forward for the rest of the year, wind thresholds for wave spray flooding on Lake Erie are likely to be 30 km/hr from the south, 35 km/hr from the southeast or southwest, and on Lake St. Clair they would be 35 km/hr from the north or northwest. These thresholds could possibly get even lower as the year progresses.

### 11.1.2) Report on Lake Conditions

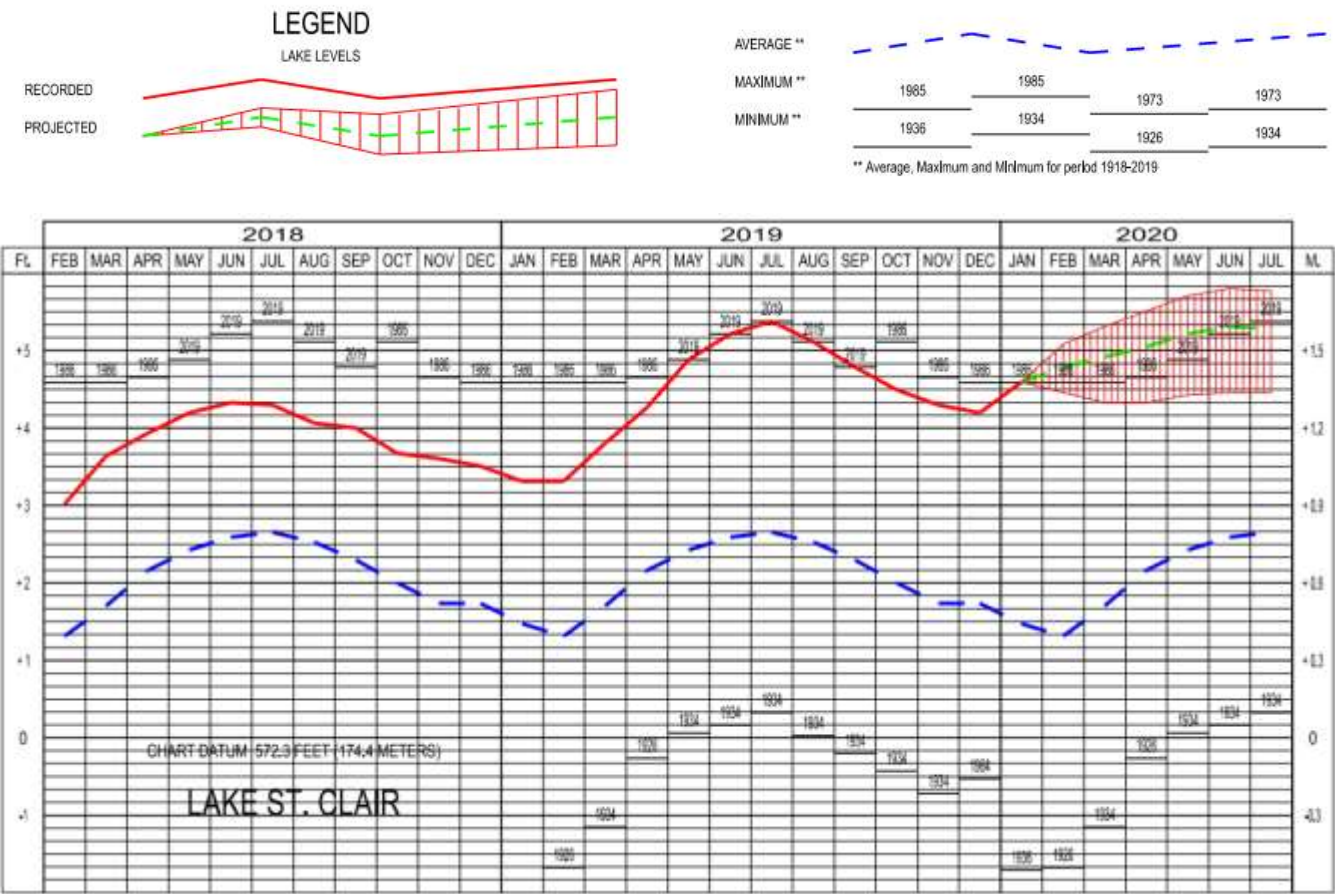
Significant rainfall this winter has caused a rise in water levels on both Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair. Seasonal trend usually see water levels start to climb in late February. However, water levels began rising at the start of January this year. Current static water levels on both lakes exceed the maximum levels observed in 2018 and are less than 30 cm below the maximum static water levels observed last year. Current water levels on the lakes are similar to those observed in late April of last year.

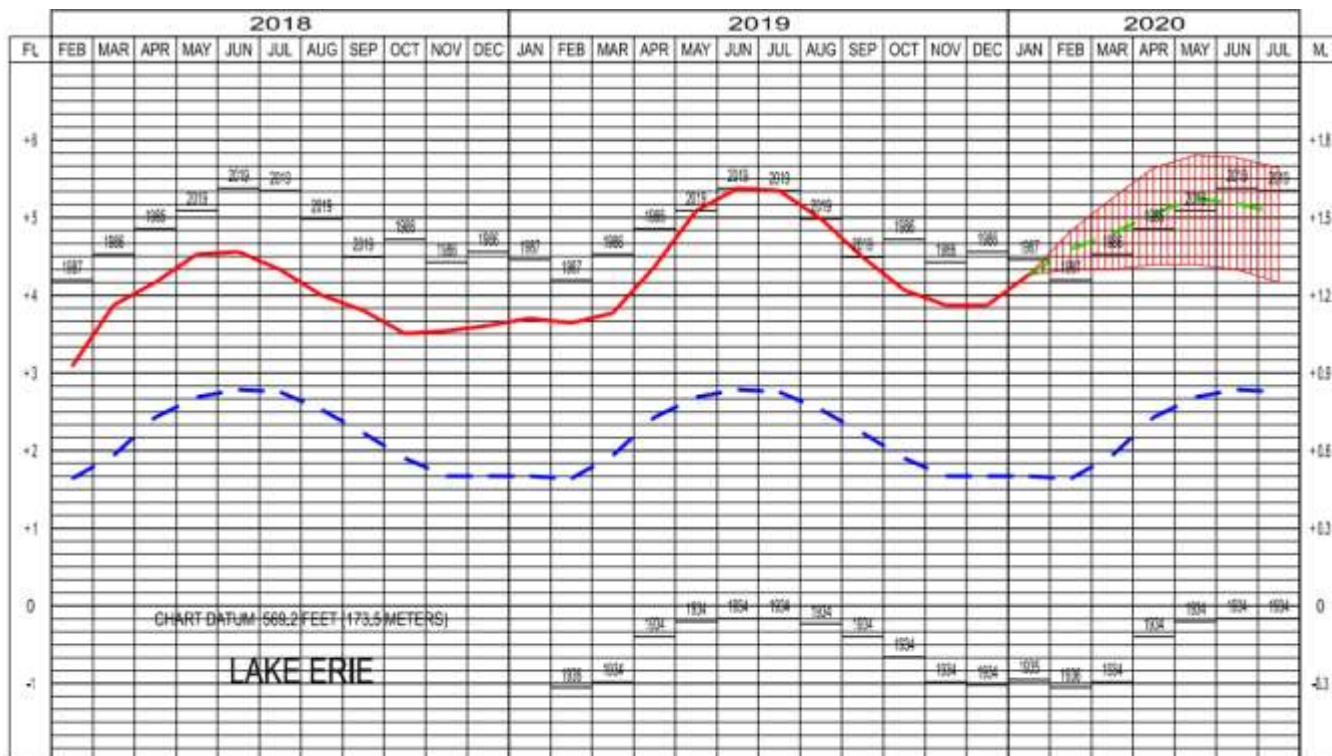
Lake Erie’s average static water level on February 10th was 174.92 m (I.G.L.D.). This is only 27 cm lower than last year’s peak on June 22nd of 175.19 m (I.G.L.D.). This current daily elevation exceeds the January, February, and March record monthly averages set in the mid-1980s. Short term lake level forecasts suggest that water levels will rise by 2 to 3 cm by this time next month.

Lake St. Clair’s average static water level on February 10th was 175.82 m (I.G.L.D.). This is only 26 cm lower than last year’s peak on July 7/8th of 176.08 m (I.G.L.D.). This current daily elevation exceeds the January, February, and March record monthly averages set in the mid-1980s. Short term lake level forecasts suggest that water levels will not have dropped by this time next month.

In addition to high lake levels, the lakes have not frozen over this year which has allowed continued wave spray type flooding throughout the winter. At this time it seems unlikely that the lakes can accumulate enough ice to dampen the effects of shoreline flooding.

While long term forecasts are less reliable, current forecasts suggest that unless we have an exceptionally dry spring, water levels records are likely to be broken throughout the spring on both lakes.





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Monthly Bulletin of Great Lakes Water Levels

### 11.1.3) Flood Control Structures

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

During the recent operations of the 6th St. Backwater Dam and Pumping Station, the need for some minor maintenance issues came to light. These issues do not impact operation and included the phone line not working and the control building heater not working.

### 11.1.4) 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.

### 11.1.5) Watershed Monitoring

Watershed wide surface water quality monitoring continues on a monthly basis at twenty-two sites throughout the watershed. The LTVCA greatly appreciates the work undertaken by staff at the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks who secured funding for sampling 11 of these sites under the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

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, Mgr., Watershed & Information Services

Reviewed:

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

## 11.2) Regulations and Planning

### 11.2.1) Planning

From the first of December 2019 through to the end of January 2020 for this reporting season, there have been 49 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	2018 totals	Jan-Mar totals	Apr-May totals	Jun-Jul totals	Aug-Sept totals	Oct-Nov totals	Dec totals	2019 Totals	Jan totals	2020 Totals
Chatham-Kent	185	30	23	31	27	28	11	150	19	19
Elgin	94	12	16	10	17	14	7	76	6	6
Essex	58	5	1	1	6	2	1	16	3	3
Middlesex	55	12	9	7	8	10	2	48	0	0
<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>

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

### 11.2.2) Section 28 Regulations / Permitting

Since the last board update on 12 December 2019 and up to and including 31 December 2019, staff had received an additional 22 permit applications with respect to Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario Regulation 152/06. For the entire 2019 year, staff reviewed a total of 494 permit applications. Of the 494 permit applications, 483 applications were able to be approved by staff, two applications required hearings in front of the Executive Committee, and nine applications were considered “incomplete” (i.e. not enough information was submitted for staff to evaluate the application) and could not be processed.

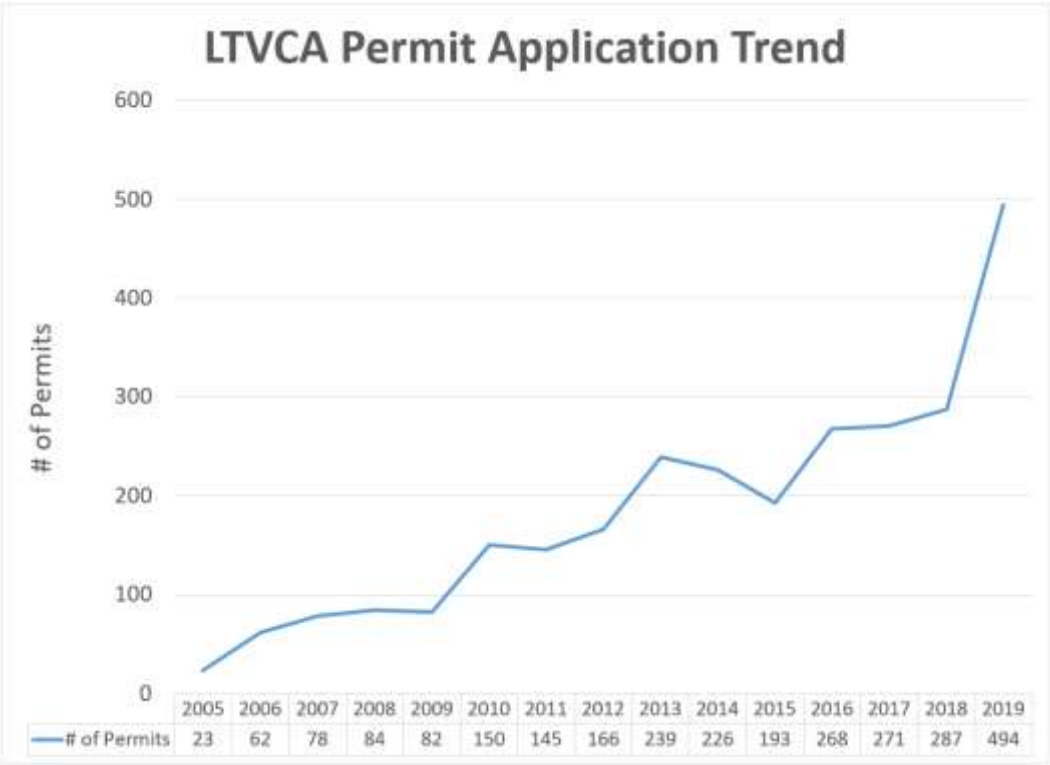
Historically, January tends to be a slower period for permitting which allows staff to catch up on filing from the previous year, complete policy updates and other items on the department’s work plan for the year. Typically, the number of incoming permit applications ranges between 10 and 20 for the month. In January 2020, staff received 28 applications which is above the average for January but well below the 80 applications received in January 2019. Of the 28 permit applications, 14 of the properties required surveying services from the LTVCA for flood proofing requirements.

The table below summarizes the municipality of origin for Section 28 permit applications over the last five years. Significant increases in permit applications were realized in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the Town of Lakeshore where, historically, most of the development pressures in hazardous lands are located.

Municipality	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Chatham-Kent	128	160	179	190	369
Dutton Dunwich	15	27	8	16	12
Lakeshore	16	40	45	32	80
Leamington	3	3	6	6	1
London	0	0	0	0	0
Middlesex Centre	0	4	7	2	4
Southwest Middlesex	10	7	6	14	7
Southwold	10	6	5	7	5
Strathroy-Caradoc	3	3	3	2	0
West Elgin	9	18	12	18	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>494</b>



Following three consecutive record-breaking years, the number of permit applications to develop or alter within or adjacent to hazardous lands set a significant new record for 2019. The below figure illustrates the rising number of development applications in hazardous areas since 2005.



Due to the increased number of permit applications being received by the LTVCA, supplemental revenue from permit application fees increased significantly. The figure below summarizes fees collected from Section 28 permit applications over the last nine years:



Below are some Section 28 Permitting statistics for 2019:

- Nine habitat/stewardship projects in regulated areas had been approved with their fees waived;
- 189 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;
- 26% of applications were for municipal or county projects (drainage or infrastructure); and,
- Total of permit application fees = \$106,550.00 (average of \$215.69 per permit).

### **11.2.3) 2019 Permit Processing Timelines**

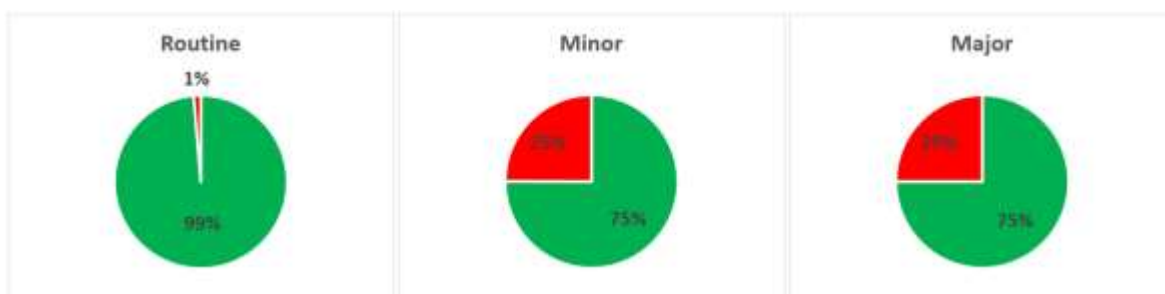
Service standards for Section 28 permit applications are specified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in the “Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review and Permitting Activities (2010)”. From the date of written confirmation of a complete application, conservation 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 such as the Ontario Home Builders’ Association. 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:

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

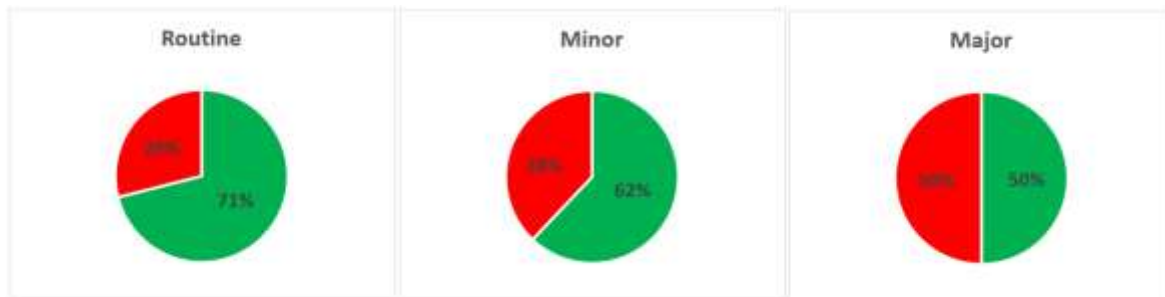
If a decision has not been rendered by the conservation authority within the appropriate timeframe, the applicant may contact the Water Management Supervisor who serves as the “client service facilitator”. If the applicant is not satisfied with the response from the client service facilitator, the applicant 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). In 2019, 99% of routine applications were reviewed within the old delivery standard and 75% of both minor and major applications were reviewed within the old delivery standard.



Complexity of Application	# of Days to Review Permit Applications in 2019		
	0 - 30 Days	31 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	75	1	0
Minor	301	100	0
Major	4	2	2

Using the new “best practice” service standards for comparison, the below table indicates that delivery of 71% of routine applications met the new delivery standard, 62% 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				
	0 - 14 Days	15 - 21 Days	21 - 28 Days	29 - 90 Days	> 90 Days
Routine	54	11	10	1	0
Minor	184	65	29	123	0
Major	3	0	1	2	2

#### 11.2.4) Property Inquiries

In 2019, 2,343 property inquiries were received and responded to. During the first month of 2020, the regulations technician has received 128 property inquiries. Some of the reasons that staff receive property inquiries include:

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

#### 11.2.5) Section 28 Enforcement:

In 2019, 24 new complaints / tips were received and two notices of violation were issued with multiple ongoing investigations - the goal being to obtain compliance or future compliance. 19 of the 24 complaints / tips were violations of the Conservation Authorities Act and six of those files have been closed without prosecution. Of the 24 complaints / violations received, 17 were in Chatham-Kent, six were in Lakeshore, and one was in Middlesex Centre. Ongoing enforcement issues from previous years were also monitored and continue to be investigated. Staff worked towards the rehabilitation of the wetland involved in the 2016 court case, attending meetings with the defendant’s lawyer, agent, and consultants.

LTVCA staff continued to work towards the rehabilitation of the wetland involved in the 2016 court case with multiple meetings with the defendant’s lawyer, agent, and consultants.

As of 31 January 2020, two new complaints / tips have been received from the public.

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

## 11.2.6) Section 28 – CA Applications

### Staff Report

### O.Reg. 152/06 Permit Applications (Up to January 31, 2020)

B.D. 02/20/20

APP#	LOCATION	COMMUNITY/ TOWNSHIP	MUNICIPALITY	APP'N TYPE	DECISION
<b>2019 Permits</b>					
463-2019	Fingal Line at Casey Drain	Southwold	Southwold	Alteration	Granted: Dec 03, 2019
468-2019	22754 Creek Road	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 12, 2019
472-2019	908, 910 and 912 Hiawatha Beach	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 17, 2020
474-2019	92 Bayview Drive	Shrewsbury	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 10, 2019
475-2019	17850 Melody Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Alteration	Granted: Dec 18, 2019
476-2019	29243 Zone Road 5	Zone	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 03, 2019
477-2019	5555 Tecumseh Line	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 10, 2019
478-2019	19265 Lower Thames Lane	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Dec 10, 2019
479-2019	Ousterhout Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 10, 2019
480-2019	Anderson Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Dec 10, 2019
481-2019	Admiral Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Jan 09, 2020
482-2019	86 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 19, 2019
483-2019	90 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 19, 2019
484-2019	94 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Dec 19, 2019
488-2019	McMillan Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 06, 2020
489-2019	McDowell Drain	Howard	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 06, 2020
490-2019	Nagy Drain	Dunwich	Dutton Dunwich	Alteration	Granted: Jan 06, 2020
491-2019	Flook and Hinton Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 06, 2020
492-2019	McColl Drain West	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: Jan 09, 2020
493-2019	Smith Drain	Aldborough	West Elgin	Alteration	Granted: Jan 09, 2020
494-2019	Town Line Road over McFarlane Relief Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 09, 2020
<b>2020 Permits</b>					
001-2020	Lewis Drain	Harwich	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 06, 2020
002-2020	18132 Erie Shore Drive	Erie Shore Drive	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 09, 2020
003-2020	102 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 20, 2020
004-2020	98 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 20, 2020
005-2020	106 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 20, 2020
006-2020	19080 Haven Avenue	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Jan 10, 2020
007-2020	755 Towanda Boulevard	Erie Beach	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 20, 2020
008-2020	6640 Rivard Line	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 30, 2020
009-2020	Kippen Drain	Tilbury East	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 17, 2020
010-2020	20976 Pier Road	Wheatley	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 10, 2020
011-2020	19242 Lakeside Drive	Lighthouse Cove	Lakeshore	Construction	Granted: Jan 23, 2020
012-2020	Old Hendricks Drain	Dover	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 21, 2020
013-2020	Four Rod Road Drain	Raleigh	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 28, 2020
014-2020	Miller Drain	Orford	Chatham-Kent	Alteration	Granted: Jan 28, 2020
017-2020	203 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 30, 2020
018-2020	207 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 30, 2020
019-2020	110 Moonstone Crescent	Chatham	Chatham-Kent	Construction	Granted: Jan 30, 2020



## 11.3) Conservation Areas

### 11.3.1) November 1 to December 31 Visitation / Camping Stats

**Longwoods Road Conservation Area** – 1,095 people (1,741 in 2018) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits - 218 vehicles (257 in 2018)

**E.M. Warwick Conservation Area** – 62 people (182 in 2018)

**Big Bend Conservation Area** – 409 people (623 in 2018)

**C.M. Wilson Conservation Area** – 183 people (113 in 2018) (Includes 2 people per pay & display permit (transaction) Pay and Display Permits – 64 vehicles (55 in 2018)

**Sharon Creek Conservation Area** – 26 Day Use Transactions (20 transactions in 2018)

### 11.3.2) Conservation Area Events

Events in our Conservation Areas help to reinforce our Customer/Stakeholder Objectives in our Strategic Plan. They strengthen and increase collaboration with community stakeholders, increase awareness of the value of good watershed stewardship by showcasing on the ground examples and strengthen brand recognition from event marketing. They also support our Internal Processes Objectives through improved internal communications and improved conservation areas operations. Capacity Building Objectives are supported through improving human resources, and improving training opportunities for staff and our volunteers/coop students.

**Spend a Day in the Park...  
...and Step into the Past**

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

Donated and Operated by the:  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority

Longwoods Road is a place to enjoy accessible trails, wetland boardwalks, meadows, Carolinian forests, an arboretum and an interpretive Resource Centre! Ska-Nah-Doht is a recreated longhouse village of 1,000 years ago located in Longwoods.

**We're Easy to Find!**

Longwoods Road Conservation Area and Ska-Nah-Doht Village are located at 8348 Longwoods Road (Middlesex County Road 2) southwest of Mount Brydges (8.5 km west of Delaware or 10 km east of Melbourn) in the Municipality of Strathroy-Carleton.

**Coordinates:**  
Lat/Long 42.874, -81.476 UTM 17T 461140 4746660

**When Are We Open?**

**Longwoods Road Conservation Area:**  
Grounds open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to sunset.  
May be closed due to weather or road conditions.

**Ska-Nah-Doht Village,  
Museum and Resource Centre:**

Mid-May to Mid-August  
Buildings open 7 days a week,  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Open Statutory Holidays

Mid-August - Mid-May  
Buildings open Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Weekends by appointment only  
Closed Statutory Holidays



**2020 Special Events**

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

519-264-2420 • info@ltvca.ca • www.ltvca.ca  
We gratefully acknowledge the support of the  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation.

**Family Day Snowshoe**  
Monday, February 17, Noon - 4 p.m.

**Moonlight Winter Family Hike (aka Owl Hike)**  
Pre-registration Only - Saturday, February 22

**March Break Guided One Hour Hikes & Tours**  
March 18-20, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**Native Plants & Pollinators Workshop**  
Sunday, April 26, Noon

**Longwoods Heritage Weekend**  
Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3

**Twilight Tuesdays**  
Tuesdays, July 7 - August 18, 7:30 p.m.

**Artifact Day**  
Sunday, July 12, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Spirit of the Harvest**  
Sunday, September 27, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Season's Greetings at Longwoods**  
Sunday, November 22, Noon - 4 p.m.

**General Admission** - Pay and Display machine at entrance. Coin or credit card only. Hourly charge between 9 a.m. and dusk.

or ... Purchase a 2020 **Parking Pass** at

- Longwoods Road Conservation Area Resource Centre.
- LTVCA Administration Building (100 Thames Street, Chatham)

Good for day use at  
all LTVCA Public Conservation Areas

**Events may have special admission fees.**



Please watch additional events listed on our Website and Facebook pages throughout the year!

### **11.3.3) Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)**

Feasby Conservation Area has been approved under the MFTIP program and will receive significant tax savings over the next 10 years in the program. The other 4 properties: Devereux, Two Creeks, Ekfrid and Rowsom CA's were successfully renewed for the next 10 years.

Staff wrote the MFTIP Plan Approver test, and are now qualified to complete these plans for our own properties and on private lands.

### **11.3.4) Longwoods CA Millstream Trail re-build**

LTVCA was awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant of \$94,000. These funds will go to replacing the wheel chair accessible boardwalk on the Millstream Trail at Longwoods Road CA. Staff have worked on the design specifications and will soon be creating an RFP for the project.

### **11.3.5) Big "O" Birding**

Plans are set for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Birding day at Big "O" CA in Comber on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The agenda for the day will be similar to years past with live bird demonstrations, guided hike by Paul Pratt followed by a light lunch at the Iron Kettle Bed and Breakfast.

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

## 11.4) Conservation Services

### 11.4.1) Recent Partnerships

We are working on a partnership with Carolinian Canada Coalition to provide funding toward rural stewardship of \$1,000/acre watershed wide up to 150 acres. Currently, the LTVCA stewardship department has over 200 acres of projects slated for spring/summer 2020. This funding will be targeted into those areas which are lacking in support programming.

The Federal Government released their roster of funding opportunities for the coming year. LTVCA will be applying for three of these including EcoAction community funding, Great Lakes Protection Initiative, and the Habitat Stewardship Program.

Staff attended the annual South West Ag Conference and the Chatham Kent Farm Show to engage landowners regarding our stewardship programming partnerships.

We have begun the initial stages of implementing an interpretive trail at the Clear Creek Restoration Site. This involves Parks Ontario, Nature Conservancy of Canada. An Environmental Assessment will be required.

Meetings with CK Natural Heritage Implementation Strategy continue and a formal presentation to Council for reporting purposes is to be held in March 2020.

Many site visits are happening with landowners including our First Nations groups to finalize projects for spring/summer 2020.

Preparations are underway to implement a Prairie/ Pollinator garden at Henry Smyth Park in Chatham. Site preparation is to be done by Bob Kerr with a rotovator.

### 11.4.2) Western Region Stewardship

Stewardship in the Western region held one of two information sessions about Species at Risk Funding for projects on the Thames River February 12, 2020 at the Knights of Columbus in Tilbury.

Projects for spring and summer continue to come in and we are looking at a very busy field season.

Stewardship was successful with Grassland Stewardship Initiative grant for grassland projects with \$16,000 for one landowner restoring 26 acres in Chatham-Kent.

### 11.4.3) ALUS Chatham-Kent

Our first meeting of the year was held at the LTVCA on January 15 at 7pm. We introduced three new PAC members; two ALUS Chatham-Kent has been very busy with site visits and plans for future projects. We should receive our budget by mid-February. Our next PAC meeting will be Thursday February 27 at 7pm. On the next meeting, we will be approving projects to be completed for the 2020 season.

### 11.4.4) Eastern Region Stewardship

There has been lots of traction in the East this winter for new projects for this upcoming field season, with staff meeting with new landowners to plan potential projects. Winter provides the opportunity to network, advertise and engage with new and existing landowners and project partners. One of the ways to reach the public is through outreach events, with Lower Thames holding a Information Night in Wardsville. The event features a talk from species at risk biologist about aquatic species in the Thames River and how landowners could get involved in projects on their property to help improve the habitat. In addition to hosting this event, staff was also present at the Elgin Soil and Crop Improvement Association annual general meeting and the St. Clair CA/ Ducks Unlimited Wetlands workshop.

#### **11.4.5) ALUS Middlesex**

ALUS Middlesex has been busy meeting with participants and planning projects for the upcoming year, with a PAC meeting planned for the start of March. With participation picking up in the program across the county, ALUS Middlesex is looking towards a busy 2020. ALUS Middlesex was recently successful in securing a grant from Grasslands Ontario for \$21,000 for grassland projects.

#### **11.4.6) Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives**

##### ***On-Farm Applied Research & Monitoring (ONFARM) Program***

The LTVCA was successful in raising \$648,748 to support the regional objectives of the ONFARM Program, which will be delivered from 2019-2023. The project service agreement was signed during December of 2019. The project is being administered by the Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) and is funded by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The goal of the project is to support the agricultural sector to strengthen environmental stewardship, enhance water quality, and improve soil health. The LTVCA is one of five Conservation Authorities that will conduct high intensity environmental monitoring in the former Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (GLASI) priority subwatersheds. The LTVCA project will occur in a 20km<sup>2</sup> area of the Jeannettes Creek subwatershed, where the LTVCA has been collecting water quality, water quantity, soil health, climate, and crop management data since 2016. The ONFARM project will build on environmental stewardship achievements in the agricultural sector by:

- Developing a comprehensive, science-based method to measure soil health in Ontario.
- Measuring the effectiveness and impact of agricultural best management practices aimed at reducing nutrient run-off on farms.
- Working with farmers to gain evidence and awareness of how to improve productivity, soil health and water quality.
- Establishing applied research and monitoring sites to facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge transfer and capacity-building among industry professionals.

##### ***CAP and ECCC: McGregor and Jeannettes 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). The 2019 growing season BMP program claim deadline occurred on January 17<sup>th</sup>, of 2020. All eligible claims have been approved and payments have been provided to the producers. In total, the program provided approximately \$50,000.00 to producers in the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek subwatersheds to assist in offsetting the cost associated with implementing the following BMPs that have the potential to improve soil health and reduce agriculturally sourced phosphorus loads:

- 2100 acres of cover crops planted
- 2400 acres of grid and zone soil sampling
- 1350 acres of alternative phosphorus application practices
- 2 erosion control projects



During 2020, the LTVCA will work with the University of Guelph Water Resource Engineers to estimate the phosphorus reductions that result from the implementation of these agricultural BMPs. The phosphorus reduction estimates will be calculated through a subwatershed Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model that is calibrated using regionally collected environmental data. The intention is to share the results with stakeholders at a public event during 2020.

As of February 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020, the LTVCA has also begun accepting producer funding applications for BMP projects that will occur during the 2020 growing season. A significantly higher number of applications have already been received for 2020 projects and the LTVCA anticipates the program BMP budget will be fully utilized.

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

The LTVCA observed a significant amount of precipitation during the month of January that resulted in a number of flow events that triggered water quality samplers at the monitoring stations in the McGregor and Jeannettes Creek subwatersheds.

Monthly Subwatershed Precipitation	
Weather Station	January 2020 (mm)
McGregor Creek (Hwy 40)	92.0
Jeannettes Creek (Merlin)	84.4

The LTVCA collected water samples during all of the flow events that occurred during January, which have been sent to the lab for nutrient concentration analysis. The collected water quality data will be used to calculate phosphorus loads. Furthermore, the University of Guelph Water Resource Engineers will use the collected data to configure the subwatershed SWAT models.

#### **11.4.7) Species At Risk Program**

The 2019-2023 Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR) contract has been signed by LTVCA and is awaiting final signature by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

CNFASAR funding paid for three LTVCA staff to take Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Pilot Training and will cover the cost of acquiring a drone for monitoring and communication purposes. Possible uses include surveying for erosion issues that may impact aquatic species at risk (SAR), monitoring algal blooms and flood events and promoting LTVCA properties and events.

Stewardship Information Nights were held in Wardsville and Tilbury to increase people's awareness of aquatic SAR and human threats to them, generate interest in undertaking projects to reduce threats (sediment, nutrients and contaminants entering watercourses) and offer funding assistance.

LTVCA's aquatic species at risk threat assessment is on track for completion.

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

## 11.5) Communications, Outreach and Education

### 11.5.1) Communications, Outreach and Education

The following activities support the LTVCA's **Strategic Objectives** including Customer/Stakeholder Objectives (strengthen and increase collaboration with community stakeholders, increase awareness of the value of good watershed stewardship and strengthen brand recognition); Internal Processes Objectives (improve internal communications, improve conservation areas operations, improve internal understanding of roles and responsibilities) and Capacity Building Objectives (improve human resources, improve training opportunities for staff, strengthen program review policy(s))

### 11.5.2) 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).

**3 media releases were written/distributed since November 19, 2019.**

1. December 2, 2019 - For Sale! 2020 LTVCA Conservation Area Parking Passes
2. November 28, 2019 – Conservation Authorities Pleased Their Role in Ontario's Flood Management is Recognized (Conservation Ontario release)
3. February 4, 2020 – Do You Give a Hoot? Longwoods Moonlight Winter Family Hike

### 11.5.3) Displays and Exhibits

Displays and Exhibits are created to update programs and information for the public. LTVCA will be playing a role in the St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Water Festival in May 2020. As well, staff attended the Southwest Agricultural Conference at Ridgetown College and the Chatham-Kent Farm Show in Chatham, both events in January. We plan to attend the London Farm Show in early March, followed by an exhibit at the Go Wild Grow Wild Expo in London in April.



*Stewardship staff speaking with the public about programs and funding at the Chatham-Kent Farm Show.*



#### 11.5.4) 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.

#### 11.5.5) 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!

#### 11.5.6) Committees and Meetings

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

#### 11.5.7) 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 has increased to **1,035** followers. LTVCA's Facebook page continues to climb with followers with **1,897** and the Ska-Nah-Doht Village Facebook page has increased to **1,354** followers. There are **39** 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, LTVC Foundation Directors and LTVCA staff. A social media policy and procedures is posted on our website.

Mondays – focus on water, flooding, regulations and erosion

The graphic titled "Types of Flood Bulletins" is divided into two main sections. The left section, with a blue background, lists four types of bulletins: **Safety Bulletin** (high flows, unsafe banks, melting ice, etc.), **Flood Outlook** (early notice of potential flooding), **Flood Watch** (flooding possible in specific areas), and **Flood Warning** (flooding is imminent or occurring). It includes a quote: "Intention is to balance the need of the community with the severity & extent of a flood event". The right section, with a green background, features a vertical stack of four "Flood Status" gauges, each with a needle pointing to a different level: "Water Safety", "Flood Outlook", "Flood Watch", and "Flood Warning". Between these sections, text encourages checking the website for current flood status at [www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca). At the bottom left, contact information is provided: 519-354-7310, [info@ltvca.ca](mailto:info@ltvca.ca), and [ltvca.ca](http://ltvca.ca). The bottom right features the "Lower Thames Conservation" logo.

**Types of Flood Bulletins**

- **Safety Bulletin** - High flows, unsafe banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.
- **Flood Outlook** - Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high wind or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams, lakeshore flooding or erosion.
- **Flood Watch** - Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services, and individual landowners in flood-prone areas should prepare.
- **Flood Warning** - Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.

"Intention is to balance the need of the community with the severity & extent of a flood event"

Check our website for current flood status [www.ltvca.ca](http://www.ltvca.ca)

519-354-7310  
[info@ltvca.ca](mailto:info@ltvca.ca)  
[ltvca.ca](http://ltvca.ca)

Lower Thames Conservation

**"Enhancing Watershed Health with Wetlands  
Tree Planting, Restoration, Stewardship"**

**Stewardship  
Information Session**

**Wed February 12, 7-9 pm**

*Dellweg Parkway of Columbus - 28 Duggan Ave. Titusville*

- learn about our programs & funding
- trees, wetlands, tallgrass prairie & buffer strips are all eligible
- RSVP Amanda.Blain@ltvca.ca or call 519-354-7310 ext.234

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



Don't Miss Out!  
Order Your Trees Now!  
**Deadline March 15**

Order Form  
<https://www.lower-thames-conservation.org/carcconservation-services/tree-planting/>



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



**Lower Thames  
Conservation**



# Land Donation to LTVCA

## Elva Gray Tallgrass Prairie

- Steve Rankin & Robert Stover, graciously donated a 12 acre (4.9 ha) ecologically significant site, located near Ridgetown along former CASO rail line
- **Elva Gray Tallgrass Prairie** supports many species at risk, along with other tallgrass prairie plants
- the donors put a great deal of effort into property financially & physically, with their dream to protect this rare habitat for future generations

*"Leaving future generations with an improved state of the environment, empowering healthy, prosperous lifestyles through recreational opportunities"*

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



**Lower Thames  
Conservation**

**Outreach & Education**

**BEE-WISE !**

COMING SOON to our Native Garden Kiosk at Longwoods ... all the **buzz** about **native pollinators** & their importance with

- QR codes to LTVCA website information about these highly beneficial insects!
- Download fact sheets for ways you can help pollinators, their home & farm gardens

*"Providing opportunities to experience & enjoy nature & heritage"*

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

  
**LTVCA**  
Lower Thames Valley Conservation Association

 **Lower Thames Conservation**

**Our Native Bees**

They are so small. Bees that fly over your head and make buzz that vibrates through all the leaves that surround you. They are everywhere.

So why do we ignore them? Why do we neglect them? How do we know they're there? Native bees have been disappearing from our world. The European Honeybee, that one we know best, has lost its ability to find food sources like our clover, alfalfa and rapeseed.

What can I do as a citizen?

Visit [http://www.beeconservation.org](#)



## "Enhancing Watershed Health" Phosphorus Reduction Initiatives

The Lower Thames Conservation Authority is working with the agricultural community to reduce phosphorus loading to the Thames River. A multi-pronged strategy:

- Craig Irwin - Watershed Monitoring Technician, collects one of the sensors that monitors the water table at an edge of field site
- The logger records a level every 15 minutes so we can track changes before, during, & after runoff events

The sensor is installed in a hole drilled into the ground. The sensor is connected to a logger that records the data. The logger is connected to a computer that stores the data. The data is then used to track changes in the water table over time.



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



The Lower Thames Conservation Authority is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural resources of the Lower Thames watershed. We work with the agricultural community to reduce phosphorus loading to the Thames River.

### **11.5.8) Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation**

The Lower Thames Valley Conservation Foundation has provided the LTVCA with the \$71,900 Trillium grant for the Longwoods Feasibility Study in 2018-2019. The Foundation will begin discussions with regards to moving forward with expanding its scope to undertake the Longwoods Road Resource Centre redevelopment fund-raising campaign at their next meeting.

Another Ontario Trillium Foundation capital grant was received 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 LTVCA has been busy drawing up plans for the boardwalk in preparation for advertising for a building contractor. The boardwalk construction project is to be completed by October 2020.

The next meeting of the Foundation Directors is March 3rd at 7 pm at the Resource Centre.

### **11.5.9) 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 was printed to highlight the annual events at Longwoods Road Conservation Area – an easy way for visitors to leave with a listing of upcoming activities.

As well, the 2019 LTVCA Annual Report was produced, the 2019 Annual Report Highlights publication was created and the 2019 LTVCA Annual Report PowerPoint presentation was completed.

### **11.5.10) Applications**

Communications, Outreach and Education staff apply for project funding as grants become available.

### **11.5.11) 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. There will be presentations to acknowledge some special people at this meeting!

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 2019, the 1,282 dedicated volunteers gave 7,853 hours of their time towards LTVCA projects and services!

### **11.5.12) Outreach and Education**

Community Conservation Educator, Jerry De Zwart has the exciting challenge of designing a native plant garden for the St. Angela Catholic School Outdoor Classroom Project in Chatham. 3 area schools will be amalgamating into 1 new building. Jerry will focus on plants and pollinators and Environmental Project Coordinator, Greg Van Every will bring the trees and

coordinate with local native plant nurseries. Students will experience becoming responsible caretakers of their school garden and how that relates to stewardship of their world.

This year, we are offering new in-class programs including Pollinators, Biodiversity and Introduction to Treaties, working with teachers to customize presentations for their classrooms. February weekends are filled with community groups participating in workshops on corn husk doll making and pottery. Snowshoeing activities should pick up if winter ever gets here! Educational bookings have been affected by the Ontario Teacher's Action but teachers are hoping to reschedule before the end of the school year. Private school bookings are unaffected. Number of students in November and December 669 (1,032 in 2018).

The staff is out in the community too! We took the atlatl's (spear throwers) and deer target to "Community Winterfest" hosted by the 1st Delaware Scouts on February 1<sup>st</sup> for a great afternoon. And we will be offering a similar program at Fanshawe Pioneer Village, "Winter Wonderland" on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>.

March will be full of activity with the River & Creek Safety programs. Teachers, parents and students recognize these as important community minded events offered with the financial support of the Glencoe District Lions Club, Rodney Lions Club, Royal Canadian Legion Branches 251 and 598, and West Elgin Mutual Insurance. During March Break the public can join us for guided Ska-Nah-Doht tours and trail hikes all week. The popular annual event, "Moonlight Winter Family Hike" is on February 22nd and is booking up quickly. "Owl Prowls" can be booked on other nights for larger community groups.

Curator, Karen Mattila has received 2 large artifact collections; one bequeathed by Ska-Nah-Doht founder, Ronald Watts and the other a private donation. Both donors were educators and want to see their collections used for teaching students and visitors. Over a thousand items, mostly arrowheads will be processed and welcomed into the museums holding as part of the "Education Collection".

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

## 11.6) Joint Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

### Health & Safety Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020

- i. **2019 Action Plan – review**
  - a. Reviewed 2019 work plan and moved forward any repeating or unfinished work into the new 2020 plan
- ii. **2020 Work Plan**
  - a. Did up the new work plan for 2020
- iii. **2020 Training Plan**
  - a. Training from heights – who needs it for the Water Department? Dan, Ryan, Collin, Craig?
  - b. Paul needs renewal for training at heights
  - c. First aid for anyone who needs it
  - d. Any updated HR Download training required
- iv. **Training for new Supervisors**
  - a. Updates for Supervisor training
  - b. Typically all staff take supervisor training
  - c. At next staff meeting go over training to update their training
  - d. Agnes to update power point and do re-training for Supervisors at the next staff meeting after the Annual Meeting
- v. **Compliance and Enforcement – Task Hazard Analysis**
  - a. Managers will be asked to report on compliance to completion of THA's
  - b. THA's to be reviewed at next staff meeting
- vi. **Update of 2015 Safety Manual**
  - a. Agnes has committed to get a draft Safety Manual to the committee by July 2020
  - b. should have everything in it that staff need i.e. include all manual for all our equipment
- vii. **Task Hazard Analysis sign-off (prepared by / verified by)**
  - a. need to add a paragraph at the end before worker signatures that states: I have reviewed all policies / operational guidelines (equipment manuals) / task procedures / safe operating procedures, and feel sufficiently trained to safely undertake the work.
- viii. **Any Additional Training for Workers**
  - a. Training for use of the Authority's boat
  - b. Pleasure craft training/licence
  - c. ATV training – who needs it? Paul, Greg, Vance, others?
  - d. Chainsaw training – who needs it? Vance (has it), Paul, others?
  - e. Cold water immersion training – who needs it? Jason(s), Paul, others?
- ix. **Other business**
  - a. None noted

## 11.7) Wheatley Two Creeks Association Meeting Minutes – Dec 5, 2019 & Feb 6, 2020

### WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of regular meeting **December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**ATTENDANCE:** Rick & forest Taves, Ron Haley, Phil Humphries, Pauline Sample, Lorna Bell, Gerry Soulliere, Mike Diesburg, Lee & Linda Pearce, Joe Pinnsnault, Randall Vanwagner, Bruce & Marj Jackson.

**AGENDA:** Moved by Lorna, seconded by Mike. agenda be accepted as outlined. (Carried)

**MINUTES:** Moved by Philj, sec by Joe minutes be accepted as printed. (Carried)

**MEMORIAL GROVES:** A Black Locust has been blown down, needs to be removed.

**PROPERTY & EQUIP:** 1) Will try to involve kids in tree planting. 2) Approved spending up to \$1,000. On security cameras. Moved by Rick, sec by Joe (Carried) 3) We will supply wood and approach schools about building bird houses. 4) Sidewalk form pavilion has been poured. 5) Will try to get some gravel from wind turbine roads that were constructed.....gravel is free but would be charged for trucking. 6) Tractor is fixed.

**CONCERTS:** All concerts are booked – first band has not decided on a name and fee has not been decided.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Balance as of Oct 31<sup>st</sup> was \$34,253.82 Balance as of Nov 30 was \$32,019.81. Moved by Phil, sec by Lorna Financial report be accepted as given. (Carried)

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Received a letter from John & Audery Sprague thanking us for our concerts and also suggesting other bands. Gerry said 'Thank You' to Forest & Marj for the wine, cake ,card and visit to Muggs on her recovery from surgery

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Joe and a L.T.V.C.A. member walked the trails to put them on GPS.

Lorna moved for adjournment at 7:45 p.m.

Phil Humphries, Secretary



## **WHEATLEY TWO CREEKS ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of regular meeting **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**ATTENDANCE:** Gerry Soulliere, Rick & Forest Taves, Lorna Bell, Pauline Sample, Joe & Ginette Pinsonneault, David & Sharon Light, Lee & Linda Pearce, Roger & Merri-Lynn Dundas, Bruce & Marj Jackson.

**AGENDA:** Moved by Linda, sec by Joe agenda be accepted as outlined. (Carried)

**MINUTES:** Moved by Rick, sec by Lorna minutes be accepted as printed. (Carried)

**MEMORIAL GROVES:** Tree to be cut down

**PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT:** 1) Joe reported there has been four security cameras installed on the property with two more available if necessary. 2) Tree across Cub trail needs to be removed. 3) North Bridge discussed.

**CONCERTS:** Concerts are all set for upcoming season.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Not available. Letters of appeal were handed out for distribution.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Joe is representing Two Creeks at LTVCA Annual meeting February 20<sup>th</sup> at Ridgetown Collage.

Lee moved for adjournment at 8:15 pm

Marjorie Jackson

Acting Secretary

## 11.8) C.A.O. / Secretary Treasurer Report

Date: February 20, 2020

Memo to: LTVCA Board of Directors

Subject: C.A.O.'s Report

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

### ***Multi-stakeholder Consultation Session on Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act***

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities fall under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Authorities Act which was reviewed and modernized in 2017 and again in 2019. In April 2019 the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks consulted on proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) and, in June 2019 Bill 108 the More Homes, More Choice Act amended the CAA.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) is hosting a series of multi-stakeholder consultations to engage municipalities, conservation authorities, development, agricultural, landowner and environmental and conservation organizations to provide input on how to improve the efficiencies, consistency, transparency and oversight of conservation authorities (CAs).

Attendees have been asked to focus on CAs' core mandatory programs and services and how all the stakeholders can work together on key issues involving conservation authorities. In each session, a question period follows presentations and then a workshop is hosted.

The following report provides information on the public consultations that have occurred to date, Barrie January 24, 2020 and Colborne February 7, 2020. The chair has encouraged all members to attend the London session on February 14, 2020 and support the work that the LTVCA does with its local communities.

There were more than 150 (Barrie) and 200 people (Colborne) in attendance at each meetings.

The local MPPs and Minister Yurek provided opening remarks, and Assistant Deputy Minister Chloe Stuart facilitated/hosted each session. There were 20+ tables with about 8 people at each. Each table had an MECP note-taker; in both venues it was very loud in the room and must have been quite challenging for these note-takers to hear the comments being made. The MPPs and their staff were in attendance for the full session.

After the opening remarks a number of presentations were given by a variety of groups. All speakers are invited by the Minister's office. In Barrie the presentations were Conservation Ontario (CO) (Bonnie Fox), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) (Kevin Rich, Head of Industry and Government Relations), Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) (Board Member: Drew Spoelstra, Halton, Hamilton/Wentworth, Niagara), and, Ontario Home Builders Association (OHBA) (Introductory remarks President: Bob Schickedanz – FarSight Homes – Simcoe County & Durham Region; Presentation Michael Collins-Williams, Director of Policy). In Colborne there were three new presentations representing: Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (Terry Rees, the Ontario Landowner Association (Jeff Bogaerts, President), and Leith Coghlin (EnPointe Development Incorporated).

Following the presentation, table discussions occurred that were based on questions provided by the province.

We understand that the MOECP is expecting more than 300 at the London session on February 14, 2020.

### ***Flood Advisor's Report – Recommendation #25 – Development of a Southwestern Ontario Resiliency Strategy***

During the last few months staff at the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the Essex Region Conservation Authority have been working with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to develop a strategy to address riverine and shoreline hazards in Southwestern Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry have asked that we provide input into

what this might look like. In response, we have recommended the development of a Southwestern Ontario Resiliency Strategy. The discussion below provides a number of elements that might be in the strategy.

Due to the severity of the risk and inter-connected nature of the watersheds and coasts, the LTVCA is working with municipalities in Southwestern Ontario to move beyond individual management plans for watersheds and the lakeshores. The intent is to develop an integrated resiliency strategy that pulls a number of hazard elements together and considers the future impacts on climate changes as well at the regional scale.

Resiliency Strategy will look to:

- Re-build resilience in places that don't have any left. Re-building resilience is going to cost money.
- Maintaining resilience (natural processes, natural shorelines, protected areas, etc.) is about better planning. Much of this comes down to local planning decisions, supported by the Province, to not build houses everywhere. With climate change and changing lake levels, planning, that has traditionally supported development along the lakes with engineered shoreline and flood/erosion related solutions, needs to keep development out of hazard lands and provide potential solutions.

The Strategy will have both short term and long term elements:

#### **SHORT-TERM (Actions needed to assess and address current risks)**

##### **a) Address Emergency Response**

- Prepare/Update Emergency Response Plans, Communications Plans
- Facilitate any additional training or equipment needs
- Immediate action to reduce risk in most vulnerable areas in the short-term (e.g. Erie Shore Drive)

##### **b) Complete Hazard Management Plans in the following areas:**

A Hazard Management Plan identifies key hazards in areas where action is required:

- Lake Erie/Lake St. Clair - Complete existing Shoreline Management Plans (Chatham-Kent, Leamington, Lakeshore) and extend study design/methodology to areas along Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair outside of current study to define/assess risks of shoreline flooding, erosion, lake levels, climate change.
- Rainfall Related Flooding - Complete Little River Hazard Mapping (City of Windsor), and Vulnerability/Risk Assessments (Tecumseh) and initiate assessments in urbanized areas to determine impacts of significant rain fall events.
- Thames River - Complete Lower Thames River Flood Hazard Assessment in Chatham-Kent – river flood reduction planning to ensure flood protection works (e.g. dyking) will protect to defined levels and standards given climate change impacts on river discharge and ice jamming.
- Update Regulatory Hazard Mapping based on Hazard Management Plan. Consider opportunity to define, set and regulate to a higher standard (e.g. 1:200 year for flooding). Erosion hazard setbacks may need to factor in the impacts on climate change and reduced ice-cover on recession rates and/or go to a 200 year planning horizon as well.

##### **c) Undertake Lake Erie Nearshore Monitoring**

- Establish and maintain regular monitoring network/systems to monitor nearshore areas which are currently only monitored as part of site specific studies. This is not sufficient as too much time (and change) happens between monitoring. We have learned a lot about the nearshore at Erie Shore Drive, comparing a 1930's survey to

existing conditions. Same for the east and west side of SE Leamington. We need a way to make this a regular occurrence, especially in high risk areas where nearshore down cutting is creating extreme hazard conditions.

d) **Update Municipal Planning/Regulations**

- Review and Update Municipal Official Plans to ensure no new development in hazard lands through OP designations consistent with Provincial Policy Statement, Planning Act, Conservation Authorities Act and regulations under CA Act defining current hazard lands.
- Draft and approve policy in support of Official Plans (e.g. Conservation Authority Policy)

e) **Support Updated Technical Guidance**

- Lead by Province with technical advice and consultations from Conservation Authority.

f) **Create multi-year Natural Green Infrastructure program** ( see Flood Advisor's recommendation #17) to support implementation of Municipal/County Natural Heritage System Strategy and County/Municipal Official Plans.

**LONG-TERM (Actions need to address hazards for a minimum of 50 years)**

**Complete Community Resilience Plans** - Completed at County/Municipal Government with support from Conservation Authority. Funded by County/Municipality, Provincial, and Federal Governments

Community resilience is the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations (e.g. major failures of infrastructure due to shoreline erosion). This allows for the adaptation and growth of a community after disaster strikes. Communities that are resilient are able to minimize any past or future disaster, making the return to normal life as effortless as possible. By implementing a community resilience plan, a community can come together and overcome any disaster, while rebuilding physically and economically to withstand future disasters. Community Resilience Plans will be completed on a reach or local/individual community basis and may include specific engineering solutions for the reach or community.

A community resilience plan is an action plan that allows a community to rebuild after disaster, or build infrastructure to avert imminent or future disaster. The plan should entail specific guidelines that will aid a community to rebuild both the economy and the ecosystem on which the community thrives. This plan will ensure that the measures in place or to be built, adequately address the shoreline hazard for a minimum of 50 years.

- Develop Community Resilience Plans to recommend long-term solutions based on Hazard Management Plans and Community Engagement
- Secure funding (landowner/municipal/provincial/federal) to implement long-term actions (engineering and construction of appropriate infrastructure, conservation, restoration and creation of natural green infrastructure (Flood Advisor Recommendation #17), removal of structures from the floodplain (Flood Advisor Recommendation #51)
- Create implementation of plans based on priorities and available supports

<b>Recommendation:</b> That 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

<b>Recommendation:</b> That the above reports, 11.1) through to 11.8) be received for information.
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# 12. Correspondence

## 12.1) Dutton Dunwich Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities




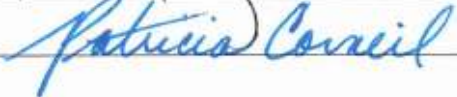
COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

22

Res: 2020.01. 23

Moved by: 

Seconded by: 

**THAT** Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years; and

**THAT** Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents; and


**THAT** Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change.

**THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs

**AND THAT** this resolution be circulated to all upper and lower-tier municipalities, Conservation Authorities and the Provincial Government (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks) in Ontario

<u>Recorded Vote</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>
P. Corneil	___	___
A. Drouillard	___	___
K. Loveland	___	___
M. Hentz	___	___
B. Purcell – Mayor	___	___

CARRIED

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

DEFEATED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

## 12.2) Southwold Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities



### TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

#### OFFICE OF THE CLERK

35663 Fingal Line  
Fingal, ON N0L 1K0

Phone: (519) 769-2010

Fax: (519) 769-2837

Email: [cao@southwold.ca](mailto:cao@southwold.ca)

January 15, 2020

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

Via Email: [Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca](mailto:Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca)

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

Dear Mr. Peacock:

#### **RE: Resolution in Support of Conservation Authorities**

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Southwold, at its regular meeting of Council on Monday, January 13, 2020 passed the following resolution:

#### **2020-021 Conservation Authorities**

**Whereas** Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years, and

**Whereas** Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and health watersheds for residents, and

**Whereas** Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change,

**Therefore, be it Resolved: That** the Township of Southwold supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs.

**CARRIED**

On behalf of the Council of Southwold, I would like to let you know that we really appreciate what Lower Thames and the other Conservation Authorities in the province, do for our communities. If you have any questions or require anything further, please contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Katherine Thompson  
CAO/Clerk



## 12.3) Chatham-Kent Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities



### Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Corporate Services

Municipal Governance

315 King Street West, P.O. Box 640

Chatham ON N7M 5K8

Tel: 519.360.1998 Fax: 519.436.3237

Toll Free: 1.800.714.7497

February 11, 2020

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

### Re: Resolution to Support Role of Conservation Authorities

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on February 10, 2020 passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and other Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years, and

Whereas municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents, and

Whereas Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address the climate change,

Therefore be it Resolved: That the Municipality of Chatham-Kent supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs.

And that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent circulate that support to municipalities, conservation authorities and the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks in Ontario.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at [ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca)

Sincerely,

Judy Smith, CMO  
Director Municipal Governance  
Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

C Ontario Municipalities, LTVCA, SCRCA

## 12.4) Strathroy-Caradoc Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities

**Subject:** Strathroy-Caradoc Regular Council Meeting January 20, 2020 - Approval of Resolution LTVC - Watershed Management Programs

Please be advised the following resolution sent to member municipalities of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, was presented for consideration by Council at their regular meeting of Monday, January 20, 2020 and approved as follows:

Moved by Councillors Brennan and Kennes:

**WHEREAS** Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years; and

**WHEREAS** Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents, and

**WHEREAS** Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs; and that this resolution be circulated to Municipalities, Conservation Authorities and the Provincial Government (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks), in Ontario. **Carried.**

Kind Regards,

Ruth  
Ruth Alcáidinho  
Deputy Clerk/Insurance Co-Ordinator  
Legal & Legislative Services  
Tel: 519-245-1105 Ext 237  
Fax: 519-245-6353  
Email: ralcaidinho@strathroy-caradoc.ca

Legal & Legislative Services  
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc  
52 Frank Street | Strathroy, ON | N7G 2R4

## 12.5) Southwest Middlesex Council Resolution in support of conservation authorities

Subject: RE: LTVCA Board of Directors Resolution in Support of Conservation Authorities

The following resolution passed at the January 22, 2020 meeting of Southwest Middlesex Council:

**Moved** by Councillor Cowell

**Seconded** by Councillor Carruthers

**Whereas** Conservation Authorities have been protecting people and conserving and restoring watersheds with local communities for over 50 years, and

**Whereas** Municipalities must work together to ensure resilient and healthy watersheds for residents, and

**Whereas** Conservation Authorities will be important partners in concrete and cost-effective initiatives to address climate change,

**Therefore** be it resolved that the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex supports the important role Conservation Authorities provide to local communities in delivering watershed management programs.

**Carried**

Jill Bellchamber-glazier <[jbellchamber-glazier@southwestmiddlesex.ca](mailto:jbellchamber-glazier@southwestmiddlesex.ca)>

## 12.6) Resolution aims to highlight importance of conservation authorities

[tterfloth@postmedia.com](mailto:tterfloth@postmedia.com)

Published on: February 7, 2020 | Last Updated: February 7, 2020 1:11 PM EST



The high water level on Lake Erie contributed to strong winds being able to push waves over the pier at Eriean, Ont. on Saturday January 18, 2020. (Ellwood Shreve/Chatham Daily News)

Noting the work they do on a beleaguered watershed – especially in recent years – a Chatham-Kent councillor plans to introduce a resolution to underscore the importance of Ontario’s conservation authorities.

South Kent Coun. Trevor Thompson, who was behind last year’s motion to declare a climate emergency, believes the municipality needs to show that support to other jurisdictions, as well as the province.

His motion includes the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, for which he is vice-chair, and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, although it mentions other organizations in general.

“(The Lower Thames Valley) is looking for support from the member municipalities, so they drafted a letter to send out,” said Thompson, adding the province’s proposed changes could negatively impact them.

“I would say over the last couple of years, the Lower Thames has kind of come into their own, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority obviously as well, in dealing with flooding.”

Thompson added that conservation authorities will be crucial partners in addressing climate change in the coming years with cost-effective initiatives.

The motion directs this show of support be circulated to municipalities, conservation authorities and the minister of environment, conservation and parks in Ontario.

The Thames River and Sydenham River, as well as the Lake Erie and St. Clair shorelines, have been battered with flooding, waves, wind and erosion issues, with regular flood watches issued in recent years.

Localized states of emergency have been declared for residents in the affected areas in a few of the more severe cases.

In response, Chatham-Kent has hired an environmental planner who will be helping the municipality with a “climate lens” for future decisions.

“There’s a lot of things that it touches,” Thompson said. “I look at the dollars and the cents, and people’s homes and livelihoods.

“It’s a slow go, but that’s just how government works. It’s also far reaching, with a lot of different moving parts.”

## 12.7) High water levels are wreaking havoc in the Great Lakes

Scientists say wettest period in more than a century likely linked to warming climate

The Associated Press · Posted: Feb 07, 2020 1:40 PM ET | Last Updated: February 7



In this Jan. 14, 2020, photo, Rita Alton stands next to her house on the edge of a cliff overlooking Lake Michigan near Manistee, MI. When her father built the bungalow in the early 1950s, more than acre of land lay between it and the drop-off overlooking the water. But erosion has accelerated dramatically as the lake approaches its highest levels in recorded history, hurling powerful waves into the mostly clay bluff. (John Flesher/The Associated Press)

Rita Alton has an unusual morning routine these days: Wake up. Get dressed. Go outside to see if her house is closer to tumbling down an 24.4-metre cliff into Lake Michigan.

When her father built the 93-square-metre, brick bungalow in the early 1950s near Manistee, Michigan, more than an acre of land lay between it and the drop-off overlooking the giant freshwater sea. But erosion has accelerated dramatically as the lake approaches its highest levels in recorded history, hurling powerful waves into the mostly clay bluff.

Now, the jagged clifftop is about 2.5 metres from Alton's back deck.

"It's never been like this, never," she said on a recent morning, peering down the snow-dusted hillside as bitter gusts churned surf along the shoreline below. "The destruction is just incredible."

On New Year's Eve, an unoccupied cottage near Muskegon, Michigan, plunged from an embankment to the water's edge. Another down the coast was dismantled a month earlier to prevent the same fate.

High water is wreaking havoc across the Great Lakes, which are bursting at the seams less than a decade after bottoming out. The sharp turnabout is fueled by the region's wettest period in more than a century that scientists say is likely connected to the warming climate. No relief is in sight, as forecasters expect the lakes to remain high well into 2020 and perhaps longer.

"We're seeing inflows to the Great Lakes system that are just eclipsing anything we've seen before" said Rob Caldwell, Canadian Secretary of the International Lake Superior Board of Control. "The likelihood is high that we're going to continue to see records being broken in months to come."

The toll is extensive already: homes and businesses flooded; roads and sidewalks crumbled; beaches washed away; parks were rendered unusable. Docks that boats previously couldn't reach because the water was too shallow are now submerged.





Jerry Westfall's home along the shoreline in Leamington was severely damaged by a storm and flooding on Sunday, April 15, 2018. High winds and strong waves broke his break wall. A tree uprooted and landed on his house. (Jason Viau/CBC)

"Obviously the people living along those shorelines are in trouble but are there other concerns we're seeing ... the beaches are in trouble, the marinas, tourists tend to stay away recreational boaters are impacted as well," said Caldwell.

"Even shipping companies are struggling at times like this."

The situation is inspiring soul-searching over how to cope with a long-term challenge unique to the region. While communities along ocean coasts brace for rising seas, experts say the Great Lakes can now expect repeated, abrupt swings between extreme highs and lows.

"It wasn't long ago they were worried about Lake Michigan drying up. Now it's full," said Rich Warner, emergency services director for Muskegon County in MI. "All these ups and downs — I don't know if that's something you can truly plan for."

### **Record-setting rise**

Levels are always changing in the Great Lakes, and they typically decline in fall and winter, then rise in spring and summer as melting snow and rainfall replenish them. Broader fluctuations take place over longer periods. Levels surged in the 1980s before dropping sharply in the 2000s.

But increasingly, the highs are higher and the lows lower — and the variations happen faster. Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan had bigger jumps between 2013-14 than during any comparable period. It took just seven years to go from record slumps to all-time peaks.

Lakes Ontario and Erie last year reached their highest points since record keeping began in 1918. Superior surpassed several all-time monthly averages and did so again in January. Lakes Huron and Michigan did likewise last month, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Detroit, MI.



High water levels and storm-generated waves have greatly eroded the shoreline at southwestern Ontario parks, like Wheatley Provincial Park. (Jason Viau/CBC)

This season has seen a release of record amounts of water from Lake Ontario during January and February, but inflows have equally set records, according to the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Board.

"The continuing trend of extremely high water supplies, which has now lasted over three years, continues to hamper the board's efforts to help reduce flood risks throughout the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River System," the organization reported in a press release.

Even Ontario, where a hydropower dam provides more stability, has experienced record highs twice in the past three years. "That's not supposed to happen," said Drew Gronewold, a University of Michigan hydrologist. "That lake is carefully regulated."

### **Changing climate**

Climate change is believed to influence water temperatures and precipitation, which wage a constant tug-of-war with lake levels. Warmer water boosts evaporation, which pushed levels downward about 20 years ago. But as the atmosphere warms, it sucks up more moisture from other regions and dumps it into the lakes, filling them back up.

"Those two forces are increasing in intensity at the same time," suggesting the up-and-down shifts may become more extreme, Gronewold said.

How long before the waters recede is anyone's guess. The Army Corps predicts the lakes will exceed their long-term averages through June. Michigan and Huron already are 43 cm higher than a year ago.



Pedestrians rest on a bench behind a fenced-off section of Hamilton's Waterfront Trail that collapsed due to high water levels and wave damage last year. (Dan Taekema/CBC)

Another ominous sign: Ice cover is light this winter. Shoreline ice provides a buffer against pounding waters. In its absence, Chicago's Lake Michigan waterfront was battered by waves reaching 7 metres high during a mid-January storm.

That means the potential for further damage will increase as spring snowmelt and rains arrive, said Ethan Theuerkauf, a Michigan State University geologist.

"This would include extensive beach, dune and bluff erosion, but also damage to coastal infrastructure and more lakefront homes falling in," he said.

The recent surge also has rekindled longstanding debates over what government can do to control levels — particularly on Lake Ontario, where they're partially regulated by outflows to the St. Lawrence River through a hydropower dam. A U.S.-Canadian commission oversees how much water leaves the lake, based on the needs of competing interests such as shoreline homeowners, commercial shippers and wetlands.



In this Jan. 14, 2020, photo, work continues to rebuild the eroded beach in Fennville, Mich. (John Flesher/The Associated Press)

Meanwhile, some people living along Lake Huron and Lake Michigan are demanding that Canada stop releasing water from two hydro projects into Lake Superior, even though it has elevated levels only by a few inches since the 1940s.

"Every inch counts," said Don Olendorf, a leader of a property owners' group pushing for the change. His house is about 9 metres from the edge of an eroding Lake Michigan bluff.

Alton, whose house is precariously close to the Manistee-area cliff, said she can't afford to move it. She has pleaded for help from local officials without success.

"At some point I'm going to have to leave," she said, "because it's going to go over."



## 12.8) Time to be smart about flooding

Karen Robinet

**Published on: December 2, 2019 | Last Updated: December 2, 2019 3:26 PM EST**

There are no easy solutions when it comes to addressing the issues with flooding and erosion that we're experiencing in Chatham-Kent and some very difficult decisions need to be made, not only by home and property owners, but by governments at all levels.

Record water levels in Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River are all contributing to unprecedented levels of damage and heartache in our community and there is little cause for optimism.

Chatham-Kent Coun. Trevor Thompson recently notified residents via social media that there is no provincial relief coming to assist with the flooding damage which occurred earlier this year.

Quoting a spokesperson with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Thompson posted that, "Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians does not replace insurance and does not cover all costs. For example, the program does not provide financial assistance for damage to secondary residences (eg. Cottages), break walls, soil erosion, or insurance deductibles."

The post noted that the program is designed to help residents 'get back on their feet' after a natural disaster, and is not intended to be a long-term solution for high-risk flood areas.

Having assessed the local situation, the ministry determined that none of the damage to private property was eligible for funding through the disaster recovery assistance program.

We shouldn't be surprised by this and, as upsetting as I'm sure it is for residents who were hoping to find some financial relief, it's going to be an uphill struggle.

Anyone who owns a home or other property knows full well the frustration of what can be a huge shortfall between what, if anything, insurance is going to pay and what the actual cost of repairs can be when unexpected events occur. And in the case of some property owners, these events can no longer be considered unexpected.

On Nov. 26, another round of consultations for the Chatham-Kent Lake Erie shoreline study took place during which residents heard that long-term solutions for the affected areas won't be cheap.

We are still in the very preliminary stages of developing solutions as the study is ongoing until March, but as an example, it's estimated that protecting the Talbot Trail shoreline for 40 kilometres with armour stone could cost up to \$900 million.

By contrast, realigning the roadway is projected to cost between \$31 million and \$40 million, which should be a stark reminder that the cost of trying to fight the forces of nature will be far higher than giving in, accepting the inevitable and falling back.

And we are far from alone in this battle.

A report by Climate Central released in October warned that by 2050, 300 million people could be facing an annual flooding event, by which time the homes of 150 million people could be below the high-tide line. The majority of people affected by that report are in Asia, but we are already seeing far more flooding than normal in North America and Europe as well.

With ocean levels rising and no end in sight, we are deluding ourselves if we believe what we're seeing now is just the result of cyclical weather events.

We need to be proactive, which means committing our precious financial resources to solutions that allow us to prepare for a future that is obvious.

We are going to lose homes and roadways in our community and beyond, and all we'll do if we try and deny that is waste precious time and resources.

There is no point throwing good money after bad and as we move forward, the people who are now living in the most impacted areas of our community are going to be forced to make some very difficult decisions.

This is the time for visionary governance at all levels and since we are all going to be paying for the solutions that are developed, we need assurances they will be solutions that are right for the long term and for the majority of residents.



## 13.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)
<b>February 17, 2020</b> Noon to 4 pm	<b>Family Day Snowshoe:</b> Resource Centre/Museum Open – explore displays, crafts for all ages, enjoy trails and Ska-Nah-Doht Village. Snowshoe rentals if there is snow.
<b>February 22, 2020</b> Pre-registration only	<b>Moonlight Winter Family Hike (aka Owl Hike)</b> – guided hikes, exhibits, Blue Water Raptor presentation, crafts & food.
<b>March 16-20</b> 10 am and 1 pm	<b>March Break Hikes &amp; Tours</b> – guided trail hikes and tours of Ska-Nah-Doht Village

### 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 (7 days a week) – Museum (Monday to Friday)**  
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)

## 14.Other Business

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